

## THE TUA LINE

It is in the Portuguese Alto Douro region now recognized World Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, halfway between the Spanish-Portuguese border and the Atlantic Ocean, where lies the valley of Tua.

Very collected and wild, this valley is dominated by a magnificent historic railway: The Tua Line.

Previously, one of the largest in the Upper Douro, the railway runs close about 50 km on the river Tua. It is at the station of the picturesque village of Foz-Tua that the Tua line joined another railway line joining the northern district.

Impressive work of engineering, it is with dynamite that engineers from the late 19th century have paved a path through the crags.

The river, dotted with rocks and narrow gorges, offers splendid prospects yet untamed rapids, some say it is one of the last still fully wild rivers in Europe. The fauna and flora of the valley are also still largely intact.

The valley is however threatened by a dam project supported by the Portuguese government. A project that would drown the line and condemn Tua and one of the last historic railways of southern Europe.

The surrounding villages still depend largely on the line, whose disappearance would only increase the exodus of their inhabitants. Local civil society mobilizes to protect this natural heritage, but the mobilization of local residents alone will not suffice.

More info can be found here:  
<http://www.linhadotua.net>