

# Sustainable Destination Award Good Practice Story

## Castro do Zambujal - A 5,000 Year Old Destination

Castro do Zambujal is a site of human occupation dating back to 3,000 bC, one of the main settlements of the Peninsular Chalcolithic, located in the Sizandro river valley. The great challenge of Castro do Zambujal is to contain the physical degradation of the ruins, reconciling the heritage / environmental preservation and the enjoyment of both the local population and tourism. The solution involved the development of an integrated project, with three strands of intervention:

Conservation and restoration works extended to the entire village; landscape requalification of the archaeological site, with the creation of a visit circuit and sanitary facilities; creation of interpretation media, including panels and an audio guide mobile application. The intervention made the site accessible to the general public, a pedagogical resource for the teaching of prehistory for the county schools, a place of recreation for the local population. Eight months after the intervention, the site was visited by c. 4 thousand people, schools, groups and tourists. Maintenance jobs were created for two people of the local community. The project received recognition from the Directorate General of Cultural Heritage of Portugal, which supported it technically, from the German Archaeological Institute - Delegation of Madrid, responsible for the scientific direction of the site, and the Faculty of Letters of Lisbon. This project was co-financed by Centro 2020, Portugal 2020, EU, by the ERDF.

