

Batalha

Leiria District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Batalha is a small town in central Portugal. It is known for one monument: the Dominican monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the great works of Portuguese Gothic architecture. King *João I* founded it to give thanks for a victory in 1385 that kept Portugal independent.

The town is quiet and easy to cover on foot. A few hours are enough for the monastery. A longer stay suits travellers who want to add the nearby battlefield, the caves and the other historic towns of the region.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are the most comfortable seasons. Summer is hot and dry. Winter is mild but often rainy.

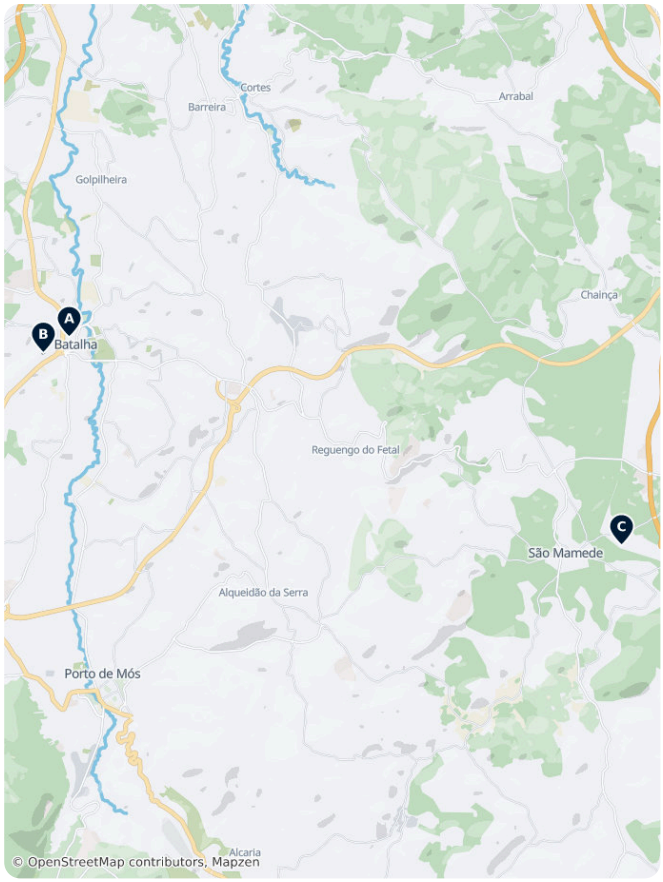
The monastery is an indoor and covered visit, so it works in any season. Outdoor stops such as the battlefield are best in dry months.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 18° Feels like 12°	6° / 0°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20° Feels like 13°	7° / 1°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24°	8° / 4°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 27°	10° / 7°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	12° / 8°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 34°	15° / 12°	
July	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 36°	16° / 13°	25 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 37°	16° / 14°	26 sunny days
September	Great Great for sightseeing	28° / 34°	15° / 12°	20 sunny days · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	13° / 9°	
November	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23°	9° / 4°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 19°	7° / 1°	12 rainy days · Dry air

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

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Mosteiro da Batalha is the reason to come. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built from 1386 to about 1517. Look for the Founder's Chapel with the tombs of *João I* and Queen Philippa of Lancaster, and the Royal Cloister with its Manueline stone carving.
- The Chapter House has a 19 m star vault with no central support. Two soldiers stand guard at the tombs of two unknown soldiers from the First World War.
- The Unfinished Chapels were begun in 1437 as a royal mausoleum for King *Duarte* and never completed. They have a richly carved Manueline portal.
- B Campo Militar de Aljubarrota is the site of the 1385 battle, a short drive from the town. It makes the monastery's story easier to understand.
- C Grutas da Moeda are show caves near São Mamede, about 2 km from Fátima. A guided route of about 350 m passes cave formations at a steady temperature of about 18 °C.

Batalha – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

What to experience

- Stand under the Chapter House vault and watch the two sentinels at the tombs of the unknown soldiers.
- Take the guided walk through Grutas da Moeda. The cave is cool inside, which helps on a hot summer day.

Day trips

Batalha is a good base for the monasteries and towns of central Portugal. Travel times are one way by car.

- Leiria: about 15 minutes. The town has a hilltop castle built in the 12th century and enlarged under King *Dinis*, with views over the city.
- Fátima: about 20 minutes. This is one of the major Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world.
- Alcobaça: about 20 minutes. The Cistercian monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and holds the tombs of King *Pedro I* and Inês de Castro.
- Grutas de Mira de Aire are about 30 minutes away. This is the largest cave system in Portugal, with about 11 km of galleries. Visitors see only the first part.
- Nazaré: about 30 minutes. This fishing town is famous for the very large waves at Praia do Norte in winter.
- Tomar: about 45 minutes. The Convent of Christ, founded by the Knights Templar, is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Óbidos: about 50 minutes. This is a small walled town.

Where to explore

Several larger destinations lie close to Batalha.

- Historic monasteries and castles: Alcobaça, Tomar
- Regional city: Leiria
- Coast: Nazaré, Óbidos
- Nature: Serras de Aire e Candeeiros

Getting there

- By air: The main gateway is Lisbon airport (LIS), about 120 km south. Porto airport (OPO) is the alternative from the north. From either airport, continue by coach or rental car.
- By train: Batalha has no train station. The usual way to arrive without a car is by coach.
- By bus: Direct coaches run from Lisbon (Sete Rios or Oriente station) and take about 1 hour 45 minutes to 2 hours. Local buses connect Batalha with nearby towns. Check timetables in advance.

Getting around

- On foot: The monastery, the main square and the town centre are all within a short walk of each other.
- Battlefield and caves: These are outside the centre. A car or taxi is the easiest way to reach them.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The town centre and the monastery are close together.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Cycling is not a main way to see the sights.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Not for the monastery alone. A car helps if you want to see the battlefield, the caves and nearby towns in one day.
- Roads: The A1 and A8 motorways are tolled. The A19 bypass near Batalha is also tolled. The N1 is a free alternative.

Food & drink

Roast suckling pig (leitão) is a local specialty. Other regional dishes include tachadéu, a slow-cooked pork dish linked to Reguengo do Fetal, and rice sausage (morcela de arroz).

Restaurants and pastry shops cluster in the streets around the monastery. This is the easiest area for a meal or a coffee.

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.

Batalha – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Batalha is very safe for visitors. Petty theft is rare, but keep valuables out of sight in cars and at busy sights.

Tap water is safe to drink in Portugal. In dry summers, wildfires can occur in central Portugal. Follow local alerts if you plan to walk in the countryside.

History

Batalha is a town built around a promise. On 14 August 1385, a Portuguese army led by King *João I* and the constable *Nuno Álvares Pereira* defeated a larger Castilian force at Aljubarrota. The victory ended the 1383 to 1385 crisis and secured the House of Aviz on the throne. English archers fought on the Portuguese side, and the Treaty of Windsor in 1386 started the long Anglo-Portuguese alliance.

João I ordered the monastery built to thank the Virgin Mary for the victory. Work began in 1386. The architect *Huguet* shaped much of the church and the Founder's Chapel, and builders kept adding to the complex until about 1517. The Unfinished Chapels were never completed.

The monastery was damaged in the 1755 earthquake and burned by French troops in 1810 and 1811. The Dominicans left in 1834. Restoration began in 1840. The battlefield, Campo Militar de Aljubarrota, is now a protected heritage site.

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

Batalha Essentials

Batalha is defined by the UNESCO-listed Monastery of Batalha, a masterpiece of Manueline and Gothic architecture built to commemorate the 1385 Battle of Aljubarrota. Beyond the monastery, the town features the historic Military Field of Aljubarrota and the 19th-century neo-Gothic Boutaca Bridge. Visitors can explore local heritage at the Community Museum and discover natural limestone formations within the Moeda Caves, located just a few kilometers from the town center.





A Monastery of Batalha

The Monastery of Batalha is a Dominican convent in the municipality of Batalha, in the district of Leiria, in the Centro Region of Portugal.

Largo Infante D. Henrique, 2440-109 Batalha, Portugal (39.65921, -8.82579)

mosteirobatalha.gov.pt, +351 244765497



B Moeda Caves

Descending down these caves feels like stepping down to the core of the Earth.

Largo das Grutas da Moeda s/n, 2495-028 São Mamede, Portugal (39.62411, -8.70496)

grutasmoeda.com, +351 244 703 838



C Estrada da Boutaca

A 19th-century neo-Gothic bridge constructed between 1862 and 1870. It spans the Boutaca valley and is noted for its decorative pointed arches and stone masonry.

Estrada da Boutaca, 2440200, Portugal
(39.65780, -8.83101)



E Campo Militar de Aljubarrota

The historic site of the 1385 battle that secured Portuguese independence. It includes an interpretation center and the Chapel of São Jorge, which marks the position of the Portuguese vanguard.

Rua do Engenheiro Joaquim de Salles, São Jorge 2440502, Portugal (39.65655, -8.83144)

G Unknown soldier

Located within the Chapter House of the Monastery of Batalha, this tomb honors unidentified Portuguese soldiers from World War I and is watched over by a permanent guard of honor.

(39.65924, -8.82542)

D Museu Comunidade Concelhia da Batalha

An award-winning museum documenting the region's history from its prehistoric geological formations to the construction of the monastery and modern local traditions.

4A Rua David Huguet, Batalha 2440112, Portugal
(39.65748, -8.82496)

museubatalha.com

F Igreja Matriz da Batalha

A 16th-century parish church featuring a prominent Manueline portal. Dedicated to the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, it stands as a significant example of local Renaissance-influenced architecture.

4 Largo da Misericórdia, Batalha 2440058, Portugal
(39.65788, -8.82407)

H Pelourinho da Batalha

A 16th-century stone pillory featuring Manueline decorative elements. Originally a symbol of local judicial authority, it was reconstructed in its current location near the monastery in the 20th century.

2 Rua Dona Filipa de Lencastre, Batalha 2440116, Portugal
(39.65849, -8.82395)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Monastery of Batalha — "Batalha in Portugal" by S. C., CC0
- Moeda Caves — "Grutas da Moeda" by David Francisco, CC BY 3.0
- Estrada da Boutaca — "Viaduto conhecido por Ponte da Boutaca ou Ponte de Boitaca. Parte central da..." by BrunoRino, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Campo Militar de Aljubarrota — "Porto de Mós-3" by Moleano, cc-by-sa-4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 21, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.