

12 HISTORICAL VILLAGES, WELL WORTH A VISIT

Start in Idanha-a-Velha and finish wherever you like. You have 600 km to explore.



Living history

IDANHA-A-VELHA
N390 59.8805',
W 0070 8.6676'



_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 or genuine experiences. There are days full of excitement, extreme sports, hikes, good food, culture, river beaches 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 Idanha-a-Velha, then go on to the rest.

MONSANTO
15 km

CASTELO NOVO
46 km



It is Portugal's most Portuguese village.
This status springs from its natural
beauty, unique architecture and, above
all, its people's hospitality.
**There are few places offering such pleasant
landscapes for nature tourism.**

Where to eat



Where to stay



Travel Agencies Tourist Animation



IDANHA-A-VELHA



**OUR
HISTORY,
YOUR TIME**



Living history

CONTACT DETAILS

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IDANHA-A-VELHA THE WARS OF FAITH

Thanks to its fine collection of ruins, it has some of the country's most important archaeological sites. It stands in a place where a Roman city once lay, the capital of Civitas Igaeditanorum (1st century BC) and later the episcopal seat during occupation by the Suebi and Visigoths.

It was occupied by Muslims in the 8th century and taken back by Christians in the 12th century. It was donated to the Knights Templar in the 13th century and still has traces of different ages that attest to permanent occupation by various civilisations.



Key

1. North Gate
2. Santa Maria Church or Cathedral
3. Lagar de Varas / Tourist Office
4. Roman dwelling
5. Stepping stones across the River Ponsul
6. Epigraphic Archive
7. Pillory
8. Village oven
9. Templar Tower
10. Parish Church
11. São Dâmaso Chapel
12. Palheiros de São Dâmaso — Archaeology Workshop
13. Roman bridge
14. Espírito Santo Chapel
15. São Sebastião Chapel

Santa Maria Church or Cathedral

Founded at the dawn of Christianity, it was highly prominent in the reign of King Manuel.



An exceptional landscape,
a broad view of the village.



Of Roman origin and a link on the important road between Mérida (Emerita Augusta) and Braga (Bracara Augusta), it was rebuilt several times in the Middle Ages.



On arriving at Idanha-a-Velha we are first struck by the monumental walls. Its history starts at the North Gate.

The village that awaits you along Rua da Palma is oval and 745 metres long. It has seven defensive towers of different shapes.

They are semi-circular or quadrangular and mark different moments in history and will also be a highlight of your visit.



Lagar de Varas / Tourist Office

The building is important to industrial archaeology and bears witness to the way the community used its resources and its ability to process agricultural produce from the region.

Epigraphic Archive

This is a contemporary building housing a vast collection of inscriptions.



The town was founded by the Romans in the 1st century BC and made a municipality about 100 years later. It has survived the invasions of Germanic tribes. Under the Suebi it became the seat of a bishopric, a status that it maintained at intervals until the 12th century. The legend of King Wamba, one of its best known, dates back to this time.

Today Idanha-a-Velha (National Monument) has been renewed.

Idanha-a-Velha's buildings are the fruit of occupation by many peoples who settled there and adapted its spaces and buildings over the centuries.



Casa Marrocos

Built in the mid-20th century, it boasts finely worked balconies and stonework.

