

Historic Centre of Porto- World Heritage

Walking tour



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The city of Porto lies on uneven ground, on two hills, both overlooking the rio Douro (Douro River). In 1996, the historic centre was classified by UNESCO as World Cultural Heritage. This classification covered the old town, with many medieval and modern buildings, century-old streets, interspersed with archaeological remains from the 4th to the 3rd centuries b.c.

1. Edifício da Reitoria / Rectorate Building

Praça de Gomes Teixeira



The Rectorate building in Praça de Gomes Teixeira (Gomes Teixeira Square) lies in the heart of the historic centre, an urban area with a strong medieval imprint. It is surrounded by remarkable buildings such as the Clérigos monument (national monument), the building of the former Cadeia e Tribunal da Relação do Porto (Tribunal Jail and Court of Appeal of Porto), building of public interest, converted into the Centro Português de Fotografia (Portuguese Centre for Photography) in 1997, the former Hospital da Misericórdia (Misericórdia Hospital), today Hospital de Santo António (Santo António Hospital, national monument), the church of the former

Convento dos Carmelitas Descalços (Convent of the Discalced Carmelites) and the Igreja da Venerável Ordem Terceira do Carmo (Church of the Honourable Order of Terceira do Carmo).

Built and remodeled over more than one century, the building housed the Royal Academy of Maritime and Trade Affairs (1803-1837) and the Polytechnic Academy of Porto, its successor (1837-1911). The space belonged to the Colégio dos Meninos Órfãos (College of Orphaned Children), which remained there until mid-19th century. The College building resembled a convent, with four wings around a cloister and a church - Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Graça (Church of Nossa Senhora da Graça) - on the northern side.

In 1911, with the establishment of the University of Porto, this building housed the Rectorate, the Faculty of Sciences, with its museums and laboratories, and an Engineering School, linked to that Faculty. On 20 April 1974, a devastating fire destroyed part of the construction.



This monument is currently home of the Rectorate of the U.Porto and of two museums: the Museum of Natural History and the Science Museum, both established in 1996.

2. Fonte dos Leões / Fountain of Lions

Praça de Gomes Teixeira

The Fonte dos Leões (Fountain of Lions) is a monumental fountain 8 metres wide and 6 metres tall, integrated in the water supply system of Porto during the 1880s. It was awarded to the french company “Compagnie Générale des Eaux pour l'Etranger”, also responsible for the construction of this public equipment. Approved in 1885, it came into operation from the next year on.



The fountain, besides decorating the Praça dos Voluntários da Rainha (Voluntários da Rainha Square), provided the required ventilation and oxygenation of the water, and provided relief to pipes under pressure.

3. Hospital de Santo António / Santo António Hospital

Largo do Professor Abel Salazar



The Hospital da Santa Casa da Misericórdia do Porto (Hospital of Santa Casa da Misericórdia do Porto) was built in Jardim da Cordoaria (Cordoaria Garden) during the reign of D. José I (King José I). Intended to replace the 16th century Hospital de D. Lopo de Almeida (Hospital of D. Lopo de Almeida), it was designed by the english architect John Carr (1727-1807), at the request of John Whitehead (1726-1802), consul of the british nation, a scientist, bibliophile and amateur architect, and of the reverend Henry Wood, chaplain of this foreign community between 1757 and 1768.

John Carr conceived in 1769 a monumental square brick building with four façades and a central patio with a chapel, covering an area of 28.721sq.m. The first patients - 150 women - were admitted in 1799.

4. Igreja e antigo Convento de Nossa Senhora do Carmo / Church and former Convent of Nossa Senhora do Carmo

Rua do Carmo



The Discalced Carmelites came to Porto in 1617. The intercession of Bernarda de Lacerda, a woman of great culture and devout of the Discalced Carmelites, ensured that ten monks remained in the city. The first stone of the Convento de Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Convent of Nossa Senhora do Carmo) was laid on 5 May 1619 and the building was completed in 1622 with donations from aristocrats, merchants and the City Council.

The church dates back to the 18th century and is built on the east side of the convent, in mannerist and baroque styles.

5. Igreja da Venerável Ordem Terceira do Carmo / Terceiros do Carmo Church

Rua do Carmo



The Igreja da Venerável Ordem Terceira do Carmo (Church of Venerável Ordem Terceira do Carmo), in rococo style, was designed by the painter, architect and professor from Viseu, José de Figueiredo Seixas, for the venerable Ordem Terceira do Carmo, which he joined along with his wife in 1760.

The first stone of the temple, built on land once owned by the Discalced Carmelite monks, was blessed on 12 August 1756.

6. Café Âncora d'Ouro (Café "Piolho") / Âncora d'Ouro Café

Praça de Parada Leitão



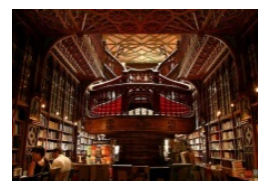
The Café Âncora d'Ouro (Ancora d'Ouro Café) has been affectionately called "Café Piolho" for a long time. In fact, no one knows the reason for that, although there are many theories to explain the fact. This café used to be frequented by university students, but also by their teachers. During the dictatorial regime (1926-1974) it was there that took place the meetings of students against the government. Someone started saying that it was a "piolhice", pejorative term to designate the socialization

between teachers and students.

7. Livraria Lello / Lello Bookstore

Rua das Carmelitas

This bookstore, considered one of the most beautiful in the world, was designed by the engineer Xavier Esteves in an eclectic style (combining art nouveau and neo-gothic elements). It was inaugurated in 1906 and restored in 1995 by the architect Vasco Morais Soares. There are paintings on the façade by José Bielman, representing art and science. Inside there are busts of portuguese writers and a stained glass ceiling with the ex-libris "Decus in Labore".



8. Conjunto Monumental dos Clérigos / Historical Monument of Clérigos

Rua de S. Filipe de Nery



The historical monument of Clérigos, in baroque style and skilfully built on uneven terrain, was intended for poor clergymen. It is formed by an elliptical-shaped church and a rectangular chancel (1732-1758) integrated in the building of the Brotherhood of Clérigos, which, in turn, is linked to a bell tower. It is the work of the tuscan painter, decorator and architect Niccolò Nasoni (1691-1773), who supervised the works free of charge and was accepted as lay-brother of that Brotherhood, and is therefore buried in the temple, somewhere under the pulpits.

The tower (1754-1763) - 76 meters high, with 6 dampers and 240 steps -, is the ex-libris of the city and has an excellent observation deck. It has 2 belfries and one of the largest carillons in the country. In the past, it was used as a commercial telegraph and a clock in Porto.

9. Jardim de João Chagas / João Chagas Garden

Campo dos Mártires da Pátria

The Jardim de João Chagas (João Chagas Garden), better known as Jardim da Cordoaria (Cordoaria Garden), is a public garden from the second half of the 19th century (1865) designed by the german Emile David (1839-1873).



The The triangular-shaped garden was totally renovated under the urban programme "Porto 2001 - European Capital of Culture" and is decorated by sculptures from different periods and styles.



10. Centro Português de Fotografia (antiga Cadeia e Tribunal da Relação do Porto) / Portuguese Center of Photography (former Jail and Court of Appeal of Porto)

Largo Amor de Perdição

The Cadeia e Tribunal da Relação do Porto (Jail and Court of Appeal of Porto) were established when the Philip dynasty ruled in Portugal. The initiative of the construction belongs to João de Almada e Melo and took place between 1765 and 1796. This austere and irregular polygonal monument has two noble façades,



one facing east, towards Rua de S. Bento da Vitória, which has a fountain and a grander frontage facing the old Alameda do Olival, now Campo dos Mártires da Pátria (Mártires da Pátria Square). The three-storey building now hosts the Portuguese Center of Photography.

11. Judiaria Nova do Olival / Jewry Nova do Olival

Rua de S. Bento da Vitória / Rua de S. Miguel



In 1386, D. João I (King João I) order the Jews scattered in Porto to move to an enclosed space, justifying the measure with security reasons.

The jewish ghetto occupied an area of 30 strips of land for which the jews paid an annual fee of 200 maravedis. It was fenced off and had two doors. Later, the Jews

moved to other areas of the city, considered now the first modern urban development in Porto. The population developed around a main axis (north-south), with perpendicular roads stemming from it. It was a town within a town.

The edict of expulsion by D. Manuel I (King Manuel I), on December 1496, brought the end of the Jewish quarters and many Jews abandoned the kingdom, while others converted to Christianity.

Recently, during some construction works at a house in Rua de S. Miguel, an “ehal” (ark) was found containing the Torah. This object was identified by archaeologists and historians of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto as one of the four existing ones in Portugal, dating from the late 16th or early 17th centuries.



11.1. Mosteiro de S. Bento da Vitória / S. Bento da Vitória Monastery

Rua de S. Bento da Vitória

The first male benedictine monastery of Porto and at the same time the last of the old Portuguese congregation was built after the royal authorization granted in 1598, near the Gothic wall and the Jewish quarters.

The project was designed by Diogo Marques Lucas. The construction and decoration phases lasted from 1604 to early 18th century. The result was a grand mannerist and baroque construction, known for its religious and artistic relevance, but also for the cultural activities held there: singing and music.



The monastery served as a hospital during the French Invasions and during the Siege of Porto, when the monks abandoned it permanently.

Between 1984-1990, a small community of benedictine monks was resettled in this monastery and the District Archive of Porto and the National Orchestra of Porto were placed here.

11.2. Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Vitória / Nossa Senhora da Vitória Church

Rua de S. Bento da Vitória

This baroque temple is situated at the junction of Rua de S. Bento da Vitória and Rua da Bateria da Vitória. This last name refers to a liberal battery during the Siege of Porto which shot at the D. Miguel supporters on the south bank of the rio Douro (Douro River). There is still a bullet in the side wall, near the south door. Facing a walled area, the church is an excellent belvedere from where we can see the historical centres of Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia.



The Igreja Paroquial de Nossa Senhora da Vitória (Parish Church of Nossa Senhora da Vitória) consists of a single nave, a rectangular top and a bell tower set against the chancel.

12. Palácio das Artes - Fábrica de Talentos / Palace of Arts - Talent Factory

Largo de S. Domingos

Situated in what remains of the Mosteiro de S. Domingos (Monastery of S. Domingos), that was founded in 1238, the building hosted the Porto branch of the Bank of Portugal. The Palácio das Artes - Fábrica



de Talentos (Palace of Arts - Talent Factory) is a project carried out by the Youth Foundation which has workshops/spaces for artistic residences, multimedia rooms, creative laboratories and visual and fine arts gallery, a restaurant and several shops. "Feiras Francas" (Art market) are held on the last Saturday of each month.

13. Rua das Flores

In this innovative street constructed during the first half of the sixteenth century were built the Private Church and House of Santa Casa da Misericórdia and some of the most important houses of the elite of Porto. In 1740, the church was threatened with collapse after which the Nasoni designs were chosen from a number of specialists, for the building's new façade. The façade is virtuously decorated.



The interior of the temple, despite the baroque decorative addition, maintains the austerity that characterizes the mannerist architecture.

14. Estação de S. Bento / S. Bento Railway Station

Praça de Almeida Garrett



It was built at the beginning of the former century, replacing a benedictine monastery founded in the 16th century - Convento de S. Bento de Avé Maria (Convent of S. Bento de Avé Maria). The vestibule of the station is adorned with 20,000 azulejos (tiles) that were illustrated by the painter Jorge Colaço (1864-1942). It is one of the most notable artistic achievements in "azulejos" of the 20th century. The panels depict various moments of the railway and transport history as well as celebrated events from the history of Portugal.

15. Igreja dos Congregados / Congregados Church

Praça de Almeida Garrett

In the Porto architectonic panorama of the late 17th/early 18th century, the House and the Church of Congregação do Oratório occupy an important position. Connected to a mannerist tradition that would remain in the city's architecture until the early 18th century, the church's façade presents some decorative schemes of proto-baroque style.

16. Catedral / Cathedral

Terreiro da Sé



This construction, dating from the 12th/13th century, has been enlarged and renewed over the years up to its final setting, in the 20th century, resulting in an idealized reconstitution of the medieval cathedral. Special mention goes to the cloister, from the 14th century, to the Capela do Santíssimo Sacramento (Chapel of Santíssimo Sacramento) and its silver altar, from 18th (mannerist), to the 18th century baroque

frescos in the main chapel, the galilee and the sacristy, by Nicolau Nasoni and to the sculpture, by Teixeira Lopes (father).

17.Casa da Câmara / Town-hall

Terreiro da Sé

The tower of the Town-Hall, built in the 14th and 15th centuries, was one of the most important buildings in the upper side of the city. The town meetings were held here until the mid-fifteen hundreds. Then, the building began to decay due to having been built on top of the wooden foundations of the old medieval wall. The present building was restored by the architect Fernando Távora.

18.Paço Episcopal / Bishop's Palace

Terreiro da Sé

After its construction in the 13th century, the Bishop D. Rafael de Mendonça remodelled it sometime after 1770. This palace, the largest in the city, has been ascribed to the architect Nicolau Nasoni.

19.Igreja de S. Lourenço / S. Lourenço Church

Largo do Colégio

The architectonic whole that comprises the Igreja de S. Lourenço (Church of S. Lourenço) was conceived as a College of the Society of Jesus in the city of Porto. The foundation stone was laid on 20 August 1573 and the Jesuits settled there until their expulsion in 1759. Until 1832, the Discalced Hermits of St. Augustine used the construction as a monastic space. Soon afterwards, it was acquired by the Porto's Diocese for the establishment of the Diocesan Seminary. This usufructuary keeps a museum of Sacred Art and Archaeology on premises that used to belong to the Jesuit College.



20.Feitoria Inglesa / British Factory House

Rua do Infante D. Henrique



Built between 1785 and 1790, following a plan by the Consul John Whitehead, it was meant to be used as a meeting place for the english businessmen living in Porto. On the main façade, facing Rua do Infante D. Henrique, the ground floor is made up of seven arches that give access to the colonnaded gallery. In contrast with this, the main floor is formed of high openings with verandas and pediments.

A balustrade attic tops the building.

21.Praça da Ribeira / Ribeira Square

A square of medieval origin formerly separated from the river by part of the gothic wall, transformed in the 18th century by João de Almada e Melo and John Whitehead, decorated by two fountains with statues representing St. John by the



sculpture João Cutileiro and a Cube by the artist José Rodrigues. Between the square and the bridge an interesting arcade was developed.

22. Ponte Luís I / Luís I Bridge



In the 19th century, the government determined the opening of the competition for the construction of a metal bridge over the rio Douro (Douro River) for the replacement of the suspended bridge. The winning proposal was the project of the engineer Teófilo Seyrig, from the belgian company Societé de Willebroeck.

Teófilo Seyrig had already been the author of the plan and head of the team in the project of the Ponte D. Maria Pia (Queen Maria Pia Bridge) as Eiffel's associate. The construction works began in 1881 and the inauguration occurred on 31 October 1886. The arch comprises 172m of cord and is 44.6m tall.

23. Muralhas / The Walls of Porto

The first castle walls of Porto are said to be of swabian origin, although they perhaps date from roman times (3rd-4th centuries). They were restored several times. Only a part of the wall and a turret remains near Arqueossítio no. 5 in Rua D. Hugo. During the 14th century, the old walls were replaced by new ones. There still remain some sections of them.



24. Casa do Infante / The House of Prince Henry

Rua da Alfândega



This is the building where, according to legend, Henrique, o Navegador (Henry, the Navigator) was born in 1394. Built in 1325 for the Royal Customs and the accommodation of its officials, it was annexed to the Mint at the end of the 14th century. It underwent large transformations in 1677 and it served as Customhouse until the 19th century.

Nowadays it offers a set of diversified services: Museum, Municipal Historical Archive, Thematic Library about Porto, Memory Room, Exhibition Room and an Auditorium.

www.up.pt

www.monumentos.pt

www.igespar.pt

www.cm-porto.pt

www.portoturismo.pt

http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/755/multiple=1&unique_number=890