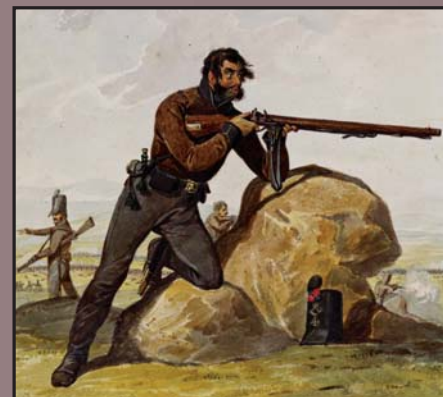


The forces at Lord Wellington's disposal were almost double those of his opponent, Marshal Soult. Accordingly, the latter's only chance was to block the crossing of the Douro. To do so, he requisitioned all the small boats and guarded the banks but, with the help of the locals, the British managed to cross and form a bridgehead in the seminary. By the time the French realised, it was too late and, despite repeated efforts, they were unable to dislodge them. Their only option was to fall back.



Portuguese light infantry.



French hussar.

Their path to Spain, with the most direct route through Amarante blocked, was across the rugged terrain of northern Portugal. They abandoned wagons and destroyed cannons to prevent them falling into allied hands and left the country demoralised and humiliated. Portugal was free once more.

Marshal Soult in the Battle of Porto.



Napoctep

www.napoctep.eu



Napoleonic routes between Spain and Portugal

The objective of the Napoctep Project is the creation of a series of tourist routes associated with the presence of Napoleonic troops in Castilla y León and Central Portugal. The routes elaborated are the following:

Route 1st Invasión of Portugal.



Route 2nd Invasión of Portugal.



Route 3rd Invasión of Portugal.



Wellington Route.



Route of Siege and Great Battles.



Route of Napoleon and the Englishman's Run.



Guerrilleros Julián Sánchez el Charro and el Empecinado Route.



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DL VA 983-2021



Interreg
España - Portugal
NAPOCTEP



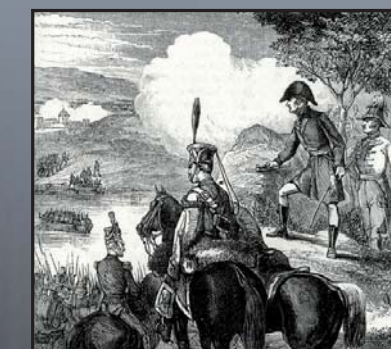
Route 2nd Invasion of Portugal

from
Chaves
to Almeida

Francisco da Silveira, Count of Amarante.



In January 1809, the British had been driven out of the Iberian Peninsula, freeing up a large number of French troops in Galicia. Napoleon then issued orders for Portugal to be retaken from the north with supporting movements from Salamanca and Extremadura.



Wellington supervising the crossing of the Douro.

A short time later, the English Army returned to Portugal and started a quick advance on Porto in an attempt to take the dispersed French forces by surprise as they tried to subdue the region. The Douro River is a formidable obstacle on the way to the city, which ensured that Wellington and his men's attack would not be easy.

French artillery under attack.



We begin our journey in Chaves by putting ourselves in Marshal Soult and his men's shoes as they enter Portugal. We will pass through Amarante and Braga on the way to Portugal, where the climax and the turning point of the invasion occurred.

From there we will retrace the path of the allied forces in reverse. In other words, from north to south to the place where the allied forces mustered before confronting the French threat: Coimbra.

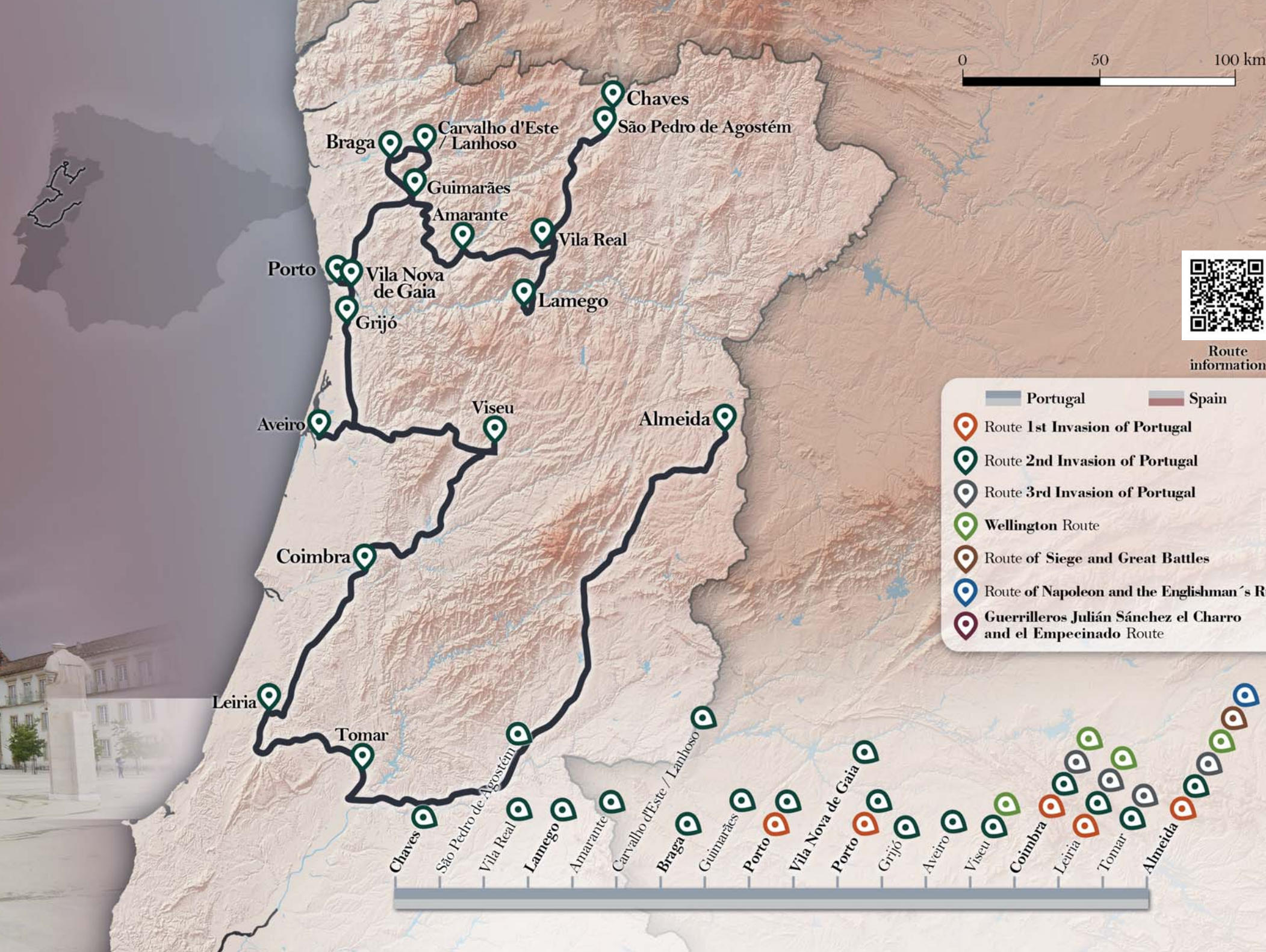
Leiria, Tomar, and Almeida are the final stops on the journey, as events linked to the route happened in those places.



Sanctuary of Bom Jesus in Braga.



University of Coimbra.



The stairway to Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga, the Castle of Guimarães, Trajan's Bridge in Chaves, the Douro river as it flows through Porto, the canals of Aveiro, Viséu cathedral, the ancient seat of the University of Coimbra, the convent of Christ in Tomar, Almeida fortress. Countless wonders await us on the *First Invasion of Portugal Trail*.



Castle of Guimarães.



San Gonzalo Monastery in Amarante.

Douro river flowing through Porto.

