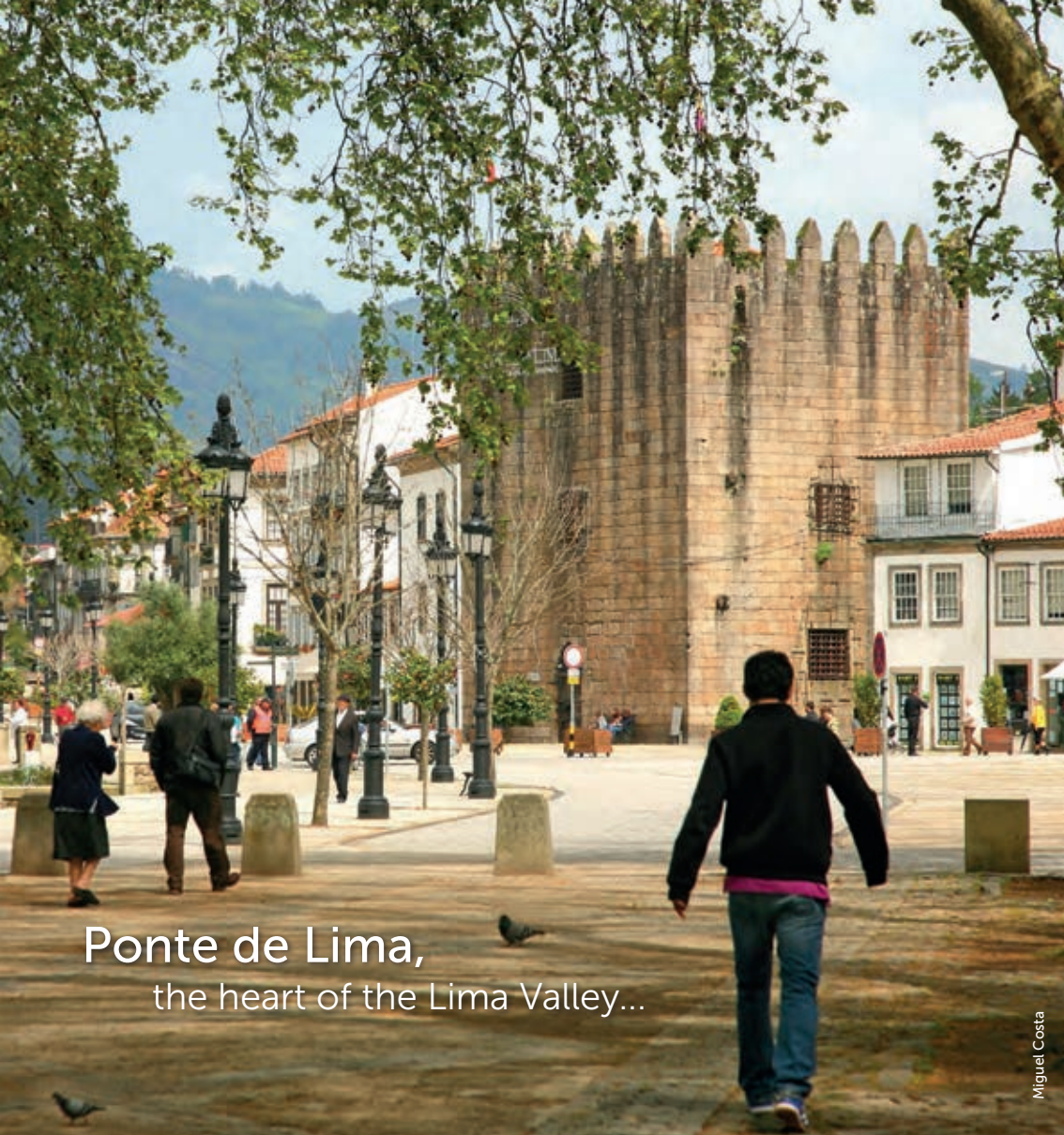


Ponte de Lima

A Land of Heritage



PontedeLima



Ponte de Lima,
the heart of the Lima Valley...



Ponte de Lima

In the heart of the Lima Valley, the unique and genuine beauty of the oldest town in Portugal hides deep roots and ancestral legends. It was Teresa, Countess of Portugal, who, in the distant date of March 4th of 1125, signed the town's charter, calling it "Terra de Ponte" (Bridge Land). Years later, already in the fourteenth century, Pedro I, taking into account the strategic position of Ponte de Lima, ordered it to be walled, which resulted in a medieval walled burg with nine towers. Two of these are still standing and there are traces of several others and of the whole defensive structure built at the time. The access to the town is made through six doors.

The bridge, from which this noble town derives part of its name, has always been of major importance for the whole Alto Minho region, since it was the only safe passage across the River Lima throughout its whole length, until the late Middle Ages.

The town began to grow in the eighteenth century and as a consequence its walls began to be pulled down. Throughout the county of Ponte de Lima, opulent manorial houses were built by the nobility of the time. Over the years, Ponte de Lima has thus added to its natural beauty magnificent Gothic, Mannerist, Baroque, Neoclassical and nineteenth century façades, significantly increasing the historical, cultural and architectural value of this unique corner of Portugal.



Historical Ponte de Lima

The oldest Town in Portugal

In Ponte de Lima, a town of stories and history, a walk through the town centre is a journey to the roots of our ancestry. Largo de Camões welcomes visitors with its Noble Fountain, completed in 1603. The nearby Bridge tempts us all to cross it. Cross the bridge and admire the beauty of the Church of Santo António da Torre Velha (Old Tower),

built in the nineteenth century and notable for the height of its tower and the gargoyles flanking it. Close by, the Chapel of Anjo da Guarda (Guardian Angel), a construction with Romanesque and Gothic roots, dated by many to the thirteenth century, will arouse curiosity for the simple and harmonious way it fits into the landscape.





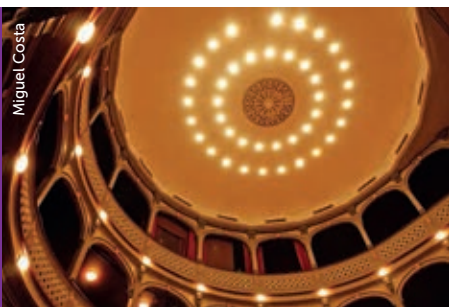
Don't return to the other bank without visiting the International Garden Festival and the picturesque outskirts of Além da Ponte (literally "Beyond the Bridge"), of undeniable architectural interest. On the left bank, back in the historic town centre, admire the São Paulo Tower, from the fourteenth century, the Pelourinho (Pillory), the Torre da Cadeia Velha (Old Jail Tower), which was still being used as a prison in the 1960s and the Arco da Porta Nova, the town gate that leads to the old Rua da Judiaria.



Before heading to another symbol of Ponte de Lima, the Avenida dos Plátanos, stop for a moment at the Baroque Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França.

Avenida dos Plátanos,
another symbol of Ponte de Lima.





Before heading to another symbol of Ponte de Lima, the Avenida dos Plátanos (Plane Tree Avenue), stop for a moment at the Baroque Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França. At the end of the avenue, the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Guia (seventeenth century) is unmissable, as is the notable complex formed by the Churches of Santo António dos Frades (fifteenth century) and Ordem Terceira de S. Francisco (eighteenth century), which houses the Terceiros Museum. Just off the Avenue is the Diogo Bernardes Theatre, a fine example of an Italian-style theatre, inaugurated in 1893, which remains as the town's main cultural centre. Close by, the Villa Moraes, with its admirable Neoclassical-style façades, typical of the houses built by those who returned from Brazil and a welcoming and romantic park. Back in the centre of the town, the Parish Church, rebuilt by João I, is another essen-



tial site. From there, walk up to the Paço do Marquês (fifteenth century) and visit the Military History Interpretation Centre. We also suggest a visit to Church of Lapa, where there is an image of St. Benedict.

On Praça da República, the monuments particularly notable are of Teresa, the Countess of Portugal, and of the poet António Feijó, the Town Hall building and the Pelourinho.

The tour continues now along the narrow streets of the old town, Rua Beato Francisco Pacheco and the sixteenth century Bairro das Pereiras with its fine architecture and notable façades. There is much left to see, but we suggest ending this tour at the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Misericórdia das Pereiras, where a sublime view of the valley and over the town can be enjoyed.



The bridge (Roman-Gothic) Text by Tito de Morais

Considered the most important monument in the county, the Bridge has joined the two banks of the Lima for two thousand years. A unique structure from the time of the Roman Emperor Augustus, it was extended in the Middle Ages, possibly due to a change in the course of the river or due to the ravages of time or war. The bridge was an integral part of the main Roman Road from Braga which led to the north-west of the Iberian Peninsula and would later become part of the Portuguese Way to Santiago.

The construction of the bridge began during the reign of King Denis and it was already nearing completion in the summer of 1316, according to a document kept for centuries in the archives of the Viscounts of Vila Nova de Cerveira/Marquesses of Ponte de Lima, and recorded in the corresponding Chancellery at the Torre do Tombo.

The whole construction was concluded in 1359 – when King Peter I visited the town. He only ordered the town wall and its towers to be built, according to the tombstone found close to the church of Santo António (da Torre Velha), across the river in the parish of Arcozelo. The fortification was completed during the reign of King Fernando, according to the Charter of 19 May 1370, with a copy of Book I of the Correias, kept in the Municipal Archives.

In the early sixteenth century, King Manuel I ordered the bridge pavement to be restored and merlons to be added (1506) and this was how it remained until the early twentieth century, when the battlements disappeared. The stone pavement of setts was laid in 1927 and remained until 1989, the date of the last intervention by the Portuguese Monuments Commission.





Miguel Costa

River Lima

The river of forgetfulness

The connection between this town and the river that gave part of its name is very strong and, even today, we have to recognise the value added which is also an outstanding point for tourism and environment sectors. Called Lethe - the River of Forgetfulness by the Romans (who believed that those who crossed would forever lose their memory), for centuries it watered our lands, supplied

water for our homes and allows locals and visitors to bathe in it in the Summer, since it has fortunately not yet been touched by pollution.

Nautical sports are more and more practiced and this causes growing demand for the facilities provided for athletes and apprentices of different aquatic sports.



The garden town

Ponte de Lima is the most floral town in Portugal. Respect for and maintenance of green spaces are reflected in their characteristic harmony. In the town and the surrounding area there are a notable series of gardens that invite for long walks, reading, resting and full relaxation.



In the Themed Arnado Park, four gardens, besides a greenhouse/botanical garden, will lead you through a history of the art of gardening.

Still on the right bank, Campos do Arnado is another pleasant landscaped area for lovers of green spaces and in the Summer offers easy access to the transparent waters of the river and the must see International Garden Festival.

On the left bank, the leafy and monumental Plane Tree Avenue, the Terceiros Garden and Guia Park call for a longer visit. In the town centre, the Dr. Adelino Sampaio, Lapa, Villa Moraes and Paço do Marquês gardens are just some examples of how much you can find in this historical town.

In the town and the surrounding area there are a notable series of gardens that invite for long walks, reading, resting and full relaxation.





**Festival
Internacional
de Jardins**
Ponte de Lima



Amândio Sousa Vieira

Gardens continue to be a tradition in Ponte de Lima, which has now won the National Competition Towns and Cities In Bloom competition three times, in addition to silver and bronze medals in the European Towns and Cities In Bloom competition.



International Garden Festival

Ponte de Lima is proud to be the Portuguese garden capital. Since 2005, the International Garden Festival (IGF) has been held in Ponte de Lima. An unprecedented initiative in Portugal that is consonant with the environmental and landscaping policies of which the town is proud. Every year, from the last Friday of May to 31 October, tens of thousands of visitors discover twelve different gardens, related to a defined theme, which are intended to demonstrate the different views and styles in the art of creating temporary gardens. The final decision on the winner is up to the visiting public, who cast their votes during the event, and each year's festival winner remains on display during the following year. The remaining gardens are transferred to other parts of the town and to other locations interested in receiving them, thus becoming the best publicity for the International Garden Festival of Ponte de Lima. Together with the Chaumont Festival in

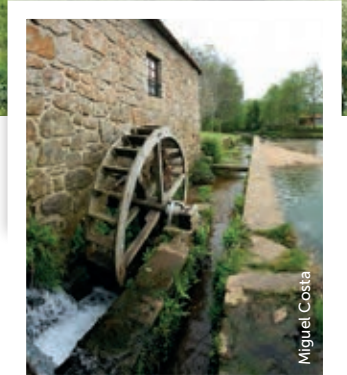
France and the Festival der Gärten, in the Kamptal region of Austria, the International Garden Festival makes up the European Network of Garden Festivals. Gardens continue to be a tradition in Ponte de Lima, which has now won the National Competition Towns and Cities In Bloom competition three times, in addition to silver and bronze medals in the European Towns and Cities In Bloom competition. The IGF won the International Garden Festival of 2013, as part of the Garden Tourist Awards, during the international event "2013 North American Garden Tourism Conference" in Toronto, Canada.

.....
[The Festival is open to all those who may want to enter the competition - all they have to do is to submit a project to the festival organisers, in accordance with the regulations.](#)
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Ponte de Lima
is complemented with rurality
and natural beauty

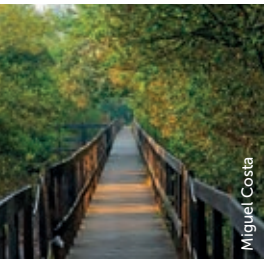


Miguel Costa

Heritage, environment and rurality

Environment protection as the main bet of Ponte de Lima is complemented with rurality and natural beauty, gifts which we have received and that we want to preserve in a sustainable way. Wrapped in a valley of unique beauty, this ensemble which is the county of Ponte de Lima gathers all the conditions of rurality and environment which turn it into an idyllic place for tour-

ists who look for a different way of spending their holidays, in permanent contact with nature, people and the rural environment that we are so proud of. It should be noted that, recently, the council of Ponte de Lima was rewarded by the European Award of Tourism and Environment as being one of the eight best European destinations.



Lagoas de Bertiandos e S. Pedro de Arcos



Covering several parishes of the county, in a markedly rural area in which environmental and heritage values are fully combined, the Protected Landscape Area of Lagoas de Bertiandos e São Pedro de Arcos, with access from EN 202 (Ponte de Lima - Viana do Castelo) and the A27 (Estorãos junction), is a national landmark in terms of environmental education and nature conservation.

A national landmark in terms of environmental education and nature conservation.

A Wetland of International Importance, due to its rare habitats and its significant biodiversity, the protected area extends around two lagoons and the banks of the River Estorãos, covering a total area of around 350 ha. It has excellent support infrastructures in a wide range of areas, notably the Environmental Interpretation Centre, the Lima Information Centre, an Auditorium for



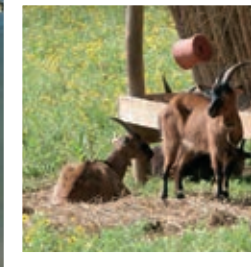
Colloquiums, Seminars, Symposiums, Meetings, Media Library, a Shop and Reception for visitor services, 25 km of Greenways with different courses, with Observation Towers and Posts - duly signed - and supported by clear educational publications, organization of guided tours and provision of audio-guides with small brochures.



José Antunes

José Antunes

Pentieiros Farm,
one of the most stunning
nature locations in Portugal...





Miguel Costa



Susana Matos



Miguel Costa



Educational Pentieiros Farm

Pentieiros Farm, a space integrated in the Improvement Project of the Protected Area, offers numerous facilities for rural activities and extreme sports. These include the Rural Campsite with Swimming pool and Bungalows, the Hostel and Shelters, Pinchas (Lagoon mascot) Children and Youth's Playground, the Educational Farm with Vegetable Garden, Horse Stalls, Stables, Cattle Pens and Forested Park.

And a lot more to offer visitors: Picnic Area and River Beaches, Cycle Hire Service, Horse Back Riding and Craft Workshops.

Don't miss an excellent opportunity to visit one of the most stunning nature sites in Portugal and an Environment and Rural World Education Centre that will significantly help you understand the involvement of Humankind with Nature.



Susana Matos

Bike Park

The Bike Park of Ponte de Lima is located in Serra d'Arga between the parishes of Estorãos and Cabração, and has various mountain biking services to offer, from Downhill, Cross Country, Enduro and Touristic Tours. The Bike Park makes use of the exceptional natural features of the landscape for mountain biking, particularly the steep descents, the network of tracks and the outstanding location.

As a physical infrastructure, the Bike Park includes a network of bike tracks, in a forest area of about 360 ha, from 138m to 650m altitude, that use existing forest roads whenever possible. A transport service takes cyclists to the top of the hill guaranteeing an average of 12 descents a day, on 10 different tracks ranging from 2.8 to 4 km.





Greenways and Rural Paths

Ponte de Lima is proud to offer a network of greenways that captivate all those who seek them for walks or cycle rides. Throughout 70 km, the greenways, most of them near the river and the Protected Landscape Area of Lagoas de Bertandos e São Pedro de Arcos, allow to discover the beauty of the landscape of this county.

The greenway from Ponte de Lima to Bertandos starts next to the medieval bridge, on the right bank of the Lima, passes the International Garden Festival and the Nautical Club and continues, mostly along the riverside, against a background of vines, kitchen gardens and orchards as far as the Protected Landscape Area, set in the green

valley of the River Estorãos. Another option is to take the greenway to Refoios do Lima, also through the river banks, leaving from Arnado Gardens and enjoying a pleasant and relaxing walk.

On the opposite bank, a greenway almost parallel to the one described above connects Ponte de Lima and Vitorino das Donas – its starting point is the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Guia and then it passes through the famous meadows of Correlhã, offering excellent and unexpected view. If you want to visit the river beaches in the parishes of Ribeira, Gemieira or Gandra, take the greenway starting at Feira do Gado (Cattle Market), through tunnels of trees and refreshing shade.



Miguel Costa



Vaca das Cordas

We could call it the most traditional tradition of Ponte de Lima, since the origins of this unique celebration are lost in the mists of time. On the eve of Corpus Christi, in the late afternoon, thousands of people impatiently wait in front of the gates of the Casa da Nossa Senhora de Aurora for the Vaca das Cordas ("cow of the ropes", actually a wild bull) to come out into the streets and continue the tradition. To the delight of all, guided by ropes it runs to the Parish Church, where

tradition has it circle three times and then it is led towards the Largo de Camões, where many less cautious spectators are liable to end up in the water of the Fountain. Until the sun goes down, on the sand bank by the river, the running, tumbles and falls continue frenetically, in a spectacle of excitement unique to Vaca das Cordas.



Amândio Sousa Vieira

Feiras Novas



Over the second weekend of September, when the hot summer sun starts to prepare its departure, Ponte de Lima decks itself out for its main annual festival - Feiras Novas. Held since 1826, by royal decree issued by Pedro IV, in honour of Nossa Senhora das Dores, Feiras Novas offer the inhabitants of Ponte de Lima and thousands of visitors three days and three nights of colour, joy, revelry and music. Besides music, folk dancing and fireworks, there are also livestock competitions, horse races, ethno-

graphic and historic parades, bands, masked dancers known as gigantones and cabeçudos, traditional drum bands and the procession that closes the cycle of Summer religious festivals in Alto Minho. But it is the people with their joy and spontaneity, their responses and spirit, their singing and dancing in any corner of the town, that transform Feiras Novas into a unique event and a festival that is considered the "largest live conference of popular culture in Portugal".





Horse Fair

The horse riding tradition in the region and particularly in the county is of special interest, dictating the creation of the Horse Fair, which is without a doubt the largest event of its type held in the north of Portugal.

Purebreds from many different regions and renowned rid-

ers enhance this event, which transforms the Expolima area in Ponte de Lima into a giant riding ring, against the backdrop of River Lima. Each year, in late June, come and watch a series of events that are unprecedented in the north of the country.



Fortnightly Market

Teresa, Countess of Portugal, the mother of King Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, in her charter of Ponte de Lima of March 4th 1125, already referred to the market, which makes it the earliest documented market in Portugal. Centuries later, this tradition is still alive and every two weeks, on Monday (locals call the other bachelor

Mondays), on the left bank of the river, the oldest market of Portugal is still held without fail. Buying in the artificial streets created between the tents of the sand is a unique experience for those who want to live a little of what remains of the old medieval habits, and it is a must try.



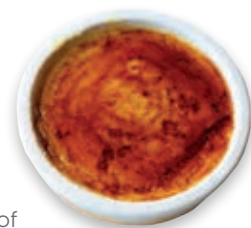
Gastronomy

In Ponte de Lima, the most traditional dish in the tasty local cuisine is Sarrabulho Rice, a rice dish served with marinated pork – rich in flavour and tradition. Lamprey from the river Lima is also highly appreciated in Ponte de Lima. This delicacy can be cooked in various different ways, notably with rice and “Bordeaux” style.

A word of mention for Salt Cod with Onions, a popular traditional dish, prepared in the taverns and restaurants of Ponte de Lima where it is a famous and much sought-after treat. For those with a sweet tooth, there is the delicious creme brulee (“leite creme”). In

the words of Manuel Couto Viana, “sarrabulho without the finishing touch of leite creme is like a table without bread, found only in hell”. Other desserts include Rice Pudding (Arroz Doce) and Limianas.

There are numerous restaurants in town serving these specialities, therefore an opportunity to try them in their place of origin should not be missed.



Amandio Sousa Vieira



MPL

Pork is one of the mainstays of the Ponte de Lima cuisine – from roasted leg of pork to “belouras” (blood sausage pudding with corn meal) and other smoked sausages, pork is the king.

Ponte de Lima, Capital of Loureiro Wine

Situated in the heart of the famous and unique vinho verde region, the county has a wine cooperative, founded in 1959, as well as many private wine producers. When it opened, the cooperative had 47 members; today it has more than 2000 and production has increased while maintaining the quality of the product. High quality vinho verde is easily distinguished by its colour and unique aroma – refreshing and fruity, and the vinho verde of

Ponte de Lima should be savoured (chilled if white) in a divine combination with the traditional dishes and sweets of the region. Given the economic importance of wine, Festival of Vinho Verde and Regional Products has been held in Ponte de Lima in June for more than twenty years, an event that is a must due to the range of products presented, as well as the variety of entertainment provided.





Lima Information Centre



CENTRO DE
INFORMAÇÃO
DO LIMA

The Lima Information Centre – CIL – offers a variety of services related to information, awareness and the promotion of environmental, historical and socio-economic values associated with the river Lima, the main water resource in the county.

The CIL can be found in the Interpretation Centre of the Protected Landscape Area

of Lagoas, an area of nationally and internationally recognised environmental value, the epicentre for a whole range of infrastructure and specialised services for the protection of nature and biodiversity.

This information centre offers visitors and the local population another space for discovery and continuous learning.

Rural Tourism

The touristic potential of the county assumes particular importance in the improvement and restoration of the historical and cultural patrimony. Concentrating the biggest number of Turismo de Habitação facilities and Rural Tourism of the country, Ponte de Lima was one of the four experimental areas in the launching of Turismo de Habitação, an important territorial endogenous resource.

This Land of Heritage promotes its roots and traditions in the family houses with secular history, which keep their customs and pre-

serve the cultural heritage in a high quality personalised hospitality style. This touristic promotion, besides ensuring the future of the richest and most characteristic buildings of the region, also allows the appearance of new enterprises of touristic liveliness.

The target population of the Turismo de Habitação is mainly foreigner, with ninety percent of the search originating from European countries, which demonstrates the oldest town of Portugal is not only the cradle of the national Turismo de Habitação but mainly an international reference of excellence.



Terceiros Museum

The Terceiros Museum emerged in the seventies of the last century after restoration in the Parish Church of Ponte de Lima and the consequent lack of space for the placing of the valuable collection of sacred art. It was, then, created in January of 1975 the Instituto Limiano, a cultural non-profit association which would be located in the architectural set composed by the extinguished Convent of Santo António dos Frades and by its church as well as the attached facilities of Ordem Terceira de São Francisco, later designated the Terceiros Museum.

The valuable architectural set, composed by two churches, support rooms (before sac-

risty, sacristies, washbasin rooms), cloister, backyard and garden, suffered several interventions since the convent foundation in the fifteenth century until the twentieth century. In the buildings, there is a contrast between medieval art and the monastic sobriety with the baroque of Ordem Terceira de São Francisco. The collection is mainly formed by eighteenth century sculpture, although we can appreciate some art of the medieval period. Equally highlighted are the collections of paintings and goldsmithery which decorate the permanent exhibition.





MUSEU
DO BRINQUEDO
PORTUGUÊS

Portuguese Toy Museum



The Portuguese Toy Museum is a voyage through the world of Portuguese toymakers, from the late nineteenth century up to 1986. These dates reflect the start of industrial mass production of toys and the year Portugal entered the European Economic Community. The exhibition starts



by highlighting the dichotomy between foreign toys and Portuguese toys, then leading visitors to the first floor which presents manufacturers, techniques, raw materials and the geographic distribution of the industry in Portugal.

The narrative is concluded on the upper floor with its display of numerous pieces from the collection, presented in chronological order, decade by decade: from tinsplate distaffs, brightly painted wooden beach buckets, papier-mâché dolls and tinsplate cannons, to trucks, boats, trains, tricycles and pedal cars, leading to a world of plastic, the heyday of Portuguese toys.

The visit continues through the garden to the Play Room, the Toy Workshop and the temporary exhibition room. The “mandatory” exit is through the shop, where visitors can find rarities and take home unique toys!



Military History Interpretation Centre

Installed in the imposing building known as Paço do Marquês, built in the second half of the fifteenth century as the Captain-General Leonel de Lima's residence, the Military History Interpretation Centre of Ponte de Lima is the result of a protocol between the Portuguese Army and the Municipality of Ponte de Lima in 2011.

The Centre highlights the importance of Ponte de Lima's geostrategic localization, undertaken since the roman period, and narrates - in an approach over time - the

main episodes of military nature that took place in this historic town and the surrounding territory. At the same time, it outlines the evolution of weaponry, garment and uniforms.

The military figures of Ponte de Lima are also evoked - or those who had strong ties with the surroundings but have distinguished themselves in other war backgrounds and in high ranking military and diplomatic functions in the global context of the history of Portugal.



Vinho Verde Interpretation and Promotion Centre

Installed in a building classified as Public Interest - Casa Torreada dos Barbosa Aranha - in the very Historic Centre of Ponte de Lima, the Vinho Verde Interpretation and Promotion Centre aims to contribute to the promotion of Vinho Verde through research and dissemination of the patrimonial foundation, as well as the development and establishment of wine tourism in the Vinho Verde region.

This space is associated with regional dynamics, to which contribute several partners, including the Viticulture Commission of the Vinho Verde Region. The building has, in addition to the permanent exhibition area, a business room and a tasting room. It also counts with services that support the routes and tourist itineraries associated with wine.





Vigo

Ourense
Santiago de Compostela
Corunha

Minho

Ponte de Lima

Viana do Castelo

Esposende

Barcelos

Braga

Porto

Aveiro
Coimbra
Lisboa
Faro

Vila do Castelo
Vila Real Norte
Vila Real
Braga
Viseu
Guarda
Castelo Branco
Leiria
Santarém
Portalegre
Faro
Lisboa
Setúbal
Aveiro
Coimbra
Évora
Beja

Portugal

Ponte de Lima, the heart of the Lima Valley...

Ponte de Lima:

- 45 minutes away from Porto Airport
- 45 minutes away from Vigo Airport
- 20 minutes away from Tui (Spain)

Loja Interativa de Turismo

Torre da Cadeia Velha - Passeio 25 de Abril

4990-058 Ponte de Lima

GPS: 41° 46' 2,337" N | 8° 35' 6,454" W

Telefone: (+351) 258 240 208

E-mail: lojaturismo@cm-pontedelima.pt

Website: www.visitepontedelima.com

Facebook: [visitpontedelima](https://www.facebook.com/visitpontedelima)

Município de Ponte de Lima

Praça da República

4990-062 Ponte de Lima

GPS: 41° 46' 2,468" N | 8° 34' 58,619" W

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Facebook: [municipiopontedelima](https://www.facebook.com/municipiopontedelima)



MUNICÍPIO PONTE DE LIMA
TERRA RICA DA HUMANIDADE

Xpto Design



Francisco Piqueiro — Foto Engenho

TURISMO DO PORTO E NORTE DE PORTUGAL

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REGIONAL DO NORTE

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QUADRO
DE REFERÊNCIA
ESTRATÉGICO
NACIONAL
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de Desenvolvimento Regional