



CASTLE OF
**CASTRO
MARIM**

THE CASTLE CASTRO MARIM

During ancient times, the settlement known as *Baesuris* was located on the castle hill and served as an important commercial port at the mouth of the river. The traces of settlement date back to the 9th century BC with the arrival of the Phoenicians, and the occupation continued until the Roman era.

In the 13th century, after the Algarve conquest from the Moors and the definition of the southern border, King D. Afonso III ordered the repopulation of the town of Castro Marim and the construction of the Castle, completed in 1274, as part of the repopulation and fortification process of the border between Portugal and Castile. In 1279, D. Dinis ordered the construction of the medieval enclosure. The suburb of the town was located outside the enclosure and around the base of the hill.



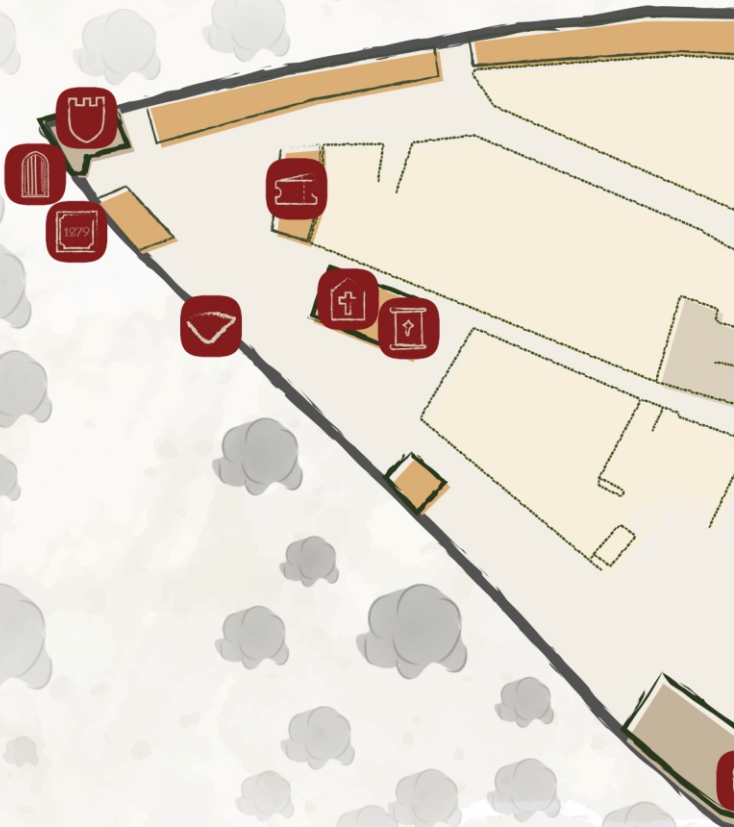
In the early 16th century, King D. Manuel I promoted improvements to the Castle and reinforced the square structure with new circular-shaped towers and during this period, the medieval enclosure also underwent reinforcement works. During the Portuguese Restoration War (1640-1668), the medieval enclosure was adapted to resist the power of artillery by building bastions and reducing the height of the walls. These works defined the current shape and appearance of the fortified complex.

The earthquake of 1755 caused significant damage to the fortifications and to the town of Castro Marim, particularly the collapse of the Matriz de Santiago church and the Keep Tower of the Castle. From that date onwards, the fortified area had an exclusively military function.



CASTLE MAP

CASTRO MARIM



Village Gate
Porta da Vila



Sea Gate
Porta do Mar



WC
WC



Ticket Office / Castle Store
Bilheteira / Loja do Castelo



Medieval Enclosure
Cerca Medieval



Santiago Church Ruins
Ruínas da Igreja de Santiago



Misericórdia Former Church
Antiga Igreja da Misericórdia



Museological Center
Núcleo Museológico



Malpique Bulwark
Baluarte de Malpique



Village Gate Epigraph
Epígrafe da Porta da Vila



Old Castle
Castelo Velho



Order of Christ Exhibition
Exposição Ordem de Cristo



Village Gate Bulwark
Baluarte da Porta da Vila



Nossa Srª dos Mártires Bulwark
Baluarte da Nossa Srª dos Mártires



Weaponry / Medieval Torture Instruments Exhibition
PaioI / Exposição Intrumentos de Tortura Medieval

THE CASTLE CASTRO MARIM

Medieval Enclosure

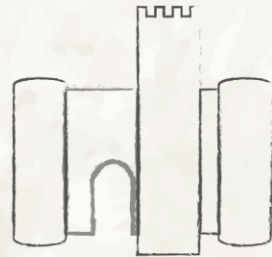
The Medieval enclosure, dating back to 1279, defended the town of Castro Marim, which was located on top of the hill at that time. The enclosure had two gates: the Village Gate, facing west, and the Sea Gate, facing east.



Old Castle and Keep Tower

In 1319, the castle was donated to the Order of Christ. Its current form, with circular towers, dates back to 1509 when King D. Manuel I ordered the reconstruction of the fortress.

Inside, the High Constable (Alcaide-mor) and Commander of the Order of Christ in the town resided. The residence, now in ruins, had two floors, several rooms, and two cisterns for water storage. The Keep Tower, measuring 16.70 meters in height, also had a residential function.



Former Sea Gate and Malpique Bulwark

The Sea Gate (1279) provided access to the suburb of Ribeira and the port outside the medieval enclosure. During the Portuguese Restoration War (1640-1668), it was closed off for the construction of the Malpique Bulwark.



Santiago Church Ruins

The Church of Santiago, built in the late 13th century, served as the main church of the town until its destruction by the 1755 earthquake.



Castel Epigraph and Mason's Mark

The epigraph from 1274 commemorates the construction of the castle and the settlement of the town.

On the stonework of the door, we find engraved the mason's marks of the craftsmen who carved the stones and made it possible to determine the payment per piece.



Village Gate Epigraph

The epigraph marks the construction of the village gate and is one of the oldest inscriptions in the Portuguese language. Until the reign of King D. Dinis (1279-1325), all official documents and inscriptions were written in Latin.



Castle Museological Center

The Museological Center houses part of the archaeological findings from excavations conducted in the Castle, including materials that attest to the occupation of the hill since the 9th century BC.



Former Misericórdia Church

The former Misericórdia Church was built in the late 16th century. It had a Renaissance portal with a semicircular arch and small overlapping columns decorated with vegetal reliefs.

The original Renaissance-style altarpiece still remains in the altar.



Weaponry / Medieval Torture Instruments Exhibition

The Paiol (18th and 19th century) was a bomb-proof warehouse used for storing gunpowder and ammunition. Today, it houses the Exhibition of Instruments of Torture and Punishment, featuring replicas of torture instruments used during judicial and inquisitorial interrogations in the Middle Ages.





OPENING TIME HORÁRIO

Open all days
Aberto todos os dias

April to October
Abril a Outubro

09h30 to 18h30

November to March
Novembro a Março

09h00 to 17h00

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VIRTUAL TOUR



CM-CASTROMARIM.PT