

a Baroque itinerary of Braga



Sé Primacial

Santa Maria de Braga, the source of Portugal's devotion to the Virgin Mary, is the best sustained testimony of this bimillennial city. As H. Wölfflin put it, also here the "Baroque" has imposed itself on the earlier styles, with the idea of being the only one legitimately based and at the same time infallible (H. Wölfflin). That excellence begun under the responsibility of the archbishop D. Rodrigo de Moura Teles (1704-1728) and remained all 18th century.



Igreja de S. Victor

An illustrative example of the advent that announces a new atmosphere, the church is dedicated to Braga's martyr saints. It has been altered at D. Luiz de Sousa's request (1677-1690) and designed by Miguel De Lescolle, a military engineer (17th / 18th century).



Igreja de S. Vicente

It is the church that gathers together the medieval suburb built on the ancient paths leading to the Northeast of Minho. Like S. Vitor, the church exhibits an earlier structure featuring the first herald of the Baroque art.



Igreja de Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe

Here we are again faced with the patronage of D. Rodrigo de Moura Teles. Clearly included in a predetermined urban programme, although it may have been a small chapel in its origin, the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe was concluded in 1725.



Igreja de Santa Cruz

Expressive of Jesus Christ's Passion, the church of Santa Cruz is the genuine exemplary work arising from the devotion of a Brotherhood. Started at the end of the first quarter of the 17th century, it would be concluded in this period.



Bom Jesus do Monte

The whole compound would justify an exclusive guidebook. A dramatized remake of Golgotha of Jerusalem, more than any details whatever, here perspective surpasses all. Architecture and scenery mingle together in a perfect symbiosis. The contrast between the granite and the whiteness of the slopes acts as a stimulus for the pilgrim to catch a glimpse of the chalice of the Holy Communion. On the way, you can hear the gurgling of the purifying water spouting from multiple wall fountains. Finally, at the bottom, see the neoclassic church of Bom-Jesus (1784-1857) whose author is the engineer Carlos Amarante.



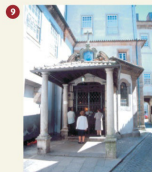
Igreja de Santa Maria Madalena

An "opera prima" of the tension between the "Baroque" and "Rocaille", Santa Maria Madalena, lying in the secluded Falperra wood is the artist genius of André Soares da Silva, Braga's most talented architect, revealing him, as R. Smith put it, "as one of the most powerful and original composers of the entire rococo movement in Europe".



Nossa Senhora da Torre

The oratory is an open air space whose nave is Saint Paul's Square. It has been erected as a thanksgiving to the Virgin for having saved the city from the earthquake devastation of 1755.



S. Bentinho

More than the material value of the artistic object in itself or the abstract memory of a lost past, the chapel of Saint Benedict of the Hospital is the perennial work of the faith rooted in the people. Daily to it hurry supplicants hoping for divine intervention, who light hosts of candles, and leave the traditional eggs offered to Saint Benedict.



Cruzeiros

Monumental Stone Crosses are a feature of the urban landscape of Braga. Among them stand out those of the Carvalheiras Square and S. Lázaro Square. The first, with evident similarities to the Stone Cross of Tibães, consist of 17th century works giving evidence of a late renaissance that leave one guessing about the new tastes that were heralded. Those preferences are already unmistakable in the case of the Monumental Baroque Cross of S. Lázaro, magnificent because of its dynamic unity.



Igreja do Hospital de S. Marcos

The complex dedicated to St. John Mark is also a game of tensions between architectural styles. Freed from the decadent rococo influence, it shows traces of a "late baroque" structure, of which an example is the noticeable convexity of the central body. On the other hand, it recovers classical motifs that excel in the general impression of the facade. The project of integration is due to the engineer Carlos Amarante (1787).



Igreja dos Congregados

A witness to the urbanization of the convents that was felt in the cities of the Counter-Reformation, the project for the building and church of the Congregation of the Oratory is equally attributed to André Soares. Its construction knew a slow development concluded at the second half of the twentieth century. According to R. Smith, it is the most emotional work of the author.



Convertidas

It is one of the rare witnesses where the continuity of the function-feminine assistance-prolonged until our day, with surprisingly subtle alterations, the atmosphere of what was an eighteenth-century House of Correction for women and the context of their way of life.



Convento da Penha de França

Initially a charitable foundation for Capuchin nuns, founded in the second half of the 17th century by the private charity of a "pious couple", Dom Rodrigo would convert it into the Rule of the Immaculate Conception. The Convent of Our Lady of Penha de França was consecrated in the year 1727.



Asilo S. José

The St. Joseph's Home for the infirm was the functional successor of the Convent of St. Teresa, disassembled in 1834, was founded by D. Gaspar de Bragança (1758-1789), who gave it to the "Senhorinha de Sant'Ana", a former Dominican nun.



Convento do Pópulo

Dated from the last years of the 16th century, ordered by D. Frei Agostinho de Jesus (1588-1609), was Carlos Amarante's very first opportunity to test his talents for integration. Without destroying the preceding Manerist structure, mainly its interior, the engineer respected the Baroque style of the facade, with special evidence for the top of the towers, by introducing the first daring neoclassical signs.



S. Frutuoso

The visigothic Christianisation of the second half of the 7th century, associated with the memory of S. Frutuoso, had as a privileged stage the foundation of a monastery in the north of Braga, in the Montielos suburb, in S. Jerónimo de Real. D. Rodrigo, upon the precedent structure of the 16th century would be laid, since 1728, the transformation of the church, which now exhibits a plain facade, proper to a still incipient "Baroque".



Mosteiro de Tibães

Nearer to the river Cávado, the traveller who is bound for the Monastery catches a glimpse of the silhouette of a great 17th century complex. Already the church, the convent and the outside enclosure interlace in a symbiosis of landscape that takes us on a magnificent trip in time.



Campo Novo

An example of a new concept of urbanization applied to Braga in the first quarter of the 18th century, the former Gavião Square and the streets converging here show the prudent assertion of an emerging rationality which breaks with the spontaneous development of the town along the radial streets.



Arcada

It is a piece included in the plan of the Renaissance's urban transformations. At the time of D. Rodrigo, the archway was renewed (1715), and a new colonnade was built. During D. Gaspar's jurisdiction, as it was already a very crowded place, the staging there of a few reinforcing evangelistic sermons strengthened the popular desire that a chapel should be built dedicated to our Lady of Lapa. (1761/64 and 1768).



Casa dos Crivos

Mainly in the streets of the town centre, Braga's civil architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries would be marked by the covering of the front elevations with blinds, certainly influenced by the window-shutters used in the fenestrations in convents. A sign of the rupture between public and private life.



Largo do Paço

The Paço represents the seat of the "Republic of Braga" finally extinct in 1790, by the first queen of Portugal. Although the definition of Paço Square was consolidated in the first half of the 17th century, it was D. Rodrigo, who gave it the overall appearance it has today. To be noted the central fountain (1723), conceived after the heraldic expression.



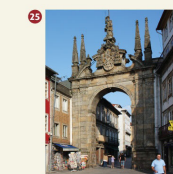
Paço Arcebispaal dos Braganças

The archbishop D. Rodrigo, D. José de Bragança (1741-56), king João V's brother, courtier and an illustrious figure ordered the erection of a new wing for the Palace in the manner of that time (1751), which is reputedly the work of André Soares in his early period. However, an analysis of the plan requires the framing of the palace with the trapezoid-shaped plan of the square in front.



Câmara Municipal

Due to the functional political-administrative realignment of the town in the mid-18th century the new "Senate House of the Town Hall" asserted itself on the opposite side of the square. Begun in 1753 and designed by André Soares, it wouldn't be completed until over a century later with the erection of the North wing.



Arco da Porta Nova

On the orders of D. Diogo de Sousa (1505-1532) the "New Gate" was opened in 1512, thereby establishing the basic axis of intramural circulation. The monumental arch, which is to be seen nowadays, was raised with financial assistance of the Crown in 1772-73 during D. Gaspar's prelacy.



Palácio dos Biscainhos

In itself it is a museum illustrating an urban seigneurial house of the 17th and 18th centuries with its everyday life. The facade opens with a curious L-shaped arrangement, giving it an urban dimension, clearly "Baroque" in the way in which it accentuates the relationship of the building to the street.



Palácio do Raio

A true ray of the "Baroque" light that had illuminated Braga a hundred years before. The festive fascination and emotion that they cause on the observer make it a paradigm of architecture. However, the "small palace", built in 1753/54, is delimited by the Baroque design open in length, all the rest is a "Soaresque" version of their "Rocaille" of Franco-German inspiration that stifles its supporting area.



Casa Rolão

This house is yet another example that combines use with ambition, the residential function with ostentation. Equally attributed to André Soares, it may have been built for a merchant between 1758 and 1761.



Casa de Vale Flores

It is a seigneurial house with the dimensions of a stately home of the rural nobility and the function of an estate, included in the urban influence area.



Sete Fontes

Located on the surroundings, at the place of Areal, the Seven Springs were a complex system of capturing and leading water to the 18th century city. The Seven Springs are a patrimonial value, which testify expressions of art, engineering and life.

a Baroque itinerary of Braga



Town Hall



ingles



PORTA
Braga



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Useful Information / Accommodation

Meliá Hotel & Spa ***** / 182 rooms - Avenida João Paulo II - Tenões (351 253 144 000)
Hotel Bracara Augusta ***** / 19 rooms - Av. Central, 134 (351 253 206 260)
Hotel do Parque ***** / 47 rooms - Bom Jesus do Monte - Tenões (351 253 603 470)
Hotel do Templo ***** / 42 rooms - Bom Jesus do Monte - Tenões (351 253 603 610)
Hotel Elevador ***** / 22 rooms - Bom Jesus do Monte - Tenões (351 253 603 400)
Hotel Golden Tulip Braga ***** / 63 rooms - Via Falperra (351 253 240 700)
Hotel Mercure Braga Centro ***** / 128 rooms - Praca João XXI (351 253 206 000)
Hotel São Vicente ***** / 26 rooms - Largo de Infilas (351 253 209 500)
Aparthotel Mãe D'Água **** / 30 rooms - Lugar da Mãe D'Água - Bom Jesus (351 253 676 762)
Basic Braga by Axis **** / 145 rooms - Largo da Estação, 732 (351 253 148 000)
Grande Hotel do Bom Jesus **** / 31 rooms - Largo Mãe D'Água - Bom Jesus (351 253 281 222)
Hotel Carandá **** / 82 rooms - Av. da Liberdade, 96 (351 253 614 500)
Hotel Comfort Inn Braga **** / 72 rooms - R. Damiana Maria da Silva, 20 (351 253 000 600)
Hotel da Estação **** / 51 quartos - Largo da Estação, 13 (351 253 218 381)
Hotel da Sra. do Sameiro **** / 91 rooms - Av. Nossa Senhora do Sameiro, 60 (351 253 603 620)
Hotel do Lago **** / 53 rooms - Bom Jesus do Monte - Tenões (351 253 603 020)
Hotel Lamacães **** / 52 rooms - Av. Dom João II, 75 - Nogueira (351 253 603 680)
Hotel Residencial D. Sofia **** / 34 rooms - Largo S. João do Souto (351 253 263 160)
Hotel Senhora-a-Branca **** / 21 rooms - Largo Senhora-a-Branca, 58 (351 253 269 938)
Bragathuthotel ** / 13 rooms - R. São Marcos, 80 (351 253 277 187)
Hotel Dom Vilas ** / 32 rooms - R. Conselheiro Lobato, 434 (351 253 616 818)
Hotel dos Terceiros ** / 21 rooms - R. dos Capelistas (351 253 270 466)
Hotel Ibis **** / 72 rooms - R. do Carmo, 38 (351 253 204 800)
Hotel João XXI **** / 40 rooms - Av. João XXI, 849 (351 253 616 630)
Hotel São Nicolau **** / 14 rooms - Av. João XXI, 732 (351 253 609 463)

Albergaria da Sé / 12 rooms - R. D. Gonçalves Pereira, 51 (351 253 214 502)
Hospedaria do Mosteiro de Tibães / 9 rooms - R. do Mosteiro - Mire de Tibães (351 253 282 420)
Sabores Gelados / 4 rooms - R. do Souto, 141 (351 253 067 144)
Residencial C.C. Avenida / 40 rooms - Av. Central, 27 - Bloco I (351 253 275 722)
Residencial Dora / 12 rooms - Largo Senhora-a-Branca, 92/94 (351 253 200 180)
Liberdade Guesthouse / 4 rooms - Av. da Liberdade, 696 - 3ª (351 936 195 355)
Pophostel / 6 rooms - R. do Carmo, 61 - 3ª (351 963 453 175)
Truthostel / 20 rooms - Av. da Liberdade, 738 - 2ª (351 253 609 020)

Casa do Paço de S. Mamede / 3 rooms - Lugar do Paço - S. Mamede D'Este (351 253 676 401)
Casa dos Lagos / 10 rooms - E.N. 103 KM 3.3 - Bom Jesus - Tenões (351 253 676 738)
Hotel Rural Alves / 10 rooms - Travessa de Torneiros, 9 - Penso S. Vicente (351 253 269 435)
Quinta de Lages / 3 country houses - Lugar de Lages - S. Paio de Pousada (351 965 079 742)
Quinta de Semelhe / 3 apartments - Lugar da Mata - Semelhe (351 966 406 839)

Youth Hostel / 8 rooms - R. Sta. Margarida, 6 (351 253 616 163)

Camping Park - Estrada Nacional 101 (351 253 273 355) (April to October)

From Roman Period:

- 1 Idol Fountain
- 2 Roman Bath Complex

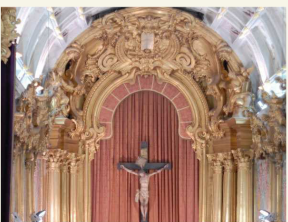
D. Diogo de Sousa Regional Archeology Museum



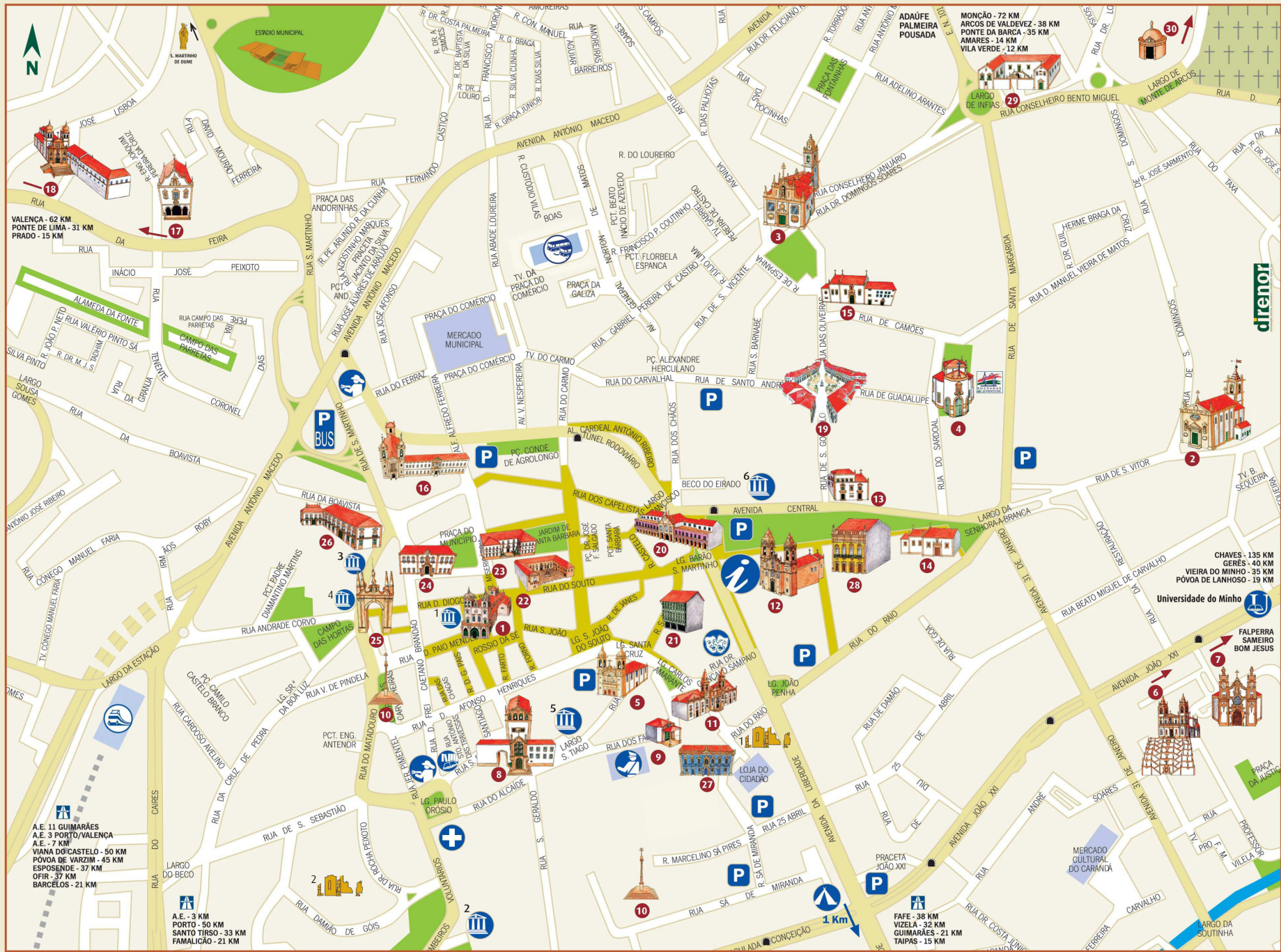
Mosteiro de S. Martinho de Tibães

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Igreja de Sta. Cruz



■ Pedestrian Area
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📍 Touristic Information
🚉 Train Station
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1. Cathedral Treasure Museum
2. Museum of Archaeology D. Diogo de Sousa
3. Biscainhos Museum

4. Image Museum
5. Pio XII Museum
6. Nogueira da Silva Museum

📖 Library
🎭 Theatro Circo
🎓 University of Minho

🏥 Medical Centre
👮 Police
🚒 Fire Department

🏟 Municipal Stadium
🏕 Camping Site
🏠 Youth Hostel