

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

MONSANTO
N400 2.3953',
W0070 6.777'



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 Monsanto and continue on to the rest.

IDANHA-A-VELHA
15km



N39° 59.8805', W007° 8.6676'

IDANHA-A-VELHA

CASTELO NOVO
47km

Many memories of the ancient Roman city are still rebelliously hidden in the ground that is trodden in Idanha. No one can remain indifferent to the ancient form of baptism, nor the thousand stories of those who wanted to conquer those walls. Strolling among ancient olive trees and listening to the wind is a privilege reserved for visitors.



Where to eat



Where to sleep



APP AHP



Experiences



MONSANTO



OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME.

CASTELO NOVO



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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1 destination that is in fact 12

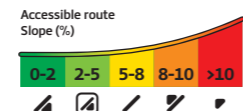


co-funding



MONSANTO THE STRENGTH OF STONE

The Monsanto inselberg is part of a granite archipelago which rises to an altitude of 762 metres. There is a happy symbiosis here between both architectures: the natural one, from the utter chaos of the *barrocais* (irregular rock and boulder formations), and the human one, which adapted the boulders in an almost rupestrian architecture. From there, legends and stories of sieges and monsters were born, typical of the wild nature of the area. This embrace between rocks and men earned national recognition, when in 1938 the title of “Most Portuguese Village” was awarded to Monsanto in a national competition. Later, it gained greater projection and opportunity, with its integration in the network of Historical Villages, which made Monsanto a tourist destination with history. With a castle that goes back to the days of Portugal’s original design, full of happy and bitter moments, the country’s history can be recounted here.



Key

- í - Tourism Office
- 1 - Holy Spirit Gate
- 2 - Chapel of the Holy Spirit
- 3 - Meio Fountain
- 4 - House of Fernando Namora
- 5 - Cross of São Salvador
- 6 - Fonte Nova Fountain
- 7 - Main Parish or São Salvador Church
- 8 - Pinheiros Manor House and Mono Fountain
- 9 - Graciosa Manor House
- 10 - Old Chapel of Perpetual Help
- 11 - Pillory
- 12 - Former Office of Fernando Namora
- 13 - Church of Mercy
- 14 - Lucano Tower or Clock Tower
- 15 - Santo António Gate
- 16 - Chapel of Santo António
- 17 - Seventeenth Century House (1628)
- 18 - Patience Bench
- 19 - Community Oven
- 20 - Viewpoint from the community oven
- 21 - Grotto
- 22 - Ascent to the Castle
- 23 - Descent to the Chapel of São Pedro de Vir-a-Corça

Marafona

These ragdolls, without eyes or mouths, were traditionally made for the *Festa das Cruzes* (“Festival of Crosses”) in May, protecting houses from thunderstorms.



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The oldest site is located at the summit, where the Templars built an enclosure with a Keep. Another structure with evenly spaced towers was later added, with two uneven enclosed areas. Outside the walls, the primitive village around the chapel of S. Miguel is defended by a low wall. The Pawn Tower, now in ruins, rises dominantly above the village. From the Bulwark, an adventurer’s point of arrival and departure, you can visit the village which flourished further down the slope in the 15th century, when the old village next to the high castle which crowns the mountain was abandoned. Stroll through the village, located on an inselberg, one of the geological monuments of the Naturtejo Geopark, under the auspices of UNESCO, where the history of the Earth can be interpreted through its landscapes.



Chapel of São Pedro de Vir-a-Corça

An important Romanesque testament to Beira Baixa, set in the earthy landscape and dating back to the beginning of the 13th century. The legend of the hermit, Santo Amador from the late Middle Ages, is associated with this Chapel.

Arch of the Chapel of São João

Ruins of a chapel, probably built in the mid-16th century in the Manueline style. Today, its arch is a landmark in the extensive landscape.



Adufe

The *adufe* is a traditional percussion instrument from this region, played by women and similar to the Mirandês tambourine, but different in technique and sound. It is not clear when it was introduced in this area, but it is represented on an extraordinary Islamic vase from Tavira.

