

# 12 HISTORICAL VILLAGES, WELL WORTH A VISIT

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



Living history

\_SORTELHA\_  
40°19'45.29"N,  
7°12'53.75"W



\_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 Sortelha, then go on to the rest.

**BELMONTE**  
19 km

**MONSANTO**  
55 km

N40° 21.6515', W007° 20.8878'



\_BELMONTE\_

Pedro Álvares Cabral left from here to discover Brazil. Jewish people came here in search of a place to live in peace. **The Jewish Museum is a must to learn the history of the new Christians.**

\_Where to eat\_



\_Where to stay\_



Travel Agencies  
Tourist Animation



**SORTELHA**



# OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME



Living history

## CONTACT DETAILS

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# SORTELHA

## A VOYAGE INTO THE PAST

Sortelha is one of the oldest, most beautiful towns in Portugal. It has kept its physiognomy all this time and is considered one of the best preserved. A visit to its streets and alleys, enclosed in a defensive ring and watched over by a lofty 13<sup>th</sup> century castle takes outsiders back to past centuries among medieval tombs, by the Manueine pillory or in front of the renaissance church.



**13**  
**Rua do Forno street**  
In the end building you find the old village oven, which has been restored and is now a coffee shop.

**Bracejo**  
A traditional handicraft technique in Sortelha



**37**  
**Old lady's head**  
A curious granite formation moulded by the whims of nature a few metres east of the False Door.



- Key**
- 1 - Vila Gate
  - 2 - Station of the Cross
  - 3 - Howling wind house
  - 4 - Falcões House
  - 5 - 18<sup>th</sup> century house
  - 6 - House number one
  - 7 - House of the town clerk
  - 8 - Mergulho Fountain
  - 9 - Azenha Fountain
  - 10 - House with Manueine window
  - 11 - 16<sup>th</sup> century house
  - 12 - Almas House
  - 13 - Village oven
  - 14 - Castle
  - 15 - Castle gate
  - 16 - Station of the Cross
  - 17 - Traitors' Gate
  - 18 - Town hall and prison
  - 19 - Pillory
  - 20 - Station of the Cross
  - 21 - Nossa Senhora das Neves/ Parish Church
  - 22 - Bell tower
  - 23 - Town house
  - 24 - Parish residence
  - 25 - Governor's House
  - 26 - Judge's house
  - 27 - Arab house
  - 28 - Station of the Cross
  - 29 - False door
  - 30 - Facho Tower
  - 31 - Nova Gate
  - 32 - Section of medieval paving
  - 33 - Misericórdia Hospital
  - 34 - Misericórdia / Santa Rita Church
  - 35 - Santiago Chapel
  - 36 - Anthropomorphic tombs
  - 37 - Old lady's head



## EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY

The fortification was built by order of King Sancho I. It is a typical rock castle sitting on an imposing outcrop with a separate donjon. Sortelha received a charter from King Sancho II in 1228 and was the seat of the municipality until 1855. It was more important in the reigns of King Dinis and King Manuel, who granted it another charter to encourage its repopulation in 1510.



**14**  
**Castle**  
Undulating walls following the terrain. Be sure to see the gargoyle and raised doorway in the tower.

Panoramic  
view at sunset



As you leave the walled section by the Nova Gate, you will find a group of buildings in a wide open space looking out over a stunning landscape. They are the old Misericórdia Hospital, the ruins of Misericórdia/Santa Rita Church (or São João Church, according to the Parish Memoirs) and Santiago Chapel.

**31**  
**Nova Gate**  
It was through this gate that the medieval road to Covilhã passed. A stone on the right displays standard measurements (rod and ell).



**31**  
Inside the Nova Gate at the end of the day, with a view of Serra da Estrela

