

12 HISTORICAL VILLAGES, WELL-SPENT MOMENTS



This brochure complies with Accessibility and Inclusive Design requirements



1 destination that is in fact 12



BIOSPHERE certified destination

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 THE VILLAGES, WHERE A WEB OF HISTORIES IS WAITING FOR YOU

Do you enjoy getting lost in the alleyways of a walled village, feeling the challenge of ancient battles, or just enjoying the beauty of a sweeping landscape? The Historical Villages of Portugal in Beira Interior are a unique historical and tourist destination because they are the guardians of centuries of history.

The journeys go far beyond contemplation, they represent less hurried times and genuine experiences. The days are filled with emotions: radical sports, hikes, gastronomy, river beaches, culture, landscapes, and everything needed for fulfilling days.

Here, life is emotion and the rest... is history.

Start your discovery at the two Historical Villages closest to Idanha-a-Velha and continue on to the rest.

MONSANTO
15km

CASTELO NOVO
46km

N40° 2.3953', W007° 6.777'



It is set apart by its impossible houses located amongst the round boulders, the lofty, dominant, impregnable castle and a vast landscape which can only be seen from the top of this stone island. There are no arguments against coming here. And it is important to remember that this is the most "Portuguese" village in Portugal.

N40° 4.6939', W007° 29.6082'



It is the soul of Gardunha and the home of springs which flow down its slopes, creating a framework in the style of noble and ancient architecture. From an ancient mill to its real fountains, its light and mysticism will enamour any visitor.

CONTACTS

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co-funding



Where to eat



Where to sleep



APP AHP



Experiences



IDANHA-A-VELHA



OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME.



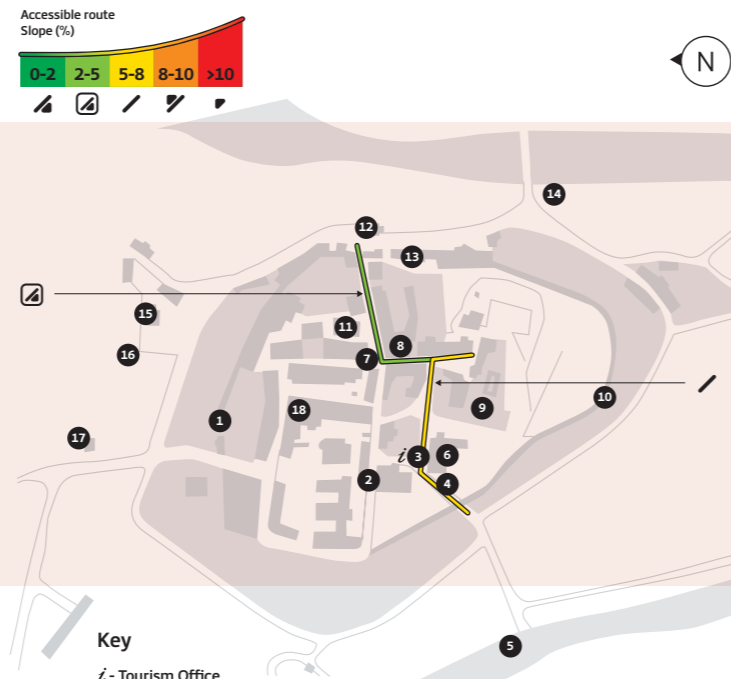
1 destination that is in fact 12

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IDANHA-A-VELHA ETERNAL CITY

This ancient town's position was not left to chance, located along a meandering path the unhurried Ponsul designed. Welcomed by an ancient wall, we enter what was once a bustling Roman city. Here, we discover the hundreds of words in stone which remind us of the names, desires and loves of those who once lived there. But this ancient city is not just about stones, it is also about trees from the beginning of time which have leisurely observed the relentless passing of centuries. There are so many stories which deserve the stillness and shade of the centuries-old mulberry tree, or the millenary olive tree, because we all deserve to come here and hear our story.



Key

- z - Tourism Office
- 1 - North Gate
- 2 - Santa Maria Church or Cathedral
- 3 - Olive Oil Press
- 4 - Roman house
- 5 - Stepstones across the Ponsul River
- 6 - Epigraphic Archive
- 7 - Pillory
- 8 - Community Oven
- 9 - The Templar Tower and Roman temple
- 10 - South Gate
- 11 - Main Parish Church
- 12 - São Dâmaso Chapel
- 13 - Haystacks of São Dâmaso (Archaeology Workshops)
- 14 - Medieval Bridge
- 15 - Holy Spirit Chapel
- 16 - Public toilets
- 17 - São Sebastião Chapel
- 18 - The Great House

Set of ashlar
belonging to one, or
several, monumental
inscriptions on the
portico, or temple,
in the ancient
Roman forum.



ColorADD
The Color Alphabet



Colour
identification
system for
colour-blind people



Amidst the hills, Idanha-a-Velha welcomes us through the North Gate, an ancient entrance to the robust late-ancient wall, along whose length, measuring 745 metres, there are at least seven, mostly circular, towers. Founded by the Romans at the end of the 1st century BC, and elevated to a municipality about a century later, the city survived the invasions of the Germanic peoples and ascended to the seat of a bishopric. One of its most fabulous legends refers to this period: that of the Shepherd King Wamba. Egitanea languished until the Templars deconstructed it to build a fortress there. It will never return to its former splendour, and will always remain the "ruins of multiplied ruins". Today, Idanha-a-Velha, classified as a National Monument, has been revived and you are a part of that revival.



Borrachões ("Drunkards")

Traditional sweets from Beira Baixa, so called because the traditional recipe replaces eggs with brandy and wine.

2
The Santa Maria Church or Cathedral
Built on Roman and Paleo-Christian structures, it retains important Romanesque and Manueline features. The Historical Villages Programme restored it and transformed it into a multifunctional cultural space.



3
Olive Oil Press
An important building for industrial archaeology, it used to be the olive oil press for the Marrocos house, where the olive oil from its endless olive groves was produced. It survives as a testimony of a time and know-how of an almost forgotten place.



7
Pillory
Manueline pillory located in the square, flanked by the Town Hall Building and the 16th century Church of Mercy.