



The Guide

FIND YOURSELF HERE

There is so much to do and so much to discover.

But there is no rush.

Take your time, enjoy each experience and then have something to eat and probably a glass of local wine.

Life runs at a slower pace here and that makes for the perfect travelling adventure.

Welcome to slow travel – welcome to Alentejo travel.

YOU ARE HERE...

Evoramonte is conveniently located right in the middle of everything that the Alentejo has to offer. You can easily get to the best of the region, from Évora to the South and Estremoz to the North – and everything in between.

Visit castle towns, megalithic stones, the chapel of bones, cork factories, vineyards, private olive groves, historic walks, birdwatching, cycle tours, carpet crafting, pottery production – or simply do nothing at all apart from relax and enjoy the wonderful views, the space and amazing sunsets.

1. THINGS TO DO IN EVORAMONTE ITSELF

- Visit the Castle
- Walk the historic walls with 360 degree views
- See over 60 unique street stones hand-painted onto the cobbles
- Watch the legendary sunsets from the terrace
- Watch out for the griffon vultures
- Go on a guided walk
- Relax on the terrace in the evening, with a light meal – or with a glass of wine
- Visit the craft shop where you can see our local artist, Sensa, making the famous figurines of Estremoz, crafting her original stone houses and selling a wonderfully diverse range of crafts and products from the Alentejo region.

2. TOWN OF ESTREMOZ

A town that is best visited on a Saturday morning because of the wonderful market that is held there. You can spend a couple of hours picking through the bric-a-brac, or focus on the food section. This is what makes life in Alentejo so wonderful – the range of fresh foods that will make you wish for simpler times before supermarkets and “food-miles”. Fresh vegetables, cured hams, cheeses, breads, cakes and even live chickens and rabbits if that’s what you are after. Make a point of sampling the local donut-like delicacies sold from a van half way up the street.

The town also boasts a good few restaurants, supermarkets, chemists, banks and all the other things you may need. All served with wonderful coffee available at a range of different coffee shops.

And if you feel like a walk, wander through the cobbled streets until you get to the top of the hill. Your reward will be a fantastic view over the valleys towards Evoramonte, some really unique spots for a bite to eat, and the satisfaction of knowing that the way home is all downhill.

There is no better way to spend a Saturday.

3. TOWN OF ÉVORA

A Cathedral, a Roman Temple, a Chapel of bones! A busy town square. Dozens of restaurants. Festivals. Views in all directions. There is so much to this UNESCO World Heritage Town.

Travel in easily from The Place at Evoramonte. See the sites. Enjoy the action. Then return for peaceful sundowners and recharge for everything tomorrow has to offer.

4. TOWN OF MONSARAZ

Just a few kilometres from the Spanish border, this is a great place to go for a lunch or dinner with a view. And also a fine way to while away an afternoon looking at a selection of crafts from the area.

There are no cars in the town, so you can walk freely among the cobbled streets, visiting the shops that sell everything from carpets, to pottery and textiles and local foods.

5. POTTERY OF SÃO PEDRO DO CORVAL

If carefully crafted pottery is what you are after then we have an entire village for you. In São Pedro do Corval nearly every establishment is involved in the making and selling of pottery. You can visit the shops for the whole morning – and even see the crafts people at work. The ceramics and pots you see throughout the country are usually made right here in this wee village.

They now have a visitor centre with samples of many of the 22 pottery shops on display. So you can see what you like and then select the craft-shops you will visit.

7. VILA VIÇOSA

Large parts of this town are built using the local marble. Vila Viçosa is known as the “Princesa do Alentejo”. Although small, it is one of the most precious and charming jewels in the Alentejo, a “village-museum” known as the “Marble Town”. It boasts an orange tree plaza, a marble palace and a castle. It was once home to the Bragança family whose kings ruled Portugal until it became a Republic. You can take guided tours through the palace if you wish, or wander down the orange-tree main street before relaxing in a café.

6. CARPET CRAFTING IN ARRAIOLOS

Sometimes you can find a place where beautiful, detailed carpets are crafted. We have a whole town where this is the focus. Wool carpets and tapestries have been woven here since the 16th century – and are still hand-woven here today. You can wander from place to place and see if a carpet or wall hanging might add that little extra to your home. Spend a morning wondering through the shops, take in the views, enjoy a beer and some lunch at one of the cafes.

8. CORK PRODUCTION

Cortiçarte - Art in Cork Lda.

Just along the road in Azaruja you will find a cork processing factory. You can drop in and get a complete overview of the cork process. How it is taken off the trees, how it is then prepared, how corks are taken and how they utilize the cork to make other products.

Then you can browse the shop which has an extraordinary range of cork based products.

David is usually there and speaks English rather well. Give him a call or simply drop in: +351967790218

9. MEGALITHIC STONES

The area is also home to some of the oldest megalithic stones. As the guide book says, the standing stones of the Almendres Cromlech are regarded as the finest example of Neolithic structures that remain on the Iberian Peninsula.

Thankfully, the local government has not cordoned or fenced off the stones and visitors are free to wander around the entire site and even touch the stones. This relaxed approach extends to the management of the site, there is no entrance fee and the stones are open to visit at any time. Go on your own or go with a tour guide, we can recommend one.

BIRD WATCHING

Evoramonte is a great place to spend a few relaxing days if you like birds, wildlife and exploring beautiful countryside. Whether novice, expert, fanatic or somewhere in between, The Place at Evoramonte is a fantastic base from which to explore the birds of the Alentejo. Convenient for full day, half day, early morning and night excursions.

<https://birdwatchinalentejo.com/our-tours/>
jorgesafara@birdwatchinalentejo.com

10. OLIVE GROVE AND TASTING

Azeite Amor é Cego

A great, very personal tour. And really interesting as well. João is really dedicated and passionate - and it shows...

“Come and visit us - and meet the family. Discover the history of the estate, learn about the Galega olive tree, native to Portugal, and taste our extra virgin Galega olive oil, savouring its qualities in the shade of an ancient tree.

Tasting olive oil at the point of origin is the best way to find out how it is made and provides a guarantee of the quality of the product.

Approximate length of visit: 75 minutes. At the end of your visit, after tasting our olive oil, visit the store.”

Tel: +351 960 117 714
joao.rosado@azeiteamorecego.pt

VINEYARDS

There are 5 or 6 great vineyards all within half an hour's drive. But there are two that are quite different and worth a visit.

11. Herdade dos Outeiros Altos

Only open on the weekends.

Please call Fernanda and Jorge to arrange the visit.

They will walk you round their vineyard, explain what they are doing, show you where they do the processing in the traditional clay pots called "Talhas"

"We practice Organic Agriculture in all exploration of the land in its entirety.

Why? Because we love our Earth. We want our descendants to learn to love it and for them to have the opportunity of inhabiting it as we did.

We believe, as Agriculture Engineers as well as consumers, that it is possible to produce products of excellence and healthy at the same time, as well as environmentally friendly.

We do not use, therefore, any kind of pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers, antibiotics, growth hormones, nor any type of synthetic additives in our production processes that could modify or alter our products' essences in any way. This principle spreads through to our cellars, where we work on our wines."

<https://herdadedosouteirosaltos.pt>
fr@herdadedosouteirosaltos.pt
Tel: +351966250063

12. Herdade do Freixo

It was built completely underground, three storeys below the vines and its architecture is bold and unusual.

It meets the brief of not outshining the sources of inspiration for this project, which are the vines and the terrain.

The cellar's design also reduces the temperature range throughout the year, providing a stable temperature, which is ideal for the proper development of the wines and retains their freshness and balance.

Tel: +351 266094830

The winery was designed to make the most of the characteristics of the grapes as well as to keep the rural landscape untouched. It is designed to a stringent technical and creative brief and is deliberately discreet and unobtrusive. It is secondary to the vines and 300 hectares of pure Alentejo land that surround it.

The design also took into account the potential of the grapes and respect for the wine during the fermentation stage and no pumps are used throughout the process. It makes use of gravity throughout the production process.

<http://www.herdadedofreixo.pt>

Other vineyards in the area that are open to visitors include the following. Please check all times as they do tend to change:

13. Herdade das Servas - <https://herdadedasservas.com>

Monday to Sunday 10:00 till 19:00

English Tours 11:45 and 16:30, Portuguese Tours 10:45 and 15:30

14. J Portugal Ramos - <https://www.jportugalramos.com>

Please go to the website to book visits, tours and lunches

15. Tiago Cabaço - <http://tiagocabacowinery.com>

Tel: +351 268 323 233

enoturismo@tiagocabacowinery.com

10:00 till 13:00, 14:00 till 18:00

WALKING TOURS – ANDAR A MONTE

THE VILLAGE

This walk follows a route inside the castle walls, although on occasion we might leave the walled grounds to observe some special point of interest, event or natural phenomenon.

Very accessible, the route takes in the main points of historical and cultural interest of the neighbourhood, based on our recounting of the history of Evoramonte. It includes a visit to the Tower and the Chapel of Mercy. (booking required)

Level of difficulty: Easy

Duration: 2 hours

Price: 30 euros per person

HERMITAGES

There are a large number of hermitages in the area surrounding Evoramonte, and on this route we will show some of them to our visitors.

The route has a certain level of difficulty due to the irregular terrain encountered and some steep ascents and descents, such is the lay of the land here. It is, however, possible to adapt the route to avoid these difficult sections to suit visitors with reduced mobility.

In total, the route takes in five hermitages outside the castle: Santa Margarida, São Sebastião, Santo Estêvão, Santa Rita e São Marcos, as well as visiting some ancient wells that provided water to the village in times past.

The route itself is spectacular: it winds through scenic countryside, following ancient olive groves flanked by centuries-old olive trees.

Level of difficulty: Medium

Duration: 3 to 4 hours

Price: 35 euros per person

AROUND THE CASTLE

On this route (medium difficulty), we follow the ancient olive groves that lead to the wells and fountains around the castle, serving as sources of drinking water to its inhabitants.

Here, once again the route follows stone walls, passes through olive groves, rural paths and trails, taking in sights of ancient legend and set against breath-taking landscapes

Level of difficulty: Medium

Duration: 3 hours

€35 euros per person

VISIT TO THE CORK OAK FOREST

On this route we aim to show visitors the special Cork Oak Forest ecosystem itself, with its abundant flora and fauna, verdant landscape and striking biodiversity.

This medium-difficulty walk follows a scenic route that offers the opportunity to admire cork trees, olive groves and other species native to the ecosystem of the region.

Level of difficulty: Medium

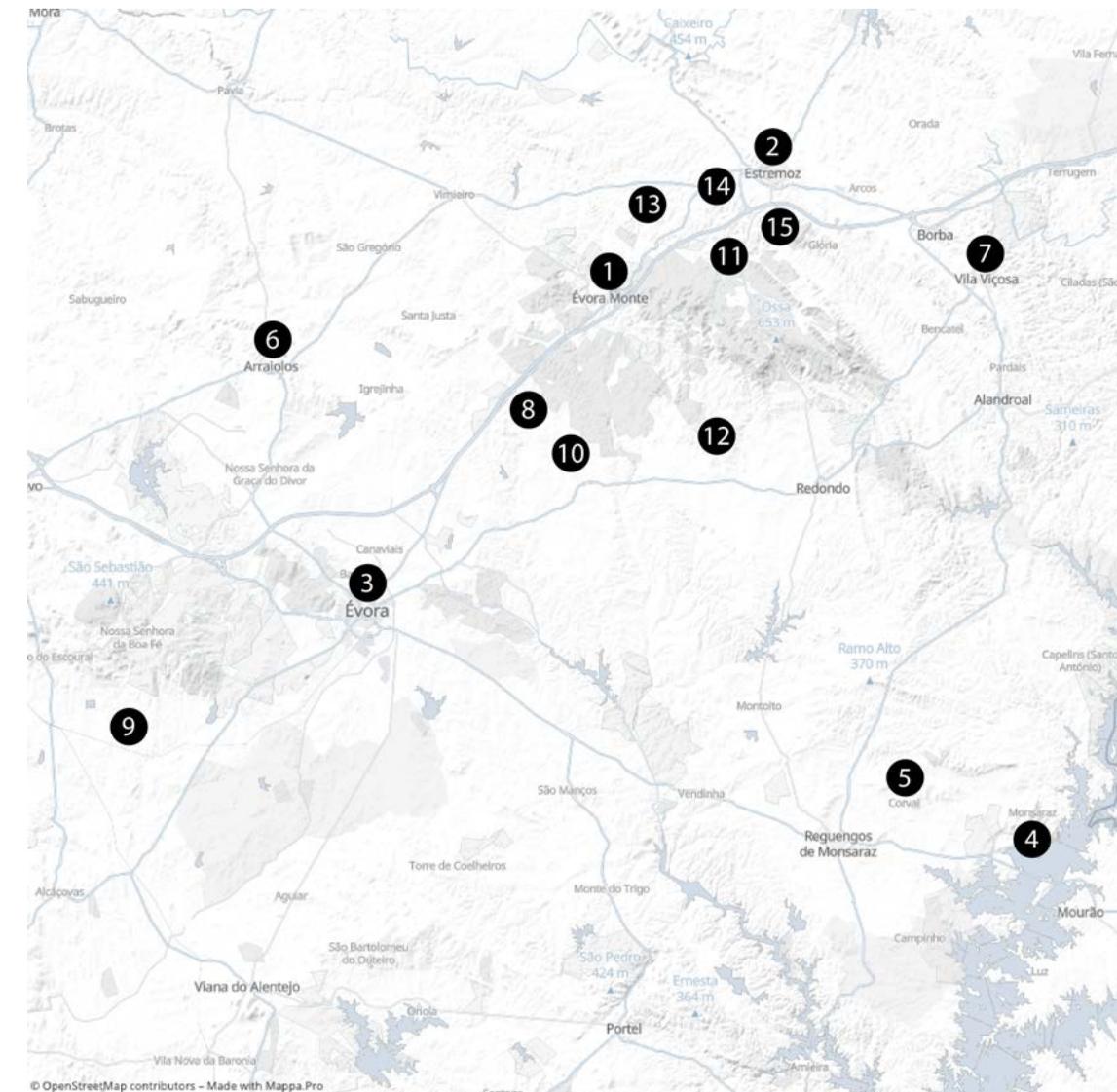
Duration: 4 hours

€35 euros per person

To book a walk, contact Matilde on:

Tel: +351 967 916857

Email: geral@andaramonte.pt



THE KEY

1. Things to do in Evoramonte
2. Town of Estremoz
3. Town of Évora
4. Town of Monsaraz
5. São Pedro do Corval - Pottery
6. Arraiolos - Carpet crafting
7. Vila Viçosa
8. Cork production
9. Megalithic stones
10. Olive grove and tasting
11. Herdade dos Outeiros Altos
12. Herdade do Freixo
13. Herdade das Servas
14. J Portugal Ramos
15. Tiago Cabaço

RESTAURANTS

EVORAMONTE

Walkable – 10 mins

Café O Emigrante: Traditional simple food with friendly service. Down the hill but still in Evoramonte.

Tel: +351 268 950 053

AZARUJA

Approx 10 mins by car

Restaurante Bolas: A local institution – this traditional restaurant has been owned and managed by the Family Bolas for many years. Excellent food from Alentejo.

(Closed Wed evening, & Thu)

Tel: +351 266 977 338

ÉVORA has many more options – please ask if you need suggestions.

ESTREMOZ

Approx 20 mins by car

Gadanha Mercearia: Excellent restaurant which offers traditional regional dishes with a slightly modern twist. Fantastic wine cellar.

(Closed Monday and Tuesday)

Tel: +351 268 333 262

Alecrim: Another lovely restaurant with an updated version of local dishes – and with large collection of wines.

(Closed Wednesday)

Tel: +351 268 324 189

Venda Azul: Very traditional restaurant and very popular with the locals. Great service – watch out, massive portions!

(Closed Sunday)

Tel: +351 961 941 394

Howard's Folly: A brand new adega/bar/restaurant with a very modern and sophisticated décor. Serves petiscos – the Portuguese version of tapas.

(Closed Mon, Tue and Wed)

Tel: +351 268 332 151/964 197 644

We hope to see you again, so if we do, why not book directly with vicki@evoramonte.com

www.evoramonte.com