

Aveiro

Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Aveiro is a small city on a coastal lagoon, the Ria de Aveiro. Canals run through the centre, and colourful moliceiro boats sail on them. The city is compact, flat and easy to enjoy on foot.

It suits a one or two night stop between Porto and Lisbon, or a relaxed day out from Porto. You can see Art Nouveau houses, try the local egg sweets, visit old salt pans and reach Atlantic beaches within 10 km.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the best times: warm, sunny and calm. July and August are the warmest and driest months, with cool Atlantic breezes. The sea stays cool even in summer. Winters are mild but wet, so bring a rain jacket from October to March.

Two events to plan around: the São Gonçalinho festival in January, when people throw sweet cavacas from the chapel roof, and the Festival dos Canais in July.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for cycling	14° / 17° Feels like 11°	7° / 2°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Great Great for cycling	15° / 20° Feels like 12°	7° / 3°	Dry air
March	Good Good for cycling	17° / 24°	9° / 5°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	19° / 26°	11° / 7°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 30°	13° / 10°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 33°	16° / 13°	
July	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 34°	17° / 15°	22 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 35°	17° / 15°	23 sunny days · Humid air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	16° / 13°	Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	14° / 10°	Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	17° / 21°	10° / 5°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for cycling	15° / 18°	8° / 3°	12 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

- Start with a boat trip on the canals. A Barcos Moliceiros is the boarding point for moliceiro tours through the central canals.
- B Museu Arte Nova is in the Casa Major Pessoa, a landmark of Art Nouveau architecture. A tea house on the ground floor is a good break.
- C Aveiro Museum is in the former Convento de Jesus. It holds the tomb of Saint Joana, who died in 1490.
- D Sé de Aveiro is a Baroque church founded in 1423 as a Dominican convent.
- E São Gonçalinho Chapel is a small chapel in the old Beira-Mar area. It is the centre of the January festival.
- F Salinas de Aveiro are traditional salt pans where salt is still raked by hand. Guided visits explain how it is made.
- G Palheiros da Costa Nova are the striped wooden fishermen's houses of Costa Nova, about 10 km from the centre. They can be seen only from the outside.
- H Farol de Aveiro is the tallest lighthouse in Portugal, at 62 m. It is on the coast near Praia da Barra, about 10 km from the centre.



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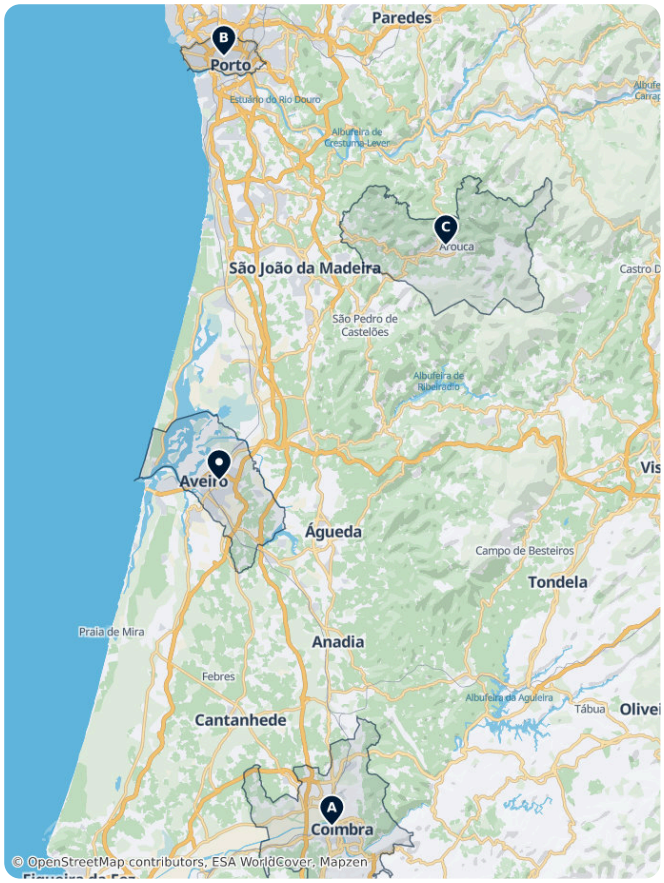
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What to experience

- **Moliceiro boat trip:** A ride on an open moliceiro boat through the central canals.
- São Gonçalinho festival (January): Sweet cavacas are thrown from the top of the chapel as thanks for vows. Locals try to catch them.
- Salt pan visit: Join a guided visit to see salt raked by hand.
- Festival dos Canais (July): A summer festival with performances across the city.
- Beach day: Take the bus to Costa Nova or Praia da Barra. The Atlantic is cool, so many people only paddle.
- Christmas: A moliceiro Santa parade and a large tree by the canal in December.

Day trips

Aveiro is a good base for easy trips. Nearby places come first.



- **Costa Nova and Praia da Barra** (about 10 km, local bus): Atlantic beaches. Costa Nova is known for Palheiros da Costa Nova, its rows of striped wooden houses.
- Ílhavo (about 7 km, bus or car): home of the Maritime Museum and the Vista Alegre porcelain factory and museum.
- Pateira de Fermentelos (about 12 km, car or bike): a large lagoon with birds, walks and quiet views.
- Águeda (about 20 km, car or the narrow-gauge Vouga line): a river town known for colourful umbrellas hung above its streets.
- A Coimbra (short fast train ride): a university city with a UNESCO World Heritage old centre.
- B Porto (about 35 to 70 minutes by train): the main city of the north.
- C Arouca Geopark (inland, best by car): hills, rivers and rock formations.

Where to explore

Aveiro sits on the main Porto to Lisbon rail line. Other places to add to a Portugal trip:

- Lisbon and Tomar.

Getting there

- **By air:** Aveiro has no airport. Most visitors fly to Porto (OPO). Take the metro to Campanhã station, then a train to Aveiro. Lisbon (LIS) also works: metro to Oriente station, then a direct train.
- By train: Aveiro is on the main line between Porto and Lisbon. Porto takes about 35 to 70 minutes and Lisbon about 2 to 2.5 hours, depending on the train. Alfa Pendular and Intercidades trains need a seat reservation. The station is about 1 km from the centre, a 15-minute walk. Book on CP Comboios de Portugal.
- By bus: Long-distance coaches run from Porto and other cities, but the train is the simpler choice.

Getting around

- **City buses:** AveiroBus runs the city network, including buses to Praia da Barra and Costa Nova. Buy a single ticket from the driver. Rechargeable cards are sold at the bus terminal ticket office. Check routes and fares on AveiroBus.
- On foot: The old centre is small and flat. You can walk to most sights in a few minutes.
- Cycling: Free BUGA city bikes can be borrowed at the BUGA shop at Praça do Mercado, during its opening hours.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact, flat centre is easy to cover on foot.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Flat streets and free city bikes make cycling easy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not in the city. The centre is small and walkable. A car helps for beaches, lagoon villages and inland trips.
- Parking: Park at the edge of the centre and walk in. Many motorways around Aveiro charge tolls, so ask your rental company about a toll transponder.

Food & drink

The local sweet is **ovos moles**: egg yolk and sugar cream, often sold in small shell-shaped wafers. It has EU PGI protected status. Also look for trouxas de ovos, an egg and sugar sweet, and raivas, a local biscuit. Fresh fish and seafood from the lagoon and coast are common on menus.

For a meal, eat around the Canal Central and the fish market area near Praça do Peixe. Sweet shops in the centre sell ovos moles to take home.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Caldo Verde
A simple, comforting soup of shredded kale, potato, and slices of chourico sausage.

Francesinha
A hearty Porto specialty: a meat-stuffed sandwich covered in melted cheese and a spiced tomato-beer sauce.

DINNER

Bacalhau
Salt cod, Portugal's national dish, said to be prepared in hundreds of different ways across the country.

Sardinhas Assadas
Charcoal-grilled sardines, especially popular in summer street festivals and along the coast.

Arroz de Marisco
A rich, soupy seafood rice, similar to paella but wetter, packed with shellfish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Pastel de Nata
A small custard tart in flaky pastry, best eaten warm with cinnamon and sugar.

DRINKS

Vinho Verde
A young, light, slightly sparkling white wine from northern Portugal, meant to be drunk within a year of harvest.

Port Wine · Vinho do Porto
A fortified wine from the Douro Valley, aged in cellars around Porto, ranging from sweet ruby to complex aged tawny styles.

Ginjinha · Ginãa
A sweet liqueur made from sour cherries, traditionally served in a small cup, sometimes with a cherry at the bottom.

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Safety & health

Aveiro is a calm, safe city for visitors. Petty theft is uncommon, but keep an eye on bags in crowds and on trains. Lock your bike. At Barra and Costa Nova, the Atlantic can have strong currents. Swim only at beaches with lifeguards.

History

Aveiro lived from salt and sea trade. A storm in 1575 closed the lagoon mouth, and silting later hurt the port. An artificial channel to the sea, completed in 1808, brought trade back. You can still see the salt trade at Salinas de Aveiro.

King José I gave Aveiro city status in 1759. An annual trade fair, now the Feira de Março, was granted by King Duarte in 1435. In the early 20th century, the city built many Art Nouveau buildings, and Museu Arte Nova shows this style today. The Sé de Aveiro dates from the Dominican convent of 1423.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



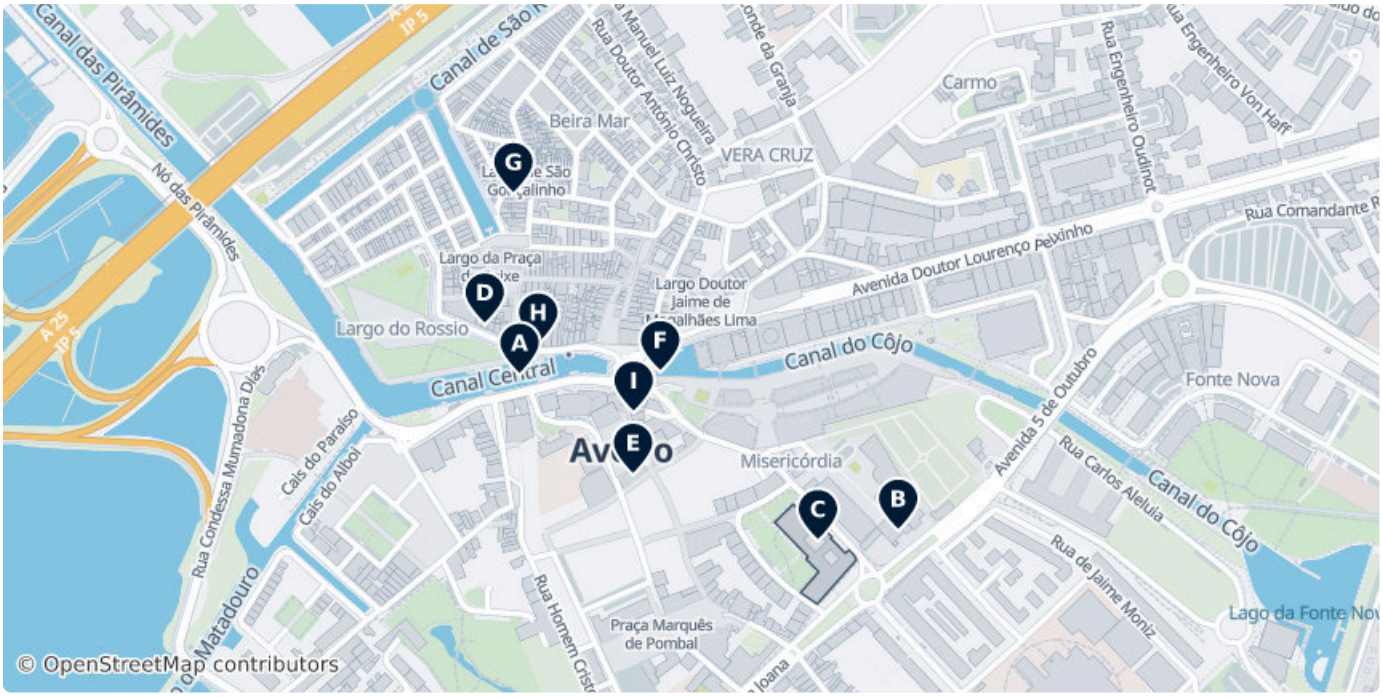
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Aveiro's Unmissable Charms

Aveiro is defined by its network of canals and the Ria de Aveiro lagoon. This collection highlights the city's maritime and culinary heritage, from the brightly painted moliceiro boats that once gathered seaweed to the active salt pans of the Salinas. Architectural landmarks include the 15th-century Cathedral and the Art Nouveau Museum, while the local confectionery tradition is represented by historic shops specializing in Ovos Moles, a local delicacy made of egg yolks and sugar.





A Barcos Moliceiros

Traditional seaweed-harvesting vessels known for their brightly colored bows featuring hand-painted satirical or religious scenes. These flat-bottomed boats now navigate the central canals for guided tours.

11 Rua do Clube dos Galitos, Aveiro 3810085, Portugal (40.64128, -8.65514)



B Cathedral of Aveiro

The Cathedral of Aveiro, also known as the Church of St. Dominic, is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Aveiro, Portugal.

Rua Batalhão Caçadores Dez 67, 3810-064 Aveiro, Portugal (40.63970, -8.65007)

+351 234 422 182



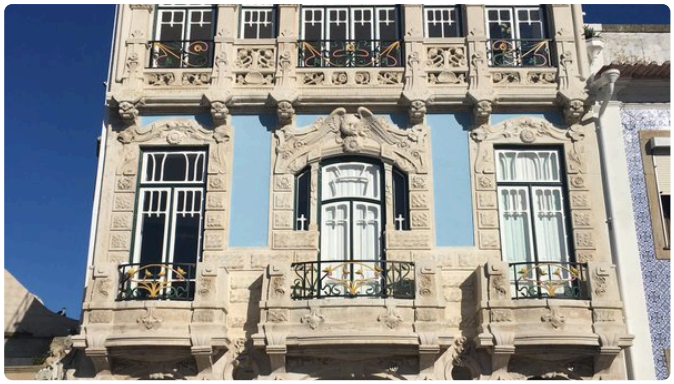
C Aveiro Museum

A nice museum with plenty of valuable relics and artifacts from the town's rich history. You can spend a couple of interesting hours in here.

Avenida de Santa Joana, Aveiro (40.63959, -8.65114)

Tu–Su 10:00–12:30, 13:30–18:00

cm-aveiro.pt/visitantes/museus-de-ave..., +351 234 423 297



D Museu Arte Nova

Housed in the Casa Major Pessoa, this museum focuses on Aveiro's Art Nouveau heritage. The building features a distinctive stone facade and decorative wrought-iron balconies overlooking the canal.

Rua do Doutor Barbosa de Magalhães 9, Aveiro (40.64180, -8.65561)

Tu–Su 10:00–12:30, 13:30–18:00

cm-aveiro.pt/visitantes/arte-publica/m... , +351 234 406 300



E Aveiro Town Hall

The picturesque town hall of Aveiro - the enchanting Venice of Portugal - is a sight to see while visiting the town.

Praça da República, 3810 Aveiro, Portugal (40.64027, -8.65362)

cm-aveiro.pt, +351 234 406 300



F Salinas de Aveiro

Active salt pans where traditional harvesting methods produce "flor de sal." The site includes an open-air museum explaining the centuries-old history of the local salt industry.

Misericórdia, 3810-120 Aveiro, Portugal (40.64131, -8.65326)

Mo–Fr 09:00–17:30

salinasaveiro.com



G São Gonçalinho Chapel

A lovely little chapel situated in picturesque Aveiro old town. Have a quick peek inside while walking through the streets.

16 Rua Antónia Rodrigues, Aveiro 3800102, Portugal
(40.64312, -8.65522)

I Confeitaria Peixinho

Established in 1856, this is Aveiro's oldest pastry shop. It specializes in Ovos Moles, which are prepared according to original recipes inherited from the city's former convents.

(40.64090, -8.65361)

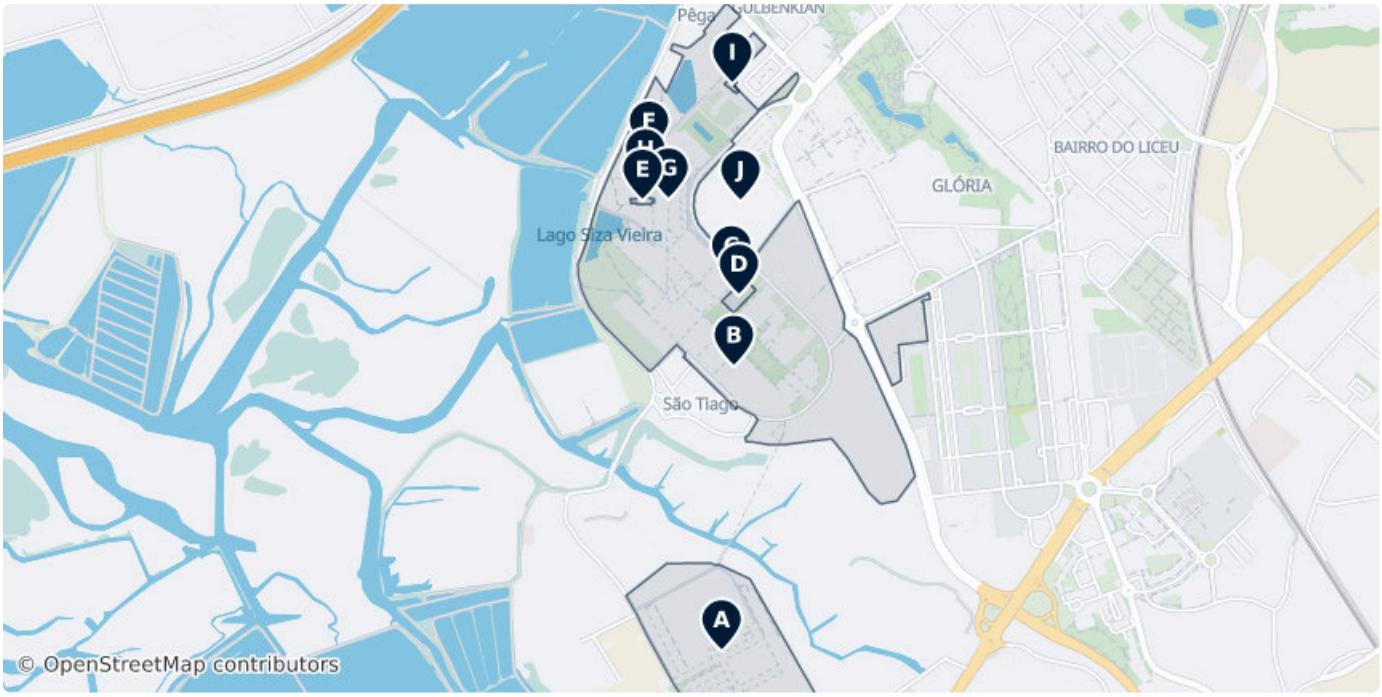
H Oficina do Doce

A workshop and shop where visitors can observe the traditional production of Ovos Moles de Aveiro, a local pastry made of egg yolks and sugar encased in thin wafers.

(40.64159, -8.65489)

University of Aveiro Campuses

The University of Aveiro is renowned for its modern architectural landscape, featuring works by Pritzker Prize winners Álvaro Siza Vieira and Eduardo Souto de Moura. Situated alongside the Ria de Aveiro salt marshes, the university is divided into the Campus de Santiago and Campus do Crasto. This list highlights key academic hubs, including the Rectorate building and specialized research centers like CESAM and the Institute of Electronics, which support scientific research within a unique urban-natural setting.





A University of Aveiro

The southern campus area housing the Department of Health Sciences, student residences, and the university's main sports complex.

Rua do Crasto, 3810-416 Aveiro, Portugal
(40.62357, -8.65790)

ua.pt



B University of Aveiro

The University of Aveiro is a public university, in addition to providing polytechnic education, located in the Portuguese city of Aveiro.

Rua de Santiago, 3810-168 Aveiro, Portugal
(40.62961, -8.65756)

ua.pt



C University of Aveiro

The university's main campus, featuring a concentrated collection of contemporary buildings designed by prominent Portuguese architects. It contains the central library and most academic departments.

(40.63151, -8.65763)

ua.pt

D Edifício Central e da Reitoria

Designed by architects Gonçalo Byrne and Manuel Aires Mateus, this building serves as the administrative heart of the university, housing the Rector's office and central services.

(40.63112, -8.65742)

E Institute of Electronics and Informatics Engineering of Aveiro

A multidisciplinary research unit focused on electronics, informatics engineering, and telecommunications, facilitating collaboration between the university and the industrial sector.

(40.63313, -8.66012)

ieeta.web.ua.pt, +351 234370500

F Instituto de Telecomunicações

A research and development organization operating in the field of telecommunications, featuring advanced laboratory facilities for signal processing and wireless communications.

(40.63415, -8.65993)

it.pt, +351 234377900

G Departamento de Eletrónica, Telecomunicações e Informática

The academic department responsible for degree programs and research in the fields of electronic engineering, telecommunications, and computer science.

(40.63316, -8.65939)

ua.pt/deti, +351 234 370 355

H Departamento de Biologia - Herbário e Laboratórios

Home to specialized research laboratories and the University of Aveiro Herbarium (AVE), which preserves a significant collection of plant specimens from the region.

(Unnamed Road), Aveiro 3810168, Portugal
(40.63356, -8.66004)

I CESAM

The Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies is a leading research unit focused on ecological sustainability, atmospheric sciences, and marine biology.

40 Rua do Cabouço, Aveiro 3800, Portugal
(40.63561, -8.65760)

J Seminário de Santa Joana Princesa

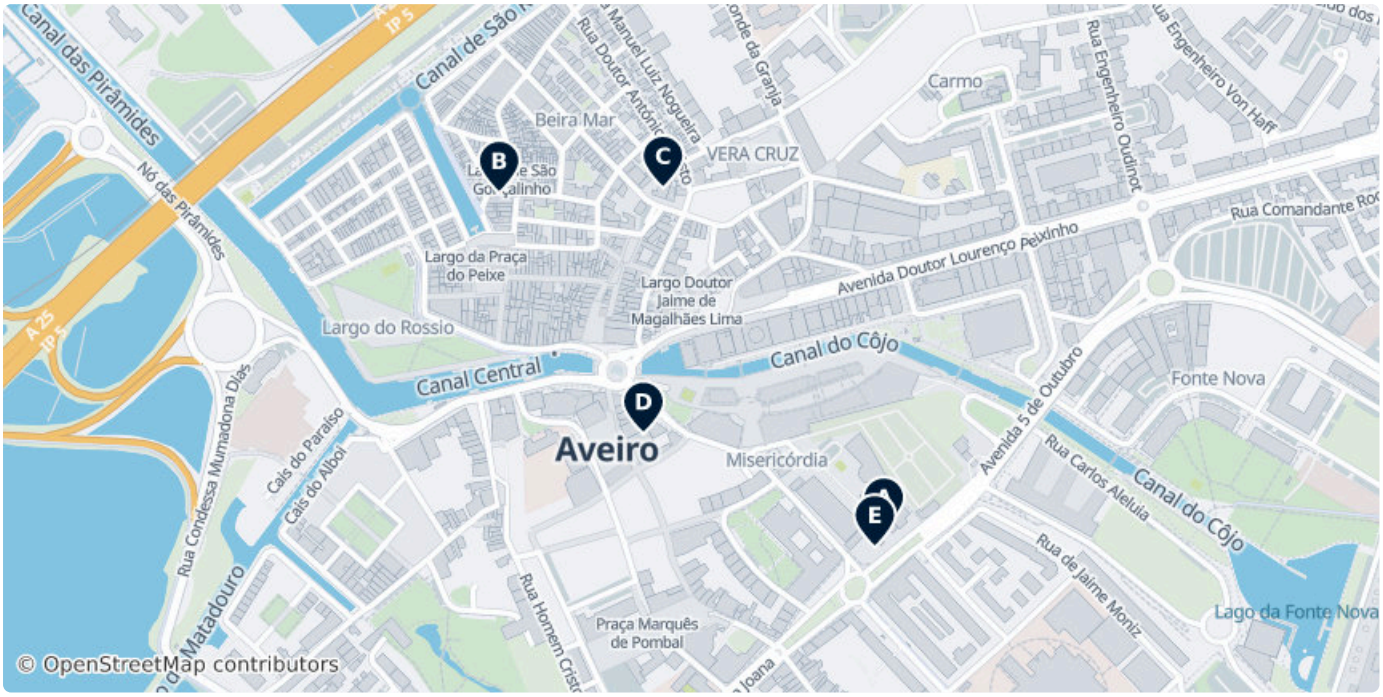
A religious educational institution and seminary located adjacent to the university campus, named after Princess Saint Joanna of Portugal.

(40.63312, -8.65738)

+351 234422171

Aveiro's Sacred Sites

Aveiro's religious heritage is defined by diverse architectural styles, from the 15th-century Dominican roots of the Cathedral to the tile-clad facades of its parish churches. The collection includes the Igreja da Misericórdia, known for its 17th-century Mannerist design and extensive azulejo panels, and the Igreja Nossa Senhora da Apresentação, which features intricate Baroque woodcarvings. These sites reflect the city's historical wealth and its long-standing maritime and spiritual traditions.





A Cathedral of Aveiro

The Cathedral of Aveiro, also known as the Church of St. Dominic, is a Roman Catholic cathedral in Aveiro, Portugal.

Rua Batalhão Caçadores Dez 67, 3810-064 Aveiro, Portugal (40.63970, -8.65007)

+351 234 422 182



B São Gonçalinho Chapel

A lovely little chapel situated in picturesque Aveiro old town. Have a quick peek inside while walking through the streets.

16 Rua Antónia Rodrigues, Aveiro 3800102, Portugal (40.64312, -8.65522)



C Igreja Nossa Senhora da Apresentação

Also known as Igreja da Vera Cruz, this church features a facade decorated with traditional blue and white tiles and an interior containing 18th-century gilded woodcarvings and religious paintings.

6 Rua Doutor António Cristo, Aveiro 3800, Portugal (40.64317, -8.65303)



D Igreja da Misericórdia de Aveiro

A 17th-century Mannerist church featuring a facade of Coimbra limestone and an interior lined with historic blue and white azulejo tiles. It stands as a significant example of religious architecture in central Aveiro.

Beco do Batalhão de Caçadores 10, 3810-086 Aveiro, Portugal (40.64067, -8.65329)

234 426 732

E Catedral de São Domingos

Founded in 1423 as a Dominican convent, this structure features a prominent Baroque portal added in 1719 and a Manueline bell tower. The interior is noted for its various chapels decorated with marble and carved wood.

81a Rua do Batalhão de Caçadores 10, Aveiro 3810064, Portugal (40.63952, -8.65019)

DATA SOURCES

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