



# 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

**\_PIODÃO\_**  
N 40° 13.7551',  
W 07° 49.4928'



\_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.

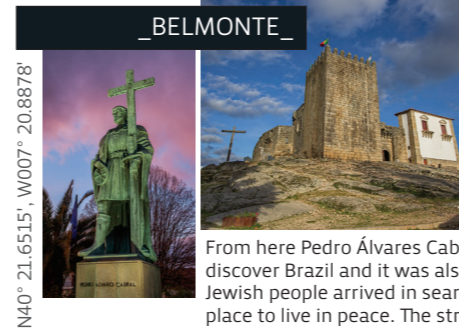
Start your discovery at the two Historical Villages closest to Piódão and continue on to the rest

**LINHARES DA BEIRA**  
80km

**BELMONTE**  
113km



This land of the astute Dona Lopa is a monumental village, unique in its history, which has preserved stone-framed windows and doors through which we want to enter. At its centre is a forum where men gathered to deliberate, protected by the castle's robust enclosures. It is also a home of winds and, therefore, a sanctuary for men who dared to fly.



From here Pedro Álvares Cabral left to discover Brazil and it was also here that Jewish people arrived in search of a place to live in peace. The streets and their significant museums are worth visiting, as is the landscape which truly justifies its name.

## CONTACTS

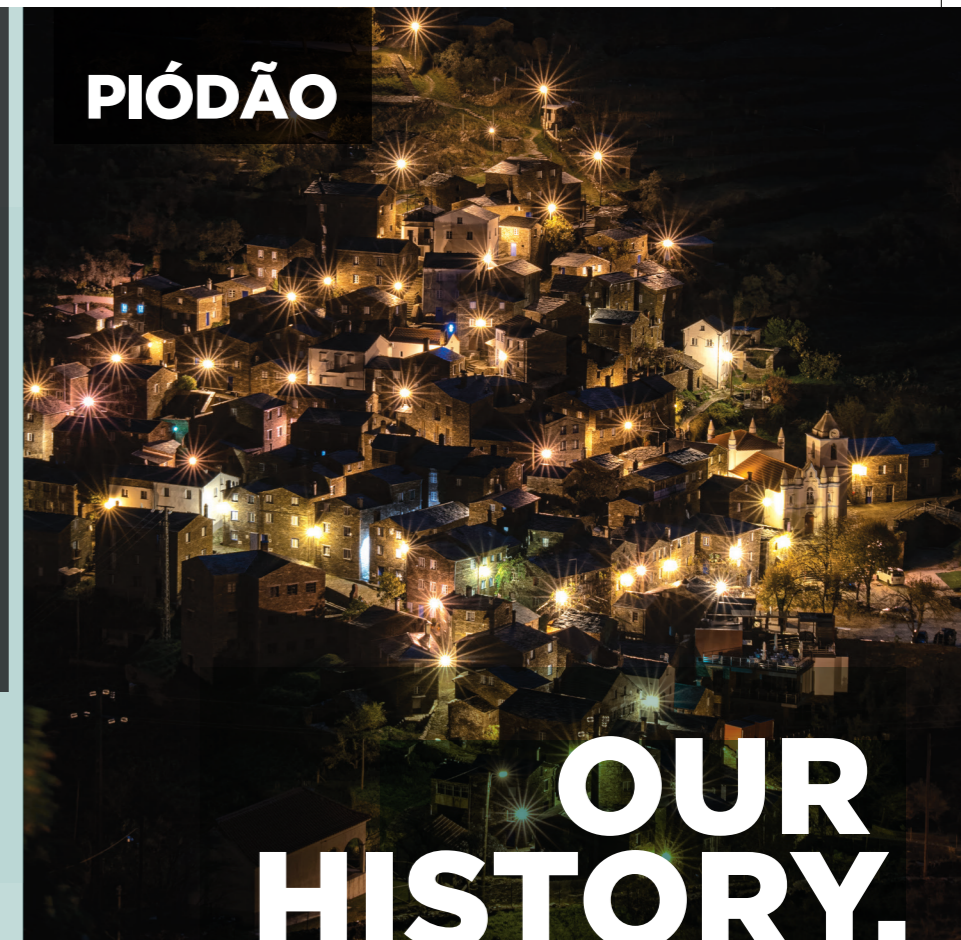
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# PIODÃO



# OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME.



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co-funding



# PIÓDÃO THE SECRET OF THE AÇOR

A hidden secret in the Serra do Açor, Piódão is a village perched in the landscape, stubborn against the inhospitable nature, showing an unexpected beauty in the countryside. The terraces are stairs on the slope, which shaped the mountain range, upon which the black schist houses settled, nestled snugly against each other, with windows facing those who arrive. The blue of the doors and windows shine like humble lights on the schist, with a white church enlivening the memory of Christmases past, and patiently assembled nativity scenes. Next to a fountain, sitting on a schist bench or wetting your feet in the pure water of the stream, let yourself be enchanted by the beauty and history of the Historical Village of Piódão.



The blue of the doors and windows of the silent Historical Village of Piódão shines between upright schist walls, protected by roofs of shining black scales.



Weather vane on the tower of the Piódão Main Parish Church.



**2**  
**Main Parish Church**  
Built in the 17th century, it was remodelled in the 19th century, having been transformed into a neo-baroque monument.



- Key**
- z - Tourism Office / Museum Centre
  - 1 - Bust of Canon Manuel Fernandes Nogueira
  - 2 - Main Parish Church
  - 3 - Chapel of São Pedro
  - 4 - Threshing Floor
  - 5 - Algares Fountain
  - 6 - Chapel of Souls
  - 7 - Panoramic View
  - 8 - Irrigation channels
  - 9 - River Beach



ColorADD  
The Color Alphabet



Colour identification system for colour-blind people

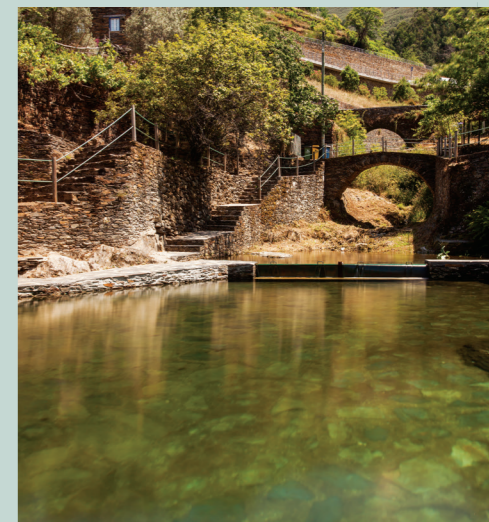


In a remarkable terraced landscape, these walls are an ancient art used for forming agricultural land on which to sow cereals, helping to provide bread at home. Wisely, they were also a solution to secure and protect the steep slopes which protect Piódão. In the 13th century, there is reference to a *Casal Piodam*, later transferred to its current location, perhaps due to the installation of a Cistercian Monastery, whose remnants have disappeared, but to which the ancient invocation, so common in these abbeys, of Santa Maria (Main Parish Church) refers. It is said that one of the killers of Inês de Castro, Diogo Lopes Pacheco, settled here, surnames which still exist today in Piódão: the Lopes and the Pachecos. In the *Numeramento Joanino* (first national population census) of 1527, Piódão appears as "*casall do piodam*" with only two residents.



The narrow *levadas* (irrigation channels) are efficient networks for the circulation of water.

**9**  
**Piódão River Beach, Piódão Stream**  
Natural dance of the water, which is fresh and pure. There is a silence here accompanied by the chirping of the *levadas* (irrigation channels), where swimming is an almost sacred privilege.



For lovers of paths, it will be difficult to choose which footpath to follow. But whichever one it may be, it is guaranteed that discovering such a rich, natural and scenic heritage will bring you the greatest enjoyment.

