

Tagus river is deeply connected to the history of Vila Franca de Xira county. The river has been a factor of development, due to its navigability, and has definitely contributed to the establishment of human communities, determining, simultaneously, their ways of living. The wharves of Vila Franca de Xira, Vala do Carregado and Cabo, are part of the ports net, that extended along the estuary and that, according to historical periods, made of inland navigation an important economic source.

Vila Franca de Xira Wharf

Mentioned in the new charter of 1510, it kept an important role in the region economy, until the fifty years of the twentieth century. In August 1487, it was organized in Povos and Vila Franca ports, a fleet bound for North Africa. Adjoining to the wharf there is the municipal garden of Vila Franca, where once was a river beach, which was also used to sell fish and melon.



Cabo Wharf

Important wharf that connected both sides of the river, until the construction of the bridge in 1951. In the beginning of twentieth century, the “gasoline” did the passenger transport to Cabo wharf where they could take the diligences, which did the transport for all Ribatejo region. In one of the buildings of Cabo agricultural complex—property of *Companhia das Lezírias*—we can see the floods marks.



Vala do Carregado Wharf

Built in the nineteenth century, this wharf was used as a route of penetration in Castanheira and Alenquer areas, and has registered considerable movement until mid-twentieth century. In a first phase, supplying the there existing ceramics factory and, in a second one, which ended in the sixties, making the wine transport. Beyond the fishing function, which is still kept, the Vala do Carregado wharf served also the marshlands (lezírias), on the opposite margin, namely in the transport of stones for the fencing works.

