

Ponte de Lima

in the Gardens of the World Route



PontedeLima



Ponte de Lima,
an authentic and spontaneous garden...



Ponte de Lima

The natural conditions of Ponte de Lima make this valley an authentic and spontaneous garden. Beside the river Lima, the poplars (*Populus sp.*) and willows (*Salix alba*) form authentic copings. In the plains, in addition to the cultures, the fields are filled with wildflowers, composing the most beautiful floral carpet of colours: corn marigolds (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) and borage (*Borago officinalis*). On the slopes, between the green of the forest are yellow and white tones of mimosa, broom and gorse and the purple tone of lilac, pink and purple heather (*Calluna vulgaris*).

In Ponte de Lima, in addition to all the wonderful landscape that surrounds us, we find several parks and gardens that comprise, in a unique way, a diverse picture of spaces, forms and colours. It is the combination of several species of plants existing in the private and public gardens and balconies that makes Ponte de Lima a "Blooming Town".

We find in Ponte de Lima's inhabitants the culture of green spaces, gardens and flowers, mostly unusual and materialized in the arrangement of their gardens, embellishment of balconies, windows and paths, as well as in the liveliness of their participation in the cultural and traditional events, such as the "Maios", "the Flowered Rugs", the decoration of chapels and churches, festivals and fairs.





Guidebook of the Gardens of Ponte de Lima

Interactive Tourism Store

41° 46' 2,38" N | 8° 35' 6,49" W

Park

41° 45' 52,694" N, 8° 35' 16,300" W

1. International Garden Festival

41° 45' 57,949" N, 8° 35' 27,976" W

2. Riverside Walk – Greenways

41° 46' 1,777" N, 8° 35' 19,704" W

3. Campos do Arnado

41° 46' 15,417" N, 8° 35' 15,282" W

4. Theme Arnado Park

41° 46' 14,231" N, 8° 35' 19,139" W

5. Sebastião Sanhudo Garden

41° 46' 6,672" N, 8° 35' 4,962" W

6. Plane Tree Avenue

41° 45' 54,636" N, 8° 35' 16,784" W

7. Caminho do Topo – Weir

41° 45' 47,307" N, 8° 35' 26,848" W

8. Guia Park

41° 45' 50,208" N, 8° 35' 20,244" W

9. Terceiros Garden

41° 45' 54,735" N, 8° 35' 14,517" W

10. Villa Moraes

41° 45' 54,779" N, 8° 35' 6,614" W

11. Dr. Adelino Sampaio Garden

41° 45' 58,840" N, 8° 35' 3,684" W

12. Paço do Marquês

41° 46' 0,319" N, 8° 35' 0,099" W

13. Dr. Adelino Sampaio Garden

41° 46' 2,309" N, 8° 34' 59,117" W

14. Historic Center

15. Monte da Madalena Park

41° 45' 10,807" N, 8° 33' 51,350" W

16. Lapa Park

41° 45' 57,197" N, 8° 34' 59,304" W

17. Town Park

41° 45' 46,368" N, 8° 34' 29,364" W





Amândio Sousa Vieira



Amândio Sousa Vieira

1. International Garden Festival

The International Garden Festival of Ponte de Lima is located on the right bank of the river Lima. It has an area of about 2,5 ha and is organized into four areas: the parking area, the pool and bar area, the recreation and contemplation zone and the area defined as the International Garden Festival - with 12 distinct spaces in shape and area. A metal pergola, covered with clinging plants, extends throughout this space and separates the zone of 12 flowerbeds of leisure and pools.

Fruit plants, clinging plants and vines that existed were kept, offering visitors more shade, making this space even more welcoming to those who visit.

The International Garden Festival of Ponte de Lima is an annual event occurring from the last Friday of May and closing on October 31st. From November to May, the gardens are dismantled and the new edition is prepared with all the bustle of construction.

The gardens selection is object of an evaluation by a jury after an international competition.

Everyone is welcome to apply regardless of age, profession or nationality. The creativity of the authors and the expression of ideas is what really matters.

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The International Garden Festival of Ponte de Lima won the International Garden Festival of the Year 2013 Award at the Garden Tourism Awards – 2013 North American Garden Tourism Conference – in Toronto – Canada.

It was also nominated for the “Novo Norte” Awards in the category of “Norte Criativo”. The “Novo Norte” Awards is a joint initiative of The North Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-N) and the “Jornal de Notícias” newspaper.

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2. Riverside Walk – Greenways

Green space complemented by sports facilities –Nautical Centre. There are three lawn areas (car park, restaurant and marina/weir).

Alongside the river there are groups of shrubs and some species characteristic of river banks. Downstream of the Roman Bridge, more precisely from the Chapel of Santo António and the foundations of the Old Tower, a footpath has been built along the right bank of the River Lima. The

path is backed by a long row of hydrangeas (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) growing against a wall and there are several other spontaneous plants of natural and botanical interest.

This path gave rise to the Greenways/River Lima Way – always along the right bank – which currently leads to the Protected Landscape of the Lagoas de Bertandos e São Pedro de Arcos.





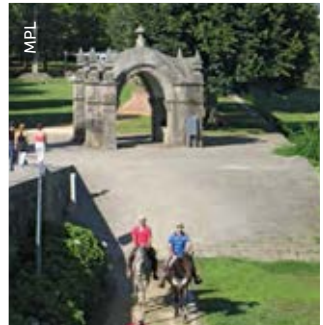
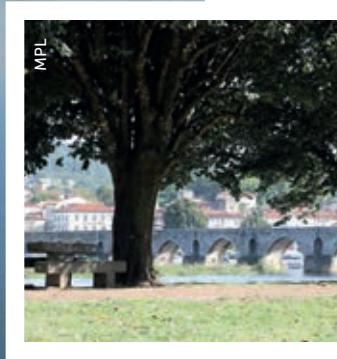




3. Campos do Arnado

Grassed areas, some of which with vines, that serve as picnic and leisure areas, including a snack bar and open spaces for the children to play.

It is a wooded area, with some native species. Along the Lima and Labruja rivers we can find riparian species that increase the interest of the area.



4. Theme Arnado Park



Miguel Costa

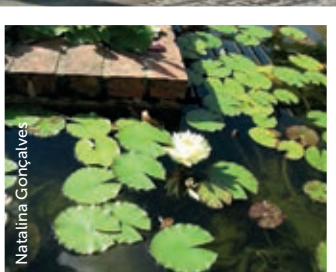
This Park is an integral part of the project to enhance the banks of the River Lima and it is intended to be both cultural and recreational. The cultural component draws visitors' attention to the history of human impact on the landscape.

This led to the idea of creating a themed garden that would provide a journey through the history of the art of the garden, the roots of which are closely connected to rural culture. Original farms buildings were reused, whilst erudite gardens from different eras were integrated into the original fields. In the botanical plant nursery, the planting has an educational aim, and there is an interesting greenhouse and pond.

The rural culture remains present through various different elements, such as vine arbours, the irrigation systems leading from the tank through channels, the traditional water wheel, the large threshing floor and the granary.



Miguel Costa



Natalina Gonçalves

Roman Garden

The garden always played a very important role in Roman houses. The recreation here is inspired by the celebrated Casa dos Repuxos in Conímbriga the brick colonnade suggesting the idea of the peristyle surrounding a water garden and the triclinium opening onto the pool. The peristyle garden was an interior-exterior area of the Roman house that often brought

nature into the interior of the house itself. The mosaic paving in traditional Portuguese 'calçada' reflects the influence that Roman culture still has on our cultural traditions. The use of different patterns created by the Romans reflects the permanence of forms throughout history, revealing the riches of this formal structure.



Labyrinth Garden

The labyrinth has always been present as a symbol in Western culture since the legend of Knossos on the island of Crete.

The labyrinth, built in terraces, evokes the palace of Knossos with its classical geometry and offers visitors a view over the whole garden. The metallic structure adorned with jasmines (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*),

The labyrinth symbolizes the oath of wisdom along which passes the message common to all enigmas, the secret of life.

Jaques Attali

which acts as a belvedere, encourages contemplation, relaxation and a certain well-being to which we are not insensitive, enhanced by the fragrances of the plants.

The hedges are boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), traditionally used in gardens for taking well to clipping and its rusticity.

Renaissance Garden

The European Renaissance (15th-16th centuries) originated in Italy and marked an important stage in the history of the human landscape, including the art of the garden which witnessed the birth of landscape architecture as we know it. Gardens began to be given a strict, geometric structure, frequently on terraces, and plants played a fundamental role in this geometric vision of space. Water was also a fundamental presence in gardens, transmitting a sense of peace. The development of mathematics applied to hydraulics helped in the con-

struction of sophisticated mechanisms to raise and carry water, with the creation of waterfalls and numerous forms of water features. Sculpture also became increasingly important, and Greek mythology - through sculptures - would assume an important function in the composition of gardens. In Portugal, painted tiles began to be used in the decoration of gardens.

The dominant species in this area are azaleas and the rhododendrons (*Rhododendron*).



Susana Matos



Susana Matos



Baroque Garden

The Baroque garden (17th and 18th centuries) was the natural development of the Renaissance garden.

The art of topiary became very popular and boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), clipped in increasingly complex ornamental shapes, was essential part of the “parterres” – the splendour of gardens in the French style.

The hydraulic system continued to be developed and is now a new key element

through the shallow reflecting pool where the reflection extends the perspectives. This effect is frequently used in the gardens of Central Europe.

In a region where Baroque architecture is well represented, particularly in the manor houses of the Lima valley, this Park could not fail to include Baroque gardens, in which the dominant species is, in this case, the rose (*Rosa*).

Greenhouse

Botanical gardens appeared in Europe in the 16th century with the influence of the period of the Portuguese Discoveries, due to the need to acclimatize, classify and study the properties of plants brought from the new continents. The botanical plant nursery presents a systematized collection of plants that visitors can easily identify. The garden

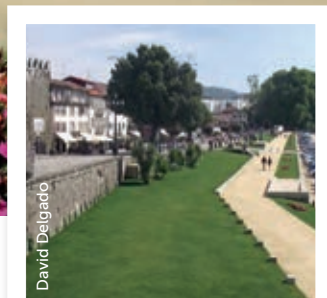


is divided into three parts: herbaceous perennials including the grasses, divided into beds separated by grass; water plants in the pond surrounding the greenhouse; and the plants that are inside of the greenhouse, many of which are what nowadays is known as "house plants", since they need different weather conditions to survive.





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David Delgado

5. Sebastião Sanhudo Garden

The garden is located by the marginal of the riverside promenade Passeio 25 de Abril, between the Alameda de S. João and the Avenida dos Plátanos. The garden has flowerbeds with annual species, roses (*Rosa*) and rhododendrons (*Rhododendron*).



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6. Plane Tree Avenue

This pedestrian avenue lined with plane trees planted in 1901 is a favourite location in the town of Ponte de Lima in the summer, due to the cool shade it provides. In the autumn, everybody enjoys a peaceful walk along the avenue, on a beautiful carpet of fallen leaves, with views of a landscape

that has inspired writers and poets. Avenida dos Plátanos was object of a major intervention that ended in June 2013.



Susana Matos

Florindo Sousa



7. Caminho do Topo – Weir

This area can be considered an extension of Avenida dos Plátanos (Plane Tree Avenue) on the left bank of the River Lima. After the Chapel and Bridge of Nossa Senhora da Guia, visitors will find a grassed area next to

the weir. The cold concrete of the Bridge is tempered by sloping banks planted with shrubs adapted to shade and climbers that cover its foundations, thus linking the Guia Park and Caminho do Topo.





8. Guia Park

A green space with parking for 460 vehicles – the parking zone in this Park is essentially a landscaped area, with a large number of trees, that uses new turf techniques for car parks: a PVC grid protects the grass from vehicle wheels and the height of the grass is naturally controlled. The vegetation provides a contrast with Avenida 5 de Outubro, and the predominant tree is the Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*). The remaining trees and shrubs are grouped by height and foliage, in order to make the most of leaf colour and blossom at different times of the year.

Plants that stand out: *Cedrus deodara*, *Cupressus sempervirens*, *Populus nigra* 'Italica', *Ginkgo biloba*, *Camellia japonica*, *Azalea indica*, *Rhododendron sp*, *Cotoneaster salicifolia*, *Choisya ternata*, *Hydrangea macropgylla*, *Spiraea bumalda*, *Spiraea japonica*, *Cupressus horizontalis*, *Tamarix pentandra*, *Prunus laurocerasus*, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Magnolia soulangeana*, *Forsythia intermedia*, *Philadelphus coronarius*, *Hebe* 'Autumn Glory', *Laurus nobilis*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Eleagnus pungens* 'Maculata', *Erica*, *Hypericum* and *Berberis*.



Miguel Costa



Miguel Costa

9. Terceiros Garden

The restoration of the gardens of the Convent of Santo António and Terceiros was based on analysis of old documents and on a photograph from the early 20th century that clearly shows the position of the central water tank. These documents, in conjunction with the existing structure that disciplines the composition, enabled to create a simulation of what was probably the original layout of the garden. Monastery gardens were not places of passage, but rather places of contemplation, used also to grow medicinal plants and culinary herbs, both closely connected.

For this reason, the garden is divided into three parts with different types of plants: the central space around the tank, with a hexagonal geometry imposed by the existing steps, is for medicinal plants; the garden of smells, which completes the former with odoriferous plants; and finally, on both sides, the garden of spices, mainly devoted to culinary.





10. Villa Moraes

The collection of trees, which includes some rare and beautiful species, enhance this park that also has pretty lakes, a grotto, belvedere and playing field.

Some of the species in this Park: *Fagus sylvatica* 'Purpurea', *Quercus robur*, *Quercus robur*, *Tilia cordata*, *Araucaria araucana*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Magnolia fuscata*, *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Acer campestre*, *Acer negundo* 'Variegatum', *Camellia reticulata*,



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Camellia japonica, *Ilex aquifolium*, *Laurus camphora*, *Castanea sativa*, *Prunus cerasifera*, *Phoenix canariensis*, *Melaleuca*, *Myrtus*, *Pittosporum tobira*, *Osmanthus heterophyllus*, 'Aureomarginatus' and *Acanthus mollis*.

11. Dr. António Magalhães Square

This is another pleasant square in the town, with a small garden with trees, bushes and boxwood.

Overlooking the square is the notable Vila Belmira, with its grotto and garden, the new Municipal Archives and the recently built contemporary construction that links the Paço do Marquês and the Lapa Park.

Around the bust of General Norton de Matos is a small lawn area with shrubs and annual bedding.



This is another pleasant square in the town, with a small garden with trees, bushes and boxwood.



12. Paço do Marquês

A garden with hedges of *Escallonia*, *Pyracantha* and *Ligustrum*. Some flower beds with shrubs, including azaleas and rhododendrons (*Rhododendron*). There are also areas of grass with two palms (*Phoenix*

canariensis) and large and medium-sized trees: *Ulmus minor*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Ulmus glabra* 'Camperdownii', *Prunus cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea', *Camellia*, *Lagerstroemia* and *Ilex aquifolium*.



In the area between the Paço and the new building, next to the belvedere, is an area of grass with five olive trees (*Olea europaea*) and ponds with aquatic plants. There are also some climbers, including *Wisteria sinensis* and, on the wall of the Paço, a fine example of *Bougainvillea*.



13. Dr. Adelino Sampaio Garden

A garden with annual beds that includes the Town Hall, the Pelourinho and Casa Torre-ada dos Barbosa Aranha. *Euonymus fortunei* is used for the higher hedges that surround the larger beds, which are also divided by boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) and planted with annual bedding plants. Other interesting features in this garden are the sundial, the Monument to the Poet António Feijó and Fonte da Vila (Town Fountain) – tradition has it that those who drink from this fountain will never leave Ponte de Lima. In the upper part of the garden, parallel to Avenida António Feijó, a bandstand is surrounded by camellias (*Camellia Japonica*). In the flowerbeds we can find some Metrozideros, roses (*Rosa*), azaleas and rhododendrons (*Rhododendron*). The wall facing the Town Hall building is covered in a fern (*Nephrolepis tuberosa*) and with the climb-



ing fig (*Ficus pumila*) and japanese creeper (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*). The containers alongside the ramp leading to the Casa da Porta de Braga, are planted with gardenia (*Gardenia jasminoides*), French lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis* 'Prostatu'), thyme (*Thymus*), curry plant (*Helychrisum italicum*) and *Di-
osma ericoides*.





14. Historic Center

Along the narrow streets and alleys there is a constant preoccupation with embellishment and harmonization. The Lapa Park, Avenida António Feijó and the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Misericórdia das Pereiras although totally different in what regards gardening spaces are worth a visit by all nature lovers. The Avenida António Feijó,

major welcoming venue of Ponte de Lima, permits a general perception of the overall urban spaces and its gardens with the Lima River in the background.

Two millenary olive trees (*Olea europaea*), brought from Mr. João Chaves property in Serpa (Alentejo), can be appreciated in Largo de Camões.

15. Monte da Madalena Park

Located in the parish of Fornelos, at about 240 m of altitude with an access by the so-called extension of Madalena, the journey to the Park, opened in May 1923, allows us to appreciate the existing oaks (*Quercus robur*), pines (*Pinus*) and chestnut trees (*Castanea sativa*). At the top, we can enjoy a pleasant wooded area where the stone



made tables and benches were not forgotten, in addition to the pleasant restaurant/bar requalified in 2013, in front of which we can observe one of the most beautiful views of the Lima Valley and constituting itself as a viewpoint of excellence complemented by the area situated a little further down next to the Chapel of Santa Maria Madalena.



Named in times Monte das Santas, a chapel existed here which appearance in 1924 was of total destruction. In 1926, the Chapel was bought, transported and rebuilt as new for an amount of 4,500 escudos (portuguese currency) for the owner of the Casa da Boavista, at the parish of Moreira, with the farmers of the parishes of Moreira, Sá, Santa Comba and Bertianos carrying it on the 1st of May of 1926 where it received the blessing in September 22, 1930.

16. Lapa Park

In Lapa Park we find a great variety of trees including *Cedrus deodara* and *Cedrus libani* - some of which are secular. Other species of interest include *Ulmus pendula*, *Tilia argentea*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Juglans nigra*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Catalpahybrida*, *Acer negundo*, among others. In the beds arise shrubs and herbaceous plants adapted to

the shade. This park of easy access is located in the town centre and here you will find the Chapel of Lapa, a pergola with young *Wisteria chinensis*, two cups, one with water and the other with sand, wooden benches and several stone benches along the fence surrounding the park, providing a nice rest to those who visit.





17. Town Park Ponte de Lima Urban Park

In an area of about 5.5 ha of unique features in terms of sun exposure and ventilation, the local population and visitors will find opportunities for sports, recreation, leisure and socialising, with several available resources capable of contributing to the benefit of physical and mental health. With a hilltop location and panoramic view of the town, this area of excellent urban framework is developed in a vast green meadow,

wooded, pleasant, practical and inviting so that people can casually enjoy and practice recreational and sports activities. With the ultimate goal to introduce healthy sports to the population's day-to-day, this park also offers a variety of physical maintenance equipment and a modern and complete playground that will be an attractive asset for families with children.





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

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TERRA RICA DA HUMANIDADE

Xpto Design

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