

Acúrsio Baluarte Barrabás was a smuggler who became a ghost and started making guided tours and crossings along the Route of the bulwarked fortifications of the border (RFAR). He developed this guide for real people and sheet ghosts.

To learn more, check out the book “Between Here and There” by RFAR. In approximately 1200 kilometres between Portugal and Spain, visits are concentrated on the most important fortresses:

- ALMEIDA
THE STAR FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE
- ELVAS
THE QUEEN OF THE BORDER
- MARVÃO
THE SENTINEL VILLAGE
- VALENÇA
THE JEWEL OF MINHO

STAMPS

Have you been, seen and stamped? Visit the Tourist Offices or the RFAR Interpretation Centres in each municipality to have the page of each fortress stamped.

NOTE

Stamps are not available for ghosts.

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ROUTE OF THE BULWARKED FORTIFICATIONS OF THE BORDER FEATURES:
BOOOOOOOOOOO!
FORTIFICATIONS OF THE BORDER
TO VISIT AND HAUNT



THE PORTUGUESE-SPANISH
BORDER IS NOT A BORDER,
IT'S A CRUMPLE OF LIVES
SHARED BETWEEN HERE AND THERE.



- MEASURE YOUR DISTANCES
- VALENÇA TO ALMEIDA ON FOOT 57 HOURS
 - ALMEIDA TO PARIS JUMPING 280 HOURS
 - VALENÇA TO ALMEIDA FLYING HALF AN HOUR
 - ALMEIDA TO MARVÃO FLYING 20 MINUTES
 - MARVÃO TO ALMEIDA BY BIKE 13 HOURS
 - MARVÃO TO ELVAS FLYING 10 MINUTES
 - ELVAS TO MARVÃO ON SCOOTER 6 HOURS
 - OLIVENÇA TO ELVAS BY WAGON 1 HOUR AND A HALF



CROSSINGS

Our guides know the best
bulwarks to cross.

NOTE

Flights between strongholds
and crossings are not available
for the living.



STRONGHOLD OF ALMEIDA

Almeida is an impressive modern fortified square, in other words, bulwarked. It has six strongholds, six ravelins, a covered terrace, two double gates and three posterns. In the 18th century, this was the kingdom's most advanced defence effort. Nowadays, it deserves a visit alongside Teodoro, a ghost that was born, vanished, and returned to this great plateau. This shape created the name Al-Mêda (the Table).

- 1 RODA DOS EXPOSTOS
- 2 GUNPOWDER MAGAZINE
- 3 CASEMATES
- 4 COA RIVER
- 5 BASTION OF SANTA BARBARA
- 6 GATES OF SANTO ANTONIO
- 7 FAKE GATES
- 8 ARENA

← 4



GHOST GUIDE: TEODORO ABOIM

Heads up! We recommend going across the «Pai do Azar» and the bomb-proof roofs of the casemates. Ask your guide to tell you about the “roda dos expostos”. If you’re good at flying, go to the most beautiful spots on the Coa River, where the French and Anglo-Portuguese armies clashed.



FORT OF ELVAS

The Dutch Cosmader crosses the garrison town of Elvas and the surrounding fortifications, showing why the largest bulwarked dry-ditch system became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The visit includes the bulwark wall of the historic centre, the Fort of Santa Luzia, the Fort of Graça, the Fortlets of São Domingos, São Pedro and São Mamede and the Aqueduct of Amoreira.



GHOST GUIDE: PASCAGIO COSMANDER

Keen eye! Stop by the Military Museum to learn about the typical elements of the bulwarked buildings. Head to the Governor’s House (on top of Fort of Graça). Say “hello” to the portraits of the Count of Lippe and the engineer Valleré, authors of the project. Don’t forget to taste the plums from Elvas.



CASTLE OF MARVÃO

Marvão is a natural heritage that man adapted to his defensive needs. The fortress was created to welcome lock, stock and barrel soldiers and only then people without war in their suitcases, like our guide’s family, the Baluartes. Do not hesitate to ask him questions about sweets, including the chestnut pastel. During the restoration war (seventeenth century), the fortress of Marvão was «castellado» as we know it today, unchanged since then.



- 1 SALLY PORT
- 2 MEDIEVAL TOILET
- 3 CISTERN
- 4 SMUGGLER’S ROUTE
- 5 VILLAGE GATE
- 6 CASTLE
- 7 KEEP
- 8 PORTAS DE RÔDÃO (10 GATES)

GHOST GUIDE: AGÚRSIO BALUARTE BARRABÁS

Keen eye! Are you good at finding invaders? And traitors? Discover the sally port, the small cistern and the medieval toilet. Are you good at hiking? Then find the smuggler’s route outside the walls.



STRONGHOLD OF VALENÇA

From the top of the hill of the pentagonal fortress of Valença, you can see the border, the river Minho and the Spanish city of Tui. Our guide Maruja will show you a true showcase of military engineering solutions (bulwarks, ravelins, barbicans, gates, redans, tenailles, magazines and casemates). Let’s not forget the “Portas do Meio” the backdrop of a love story beyond walls, borders and the world of the living.



- 1 CHAPEL OF BOM JESUS
- 2 BASTION OF CARMO
- 3 PORTAS DO MEIO
- 4 BASTION OF SOCORRO
- 5 CROWNWORK DOORS
- 6 PORTAS DO SOL (SUN’S GATE)
- 7 BASTION OF ESPERANÇA
- 8 RIVER MINHO

GHOST GUIDE: MARUJA ALBUKREK

Keen eye! Go to the chapel of Bom Jesus and check out the medals of Nossa Senhora do Carmo, a statue worn in a backpack, from battle to battle, for good luck. Cross the bastion of Carmo and observe the cannon at hand. How many cannons do you count in total? If you have time, make your way to Tui and watch Portugal with other “ojos” (eyes).

