

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

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_ _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 Sortelha and continue on to the rest.

BELMONTE
19km

MONSANTO
55km

N40° 21.6515', W007° 20.8878'



BELMONTE

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.



Where to eat



Where to sleep



APP AHP



Experiences



SORTELHA



OUR HISTORY, YOUR TIME.



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CONTACTS

Sabugal Municipal Council

(+351) 271 751 040 (Call to domestic fixed network)

geral@cm-sabugal.pt

Sortelha Tourism Office

(+351) 271 381 072 (Call to domestic fixed network)

turismo@cm-sabugal.pt

Aldeias Históricas de Portugal
Associação de Desenvolvimento Turístico
(+351) 275 913 395 (Call to domestic fixed network)
(+351) 965 254 929 (Call to domestic mobile network)
produto@aldeiashistoricasdeportugal.com

www.aldeiashistoricasdeportugal.com
facebook.com/aldeiashistoricasdeportugal
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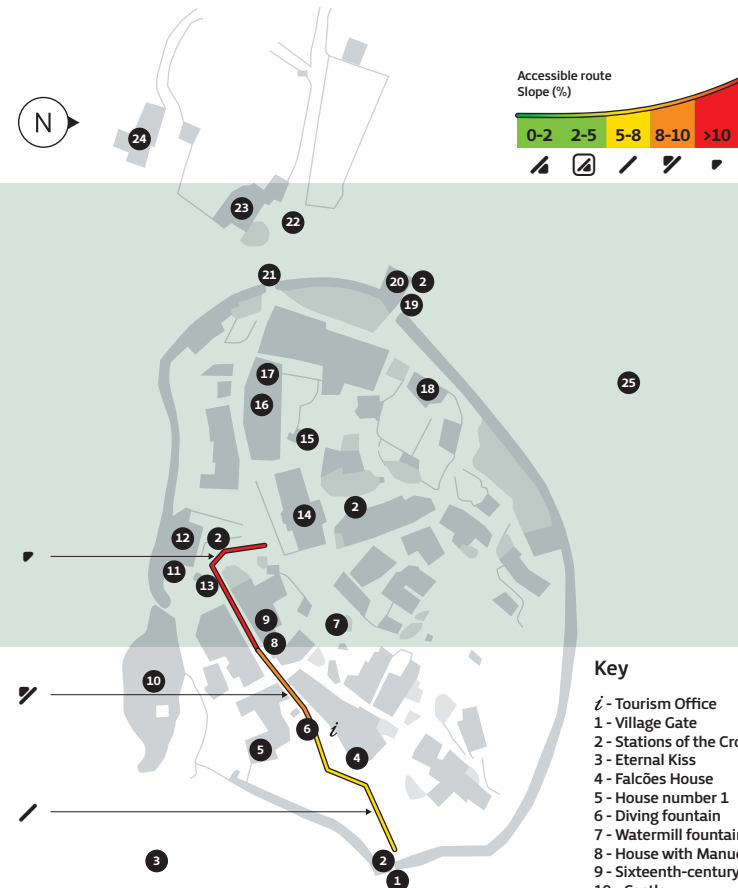


co-funding



SORTELHA VILLAGE OF THE STONE RING

The high and robust wall, resembling an old ring, guards streets and squares since the time when Sortelha was a Manueline town. As soon as you pass the Town Gate, you will be welcomed by the old nettle tree, while the Keep maintains watch over the sleeping village. And arriving at the castle gates, admire the Pillory Square and the old Town Hall, while the steep climb announces the beautiful Main Parish Church. The irregular stone steps lead you to the top of the bell tower, where you can pause to breathe purity. The beauty observed from this vantage point is the reward, but Sortelha offers so much more. Go through the New Gate and next to the ruined Church of Mercy, spend time contemplating the highest mountain range in mainland Portugal.



Key

- í - Tourism Office
- 1 - Village Gate
- 2 - Stations of the Cross
- 3 - Eternal Kiss
- 4 - Falcões House
- 5 - House number 1
- 6 - Diving fountain
- 7 - Watermill fountain
- 8 - House with Manueline window
- 9 - Sixteenth-century House
- 10 - Castle
- 11 - Betrayal Gate
- 12 - Town Hall and Prison
- 13 - Pillory
- 14 - Main Parish Church / Our Lady of the Snows
- 15 - Bell Tower
- 16 - Parish Priest or Passal Residence
- 17 - Governor's House
- 18 - Arab House
- 19 - False Gate
- 20 - Beam Tower
- 21 - New Gate
- 22 - Medieval Cobblestone
- 23 - Hospital of Mercy
- 24 - Church of Mercy (Santa Rita)
- 25 - The Old Woman's Head



Bracejo

Traditional basket-weaving technique using the leaves of this herbaceous plant.

25

The Old Woman's Head
A curious granite formation, shaped by the whims of nature, a few metres east of the False Gate.



EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY

The fortress, whose construction was ordered by D. Sancho I, is a typical rock castle built on an imposing rock formation, with an isolated keep. Sortelha was only granted a charter in 1228 by King Sancho II and was the seat of a vast council term until 1855. It gained greater prominence during the reigns of King Dinis and King Manuel who, in 1510, granted it a new charter, to stimulate its repopulation.

13

Pillory

Manueline pillory, with a board, was built in 1510 as a symbolic act commemorating the attribution of the Manueline Charter.



3

Eternal Kiss

Allegory of forbidden love transformed into an eternal kiss. This is why Sortelha is a place of poetic inspiration and a serves as a stage for films and written novels.



Leaving the walled centre through the New Gate, you come across a set of buildings set in a wide, open space with a stunning landscape. It is comprised of the former Hospital of Mercy, the ruins of the Church of Mercy/Santa Rita (or São João, according to the Parish Memories) and the Chapel of Santiago in the old cemetery.

21

New Gate

The medieval path connecting Covilhã to the town passes through here. On the right side, a stone displays the standard measures (pole and cubit).

