

# Castelo de Vide

Portalegre District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Castelo de Vide is a small whitewashed hill town in the Alto Alentejo, close to the Spanish border. It sits in the Serra de São Mamede, a green and hilly area. Narrow cobbled lanes climb to a medieval castle.

The town has one of the best-kept Jewish quarters in Portugal, with an old synagogue. It is a calm stop for a day or two, often combined with nearby Marvão.

## When to visit

Spring and autumn are the best times, with mild weather and green hills. Summers are hot and dry. Winters are cool and can be wet.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for hiking | 10° / 14°<br>Feels like 6° | 1° / -4° | Dry air |
| February | Good<br>Good for hiking | 12° / 16°<br>Feels like 8° | 2° / -4° | Dry air |
| March | Good<br>Good for hiking | 15° / 20°<br>Feels like 11° | 4° / -1° | Dry air |
| April | Good<br>Good for hiking | 18° / 24°<br>Feels like 14° | 6° / 2° | Dry air |
| May | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 22° / 30° | 9° / 4° | Dry air |
| June | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 28° / 36° | 13° / 8° | 22 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high) |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 33° / 39° | 15° / 11° | 28 sunny days · Dry air · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 10 days above 35° |
| August | Fair<br>Fair for sightseeing | 33° / 39° | 16° / 12° | 28 sunny days · Dry air · Up to 11 days above 35° |
| September | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 28° / 35° | 14° / 9° | 21 sunny days · Dry air |
| October | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 22° / 30° | 10° / 5° | Dry air |
| November | Good<br>Good for hiking | 14° / 19°<br>Feels like 11° | 5° / -1° | 12 rainy days · Dry air |
| December | Fair<br>Fair for hiking | 11° / 15°<br>Feels like 7° | 2° / -3° | Dry air |

Best months: May, June, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

## Top sights

- A Castelo is the medieval castle at the top of the old town, with views of the plains.
- B Beit-Ha - Midrasch-Sefardin is the old synagogue in the Jewish quarter, now a small museum.
- C Fonte dos Besteiros is an old fountain in the lower town.
- D Pelourinho de Castelo de Vide is the old stone pillory in the main square.
- E Forte de São Roque is a small fort on a hill above the town.
- F Menir da Meada is a very tall standing stone in the countryside, thousands of years old.
- G Anta de Melriça is a prehistoric stone tomb in the surrounding hills.




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## Getting there

- **By road**: Castelo de Vide is about 2 to 2.5 hours from Lisbon by car. Buses also run from Lisbon.
- **Nearby**: Marvão is a famous hilltop village about 15 to 20 minutes away by car. Elvas is a fortified border town to the south.

## Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY

**EUR €**

EMERGENCY

**112**

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

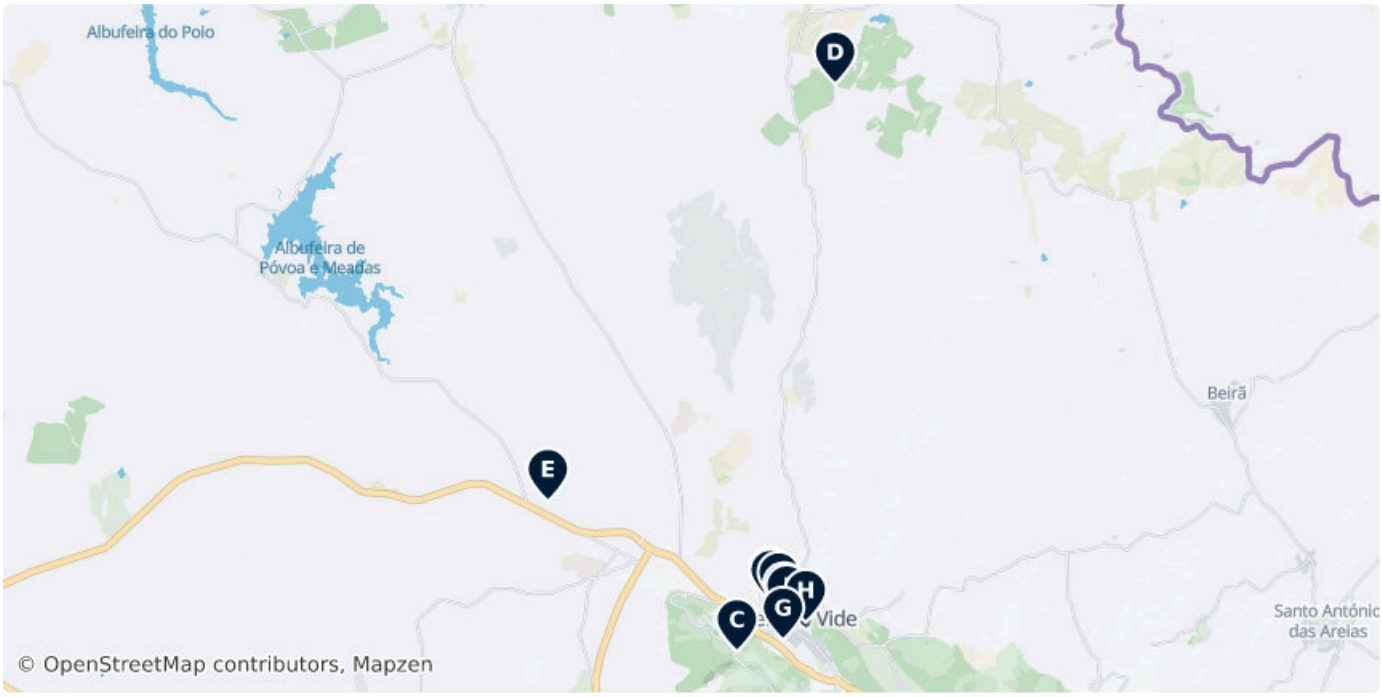
Portuguese

TAP WATER

**Safe to drink**

# Castelo de Vide Essentials

Castelo de Vide is defined by its well-preserved 14th-century Jewish Quarter and a medieval fortress overlooking the Alentejo plains. This collection highlights the town's architectural heritage, including the massive Menir da Meada—the largest on the Iberian Peninsula—and the 18th-century Igreja de Santa Maria da Devesa. Key sites range from the Renaissance Fonte dos Besteiros to the panoramic Miradouro da Senhora da Penha, showcasing a history that spans from Neolithic megaliths to 17th-century star forts.






## A Castelo

Medieval fortress featuring a 14th-century keep and double defensive walls. It houses a small military museum and offers views of the surrounding Serra de São Mamede.

20 Rua Direita do Castelo, Castelo de Vide 7320, Portugal (39.41792, -7.45829)

## B BEIT-HA - MIDRASCH-SEFARDIN

Dating to the 14th century, this is one of Portugal's oldest synagogues. It contains a rare stone Torah ark and a museum dedicated to the town's Sephardic history.

17 Rua da Judiaria, Castelo de Vide 7320190, Portugal (39.41752, -7.45674)

## C Miradouro da Senhora da Penha

Situated on the hilltop of São Paulo, this viewpoint by a small chapel provides a full panorama of Castelo de Vide and the plains toward the Spanish border.

(39.41044, -7.46490)



## D Menir da Meada

The tallest prehistoric menhir in the Iberian Peninsula, standing 7.15 meters high. This Neolithic granite monolith was restored in the 1990s.

7320, Portugal (39.49602, -7.44573)

## E Anta de Melriça

A well-preserved megalithic dolmen from the Neolithic period, representing the region's dense concentration of prehistoric funerary monuments.

7320, Portugal (39.43312, -7.50185)

arqueologia.patrimoniocultural.pt

## F Igreja de Santa Maria da Devesa

Dominating the Praça D. Pedro V, this 18th-century Baroque parish church features a massive white facade and an ornate interior with marble altars.

7 Volta de Santa Maria, Castelo de Vide 7320, Portugal (39.41589, -7.45565)

## G Fonte dos Besteiros

A 16th-century Renaissance fountain decorated with the coat of arms of King Manuel I and King João III, once serving as a primary water source for the town.

(39.41221, -7.45589)

## H Forte de São Roque

A 17th-century star-shaped fortification built during the Restoration War to modernize the town's medieval defenses against artillery.

(Unnamed Road), Castelo de Vide 7320, Portugal (39.41488, -7.45146)

## I Pelourinho de Castelo de Vide

An 18th-century stone pillory located in the main square, serving as a historic symbol of judicial and municipal autonomy.

74 Rua Bartolomeu Álvares da Santa, Castelo de Vide 7320117, Portugal (39.41556, -7.45518)

## J Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Alegria

Located within the castle walls, this 17th-century church is notable for its interior walls covered in traditional blue and white 18th-century tiles.

30 Rua Direita do Castelo, Castelo de Vide 7320, Portugal (39.41827, -7.45843)

## DATA SOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
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