

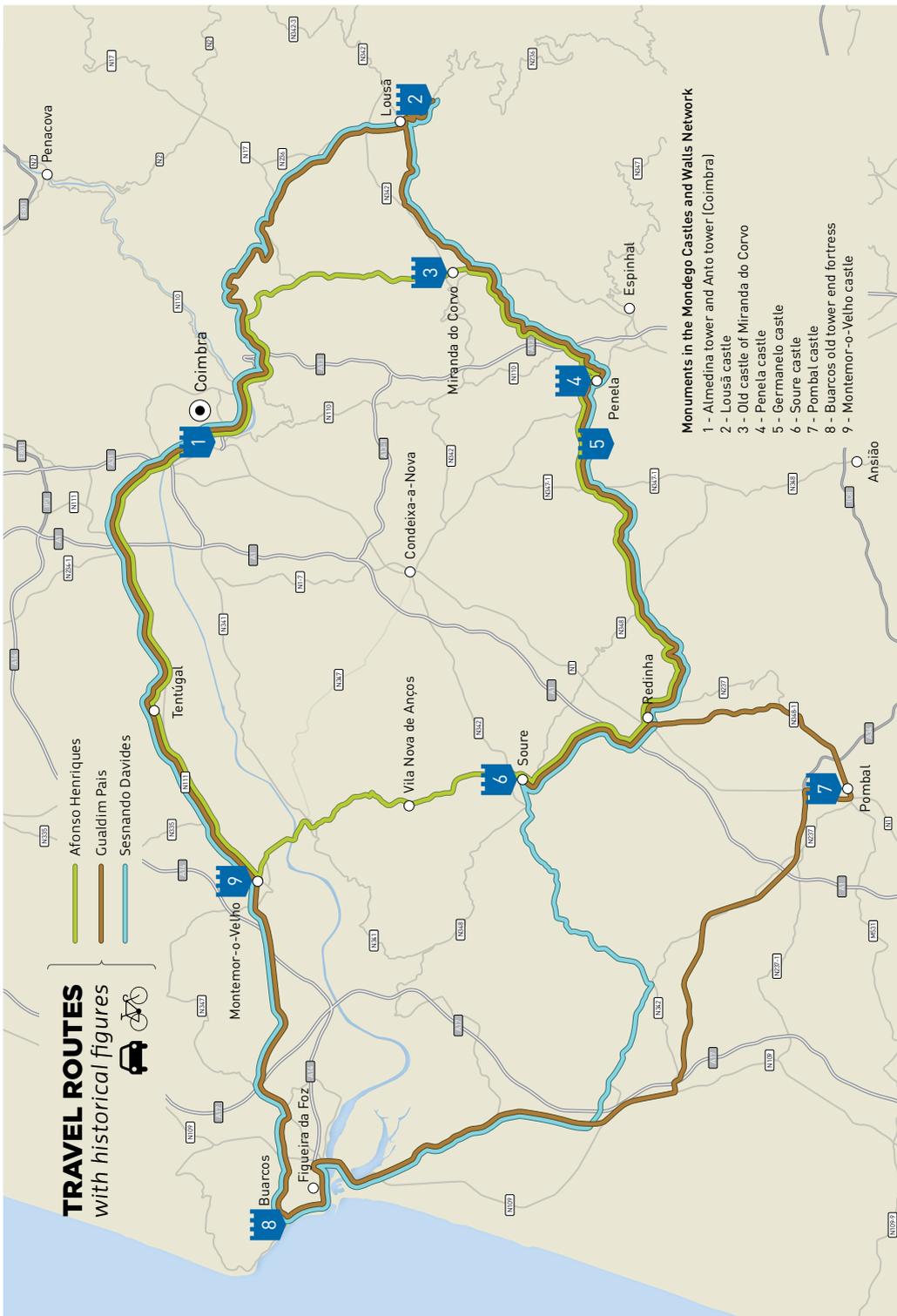
  *Travel with*

AFONSO HENRIQUES

A Vision of Portugal



CASTLES AND TOWN WALLS OF THE MONDEGO NETWORK



B: 1109
D: Coimbra, 12.06.1185

AFONSO HENRIQUES

A Vision of Portugal



Circular route

Departure / Arrival: **Coimbra**

Total distance: **121Km**



This route takes us to the time, nearly 900 years ago, when Afonso Henriques made his vision of Portugal as a free and independent country a reality and was crowned its first king.

Back in those days, the Mondego River formed the boundary between the warring Christians and Muslims. Coimbra's strategic location made it the logical choice for the new country's capital city. From here the new king pushed the border ever further south while protecting his Mondego stronghold with a network of fortifications.

He is laid to rest in the city where his vision began to take shape.

No one knows for certain whether he was born in Guimarães, Viseu or Coimbra. It matters little given the importance of his achievements, which began on June 24, 1128 in the fields of São Mamede on the day Portugal was created. In 1131, he strategically established his court in Coimbra. From here, he commanded the military defence structure and the new organisation of the territory and its people. Successive military campaigns departed from this capital which gradually pushed the boundary further south until it passed the line of the Tagus. Along the way, he was proclaimed king on the field of the Battle of Ourique in 1139. The royal chancery parchments record which the Holy See would take 40 years to recognise; an independent Portugal and Afonso Henriques as their king. The monarch transformed Coimbra into the capital of the kingdom, creating a solid defensive belt inherited from Sesnando Davides with castles and towers that are now part of the Mondego Castles and Walls Network (medieval fortifications in Coimbra, Lousã, Miranda do Corvo, Penela, Germanelo, Pombal, Soure, Montemor-o-Velho and Figueira da Foz). In order to strengthen this territory, Afonso Henriques granted various charters. In 1147, he reconquered Santarém and Lisbon and the border then moved into the Tagus valley. Nevertheless, the Coimbra region played a profound role in his reign. The Santa Cruz Monastery, where he now rests in one of the most beautiful national tombs, was chosen from the monuments that he established in the city to be his final resting place.

SYMBOLS

Visiting the monuments:



Interpretation centre



Brochure



Informative panel on-site



Guided tour



Audio-guide service

Check out the other routes in this collection:

(TSD) Travel with Sesnando Davides; (TGP) Travel with Gualdim Pais.

“... built on a mountain, surrounded by good walls rent by three doors and very well fortified.” Coimbra at the beginning of the 12th century, according to the geographer Idrici.

1 COIMBRA

The first capital of the kingdom

The first steps of this route take us to the time when Coimbra, the chosen seat of the young kingdom, saw the reconstruction of the bridge over the Mondego and founded the Santa Cruz Monastery. Temples were rebuilt in the Romanesque style we still find in the Old Cathedral and the churches of St. Salvador and St. James as well as the now missing or profoundly changed churches of St. John of Almedina, St. Peter, St. Christopher and St. Bartholomew.

► ALMEDINA TOWER

Nucleus of the walled city

Even before the first Portuguese king, this is the most remarkable tower of the medieval walled enclosure and, in the time of Afonso Henriques, it defended one of the main entrances to the city.

This is why the route begins here. Inside the tower you will find a model of the medieval city; take a moment to appreciate Coimbra's ancient castle and the then existing buildings.

(📍 TSD)



Almedina Tower / GPS: 40°12'31,86"N; 8°25'43,49"O

COIMBRA AND THE FORMATION OF THE KINGDOM

When the court settled here in 1131, the city of Coimbra became the decision-making centre for Afonso Henriques' government. This fact emphasised the campaign to enlarge his domain, embodied through new southern conquests, new administrative organisation of the territory and armies (recruiting warriors and promoting foot soldiers to village knights) and creating

new villages and townships. Coimbra became the capital of an emerging kingdom, breathing new dynamism with material expression into the foundation of religious institutions that had strong links to power and gave rise to the important and constructive surge of renewed artistic language which accompanied the expansion of Romanesque art in Portugal.

After the overview it's now time to visit the parts of it which still remain. We follow Rua Fernandes Tomás, where the buildings on the right are supported by the ancient wall and hide the Trebuchet Tower and the Tower of Princess Joana from view. We reach Couraça de Lisboa at the point where the Belcouce Tower and a gate used to be.

The steep slope of the Couraça justifies a rest stop with one of the most magnificent views of the Mondego.

THE FIRST BRIDGE OVER THE MONDEGO

Nothing visible remains of the Roman bridge that crossed the Mondego which, shortly after installing the court, Afonso Henriques decided to reconstruct (1131/1132). The work on the bridge reused the Roman pillars and built new arches and a new platform to strengthen this main access to the city and north-south traffic. The bridge withstood the silting of the river and underwent major renovations thanks to King Manuel I. The bridge was demolished in 1873. In 1875, modern technological options facilitated the installation of a metal bridge with a wooden platform, which was later dismantled when the current Santa Clara bridge was built alongside it in 1950.

We continue to the site of the former Traitor's Gate (a.k.a. Genicoca or Iben Bodron). On reaching Largo de Dom Dinis, we find ourselves at the point where Coimbra castle once stood. It was probably built by Dom Sesnando, although nothing of it remains visible.

It is known that Afonso Henriques ordered its modernisation, building the square 22m high keep with a cistern. The intention of using the site to build an astronomical observatory in the Pombaline era (c. 1770) led to its almost complete destruction. The final blow fell in the 1940s during the construction of the Univer-

sity City. Since 1950, King Dinis, founder of the Portuguese university, has been asserting his majesty on the exact spot where his great-great grandfather established the keep. We head towards Porta Férrea, the entrance to Paço das Escolas, to position ourselves at the site of the ancient fortress and former royal palace.



► PAÇO DAS ESCOLAS — (11th century) *National monument*

It was here that, under Muslim rule, the Alcácer (fortified residence intended for the governor of the Islamic city) was built around the year 1000. The choice of location at one of the highest points with best visibility of the river and the road was strategic. Originally, the Alcácer corresponded to a regular quadrilateral of 80m x 80m, equipped with semi-circular towers, the bases of which are still evident on the north facade.

Porta Férrea (1634) is in the same place as the original Alcácer door. After the reconquest of the city in 1064, this space remained as the seat of power. The counts of Portucale, King Henrique and Queen Teresa, certainly lived here as did Afonso Henriques; on transferring the court to Coimbra, he kept this space as a centre of power. The subsequently added Royal Palace remained here without substantial changes until the 16th century. It was adapted into a place of education in the 1540s.

GPS: 40°12'25,96N; 8°25'3340"O



NOT TO BE MISSED: AT PAÇO DAS ESCOLAS
Baroque Library (18th century);
St. Michael's Chapel (16th, 17th and 18th centuries).

Make the most of this opportunity to enjoy the panorama over the Mondego to the south, which was the area most likely to suffer from attacks. We return to Praça da Porta Férrea to go down to the current Machado de Castro National Museum. This national monument was a former Bishop's Palace (12th century), built on top of a Roman forum and cryptoportico. From here we can see what remains as testimony to the Royal Palace; a fortified door leading to the courtyard which, although diminished in height and with crenellations that are not original, presents a double horseshoe arch of Mozarabic influenced construction from the time of Afonso Henriques. In the square to the north of the museum we find the much-altered church of St. Salvador (12th century) where we see the inscription on the facade of the entrance indicating the date (1179). As such, it forms part of the group of churches encompassed within the Coimbra Romanesque. Now let's wander the streets of upper Coimbra until we find ourselves in Largo da SéVelha.



► **OLD CATHEDRAL** — (12th century)

Built in the middle of the 12th century under the patronage of Bishop Miguel Solomon and with the assistance of King Afonso Henriques, the cathedral's architects were Roberto, Bernardo and Soeiro, the first two being of Frankish origin. It was constructed in the centre of Almedina where the mosque used to be and performed its functions until 1772. It is a remarkable example of Portuguese Romanesque architecture with its closest parallel being Lisbon cathedral. In 1185, Sancho I, son of Afonso Henriques, was crowned king here. An Islamic inscription on an exterior wall testifies to the use of slave labour leaving to posterity a message of faith, "I write this as a permanent reminder of my suffering. My hand will perish one day, but this magnificence will remain". Of note is the 16th century Porta Especiosa side door, a Renaissance work sponsored by Bishop Dom Jorge de Almeida. (📍 TSD)

GPS: 40°12'31,66" N; 8°25'38,13" O

COIMBRA MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS

On June 16, 1145, the good people of Coimbra undertook a review of the city's customs, issued by the charter granted by Count Dom Henrique in 1111. These by-laws are the oldest that are known nationally, which makes them particularly important. This act had the support of King Afonso Henriques and sought to adapt the city to its new status as capital and seat of the court and of the bishopric. Of particular pertinence to the era of the crusades, the by-laws include a law that states that "no one is authorised to go to Jerusalem, but they may go to the aid of Leiria Castle and all Extremadura, and those who die there will be exonerated of their sins in the same way as those who went to Jerusalem". This reform goes on to guarantee the purchase and sale of products and give rulings on questions of justice, taxes and services.



NOT TO BE MISSED: IN COIMBRA

Historical Centre - Alta, Baixa and Rua da Sofia; Santa Clara-a-Velha Monastery; Fado session.

Coimbra's municipal by-laws give us an idea of its great commercial vitality by mentioning numerous different crafts and products such as shoemakers (using cow hide, calfskin, goatskin and leather), the meat trade (beef, partridge, rabbit, lamb and chicken), sea fish, river fish and seafood and traders of wax, butter, honey, pepper, oil, cloth, tiles, jars, pots and roasting dishes. The 1170 charter mentions dresses made from skins, bragal (coarse

cloth), indigo, flax, garlic, onions, wine, figs and bread.

We now go through the Almedina gate, under the tower we already visited and beneath the Almedina Arch, a Barbican door which became an archway during the reign of King Manuel I. We now head to Praça do Comércio where you can visit St. James's church, initiated after 1150 and consecrated in 1206, paying particular attention to the front and side doorways. Other buildings underwent inter-

ventions that adulterated their Romanesque base. This is the case in the Santa Cruz Monastery, where we end the route in Coimbra. From Praça do Comércio, stroll through the Baixa until you reach the front of the Santa Cruz Monastery.

This is a sample of the city of Coimbra that Afonso Henriques left us in 1185; the political, economic, cultural and military capital of the young kingdom. Let the monarch now guide us through the territories in which he intervened to the south of the Mondego.

► **SANTA CRUZ MONASTERY** — (12th century)

National monument

Little is left of the Romanesque monastery, founded in 1131 by Dom Telo, St. Teotonio and Dom João Peculiar with the support of King Afonso Henriques, due to its many subsequent transformations. The original church had a single nave supported by three chapels on each side. A sturdy tower rose out of the facade, which was necessary because the monastery was outside the city walls. In addition to this, other towers (the last of which was destroyed in 1935) and an enclosure protected this monastery, whose importance far exceeded religious works. As well as being one of the kingdom's most important cultural centres, the royal chancery worked here. It was here, too, that Afonso Henriques found the diplomatic backing to support the long process of creating an independent nation and also where he was laid to rest, the care of his remains being delivered to the Canons Regular of St. Augustine. It was in fact for the purpose of reconstructing the tombs of the two first Portuguese monarchs (mismatching monuments now placed in the chancel) that King Manuel I ordered a thorough remodelling of the monastery in the early decades of the 16th century.

GPS: 40°12'39,28" N; 8°25'44,22" O



► **From Coimbra to Miranda do Corvo**



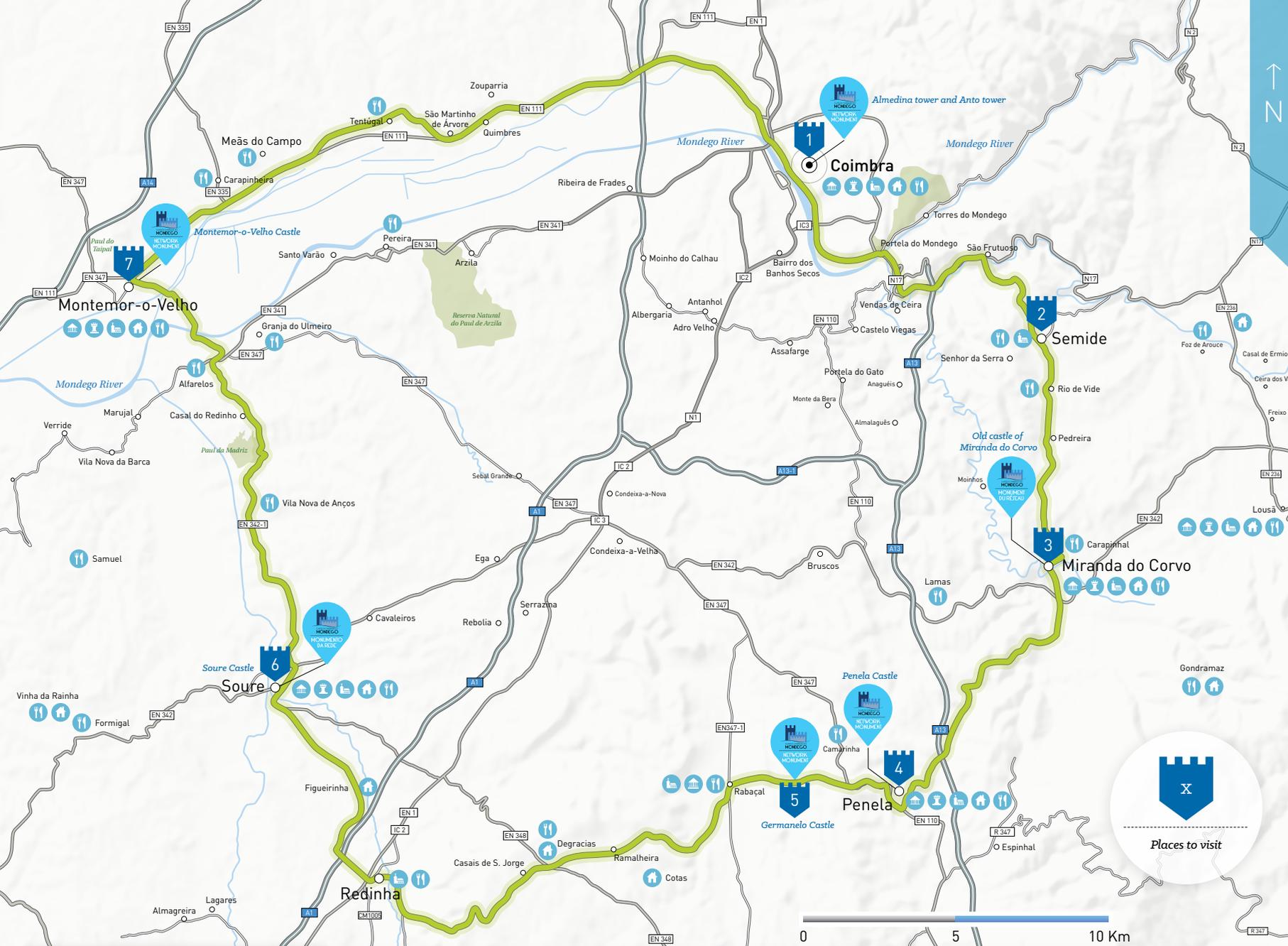
We follow the EN17 Beira road, which for centuries was the most important route linking Coimbra and Ciudad Rodrigo, for a few kilometres. The River Ceira, which begins in the Serra do Açor, flows alongside us. We cross the river towards Semide and Miranda do Corvo.

In **SEMIDE** ² we pay a brief visit to the monastery church of St. Mary of Semide. Nothing remains of the monastery it housed in Afonso's era. The current building was renovated in the 16th century, destroyed by fire in 1664, burned down again in 1990 and later restored. The church is worth a visit, with a wooden altarpiece, azulejos (tiles), sculptures and its pipe organ, all elements from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Serra da Lousã rises on the horizon and we head now to its base and western slopes.

AFONSO HENRIQUES

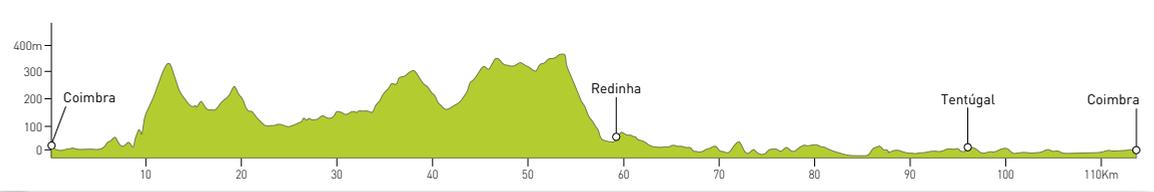
Chronology

- 1109** — Birth
- 1128** — [24th June] Battle of São Mamede
- 1129** — Confirmed the donation of Soure to the Order of the Temple
- 1131** — Established court in Coimbra
- 1136** — Outbreak of the Ladeia invasion
- 1136** — Built or rebuilt Miranda do Corvo castle and granted its charter (29th November)
- 1137** — Rebuilt Penela castle and granted its charter (July)
- 1139** — Battle of Ourique (25th July). Proclaimed king
- 1142** — Ordered construction of Germanelo castle and granted its charter
- 1145** — New municipal by-laws in Coimbra
- 1147** — Donated Ladeia to the Order of the Temple
- 1147** — Conquered Santarém and Lisbon
- 1151** — Granted the Arouce (Lousã) charter
- 1179** — Granted Coimbra a new charter
- 1185** — Died in Coimbra



KEY / SYMBOLS

- Castle
- Monument
- Museum
- Accommodation
- Restaurant



_ cumulative gap:

- +2161m
- 2161m

Key (roads)

- Travel route (car and bicycle)
- Highway
- Paved roads

3 MIRANDA DO CORVO

Miranda do Corvo already existed in the 10th century with the village established on the hill. However, uncertainties prevail about the origin of its castle. It is known that in 1064, after the reconquest of Coimbra by Ferdinand I, the territory passed to Christian rule, and that the castle was constructed to defend it. Under the government of Queen Teresa, Miranda do Corvo was again destroyed by the Almoravid raid of 1116, which was only halted at the gates of Coimbra. Recognising the importance of this place to the defence of the city, Afonso Henriques probably rebuilt the castle but also assigned it a charter promoting its settlement.



► MIRANDA DO CORVO CASTLE (traces) (11th and 12th century)

A document drawn up in Lervão Monastery in 998AD refers to the existence of a tower in Miranda do Corvo. The castle that was here was attacked and severely damaged during the Almoravid incursion of 1116. After settling in Coimbra, Afonso Henriques integrated this castle into the set of fortresses that made up the protective belt around his city, with reconstruction work taking place between 1134 and 1136. Adapted over the centuries, the castle's eventual abandonment and ruin was determined by a partial collapse in 1799. In 1803, the council authorised the use of the collapsed stones that still remained in the castle structures for the renewal of the Corvo bridge over the River Alheda. Because of this, few elements of the old castle remain today. Only one of its towers survived, converted into the bell tower of St. Salvador's parish church in the 18th century. The recently renovated square tower was built in schist, with corners reinforced by limestone ashlar. An archaeological campaign uncovered traces of the castle walls which reveal that the defensive structure was larger than previously thought since it is likely that the surviving tower had been located in one of the corners. Also remaining from this defensive complex is a rectangular cistern carved out of the rock on the highest point of the hill. It was originally covered by a semicircular dome, which has now been reproduced. The discovery of an unusual necropolis with 22 rock graves dating from the 11th and 12th centuries is also thanks to the archaeological campaign.



Alto do Calvário offers a view of the western side of the Serra da Lousã. You can see Trevim, the highest point of the range at 1,204m altitude. As it extends south, the mountain range loses altitude. Lousã (to the north), Miranda do Corvo and Penela (further south) are located at the points where the lower part of the slopes meet the edge of the low-lying lands.

★ NOT TO BE MISSED: IN MIRANDA DO CORVO

Lousã biological park; Gondramaz schist village; Carapinhal potteries.

🏠 ⓘ 📄 🗺️ 📶 🎧 / GPS: 40°05'33,51"N; 8°20'06,82"O



► **From Miranda do Corvo to Penela.** We now follow the EN17-1 further south towards Penela, a territory that also marked the frontier line in the reconquest.

4 PENELA

Penela's geographic position guaranteed its strategic importance in defending one of the roads most travelled by Muslim and Christian forces; a road linking Coimbra, Pombal and Santarém, crossing the area then known as Ladeia. The first reference to Penela dates back to 1087 and is directly associated with Sesnando Davides, the governor who

was the driving force behind the construction and repopulation of a rocky castle. St. Eufemia's church (16th century) is a national monument and is representative of Renaissance art from the Coimbra region. It has an interesting Romanesque capital which has been reused as holy water font.



► PENELA CASTLE — (11th century); National monument

The current structure is the result of various interventions over the centuries. Sesnando Davides built (or rebuilt) the first defensive structure that was here. It is likely that the castle was attacked during the Almoravid invasion in 1116 which, coupled with the instability of this region and its importance as part of Coimbra's defensive belt, may have justified the need for reconstruction, ordered by King Afonso Henriques in 1137. At this time, the Sesnandine upper castle was converted into the keep. It is now difficult to distinguish this intervention from those carried out in later years by his son, King Sancho I. Additional changes were made during the reigns of King Dinis, King Fernando I and King João I. The perimeter wall was expanded in the 13th and 14th centuries, encompassing the town gate (west), the gate to the fields (or traitor's gate to the northwest) and the clock gate. The shape of the castle is as result of its latest remodelling at the end of the 14th century. (👁️ TSD and TGP)

🏠 ⓘ 📄 🗺️ 📶 🎧 / GPS: 40°01'53,36"N; 8°23'23,38"O

PENELA'S CHARTER (July of 1137)

We are at the forefront of the reconquest. The castle gave security to a small community as a structure but Afonso Henriques knew that the charter was key to the necessary consolidation of this advanced point. Through it, privileges were assigned in order to attract and retain settlers. By virtue of Penela's strategic and insecure location, the charter enabled any farmer to easily become a knight; he just had to buy a horse! Any farmer who owned more than two yokes of oxen, ten sheep, two cows and bed with bedclothes (in other words, a decent bed) was furthermore obliged to buy a horse and rise to knighthood.

THE LEGEND OF PÉ NELA (SET FOOT IN IT)

Dom Antão Gonçalves proposed the reconquest of this castle to King Afonso Henriques. To this end, he seduced Alina, the governor's daughter, pretending to be a Christian renegade prepared to embrace the Muslim religion in the name of love. One day, Dom Antão informed the Christians that the Moors would be leaving the castle. Taking advantage of this, they disguised themselves as bushes and set off for the castle. By the time the inhabitants of the castle noticed, Dom Antão had already opened the door to the fields, shouting "The square is ours! We have set foot in it!" Legend has it that the name of this village stemmed from there.

► **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH** (primitive) — (12th century)

Although Afonso Henriques' 1137 charter already mentions a church, the dedication of this temple to Saint Michael was only recorded in 1160. Nothing remains of this primitive church and the current structure is the result of interventions that took place in the second half the 16th century and throughout the 17th century.

that took place in the second half the 16th century and throughout the 17th century.

★ **NOT TO BE MISSED: IN PENELA**

Rabaçal Roman villa (4th century); St. Michael's fair (September); Rabaçal cheese.



► **From Penela to Germanelo.** We now head slightly westwards to the territory of Ladeia, which the ancient Lisbon - Coimbra - Braga road used to pass through. We set off from Penela heading north on the N110 which we leave about 1 km later, bearing left towards Rabaçal.

Then we will have to make another left turn, following signs for the castle. The ascent is made along an easily driveable dirt road. A few hundred meters later, park next to the placard. The castle must be reconquered by a walking route that will take 10-12 minutes. It's worth it just for the views!



GERMANELO'S CHARTER
(1142 or 1144)

When Afonso Henriques built Germanelo castle, he granted it municipal status and judiciary powers. This was a point of penetration into hostile territory and the charter granted broad privileges to its residents to ensure the garrison necessary for its defence as well as the settlement and revitalisation of the territory. Few were bold enough to risk living there so to attract settlers, not only were the penalties for crimes minimal but all previous crimes - even murder - were pardoned! The price they paid was the insecurity of living on the border in the middle of a war. Note that the charter sets all the limits of the municipality except the southern borders. The people of Germanelo were allowed to keep whatever lands they could occupy to the south. This they did; in 1220, the county reached the Zêzere!

5 **GERMANELO**

► **CASTLE** (traces) — (12th century) / *Site of Public Interest*

After the Ladeia invasion (1136), the security of this territory remained precarious and its settlement was therefore difficult. The castles and surrounding towers did not provide the necessary protection to bear the Muslim assaults that came via the old Roman road. That is why, in 1142, King Afonso Henriques built Germanelo castle in this territory, halfway between Penela and Rabaçal at a strategic point for controlling the road. Part of the walls remain (the current northern wall corresponds to a 20th century reconstruction instigated by the then owner Dr. Salvador Dias Arnaut who acquired the castle in ruins in 1941) as well as a cistern.

GPS: 40°01'34,28"N; 8°25'48,65"O



We are now in the limestone massif of the Serra de Sicó with the Rabaçal valley to the west. The Moors' river (rio dos Mouros) flows to the north. Across the valley, we can see the southwest flank of the Serra da Lousã and the denser limestone elevations that develop southwards to the Serra de Alvaiázere.



► **From Germanelo to Soure crossing the Sicó Mountains.**



Now we head to Rabaçal. From the village, we climb past Ordem and Chanca with views of the valley up to Casmilo. While crossing the mountains, take the opportunity to get to know this limestone massif. In Casmilo you can do a small walking route around the unusual geological formations of the Buracas valley. We then climb up to Senhora do Circo (Lady of the Cirque) then go down to the Janes valley before heading south on the N1. At Galiana, make a short detour to Redinha for a short stop next to its bridge, rebuilt in Afonso's era. Return to Galiana and follow the N1 south to the junction that will lead us to Saurium, the village of Soure, via Carramanha.



6 **SOURCE**

Soure castle is closely associated with Sesnando Davides, the efforts of the Order of the Temple in the defence of Coimbra and the timing of the assault in the southern conquest. This castle is shared by the three network routes, prompting consultation of the others. In 1111, Counts Dom Henrique and Dona Teresa granted Soure its charter in an attempt to attract a population, counter balancing broad social and fiscal privileges with the eminent dangers of this border area. The Almoravid raid in 1116 proved its inse-

curity, forcing the population to abandon Soure and take refuge in Coimbra, although not before burning down the village along with all its goods and crops to prevent them from being taken by the enemy. After Dona Teresa donated the castle to the Order of the Temple, an act that her son, Afonso Henriques, verified in 1129, Soure became the motherhouse of a vast domain. The confirmation of this donation by King Afonso Henriques bears witness to the need to consolidate a ring of protection around Coimbra and to his intention to integrate the Templars into his project for territorial expansion.

► **OUR LADY OF FINISTERRA CHURCH**
(traces) — (séc. XII)

In the wide square next to the castle, we find traces of the ancient Our Lady of Finisterra (End of the Earth) church. In the 11th century, a monastery was created in Soure which was deeply shaken by the 1116 invasion. After this episode, the brothers Martin and Mendo Arias, canons of Coimbra cathedral, were appointed by the bishop to rebuild the existing church and provide religious assistance.

A 12th century inscription refers to the 10th anniversary of King Afonso Henriques' reign, attesting to the construction or completion of the church in the year 1138. The archaeological intervention carried out in 1986 enabled the plan of this church to be outlined, which chronologically encompasses the necropolis found in the 12th century. The items collected are on display at Soure Castle Interpretive Centre.

GPS: 40°03'24,71"N; 8°37'34,52"O



★ **NOT TO BE MISSED: IN SOURCE**

Misericórdia church (17th and 18th century); Pão de Ló (sponge cake) and olive oil biscuits.



► From Soure to Montemor-o-Velho



Now we follow the EN342 along the slopes bordering the Anços river valley. After Alfarelos, we cross the River Mondego to the north. We pass through the fields of the Lower Mondego until we spot Montemor-o-Velho. The protected natural area of Paul of Madriz could be a stopping point on the journey.

STANDARD MEASURES IN THE CASTLE

Crossing the pointed arch in the southeast tower, next to Our Lady of the Rosary's Gate, we find standard measures engraved into the right door jamb. The reference system for measurements of length used in the cloth trade in the late Middle Ages was based on handspans (22cm), cubits (66cm) and perches (110cm). The latter two are recorded here. Displayed in a visible place, these standard measures served to check those used by traders in the markets held here, thus avoiding counterfeits.



7 MONTEMOR-O-VELHO

Its former names of *Mont Mallur* under Muslim rule and *Monte Maior* according to the Christians are unsurprising since they referred to the principal defensive structure to the west of Coimbra, which was particularly on the alert for maritime attacks.



► ST. MARY OF THE CITADEL'S CHURCH

Although there was already a church in the time of Sesnando Davides (end of the 11th century), the current features are the result of a profound intervention ordered by Dom Jorge de Almeida, Bishop of Coimbra in the early 16th century. In addition to the Mudejar tiles, there is a 16th century altarpiece in Ançã stone in the chapel on the Epistle side. The murals on the Gospel side of the chapel date back to the 18th century. (📍 TSD and TGP)

► MONTEMOR-O-VELHO CASTLE — (10th to 15th centuries); National monument

Already in existence in the 10th century during Islamic rule, the castle was rebuilt in the following century at the behest of Sesnando Davides. In the 12th century, it was expanded to the south and west and endowed with architectural innovations important to the art of war at that time. Examples include the keep by the old door to the upper castle and the glacis (inclination at the bottom of the wall), evident as soon as we go through the plague gate (north gate), which were ordered by Princess Teresa around 1211 to resist the siege that the king, her brother, mounted upon the castle. In the 14th century, the castle was surrounded by an extensive barbican that encompassed the walled enclosure. In the 15th century, the so-called Princesses' Palace was adapted to become the Royal Palace. At the same time, the northern perimeter wall was built in order to house the neighbouring populations and their animals in case of attack. (📍 TSD and TGP)

📍 / GPS: 40°10'33,22"N; 8°40'57,40"O



NOT TO BE MISSED: IN MONTEMOR-O-VELHO
Paul do Taipal (Protected natural area); Historical Centre.



► **From Montemor-o-Velho to Coimbra.** We return to Coimbra on the EN341, passing through Alfarelos, Granja do Ulmeiro, Santo Varão and Pereira. Before leaving Pereira, treat yourself to a "queijada". This local cake is the perfect reward for joining King Afonso Henriques in reconquering part of the Mondego Castles and Walls. Treat yourself to a "queijada" from Pereira.

TOURIST INFORMATION / CONTACTS

► **Coimbra Tourist Information Office** (Turismo do Centro)
Tel.: 239 488 120 / Email: info.coimbra@turismodocentro.pt

► **Coimbra Municipal Tourist Information Office** (University)
Tel.: 939 010 201 / Email: universidade@turismodecoimbra.pt

► **Coimbra Mun. Tourist Information Office** (Pr. da República)
Tel.: 939 010 084 / Email: info@turismodecoimbra.pt

► **Figueira da Foz Mun. Tourist Information Office** (Avenida)
Tel.: 233 422 610 / Email: figueiraturismo@cm-figfoz.pt

► **Figueira da Foz Mun. Tourist Information Office** (Buarcos)
Tel.: 233 433 019 / Email: figueiraturismo@cm-figfoz.pt

► **Lousã Municipal Tourist Information Office**
Tel.: 239 990 040 / Email: posto.turismo@cm-lousa.pt

► **Miranda do Corvo Tourist Information Office**
Tel.: 239 530 316 / Email: turismo@cm-mirandadocorvo.pt

► **Montemor-o-Velho Tourist Information Office**
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► **Penela Tourist Information Office**
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► **Pombal Tourist Information Office**
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► **Soure Tourist Information Office**
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Castelos e Muralhas do Mondego (Castles and Town Walls of the Mondego Network)
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KING AFONSO HENRIQUES' TOMB

*16th century — COIMBRA
(Situated at the Santa Cruz Monastery,
classified as National Monument)*

The connection between King Afonso Henriques and the Santa Cruz Monastery is reflected in the decision to bury him here.

The original tomb would have been a simple bare chest. It was King Manuel I who built new tombs for the first two kings of Portugal in 1515.

Their tombs are integrated into the sanctuary with Afonso Henriques on the Gospel side and Sancho I on that of the Epistle, arranged in the manner of the great triumphal arches, a style later adopted in the Jerónimos Monastery (Lisbon) and the Convent of Christ (Tomar).

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