

ERASMUS GUIDE GUIMARÃES

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VISIT
GUIMARÃES



ERASMUS GUIDE GUIMARÃES

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WELCOME TO GUIMARÃES

Guimarães, known as the “Cradle of the Portuguese Nation,” is where Portugal’s independence began in 1128 with King Afonso Henriques.

Proud of its historic roots, the city preserves this legacy with care. Its beautifully restored Historic Centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and in 2012, Guimarães was named European Capital of Culture, reinforcing its status as a cultural hub. Today, Guimarães is also a modern and innovative city, driven by the University of Minho and AvePark, with a strong industrial base and focus on sustainability.

Safe and welcoming, the city offers rich heritage, nature, gastronomy, and vibrant cultural life—a place where the past, present, and future come together.



Welcome to Guimarães!

HOW TO ARRIVE?

FROM PORTO
- FRANCISCO SÁ
CARNEIRO AIRPORT



FROM PORTO AIRPORT
TO THE CITY CENTER OF
GUIMARÃES

BY BUS
CENTRAL STATION
52,6 KM

Getbus <https://www.getbus.eu/pt>

FlixBus <https://www.flixbus.pt>

Rede Expressos
<https://rede-expressos.pt>



Porto
52,6 km

A7
A3

Guimarães

FROM PORTO AIRPORT TO THE CITY CENTER OF GUIMARÃES

BY CAR

Taxis are typically available at the main entrance of the airport (Arrivals). However, for more direct contact, you can reach Porto Taxi Service at **+351 220 997 336**

Alternatively, you can use Uber for a different way to travel by car:
<https://m.uber.com/go/home>

Another option is Bolt:
<https://bolt.eu/pt-pt>



FROM PORTO AIRPORT TO THE CITY CENTER OF GUIMARÃES

BY TRAIN

Trains to Guimarães are available from São Bento Station (in Porto's city center) and from Campanhã Station (the main transfer station).

Check schedules at **www.cp.pt**



PLACES TO STAY

All Portuguese universities offer student residences where you can apply to live and enjoy academic life while sharing experiences with fellow students. In addition to these residences, there are other accommodation options available, such as rented rooms, shared apartments, or local lodgings.

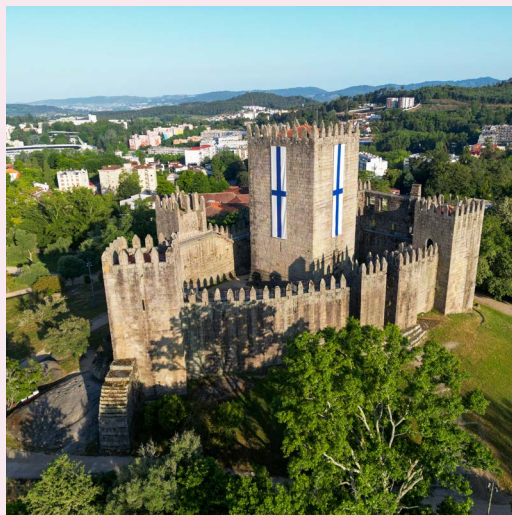
For more information, you can contact your university directly or visit our website at **www.visitguimaraes.travel**, where you'll find a wide range of accommodation options available in our city.



PLACES TO VISIT

WHAT TO SEE

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATED AREA



Guimarães Castel

One of the most representative monuments of Portuguese identity, associated with the heroic deeds from the period of the foundation of the Portuguese nation and the Battle of São Mamede, which took place in 1128.



Church of S. Miguel

A national monument, associated with the baptism of King Afonso Henriques.

PLACES TO VISIT

WHAT TO SEE

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATED AREA



Palace of the Dukes of Bragança

A majestic 15th-century manor house, built by order of the first Duke of Braganza, Dom Afonso, in the 15th century.



São Tiago Square

According to tradition, an image of the Virgin Mary, brought by the Apostle Saint James (São Tiago), was placed in this square. This is the reason why this very old square, which still preserves its medieval layout, is called São Tiago Square.

PLACES TO VISIT

WHAT TO SEE

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATED AREA



Oliveira Square

According to tradition, the square is named after a miraculous event in which an olive tree withered in front of the Church of Our Lady of the Olive Tree. Nearby stands the Padrão do Salado, a Gothic monument commemorating the 1340 Battle of Salado, and the historic church, founded by Countess Mumadona Dias.



Alfândega's Tower

Located in the heart of Guimarães, this national monument holds great symbolic value for both Portugal and the people of Guimarães. It bears the famous inscription "Aqui Nasceu Portugal" ("Here Portugal Was Born").

It is possible to climb the tower, from where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the city.

PLACES TO VISIT

WHAT TO SEE

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE DESIGNATED AREA



Couros Zone

This area preserves the ruins of former tannery factories, which made Guimarães a key reference in the leather industry until the 20th century.



Toural Square

Now considered the heart of the city, this square has long played an important social role as a gathering place for the people of Guimarães. In the 17th century, it lay outside the city walls, near the main gate of the town. Here you can visit the Basilica of St. Peter, the first in the Archdiocese of Braga to receive the title of basilica in 1751, known for its impressive gilded altarpiece.

PLACES TO VISIT

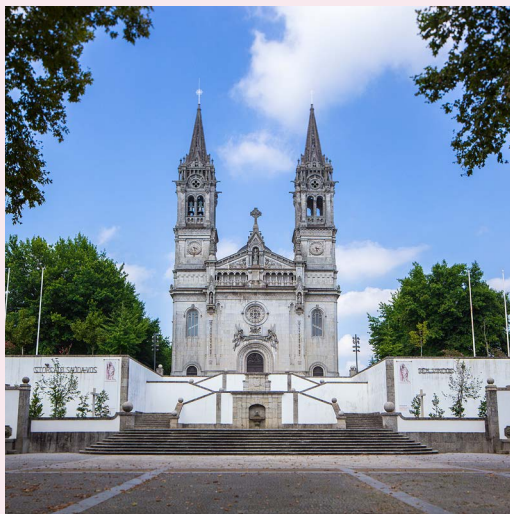
WHAT TO SEE



Old Settlement of Briteiros

Proto-historic settlement known for its walls and architecture, excavated since 1874, covering 24 hectares with neighborhoods, public areas, and baths. The Museum of Castro Culture, housed in the 18th-century Solar da Ponte, was home to archaeologist Francisco Martins Sarmento and features permanent exhibits of Iron Age and Roman artifacts.

OUTSIDE AREA



Basilica of St. Torcato

Built beginning in 1868, it combines Gothic, Romanesque, and Classical styles. It houses the incorrupt body of the first Iberian Christian martyr and was elevated to Minor Basilica status by Pope Francis in 2020. Next to it is the Museum of the Brotherhood of St. Torcato.

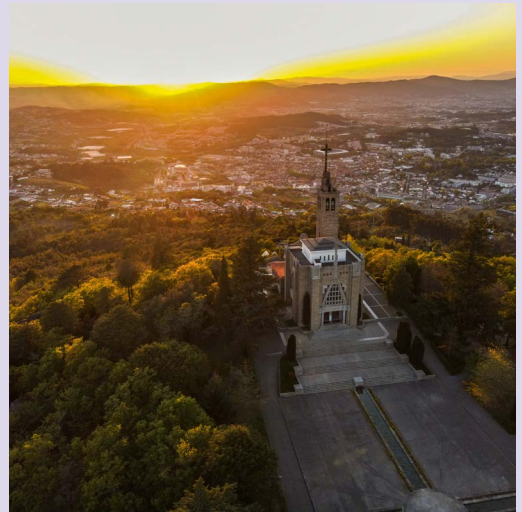
ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO DO



Penha Mountain, one of Guimarães' most iconic natural landmarks, can be reached by a scenic and sustainable cable car ride, offering breathtaking views along the way. Spanning over 60 hectares of green space, the area features a sanctuary, chapels, caves, and panoramic viewpoints.

VISIT TO PENHA MOUNTAIN BY CABLE CAR

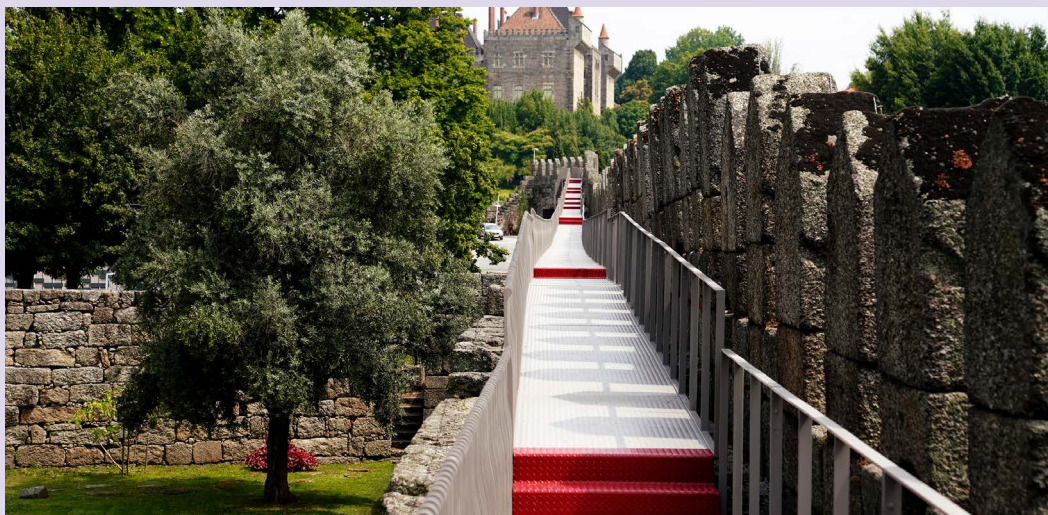


Visitors will find a wide range of facilities, including a campsite, hotel, mini-golf course, fitness trails, picnic areas, restaurants, bars, terraces, and spacious parking. It's the perfect place to connect with nature, explore hidden caves, and enjoy the stunning landscapes from its natural viewpoints.

ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO DO

GUIMARÃES WALL PATH



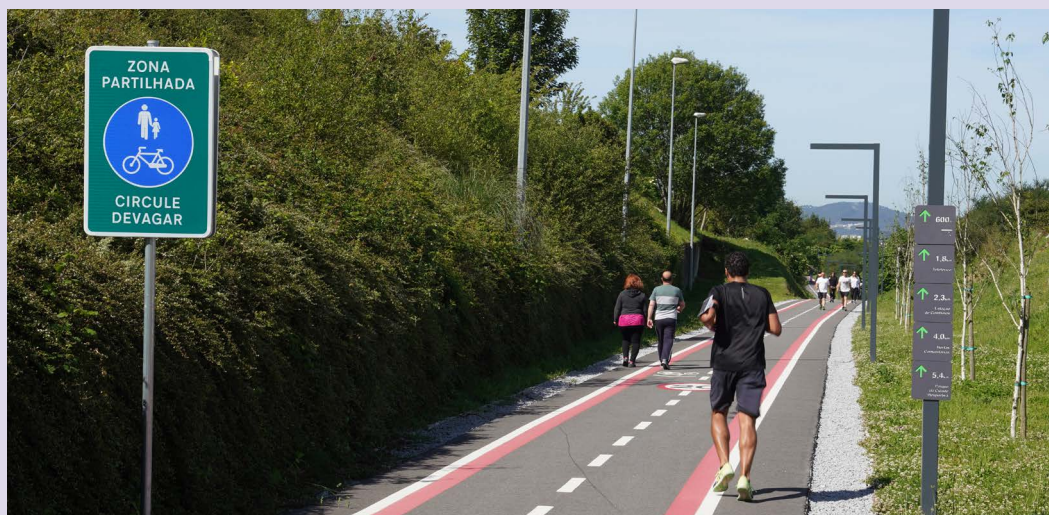
The “Adarve da Muralha” (how we call) is a testament to many vigils and uncertainties faced during enemy attacks, sparking our imagination. Opened in 2019, the route offers visitors another tourist attraction in the Historic Center, providing a new perspective to observe various points of interest in the city and surrounding

areas. The path runs along the entire wall stretch on Avenida Alberto Sampaio, with one possible entrance next to the entrance of the Alberto Sampaio Museum and the exit near Largo da Condessa Mumadona. Alternatively, visitors can take the route in the opposite direction if they prefer.

ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO DO

GUIMARÃES GREENWAY



Stretching over 16.5 km, the Guimarães Greenway connects Veiga de Creixomil to the Fafe ecotrail, offering a safe and pleasant route for both pedestrians and cyclists. Following parts of a former railway line, it links key areas of the city, including Caminho Real, the City Sports Park, Community Gardens, the Multiuse Pavilion, and the train station.

Along the way, you'll find well-equipped rest areas with benches, water fountains, bins, and bicycle parking. Some spots also include bike wash stations, repair points, and information panels. The greenway offers not just mobility, but also opportunities for leisure, exercise, and nature appreciation.

For more information, visit www.visitguimaraes.travel.

ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO DO

NIGHTLIFE



The city comes alive, especially on weekends and student nights (Wednesdays). The best way to experience the nightlife is to wander through the historic center's charming streets, where Oliveira and São Tiago Squares are full of life after dark.

You'll find everything from cozy beer spots to stylish wine bars and rock cafés. Try the iconic poncha at

Ponchas Bar, enjoy rock classics at El Rock, one of the city's oldest cafés, or unwind at Salado. Tasquilhado is a well-known student favorite, always buzzing. Other popular venues include Bar Académico (BA), Tribuna in São Mamede, Património, Sec. XIX, Penha Club, and the Café Concerto at the Vila Flor Cultural Centre, known for live music and garden views.

Note: Venues and vibes may change over time.

ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO DO

CULTURAL AGENDA



Em Guimarães is a platform dedicated to promoting and showcasing the cultural scene of Guimarães. It features news, interviews, cultural events, and exclusive content highlighting the best in local music, theatre, cinema,

visual arts, and more – always with a focus on the city's vibrant cultural life.

You can explore the full programme and latest updates on the official cultural agenda at: **em.guimaraes.pt**

TRADITIONAL FESTIVITIES

JOIN US



Christmas City

Every December, Guimarães transforms with festive lights, markets, concerts, and an ice rink. Experience local traditions, enjoy seasonal treats, and soak up the holiday spirit in the historic center.



Nicolinas Festivities

Over 300 years old, the Nicolinas are Guimarães' traditional student celebrations honoring St. Nicholas. From November 29 to December 7, the festivities begin with the lively Pinheiro event.

TRADITIONAL FESTIVITIES

JOIN US



Gualterianas Festivities

Held in the summer, the Gualterianas are among Guimarães top tourist events. With over a century of tradition, they fill the city with color, music, and celebration. Highlights include decorated float parades, funfair rides, market stalls, live concerts, and a vibrant cultural atmosphere that attracts thousands from across the region.



Afonsina Fair

An historical celebration that takes visitors back to the 12th century, the time of Afonso Henriques, Portugal's first king.

Guimarães historic center becomes a medieval market with reenactments, military camps, taverns, craftsmen, merchants, and interactive activities. The fair features themed areas that bring medieval life to vivid reality, including shows and historical performances.

PRACTICAL INFO.

Portugal uses the Euro €, so if you're coming from another EU country, you won't have any issues with currency. If you're arriving from outside the Eurozone, you can easily exchange your money at the airport or at any banking agency.

As a student, opening a bank account in Portugal is usually free and simple. Most universities have partnerships with local banks to help students opening their first accounts and benefit from special student offers.

With a Portuguese bank account, you can pay your bills, manage your phone plan, and withdraw money from ATMs (called "Caixas de Multibanco"). Portugal's state-owned bank is Caixa Geral de Depósitos, which has a branch in Guimarães, but there are many other banks to choose from. Your university can help guide you through the options.

FINANCE AND POSTAL SERVICES

The national postal service is called CTT.

There are many CTT branches throughout the city, so you'll likely find one near you. From there, you can send mail and packages anywhere in the world.

For more information, visit

www.ctt.pt

PRACTICAL INFO.

The best way to get around Guimarães is by public transport. If you have your student card, you can get a discount on the monthly pass. Guimabus is the city bus service that makes it easy to travel around Guimarães. For more information, visit: **www.guimabus.pt**.

If you need **healthcare services**, here's what you should know:

- European citizens: You should bring your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), which guarantees access to essential healthcare.
- Citizens from non-EU countries: If you stay less than 3 months, you must have health insurance. If you stay longer than 3 months, you can apply for the National Health Service (SNS) card at any healthcare center or Citizen's Shop ("Loja do Cidadão").

TRANSPORTATION AND HEALTHCARE

Note: Dental care is usually not covered by the Portuguese National Health Service.

You can also contact the SNS by phone for medical advice and information by calling 808 24 24 24. This line is available 24/7 and is often the first point of contact before going to a healthcare center or hospital.

Your university might have its own healthcare services, often cheaper for students. Check your university's website for more information.

There is always a pharmacy open 24/7 on duty, although the specific pharmacy changes regularly.

Your university might provide its own healthcare services, often at a lower cost for students. It is advisable to check your university's website for more information.

ESN CARD



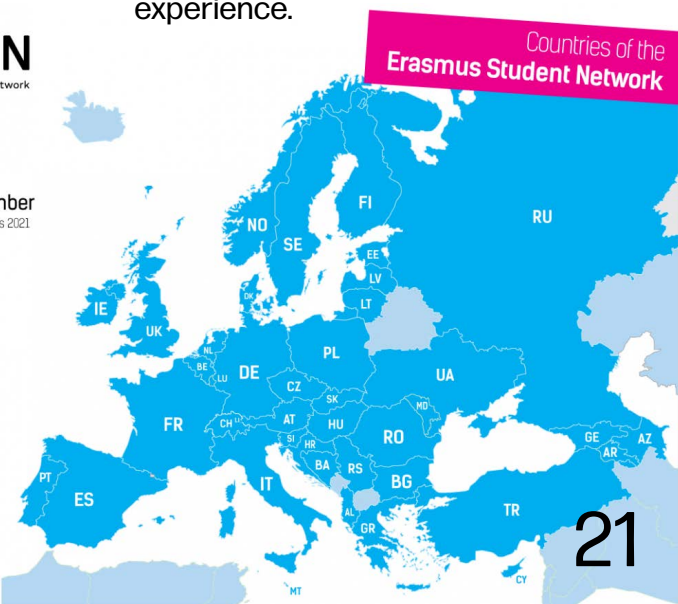
The **ESNcard** is the official card of the Erasmus Student Network, offering students on international mobility programs access to discounts and benefits across 40+ countries. It provides savings on travel, accommodation, dining, events, and more.

Available to Erasmus+ students, international exchange students, interns, volunteers, and ESN members, the card also grants access to activities organized by local ESN sections.

In Guimarães, the ESNcard gives you discounts at restaurants, shops, travel services, and ESN Minho events. It helps you save money, meet people, and fully enjoy your exchange experience.



● ESN member
as of GA Brussels 2021





VISIT
GUIMARÃES 

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and Service Desk**

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