

Read a text about Monsanto, a historical village in Portugal.

MONSANTO: A VILLAGE BUILT IN ROCK

Have you ever been to a house that is built under a rock? Well, it seems that the citizens of Monsanto, a small village in Portugal, are actually used to living on, under and between huge rocks.

About 3 hours away from Lisbon, built on a hill which is 758 metres high, Monsanto is one of 12 official Historical Villages in Portugal. What makes it so unique is the fact that its houses are built among huge rocks that weigh about 200 tons each. Centuries ago, when people built this village, they weren't able to move these rocks, so they decided to use them as part of their houses instead. Many years have passed since then, but the village hasn't changed at all. In fact, it's got about 800 citizens who still live in houses that have rocks as roofs, walls or floors. It sounds scary, doesn't it?



Monsanto is an ideal destination for travellers who like hiking, as the stone paths in the heart of the village are too small for cars to use. And if you feel brave enough, you can climb to the top of the hill to visit the Castle of Monsanto. Unfortunately, only parts of it still survive today, but it is definitely worth seeing. From up there, you can enjoy impressive views of the countryside, which looks especially beautiful when it gets dark. And if you plan to spend the night, there are also some traditional hotels in Monsanto that offer comfortable rooms, as well as traditional taverns where tourists can take the opportunity to try local dishes.

So, what are you waiting for? Pack your suitcase and visit Monsanto today!



1 Choose and circle a or b.

/5

- It takes ____ hours to get from Lisbon to Monsanto.
a. 12 b. 3
- Each rock weighs about ____ tons.
a. 758 b. 200
- The people of Monsanto ____ the rocks for their houses.
a. used b. moved
- Tourists can only explore Monsanto ____.
a. on foot b. by car
- The view from the Castle of Monsanto is amazing ____.
a. in the morning b. at night

2 Mark the sentences with T (True), F (False) or NG (Not Given).

/5

- It took centuries for people to build Monsanto.
- The population of Monsanto is about 800.
- There isn't any traffic in the centre of Monsanto.
- The Castle of Monsanto looks exactly as it did in the past.
- Accommodation in Monsanto is quite expensive.

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐