

## Unit 7. Social uses, recreation and outdoors

### Rapa das Bestas: Festival of International Tourist Interest

#### Description

The festival of Rapa das Bestas is considered a Festival of International Tourist Interest, is held every year in early July in Sabucedo, A Estrada.

The curro of Sabucedo is considered the most popular in the world. It stands out from all the rest because it forbids the use of sticks or any other tool, and horses are tamed only using human strength. A hand-to-hand fight: this is the ancient tradition in which aloitadoras and aloitadores (people in charge of holding on the horses while they are shorn) and horses meet in the Curro do Campo do Medio. According to the legend, two sisters offered Saint Lawrence, the patron saint of the village, two manes, so as people in the town would be freed from the plague. The saint made their wish come true and the festival of Rapa das Bestas was born.

This tradition has been part of the neighbours' everyday life. From a very young age, they help the aloitadoras and aloitadores in the curro, but at the beginning they use colts. The inhabitants of the neighbouring villages help to herd the horses in the nearby forests. These people have guided the mares and horses towards the village. This task is now performed on Fridays and so, the weekend can be devoted to the curro, which is usually sold out.



Source: Turismo rias baixas

In the curro, the manes of the mares and horses are shorn and the animals are deloused. First, the colts are separated from their mothers and they are driven to a different space by the youngest participants. The applause seems to be louder when the horses fight each other, an image which is known worldwide. Once they have been shorn, the animals are guided to a different place where they will rest until they are driven to the hills.



Source: libertad digital

On Mondays there is another curro. This time the money raised is intended for charity. Towards noon, the celebration comes to an end when the popular herds of Sabucedo are driven to their home: the hills in A Estrada.

#### Goals

The objective is to maintain an ancestral tradition between men and wild horses

#### Activities

#### Impact

Connect actual human with ancient traditions and with the enjoyment of the forest and animals

#### Social Media

[Rapa das Bestas - Fiestas de Rías Baixas - Turismo Rias Baixas](#)