

HENAIO CELTIC HILLFORT

Information. The Henaio Celtic Hillfort visitor interpretation centre is located on the hill with the same name just a few kilometres from the town of Alegria-Dulantzi. The area is a settlement dating from the bronze age and the early stages of the iron age.

There are informative panels and two full sized houses that recreate the ambience and ways of life of the Celtiberian and central European families who lived in this village.

You can take a short tour following the signs outside. The tour includes a reconstruction of the defensive walls the settlement used to have and it ends at the top of the hill where you can enjoy panoramic views of the Alavese plains and the mountains of Vitoria.

Suggestions. The hillfort of Henaio can also be part of a larger prehistoric route, being as throughout the plains there are signs of prehistoric population that are still standing and perfectly conserved, like the Sorghinex dolmen (in Arrizala) and the Aizkomentdi dolmen (in Egilaz) or the Legaire megalithic park.

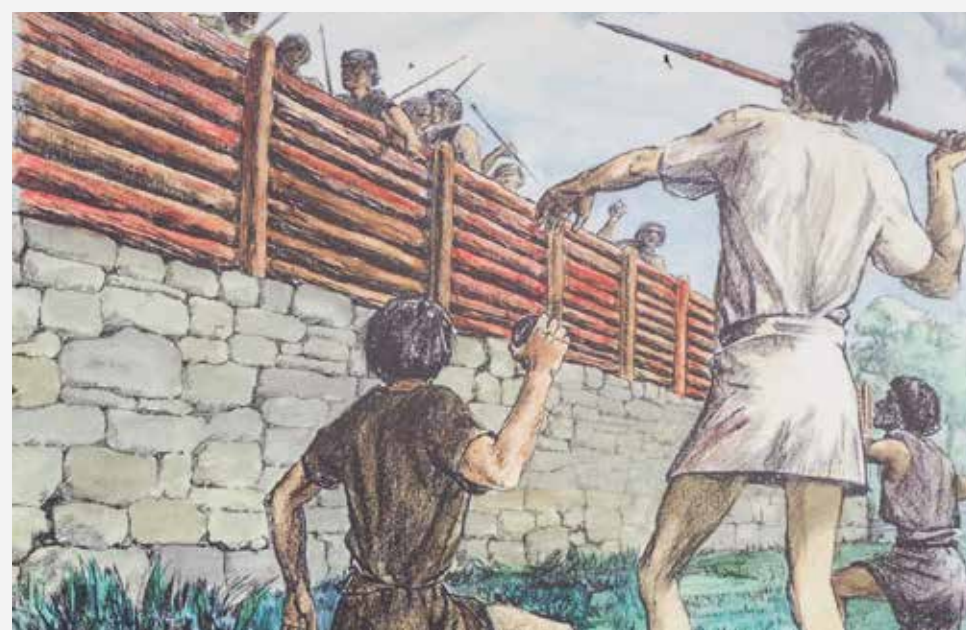
HENAIO

CELTIC HILLFORT



HENAIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERPRETATION CENTRE

The hillfort has reproductions of two houses similar to the ones from the iron age that appeared during the excavations. They have a circular floor plan with a 6 metre diameter and they're 4.5 metres tall. The area has walls with a vertical post structure closed with basket woven working sticks and it's blanketed with mortar. Two 8 metre long sections of the wall have also been reproduced.



The archaeological excavation that was done between 1969 and 1970 revealed the various phases of the settlement over approximately 800 years. During the first phase of occupation there were a few stone foundation walls that became severely worn from farming activities. In the next phase, the ground plan of one of the houses that conserved its circular floor plan was discovered. And there was another level underneath that is from the first human settlement on the hill. It shows the remains of the pits for anchoring the wooden posts of the first buildings. The various phases were dated around the 11th to 10th centuries BCE (late bronze age) up to the late stages of the 4th to 3rd centuries BCE (late iron age).

It seems like the hill was occupied because of the steep slopes on three of its sides. The sides were also reinforced with an artificial defence consisting of terraces and walls that were logically stronger on the south side, which didn't have an appropriate natural defence. From the heights of the hill, a natural area of east-west transit and the people entering from the south from the mountains of Vitoria could be monitored.

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