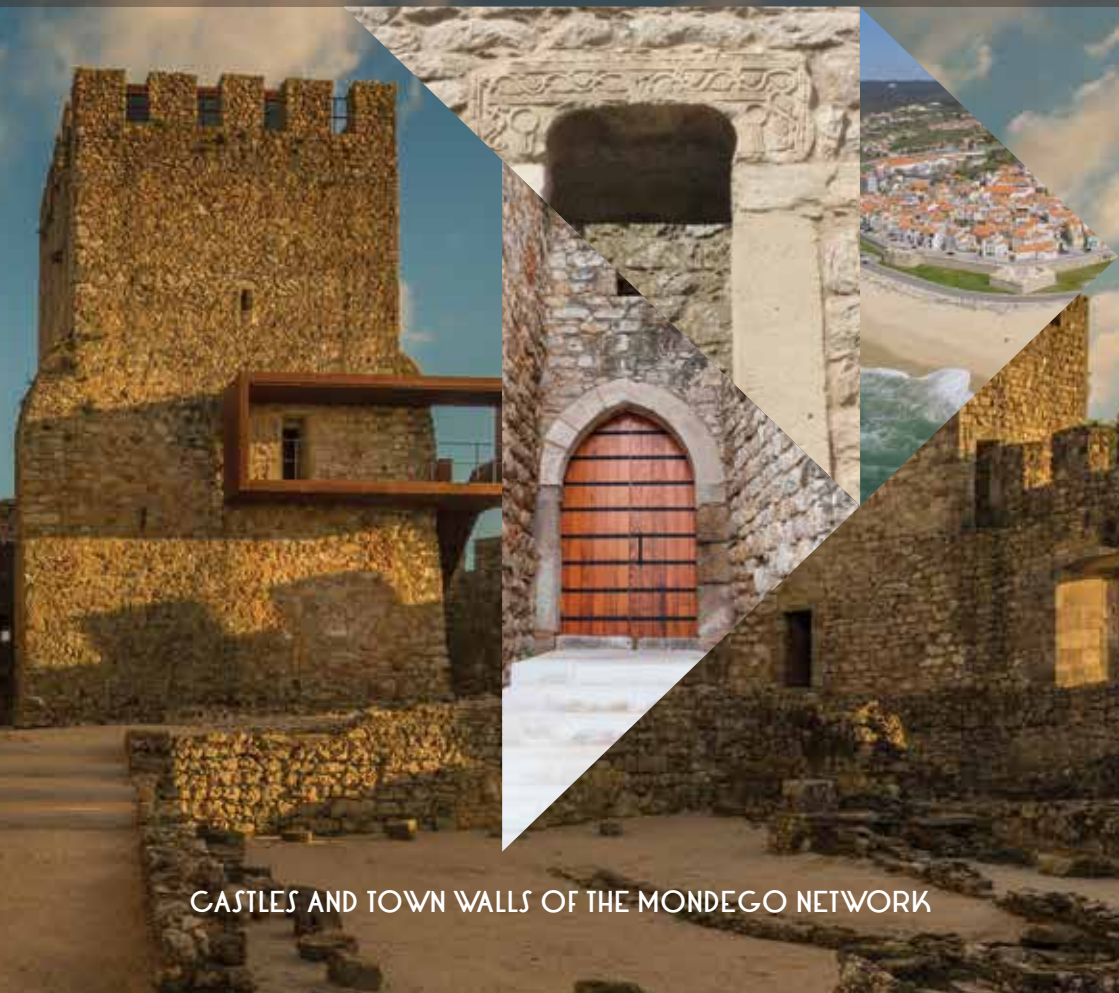


  *Travel with*

GUALDIM PAIS

Grand Master of the Knights Templar and the Art of War



CASTLES AND TOWN WALLS OF THE MONDEGO NETWORK



B: Priscos, c. 1118/1120
D: Tomar, October 13, 1195

GUALDIM PAIS

Grand Master of the Knights Templar and the Art of War



Circular route
Departure / Arrival: Soure

Total distance: 205 Km



This itinerary takes us to the Knights Templar's first steps in Lusitanian lands in the company of Gualdim Pais. It is a route that bears witness to the first pages in the history of Portugal as an independent kingdom and the role that the Templars played in defending the border, which by then extended to the line of the Mondego. This journey is not just made of monuments so let's conquer these lands together as a family. Shall we go?

Gualdim Pais hailed from the Braga region and was the fruit of the marriage between Paio Ramires and Gontronde Soares, minor nobles from the Minho (the Ramirões). Good relations between the Ramirões and the Riba de Vizelas (one of the most significant lineages of the royal court) contributed to his proximity to Afonso Henriques, with whom was raised and educated. In keeping with tradition, Gualdim Pais was knighted in 1139, during the Battle of Ourique. He joined the Order of the Temple in 1144, leaving for Palestine in 1149/1150, where he remained for five years and participated in several campaigns, particularly in Sidon, Antioch and in the siege of Ascalon.

The first document that refers to Gualdim Pais as Grand Master of the Portuguese branch of the Knights Templar dates from 1156/1157. He held this position until his death in 1195, first under the government of King Afonso Henriques and then with King Sancho I. From his trip to Palestine, Gualdim Pais brought back new architectural options for military structures, innovations that were first applied south of the Mondego. Between 1156 and 1159 he began and concluded the construction of Pombal castle, the first military structure built from scratch by the Knights Templar in Portugal. Throughout the 1160s, the Templars built Tomar castle. As part of his contribution to repopulation, Gualdim Pais granted a charter to the village of Redinha (1159) and one to Pombal (1174) which was reformulated in 1176. He died on October 13, 1195 in Tomar, the city where we will find an evocative gravestone embedded in the walls of St. Maria do Olival church.

SYMBOLS

Visiting the monuments:

- Interpretation centre
- Brochure
- Informative panel on-site
- Guided tour
- Audio-guide service

Check out the other routes in this collection:

(TAH) Travel with Afonso Henriques; (TSD) Travel with Sesnando Davides

Y Soure castle is closely associated with Sesnando Davides, with the efforts of the Templar Knights in the defence of Coimbra and with the timing of the attack in the reconquest of the south. Soure received its charter in 1111 from the hands of Count Henrique and Countess Teresa. Its proximity to Muslim territory did not make life easy for settlers. In one of several episodes, when Soure's inhabitants were faced with Muslim invasion in 1116 they burned and destroyed the castle, their village and any means of sustenance that could be used by the enemy before leaving the village and taking refuge in Coimbra. This Almoravid assault also destroyed Miranda do Corvo and Santa Eulalia castle, near Montemor-o-Velho. Countess Teresa then attempted to get Fernando Pérez de Traba to restore it and promote repopulation, but the Galician nobleman failed in this mission. It is as a result of this failure that the Order of the Temple came into play.

The Knights Templar did not receive any donation from the Crown other than Soure castle for about 15 years. From then on, the Templars settled in other parts of the territory such as Redinha, Pombal and Ega. This itinerary takes us to these places.

1 SOURE

Birthplace of the Knights Templar

GUALDIM PAIS AND THE ORDER OF THE TEMPLE

At the end of the 11th century, the dangers experienced during pilgrimages to holy places and, above all, the determination to liberate Christ's tomb from Muslim rule triggered a set of measures that had enormous significance to the Christian West: the Crusades, the first of which was instigated by Pope Urbano II; and the creation of military orders, particularly the Knights Templar, charged with protecting the pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land.

Founded in Jerusalem (1118-1119), the Order was created mainly by the French knights Hugues de Payens and Godefroy de Saint-Omer, initially called the 'Poor Knights of Christ'. Their first headquarters was the terrace of Solomon's Temple, which is why they came to be known as the Solomon's Temple Knights or the Knights Templar. The Order's endorsement by the Holy See took place in January 1128 when the Order Rule, written by St. Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, was implemented at the Council of Troyes.

Shortly afterwards, through Countess Teresa, the Portuguese province assigned the Order of the Temple its first military function, along with Soure castle and its boundaries, on March 19, 1128, a donation confirmed by King Afonso Henriques the following year. It is therefore considered that the Order's first headquarters and first castle in Portugal were in Soure.

This donation by the crown was not accidental. The town and its castle needed urgent reconstruction and repopulation and the establishment of the court in Coimbra (in 1131) made Soure an advanced point of extraordinary importance for the defence of the city, serving as a border for control and holding back advances from the south. King Afonso Henriques counted on the Templars for this arduous task. It was in Soure itself that the Templars had their baptism of fire in the war over Portuguese lands when they were attacked by Muslim forces in 1144. Although the outcome of this confrontation was not the most promising, the future would allow the Order of the Temple to perform a key role in the defence, organisation and settlement of the territory south of Coimbra. The work of the Templars continued along the valleys of the Nabão and Arunca rivers until they reached the Tagus. On March 15, 1147, the Order participated in the conquest of Santarém alongside Afonso Henriques.

★ NOT TO BE MISSED: IN SOURE

Soure Municipal Museum; St. James' church (15th century); Town Hall (20th century), in neo-Manueline style.



► SOURE CASTLE — (12th century)

National Monument

FIRST TEMPLAR INTERVENTION (2nd quarter of 12th century)

The first major alteration carried out in this castle after Sesnando's construction was the work of the Templars, which is not surprising since Soure was chosen as the Order's first headquarters in the Portuguese kingdom. Two towers especially designed to strengthen the southern wall facing the River Anços were added to the walled enclosure that had been erected a few decades earlier. The main function of these towers was to defend the fortress and, from the superior height of the wall to which they are incorporated, they offered greater visibility over the territory and multiplied the shooting angles of bows and crossbows at a time when such pre-modern missile weapons dominated the art of war. Only the southwest corner of one of these symmetrical towers has survived. It has a solid ground floor and access via the first floor.

St. Mary of Finisterre's church, the remains of which can be found next to the east wall, also dates from this period. A 12th century inscription confirms its construction or completion under Templar rule in the year 1138. The archaeological works carried out there resulted in a collection that is currently housed in the Walled Space Interpretation Centre.

SECOND TEMPLAR INTERVENTION (3rd or 4th quarter of 12th century)

At the other end of the castle, to the north, we find witnesses that testify to a subsequent renovation which was also carried out by the Templars. We are referring to the keep, a strong rectangular construction, and the glacis (artificial slope), visible from outside the enclosure on the eastern side and facing the interior from the south. (👁️ TSD e TAH)

📍 / GPS: 40°03'24,89"N; 8°40'57,40"W

TENSION/ TORSION WEAPONS

These devices relied heavily on a shooting technique from the Middle Ages which uses the force resulting from the bending or twisting of cables or rubber bands to drive projectiles, e.g. bows, crossbows and catapults.



FAMILY FUN

► Bcelos Park, between the Anços and Arunca rivers, has a set of facilities that the family can enjoy including a skate park, beach volleyball pitch, cycle path and several picnic areas.



► From Soure to Pombal



We continue towards Paleão. After this village, when we reach the EN1, head south towards Pombal. We pass Redinha on the way, a village which received the first charter granted by the Order of the Temple. The initiative was in line with King Afonso Henriques' strategy to promote and encourage the settlement and organisation of the territory.

2 POMBAL

In 1156, the Order of the Temple began the construction of Pombal castle, the first major work under the initiative of the Grand Master, Gualdim Pais. At the time, its construction constituted the establishment of one of the furthest forward defence posts in the Mondego line. The military structure, completed in 1159, was important in that it represented a willingness to stay up to date; twelve years later, in 1171, the castle underwent an initial renovation which included the building of the keep. After 1159, following King Afonso Henriques' donation of Ceras castle in Tomar, the Order's attention focused on the south, particularly when it decided to build Tomar castle, a bold new military defence structure that was started on March 1, 1160 and completed in 1170. The Order then entered a period of extensive construction works in their castles, revamping and updating their defence systems.



FAMILY FUN

► Enjoy these animated films as a family in the tourist office within in the castle: *Legend of the Moor al Pal Omar* and *Sesnando, the Unlikely Hero*. If the weather permits, why not visit the panoramic water park?

► POMBAL CASTLE — (12th century)

National Monument

FIRST TEMPLAR INTERVENTION (1156-1159)

Built between 1156 and 1159, the castle was established in an elevated location and its wide wall was reinforced by strong rectangular towers from the beginning, especially at the points where the wall changed direction, in order to amplify the visual range and to reinforce the corners. This strategic multiplication of towers exemplifies the care that was taken in building this castle. It is, in fact, an excellent example of how, in the art of war, influences crossed and came from very different origins; the spread of towers incorporated into the walls has clear parallels in Almoravid fortresses while the keep and the glacis erected soon after also bear witness to the influence of the East. The interior of the castle took into consideration quarters for the friars, a palace for the Grand Master and a small church dedicated to St. Michael.

SECOND TEMPLAR INTERVENTION (1171)

After the construction of Tomar castle, the Templars intervened in Pombal castle, leaving a record of this in an inscription which has been kept in Christ's convent in Tomar since the 15th century. The keep, which dominates the castle courtyard, is located next to the castle entrance, strengthening this weakest point. The door to the tower on the second floor opened onto the side facing the courtyard, providing its defenders with greater security. This tower is differentiated by the two buttresses built into the main facade that faces the courtyard; they are unusual due to problems with stability that the Templars were faced with during their construction. In regard to the tower, it is also important to mention the glacis that is displayed on each of its sides. In order to protect the entrance in the castle, a small wall was also added on the outside which was lower than the main wall and which acted as the first barrier to enemy approach. It is similar to a barbican gate armed with archers, a structure that only became truly widespread during the 13th century.

King Manuel I (16th century) adapted the military structure to a stately residence for mayors. The grand windows that open onto the top level of the wall are also from this period, as was the transfer of the entrance from the southwest to the northwest, where the gate is distinguished by the stone Manueline coat of arms above it.

 / GPS: 39°54'50,64"N; 8°37'30,08"W



NOT TO BE MISSED: IN POMBAL

Marquis of Pombal Museum; Our Lady of Cardal church (18th century); "Bodo" - Pombal Festivities (last weekend of July)



THE GLACIS (ARTIFICIAL SLOPE)

Gualdim Pais was responsible for introducing new architectural aspects into military defence structures including the keep and glacis. The use of a glacis was relatively rare in Portugal. It is a construction which strengthens the base of a wall or a tower through the use of a ramp. This innovation met a number of objectives: to afford greater stability and strengthen the structure (tower or wall) to the base of which it was added; to offer greater resistance to sapping (tunnels dug under the base of the wall to make it collapse) and wrecking (removing individual stones until the structure tumbles down); to make projectiles bounce off it and to keep assault towers and wooden ladders used to climb walls at bay. This architectural device was first used by the Templars in Tomar castle, where you can see the glacis on its outer wall.



► From Pombal to Buarcos

We propose a route that allows you to make use of various recreational facilities as a family. Take the IC8 to Carriço and enjoy the coastal area. Once on the EN109, cross the Mondego River then drive through Figueira da Foz to reach Buarcos.



FAMILY FUN

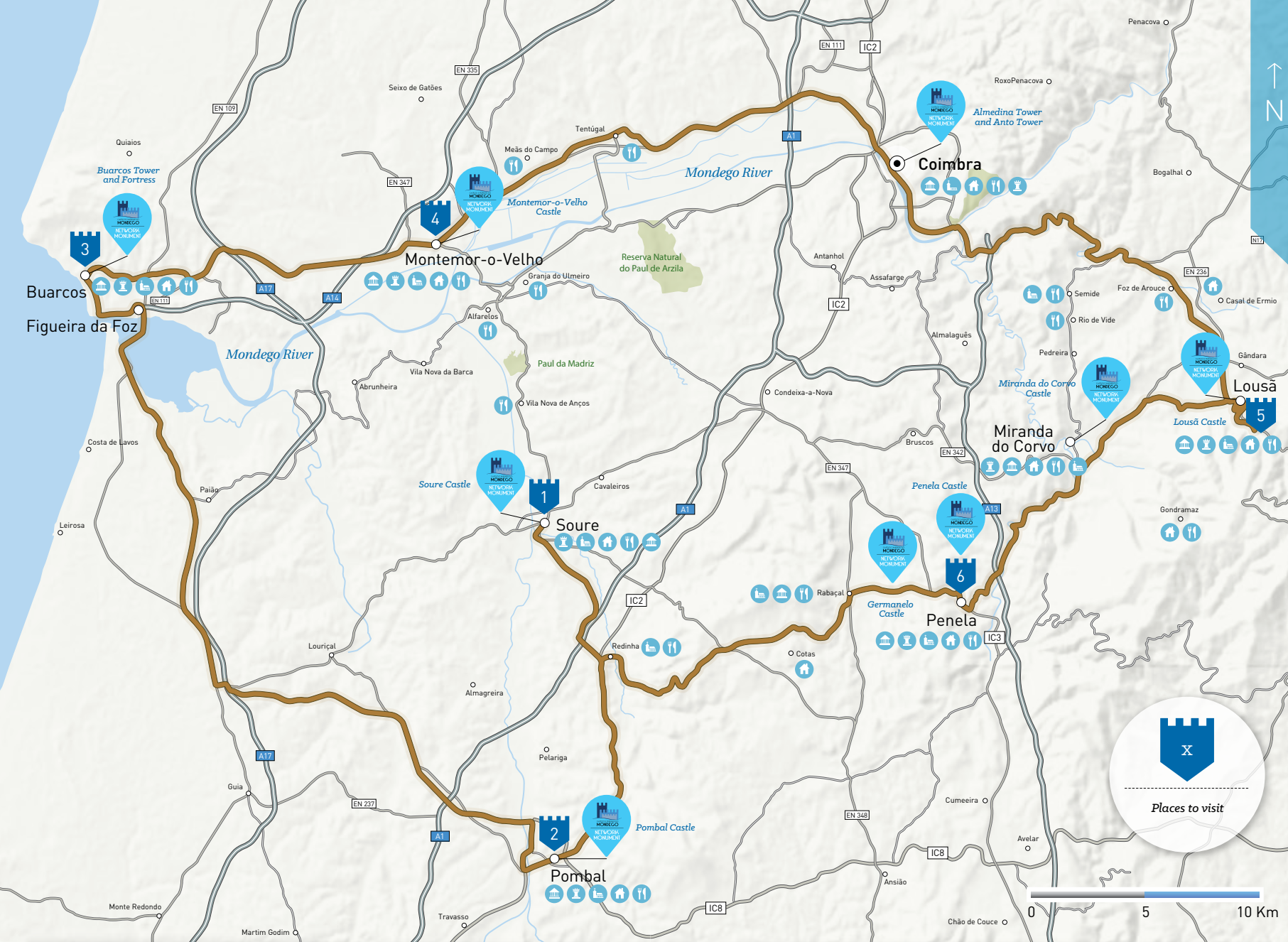
► Enjoy the cycle path of several kilometers between Buarcos and Pombal that follows the Atlantic Road! Have fun in the Osso da Baleia beach (Pombal) or in several other coastal beaches that follow until you reach Buarcos.

In the EN109 road make a small detour to the island of Murraceira and visit the Salt Museum (Núcleo Museológico do Sal), where in the surroundings you will have the chance to observe the many species of wild birds that use this estuarine area.

GUALDIM PAIS

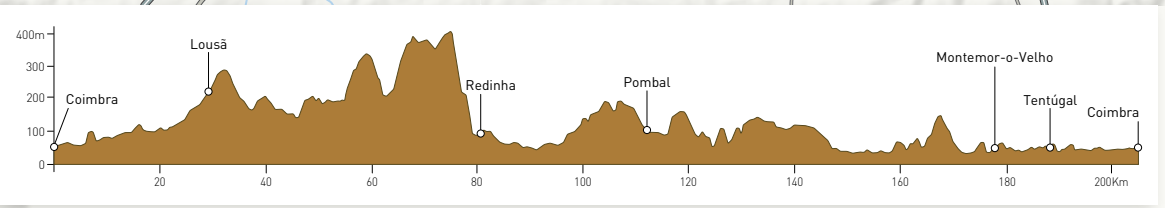
Chronology

- 1118/1120** - Born near Braga.
- 1139** - Knighted in the Battle of Ourique.
- 1144** - Joined the Order of the Temple.
- 1149/1150** - Departed for Palestine.
- 1155/1156** - Returned to Portugal.
- 1156/1157** - Appointed Grand Master of the Portuguese branch of the Templars.
- 1156 a 1159** - Built Pombal castle.
- 1159** - Concede foral a Redinha, o primeiro atribuído em nome da Ordem do Templo.
- 1160 a 1170** - Built Tomar castle.
- 1171** - Built the keep at Pombal castle.
- 1174** - Granted a charter to Pombal.
- 1176** - Granted a new charter to Pombal.
- 1195** - Died in Tomar.



KEY / SYMBOLS

	Castle		Monument
	Museum		Accommodation
	Restaurant		



_cumulative gap:

	+3765m
	-3765m

Key (roads)

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

3 BUARCOS

At Buarcos, in Figueira da Foz, we witness the evolution of the war, through its towers, then with its fortress! At a certain point in the history of coastal defence it became clear that the old castle structures could no longer adapt to or resist the greater destructive power that gunpowder weapons presented. To combat this new threat, military architects created a new type of fortification, a bulwarked fortress. This new idea was implemented in Buarcos and, from the 16th and 17th centuries, the territory began to be punctuated by fortresses built near the mouth of Mondego. Buarcos fortress was of particular note because despite having identical functions to the Redondos Tower, this stronghold showed the evolution of the art of war.

► **BUARCOS FORTRESS** — (16th and 17th centuries); *Monument of Public Interest*

The ease of landing at the cove in Buarcos, coupled with the fact that until modern times the Mondego River was navigable up to and beyond Coimbra, led to significant naval movement and made this area a frequent target for enemy fleets and pirate attacks, which made it necessary to build lookout and defence structures.

In 1096, there was already a “good tower” at the highest point in the settlement of Buarcos, with ample visibility of the coastline. However, advances in the art of war arising from the introduction of firearms, then called trons or mortars, dictated the end of the old castles and towers, with bulwarked fortresses being built in their place.

In Buarcos, the need for modernisation became critical after the English armed attack in 1566. Although its construction was decided in the 16th century, the building process was slow and dragged on throughout the following century. Structurally, Buarcos fort was not designed as a fortress in the true sense of enveloping the existing houses. It is, in fact, a long wall, almost 700 metres long, that runs parallel to the sea. Its thickness and the fact that it is partially buried and built at an angle, made it particularly resistant to the impact of artillery shells fired from enemy ships. However, its effectiveness was essentially derived from the three large bulwarks built at intervals; one further north in Nazaré, St. Peter’s in the centre and the Conception bulwark to the south. Buarcos fortress was linked to Santa Catarina fortress (early 17th century) and later to the small Palheiros fort (19th century). (🗺️ TSD)



FAMILY FUN

► **Don't miss seeing the flamingos in flight.**

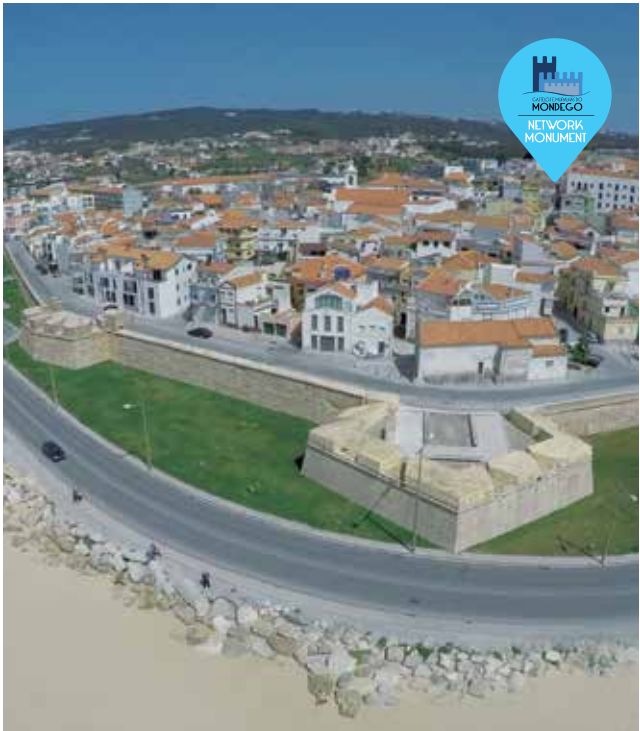
They frequent the geometric network of salt pans on Murraceira Island at the mouth of the Mondego River in their hundreds. Their scientific name is *phoenicopterus ruber*, *ruber* being related to the red-pink hues that their feathers acquire. All you need are binoculars and to not disturb the birds to be rewarded with a show.

📍 / 🗺️ / 🗺️ / GPS: 40°09'51,35"N; 8°52'45,78"W

POSTERN

A small door and passageway concealed in the curtain wall of a bulwarked fortress, usually located near a magazine (place where gunpowder was stored). It enabled the infantry to move safely between the inside of the square and a defence structure located on the outside.

★ **NOT TO BE MISSED: IN FIGUEIRA DA FOZ**
Our Lady of Conception chapel in Buarcos (16th century); Dr. Santos Rocha Municipal Museum; Clock tower (1947); Santa Catarina fort (17th century).



FAMILY FUN

► Figueira da Foz was, and is, sun and sand so discover the Quiaios, Murtinheira, Buarcos, Clock Tower, Molhe Norte, Cova-Gala, Costa de Lavos and Leirosa beaches and enjoy them with your family. And if you like to travel through time, don't miss the Pirate Festival! In July, the pirates arrive in Buarcos bay with skills, performances and parties.

FROM TENSION/TORSION WEAPONS TO GUNPOWDER WEAPONS

The architecture and components of Buarcos fortress highlight the differences that were being introduced into defence structures from the second half of the 15th century, when gunpowder began to revolutionise war weaponry and artillery reigned on the battlefields. Early projectile missile weapons such as crossbows gave way to gunpowder weapons (devices and shooting technologies propelled by gunpowder). In Portugal, the first references to the use of firearms such as cannons or guns date from the end of the 14th century. Thus, the tower gave way to the bulwark; military structures stopped developing in height and began to evolve horizontally for easier defence against the impact of projectiles. The bulwarks (protruding pentagonal structures) where the artillery was housed also turned out to be highly effective in enabling crossfire and eliminating blind spots, preventing enemy approach.



EMBRASURES

A gap between the merlons (upright sections of battlements) of a bulwarked fortress which enabled the passage of artillery fire shot from guns, cannons or other firearms placed on its platform.

► **From Buarcos to Montemor-o-Velho**
 Once you leave Figueira da Foz, take the A24 to Montemor-o-Velho (toll-free).

4 MONTEMOR-O-VELHO

The view across the fields near the Lower Mondego alone justifies a visit to Montemor-o-Velho castle. The fact that on a clear day you can see the tower (Torre) in the Estrela mountains, the Açor mountains, the Lousã mountains and the Sicó mountains from here makes the climb to this fortification a must.



THIS IS WHERE...

On January 6, 1355, King Afonso IV met with his advisers at the castle palace. At that meeting the fate of Inês de Castro was decided. Inês was a Galician noblewoman with whom his son, Prince Pedro, lived and had four children but the monarch considered her to be a bad influence. The following day, Alvaro Gonçalves, Diogo Lopes Pacheco and Pedro Coelho, set off from here for Coimbra. They murdered Inês in the palace of the Santa Clara monastery. Years later, Pedro I, who was by then king and known as 'The Just', avenged this act in his own way.

► MONTEMOR-O-VELHO CASTLE — (12th and 13th centuries) *National Monument*

It is not known whether this castle was the work of Christians or Muslims since this territory changed hands so often between 711 and 1064. What is certain is that the oldest part of the buildings was built after the al-Mansur conquest in 991. Conquered permanently by the Christians in 1064, Montemor-o-Velho assumed a fundamental role in protecting the Lower Mondego, which explains the various interventions carried out during this period. The square keep installed in one of the corners of the upper castle is most likely due to King Afonso Henriques and his son, Sancho. In the following centuries, a mighty glacis was added, the perimeter wall was augmented with several square towers, an extensive barbican was built and, finally, a large walled area was constructed to host the population of the surrounding villages, their livestock and their property, in case of attack. The old 11th century palace inside the walls was extensively remodelled by the daughters of King Sancho I, the Montemor ladies, and further updated in the 15th century when the town and its castle were part of the Prince Regent, Pedro, Duke of Coimbra's domain. Still within the walls and certainly at the site formerly occupied by the mosque, lies St. Mary of the Alcazaba's church, founded by the Alvazil, Sesnando Davides. Its current form, however, is a result of the significant changes ordered by the Bishop of Coimbra, Dom Jorge de Almeida, and carried out by the architect Francisco Pires at the beginning of the 16th century. (👁️ TSD e TAH)

📍 🗺️ 🗻 🎧 / GPS: 40°10'33,22"N; 8°40'57,40"W

★ NOT TO BE MISSED: IN MONTEMOR - -O-VELHO

Historic centre; Natura 2000 Network – Birdwatching at Taipal marsh. Look out for the delightful white storks and the kites that live here.

🚗 ► From Montemor-o-Velho to Lousã

Take the EN111 to Coimbra and then follow the EN17 to Lousã. To get to Arouce castle take the EN236 towards Castanheira de Pera, bearing right as you leave Lousã. If you have time, call into the historical centre of Coimbra (to discover the upper and downtown areas of the city and Rua da Sophia) plus the village of Foz de Arouce (to visit the manor house, the bridge and the memorial).



FAMILY FUN

- Make the most of the journey between Montemor-o-Velho and Coimbra by stopping in Tentúgal to watch the ultra-thin pastry used for Tentúgal pastries being made.
- After exploring Coimbra, take advantage of the set of attractions designed for youngsters: Portugal dos Pequenitos (Portugal for the Little Ones), the Prince Henry Exploratorium and the Science Museum with its Chemistry laboratory offer memorable family experiences.

5 LOUSÃ

The installation of Arouce castle in this part of the county, nestled deep in the Lousã mountains, served to control passage through the mountain range. However, the geography of this location with its very steep slopes made it very difficult to establish a settlement. In the end, the need for flatter and more fertile lands with better access led to the abandonment of Arouce in favour of establishing a new settlement where the present town of Lousã is located.



► AROUCE CASTLE — (11th century) *National Monument*

Neither the initiator nor the exact date are known, but at some point after the interventions that took place in Pombal and Soure, Arouce castle underwent a Romanesque renovation in which a sturdy keep, equipped with a glacis, was built. The tower dominates the flank that, due to its topography, had been the structure's most vulnerable point. The tower door is on the second floor facing the interior courtyard. A cistern was installed in the lower floor. (👁️ TSD)

📍 🗻 🎧 / GPS: 40°06'01,72"N; 8°14'07,66"W



FAMILY FUN

- In Arouce, stroll down to the Senhora da Piedade river beach near the castle and take a dip in the fresh mountain waters. If you decide to continue upwards, don't miss the Gevim belvedere (EN236), 1 km after the turnoff for the castle.
- On the journey between Lousã and Penela it is also worth visiting the Parque Biológico da Serra da Lousã (Lousã Mountains Biological Park) in Miranda do Corvo where bears, deer, mongoose and foxes delight children and adults alike.

★ NOT TO BE MISSED: IN LOUSÃ

N^a Sr^a da Piedade (Our Lady of Mercy) sanctuary (15th to 18th centuries); Serra da Lousã Ecomuseum; Historic centre, especially the manor houses and the Misericórdia (Mercy) chapel (16th century).



► From Lousã to Penela

We continue southwards along the new stretch of the EN342. When you leave this road to take the EN17-1 toward Penela, we recommend stopping in Miranda do Corvo to visit the tower and cistern at the ancient Alto do Calvário castle.

Keeps first appeared in Portugal in the middle of the 12th century and were one of the main innovations of the Romanesque castle. Rising from the centre of the castle courtyard, separate from the walls, the keep was the last defensive stronghold where the garrison would take refuge if the castle was taken. The access door was located on the second floor and was reached by a wooden staircase that could be hauled inside after the troops had entered. The keep, higher and stronger than all the other towers that stood on the walls, became the key element from where all functions of the fortress were commanded. This innovation was quickly adopted in Portuguese military architecture but keeps also evolved over time.

In the second half of the 12th century and the first half of the 13th century, keeps were square and usually located in the centre of the castle. However, from the middle or end of the 13th century, they began to be incorporated into the castle walls, often in corner positions. Yet in many cases, such as in Arouce and Soure, the keep was positioned against the wall from the very beginning, judging by the small size of the parade ground. From the 13th century pentagonal or hexagonal keeps began to make an appearance.

6 PENELA

The itinerary for Templar Grand Master, Gualdim Pais, could not end without a stop at Penela castle. From its battlements, we can admire the progression of the western side of the Lousã mountains from the elevated slopes around Lousã and Miranda do Corvo to the south, where you can see the quartzite prominences of São João do Deserto (St. John of the Desert), known locally as the St John's mountains. To the west, we can see Monte de Vez and other peaks integrated into the limestone formation of the Sicó mountains. This geological context of steep surrounding slopes, especially in the Ladeia area, made this region the site of significant military activity over the centuries. Because of this, the evolution of the art of war is evident in Penela Castle. Shall we visit it? (© TAH)



► PENELA CASTLE — (11th century)

National Monument

Minor reforms were made to this defensive structure to adapt to new offensive weapons and new defence mechanisms using firearms (gunpowder weapons).

In some parts of this structure there are elements that show this adaptation, namely the open circular crenels in the arrow slits of the keep and upper castle area.

/ GPS: 40°01'53,36" N; 8°23'23,38" W



FAMILY FUN

► Walk down from the village and have fun with the kids at the Roman Waters Park, a place that recreates the Roman Villa of Rabaçal. In December, Penela castle hosts the Penela Presépio (nativity scene), an event that you won't want to miss.

► In some parts of this structure there are elements that show this adaptation, namely the open circular crenels in the arrow slits of the keep and upper castle area.



NOT TO BE MISSED: IN PENELA

Germanelo castle;
Pedra da Ferida waterfall (Espinhal); Louçainha river beach.



FAMILY FUN

► CYCLING (ROAD AND MTB)

Pombal

Estrada Atlântica (Atlantic Road) / Carriço cycle path (after the Matos-Carriço railway station) – Osso da Baleia beach (to the west) or Ervideira lake (south).

Figueira da Foz

Figueira da Foz - Buarcos cycle path

Lousã

Lousã mountain biking centre

Miranda do Corvo

Gondramaz sector of the schist villages mountain biking centres

Penela

Ferreira de São João mountain biking centre (schist village)

► WALKING ROUTES *

Figueira da Foz

PR1 FIG - Maiorca Route
PR2 FIG - Seça Route
PR3 FIG - Boa Viagem Mountains Route
PR5 FIG - Megalithic Route
PR6 FIG - Salt Pans Route

Lousã

PR1 LSA - Lousã Schist Walk 1 - Mills Route
PR2 LSA - Lousã Schist Walk 2 - Lousã Schist Villages Route
PR3 LSA - Levada Route
PR4 LSA - Four Villages Route
PR5 LSA - Mountaineer Route

Miranda do Corvo

PR1 - MCV - Gondramaz Accessible Schist Walk
PR2 MCV - Gondramaz Schist Walk – In the miller's footsteps

Penela

PR1 PNL - Ferreira de São João Schist Walk - The Shepherd's Trail

* PR - Short Route and GR - Long Route

Pombal

GR26 - Sicó Lands, Pombal - Redinha section
Green Whale Trail (Osso da Baleia beach)
Lake Trail São José - Carriço

► RIVER BEACHES

Lousã

Senhora da Piedade river beach
Bogueira river beach
Senhora da Graça river beach

Penela

Louçainha river beach

► COASTAL BEACHES

Figueira da Foz

Quiaios beach / Murtinheira beach / Buarcos beach / Praia do Relógio (clock tower) beach / Molhe Norte beach / Cova Gala beach / Costa de Lavos beach / Leirosa beach

Pombal

Osso da Baleia (Whalebone) beach

TOURIST INFORMATION / CONTACTS

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

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GUALDIM PAIS' TOMB

17th century – TOMAR
(Situada at the Santa Maria do
Olival Church, classified as
National Monument)

Hugues de Payens, Godefroy de Saint-Omer and other French knights founded the Order of the Temple in Jerusalem in 1118, the same year that Gualdim Pais was born in Priscos, near Braga. As fate would have it, this coincidence linked him enigmatically to this Order. On October 13, 1195, Gualdim passed away in Tomar, on exactly the same day of the year that the French king, Philip the Fair, and the papal curia ordered the violent persecution and imprisonment of all Templar Knights 112 years later. To thicken the myth, all that remains of Gualdim Pais's tomb is a gravestone, now embedded in the walls of Santa Maria do Olival church, which proclaims: *Brother Gualdim, Grand Master of the Knights Templar in Portugal, died in the era of 1233 (1195), on the third of October past. Like many others, he populated this castle of Tomar. It was in this church, the Templar pantheon built under the initiative of Gualdim Pais, that all Masters of the Order were buried.*

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