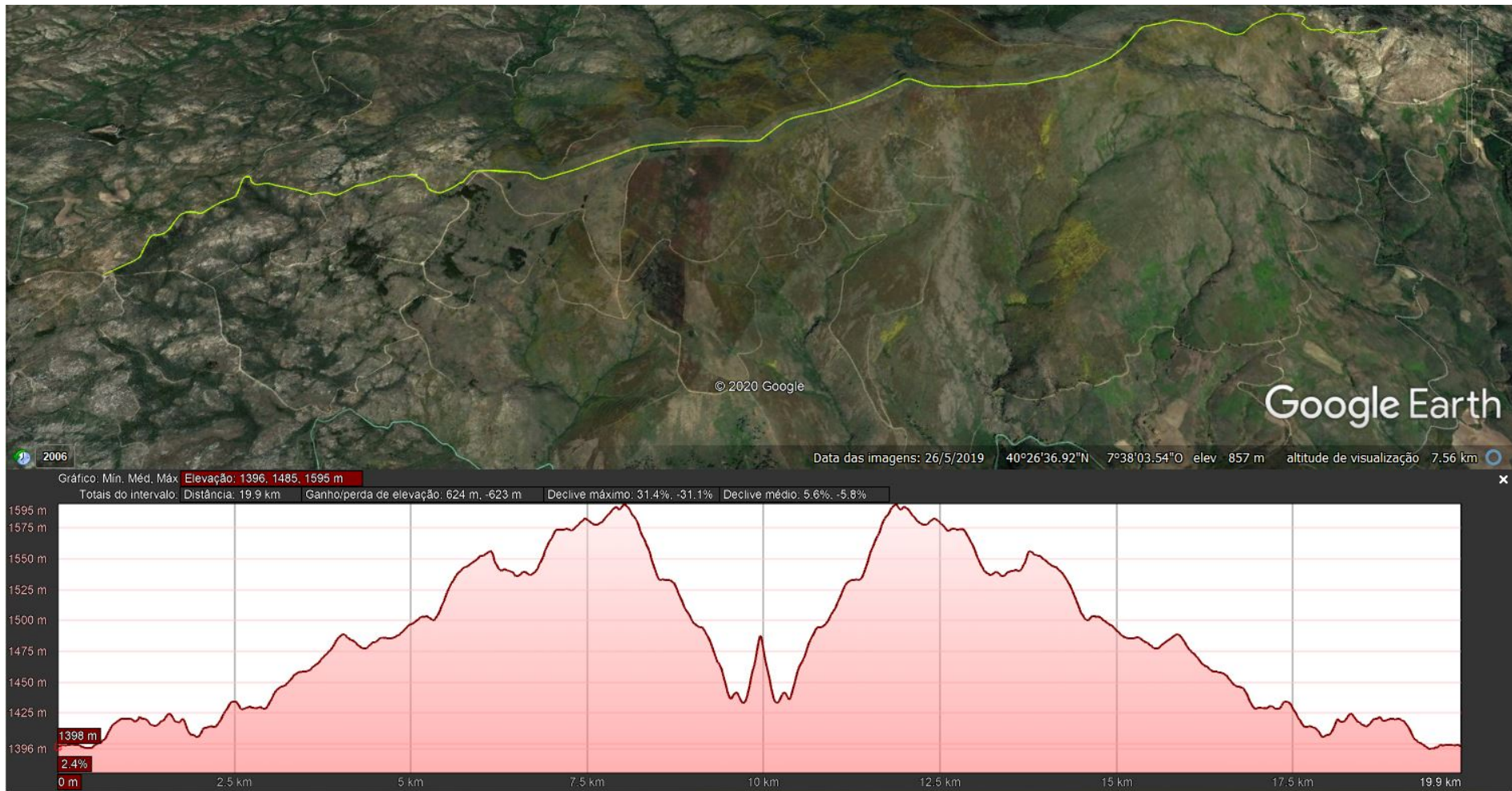
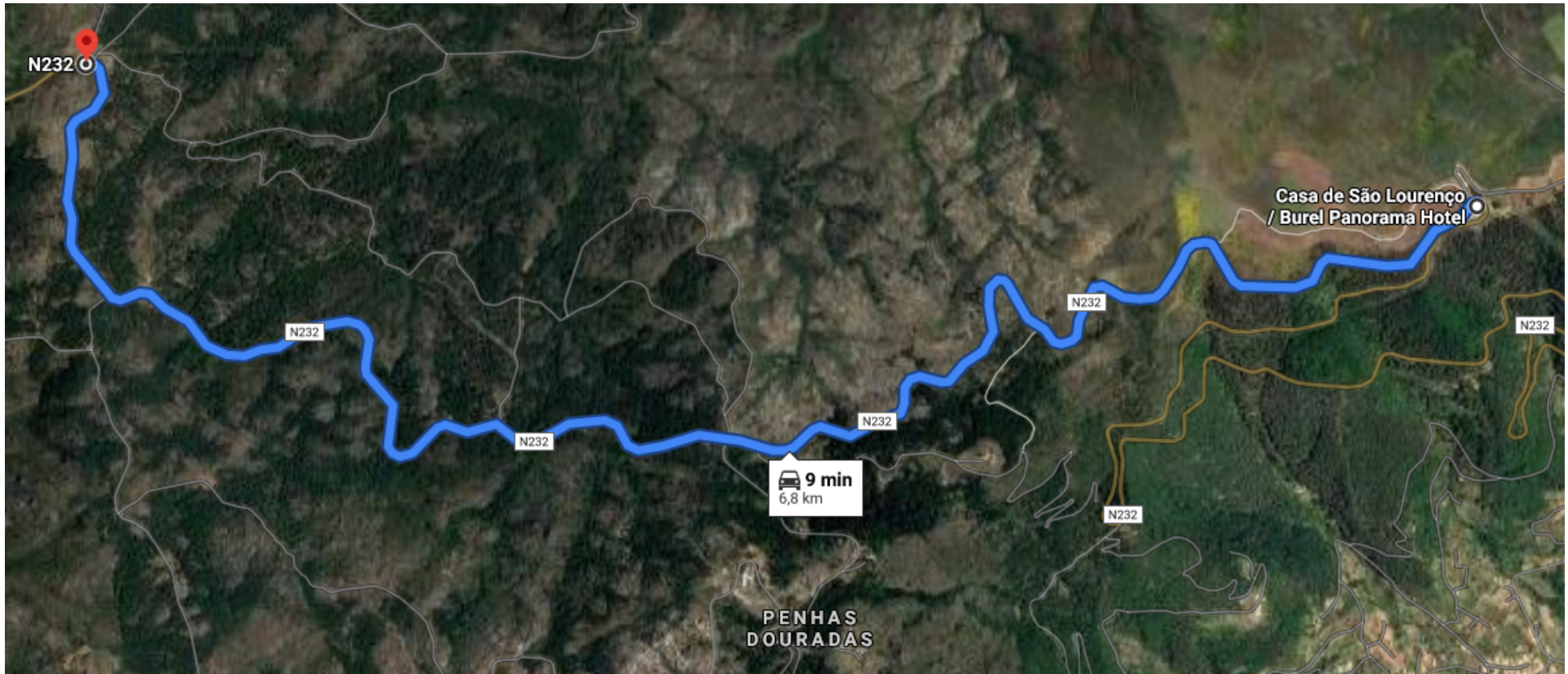


WALKING / CYCLING TRAIL SANTINHA AND SÃO TIAGO CHAPEL

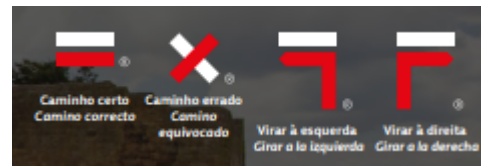
DURATION: 6 HOURS (WALKING) 3 HOURS (CYCLING)
DIFICULTY: MODERATE
TYPE OF TRAIL: STRAIGHT



Getting to the starting point



Leaving the parking lot of Casa de São Lourenço, turn left onto National Road N232 towards Gouveia. Follow along this road for about 7km. You will pass the road to Penhas Douradas on your left, the Mondeguinho Spring (the official starting point of River Mondego) and the crossroads to Vale do Rossim Lake. After this last crossroads, about 1km ahead of it, you will find on your right side a small clearance from which stem three smaller dirt roads (the clearance is easy to spot as there are high voltage poles in there). Park there and follow along the trail indicated by the small yellow and white signs, which are pertaining to the Great Route of Historical Villages, towards Linhares da Beira.



The road takes you through a hilltop that will give you some amazing panoramic views: on your left you can see the town of Gouveia, all along to Mangualde, Viseu with Caramulo and Marão Mountain Ranges on the horizon. On your right side you will see the Mondego Valley shaping the way to Guarda.

Along the way you will find a large abandoned building, the former “Casa das Sementes – House of the Seeds” where rye seeds used to be stored to be then sown in the less steep hills. Further along, on your left, tucked in some small woods you will find a Picnic table with shade that invites you to rest.

The trail follows these landscapes, until you reach the “Linhares da Beira”, “Folgosinho” and “Capela do Santiago” signs again. Leave the trail that you were following and turn towards Capela do Santiago, which should be straight ahead, on the granite formation you will climb. Reaching the base of that granite formation, follow the “mariolas” (overlapping rocks used by shepherds to mark their trails) until you reach Capela do Santiago. From the Capela you will see the same view as if you were in Heaven...

When returning you will have the main mountains of Serra da Estrela in front of you. Enjoy the trail.