

He arrived in Portugal for the first time in 1808 and ended the first French invasion with his victories at Roliça and Vimeiro. He returned in 1809 to retake Porto and drive out the second French invasion from Portuguese territory.

Faced with the enormous imperial army that invaded Portugal for the third time in 1810, Wellington adopted a defensive approach. He won at Bussaco but had to continue to fall back to the Lines of Torres Vedras, a network of carefully fortified positions, which forced the French to withdraw back to Spain in 1811. A final attempt to overcome Wellington failed at Fuentes de Oñoro.



British field artillery.

In 1812, he went on the offensive, taking Ciudad Rodrigo and prevailing at the Battle of Salamanca, before having to return to the border for the winter. However, French power in the region was now severely weakened. In 1813 Wellington was able to take what is now Castilla y León with almost no fighting, forcing King Joseph to leave the Iberian Peninsula shortly afterwards.

Line of British infantry.



Napoctep

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Napoleonic routes between Spain and Portugal

The objective of the Napoctep Project is the creation of a series of tourist routes associated with the presence of Napoleonic troops in Castilla y León and Central Portugal. The routes elaborated are the following:

Route 1st Invasión of Portugal.



Route 2nd Invasión of Portugal.



Route 3rd Invasión of Portugal.



Wellington Route.



Route of Siege and Great Battles.



Route of Napoleon and the Englishman's Run.



Guerrilleros Julián Sánchez el Charro and el Empecinado Route.



Interreg
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Route
Wellington
from
Quinta dos Freixos
to Valladolid

Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington.

The name of Lord Wellington is most commonly associated with the Battle of Waterloo, where Napoleon Bonaparte was defeated for the final time. However, the brilliant British general had previously won fame throughout Europe for his exploits against French troops in Spain and Portugal, where he won stunning victories in numerous battles and sieges.



British army baggage train.

Patient and meticulous, his successes were a result of both his military prowess and his logistical expertise, his elaborate network of spies, and his firm network of diplomatic contacts, which ensured the support of the Government in London and granted him broad control of all the British and Portuguese forces in the Iberian Peninsula. His strategy of waiting and harassing enemy forces in more difficult times alongside powerful offensives at the right time were one of the deciding factors in the allied victory in the Peninsular War.

British horse artillery.



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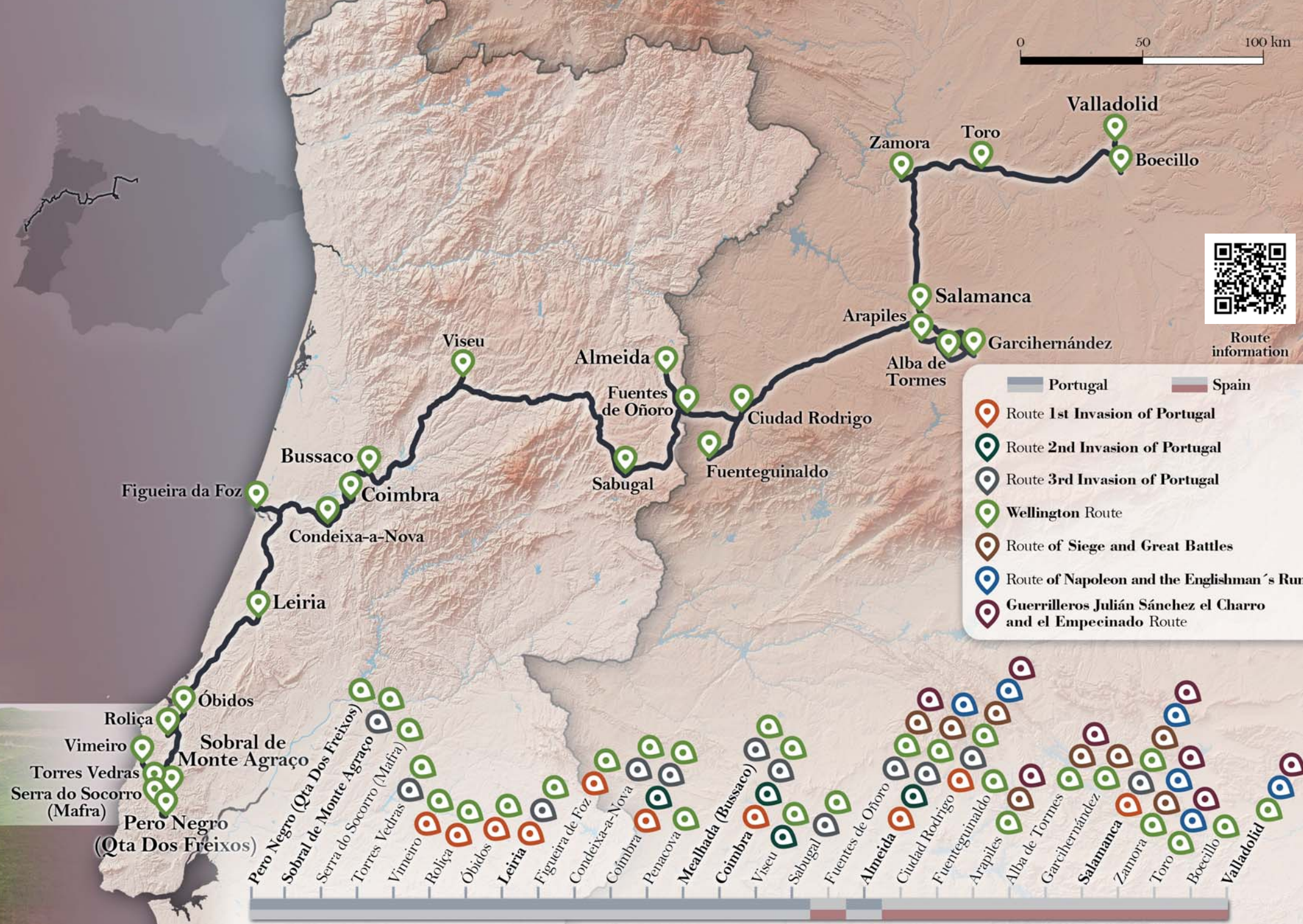
Given his achievements, Wellington was granted control of the Spanish, Portuguese, and British armies, despite the differing objectives of the allies, which unified the war effort in the final stages. Such a display of confidence makes him the clear main attraction in the *Wellington Trail*, which journeys between the places where the Duke left his mark, such as barracks, churches, cities, towns, fortresses, and, of course, the battlefields where we can now find cultural resources giving us an insight into the war years.



Fortress of the Conception in Aldea del Obispo.



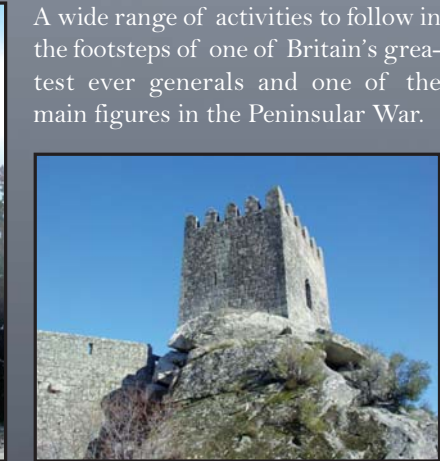
Almeida city walls.



Salamanca, Mortágua, Vimeiro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Valladolid, and Bus-saco house interpretation centres, permanent exhibitions, and military museums covering his operations; Alba de Tormes, San Felices de los Gallegos, Torres Vedras, and Alqueidão retain fortified positions where French and allied troops left their mark; Primer Edecán conduct guided tours of the battlefields. What's more, we can stay in unique buildings such as the Parador hotel in Ciudad Rodrigo or the Palace Hotel in Bus-saco and take in the Archaeological Site in Siega Verde or the Toro Wine Route.



Monument commemorating the Battle of Vimeiro.



Sabugal Castle.

A wide range of activities to follow in the footsteps of one of Britain's greatest ever generals and one of the main figures in the Peninsular War.



Main Plaza in Salamanca.