



A LOOK AT THE COUNTY

In Évora County, the town of Reguengos de Monsaraz stands out. The magnificent setting on the Alentejo plain and in the blue waters of the Alqueva reservoir make it a reference tourism destination in the region.

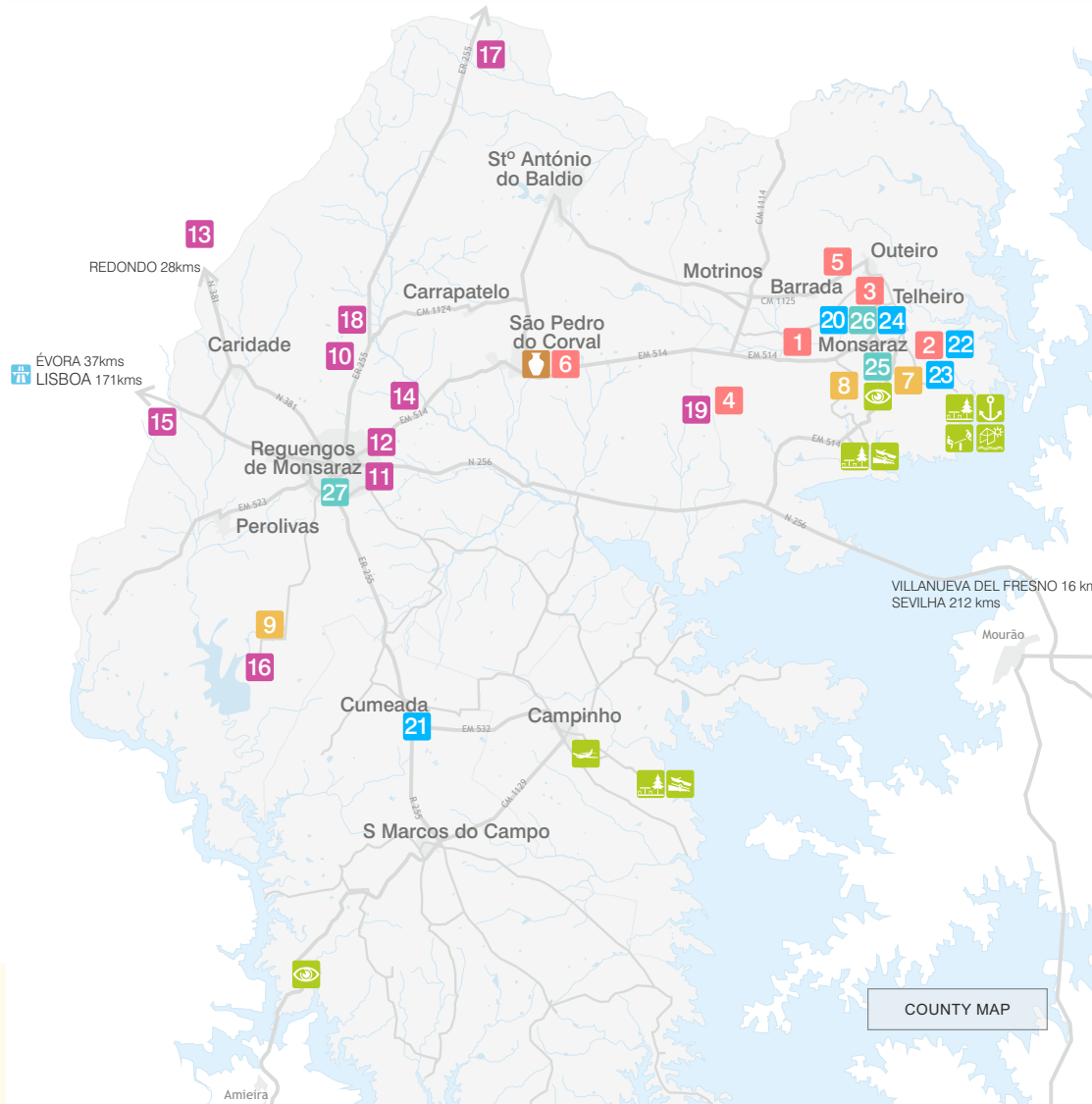
Bordered by the Counties of Redondo and Alandroal to the north, Mourão to the east, Moura and Portel to the south and Évora to the west, the town of Reguengos de Monsaraz is located in a predominantly agricultural region, which constrains the livelihoods associated to agriculture - essentially extensive farming of cereals, olive and vineyard. The climate, typically Mediterranean, with hot, dry summers and short rainy winters, characterizes the vegetation, wildlife, landscape and the people of this region.

Thus, Reguengos de Monsaraz offers exceptional

environmental conditions that encourage the enjoyment of outdoor activities in contact with nature, such as boating, hiking or horse riding through dirt roads, hunting, fishing...

Here you can also enjoy a trip back in time to wander through the historic medieval village of Monsaraz and visit several archaeological remains of megalithic monuments throughout the County. Mainly located in the Parish of Monsaraz, some of them are worthy of emphasis at a European level.

In addition to a rich historical heritage and a striking landscape, the County holds a strong identity characterized by traditional customs and practices, which are reflected in the cuisine, wines and arts and crafts, most notably in São Pedro do Corval, Portugal's largest pottery centre.



MEGALITHIC

- 1 Olival da Pêga Dolmens 1 and 2
- 2 Xerez Cromlech
- 3 Belhoa Menhir
- 4 Barrocal Menhir
- 5 Outeiro Menhir
- 6 Lovers Rock

MONUMENTS

- 7 Hermitage of St. Catherine
- 8 Hermitage of St. Sebastian
- 9 Historic Centre of Esporão

WINE PRODUCERS

- 10 Adega do Calisto
- 11 Adega José de Sousa
- 12 CARMIM
- 13 Casa de Sabicos
- 14 Elite Vinhos
- 15 Ervideira
- 16 Esporão
- 17 Monte das Serras
- 18 Monte dos Perdigos
- 19 São Lourenço do Barrocal

STARLIGHT TOURISM

- 20 Casa Saramago
- 21 Clube Dark Sky
- 22 Monte Alerta
- 23 OLA - Observatório Lago Alqueva
- 24 Sem-Fim

MOTORHOME

- 25 Monsaraz Parking Area
- 26 Telheiro Service Area
- 27 Reguengos de Monsaraz Service Area

SPORT AND LEISURE

- Quay Berth and Picnic Area
- Airfield
- Nautical Center Monsaraz
- Viewing point
- Mooring quay
- Children's park
- Fluvial Beach

POTTERY

- Pottery of São Pedro do Corval®



TOURISM OFFER

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/ReguengosComVida
www.cm-reguengos-monsaraz.pt

MONUMENTS

- 1 Chapel of St. John the Baptist (Cuba)
- 2 Chapel of St. Joseph
- 3 Castle
- 4 Cistern
- 5 Church of Misericórdia
- 6 Church of Our Lady of the Lagoon
- 7 New City Council - Casa Monsaraz
- 8 Pillory
- 9 Town Door
- 10 Évora Door
- 11 Alcoba Door
- 12 Buraco Door

EXHIBITIONS

- 13 House of the Inquisition
- 14 Church of Santiago - Art Gallery
- 15 Fresco Museum

SHOPS

- 16 Atelier Galeria Monsaraz
- 17 Casa da Muralha
- 18 Casa Tial
- 19 Coisas de Monsaraz
- 20 Gaspacho
- 21 Loja da Mizette
- 22 Tula
- 23 Pastelaria A Cisterna
- 24 XarazArte

WINES

- 25 Ar d'Alentejo Wines & Spirits
- 26 Ervideira Wine Shop

RESTAURANTS

- 27 Casa do Forno
- 28 Casa Modesta
- 29 Lumumba
- 30 Sabores de Monsaraz
- 31 Taverna Os Templários
- 32 Xarez

ACCOMMODATION

- 33 Casa Avó Isabel
- 34 Casa da Muralha Suíte
- 35 Casa das Papoilas
- 36 Casa das Videiras
- 37 Casa Dattera
- 38 Casa do Varandim
- 39 Casa Dona Antónia
- 40 Casa d'Santiago
- 41 Casa Tia Anica
- 42 Casa Pinto
- 43 Casa St.º Condestável
- 44 Dom Nuno
- 45 Estalagem de Monsaraz
- 46 Monsaraz Starry Sky
- 47 Recanto de São Bento
- 48 Refúgio da Vila



HISTORY OF MONSARAZ

Due to its geographical location, the hill of Monsaraz has always played an important role in the history of the municipality, having been successively occupied by different people since prehistoric times.

In the 8th century, Monsaraz fell under the domain of Islam as a result of the Muslim invasions that occupied a large part of the Iberian Peninsula. Later, it became known as Saris or Sarish and formed part of the Kingdom of Badajoz, one of the largest and most important centres of Arab culture.

In 1167, it was conquered from the Muslims by Geraldo Sem Pavor in the course of an expedition that had first started in Évora, also newly-conquered. After the defeat of Afonso Henriques in Badajoz, Monsaraz once again fell into the hands of the Arabs. In 1232, supported by the Knights Templar, Sancho II reconquered the town on a definitive basis and later gave it to the Order of the Temple.

After the wars of 1383-1385, Monsaraz was integrated into the House of Bragança and became one of its most valuable sources of income.

In 1512, Manuel I granted a new charter to the town of Monsaraz, reformulating the legal and public life of the municipality. After the Restoration of Portuguese Independence in 1640, the town received important tactical additions, such as the construction of a new ring of walls and bulwarks, turning it into a powerful "impregnable citadel" connected with the defensive system of Elvas, Juromenha, Olivença and Mourão.

Its status as a medieval walled town, the rapid growth of the villages in the Reguengos region, the great wealth of its handicraft, wine production and the loyal support given by the people of Monsaraz to Dom Miguel and his ideas (defeated during the civil war of 1828-1834) were factors that led to the municipal seat being transferred from Monsaraz to Vila Nova de Reguengos. This transfer took place in 1838, but it was only established on a permanent basis in 1851.

THE FORTIFICATIONS AND THE TOWN WITHIN THE WALLS

The town's strategic position made possible to detect the presence of the enemy well in advance before any attack, due to the visual communication established between the fortifications and the network of watchtowers built in the surrounding area.

Monsaraz's defensive system shows evidence of two distinct periods of construction and different building techniques:

- Medieval fortifications: the castle and town walls were built before the invention of firearms (12th-14th centuries). The walls are vertical and quite high, being built of irregular-shaped schist stones, except for the corners and bases, which were built in regular blocks of granite;

- 17th-century fortifications: these essentially Vauban-style defences, have hypothetically been attributed to Nicolau de Langres and are surmounted to the north by an advanced construction. The progress made in terms of artillery forced military engineers to replace the high castle walls by less apparent and less vulnerable defences.

