

ITINERARY POINTS



**1. QUINTA DAS LÁGRIMAS**

Former *Quinta do Pombal*, an agricultural farm, whose first reference appears in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It is the *Saint Queen Isabel of Aragon* who requests the opening of a channel to conduct water from the two springs on the farm to the *Monastery of Saint Clare*.

One of the springs became known by *Fonte dos Amores* and the channel by *Canal dos Amores*, for having, according to the legend, transported the love letters exchanged between *Prince Pedro* (*Holy Queen Isabel's* grandson) and *Lady Inês de Castro*.

The other spring is called *Fountain of Tears*, a place where the legend, product of a poetic construction, started by *Luís Vaz de Camões*, in *Os Lusíadas* (a 16<sup>th</sup> century masterpiece of epic poetry), says that it springs the tears that *Lady Inês de Castro* cried before being beheaded. The blood got stuck in the rocks of the fountain, making the waters reddish even today!

During the Peninsular War (1801-1814), *António Maria Osório Cabral de Castro*, the ancestor of the current owners, gave shelter to *Arthur Wellesley* (afterward Duke of Wellington), to whom he was his battlefield helper. Over the years this place has suffered some changes: the creation of the romantic garden (1850), with its exotic species; the construction of a neogothic door and window and the new concept of an amphitheatre: the *Camões Hill*.

**COORDINATES:** 40.199236, -8.434908

**2. MONDEGO GREEN PARK | PARQUE VERDE DO MONDEGO**

Designed by the Portuguese architect *Camilo Cortesão*, under the *Polis* program, the *Parque Verde do Mondego*, was inaugurated on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Along 4 km on the river banks, it occupies, on the right bank, an area of 400 000 m<sup>2</sup>, totally dedicated to leisure with pedestrian walkways and bicycle lanes, pavilions with temporary exhibitions, of which stands out the *Centro de Portugal Pavilion*, designed by *Souto Moura* and *Álvaro Siza Vieira*, which represented *Portugal* at *Expo 2000* in *Hannover*.

During the summer of 2006, it was inaugurated the magnificent and innovative pedestrian bridge *Pedro and Inês*, a project by *Cecil Balmond* and *Adão da Fonseca*, which connected the two banks of the Mondego river.

On the left bank, were built a sandbox, for the practice of beach volleyball, a basic level skatepark, a variety of children's playground equipment, a picnic park and four pavilions that host nautical activities clubs (canoeing, rowing and sailing), thus ensuring many sports and leisure activities.

**COORDINATES:** 40.201822, -8.425677

**3. DR. MANUEL BRAGA PARK | PARQUE DR. MANUEL BRAGA**

The city's emblematic park where the *Nights of the Park of the Queima das Fitas* (the famous academic event) took place until 1999.

In 1888, the *Municipality of Coimbra* bought the *Insua dos Bentos*, that consisted of an orange grove, a grassy area, an open area where horse races were held and, on the east side, a soccer field where *Académica* (the football team of the academy) played. In 1920, the former *Insua dos Bentos* was proposed to be transformed into a public garden, overseeing the project the landscaper from *Porto*, *Jacinto de Matos*.

It was with rubble and protected by a stone-lined marginal slope, interrupted by benches decorated with tiles from *Aleluia Factory* in *Aveiro*.

The name of the park was deliberated on a Council Session, in order to honour *Dr. Manuel Braga*, a great promoter in the valorisation and creation of green spaces in the city, namely, the *Vale de Canas Forest* and the gardens of the *Sá da Bandeira Avenue*.

**MONUMENT TO MANUEL ALEGRE | MONUMENTO A MANUEL ALEGRE** – Statue that honors the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Manuel Alegre's* literary life, inaugurated in September of 2005.

The work represents *Manuel Alegre* wrapped in a student cape, symbolizing the "non-conformist spirit of the academy of Coimbra", based on freedom, justice, equality and poetry.

This Portuguese poet, by having assumed a position against the dictatorial regime of the *Estado Novo* (the authoritarian Portuguese regime that ran between 1933 and 1974) and against the colonial war, makes his work be guided by the ideals of Freedom and Brotherhood.

**MONUMENT TO DR. MANUEL BRAGA | MONUMENTO AO DR. MANUEL BRAGA** On April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1955, it was deliberated, on a Council Session, to honour *Dr. Manuel Braga* by giving his name to the, until then, called *Parque da Cidade*.

The tribute was justified as he was a great promoter to the valorisation and creation of green spaces in the city, namely *Vale de Canas Forest*, *Sá da Bandeira Avenue* and, in the 1920's, the remodeling of the former *Insua dos Bentos* into a public garden.

**MONUMENT TO ANTERO DE QUINTAL | MONUMENTO A ANTERO DE QUINTAL** The bust, a tribute to *Antero de Quintal* (1842-1891), was promoted by the newspaper *Diário dos Ações* and was inaugurated, in 1929, in *Jardim da Estrela* (*Lisboa*).

In 1941 the *Municipality of Lisboa* offers this piece of work to the city of *Coimbra* and it was then reinaugurated at the place where it currently stands. Born in the *Azores*, *Antero de Quintal* was a scholar in *Coimbra*, where he actively participated in a variety of associative movements such as the *Questão Coimbrã* (a famous literary controversy that changed the concept of Portuguese Literature in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century). He was the central figure of what would become the *Realism* in the *Portuguese Literature*.

**MONUMENT TO ANTONIO ARNAUT | MONUMENTO A ANTONIO ARNAUT** – This work is a tribute of the *Municipality of Coimbra* to *António Arnaut* (1936-2018) for his role in the founding of the *National Health Service*. The bust, in bronze, was made by the sculptor *Pedro Figueiredo*. Beside the sculpture was also placed a commemorative inscription with one of the statements of the honouree, also a poet and a writer: *All fruit is the will of the seed*.

**BANDSTAND | CORETO** – Designed by the architect *Silva Pinto*, it was inaugurated on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 1904. It was transferred on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1934 to the current location. It consists of a domed roof of eight sections of flat plate with a

curvilinear cast iron plat band, each one decorated with a harp; the dome has an edge made of wrought iron in the crowning.

**WATER MUSEUM | MUSEU DA ÁGUA** – The museum occupies the old pumping and water treatment station that supplied the public water system. Known as the *Casinha do Parque*, it still has inscribed the date of its construction: *CMC 1922* (*Municipality of Coimbra*). The current structure was inaugurated in March 2007 and was designed by the architects *João Mendes Ribeiro*, *Alberto Lapa* and *Paolo Monzo* to describe the history of public water supply. Also worth mentioning is the use of the underground tunnel that currently leads to a terrace along the riverbank.

**MONUMENT TO THE MOUNTAIN BARGE | MONUMENTO À BARCA SERRANA** The mountain barges were used for the transport of goods between *Penacova* and *Figueira da Foz*. The name *Serrana* [from the mountains] is due the fact that the barge came from the mountains loaded with firewood, *carqueja*, branch and foliage to be sold for the ovens of the city.

**MONUMENT TO FLORBELA ESPANCA | MONUMENTO A FLORBELA ESPANCA** The initiative to honour *Florbela Espanca* (1894-1930) was from the *Archaeology and Art Group of the Centre* and it was commissioned to the sculptor *Armando Martinez*. It was inaugurated on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1994, date that coincided with the celebrations of the first centenary of the poetess' birth. Born in *Vila Viçosa*, *Florbela Espanca* was never associated with any literary current. However, given its rather strong sentimental content, her poetry is suggestive of other Portuguese romantic authors.

**COORDINATES:** 40.205358, -8.427851

**4. BOTANIC GARDEN | JARDIM BOTÂNICO**

The Botanic Garden covers over 13 hectares of land donated by the Benedictine friars. The garden was created, in 1772, by initiative of the *Marquis of Pombal*, under the supervision of *Domingos Vandelli* with the purpose of supporting the teaching of the studies of *Natural History* and *Medicine* at the *University of Coimbra*. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, it is important to mention the work done by the botanist and naturalist *Félix Avelar Brotero*.

Designed in an Italian style, distributed by several levels, staircases and avenues, this botanic garden it is one of the most renowned botanic gardens in the world, taking the visitor on a trip around the world, due to the diversity of plants existing here. The woods occupy two thirds of the total garden area and is mainly composed of exotic trees growing freely and the bamboo.

**MONUMENT TO AVELAR BROTERO | MONUMENTO A AVELAR BROTERO** – Statue in marble, showing *Avelar Brotero*, with his doctoral robes and insignia, seated on an armchair. A work by *Soares dos Reis*, inaugurated on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1887.

**MONUMENT TO JÚLIO HENRIQUES | MONUMENTO A JÚLIO HENRIQUES** – The statue, by *Barata Feyo*, represents the teacher and botanist, great promoter of the botanical studies in *Portugal*, standing, in a ceremonial pose, with the university professor's outfit and its insignia of the university.

**MONUMENT TO LUÍS CARRISSO | MONUMENTO A LUÍS CARRISSO** – Bas-relief by *José Santos* showing *Luís Carrisso*, with glasses and a very expressive face. Inaugurated in 1948, it stands next to a small lake with water lilies.

**LARGE GREENHOUSE | ESTUFA GRANDE** – The large greenhouse, dated from 1859, is one of the oldest buildings of iron architecture style in *Portugal*. Its perfect combination between iron and glass provides the space with an unusual beauty. Recently, it was requalified with a project designed by the architect *João Mendes Ribeiro*, who sought to preserve the original characteristics by adapting the space to the new technologies and needs of scientific research. This requalification was recognised with several awards, notably the *National Urban Rehabilitation Award*, in the category of Best Intervention with Social impact.

**COLD GREENHOUSE | ESTUFA FRIA** – Built in the 1950's, it's a place where one can find flora species adapted to humid and dark environments. Inside, a tribute to the Science of Plants can be appreciated: it consists of a female nude, by the sculptor *Martins Correia*, entitled *Botany*.

**COORDINATES:** 40.205497, -8.420807

**5. DUCKS' GARDEN | JARDIM DOS PATOS**

Small garden near the ancient *Sant'Ana Fountain*, which was demolished in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The source of water, which once fed the fountain, now supplies the small lake, of naturalistic lines, that decorates the garden.

**MONUMENT TO THE STUDENT OF COIMBRA | MONUMENTO AO ESTUDANTE DE COIMBRA** – Contemporary figurative and geometrizing sculpture, by the sculptor *Pedro Cabrita Reis*, inaugurated in 1991. It is composed by a carved marble table with books in the small garden pond in which a play of light and shadow is reflected.

**COORDINATES:** 40.205719, -8.419850

**6. BOULDER OF SAUDADE | PENEDO DA SAUDADE**

A contemplative place where one can enjoy the view of the entire east side of the city, from the river till the *Lousã* and *Roxo* mountains. Created in 1847, this garden represents the romantic sensibility of that period: along the densely wooded slope the garden is divided into several small levels united by staircases and ramps. Between the rows of trees, flowerbeds and realistic streams, benches and tables were carved in stone. Throughout the garden there are commemorative memorials of academic events and course meetings, remembering the academic times of several students. Around the garden there are also tributes to several Portuguese personalities.

**MONUMENT TO ANTÓNIO NOBRE | MONUMENTO A ANTÓNIO NOBRE** – The bust, created by *Tomás Costa* and inaugurated on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1939, was an initiative of the *Municipality of Coimbra*. The bust was stolen in 1942, reappearing later and returned to its pedestal. This bust is a replica of the existing one at the *Cordoaria Garden*, in *Porto*, also made by *Tomás Costa*.

**MONUMENT TO EÇA DE QUEIRÓS | MONUMENTO A EÇA DE QUEIRÓS** – The bust, promoted by the *Municipality of Coimbra*, was commissioned to the

sculptor *Francisco Simões* and inaugurated on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2000, when the *International Congress of Queirozian Studies* was taking place in *Coimbra* to celebrate the centenary of the death of the great *Realism* Novelist.

**MONUMENT TO JOÃO DE DEUS | MONUMENTO A JOÃO DE DEUS** – The statue, by *Jorge Coelho*, was promoted by the *João de Deus Kindergarten Association* and inaugurated on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1996, at the commemoration of the first centenary of the death of the poet and pedagogue.

**COORDINATES:** 40.205147, -8.414809

**7. MERMAID GARDEN | SANTA CRUZ PARK | JARDIM DA SEREIA | PARQUE DE SANTA CRUZ**

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, by the initiative of the *Prior D. Gaspar da Encarnação*, the woods of *Santa Cruz* were transformed into what is nowadays known as *Mermaid Garden* or *Santa Cruz Park*. The park was mainly intended for contemplation and meditation of the Friars of the *Monastery of Santa Cruz*, but it also had recreational functions such as the *Game of Pela* field in the main entrance of the garden.

After the extinction of the *Religious Orders in Portugal*, the park had several private owners and in 1885, the *Municipality of Coimbra* bought *Santa Cruz Farm*, transforming it into a public space dedicated to leisure and rest.

The entrance is made through a triumphal arch into a forecourt with a waterfall of naturalist inspiration, surrounded by a body of stonework and decorative tile boards. The garden is organized in small paths that cross the tangle of trees, leading us to the large circular stream, culminating at the *Fonte da Nogueira*, which decorative elements explain the origin of the popular name of the park: *Mermaid Garden*.

**MONUMENT TO CAMILO PESSANHA | MONUMENTO A CAMILO PESSANHA** – The bust of this *Coimbra* writer cast in bronze and designed by the sculptor *Cabral Antunes* stands near the main entrance. The monument was inaugurated in 1967, on the first centenary of the birth of the *Conimbricense* (from *Coimbra*) poet.

**MONUMENT TO CABRAL ANTUNES | MONUMENTO A CABRAL ANTUNES** – The work, made by *Celestino Alves André*, was an initiative of the *Coimbra Social Communication Club*, in 1987, with the aim of honouring *Cabral Antunes* (1916-1986), a *Conimbricense* (from *Coimbra*) sculptor, with an emphasis on the medallist art, with numerous medals produced in the country and abroad.

**ART INSTALLATION: THE WORLD REMAINS SILENT | INSTALAÇÃO ARTÍSTICA: O MUNDO FICA EM SILÊNCIO** – Art installation of *Rui Chafes*, in 2004, composed by four scenarios, in a total of seven sculptures spread throughout the garden:

*The World Silenced / The Silence of the World*

*Close the Eyes Within the Eyes*

*Fear of the Fear*

*The Language of Birds*

**COORDINATES:** 40.209496, -8.419062

**8. GARDENS OF THE SÁ DA BANDEIRA AVENUE | JARDINS DA AVENIDA SÁ DA BANDEIRA**

Its construction is the result of the urbanization project for this new area of the city, acquired by the City Council, in 1885. The project, designed by the horticulturist *Jacinto Matos*, consisted of the opening of *Sá da Bandeira Avenue*, whose central space would be occupied by a public walkway, delimited by plane trees with a symmetrical distribution of flower beds and small streams in Portuguese sidewalk.

**MONUMENT TO THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER | MONUMENTO AO SOLDADO DESCONHECIDO** – In some cities of *Portugal* memorials were made, not only to mark the Portuguese presence in the *Great War*, but also to honour the memory of the military who died in the *Battle of La Lys*.

In *Coimbra*, the initiative came from a *Commission of the Coimbra Agency of the Combatants League*, presided by *Captain Augusto dos Santos Conceição*. The present monument was inaugurated on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1932. It is a limestone work by *Luís Fernandes* in partnership with architect *António Varela*, representing four soldiers, wearing the *First World War uniform*, in military formation and assuming the position to four directions around a column surmounted by a projectile that supports the city's coat of arms.

Every year, on 11<sup>th</sup> November and 9<sup>th</sup> April, tributes are held, with the deposition of wreaths, guard of honour and one minute of silence, to honour the soldiers who died in the *Great War*.

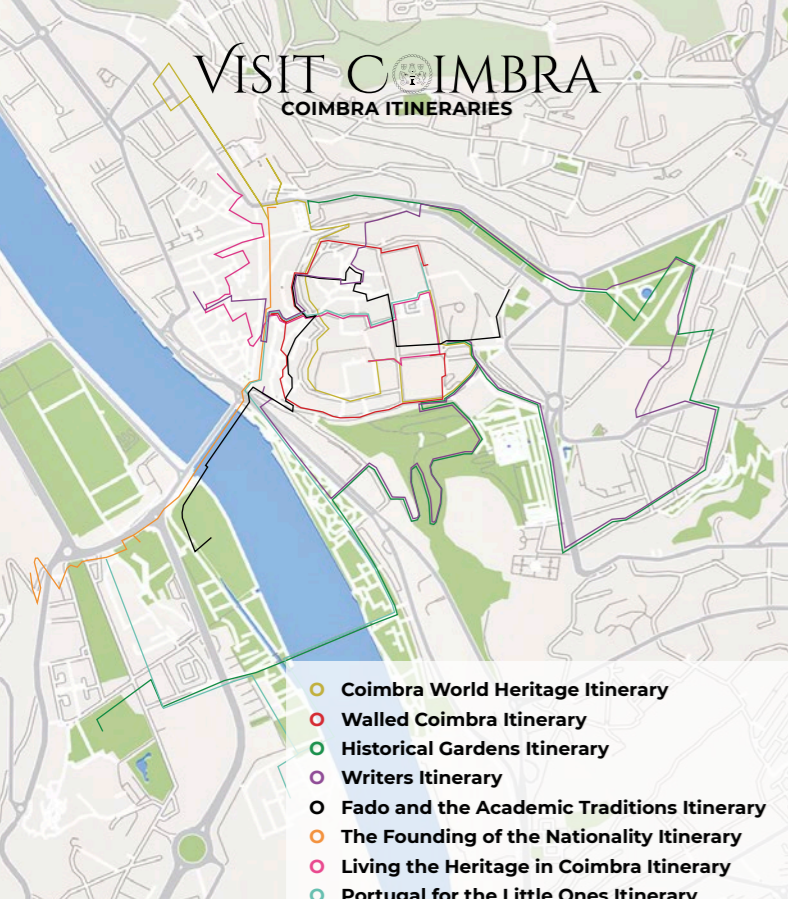
**MONUMENT TO LUÍS DE CAMÕES | MONUMENTO A LUÍS DE CAMÕES** – Sculpture set consisting of a column, topped by a bronze laurel wreath, set on a pedestal containing a bronze statue of a lion. It was an initiative of the Students of the *University of Coimbra*, on the celebrations of the three hundred years of the poet's death. It was inaugurated on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1881. On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005, the *City Council of Coimbra* transferred the monument from the former location in the *Alta* to its current place.

**COORDINATES:** 40.210811, -8.422193

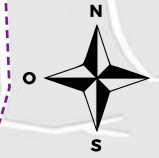
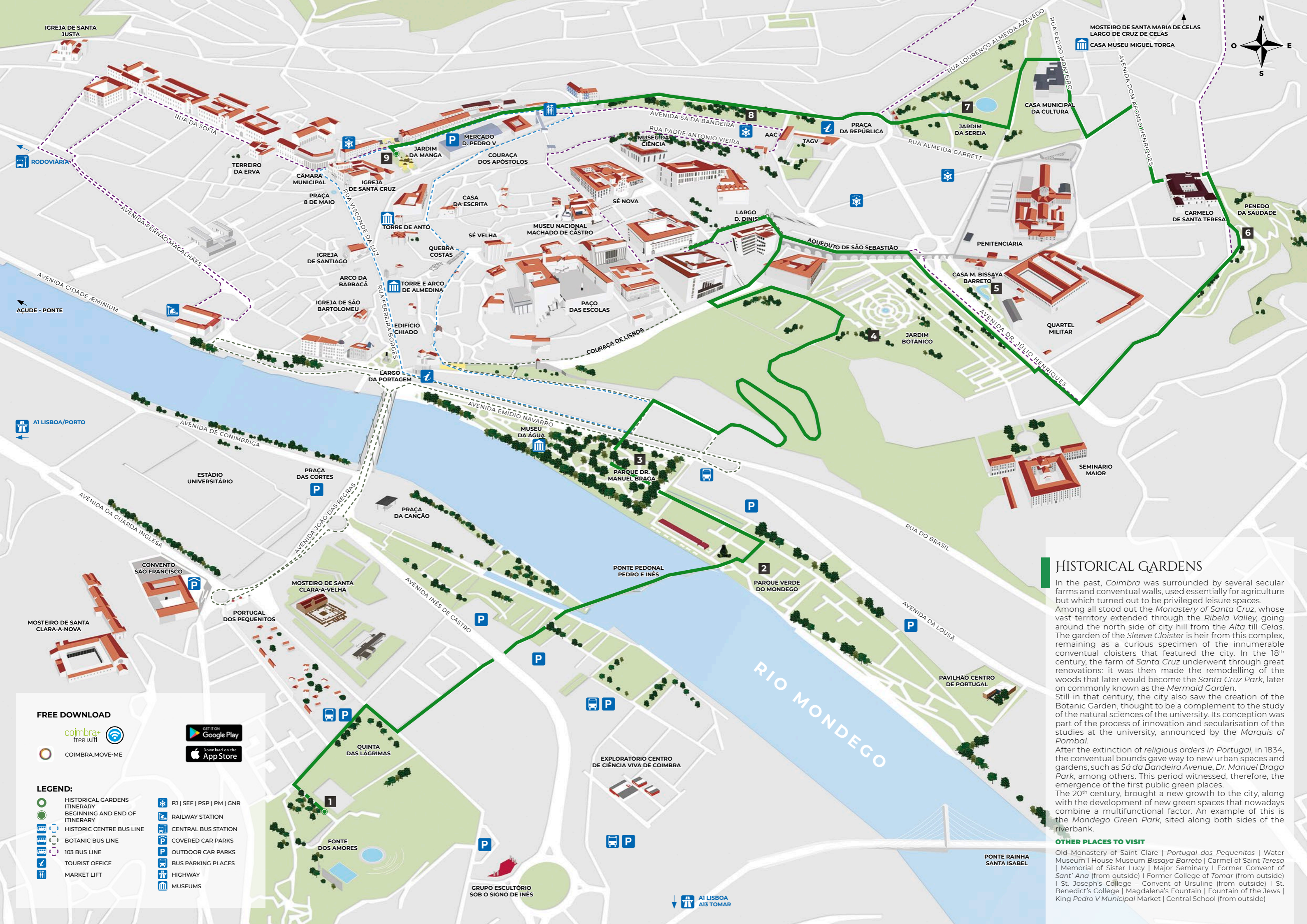
**9. SLEEVE GARDEN | SLEEVE CLOISTER | JARDIM DA MANGA | CLAUSTRO DA MANGA**

The reconstruction of the northern section of the buildings of the *Monastery of Santa Cruz*, implemented by *King Manuel I* and *King João III*, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, gave life to a second cloister: the *Sleeve Cloister*, also called *Third Cloister* or the *Nursing Cloister*. Only the tanks, cubes and central adornment constructions remain from the initial construction. It was a work that had the direct participation of *Jean of Rouen*, namely in the overall design of the cloister and the four reliefs for the cubes of the central spring evoking the *Spring of Life*. It is one of the first architectural works entirely in Renaissance style, made in *Portugal*. A legend explains that the popular name of *Sleeve Cloister* comes from the fact that *King João III* had drawn the design of the cloister in the sleeve of his doublet (old garment).

**COORDINATES:** 40.211324, -8.427850



- Coimbra World Heritage Itinerary
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## HISTORICAL GARDENS

In the past, Coimbra was surrounded by several secular farms and conventual walls, used essentially for agriculture but which turned out to be privileged leisure spaces. Among all stood out the *Monastery of Santa Cruz*, whose vast territory extended through the *Ribela Valley*, going around the north side of city hill from the *Alta* till *Celas*. The garden of the *Sleeve Cloister* is heir from this complex, remaining as a curious specimen of the innumerable conventual cloisters that featured the city. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the farm of *Santa Cruz* underwent through great renovations: it was then made the remodelling of the woods that later would become the *Santa Cruz Park*, later on commonly known as the *Mermaid Garden*. Still in that century, the city also saw the creation of the Botanic Garden, thought to be a complement to the study of the natural sciences of the university. Its conception was part of the process of innovation and secularisation of the studies at the university, announced by the *Marquis of Pombal*. After the extinction of religious orders in Portugal, in 1834, the conventual bounds gave way to new urban spaces and gardens, such as *Sá da Bandeira Avenue*, *Dr. Manuel Braga Park*, among others. This period witnessed, therefore, the emergence of the first public green places. The 20<sup>th</sup> century, brought a new growth to the city, along with the development of new green spaces that nowadays combine a multifunctional factor. An example of this is the *Mondego Green Park*, sited along both sides of the riverbank.

- OTHER PLACES TO VISIT**
- Old Monastery of Saint Clare | *Portugal dos Pequenitos* | Water Museum | House Museum *Bissaya Barreto* | Carmel of Saint Teresa | Memorial of Sister Lucy | Major Seminary | Former Convent of *Sant' Ana* (from outside) | Former College of *Tomar* (from outside) | St. Joseph's College - Convent of Ursuline (from outside) | St. Benedict's College | *Magdalena's Fountain* | *Fountain of the Jews* | *King Pedro V Municipal Market* | *Central School* (from outside)

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