

### 1 THE CHURCH OF SÃO JOÃO BAPTISTA

Built side-by-side with *Corredoura* (traditional commercial street), this church was built in the 16th-century over existing 12th-century structures. The façade, in Gothic-flamboyant style, has a portal with *alfiz*. The Manueline octagonal clock tower has Visigothic motifs on its base (funerary pediment displaying two confronted animals flanking a fleur-de-lis). Inside the church, notable features include the painting attributed to the 14th-century artist Gregório Lopes and the Flemish triptych representing the Baptism of Christ.

### 2 THE SYNAGOGUE

This is the oldest synagogue in Portugal. It was built from scratch in the middle of the old Jewish Quarter set up by Prince Henry the Navigator and still preserves its original character. Closed after the expulsion of Jews by King Manuel I, it has served several purposes such as a jail and a warehouse. Today, it houses the Jewish Museum Abraão Zacuto. Of the original elements, four columns and the acoustic system (clay pitchers embedded in the walls) still remain intact.

### 3 THE LOPES/GRAÇA MEMORIAL HOUSE

Lopes-Graça was born in Tomar in December 1906. Some personal belongings and his birth certificate can still be seen in the building where he was born, now converted into memorial house. Music scores and other items bear witness to his intense artistic and political activity.



### 4 CULTURAL COMPLEX OF LEVADA

(former Lagares d'El Rei and Moinhos da Ribeira da Vila)  
The first Charter granted to Tomar by D. Gualdim Pais (1162) already associated this riverside area with mills for grinding cereals and olive presses.

### 5 THE ESTAUS

Prince Henry the Navigator, appointed governor of the Order of Christ by his father, King João I, has lived in Tomar. Among other works, he ordered the construction of the *Estaus* or *Paços da Ribeira*, hostels designed to lodge the people who came to the city on the orders of the Prince such as officials of the kingdom and nobles.

### 6 THE CASA DOS CUBOS

In the 15th century, it has served as a warehouse for goods such as cereals, vegetables, wine and olive oil received by the Order of Christ as payments in kind. Recently renovated, it has been specifically designed for tourism and cultural purposes for which it has received several international awards for architecture.

### 7 THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DO OLIVAL

Built over a former Benedictine monastery, this 13th-century-Gothic church has, since the early beginnings of the nation, contained the spirit of the Knights Templar. It has served as a Pantheon for Templar Masters such as D. Gualdim Pais, whose tombstone can still be found there. In addition to the Templar vestiges, the rose and the bell tower (old Roman watchtower) are also outstanding features. The side chapels date back from the 14th-century renovation.

### 8 THE CHAPEL OF SANTA IRIA

Old secluded retreat, the Convent of *Santa Iria* has been built over a Visigothic monastery. It has been stage to the martyrdom of the city's patron saint, Santa Iria. Rebuilt in the 16th century, the church boasts a decorated portal and window in renaissance style. The "Calvary", altarpiece attributed to João de Ruão, dominates the Valles Chapel.

### 9 THE D. MANUEL I BRIDGE OR OLD BRIDGE

Locally known as "*Ponte Velha*", it has been subjected to many changes across the centuries, specially in the 16th century, but still preserves its Roman architectural character.

### 10 THE RODA DO MOUCHÃO

A legacy from the Arabs, this water wheel is an ex-libris of the city! Made of wood and boasting a series of clay paired buckets, it is an echo of past times when it drove mills and olive presses and irrigated the crops along the river banks.

### 11 THE NÚCLEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORÂNEA (NAC)

Twentieth-century building that houses an interesting Portuguese contemporary art collection donated by Professor José-Augusto França, an illustrious art historian and critic born in Tomar, as a sign of the friendly relations he has always maintained with his hometown. The City Hall gallery for temporary exhibitions is part of this art centre.

### 12 THE MATA NACIONAL DOS SETE MONTES

With the foundation of the Order of Christ arises, in lands which already belonged to the Templars, this walled forest area known as *Cerca do Convento*, a secluded farmland which would later be served by the Philippine irrigation system. This city lung is the ideal location for a stroll and for discovering bucolic retreats such as the *Charolinha*, a classic miniature temple in Romanesque style.

### 13 THE TEMPLAR CASTLE

Built by order of D. Gualdim Pais in 1160 in the image of Middle-East castles, it boasts evidences of defence techniques, such as the alambor adossed to the great outer wall, which were used in the battles against the Moors during the reign of King Afonso Henriques. It was divided into three parts: the Almedina – the beginning of the village; the Arms Square and the Citadel with the military zone and Keep. The castle walls also comprised the *Charola*, a religious rotunda-shaped building which has later been adapted to serve as top of the nave of the Manueline church. In the 14th century, with the construction of the Convent of Christ, it has undergone major alterations.



### 14 CONVENT OF CHRIST [World Heritage]

Incorporated in the Castle grounds and built from the 12th-century *Charola*, the Convent was home to the Order of Christ from the 14th century onwards. This colossal building bears witness to prominent figures of Portuguese history such as Prince Henry the Navigator who, apart from his own residence, ordered the construction of two cloisters. The 14th-century church and cloisters date back to King Manuel I and his son João III. Filipe II, who became king at the *Cortes de Tomar* ordered the construction of the Main Cloister and other impressive works such as the *Pegões Aqueduct*.

### 15 THE CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO

Standing on the slopes of the castle hill, with a privileged view over the city, this chapel designed by João de Castilho is a superb example of the Renaissance style.

### 16 THE CHAPEL OF SÃO GREGÓRIO

Exquisite 14th-century octagonal temple topped by renaissance dome. The door boasts a Manueline decoration that resembles the one in the Chapter Window of the Convent of Christ.



# TOMAR

historic trail

## COMPLEMENTARY TRAIL

- 12** MATA NACIONAL DOS SETE MONTES
- 13** TEMPLAR CASTLE
- 14** CONVENT OF CHRIST
- 15** CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO
- 16** CHAPEL OF SÃO GREGÓRIO

You cannot leave Tomar without visiting the **TEMPLAR CASTLE AND THE CONVENT OF CHRIST**.

When you get to the end of the trail, head over to the Praça da República again, climb up the stairs behind the **CITY HALL BUILDING** and walk across the **CALÇADA DE SANTIAGO**. Feel like a pilgrim as you follow this short trail of the First European Cultural Itinerary.

To reach the **CASTLE AND THE CONVENT OF CHRIST**

you may also follow the historic-natural trail of the **MATA NACIONAL DOS SETE MONTES** (12). To do so, take the Pé da Costa de Baixo street, at the end of which you'll find the statue of Prince Henry the Navigator right in front of the Tourist Office.

Become lost in the fresh, green scents of the luxurious vegetation, in the delightful architectural romantic details and follow the trail to the top of the mountain where D. Gualdim Pais has erected the **TEMPLAR CASTLE** (13).

Either you follow one trail or the other, once you get to the Templar Castle listen to the stones whispering stories of old battles in the Castle and step into the intricate labyrinth of cloisters of the **CONVENT OF CHRIST** (14).

This monumental set has been declared World Heritage by the UNESCO (1983) and is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Route along with other monasteries such as Alcobaça, Batalha and Jerónimos. As you descend the slope through the Calçada de Santo André, make a detour and enjoy the spectacular view over the Nabão river from the Chapel of **NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO** (15). At the end of the trail admire the Manueline details of the buildings in Largo do Pelourinho. The **CHAPEL OF SÃO GREGÓRIO** (16) is also worth a visit.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

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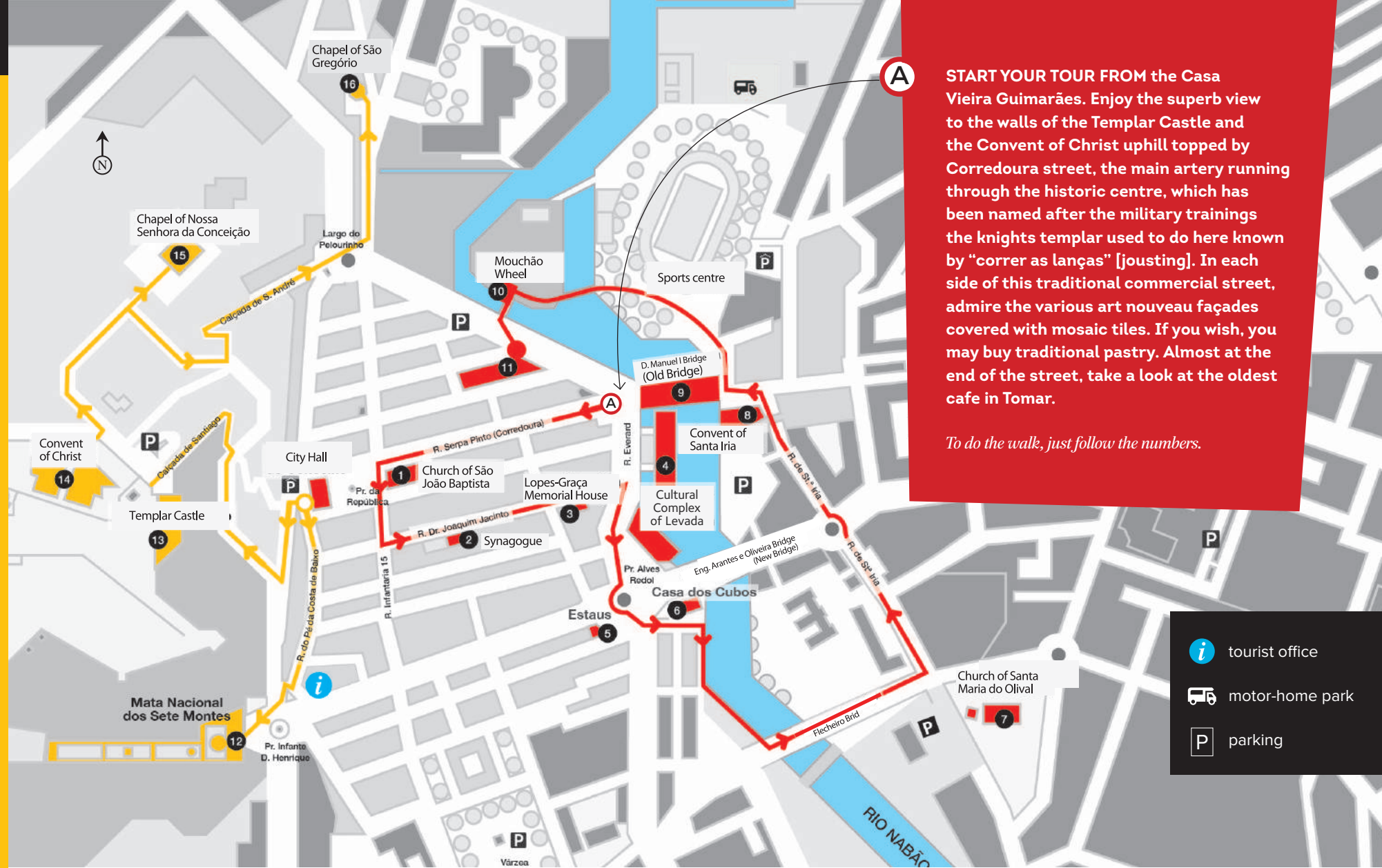
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**START YOUR TOUR FROM** the Casa Vieira Guimarães. Enjoy the superb view to the walls of the Templar Castle and the Convent of Christ uphill topped by Corredoura street, the main artery running through the historic centre, which has been named after the military trainings the knights templar used to do here known by "correr as lanças" [jousting]. In each side of this traditional commercial street, admire the various art nouveau façades covered with mosaic tiles. If you wish, you may buy traditional pastry. Almost at the end of the street, take a look at the oldest cafe in Tomar.

*To do the walk, just follow the numbers.*

- tourist office
- motor-home park
- parking

**1** When you step into the **PRAÇA DA REPÚBLICA** you are right in the heart of the city. Here the temporal power (the City Hall) and the sacred power (the Church of São João Baptista) are face to face. Right in the middle, surrounded by respectable buildings, is D. Gualdim Pais, Templar Master and founder of the city

**2** In the middle of the old Jewish Quarter look for the Synagogue of Tomar (2), the oldest Portuguese **SYNAGOGUE** built from scratch that still preserves its original character (mid15th-century). When you walk down the street, be sure not to miss the remarkable decorations and architectural details. A bit further, on the left, two 15th-century windows retain their original charm.

**3** Visit the **LOPES-GRAÇA MEMORIAL HOUSE** (3), the place of birth of this leading figure of the 20th-century culture.

**4** When you reach the **LEVADA**, an area which has been gained out of the river in the reign of King Manuel I, admire the inventiveness of our ancestors and the close, century-old relationship between the inhabitants and the river. The water turned the wheels of the old presses and mills of Ribeira Grande and drove the grinding mechanisms - vestiges of a golden period of industrialisation in Tomar - now recovered and used for tourism and cultural purposes (Cultural Complex of Levada) (4).

**5** Keep straight ahead and when you reach the roundabout discover the **ESTAUS** (5). Admire the arches, isolated and embedded in the building façade, among other vestiges.

**6** On the banks of the Nabão, the **CASA DOS CUBOS** (6), awarded with the international prize of architecture, confers a contemporary glimpse to the city landscape. From this point and continuing along the riverside you'll see the campanile of the Church of Santa Maria

**7** As you cross the river, stop and enjoy the panorama. The river, the houses, the green patch of Mata dos Sete Montes and the walls of the Templar Castle intermingle harmoniously. Feel like a templar and unveil architectural marks of past eras. Visit the **CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DO OLIVAL** (7) and, once there, try to imagine the path of legendary tunnels which, according to tradition, led to the castle.

**8** When you cross the Arco das Freiras, discover the **CONVENT OF SANTA IRIA** (8) and visit its chapel.

**9** Keeping to the left bank of the river, you'll have the opportunity to admire the **OLD BRIDGE** (9) and feel the heart of the city. And why not enjoying the sports centre?

**10** At the time of Prince Henry the Navigator, the old city has expanded with the management of the riverbanks. From the various original islets, only the **MOUCHÃO** has been preserved until today. Cross the river walking through the pedestrian bridge and delight yourself with the majesty of the trees. The **MOUCHÃO WHEEL** (10), an Arabian legacy and crucial for irrigation in past times, has become an ex-libris of the city.

**11** If you still have time, pop on down to the **CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE (NAC)** (11) and try the local pastry if you didn't have the opportunity to do it yet.



José de Guimarães work in NAC