

Chapel of S. Miguel

The medieval Church of São Miguel do Castelo in Guimarães, is within the grounds that encompass Guimarães Castle and the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança. The medieval church is emblematically linked to the foundation of the Portuguese Kingdom. Legend suggests that it was the sight of the baptism of the young Afonso Henriques. These claims are contradictory, since the date of the church's founding has been suggested to be during the reign of Afonso II of Portugal. The Church of São Miguel do Castelo has a simple design with a single nave and chancel. The walls are granite blocks and the floor of the nave is paved with the granite tombstones of Portuguese knights. Some of the windows are merely slits. The granite font with an adjacent plaque proclaims it as the baptism site of Afonso Henriques.



Alberto Sampaio Museum

Located where, in the 10th century, Countess Mumadona Dias ordered the construction of a monastery. The original town grew around it. In the 12th century, the monastery became a collegiate church under the invocation of Santa Maria, and later Our Lady of Oliveira. The Museum was created in 1928 to house the artistic assets of the extinct collegiate church Our Lady of Oliveira and of other churches and convents in Guimarães. Its collection is predominantly of local origin and ancient sacred art, with a fine collection of jewellery, textiles, sculpture, painting and woodcarving.
Highlights: D. Sancho I's roman chalice, the image of Santa Maria de Guimarães (13th century), processional crosses, the magnificent Gothic retable of gilded silver representing the Nativity (14th century), the vest that the Portuguese King João I wore during the battle of Aljubarrota in 1385.



Penha Sanctuary

Inaugurated in 1947, this sanctuary is located at the highest point of the municipality of Guimarães, Monte da Penha.
In addition to this sanctuary, you'll find in this 60-hectare park a statue of the Pope Pius IX in a location where you can enjoy an amazing view over the city and its surroundings, a view that stretches all the way to the sea in clear days.
At Monte da Penha, you'll also find other points of interest like a campsite, restaurants, a hotel, minigolf, a tourist mini-train, an equestrian centre, some picnic areas, some chapels, walking routes, caves and several viewpoints.



Guimarães Castle

It was founded in the 10th century, by countess Mumadona Dias, and since then, it has undergone many transformations until the present days. Count D. Henrique, father of the first king of Portugal, made some renovations in the 12th century. Later, in the 13th and 14th century, King D. Dinis built the main tower and the eight turrets, flanking the castle walls. Other renovations were carried out during the reign of D. João I in the 15th century, that have defined its final form. Inside the main tower, there is an interpretation centre, divided into three floors, one with the figures connected to the history of the castle and the history of Portugal, another floor, where the different construction phases of the castle are shown, and finally a room with images allusive to first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques.



Historic centre of Guimarães

It is an urban space of the city of Guimarães, tracing back to medieval age covering an area of 16 hectares and retaining many buildings from the medieval age until 19th century. Since 2001, it is declared as a World Heritage Site of UNESCO.

Guimarães is closely linked to the formation of national identity and of Portuguese language in 12th century. It is the native city of Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, who in 1139, declared independence of the country.

The Historic Centre includes:

The half-timbered houses
Santa Clara Convent
Santa Maria Street & Santiago Square
Old Palace Council & Old Town Hall
Oliveira Square and Arch
Padrão do Salado
Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira
"Here was born Portugal" City Walls

Guimarães World Heritage City



Palace of the Dukes de Bragança

Built by order of the first Duke of Bragança, D. Afonso, illegitimate son of King D. João I, between 1420 and 1433.

During the 16th century, the Palace was still used as the residence of the Dukes of Bragança. In the 19th century, during the French invasions, it was adapted to a military barrack. In the next century, during the "Estado Novo" regime, the Palace was rebuilt. It was inaugurated in 1959, the year in which it became the official residence of the President of the Republic in the north of the country.

Today it is a museum. Highlight to the tapestries, furniture, ceramics, paintings and armoury collections.