

# 12 HISTORICAL VILLAGES, WELL WORTH A VISIT

Start in Belmonte and finish wherever you like. You have 600 km to explore.



Living history

**\_BELMONTE\_**  
N40° 21.6515',  
W007° 20.8878'



\_ALMEIDA\_BELMONTE\_CASTELO MENDO\_CASTELO NOVO\_CASTELO RODRIGO\_IDANHA-A-VELHA\_  
\_LINHARES DA BEIRA\_MARIALVA\_MONSANTO\_PIODÃO\_SORTELHA\_TRANCOSO\_

# OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME



## 12 VILLAGES, ENDLESS ENJOYMENT

Wander the narrow streets of a centuries-old village. Take up position where soldiers once faced each other in battle. Or just enjoy the beauty of a wild landscape. Portugal's Historical Villages in Beira Interior are a unique destination for tourists and history lovers and are guardians of testimony that dates back centuries.

The guides do much more than contemplate slower times and genuine experiences. There are days full of excitement, extreme sports, hikes, good food, river beaches, culture and landscapes - everything you need for enjoyable days.

**Life here is full of excitement. And the rest is history.**

Start by exploring the two villages closest to Belmonte and then move on to the rest.

**SORTELHA**  
19 km

**CASTELO NOVO**  
45 km



N40° 19.8761', W007° 12.6678'

**\_SORTELHA\_**

Immersion in times gone past. A lesson about the history of our people or just the pleasure of seeing beauty, there's a lot to see in Sortelha. **The bicycle trails are great for cyclists wishing to enjoy stunning landscapes.**

\_Where to eat\_



\_Where to stay\_



Travel Agencies  
Tourist Animation



**BELMONTE**

# OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME



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## CONTACT DETAILS

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## BELMONTE

# A PAST WITH HISTORY, A HISTORY WITH FUTURE

The town of Belmonte in Cova da Beira commands a broad view of the eastern slopes of the Serra da Estrela mountains and fully justifies its name. Tradition has it that the name Belmonte comes from its location (beautiful hill). Some say, however, that it comes from 'belli monte', the hill of war.

A sunny place, with good people, endless vistas and centuries-old history



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**Pedro Álvares Cabral**  
Born in Belmonte Castle. He discovered Brazil in 1500.



### Key

- 1 - Belmonte Castle
- 2 - Tourist Office
- 3 - Santiago Church and Cabral Pantheon
- 4 - S. António Chapel
- 5 - Calvário Chapel
- 6 - Bet Eliahu Synagogue
- 7 - Banda de Música

- 8 - Old Municipal Council building, now headquarters of Aldeias Históricas e Rede de Judiarias de Portugal
- 9 - Pillory
- 10 - Jewish Museum
- 11 - Parish Church
- 12 - Belmonte Municipal Council
- 13 - Solar dos Cabrais mansion. Now Municipal Library and Archive
- 14 - Museum of the Discoveries
- 15 - Zêzere Eco-museum

- 16 - Statue of Pedro Álvares Cabral
- 17 - EMPDS - Tourism
- 18 - Olive Oil Museum
- 19 - Municipal Auditorium
- 20 - Music School
- 21 - Multi-purpose pavilion
- 22 - Quinta da Fórnea estate
- 23 - Nossa Senhora da Esperança Convent, now a luxury hotel
- 24 - Belmonte sport pavilion
- 25 - Centum Cellas (Colmeal da Torre)

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### Roman Villa at Quinta da Fórnea estate

Among the main features of this villa are the *frigidarium*, *tepidarium* and *caldarium* baths in the spacious grounds.



**Belmonte Castle** 1  
and its magnificent Manueline-style window



Belmonte's history, heritage and traditions are all described in its museums. But if you're looking for its secrets, they are hidden along natural trails.

Add Belmonte Castle, Santiago Church, the Jewish Museum, the Zêzere Eco-museum, the Olive Oil Museum, the Museum of the Discoveries, Centum Cellas, Quinta da Fórnea estate, Casa da Roda and the Ethnographic Space to the landscape and explore all its nooks and crannies.



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**Bet Eliahu Synagogue**  
The Jewish presence in Belmonte dates back to the 13th century and continues today.

1

**Belmonte Castle**  
The Cabral family made it their home in the 14th century.



**Santiago Church**  
Beautiful murals and the addorsed Cabral Pantheon

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**Museum of the Discoveries**  
An interactive museum recounting a journey lasting more than 500 years

