

Évora



Stripes of lilac, buttercup, and cornflower blue encircle the windows of simple whitewashed houses. Glazed urns, embellished with rings of blue daisies and olive leaves flank oak doors. Above terracotta rooftops, princely bell towers of Baroque design, rise and chime the hour with their long resounding tones. The glorious nuances of Portuguese tradition merge with the rich histories of kings and explorers in this enchanting Alentejo city. A stunning 18th century atmosphere is preserved within ancient praças where troubadours roam, singing the evocative love songs of an enduring past.

Memorable Experiences

Hidden Green

Bask in the tranquility of Évora University's Renaissance cloister.

Cinema Nights

Enjoy European cinema at the Évora International Short Film Festival.

A Charming Stroll

Wander through the Praça do Giraldo and experience the essence of the city.

An Intriguing Chapel

Meditate among ancient bones in the 13th century Capela dos Ossos.

Distinctive Details

An impressive medieval aqueduct structure of grey brick arches stretches for nine kilometers across the northwest of Évora. This engineering marvel, built in 1537, supplied water to the city center.

Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

Alentejo's Wine Route

Singular wineries dot the fertile plains of the Alentejo, forming a scenic wine route that curves through historic villages, beyond breathtaking landscapes. Varieties of both red and white grapes grow from the gnarled branches of acclaimed vineyards.

Destination Information

Country Portugal

Elevation 321 meters

Population 41,159

Language Portuguese



Area Code: 266
Country Code: 351



Évora Airport (EVA)



Transportation:
Car, Taxi, Intercity Train, Bike



Euro

Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



Convento do Espinheiro, Heritage Hotel

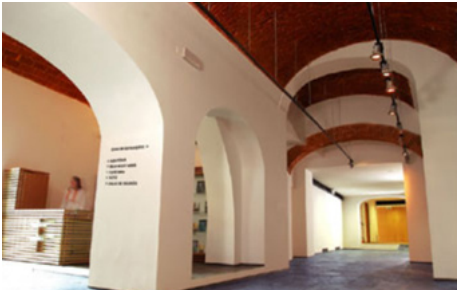
Convento do Espinheiro
Evora, Portugal
Phone: (351)266 788200



Culture

Destinations of unique beauty honor a tradition steeped in art and exploration.

Highly Recommended



Fundação Eugénio de Almeida

The lacy strains of a Portuguese guitar float beneath the red brick arches of a modern auditorium. Alluring melodies drift out into whitewashed galleries whose walls have been graced by the works of Picasso, Miro, Dali, Niki de Saint Phalle and Joe Deal. Dating from 1963, the Eugénio de Almeida Foundation is devoted to developing Évora's cultural, educational, and social atmosphere. In addition to concerts and art exhibitions, the foundation hosts seminars on topics like design, and workshops on architecture and literature.

Address: Rua Vasco da Gama, 13
Phone: (351)(266)737144



Évora Cathedral

Carved of ivory marble, twelve apostles flank an immense arched doorway. Humbly they pose, with works of scripture clutched in their arms. Beyond this radiant entry, a vast medieval nave leads to a baroque chapel formed of pink and grey marble walls, intricate moldings, and vermillion carpets. An iconic structure, dating from the 12th century, this magnificent rose granite cathedral rises above Évora's graceful cityscape. A pair of staunch, bell towers define its glorious façade, while gothic arches frame a leafy courtyard in its tranquil cloister.

Address: Largo do Marquês de Marialva
Phone: (351)(266)769800

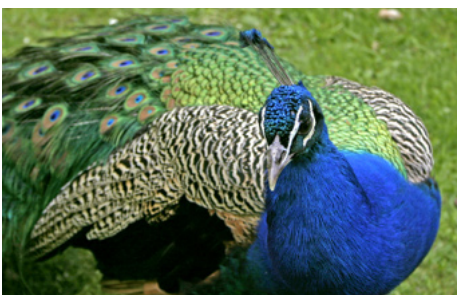


Roman Temple

Fourteen Corinthian columns rise from a stone platform. Fluted shafts of granite lead to remarkably well-preserved capitals abloom with acanthus leaves and unfurling scrolls. An exquisite relic of Roman architecture, situated in the heart of Évora's historic center, this evocative ruin testifies to the city's important classical past. For over two millennium, this majestic edifice has withstood the ravages of nature, including the devastating earthquake of 1755. Also known as the Temple of Diana, it stands beside the radiant São João Evangelista convent.

Address: Largo do Conde de Vila Flor
Phone: (971)(4) 353 6666

Local Charms



Palacio de Dom Manuel

Peacocks stroll across verdant lawns, dragging their feathery trains. Lush trees shade crimson benches from the afternoon sun. Surrounded by sumptuous gardens, an intriguing palace hints at a 16th century past. Once the residence of Portugal's powerful monarchs, the gracious grey stone and white stucco palace is said to be the site where Vasco de Gama was appointed commander of the Indian Fleet. Moorish architecture merges with Gothic and Renaissance in a distinct style known as Manueline. A medieval gallery hosts exhibitions on art and science.

Address: Jardim Publico, Rua da Republica



Shopping

A legacy of unrivaled craftsmanship is revealed in atmospheric village workshops.

Day Excursions



San Pedro Do Corval

Terracotta pots rest upon long boards of raw wood, baking in the heat of an Alentejo sun. Emblematic urns border the roadside beneath signs that say “Olaria,” the Portuguese word for “pottery.” Renowned for ceramics, this peaceful village nestled into the arid terrain southeast of Evora is dotted with shops and studios. Within pristine white buildings, trimmed in lilac, clover, and Mediterranean blue, clay is formed into plates, bowls, urns, and platters, each one embellished with native motifs of posies of lemon daisies and rings of blue cypress.

Address: 45 kilometers southeast of Evora, just outside Reguengos de Monsaraz

Neighborhoods



Arraiolos

Heavy woolen yarns unravel, shades of blue merging with olive and rust. Strong, stealth fingers weave a long needle in and out in careful, crafting even stitches. An exquisite carpet emerges, formed by an ancient skill passed down through hundreds of generations, an emblem of this jubilant country. Within the village of Arraiolos, this enduring tradition persists. Vibrant collections of fine, hand-embroidered rugs hang in the doorways of charming shops, beckoning with their radiant patterns of floral garlands, delicate latticework, swans, and peacocks.

Address: Highway N14, 20 kilometers north of Évora

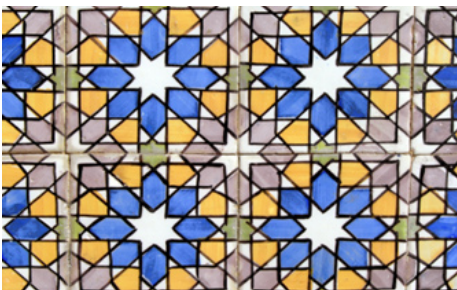


Rua 5 de Outubro

Sunlight glints off the shiny copper pots hanging from the doorway of a tall white house with a green balcony. A few doors down, miniature wooden chairs line up along the outer wall of a shop as if in a fairytale, one poppy red, another regal blue. From carved wooden spoons, to baskets made of cork and wicker, intricate ironwork, and clay plates painted with rings of golden leaves, a wealth of authentic handmade wares fills the shops that line this pedestrian street.

Address: Between the cathedral and the Praça de Giraldo

Shops & Boutiques



O Pierrot

Soft wool blankets of lime, tangerine, and kelly green form colorful stacks. Bountiful wreaths of poppies and buttercups adorn small, hand-painted chests that rest upon the woven straw seats of wooden farm chairs. Ceramic tiles, painted in the emblematic blue patterns of traditional azulejos cover a wall. This alluring, jewel box of a store on Rua 5 de Outubro overflows with the native handicrafts of this vibrant region, including products locally made of cork and leather. Beneath its plain white awning, wicker baskets brim with treasures of the Alentejo.

Address: Rua 5 de Outubro 67-A



Cuisine

Fresh ingredients from the Alentejo's fields and forests combine in authentic recipes.

Acclaimed



Divinus

Wild herbs plucked from the Alentejo plains infuse meats from the Montado forests. Organic olive oil mingles with tomatoes and breadcrumbs in a traditional dish known as migas. Codfish, an intrinsic element of a Portuguese menu, lies on a bed of green coriander. From white pumpkin soup to egg and honey pudding, the most beloved dishes of this epicurean region take shape in one of Évora's finest kitchens. Timeless dishes, each one faithful to its distinct heritage, are graciously served beneath the transporting gothic arches of a medieval dining room.

Address: Convento do Espinheiro Hotel & Spa

Phone: (351)(266)788200

Indigenous Flavors



Restaurante Fialho

Beneath the dark wooden beams of a slatted ceiling, Alentejo delicacies are masterfully prepared in an atmospheric dining room. Trophy antlers are mounted on ivory walls among fine Portuguese ceramics displayed like works of art. Seats of brass-studded leather surround tables swathed in white. For over half a century, the Fialho family has held court over this authentic kitchen. Regional specialties such as oven baked lamb, wild boar tenderloins, sheep's cheese, and wild asparagus fill the bright space with their exquisite aromas.

Address: Travessa dos Mascarenhas, 16

Phone: (351)(266)703079



Luar de Janeiro

Gleaming bottles of vinhos tintos and vinhos brancos recline in wooden display cases like regal sentries. Respected labels bare the names of local wineries, promising exceptional accompaniments to memorable feasts of indigenous flavors. Forest mushrooms marinate in olive oil infused with mint while thin slices of beef carpaccio mingle with succulent olives from this authentic Portuguese kitchen. Gracefully, the elements of Alentejo cuisine take shape in this restaurant's charming dining room.

Address: 13 Travessa do Janeiro

Phone: (351)(266) 351266

Local Specialty



O Antão

Cockles marinate in a sauce of coriander and garlic. Simple sides of rice and spinach accompany an exquisite fillet of codfish while lamb is braised to perfection. Alentejo tradition infuses this elegant restaurant in the heart of Evora. Its classic interior blossoms with the elements of the Portuguese countryside. Antique wine vessels rest upon timeworn tables, alluding to a marvelous list of reds and whites from this glorious Portugal region.

Address: Rua João de Deus, 5

Phone: (351)(266) 706459



Noteworthy

Enchanting moments arise among atmospheric vineyards, villages, and waterways.

Day Excursions



Monsaraz

Undulating plains cloaked in corn-hued fields and evergreen shrubbery stretch to the horizon. In the distance, blissful lakes sparkle beneath vast blue skies. From the top of one of the country's most ancient and important castles, a splendid landscape is revealed. At its heart, the tiny, hilltop village of Monsaraz glows in the late-day light. Thick shawls of bougainvillea tumble over the sides of rock walls, caressing streets of grey stone with their fuchsia blossoms. Serenity engulfs these white corridors of medieval homes surrounded by an ancient wall.

Address: 50 kilometers southeast of Evora, off Highway N256, just beyond the Reguengos de Monsaraz



Almendres Cromlech

Shadows begin to creep across copper earth. As the color of the sky deepens into a brilliant blue, the nuances in the rough faces of Neolithic stone emerge. Massive oval boulders, they rise from the dusty ground like the petrified eggs of dinosaurs, forming a mysterious ring in a clearing surrounded by towering cork trees. A prehistoric monument, formed of nearly one hundred megaliths, it rises from the fertile terrain west of Évora. Geometrically aligned in relation to the equinox, this mystifying site was most likely used for early sacred rituals.

Address: 15 kilometers west of Évora, off Highway N114

Highly Recommended



Herdade do Esporão

Glistening bunches of rich purple grapes hang like precious jewels among the feathery green leaves of craggy vines. A 15th century tower rises in their midst, a crenellated cube of gleaming white. Nearby, the prized wines of this acclaimed vineyard age in barrels of French and American oak. Like patient sentinels, they line the illuminated walls of an enchanting cellar where Trincadeira, Aragonez, and Cabernet Sauvignon varieties await their moment. An exquisite destination, this celebrated vintner hosts tastings and tours of its unrivaled estate.

Address: Apartado 31, Reguengos de Monsaraz

Phone: (351)(266)509280

Recreation



Amieira Marina

Calm waters ripple as a boat pulls up to the wide teak dock. A pair of kayakers paddle out toward a wading heron. A stunning paradise amidst the serene landscape of eastern Portugal, the Great Lake is the largest man-made body of water in Europe. Surrounded by fragrant olive groves, the magnificent lake offers a rare opportunity to ply its fresh, placid waters. In addition to boat rentals, Amieira Marina includes a terrace bar and an exceptional restaurant with panoramic views of the majestic surroundings.

Address: 50 kilometers southeast of Evora, off Highway E802, 6 kilometers east of Portel