



LINHARE CASTLE

The whole of the Mountain Beiras region is scattered with fortified villages and castles due to its proximity with the border with Spain. One of the most impressive examples is the castle in the mountain town of Linhares da Beira.

The village was the home of the Lusitanians, an Iberian tribe from whom the Portuguese descended.

It is located on the western side of the Serra da Estrela mountains approximately 820 metres above sea level. It provides a strategic vantage point over the river Mondego valley below, which is why it became a settlement for the Visigoths and the Moors.

It has always been an important stop over place due to its proximity to the Roman road joining Conimbraga and Guarda.



A picture of the Castle at Linhares da Beira

Linhare Castle, as it is today, dates back to the 12th Century when the Portuguese claimed the village in 1169. It became the centre for training of men to fight the Spaniards and one famous event was the liberation of Celorica da Beira from the Spanish in 1198.

Today it is the main tourist attraction of the village, which to this day retains the atmosphere of its ancient past.

Walking around the village today it is possible to stumble upon ancient Roman walkways that are still passable.



An ancient Roman walkway in Linhares

At the centre of the village is the church which harbors a little-known secret. Inside the church there are three famous paintings by Vasco Fernandes known as Grao Vasco. Born in Viseu Grao Vasco was one of the most influential artists of his time.

The three paintings, "Adoration of the Magi", "Descent from the Cross" and "Annunciation" were thought to be part of a much larger collection that is now sadly lost.

Many of the traditional stone built houses in the village have been renovated but the original character and architecture are clear to see.



A traditional house in Linhares

The village is well worth a visit but it is only possible by car or by bus unless you walk approx 6 km from the closest point on the N17.