

12 HISTORICAL VILLAGES, ENDLESS ENJOYMENT

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



Living history

CASTELO MENDO
40°35'647 N
6°56'928 O



_ALMEIDA_BELMONTE_CASTELO MENDO_CASTELO NOVO_CASTELO RODRIGO_IDANHA-A-VELHA_
_LINHARES DA BEIRA_MARIALVA_MONSANTO_PIÓDÃO_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.

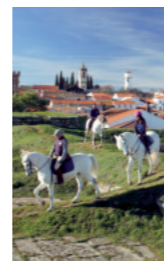
The guides do much more than contemplate slower times or genuine experiences. There are days full of excitement, extreme sports, hikes, good food, river beaches, culture and landscapes - everything you need for enjoyable days.

Life here is excitement. And the rest is history.

Start by exploring the two villages closest to Castelo Mendo, then go on to the rest.

ALMEIDA
19 km
CASTELO RODRIGO
56 km

N40° 43.4791', W006° 54.3354'



ALMEIDA



Protected by an imposing star-shaped wall, over the centuries Almeida was strategic in defending the border. And its memories of these times have been preserved. Explore Almeida on horseback, a unique experience.

Where to eat



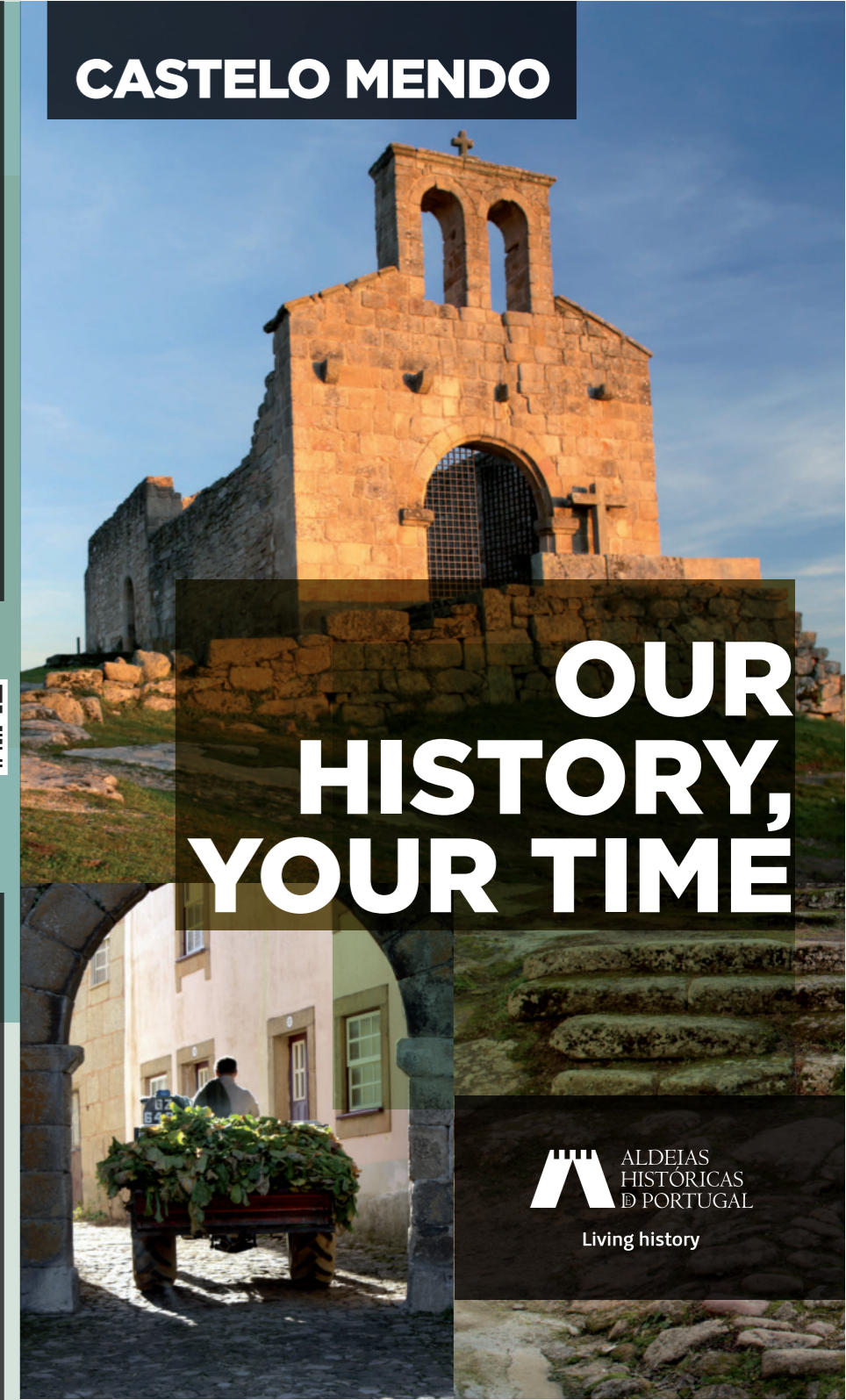
Where to stay



Travel Agencies
Tourist Animation



CASTELO MENDO



OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME



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CONTACT DETAILS

Almeida Municipal Council

www.cm-almeida.pt

Almeida Tourist Office (10:00–18:00)

Tourism (+351) 271 570 020 | turismoalmeida@sapo.pt

Museum (+351) 271 571 229 | museu.militar@cm-almeida.pt

F: (+351) 271 571 081

Aldeias Históricas de Portugal
Associação de Desenvolvimento Turístico
T: (+351) 275 913 395
E: info@aldeiahistoricasdeportugal.com
produto@aldeiahistoricasdeportugal.com

www.aldeiahistoricasdeportugal.com

facebook.com/aldeiahistoricasdeportugal

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CASTELO MENDO MEDIEVAL VILLAGE

This predominantly medieval village is divided into two walled sections, the Citadel and Barbican.

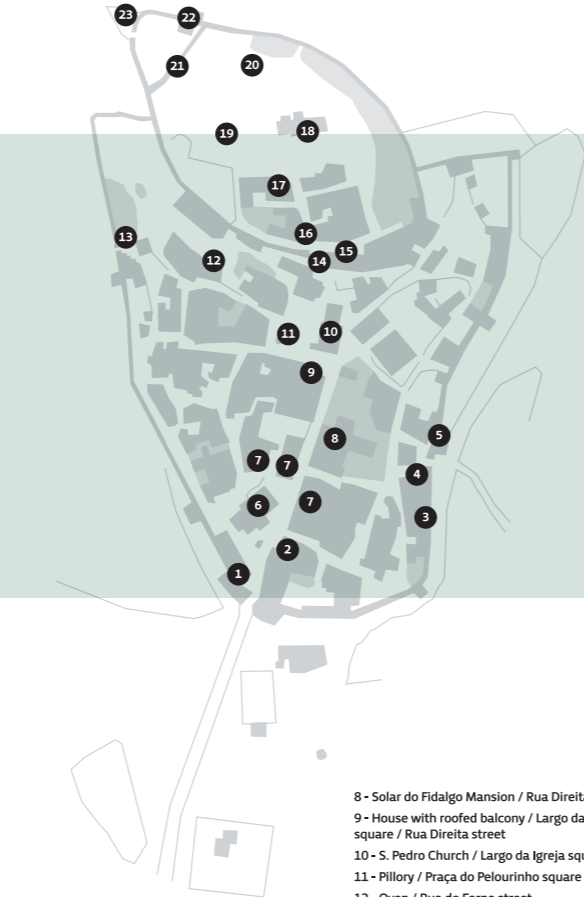
The oval citadel is the old town, which grew up after a charter from King Sancho II. The new town, or Arrabalde de S. Pedro, is protected by a Dionysian wall (late 13th century) that once boasted eight towers. They were partially destroyed by the 1755 earthquake. It still has its five gates, however (Vila, Guarda, Sol, Traição and D. Sancho gates).

The field outside is still used as pastureland. It is also the site of the fairground and d’El Rei Fountain.

Castelo Mendo's charter granted and regulated the first free fair in Portugal. It was held three times a year, at Easter, the feast of St. John the Baptist and feast of St. Michael and lasted eight days.



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Castelinho Gate
The gate at the south end of the citadel led to the oldest part of the castle. It has Romanesque characteristics.



Key

- 1 - Vila Gate: Sculptures
- 2 - 16th century house / Largo do Chafariz Menor square
- 3 - Casa da Roda / Rua da Praça street
- 4 - Misericórdia Hospital / Rua da Praça street / Rua do Corro street
- 5 - Guarda Gate / Rua da Porta da Guarda street
- 6 - S. Vicente Church / Largo S. Vicente square
- 7 - Manueline-style houses / Rua Direita street / Largo de S. Vicente square
- 8 - Solar do Fidalgo Mansion / Rua Direita street
- 9 - House with roofed balcony / Largo da Igreja square / Rua Direita street
- 10 - S. Pedro Church / Largo da Igreja square
- 11 - Pillory / Praça do Pelourinho square
- 12 - Oven / Rua do Forno street
- 13 - Sol Gate
- 14 - Mendo and Menda / Rua do Chafariz de Cima street and Museum
- 15 - Domus Municipalis / Tourist Office
- 16 - D. Sancho Gate
- 17 - Medieval paving / Rua do Castelo street
- 18 - Sta. Maria do Castelo Church
- 19 - Ruins of donjon
- 20 - Fidalgo Tomb
- 21 - Castelinho Gate
- 22 - Tank and Traitor's Gate
- 23 - Penedo dos Desejos



14
Mendo
Folk legend of Menda and Mendo from two decorative features on two facing buildings Here Mendo takes the form of a gargoyle on the wall of Antiga Domus Municipalis.



TOWN GATES

The Vila Gate stands between two turrets and two zoomorphic granite sculptures. Judging from their genitalia, they represent a male and female pig or wild boar. They date back to between the 4th and 1st century BC and are possibly linked to the fertility rites of the Vettones.



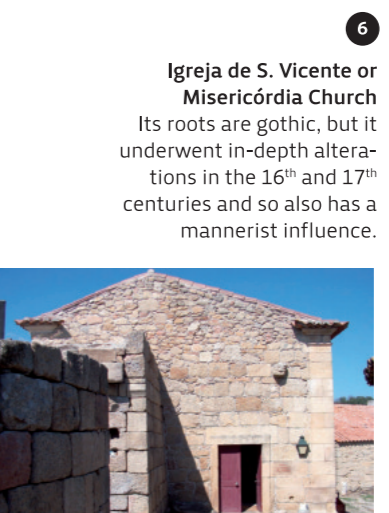
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Pillory
16th century Consisting of an octagonal monolithic column about seven metres high crowned with a cage-shaped capital.

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Domus Municipalis
Former town hall, prison and court 16th and 17th century (mannerist style) It was built on the citadel wall. The upper floor was for the municipal council and court and the lower one for the prison. It currently houses an interesting ethnographic museum.

18
St.ª Maria do Castelo Church (ruin)
13th century in Romanesque style with alterations in the 16th century, e.g. the side chapel with Mudejar ceiling.



7 16th century **Manueline-style house** on Rua Direita street
4 **Misericórdia Hospital** 16th century (renaissance influence) at no. 1 Rua da Praça street
10 **S. Pedro or Parish Church** 16th century, but underwent a huge stylistic renovation in the 19th century
5 **Guarda Gate** on the north-eastern side connecting to the Jarmelo and Guarda road



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Igreja de S. Vicente or Misericórdia Church
Its roots are gothic, but it underwent in-depth alterations in the 16th and 17th centuries and so also has a mannerist influence.

