

Evora

Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Évora is the main city of the Alentejo, in southern Portugal. It is a walled town with Roman, medieval and Renaissance buildings in one small area. The Historic Centre of Évora is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, listed in 1986.

It suits a one- or two-night stop. Most sights are within a short walk, and the surrounding countryside has megaliths, hill villages and wineries. Portuguese kings often stayed here in the 15th and 16th centuries.

When to visit

Spring (April to June) and autumn (September and October) are the best times. Days are warm and sunny, and sightseeing is comfortable. July and August are very hot and dry, so plan sights for the morning and evening. Winter is mild but can be wet.

The biggest annual event is the Feira de São João, a centuries-old fair. It takes place in late June, around the feast of São João on 24 June. Book rooms early for this period.

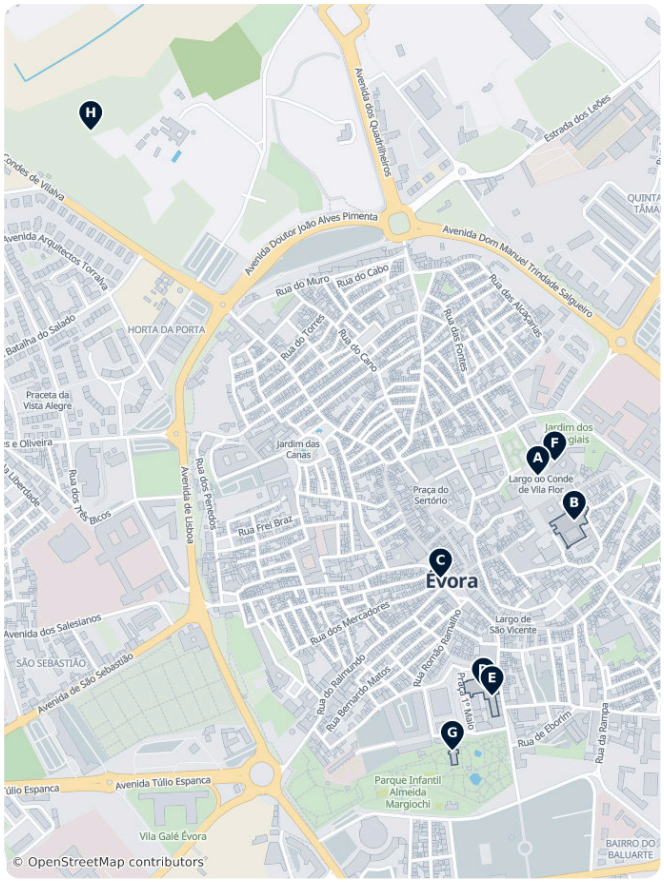
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 18° Feels like 10°	4° / -2°	Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 20° Feels like 12°	4° / -1°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 24° Feels like 15°	6° / 1°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 28° Feels like 17°	8° / 4°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 33°	11° / 6°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	30° / 38°	14° / 10°	22 sunny days · Dry air · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	34° / 40°	15° / 12°	27 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 12 days above 35°
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	34° / 40°	16° / 12°	27 sunny days · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 12 days above 35°
September	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 36°	15° / 11°	21 sunny days · Dry air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 32°	12° / 7°	Dry air
November	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 23° Feels like 14°	7° / 2°	Dry air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	Dry air

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

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

Top sights

- A Templo Romano de Évora is a Roman temple from the 1st century. It is often called the Temple of Diana, but this name comes from a 17th-century legend. Its granite and marble columns stand in the middle of the old town.
- B Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption was begun in 1186 and is the largest medieval cathedral in Portugal. Visit the Gothic cloister and the organ from about 1544.
- C Praça do Giraldo is the main square and the centre of city life. Cafes surround it. The Inquisition held public sentences here for about 200 years.
- D Igreja de São Francisco is a Gothic church from the late 15th to early 16th century, with Manueline details. It has one very large nave and a Manueline entrance.
- E Capela dos Ossos is a small chapel inside the São Francisco church complex and needs its own ticket. Its walls and pillars are covered with human bones and skulls. The message at the door reads: "We bones that are here await yours."
- F São João Evangelista Church and Lóios Convent is a convent and church in the centre of the old town. It is part of the UNESCO site.
- G Palácio de Dom Manuel is what remains of the royal palace of São Francisco. Only a small part of it survives today.
- H Aqueduto da Água de Prata is a 16th-century aqueduct that brought water to the city. You can follow its arches on foot, just outside the old town.



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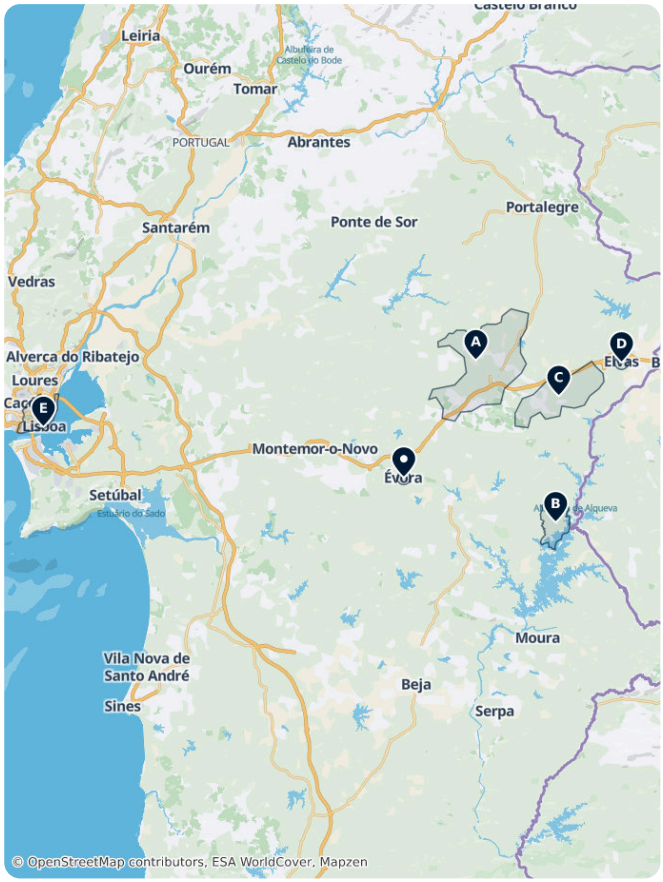
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What to experience

- Join the Feira de São João in late June. It is a centuries-old fair held around the feast of São João.

Day trips

Évora is a good base for the Alentejo. Public transport is thin, so a car makes day trips much easier.



- Almendres Cromlech is about 12 km west of the city, a short drive. It has about 95 standing stones and is the largest group of its kind on the Iberian Peninsula. There is no easy bus, so go by car or on a guided tour.
- Arraiolos is about 20 minutes by car. Public bus links are limited, so check timetables locally. The town is known for its wool carpets.
- A Estremoz is about 50 minutes by coach, with several departures a day. It has a hilltop old town and is known for marble.
- B Monsaraz is a walled hill village with wide views. By car it takes about 50 minutes. Coaches go only to Reguengos de Monsaraz, so a car is best.
- C Vila Viçosa is about 1 hour by coach, with about 3 departures a day. It has a ducal palace.
- D Elvas is about 55 minutes by car. It is a fortress town near the Spanish border and is also a UNESCO site. Only one direct coach runs each day.
- E Lisbon is about 1.5 hours away by train or coach, and is easy to reach as a day trip.

Where to explore

- Nearby towns: Estremoz, Vila Viçosa, Monsaraz and Elvas.
- To the north-west: Lisbon, the usual gateway.
- For beaches and coast: Algarve to the south, and the Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina Nature Park to the south-west.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest major airport is Lisbon (LIS), about 130 km away. Évora has no scheduled flights. From the airport, a few coaches run direct to Évora. Otherwise go to Lisbon first. By car it takes about 1 hour 20 minutes.
- **By train**: Intercidades trains run from Lisbon to Évora in about 1.5 hours. Book on the Comboios de Portugal site.
- **By bus**: Coaches from Lisbon (Sete Rios) take about 1.5 hours and run frequently. Évora also has coach links to Estremoz, Vila Viçosa and Elvas.
- **By car**: The A6 motorway passes Évora. Roads from Lisbon use tolled motorways.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The historic centre inside the walls is small. Almost all sights are within a 10 to 15 minute walk. Streets are cobbled and some are steep, so wear flat shoes.
- **Public transport**: Not needed for sightseeing. Municipal information is on the Évora city council site.
- **Cycling**: Possible, but cobbles and hills make it tiring in the old town. It is better on the roads around the city.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The walled old town is small and most sights are a short walk apart. Streets are cobbled and some are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling is possible, but cobbles and hills make the old town tiring. The roads around the city are easier.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the old town. A car is useful for the cromlech, Monsaraz and wineries, because buses to these are rare.
- **Parking**: Paid parking zones apply in the historic centre and space is limited. Park outside the walls and walk in. The city council publishes a parking map.
- **Tolls**: Motorways from Lisbon (A2, A6) charge tolls. Rental cars usually have a transponder.

Food & drink

Alentejo food is simple and rich. Look for açorda (a soupy bread dish with garlic, coriander and egg) and migas (bread cooked with garlic and olive oil, often served with pork). Also try carne de porco à alentejana, which is pork with clams, and ensopado de borrego, a slow lamb stew. Black Iberian pork is a local favourite.

For sweets, try sericaia, an egg and cinnamon dessert from nearby Elvas. Alentejo red wines are full-bodied, and Pêra-Manca from the Cartuxa winery is the best known.

The streets around Praça do Giraldo have many restaurants.

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

Évora is very safe for visitors. Petty theft is uncommon, but keep an eye on bags in crowded places, such as the main square at fair time.

Summer heat is the main risk. Temperatures can pass 35 °C in July and August. Carry water, use sun protection and avoid midday walks. Cobbled streets can be slippery when wet.

History

Évora has been a town for more than 2,000 years. The Romans took it in 57 BC and built the Templo Romano de Évora in the 1st century. Arabs held the city from 715 until it was taken in 1165 by Gerald the Fearless.

The city was most important in the 15th and 16th centuries. Portuguese kings of the Avis dynasty stayed here for long periods and left the royal palace of São Francisco. Jesuits founded a university in 1559. It closed in 1759 and reopened in 1973.

The Inquisition held public sentences in Praça do Giraldo. The walls around the old town date from the 17th century.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



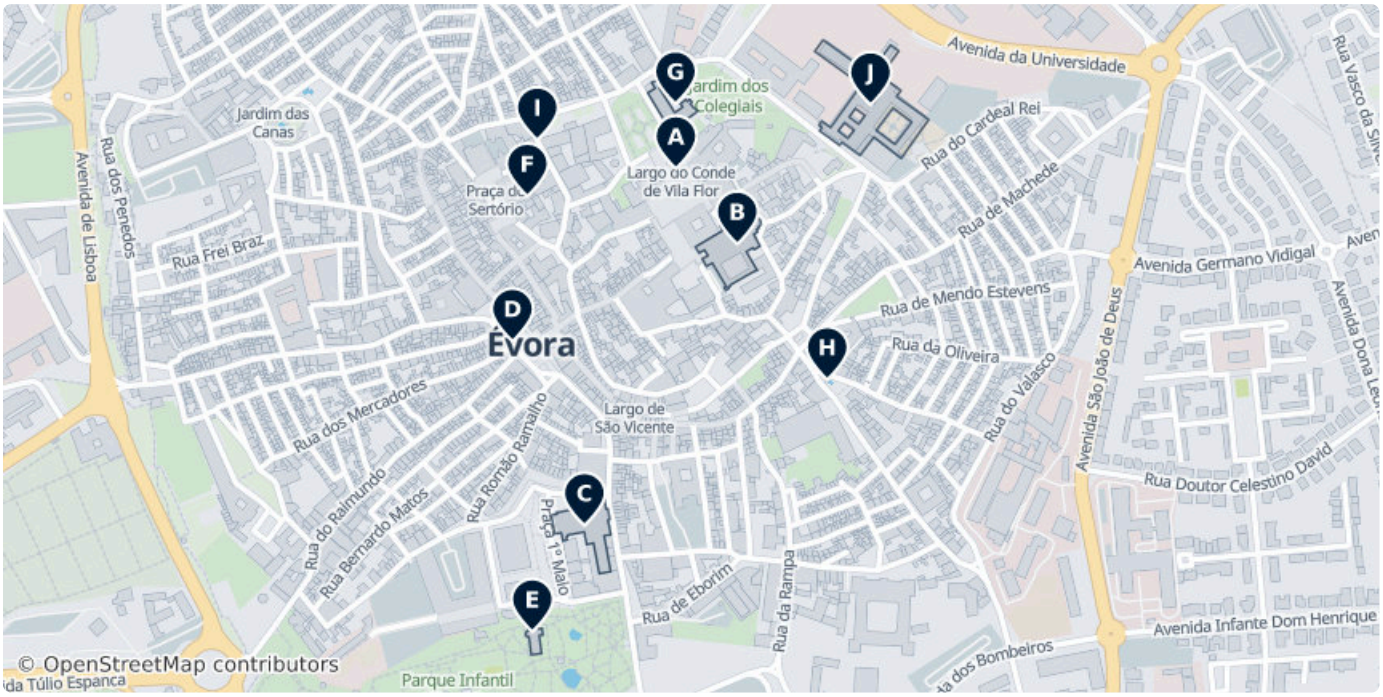
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Évora's Absolute Essentials

Évora's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, showcases layers of history from Roman ruins to Renaissance architecture. This collection features the 1st-century Roman Temple and the 16th-century University of Évora, the country's second oldest. Architectural highlights include the massive medieval Cathedral, the Manueline-style Royal Palace, and the Church of St. Francis, home to the famous Chapel of Bones. Central Giraldo Square and the Renaissance-era Fonte da Porta de Moura anchor the city's urban layout, while the Roman Baths offer a glimpse into ancient settlement life.





A Roman Temple of Évora

The Roman Temple of Évora, also referred to as the Templo de Diana is an ancient temple in the Portuguese city of Évora.

Largo do Conde de Vila FIor, 7000-863 Évora, Portugal (38.57263, -7.90734)



B Cathedral of Évora

The Cathedral of Évora is a Roman Catholic church in the city of Évora, Portugal.

Largo do Marquês de Marialva, 7000-809 Évora (38.57184, -7.90652)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

evoracathedral.com, +351 266 759 330



C Igreja de São Francisco

The Church of St. Francis is located in Évora, Portugal. It is best known for its lugubrious Chapel of the Bones.

Praça 1º Maio, 7000-645 Évora (38.56890, -7.90857)



D Giraldo Square

The main square of the town is a busy and beautiful place at the same time. Plenty of things and people to see here.

Praça do Giraldo, 7000 Évora, Portugal (38.57083, -7.90953)



E Royal Palace of Évora

The Royal Palace of Évora, also known as the Royal Palace of São Francisco and the Palace of King Manuel I, is a former royal residence of...

Rua 24 de Julho 1, 7000-650 Évora (38.56779, -7.90927)



F Roman Baths of Évora

A remnant of a time long gone, the remains of this Roman spa is one of the oldest proofs of ancient settlement in Évora.

Rua de Olivença, 7000 Évora, Portugal (38.57235, -7.90933)



G Palace of the Dukes of Cadaval

This representative manor which belonged to a powerful noble family is one of the greatest historics sights of Evora.

Rua Augusto Filipe Simões, 7000 Évora, Portugal
(38.57331, -7.90735)

Tu–Su 09:00–13:00, 14:00–18:00

palaciocadaval.com, +351 919 588 474



H Chafariz das Portas de Moura

Renaissance fountain dating to 1556, designed by Diogo de Torralva. It features a distinctive large marble globe resting on a central column, located in one of the city's historic squares.

26 Largo da Porta de Moura, Évora 7000647, Portugal
(38.57043, -7.90531)

I Arco Romano de Dona Isabel

An ancient Roman gateway that formed part of the city's original defensive walls, known as the Cerca Velha. It stands as a remnant of Évora's Roman urban planning.

(38.57294, -7.90920)



J University of Évora

The University of Évora is a public university in Évora, Portugal. It is the second oldest university in the country, established in 1559 by...

Largo dos Colegiais, 7000-928 Évora, Portugal
(38.57330, -7.90473)

uevora.pt

Historic Monuments of Évora

Évora's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, features a dense concentration of monuments spanning over two millennia. This selection includes the 1st-century Roman Temple, the massive 16th-century Aqueduto da Água de Prata, and the medieval Cathedral of Évora, the largest of its kind in Portugal. The list also highlights Roman thermal baths discovered within the City Hall, defensive fortifications like the Fort of Santo António da Piedade, and ancient gates that once protected the Alentejo capital.





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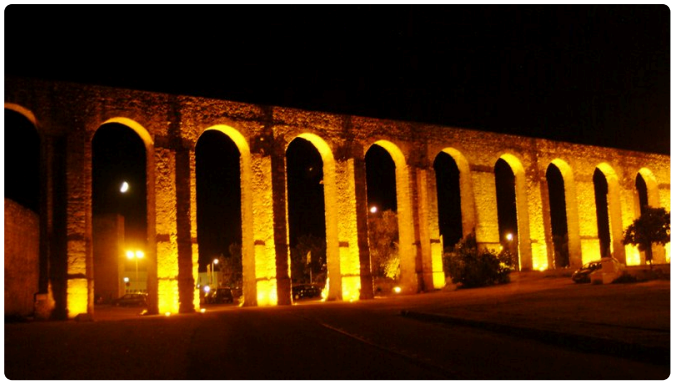
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D Aqueduto da Água de Prata

Completed in 1537 by architect Francisco de Arruda, this 18-kilometer Renaissance aqueduct supplied fresh water to the city. Its massive arches are uniquely integrated into the urban landscape, with houses and shops built directly into the structure in several sections.

7000, Portugal (38.57872, -7.91742)

E Fort Santo António da Piedade

Fort Santo António da Piedade, also known as Fort Santo António for short, is a military structure located in the parish of Bacelo e...

7005, Portugal (38.57848, -7.91567)

F Raimundo Gate

One of the primary entrances through the medieval defensive walls, this gate was rebuilt in the 17th century during the Portuguese Restoration War. It serves as a historical link between the ancient city center and the modern districts.

Rua do Raimundo, 7000-661 Évora, Portugal (38.56755, -7.91301)

G Arco Romano de Dona Isabel

A granite arch dating back to the Roman occupation, believed to be part of the city's original inner wall. It stands near the Roman Temple and serves as a significant archaeological marker of Évora's status as a major regional capital in Lusitania.

(38.57294, -7.90920)

Évora's Sacred Sites

Évora's religious landscape spans centuries, beginning with the 1st-century Roman Temple dedicated to the imperial cult. The city's Christian heritage is anchored by the 12th-century Cathedral, the largest medieval cathedral in Portugal, and the Church of St. Francis, home to the 16th-century Chapel of Bones. The collection includes the Carthusian monastery of Scala Coeli, Manueline-style chapels, and churches adorned with intricate 18th-century azulejo tilework, reflecting the city's deep spiritual and architectural history.





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D Igreja da Cartuxa

Founded in 1587, the Cartuxa de Santa Maria de Scala Coeli features the largest Renaissance cloister in Portugal and a prominent Baroque church facade.

(Unnamed Road), 7000, Portugal (38.58119, -7.91986)

E Ermida de São Miguel

A small chapel located within the Palace of the Counts of Basto, showcasing a blend of Manueline and Mudéjar architectural styles from the late 15th century.

(38.57261, -7.90523)

F Convento do Carmo

Established in 1531, this former Carmelite convent is notable for its Renaissance portal and its historical role in Évora's 16th-century religious expansion.

(38.56986, -7.90548)

G Igreja da Misericórdia

A 16th-century church renowned for its interior walls covered in 18th-century blue and white azulejo tiles illustrating the Works of Mercy.

(38.57058, -7.90647)

H Igreja de São Brás

Built in the 1480s, this church is a prime example of Mudéjar-Gothic architecture, distinguished by its cylindrical buttresses and conical spires.

Avenida Doutor Francisco Barahona, 7005-150 Évora (38.56494, -7.90717)

I Baluarte de São Bartolomeu

A small, historic chapel situated near the city's medieval walls, representing the simple local religious architecture of the region.

74 Avenida Doutor Manuel Trindade Salgueiro, Évora 7005839, Portugal (38.57735, -7.90919)

DATA SOURCES

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