

*YOU JUST NEED TO ADMIRE A CASTLE TO FEEL NOSTALGIC ABOUT THE PAST AND OUR ROOTS. PLACE OF HEROIC AND TRAGIC ACHIEVEMENTS, THE CASTLE OF CASTRO MARIM IS A MIXTURE OF STORIES AND LEGENDS. RAISED BY A KING'S DESIRE AND KEPT BY THE WILL OF OTHERS, THE CASTLE WAS A PLACE OF ATTACK AND DEFENCE IN WAR TIMES AND A PLACE OF SHELTER TO THE POPULATIONS. ITS MUTE ROCKS RESISTED THROUGH THE TIMES AND THE SILENT WALLS STILL KEEP THE ECO OF BLOODY BATTLES. SINCE ALWAYS THE GUARDIAN OF THE PLAIN, THE CASTLE OF CASTRO MARIM KEEPS STORIES AND SECRETS SO INACCESSIBLE AS DESIRABLE. HERE ARE SOME OF THEM THAT MADE HISTORY. ❀*

# WELCOME TO THE ENCHANTED KING DOM



CASTRO MARIM



A PLACE FULL OF HISTORY

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# THE CASTLE OF CASTRO MARIM



# WELCOME TO THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM CASTRO MARIM



One of the oldest places in the Algarve, Castro Marim is an excellent beginning or passage point for those who love History. Classified as National Monument since 1920, the Castle is situated in a top point and once defended the village port. Established between massive battlements, the castle dominates the village and its construction was ordered by King D. Afonso III, during the XIIIth century. Inside the battlement, it raises another older castle, The Old Castle, probably a Muslim construction that settles in an irregular plant of square shape with four small towers and two doors. The rests of the merlons and walls that invoke wartime and make us imagine the medieval warriors fighting gloriously for their ideals are still visible today. During the period of muslim occupation, the castle had a defence structure identified with the primitive center of the actual castle. Like the village, the Castle took a strategic position protecting the Portuguese coast on south of the Moors, which stayed here for centuries till the Christians definitively expelled them in 1242. It was during D. Afonso III's Kingdom that D. Paio Peres Correia, Frontier Chief of the Algarve Kingdom conquered Castro Marim. The

King ordered the raise of the square structured Castle on the pre-existent fortifications, being this creation the oldest testimony of the portuguese presence here. The Christians conquer in 1242 was followed in the XIIIth century by a repopulate politic and a reinforcement of the defences, considering the strategic position of the village bordering with Castela and the Moors attacks coming from North Africa.

The castle is a part of a remarkable edification of border fortification, that crossed many construction campaigns from the XIIIth to the XVIIIth centuries. In 1319, King D. Dinis ordered the reinforcement of the castle's fortifications and made Castro Marim the head-office of the Order of Christ, created to substitute the Order of the Templars, which would be moved away later to Tomar. This military Order had a decisive importance on the first trips that marked the beginning of the great era of the Discoveries. Infant D. Henrique, the Navigator, was nominated governor of the Order and lived in the Castle of Castro Marim. Later, D. Fernando ordered the restoration of the



entire fortress and in thanks giving for many victories against Castela was built a chapel today called Nossa Senhora dos Mártires. In 1641, D. João IV ordered the construction of Saint Sebastian's Fortress, reconstructed and extended the castle and connected these two bulwarks with walls. Castro Marim became then the main square of war in the Algarve. Until 1755, the village lived in the shade of the battlements that were restored after the earthquake, but the battlements and a church in ruins outlived to tell the story.

Inside the castle there is a small nucleus that testimonies geologic, archeologic and historic local aspects. Visiting it is like going on a trip in the time machine through the past of the village and improve its great military importance. The museum content is constituted by archeologic findings from the Neolithic and craftsman objects that once belonged to Romans, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians and Arabs, like the ceramics and coppers, spear horns, cannon bullets and others. Fragments of stories that wrote the history of the Castro Marim Castle. Be welcome.

