



ITINERARY: VALE DA ESTRELA

DURATION: 1 DAY

A Mosaic of History, Nature
and Resistance

The Five Attraction Points of Vale da Estrela:



Start at **Porto da Estrela**, one of the most important historical ports of colonial Brazil.



Boat tour along the **Estrela and Inhomirim Rivers**, guided by local fishermen.



Visit the **Barão de Mauá Municipal Natural Park**, home to a large **mangrove restoration project**.



Stop at **Refúgio Estrela**, a fisherman's haven connecting Guanabara Bay, the Estrela River, and the Inhomirim River. A **sanctuary for herons**.



Visit the **Bongaba Quilombo**, founded in 1696, with Afro-Brazilian cultural activities.

Contact and Information: @reconcavo.da.guanabara @sinaldovale



Vale da Estrela Itinerary

Cultural and Historic Tourism

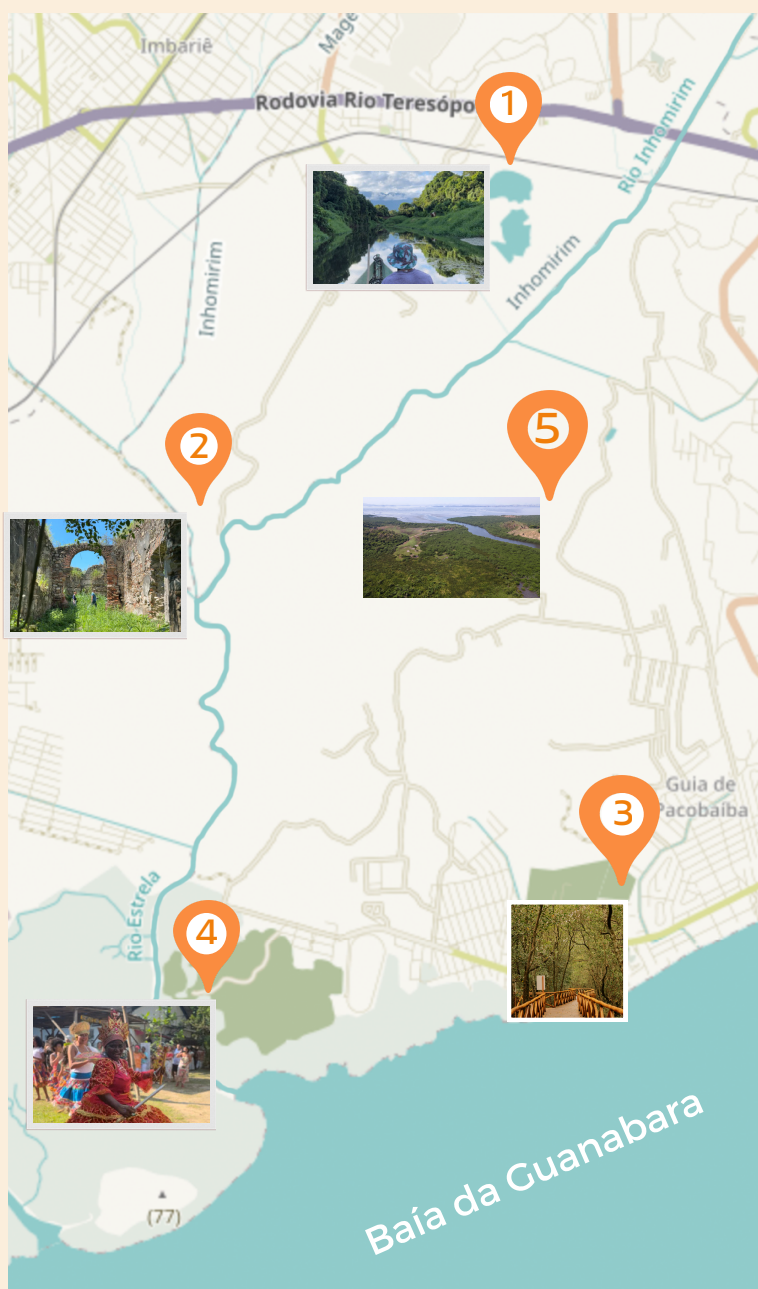
The Vale da Estrela, located in Magé (RJ), is a vibrant territory of memory, biodiversity, and regeneration. Its landscape weaves centuries of history with the strength of living and resilient communities. Four key attractions stand out in this transformative valley:

Historical Context

The Vale da Estrela was a key corridor in colonial and imperial Brazil, driving the economy through gold and coffee transport. But this wealth came at a cost—enslaved Africans were forced to build and maintain the infrastructure, enduring immense suffering. The Inhomirim River, which carried Brazil's first steam-powered vessel, also witnessed this painful history as enslaved people labored along its banks and roads.

Historic sites, cultural landmarks, and the very paths once walked by the enslaved reveal Brazil's true past. Preserving and sharing this history isn't just about economic progress—it's about acknowledging the suffering and resilience of those who built it and understanding its lasting impact today.

It was a key trading post and mandatory passage connecting the Imperial Court and other travelers to Minas Gerais via the Inhomirim (or Proença) Route.



1 Inhomirim River



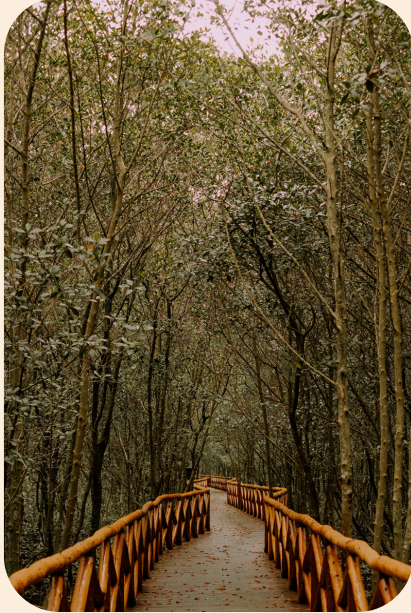
The Inhomirim River originates in Petrópolis and separates the municipalities of Duque de Caxias and Magé. In the past, with a great volume of water, it became the first river navigated by a steam-powered vessel in Brazilian history. Today, it continues to be a navigation route for traditional crab-fishing fishermen, who fight to protect the balance of this ecosystem.

2 Ruins of the Porto da Estrela



The ruins of the port, on the banks of the Inhomirim River, consist of the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Estrela dos Mares, built in 1650, and the Town Hall and Jail of the Vila da Estrela. The latter was the administrative heart of the village of Estrela and was established in June 1846. Researchers speculate that the site initially functioned as a weighing house, where one-third of the enslaved people who entered Brazil during the Colonial era passed through.

3 Barão de Mauá Municipal Natural Park



With 116 hectares of protected areas, the park is a symbol of coastal regeneration after the environmental disaster of 2000 Guanabara Bay oil spill. Which caused severe environmental damage to the water and biodiversity of the area. Now, it houses over 40 hectares of restored mangroves and infrastructure for environmental education, trails, and wildlife observation. A gateway to the valley, where nature and pedagogy again come together to inspire conservation and reverence.

4 Quilombo Quilombã de Bongaba - A Living Resistance Community



With over 300 years of existence, Quilombo de Bongaba is home to about 250 families of descendants of enslaved Africans. Despite facing challenges such as water and environmental insecurity, the quilombo continues and thrives with culture, cuisine, capoeira, agriculture, and hospitality. The regenerative tourism plan includes a welcoming center, ecological infrastructure, and native landscaping – Bongaba is a living experience of ancestry and sustainability.

5

Refuge of Estrela: Reconnection with Guanabara's Coastline



On the shores of Guanabara Bay, at the mouth of the Estrela River, there is a 20-hectare plot of land owned by Wilson Sons, one of Brazil's largest port logistics groups. This location is incredibly strategic: it has the potential to become a hub for tourist and educational vessels, linking Barão de Mauá Park, Porto da Estrela, and Quilombo da Bongaba in a powerful circuit that combines culture, biodiversity, and socio-environmental justice.



What was once a neglected coastal area is now transforming into a gateway for a new model of regenerative development in Star Valley, where sustainability and community-driven growth lead the way.

OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ **Community-based tourism** focused on Afro-Brazilian history and culture.
- ✓ Expansion of the route to include bike tourism between **Porto da Estrela** and **Quilombo do Bongaba**.

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