



(1) Belvis de Monroy > (2) Jarandilla de la Vera > (3) Granadilla > (4) Trujillo > (5) Medellín > (6) Jerez de los Caballeros > (7) Alconchel > (8) Monsaraz > (9) Beja > (10) Alvito > (11) Viana do Alentejo > (12) Estremoz > (13) Alburquerque > (14) Marvão > (15) Castelo de Vide > (16) Castelo Branco > (17) Monsanto > (18) Sabugal > (19) Lousã > (20) Montemor-o-Velho > (21) Leiria > (22) Porto de Mós

THE CASTLE ROUTE

(1) **Belvis de Monroy** marks the start of your route, with its majestic 18th century castle carved atop granite rock. Heading north, at (2) **Jarandilla de la Vera** you'll find the Condes de Oropesa Castle, built in the mid-15th century and now part of Spain's network of Paradores. To the west you reach (3) **Granadilla**, north of Plasencia, where you'll find a unique castle in terms of form and layout, with its square enclosure and attached semi-cylindrical towers. Heading back south, you pass through (4) **Trujillo**, whose castle was built by the Arabs in the 9th century and which presides over a city full of art and history. Your next stop is the castle at (5) **Medellín** which is situated on a raised mound on the Guadiana River and has a newly restored Roman theatre on its slopes. Crossing into the province of Badajoz, you come to (6) **Jerez de los Caballeros** with its 13th century Templar castle and 1700-metre long, walled enclosure – a perfect place for admiring the town's famous towers. Near the border, the Miraflores Castle stands over the town of (7) **Alconchel**.

Crossing the frontier, along which remarkable castles can be found throughout the EUROACE region, you'll reach (8) **Monsaraz**. A village of whitewashed houses with a castle that reflects the military architecture of the 14th century and from where the magnitude of the Great Alqueva Lake can be appreciated. In the capital of Bajo Alentejo, you'll see the (9) **Beja** Castle, with its spectacular keep over 40 metres high. Turning north, your first stop is to admire the distinctive (10) **Alvito** Castle, which incorporates a hotel that is part of Portugal's network of Pousadas and combines military architecture with a palatial residence. Near Alvito is (11) **Viana do Alentejo**, which has a 14th century Gothic castle with Manueline and Mudejar ornamentation from earlier periods.

At its highest point, (12) **Estremoz** has a castle which now houses the Rainha Santa Isabel Pousada, with its spectacular Three Crowns Tower. The route then takes you back into Spain, to (13) **Alburquerque** and its Luna Castle, a very well-preserved fortress whose compound contains the 13th century Romanesque church of Santa María del Castillo. Back in Portugal, climb up to 850 m above sea level and the town of (14) **Marvão**. Here you'll find a walled compound built on quartz stone from which its castle juts out, offering an exceptional view of the entire border area. A few kilometres away is (15)

Leiria Castle



Castelo de Vide, with a 14th century fortress that gives the town its name. The town also has a historically important Jewish past.

(16) **Castelo Branco** is your next stop. Here you can visit the fortress built on top of 13th century remains and then admire its walled compound and Templar tower. To the northeast is (17) **Monsanto**, where the remains of a medieval castle overlook a picturesque village built on enormous rounded boulders. Now in the district of Guarda, head towards (18) **Sabugal**, whose castle was ordered built by King Dinis in the 13th century and which still retains its distinctive pentagonal tower. Your journey westwards takes you into the heart of the Centro Region, where you'll find the town of (19) **Lousã**. Its castle incorporates a mix of Romanesque and Gothic architecture. Following the course of the Mondego River, you come to (20) **Montemor-o-Velho**, whose castle is mentioned in records dating back to the 9th century and which still retains its great walls. To the south of the Centro Region is (21) **Leiria** Castle, dating from the 12th century; today it gives the city an unparalleled Romantic appearance. Your journey comes to an end a little further south, at the Gothic-Renaissance style (22) **Porto de Mós** Castle, with its two distinctive towers crowned with green spires.

Medellín Castle

