



The Alentejo

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tasca do Celso (p261)
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- ➔ Restaurante Sever (p246)
- ➔ Sabores de Monsaraz (p228)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Trainspot (p246)
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- ➔ Convento da Provença (p240)
- ➔ São Lourenço do Barrocal (p228)
- ➔ Casa do Colégio Velho (p233)

Why Go?

Go to be bewitched. Portugal's largest region, covering a third of the country, truly captivates. Think dry, golden plains, rolling hillsides and lime-green vines. A rugged coastline, traditional whitewashed villages, marble towns and majestic medieval cities. Plus a proud if melancholic people, who valiantly cling to their local crafts.

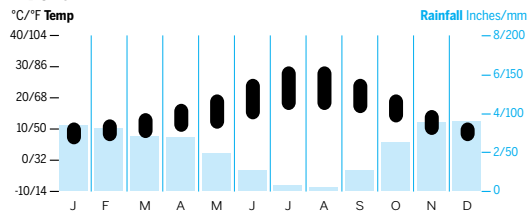
Centuries-old farming traditions – and cork production – continue here. Alentejo's rich past offers Palaeolithic carvings, fragments from Roman conquerors and solid Visigothic churches. There are Moorish-designed neighbourhoods and awe-inspiring fortresses built at stork-nest heights.

And the cuisine? Alentejo is the destination for traditional food. Gastronomic delights are plentiful – pork, game, bread, cheese, wine, and seafood along the coastline. Bird life and rare plants are prolific, and walking opportunities abound.

The world is (finally) catching on to Alentejo. Get there before it does.

When to Go

Évora



Apr & May Red and yellow flowers mingle with golden plains, and it's baby stork time!

Sep & Oct Enjoy festival frenzy while missing the crowds and the heat.

Jun & Jul Pre-August beaches await, plus Festas Populares, Évora's bounciest country fair.

Alentejo Highlights

- 1 Sample the history, culture and cuisine of the historically rich Unesco World Heritage-listed **Évora** (p244).
- 2 Gaze out over the countryside from the cliffs along **Marvão** (p244), one of the Alentejo's most enchanting hilltop fortress villages.
- 3 Admire the view over the sea cliffs along **Rota Vicentina** (p262), one of Portugal's most captivating multiday treks.
- 4 Watch the shadows play on the mysterious **Cromeleque dos Almendres** (p226) megaliths outside of Évora.
- 5 Stroll with the spirits of past civilisations and religions in the riverside enclave of **Mértola** (p251).