

BULWARKED FORTIFICATIONS OF THE "RAIA" (BORDER)

The Bulwarked Fortifications of the "Raia" (Border) - RFAR - comprise the strongholds of Valença, Almeida, Marvão and Elvas to illustrate a more comprehensive set of bastioned structures creating the world's first fortification system.

This coherent system was developed during the Restoration War (1640-1668) and continued until the end of the Spanish Civil War (1701-1714). From a historical and geographical perspective, it covers about 140 bulwarked fortifications along both sides of the Portuguese-Spanish border, from Minho to the Algarve. On the Portuguese side, there are about one hundred, and on the Spanish side, forty.



1 FORTRESS OF VALENÇA

A FORTRESS OF PEACE



Valença is part of the Minho River Valley's riverside landscape. Over the centuries, its history has been shaped by its strategic location along a centuries-old passage between Portugal and Galicia, facing the nearby city of Tui.

PLACES OF INTEREST



Porta da Coroadá – fortress main entrance gate

Paio do Açouge FAR Route IC



Military Chapel of Bom Jesus

Church of Santa Maria dos Anjos

2 STRONGHOLD OF ALMEIDA

FORTIFY THE LIMITS



At the beginning of the 18th century, Almeida was the kingdom's most advanced defence work, with an imposing bulwarked fortress. The star-shaped structure reflects the most advanced influences of national and international fortification. Its urban context is based on ideal city principles.

PLACES OF INTEREST



D'el Rey Arena (former ammunition depot and arsenal)

Almeida Military History Museum



Portas Exteriores de São Francisco

Portas Exteriores de Sto. António

4 GARRISON BORDER TOWN OF ELVAS AND ITS FORTIFICATIONS

THE URBAN LOGISTICS OF WAR



In Portugal, Elvas was the most important bastioned stronghold. It represents the implantation of a fortified complex in plains on irregular terrain while also sharing with the others the defence of a traditional "natural entrance", the Madrid-Lisbon corridor.

PLACES OF INTEREST



Magazine of Our Lady of Conceição

Portas da Esquina



Portas de São Vicente

Quartel do Assento - current Archeology Museum

CHRONOLOGY

18 th / 19 th century	1299	1640	1641
Construction of the 1 st Islamic wall of Elvas	Fortress of Marvão construction begins	Fort of Elvas construction begins	Beginning of the construction of the Fortress of Valença and Stronghold of Almeida
1100	1150	1200	1250
1300	1350	1400	1450
1500	1550	1600	1650
1700	1750	1800	1850
1900			
1 st Dynasty – Alphonine	2 nd Dynasty – Aviz	3 rd Dynasty – Philippine	4 th Dynasty – Bragança
Reign	D. Afonso Henriques	D. Sancho I	D. Sancho II
	D. Afonso II	D. Afonso III	D. Dinis
	D. Afonso IV	D. Fernando	D. Afonso V
	D. Pedro I	D. João I	D. Duarte
	D. João II	D. Manuel I	D. João III
	D. Afonso VI	D. Sebastião	Filipe I
	Filipe II	Filipe III	D. João IV
	D. Afonso V	D. João V	D. Pedro II
	D. José I	D. Dona Maria I	D. João VI
	D. Dona Maria II	D. Pedro V	D. Carlos I
	D. Luís I	First Republic	



RFAR
**FORTALEZA
DE MARVÃO**

ENG



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Information

Accesses

GPS
39°23'37.57"N -7°22'35.87"W

FORTALEZA DE MARVÃO

FORTIFY THE URBE

A strip of 1319 km stretches between Portugal and Spain: the world's oldest border. Furthermore, it is one of the best-fortified cities in Europe, with unique historical and cultural features that epitomize humanity's outstanding achievement.

Igreja de Santiago
An ex-libris of marvellous religiosity. The white facade conceals an interior decorated with 17th-century tiles and enhanced by a Baroque high altar, contrasting with Gothic lines.



Ibn Marwán
During the second half of the 9th century, Ibn Marwán, or Ibn Marwan, was an Islamic military leader.

Cistern
It is one of the largest cisterns of Portuguese castles, with a length of 24.68 m, a width of 7.5 m, and a height of 6.5 m. The cistern accumulated water for about six months, enabling the village to survive a long siege.

CIFAR - Interpretation Center of the Bulwarked Fortifications of the "Raia" (Border)
The theme is integrated into the History of the Bulwarked Fortifications and has its own cultural and tourist significance.

Keep
Built by Dom Dinis around 1299 at an altitude of 900 meters. It is the highest point in the castle and the most difficult to reach. It is accessed through a Romanesque-style door, which still has primitive loopholes. It is one of the most breathtaking landscapes you will ever see!

Powder magazines

Traitor's Gate

Marvão Castle

Military toilet

Municipal Museum / Church of St. Maria
The parish was founded in 1321, first under the Hospital Order and later under the Order of Malta Priory. It has a Gothic structure with some remodelling from the 16th century. Archaeology, ethnography, religious art, epigraphy, and arms and armour are among the collections housed in the Municipal Museum today.

MARVÃO: FROM PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION TO ISLAMIC FORTRESS

The Fortress of Marvão is located in a region where humans have been present since the Middle Paleolithic. Neolithic communities settled on the middle slopes, endowed with better protection conditions, after transitioning from a recollection economy to agriculture and pastoralism.

THE MEDIEVAL FORTRESS

Marvão and its territory became part of the domain of the first Portuguese king, Afonso Henriques, between 1160 and 1162. It was through the charter granted in 1226 that the Portuguese were able to consolidate their position in Marvão. Following three military confrontations (1281, 1287 and 1299), King Dinis defeated his brother Afonso, lord of the town until then. The monarch strengthened the settlement and the defensive structures of the villages, which were then brought under his control, just as he had done in Riba-Côa a few years earlier.

THE FORTRESS IN THE WAR

During the Restoration War (1640-1668), fortresses located along the "Raia" (border) were forced to update their defensive structures. The new situation at Marvão led to repairs to the castle, the wall, and the barbican, among other defensive elements. When the town was attacked (1641), the works were likely still in progress when Spanish troops attacked the village again (1648).

FORTIFY THE URBE

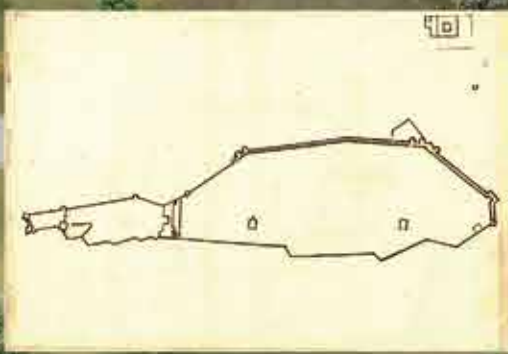
It is located approximately 13 kilometres from the Spanish border. Situated at the foothills of the Serra do Sapoio mountain massif on the hillside, the fortress is a strategic stronghold to defend the border, particularly Valência de Alcântara, throughout its history as a privileged place for observation and defense.

Capela do Calvário
As the Calvaries were traditionally built in the Middle Ages, this church was built in 1804 with a centralized plan. A tombstone atop a rectangular granite-framed door provides the entrance to the south.

LEGEND
Information



Portas da Vila
Formerly the main entrance, it leads directly to the Square and the Castle. There is an opening in the urban fence and a barbican with two turrets flanking the door. In the 17th century, it was fortified with a half bulwark. The old sidewalks led towards Valência de Alcântara and Portalegre from this gate.



Nicholas de Langres
He was appointed by King D. João IV to adapt Portuguese fortresses at the beginning of the Restoration War.

CHRONOLOGY																					
400 - 150 BC	I to V Century	877	1160/66	1226	1250/52	1258	1271	1297	1299	1299/1310	1313	1378	1512/15	1640/42	1640/68	1808/11	1821/34	1834	1925	1938-1940	
Fortifications dating back to the Iron Age.	Probable Roman military structure related to Ammaia.	Ibn Maruán builds a fortress and opens a cistern.	Marvão's ownership goes to D. Afonso Henriques.	D. Sancho II - Gives Marvão municipal status and grants it a charter as such.	D. Afonso III donates the village of Marvão to the Order of Malta.	Foundation of the Franciscan Convent of Nossa Senhora da Estrela.	D. Afonso III donates the village of Marvão to his son, Infante D. Afonso, leaving only the churches dependent on the Order of Malta.	By the Treaty of Alcanices, part of the municipality Marvão goes to Castile.	By force, D. Dinis takes the Castle of Marvão from Infante D. Afonso.	D. Dinis' reign was marked by the restoration of the castle and the expansion of the walls of Marvão.	Signing of the Commitment to open the border between Marvão and Valência de Alcântara.	D. Fernando declares Marvão as "Couto de Homiziados" - a place where those condemned by the justice system could live in peace as long as they did not leave the area.	During the reign of D. Manuel I, the entire military structure was reinforced, the large cistern and the Town Hall was built, and the keep was raised.	Restoration War - constructing the bulwarked system in the northwest area of the Castle and the Gates of the village and Ródão.	Marvão was sieged several times during the Restoration War.	In the course of french invasions, some buildings are demolished meanwhile are built walls to avoid the occupation by the enemies.	Liberal Wars - Several war episodes took place in Marvão with the destruction and reconstruction of some wall sections, especially near the main gates.	D. Maria bestows the title of "Muy Noble e Sempre Leal Vila de Marvão"	Extinction of the last military garrison of Marvão, a company of 10 retired soldiers commanded by an equally retired sergeant.	A comprehensive renovation program implemented by the General Directorate for Buildings and National Monuments as part of the Hundredth Anniversary Celebrations.	

Convento de Nossa Senhora da Estrela