

GUIMARÃES



ACT LIKE A LOCAL

AFONSO OR VITÓRIA

If you happen to find yourself making babies in town and you feel like adding a touch of Guimarães, name your son Afonso or your daughter Vitória; for obvious reasons these are the two most-recorded names here (Afonso was the first King of Portugal; Vitória is the football team).

OFFER YOUR "LIZARD"

No teddy bears and no flowers for Valentine's Day in Guimarães. Here it's celebrated twice, on the occasion of the feasts of the Immaculate Conception, on December 8, and Saint Luzia, on December 13. You can buy some small figures made of flour and covered in white sugar paste, shaped like birds, lizards, dogs and clocks. Men offer their loved one their "sardão" – the bird – and women give their "passarinha" – the bird –; in this region both are slang for the respective sexual organs. The dog and the clock are given to the children to eat.

BE A BACK-SEAT HISTORIAN

Each and every inhabitant of Guimarães is sure of the date, hour and exact location of the birth of Afonso Henriques and of an uncountable number of unquestionable facts about the town. Don't miss the game and play along!

BE A FAN OF THE FILMCLUB

Guimarães Film Club is the most relevant in Portugal, with about 700 members. Thursdays and Sundays you should dine early, so that at 21:30 you can be at Centro Cultural Vila Flor for a screening (always in the original language with subtitles).

EAT LIKE A LOCAL



CALDO VERDE

Soup made with thinly sliced *couve-galega* (a hard cabbage), potatoes, and flavoured with sausage or bacon. It's a popular throughout the country, but originally from this region. Eat it with some *broa de milho* (heavy corn bread).

PAPAS DE SARRABULHO

It's a thick soup/mash made from pork blood and cormeal – or bread, if the cook is a pro – plus shredded meat, pieces of sausage and a good sprinkle of cumin. It can be served as a starter or as a side dish to *rojões*.

RIJÕES

Small cubes of pork meat, marinated in wine, and fried in pork fat. The dish also includes fried pork tripe, fried blood and fried liver. It's eaten with potatoes, chestnuts, cabbage greens, and *papas de sarrabulho*.

BOLO DE MILHO

A flat round bread made out of the same dough used for *broa de milho* (corn bread) that is topped with fried sardines or chunks of bacon. It then gets baked in the oven until the fat renders out and flavours the bread. Don't miss it at *Adega do Ermitão*.

BUCHO RECHEADO

Delicacy made by stuffing a pork stomach with a variety of different meats, and eaten with potatoes and cabbage greens. The most renowned is from *Florencio*.

BACALHAU RACHEADO

Dried salted cod is a staple of Portuguese cuisine and there are hundreds of ways of cooking it. Here we confit it – which is to say we boil it in olive oil – and it's so tender and flaky it falls apart. The most famous version is served at *Fentelhas*.

TIRTAS DE GUIMARÃES

A sweet pie with a very crunchy pastry, stuffed with a cream made of egg yolks, almonds and *chila* (a sort of pumpkin). This pastry was born at the convent that now houses the City Hall, and the secret of the recipe was handed down to a few families that continue making it today.

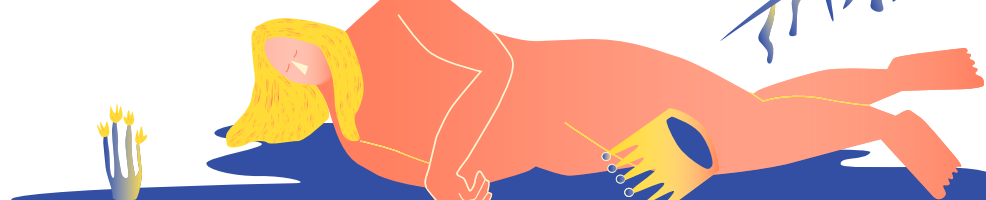
TOUCINHO DO CÉU

Literally meaning "Bacon from Heaven", it's made with eggs, almonds and *chila* and sprinkled with flour, which is said to stimulate different parts of your palate. Popular in other parts of the country but the one from Guimarães is made in a special way.

VINHO VERDE

Literally meaning "green wine", it's a locally produced in the region of Minho (where Guimarães is) and is named this way, not because it has anything to do with green grapes, but because it should be consumed while still "young" – it can be white, red or rosé. It's light and naturally slightly sparkling. The whites are the most famous and easy to find, and just like the rosés, should be served very chilled; the reds are drunk at room temperature and from a bowl. Fun fact: it's the second most exported Portuguese wine, behind Port. To learn more read "Your Fiend Wine".

IMPRESS THE LOCALS



950

Around this year, Countess Mumadona Dias, owner of this land, founded a monastery and started building a castle to protect the new settlement. This is how Guimarães appeared, at a time when Portugal did not exist yet.

1109

We all believe it was here and in this year that D. Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, was born. But it could have been in 1106, or in 1111. In Coimbra. Or in Viseu. What matters is that it was from Guimarães that the King started the project that would make Portugal a country by starting to reconquer territories from the Moors.

1128

On the afternoon of June 24th, the troops of D. Afonso Henriques defeated those of his mother, who took the side of the Galicians, at the Battle of São Mamede, which was probably fought at *Campos da Azenha*. This battle was the first in a series of events that definitely contributed to the independence of Portugal. Guimarães was the first capital of the country.

1385

King D. João I pledged to Our Lady of the Olive Tree that, if he defeated the Castilians at the *Battle of Aljubarrota* – one of the most important and mythic in Portuguese history – he would go on foot to *Igreja da Oliveira* to honour his oath. Because he won the battle, according to tradition he went barefoot up Rua D. João I and laid down on the altar of the saint his weapons and armour (today at Alberto Sampaio Museum).

1552

Rivalries over ecclesiastic properties between the Archbishop of Braga and the Prelate of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira result in the Archbishop being left outside, since the Prior refuses to receive him. A scandal that ends up with a representative being sent to Rome to fix the issue. This is just one of the many episodes that attest to the rivalries between the two neighbouring towns: Guimarães and Braga.

1661

Construction of the Chapel of São Nicolau starts, with the statues raised by students who played comic theatre. The celebrations made by students in honour of Saint Nicholas are still big today. (read *Almanac*)

ALMANAC



FEBRUARY

International contemporary dance festival with Portuguese artists and some of the biggest international names. *ccvf.pt*

APRIL

Westway Lab Dozens of musicians from all over Europe settle down in a former school and work together on new creations. The results are concerts that will never be repeated and that are presented to producers and managers. *westwaylabfestival.com*

INTERNACIONAL FESTIVAL OF RELIGIOUS MUSIC OF GUIMARÃES

During the Holy Week, sacred music occupies several spaces, from churches to concert halls. *cm-guimaraes.pt*

MAY

Gil Vicente Festivals Running for more than 40 years, this theatre festival showcases the most recent national productions. *ccvf.pt*

JUNE

Feira Afonsina A medieval-themed street fair where everyone dresses up in period costumes, there are stalls selling snacks from past eras, and artisans from all over Iberia. The week before the fair, specialists meet for historical debates on the Middle Ages. *guimaraesturismo.com*

JULY

Vaudeville Rendez-Vous The best of Portuguese and international contemporary circus showcased throughout the streets and squares. The nearby towns of Braga, Famalicão and Barcelos hold the festival at the same time. *teatrordididascalila.com/td/vaudevillereendez-vous*

AUGUST

L'Agost! At this annual indie music festival, you'll find a giant inflatable lobster-turned-stage that embraces both local and international musicians. The festival takes place in the garden of the Museum of Alberto Sampaio over a period of three days, each dedicated to a musical genre: world music, alternative rock and electronic music. *facebook.com/lagostfestival*

VAI M'A BANDA

This is a musical festival that takes place in taverns throughout the city, bringing together lovers of independent rock and *vinho verde*. *guimaraesturismo.com*

FESTAS GUALTERIANAS

What would a proper street fest be without marching bands, candy cotton, bumper cars... and a battle of flowers? The highlight of this *Romaria* is the unmissable *Marcha Gualteriana*, featuring parading cats with ornate decorations, electrified puppets made out of paper and wire, and the so called "live acts" full of social satire and sarcasm. *ccvf.pt*

CINEMA IN SUMMER NIGHTS

Open-air film screenings with an eclectic programme: classics, new Portuguese and European cinema, as well as the most recent Hollywood hits. *cinclubguimaraes.org*

SEPTEMBER

Manta Two days of free concerts in the gardens of Vila Flor Cultural Center. The lineup always includes one big name of the international indie music scene, alongside a Portuguese artist.

OCTOBER

Guimarães Nic No! Artists from all over the world present plastic arts, dance, music, poetry or theater. Any place will do, be it a street, a private house or a shop window. *guimaraesnicono.com*

CONTEXTILE 6 BIENNIAL OF ILLUSTRATION

These are two biennials that alternate: *Contextille* (*Contextille.pt*) takes place during even years, is the only artistic event dedicated to contemporary textiles in Portugal, and includes an international competition and a few exhibitions. During odd years, the *Illustration Biennial* follows the same format. (*big.guimaraes.pt*)

MUCHO FLOW

A music micro-festival that is a good change for seeing some of the biggest names in the Portuguese and international underground music scene. *muchoflowfest.com*

NOVEMBER

Guimarães Jazi One of the best event for jazz in the country, running for more than 25 years. *ccvf.pt*

FESTAS NICOLINAS

These are the traditional festivities in honour of Saint Nicholas (read *Impress the Locals*, 160), one of the oldest Christmas festivities in the world. Short versions they begin on the night of the 26th, with the "Procession of the Pine Tree" in which, to the sound of drumskins smeared with blood, a several-meter-long pine tree is pulled by an oxen cart to Campo da Feira square. There, it stays erect for a few weeks. If this sounds sexual, that's because it is. But there's more: the male students offer apples to the girls standing on the balconies of Santiago Square, they cry insolences and pleasantries on the streets and organize a supper under the arches on Oliveira Square. *nicolinas.pt*

VILLAGE FROM THE IRON AGE

Citânia de Briteiros ("Briteiros Castro") is a Celtic fortified settlement from the Iron Age, located at the top of Mount São Romão. It was later occupied by the Romans and excavated in the 19th century by Martins Sarmento, the pioneer of Portuguese archaeology. (daily, Apr-Sep 09:00-18:00; Oct-Mar 09:00-17:00; 3€)

MUSEUM OF CASTRO CULTURE

Explaining the ruins you've seen, the Museu da Cultura Castreja ("Museum of Castro Culture") lies inside "Casa da Ponte" ("The House at the Bridge"), the former residence of Martins Sarmento. (daily, Apr-Sep 9:30-12:30/14:00-18:00; Oct-Mar 09:30-12:30/14:00-17:00; 3€)

TEMPLE OF DEBAUCHERY

Centuries ahead of mainstream television shows, there were already fantasy fans around here: dragons spitting fire and other demans, naked men in acrobatic positions and plenty of phallic references. At the medieval Church of São Salvador de Souto you can see a great amount of debauchery on the sculptures that support the roof, outside on the sides of the building. These types of representations were common in Romanesque churches, but few survived this well preserved. Another good example is the gargoyles.

ROMAN VILLAGE AND SPA

If you've got half a day spare, Vila das Taipas is an interesting site to visit. Once you get to the centre of this small town (which is the Avenida da República), you'll be spitting distance from the sites of interest: the *ARA DETRAJANO*, a Roman altar dedicated to the Emperor Trajan; the *Fontain of King D. João VI* and the *Old Bath House* (built in 1875, and hosts a cultural programme during the summer). But if you are tired of travelling, it is best to relax in the *Thermal Spa*, have a soothing Vichy massage, soak in the hydromassage bath and replenish your energy at the thermal circuit. (*taipastermal.com* for prices; Mon-Sat 09:00-21:00)

2013

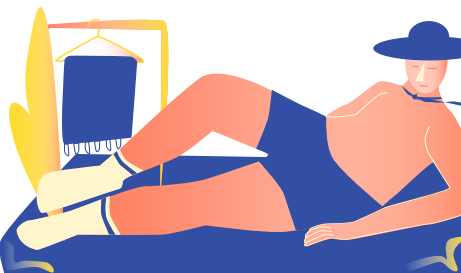
Vitória, our football team, finally won a big national tournament by defeating Benfica at the final of the Cup of Portugal. May 26th became a day of such importance that the square in front of the stadium got renamed after it.

2019

Teatro Jordão will reopen Closed since 1994, the mythical theatre where our parents and grandparents went to secretly hold hands and kiss is finally being renovated. It will host the School of Arts and the theatre course of the University of Minho, the Conservatory of Music, and give studio space to local bands.

BACALHAU IN CALDAS

At the restaurant *Casa de Pasto Fertuzinhos*, bacalhau (salted dried cod) is king, and lord, grilled over coal, and bathed in olive oil and garlic. From the other varied alternatives, we recommend the veal, the roasted lamb and the outside balcony where everything tastes better in the warmer days. (Tue-Sat 09:00-15:00/19:30-22:00, Sun 09:00-15:00; approx. 15€)



BUYING THE BEST

Gone are the days when in each garage one could find a small factory producing shirts and sweaters for some of the world's most renowned brands and that, with some luck, you could buy for a bargain because of some small imperfection. Nevertheless, Guimarães is still an excellent place to buy very high quality products: from famous shoe brands, to some of the best cutlery in the world, and great quality home fabrics used by the best hotels. Brands such as Cutipol, Fly London, Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, Purificación García, Campor, Lameirinho and Pierre Cardin are produced in factories located around town. Most factories have their own inhouse shops, where you can buy items at a discount. More information on factory shops and how to get to them on *guimaraesturismo.com*

EVERLASTING BODY

If you have even the slightest fascination for gore, go to the *Balcão of São Torcato*. At the end of the church you can see the non-decomposed corpse of an 8th century man – Torcato, a bishop and saint. The story is convoluted and it is not clear if he was martyred in Guimarães or Granada, but what matters is that the body was taken to Santa Maria (now called São Torcato) and his tomb began to be venerated. In 1538 a Spanish preacher questioned if the body was actually there, and to prove him wrong the tomb was opened. To great astonishment, the body was intact and the devotion grew. On 14 July 1637, the tomb was opened again so that a new stone protection could be installed. And it was during this inspection that the following bizarre occurrence took place: the schoolmaster of the Collegiate, Rui Gomes Gollas, bit off the bone from an ankle of S. Torcato, and took it to the chapel of his house. The bone (which turns out is in fact a heel) is now in a magnificent reliquary and can be admired in the *Alberto Sampaio Museum*. If you're not made to see these things, you should focus instead on the sanctuary facade's Neo-Manueline sculpture (read "Eat like a local" style that developed exclusively in Portugal). Construction of the sanctuary started in 1825 and was only completed in 2019. Because the construction took 190 years, the expression "São Torcato's works" is nowadays used in Guimarães to refer to construction works that seem endless. (Summer, Mon-Fri 09:00-12:00/13:30-19:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-19:00; Winter, Mon-Fri 09:00-12:00/13:30-18:00, Sat-Sun 08:00-18:00)

PULL APART CODFISH

Rustic but recently renovated, *Fentelhas* is a restaurant specializing in the cuisine of this region. For more than 40 years it has been serving one of the best *bacalhau machado* in town (baked cod, read "Eat like a local"). Other must-eats on the menu are: *Rojões*, roasted kid goat and *cozido à portuguesa* (a stew with vegetables and boiled meats). (Tue-Sat 12:00-15:00/19:30-10:30, Sun 12:00-15:00; approx. 15€)

BATTLE FIELD

Campo da Ataca is where the Battle of São Mamede (read "Impress the Locals") probably took place. It's a field surrounded by other fields, and if it weren't for the ensemble of skinny statues that evoke the event, you would need witchcraft to find it.

A FILM SET

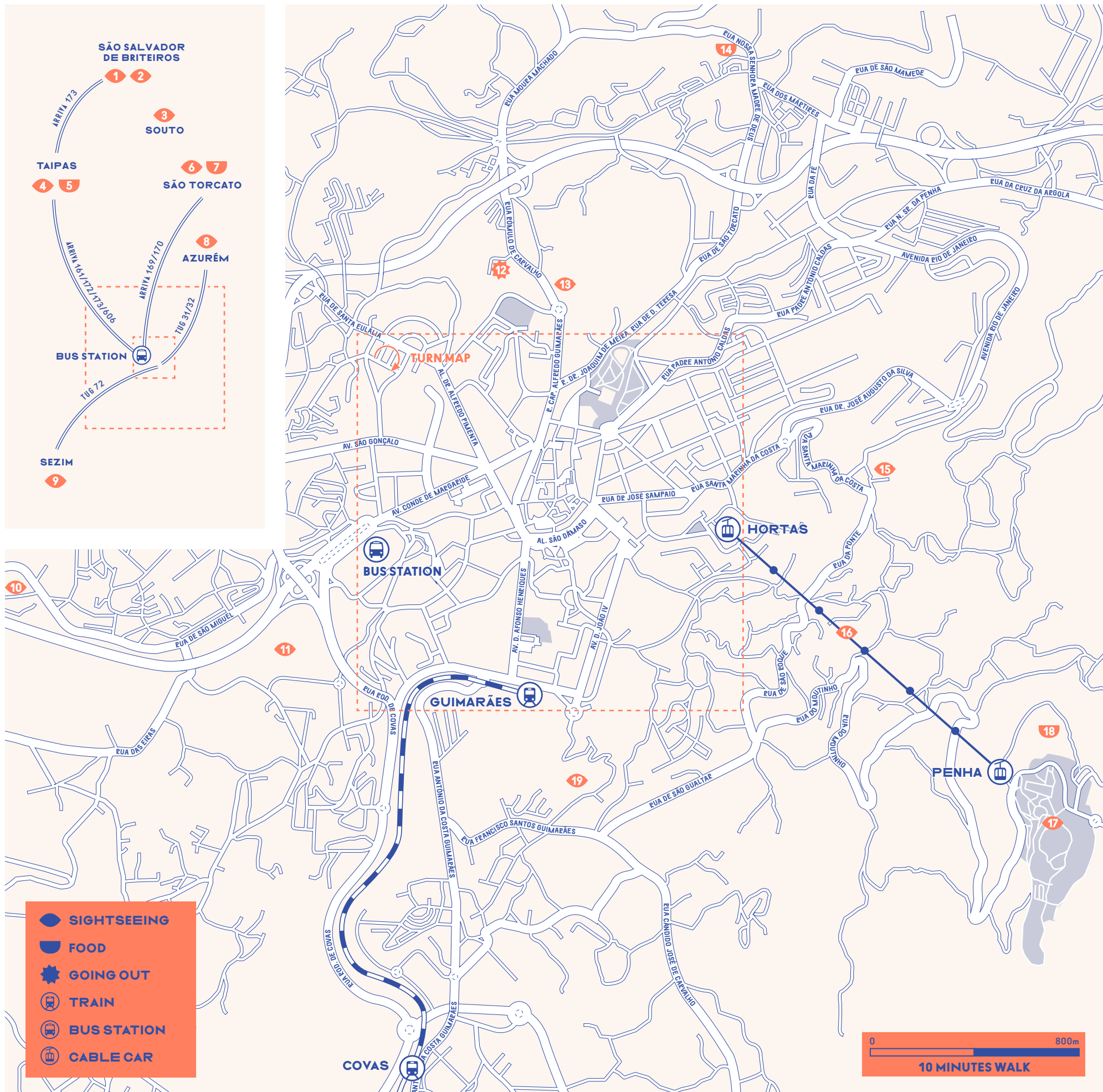
In the same family for more than 600 years, the *House of Sezim* is special because of two things: architecture and the beautiful antique interiors, decorated with hand-painted wallpaper that depict scenes related to the Portuguese Empire, European and American history. Used as a set for films and television shows, nowadays this country house from the 18th century hosts tourists and produces its own wine. Even if you don't stay for a night, it's worth the detour.

NATURE REDISCOVERED

Laboratório da Paisagem (Landscape Laboratory) was created to raise awareness about the environment. It hosts temporary exhibitions on ecology and nature, besides workshops and seminars, and is the headquarters to some research projects. In these issues don't mean much to you, the visit is still worth it for the small Romanic bridge right on the side, and for the building which is a great work of contemporary architecture with clean lines. (Mon-Fri 9:00-13:00/14:00-18:00; Sat 9:30-13:00/14:00-18:00)

PARADISE IN THE GARDEN

The installation *Terço Paradiso* ("Third Paradise") by Michelangelo Pistoletto, one of the most important post-war European artists, can be visited in this educational garden. It consists of a reinterpretation of the symbol of infinity constructed within the landscape, and alludes to concepts of ecological sustainability and social responsibility. The project is complex and you can read more about it at *tercoparadiso.org*



DANCE FLOORS AND TERRACE

Playing pop, house and some rock, *Século XIX* is a large club featuring two dance floors and an open-air terrace. (Fri-Sat 00:00-06:00)

THE UNIVERSITY

Sometimes it seems that the town forgets, but the *University of Minho*, divided between Braga and Guimarães, has one of its branches here. Founded in 1973, it's part of the so-called "new universities", which have drastically changed the panorama of higher education in Portugal, which until then was concentrated only in Coimbra, Lisbon and Porto. In Guimarães you can study engineering, architecture and now also design, theatre and visual arts. The garden of the *Azúrem* campus is a beautiful place where many of the students study and sunbathe, and where the sculpture *The Deavourer of Automobiles*, by José de Guimarães, is installed.

ABSOLUTE STOMACH

If you're a lover of a proper heavy meal, go to *Restaurante Florencio*. Once a grocery shop and a wine cellar (you enter through what remains of it), today it's a simple but comfortable restaurant, where we highly recommend the magnificent (and several times awarded) *bucho recheado* (read "Eat like a local"). (Mon-Sat 12:00-14:30/19:30-22:00; Sun 12:00-14:30)

THOUSAND YEARS OF STORIES

Converted into a *Residence* (luxury hotel) by a modernist architect, Fernando Távora, the *Monastery of São Mariainha da Costa* has had several uses. Probably it first was a Roman villa. Then, in the 7th century, it became the Palace of the Counts of Portucale. After the 10th century, it turned into a medieval monastery. It was also a Renaissance convent (between 1573 and 1550, then again a monastery, and in the early 20th century it became a private house. Today, as *São Marinha Inn*, it's one of the finest hotels in town. Its gardens are still a well kept secret, but you don't have to book a night at the hotel to access this restricted area. Go to the reception and ask for directions on how to get to the bar; once at the outdoor terrace, you can sit on the outside and pretend you are going out to answer your phone or smoke a cigarette. Then just walk up to the centuries old trees and enjoy the sound of running water, the freshness of the shadows and the lust of the greens.



YOUR FRIEND WINE

One of the ways to explore a new place is through food – and this, in Guimarães, includes the wine. There are several wineries and *quintas* (that's how we call a farmhouse that produces wine) where, besides the best regional cuisine, you can taste the wines produced in this region and buy them directly from the producer. If you're really committed to the cause of wine you can even be a winemaker for a day and assist in the harvesting. More information about eight *quintas* that you can visit on *guimaraesturismo.com*

DARK HIMOUR

"You might land here" next to a drawing of a target, or "any last words?" are the sort of things you can read written on the ground down below when you are up in the air riding the cable car. But if you don't get put off by the dark humour of this hill's inhabitants, the *Cable Car* is indeed the easiest way of getting to Penha: it's a steep ride of 700 meters that takes 10 minutes. (Nov-Mar Fri-Sun 10:00-17:30; Apr-May Oct daily 10:00-18:30; Jun-Jul/Sep Mon-Fri 10:00-19:00, Sat-Sun 10:00-20:00; Aug daily 10:00-20:00; 3€ return ticket; leaves every 30min; last entry 15min before closing time; closed every last monday of the month)

PRACTICAL INFO

TOURISM OFFICES

Besides information on what's happening in town, the Tourism Office in Rua Paio Galvão has computers with internet and lockers.

Rua Paio Galvão 32 Mon-Fri 09:30-12:30/14:00-18:00
Praça Des. Tiago - Interactive Shop 51
16 Sep-31 May: Mon-Fri 09:30-18:00; Sat 10:00-18:00; Sun 10:00-17:00
1 Jun-15 Set: Mon-Fri 09:30-19:00; Sat 10:00-19:00; Sun 10:00-17:00

TRANSPORTATION

TRAINS

Timetables and routes on *www.cp.pt*

BUSSES

1. Services to other towns leave from the Central Bus Station. Finding out timetables and routes isn't always as easy as it should be, but the internet helps.
2. TUC - Transportes Urbanos de Guimarães: timetables at *www.tug.com.pt*. Buying tickets from the driver is the easiest: 1,82€ per trip.

PORTO AIRPORT

1. Bus transfer leaving from the Central Bus Station; 50min; 8€; more info on *getbus.eu*
2. Take a train to Porto - Campanhã, and then take the metro Line E straight to the airport.

BICYCLES

You can carry them on the cable car. Rent them at:
1. Get Green: half-day; 6€/normal, 12€/electric. *getgreen.pt*. Inside 32
2. MTB: organizes bike tours around town and the mountains nearby. *mtbimportugal.pt*. Inside 32
3. Tuk Tuk Bike Trek EC: half-day; 7€/normal, 13€/electric. Rua dos Mártires 1027, Azúrem *geral@tuktukbiketrot.pt*.

"GUIMARÃES-WIFI" FREE INTERNET

Around these locations 17 24 26 32 41 46 50 52 56 60 61 69 70 80



GO FOR A WALK

The surroundings of Guimarães offer some very green areas that have marked hiking paths where you can discover little wonders. In São Torcato, walk among vineyards, corn fields and water mills, along the river all the way up to *Campo da Ataca*. You can also find water mills on the *Citânia Path* – located along the Ave River – in the most rural area of this county; the route is 9,5 km long, and you will pass the *Citânia de Briteiros* and the *Museum of the Castro Culture*. Closer to town, you can take the *Penha Park* and see caves, granite cliffs, gorges, fountains and large trees. More information on the three paths on *guimaraesturismo.com*

GREEN LUNG

Penha is the highest point around and the most popular spot for a walk in your Sunday best. At the top there's a sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of Carmo, built in the 30's of Art Deco style by the architect Marques da Silva, and that pilgrims visit in the summer, as well as an imposing statue of Pope Pius IX. But what is truly special are the natural elements – the abundance of water, the shadows, the rocks (there's a famous one – the "rock that shakes" you can try to find it) and the narrow paths between them. There's also the view over the town and, amaze yourself, you can even see the ocean: if the day is clear and you look west, that glitter you see far away is actually the Atlantic. There is also a *campsite* (the only one in town), and several restaurants. On Saturdays there are normally plenty of bikes going downhill, but they get up on the cable car, so they don't get tired.

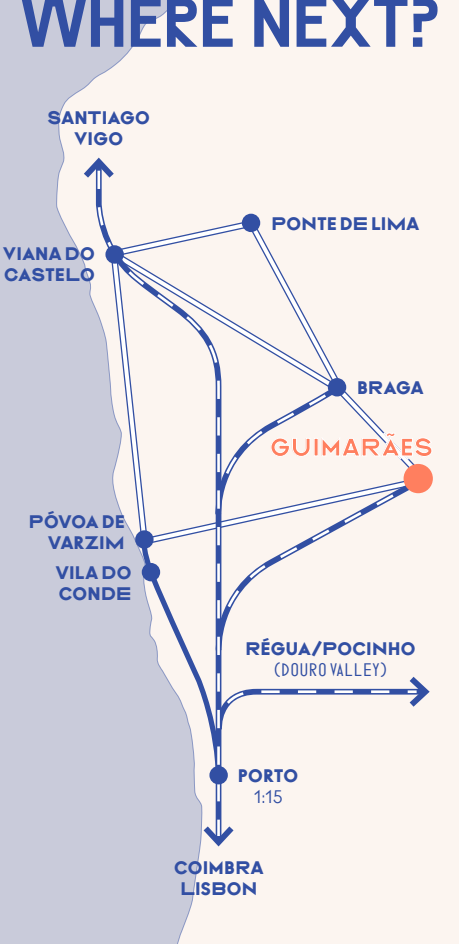
HERMIT'S CAKE

Literally sitting under a large granite stone, *Adega do Ermitão* (Winery of the Hermit) was a former mountain shelter where it is said a hermit used to live. Today it is still a shelter for those who are hungry, but it is not a place for introverts because the fame of the food is such that, on some summer days, you might have to share a table with a stranger. Good *vinho verde* helps to break the ice and the food is always a good conversation topic. The offerings are rich: from a simple onion (raw, with salt and vinegar), to *bolinhos de bacalhau* (cod croquettes), to the speciality of the house – corn cake with fried sardines or bacon (read "Eat like a local"). (daily, Apr-Sep 12:00-21:00, Oct-Mar 12:00-18:00)

LET'S LOVELY TREE

Let's play a game: from how many points in town can you see, lonely on a hillside, a tree with a thick, smooth trunk, topped by a leaf almost perfectly round canopy? Well, practically from everywhere, and it is known as *Tree of the Cavalinho*. It is said that Monte Cavalinho – that slope next to the train station – to be covered with trees that were cut so that the vineyard, which is still there, could be planted. This tree was saved because of the love of a boy and a girl, who used to meet there for romantic dates, and who managed to keep the tree standing as a memory. Whether this is true or not, nobody knows. The tree is a eucalyptus, which is not a local species. And it's periodically pruned to maintain its iconic look.

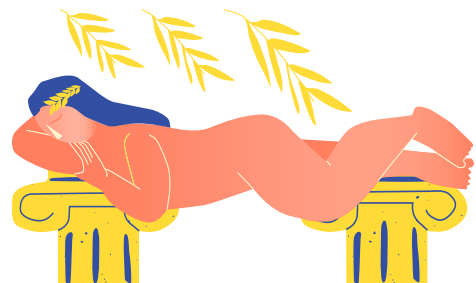
WHERE NEXT?



20 BLOOD AND FLIMERS
The gardens of **HOUSE OF COSTEADO** evoke the memory of Dona Maria Júlia da Luz, the "Cid" of Costeado, who planted them but was tragically murdered aged 15, in 1841. The story goes like this: returning from a ball, the girl travelled on a coach with her uncles when a shot was heard. From an ally someone fired a shot and ran away. Who was the target? The girl, a rich heiress involved in a dispute over the succession of her father, Dona Maria Joana de Nsêpoles, an influential local politician? The truth never came out. But on that tragic dawn, by her garden, the girl of Costeado passed away. If the gates of Costeado are open, gain courage to go inside and check out the garden, which by a testament order must be "preserved and venerated in memory of our departed mother" (1845). The site was built in 1922. In her tomb at the Chapel of the Ordem Terceira at São Domingos **20** (uncertain opening hours), her uncles and tutors had flowers engraved. The house will soon undergo reconstruction works that will convert it into a school for hotel and hospitality management but, if you manage to, try to sneak a peek at the gardens, at least from the outside if you can't make it inside.

21 TASTING MENU
If you would like to experience everything there's to Guimarães, but can't spend a whole year here, go to the **CASA DA MEMÓRIA** ("House of Memory"). In one place you will learn how to play drums like on the "Marcha Nicolina", see the electrified figures used on the "Marcha Guilheriana" (read "Almanac"), learn the recipe of "Tortas de Guimarães" (read "Eat Like a Local"), or dress like a fan of Victória (read "Act Like a Local"). Housed in a former factory of toys and plastics, this museum is a depository of Guimarães' identity where touching and interacting with the exhibition is not forbidden, but actually stimulated. (Tue-Sun 10:00-13:00/14:00-19:00; 3€/2€)

22 KING'S PILGRIMAGE
The **PADRÃO DE D. JOÃO I** is a small monument from the first half of the 16th century which symbolically marks the starting point of the king's "pilgrimage" (read "Impress the Locals"). Right behind there's the teeny tiny **CHAPEL OF SÃO LAZARO** (1601). If you find it open, consider yourself very lucky and run to buy a lottery ticket.



STATE OF ART
If you like to see art without having to pay, Guimarães has public works by important artists that can be seen in squares and streets. The installation **TERÇO PARADISO** **41**, by Pistoletto, is an intervention in the landscape of the educational garden. The garden of the university campus **48** is decorated with a sculpture by José de Guimarães called "THE FOURIER OF AUTOMOBILES". From the same artist you can see the **MONUMENTO TO THE NICOLINO** (read "Almanac") is next to Jerleza dos Santos Passos **70**. And in the Old Town there are two more: at Rua da Rainha **46** there's a statue of D. Afonso Henriques by João Cutileiro, and the controversial **GOLDEN RAILING** by Ana Jotta can be found at Largo do Toural **41**.

23 ANGUISHED AND DARK STREET
This former road to Porto, **RUA D. JOÃO I**, is one of the most mythical streets in town (read "Impress the locals"). Not only because it has been declared "of public interest" (something very rare for a street), but also due to its medieval outline and the big variety of architectural styles.

24 GROCERIES AND A VIEW
If you're after fresh green groceries, walk to the lower part of town to visit the **MUNICIPAL MARKET**. Apart from food and flowers, the market offers an unusual perspective: you can see the roofs of the town leading up towards the grand Basilica of São Pedro, at Toural. On Friday and Saturday mornings you will find local producers with the freshest fruits and vegetables, besides chickens, rabbits and other animals. But if you go there on a Friday you won't see a thing - the show of the weekly street market, on the opposite side of the street, simply overshadows everything else. All this is accompanied by vendors shouting what they have to sell in a good, strong Northern accent. (Mon-Fri 07:30-19:00, Sat 07:00-13:00)

25 BLACK FACTORY
The **CAAA - Centre for the Affairs of Art and Architecture** is housed in a former textile factory, rebuilt for its new purpose, and now known as "the black factory" because of the building's colour. It hosts exhibitions, performances, theatre and cinema, all with an alternative and experimental hallmark. On the upper floor there's a library that is an art and architecture and cultural production facilities. (centraoaa.org; Mon 14:30-19:00, Tue-Fri 12:00-19:00; Sat 15:00-18:00)

26 CULTURAL CENTRE
CENTRO CULTURAL VILA FLOR opened in 2005, and it's the most important in town and respected nationwide. It results from the refurbishment of Vila Flor Palace, which hosts contemporary art exhibitions, and a new building with an auditorium and a café **27**. The programme covers mostly dance and theatre. Tadeu Luís Lopes de Carvalho, a rich guy famous for organizing sumptuous parties that included wine fountains, started the construction of the Palace in 1740, but it was only finished in the 20th century. It was home to several families, hosted the Industrial Exhibition of 1884 and was used as a branch of the university. At the back of the palace there's a pleasant garden decorated with 18th century statues of every king from the first two Portuguese dynasties, which might be fun if you happen to know who they were. (ccv1.pt; Tue-Sun 10:00-13:00/14:00-19:00)

27 CAFÉ-CONCERT
Inside Centro Cultural Vila-Flor **26** you will find the **CAFÉ-CONCERTO**, which at weekends, sometimes has a live music program. Despite being quite large, it normally sells out on the weekend so you better get there in advance. The café is open during the week and its comfortable sofas overlooking the garden are great to chill out on. (Mon-Thu 10:00-00:00, Fri-Sat 10:00-02:00, Sun 14:00-00:00)

28 TRADITIONAL FOOD
In what used to be a famous restaurant, **SALA 141** now serves beers and some tapas that blend regional tradition with contemporary touches, such as *chouriço* (a kind of smoked sausage) and *strawberries*, or *presunto* (cured ham) and garlic butter with asparagus. You can also choose to dine at the communal table with a group of strangers, and just have one of the many cocktails in case you need to gain some extra courage. (Wd-Fri 17:00-23:00; Sat-Sun 12:30-15:30/19:00-23:00)

29 FOUNTAIN WITH THREE FACES
The baroque portico of the 18th century **CONVENTO DAS DOMINICAS** ("Convent of the Dominicans") is one of the most splendid in town. If the risk of having a pigeon crap unpleasantly landing on your back doesn't seem excessive, walk to the entry of the convent; to your right is the "Fountain of Santa Rosa do Lima", with three unnerving faces looking at you.

30 ECLECTIC CHURCH
The **CHURCH OF S. DOMINGOS** was built in the 14th century, but became really altered in the 18th and 19th centuries, so what you see today is a blend of Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque styles. The sacristy is currently a museum that you can visit. Attached to the church is the disused convent of the same name; its beautiful Gothic cloister is a national monument and where the **Archaeological Museum of Martins Sarmento Square** **43** is located. (Mon-Sat 8:30-11:00, Sun 8:30-12:30)

31 THE MUSEUM OF MUSEUM
Created in 1881 in honour archaeologist Francisco Martins Sarmento, the **"SARMENTO SOCIETY"** was founded with the mission of educating the masses and has since left an important educational and cultural legacy in town. From the construction of public schools to the archaeological campaigns at Citânia de Briteiros and publications on archaeology and local history, its role is well recognized. But if you go there on a Friday, which occupies a grandiose building by Marques da Silva (a reputable early 20th century architect from Porto), runs the **Citânia de Briteiros** **41**, the **Archaeological Museum**, based in the cloister of São Domingos **30** and a Library specialising in archaeology and antique books, housed in a beautiful wood-panelled reading room. Opened in 1885, it is one of the oldest and best-preserved Portuguese museums. To visit it is, most of all, to learn how a museum was made in the late 1800s — even for those who don't care about archaeology. (sarmento.uminho.pt; Tue-Fri 9:30-12:30/14:30-17:30, Sat-Sun 10:00-12:30/14:30-17:30, 3€)



GOLDEN MARKET
The **PLATFORM OF THE ARTS** is a legacy from when we were the European Capital of Culture in 2012. It's the result from the reconversion of the former Market Hall, and it's a big building of modern design with the outside covered in brass metal. The Platform includes the **INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS JOSÉ DE GUIMARÃES**, with a permanent exhibition, centered around the vast collection of the artist José de Guimarães, including African tribal masks, Chinese sculptures and naïve art, as well as works by himself. There are also temporary exhibitions of contemporary art, sometimes arranged alongside the permanent one.

33 CELLAR STUFFED WITH BOOKS
Installed in the cellar of an 18th century house, **LUÍS PINTO DOS SANTOS** is a generalist bookshop, cosy and intimate, the perfect reflection more than 180 years of family tradition in the art of selling books. Mostly in Portuguese but you can find some things in English as well. (Mon-Fri 10:00-13:00/15:00-19:30)

34 LIVE MUSIC
ASSOCIAÇÃO CONVÍVIO is one of the oldest music venues in town — it exists since 1947 and it's housed in a beautiful 18th century building. It's where Guimarães Jazz (see "Almanac") was born and they carry on organizing jam sessions at the café on Wednesdays. Besides those, there are indie rock and folk concerts on the weekends, some of them for free. (Tue-Thu 21:30-24:00, Fri-Sat 21:30-02:00)

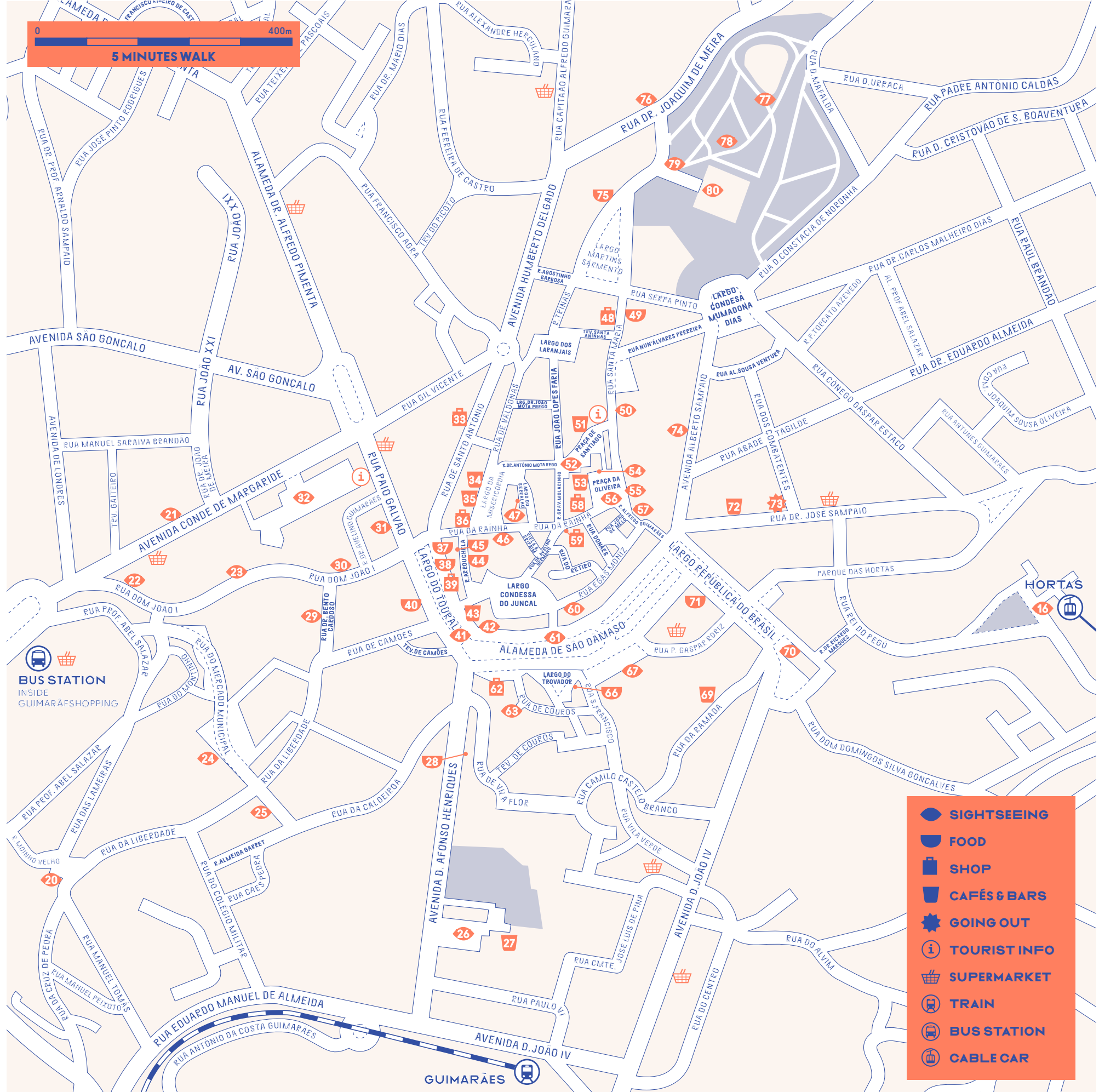
35 CEILING AND WALL
TECTO MERCÚRIO (Ceiling of Mercury) got its name because it has an impressive ceiling, with the Roman god of merchants, travelers, thieves and tricksters taking central place. This bar serves good cocktails, and there's a "secret" passage into the former wall **42** that protects the city. You can also literally sleep on top of the former wall if you decide to spend the night in one of the rooms of the small hotel that the bar is attached to.

36 A WALL INSIDE A SHOP
9 SÉCULOS ("9 centuries" — that's the age of Portugal) is a shop that has something of a cabinet of curiosities vibe to it. It sells works of art by renowned national artists, combined with the best that Portugal has to offer in gourmet version (fish preserves, soaps, fine wines, and handmade chocolates), as well as antiques and precious old books. But there is also a selection of new books from the best illustrators and writers, handmade objects and contemporary design pieces. Impeccable taste, all that we really go there for, are the totally unmissable *Tortas de Guimarães*. (daily; Summer 08:00-23:00, Winter 08:00-20:00)

37 LOOKING AT THE CEILING
The **ORIENTAL RESTAURANT** is what remains of the café with the same name that existed there from the 1900s until the 70s, and what remains of that is because of the Egyptian-themed decoration. Nowadays, the motives of the Near East are no longer visible, except for the photos that recall the old place. With its white stucco ornamented ceiling and a view to Largo do Toural, it has an assortment of tasty and intense dishes (not oriental at all), like a good choice of grilled meats and shell food. (Mon-Sat 12:00-15:00/19:00-23:00; 10€-15€)

38 FULL SERVICE
CERVEJARIA MARTINS, a restaurant/snack bar that's been around for more than 50 years, serves the best draft beer in town. But the uncountable snacks are just as worthwhile: *pregos* (fried meat with fries), *carneiro*, shellfish, and a lot of other contemporary design pieces. Impeccable taste, all that we really go there for, are the totally unmissable *Tortas de Guimarães*. (Mon-Sat, 12:00-02:00)

39 IRON AND STORIES
FERRERIA DA CUNHA has existed since 1922. Apart from the memorable service of Senhor Jerónimo — an amazing storyteller, too bad he's not yet fluent in English — one can also find pots, lamps and hand mixers, objects in cast iron such as *aldrabas*, *trinquetas*, *pedreiras* or *lemes*; all things impossible to translate because even we don't have a clue what they are. If you're curious, just go there and see for yourself. (Mon-Fri 09:00-12:30/14:30-19:00, Sat 09:00-19:00)



40 CAKE, CAKE & CAKE
The 50-year-old **CONFITEARIA CLARINHA** is famous for its assortment of high quality pastries and cookies such as *hángaros*, *jesuitas*, *travesseiros* or *benjamins*. The marzipan is amazing, but what we really go there for, are the totally unmissable *Tortas de Guimarães*. (daily; Summer 08:00-23:00, Winter 08:00-20:00)



THE LIVING ROOM
PRACA DO TOURAL is the best place to feel the pulse of town, the passing of time, and to eavesdrop on talks, so it's no wonder that one of the buildings on the square used to have a statue of the Goddess Fave, who is the goddess of gossip. The bell tower of Basilica de São Pedro sets the time for every inhabitant. Toural was a square outside the city walls where cattle was traded (*tours* is the word for bull), hence the square's name), but in the 17th century it gained status as Main Square. Renewed in 2011, it got its original fountain back, which was built in 1589 but had been lost at Largo do Carmo since 1809. The central part of the square now has a drawing by artist Ana Jotta which shows a highly simplified map of the town centre. She also installed a controversial golden railing that is not appreciated by everyone, but that became a hotspot where couples in love place locks with their names written on them.

52 BALCONIES WITH FLOWERS
PRACA DESANTIAGO ("Santiago Square") is one of the biggest tourist attractions. On the houses surrounding the square, you see elements of 17th and 18th century popular architecture, as well as balconies full of flowers. Previously, in the centre of the square, there probably was a temple dedicated to Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture, crops and fertility. That temple might have become the Chapel of Santiago. But if you go there on a Friday you won't see anything — the plan is still visible on the floor of the square. It was also a place where fish was sold, which is why it used to be known as the Fish Square.



PARTY PEOPLE
Because the bars around the Old Town are quite small, nightlife mostly happens outdoors in the squares. There's not much difference between the bars, so if you want to escape the usual combination of beer and shots, wine at **ROLHAS ERÓTICAS** is a good solution: they have a long menu of cheeses, smoked and cured meats, and other snacking goodies. For those who prefer rectangular "bathtubs" that you can still find in two places. In this area you also see the Couros River, referred to in medieval documents as *medrario* (translates as something like 'shit collector') because it was used as a sewage.

53 TWO FACES WATCHING YOU
The house that sits on top of the arches is the **FORMER TOWN HALL**, which functioned here between the 16th and the early 20th century. On top of the building there's a statue of a warrior with two faces — one where it should be, and another in its belly — that is a symbol of Guimarães. There are several theories on the meaning of the second face, but most likely it's just the shape of his armour.

54 BIRTH PLACE OF A TOWN
The first traces of the settlement of Guimarães date from the 10th century with the construction of the **COLEGIADA DA NOSSA SENHORA DA OLIVEIRA** ("Collegiate of Our Lady of the Olive Tree"). The Church got its current look at the beginning of the 15th century, and it's very much worth going inside. But the unpredictable attraction is the gargoyles on the left side of the church tower: in a complicated exercise of contortion, the gargoyles bends over itself and takes its own penis in its mouth in an act of auto-fellatio. A remarkable example of paganism on religious buildings, which was actually quite frequent during the Middle Ages. (daily 9:00-19:00)

56 PADRÃO DI SALADO
PADRÃO DO SALADO is a gothic monument built by King D. Afonso IV in 1340 to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Salado. Because of the alliance of the King of Castilla, this battle resulted in the expulsion of the Moors from Iberia (except for Granada). Nine years after its construction, tradesman Pedro Esteves offered the cross that stands under it, bought by himself in Normandy.

57 SMALL BUT GREAT MUSEUM
ALBERTO SAMPAIO MUSEUM occupies the building of the Collegiate and its incomplete cloisters (the Church of the Oliveira **45**) weirdly cuts them. Created in 1928, it houses an important collection of antique art: painting, sculpture and jewellery from the late Middle Ages, the battle armament that King D. João I really wore at the Mythic of Aljubarrota in 1385 (read "Impress the Locals"), and even the ankle of Saint Torcato **46**. (Tue-Sun 10:00-18:00; 3€/1€)

58 TWO FLOORS OF USED BOOKS
Books from another era live side by side with the latest novelties at **ALOJADO JÚLIO**. Explore, lose yourself and maybe you'll end up with a rarity in your bag. You can always bet on a bargain in this used bookstore. (Mon-Fri 10:00-13:00/14:30-19:00)

59 PROOF IF LOVE
Tradition dictated that young men, when they started dating or got engaged to a young lady, had to offer their partner a very decorated clay jug, that they would then proceed to fill up with gold until the girl got married. This is the **Cantarinha dos Namorados** ("Lover's jug"), the most symbolic piece of local craft. The secret of its production lies in the hands of a potter that usually works in plain sight of anyone who enters **LOJUA A OFICINA**. At this shop also work embroiderers who keep alive the tradition of **Bordado de Guimarães** ("Guimarães Embroidery"), which is made with colourful threads on linen fabrics, and with a repertoire of at stitches of difficult execution. Go and see for yourself! (Mon-Sat 10:00-13:00/14:00-19:00)

60 NARROW AND DARK STREET
Rua Egas Moniz used to be called **RUA NOVA** ("New Street") and that's what you still see when you refer to it. It is dark and narrow, with kids playing football outside, grannies on the windows chatting with their neighbours, men standing by the taverns and a figure of Christ from 1712. Number 135 is a medieval building that is emblematic because of its renovation process, truly faithful to the original construction.

61 THE ALAMEDA DE SÃO DAMÁSIO is a square named after Pope Damasus I, who was born in 305 AD (or in Idanha-a-Nova, some 200km away, but in Guimarães naturally nobody doubts he was born in town). History remembers Damasus I because he commissioned the *Biblia Vulgata*, a translation of the biblical text into the Vulgar Latin spoken by the uneducated masses, and which until then was available only in Greek or the classical Latin spoken by the elites.

62 THE PAPER PALACE
The biggest paper supplier in town tricks you at first sight, because you really can't tell how big it is. **ALMEIDA NEVES** opened in 1932 and has a huge variety of papers and boards, as well as office supplies as well as ink. The best way to see all of this is to ask for something very complex (like "stain black cardboard 350 grams"), and then you will be escorted by an employee through the warehouse and discover a gigantic view. (Mon-Fri 09:00-13:00, 14:30-19:00)

63 OLD WORKERS HOUSING
Next to the leather factories, small housing estates for the workers appeared: the **ILHADO SABÃO** (Island of Soap), recently refurbished, is one of those open courtyards in the middle of a block. Around it, the houses of the workers are all still inhabited, but you can visit freely.

64 COURIS
This part of town is called Couros (*couro* means leather), because it's where the leather industry started in the 18th century and survived until the 1950s. The typically nauseous smell of this activity has long evaporated, so we are left just with the **TANNING TANKS**, used for dying and treating the leather. Look for those guys of rectangular "bathtubs" that you can still find in two places. In this area you also see the Couros River, referred to in medieval documents as *medrario* (translates as something like 'shit collector') because it was used as a sewage.

65 ALL NIGHT LONG SNACKS
HORTAS is the place to go late at night, when hunger strikes hardest. The vibe is "eclectic": night shift workers, drunk teenagers and bar philosophers begin or end their evenings here. To eat, you have the softest *pregos no pão* (a sandwich of fried or grilled beef), a plate of *moças* (stewed chicken insides), or an unexpected mix of meat kebabs. Drink whatever and as much as you feel like and try, if possible, to frame yourself in the environment, even if it feels very strange (which it at times does). When you get there, you will understand what we are talking about. (Mon-Sat 07:00-02:00)

66 BARD FOR ONE NIGHT
At **TABERNA DO TROVADOR** you find the best of traditional folk. The tavern is small and easily fills with customers, so to taste delicacies such as cod, quail eggs, *alheira*, or chicken wings it is recommended to book (+351 913 205 265). After the starters, don't miss the tomato rice with the best *pataniscas* (cod fritters)! (Mon/Wed/Thu 12:00-15:00/19:00-23:00; Fri-Sun 12:00-15:00/19:00-20:00)

67 GOLDEN CHURCH
The **CHURCH OF SÃO FRANCISCO** has changed a lot over time: construction began in 1400, but between the 15th and the 18th centuries new parts were added and others refurbished. This is why the church is not homogeneous, with the nave covered with panels of blue and white tiles from the same period depicting scenes from the life of St. Anthony of Lisbon. (Mon-Sat 9:00-12:00/14:00-18:00, Sun 7:30-13:00)

68 SCIENCE AT A FACTORY
CURTIL CIÊNCIA is a science centre directed mostly by youngsters, with an interactive exhibition that features several experiments, from being an astronaut, to turning plastic bottle caps into keyholders. Older visitors might prefer the impeccable restoration of the traditional architecture of this former leather factory, which couldn't make for a bigger contrast with the technology displayed inside. (Mon-Fri 10:00-18:00; Sat 11:00-19:00; 3€/1€)

69 CRAFT BEER AND COFFEE
BARDA RAMADA has beers for every taste: from the most famous coming from all over the world, to Portuguese craft beer. The five taps on offer change regularly. But if the nights are for beers, the days are for artisanal coffee, *machitos* and crates, to be enjoyed on the bar's soft and quiet terrace. The bar occupies part of the former Ramada Tannery Factory, and the terrace is in the former drying area, overlooking the impressively big wood barrels that were used in the process of transforming animal skins into leather. The people studying and tapping away on laptops sitting at the tables detract from the studenty feel of the Design Institute of the University of Minho **49**, which is housed in the same building. (Mon-Wed 10:30-23:30, Thu 10:30-24:00, Fri 10:30-02:00, Sat 14:00-02:00, Sun 14:00-20:00)

70 INSPIRED FAÇADE
On top of Campo da Feira — officially named Square of the Republic — stands the **IGREJA DOS SANTOS PASSOS** (Church of the Holy Steps) designed by André Soares in 1769. In the 1940s, the English Ann Bridges and Susan Lowndes, when visiting town, wrote: "Its semi-circular façade, high, narrow and rocco [...] is probably one of the most curious in the country (p. 7)". The interior is poor, as if the architect had run out of creativity with the extraordinary outside. "What they didn't know is that the architect died during construction and this was the last work of a genius born in Braga. (Mon-Sat 08:00-12:00/15:00-17:00, Sun 08:00-12:00)

HEY! DID WE FORGET SOMETHING? DID YOU FIND A MISTAKE? WANT TO SEND US SOME LOVE? GET IN TOUCH! GUIMARAESUSE.IT/Travel

71 A BOWL OF LIPSTICK
Stone counter, mugs, glass bottles hanging from the wall and wine barrels are what you find inside **TASCA EXPRESSO** ("Express Tavern"). The owner says "I named it 'Express' to remind myself I didn't want to spend a lot of time here!" The red *vinho verde*, also referred to as *pinta-beijo* (literally "lip-paint" because of the purple color it leaves on your lips) is served in a bowl, the old-fashioned way (but there are glasses too). Get some *presunto* (cured ham) and olives or a bread roll with quince marmalade to raise sugar levels. (Tue-Sun 10:00-12:30/14:30-20:00)

72 A STAGE FOR EVERYONE
Built in the 1960s as a cinema in tasteful modernist style, nowadays **SÃO MAMEDE** has a programme that is not so much about what goes from pop to heavy metal. The best is to check the agenda. During the week we go there for a chat over a drink at the bar. Once in a while there are some more underground parties in the main room. (depends on the concerts)

73 THE CLOSEST CLUB
For those who do not like big clubs but can't live without busting out their showing their dance moves at the end of the night, **TIBUNA** is the place to go. Located on the 1st floor of São Mamede **72**. (Thu-Sat and eve of public holidays 10:00-04:00)

74 TRACES IF THE WALL
Alberto Sampaio Avenue is the only place that still has a significant portion of the **MEDIAEVAL WALL** that encircled the town, preserved so well, it's just like how King D. Dinis had it built in the early 13th century. And it's possible to walk on top of the wall, like a soldier from the past, and see the medieval town from another perspective.

75 EAT SLOWLY
For grilled mushrooms, Greek salads and freshly squeezed juices, there's nothing like **CORDE TANGERINA**. It's a vegetarian slowfood restaurant inside a 19th century house. Try the outside garden if the weather is good. (Mon-Thu 12:00-15:00, Fri-Sat 12:00-15:00/19:30-22:00; 10€-15€)

76 ORGAN MUSIC
Who doesn't appreciate the sound of a good Iberian pipe organ? Once a month there's a concert at the 17th century **CHURCH OF SANTO ANTÓNIO DOS CARMOUS**. Also, visit the museum housed in the convent next to it, where you find the most beautiful sacristy in town, exquisitely decorated with paintings and gilded wood. (Tue-Sat 10:00-13:00/14:00-18:00, Sun 11:30-12:30; 2€)



SACRED HILL
CASTLE
The **CASTLE OF GUIMARÃES** was built in the second half of the 10th century on top of Mount Latão. The idea was to have a defense for the town from this strategic vantage point. The current shape of the castle, ignoring small changes from the 1950's, is the result of a renovation by King D. Dinis in late 13th century. The castle is the subject of two great urban myths: the first says it was totally reinvented during the 1940s fascist program of reconstruction of national monuments, like the **Palace of the Dukes** **80**. This is not at all true. The shape of the castle hasn't changed since the 14th century... or at least since the middle of the 19th century, when it was photographed for the first time. The second myth states that it was saved from being demolished by one vote. Nor is this true: read Impress the Locals 1836 and learn what really happened. (daily 10:00-18:00, 2€/1€)

78 THE KING'S BAPTISM
The **CHAPEL OF SÃO MIGUEL** is where Afonso Henriques, according to tradition, was baptised in a basin that is still there, by the archbishop D. Geraldo (who was probably already dead when the future king was born). (daily 10:00-18:00)

79 THE STATUE IF THE KING
Used on school textbook covers, postage stamps and fridge magnets, there is no Portuguese who hasn't seen this **STATUE OF AFO NSO HENRIQUES**. The sculptor of this romantic and heroic vision of the first king was the famous Soares dos Reis, and the statue itself was installed in 1888 on the initiative of a group of Portuguese living in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

80 MADE UP PALACE
The **PALACE OF THE DUKES OF BRAGA** was mostly built in the 15th century. But its current look is the result of an intense renovation and recreation started in 1936, part of a reconstruction programme of the "great" Portuguese monuments decided by Salazar, the fascist dictator who ruled the country between 1933 and 1968. The liberties taken included doubling the building's size by adding a second floor to the north and west wings, the construction of some French style roofs and of thirty-nine English inspired chimneys. Nevertheless, it is one of the most visited monuments in the country. If you decide to go inside, the Chapel with stained glass windows by António Lino, from late 1950s, is mandatory. (daily 10:00-18:00; 5€/2.5€)

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