



COMPANHIA DAS CULTURAS
castro marim



WALK : Castro Marim
Distance: 3km
Best Time: all year

Upon arriving in Castro Marim take the street that encircles the Castle hill, observing the houses whitewashed in various colours in a popular version of Art Nouveau. Continuing, and in an anti-clockwise direction, you'll reach the square in front of the Town Hall. On its left-hand flank, you'll see a tiny chapel – the town's most remarkable monument. There is a stairway that leads up to the main church, beside which you'll also find a path that leads to the Castle. Once there, you should visit the small museum which houses a rare collection and is rich in archaeological knowledge regarding the town's history over the last three millennia – Castro Marim, the ancient Baesuris which had the right to mint coins and drank from Attic chalices. From the keep you can enjoy one of the most emblematic views celebrated by the geographer Orlando Ribeiro: the mouth of the

Guadiana, the grid of the salt pans and the circumvolutions of the glasswort marshes and wetlands and migrating birds. Walking down from the Castle, and now in a clockwise direction, you'll find St. Anthony's chapel at the southern end of town. This is probably the saint's last retreat before he crossed over to Tangiers. On the opposite hill stands the São Sebastião Fort, built after 1640 – date of the restoration of Portugal's independence – from which you can also view the mouth of the Guadiana and the street that leads down to the old quay. Back at the town centre, the Associação Odiana is a good information source for the region, and almost opposite it, the Associação dos Salinicultores Artesanais organises guided tours of the salt pans, and is also a selling point for some of the world's finest flor de sal (hand-harvested top layer of salt).