

12 HISTORICAL VILLAGES, WELL WORTH A VISIT

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



Living history

MONSANTO
N400 2.3953',
W0070 6.777'



_ALMEIDA_BELMONTE_CASTELO MENDO_CASTELO NOVO_CASTELO RODRIGO_IDANHHA-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 Monsanto, then go on to the rest.

IDANHHA-A-VELHA
15 km

CASTELO NOVO
47 km



N39° 59.8805', W007° 8.6676'

IDANHHA-A-VELHA

In the historical village that was once powerful Egítania, there is a unique collection of monuments and traces of ancestral times. **A visit to neighbouring Penha Garcia is a must for anyone interested in fossils.**

Where to eat



Where to stay



Travel Agencies
Tourist Animation



MONSANTO

OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME



Living history



N40° 19.8761', W007° 12.6678'

SORTELHA

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Idanha-a-Nova Municipal Council
T: (+351) 277 200 570 / F: (+351) 277 200 580
geral@cm-idanhanova.pt
Monsanto Tourist Office
(09:30-13:00 / 14:00-17:30)
T: (+351) 277 314 642 | turismo@cm-idanhanova.pt

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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MONSANTO, THE MIGHT OF STONE

Perched on a hilltop that oversees all the surrounding horizons, the village of Monsanto has a unique charm that has earned it two titles in the 20th century – the Most Portuguese Village in Portugal in 1938 and Historical Village in 1995. Monsanto is one of the region's main tourist attractions and offers visitors a unique experience. It has many stories and legends and there is still a lot to write about it.

It was granted charters by King Afonso Henriques, King Sancho I, King Sancho II and King Manuel.

The oldest part is also the highest point, where the Knights Templar built a wall with the donjon.



Parish Church or S. Salvador Church
It has an 18th century façade while its construction probably dates back to the 15th century.



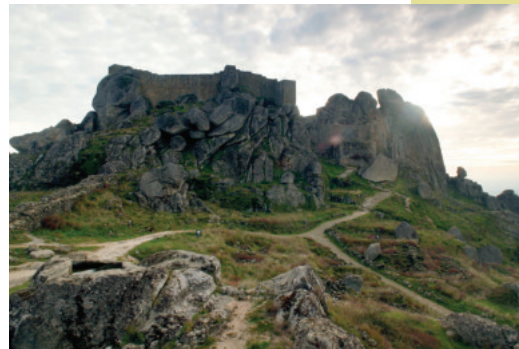
Key

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1 - Espírito Santo or São Sebastião Gate | 6 - Nova Fountain | 20 - Forno Belvedere |
| 2 - Espírito Santo Chapel | 7 - S. Salvador or Parish Church | 21 - Cave |
| 3 - Meio Fountain | 8 - Pinheiros Manor and Mono Fountain | 22 - Path up to the castle |
| 4 - House of Fernando Namora | 9 - Graciosa Manor - Tourist Office / Culinary Centre | 23 - Going down to S. Pedro de Vir-a-Corça Chapel |
| 5 - São Salvador Cross | 10 - Old Socorro Chapel | |
| | 11 - Pillory | |
| | 12 - Former doctor's office of Fernando Namora | |
| | 13 - Misericórdia Church | |
| | 14 - Lucano or Clock Tower | |
| | 15 - Santo António Gate | |
| | 16 - Santo António Chapel | |
| | 17 - 17 th century house (1628) | |
| | 18 - Banco da Paciência | |
| | 19 - Oven | |

On the way up to the castle, you will find a cave and, next to the village oven there is a natural belvedere looking over the plain and Monsanto's houses running down the hillside.



Impregnable Monsanto Castle



The oldest part is at the highest point, where the Knights Templar built a donjon. Another one was added later, lined with towers, with two enclosures at different levels.

Outside the walls, the original settlement around S. Miguel Chapel is protected by a low wall. The ruins of Pião Tower rises above the village.



The festivals, Christmas and especially Easter remind us every year of a long time that still exists in our daily lives today.

In May, the village is the stage for the Santa Cruz Festival, of pagan origin, in memory of the Castilian siege that the village resisted.

Bell tower and S. Miguel Chapel
(on the way out from the walls)



From the bastion, a starting and finishing point for adventurers, you come to the village that gradually grew up here from the 15th century onwards after abandoning the old settlement around the castle at the top of the hill. Walk around this village, with its characteristic inselbergs, one of the monuments of the UNESCO Naturtejo Geopark, and through its landscapes to interpret Earth's history.

Monsanto is endless. Beyond the rough stone that surrounds us, it has its own life that you can find if you look carefully.

