

Guimarães

Braga District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Guimarães is a compact city in the green Minho region of northern Portugal. Many Portuguese call it the "cradle of the nation", because the first king, *Afonso Henriques*, is traditionally said to have been born here. The medieval centre, together with the old leather-working quarter of Couros, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It suits a relaxed one- or two-night stop. The old town is small and walkable, with granite squares, a hilltop castle and a ducal palace. A cable car takes you to a forested hill with wide views. The city is also a good base for Braga and the Minho countryside.

When to visit

Late spring and early autumn are the most comfortable times. Summer is hot and dry. Winter is mild but wet, so bring a rain jacket.

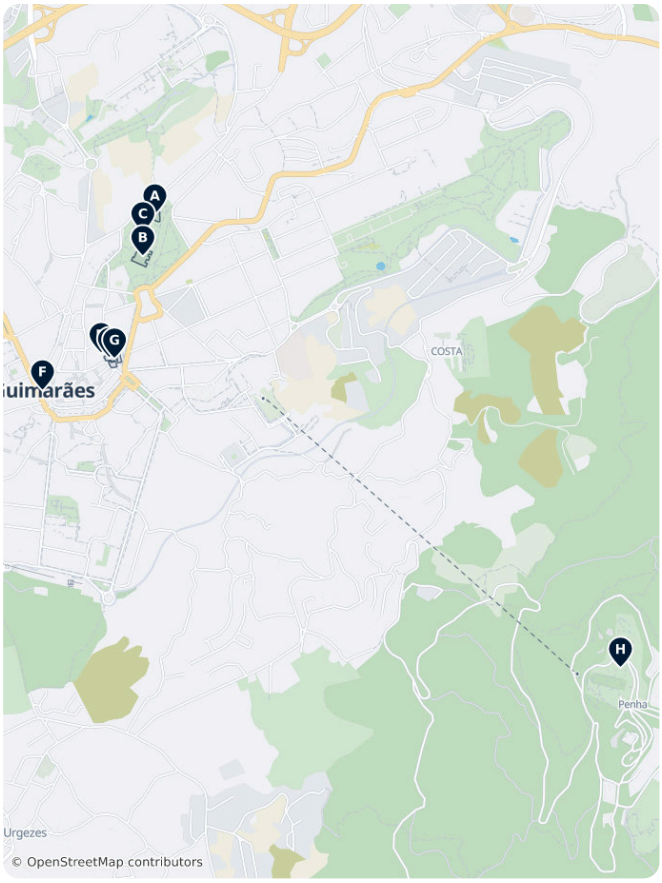
The biggest event is the Festas da Cidade e Gualterianas, held around the first weekend of August. It has parades, street decoration and concerts. Book your room early if you visit then. The student Nicolinas festivities run from late November to early December.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 16°	5° / 0°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for hiking	14° / 19°	5° / 0°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23°	7° / 2°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	8° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	11° / 6°	Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	27° / 36°	14° / 10°	Calm winds
July	Fair Fair for sightseeing	32° / 39°	16° / 12°	22 sunny days · Calm winds · Up to 9 days above 35°
August	Fair Fair for sightseeing	32° / 39°	16° / 12°	23 sunny days · Calm winds · Up to 9 days above 35°
September	Good Good for sightseeing	28° / 35°	15° / 10°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 31°	12° / 7°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 21°	8° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for hiking	13° / 17°	6° / 0°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: May, June

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

Top sights



- A Castelo de Guimarães is a medieval hilltop fortress and the symbol of the city. Its origins go back to the 10th century. It is open daily 10:00–18:00 (last entry 17:30).
- B Paço dos Duques de Bragança is a 15th-century noble residence with four towers around a courtyard. Inside is a museum with tapestries and porcelain. Palace tickets are 10 €, castle tickets 5 €, and a combined ticket is 13 €. Both are closed on 1 January, Easter Sunday, 1 May, 24 June and 25 December.
- C Igreja de São Miguel do Castelo is a small Romanesque chapel next to the castle. It is linked to the early history of Portugal.
- D Largo da Oliveira is the most photogenic square in the old town. E Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira stands on it, together with a Gothic monument for the Battle of Salado.
- F Largo do Toural is the lively main square on the edge of the old town. It is a good place to start a walk.
- G Museu de Alberto Sampaio shows religious art in a former church and cloister. It is open Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00–18:00.
- H Penha is a wooded hill above the city with a pilgrimage church, boulders, paths and views over the valley. You can reach it by cable car.

Guimarães – 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

- Ride the cable car up to Penha and walk down the forest paths. Late afternoon gives the best light over the city.
- Join the Festas Gualterianas in early August. The city has street parades and a Battle of the Flowers.
- Watch the Nicolinas student festivities from 29 November to 7 December. The main event is the Pinheiro, when a pine tree is pulled through the streets.

Day trips

Close options come first. The Minho region is small, so most trips are short.

- A Braga, about 25 to 30 minutes by bus. A larger city with a cathedral and the UNESCO-listed Bom Jesus do Monte sanctuary.
- Citânia de Briteiros, about 15 km north-west of Guimarães. An excavated Iron Age hill fort with round stone houses. Go by car or taxi.
- B Porto, about 1 hour 5 minutes to 1 hour 25 minutes by direct train. A full day is enough for the river and the old centre.



Where to explore

Other destinations nearby:

- For a bigger city with more sights, see Braga.
- For hills and rural villages in the Minho mountains, see Vieira do Minho.
- For the Atlantic coast, see Esposende.

Getting there

- **By air**: Porto airport (OPO) is the nearest airport with scheduled flights. Direct buses (FlixBus, Rede Expressos) reach Guimarães in about 40 minutes. A taxi takes a similar time.
- **By train**: Direct trains from Porto São Bento take about 1 hour 5 minutes to 1 hour 25 minutes. They run roughly hourly, with gaps at midday. Guimarães station is about a 10-minute walk south of the old town. Book on CP – Comboios de Portugal.
- **By bus**: Buses from Braga take about 25 to 30 minutes. Long-distance buses arrive at the Estação Central de Camionagem.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is compact and flat. Most sights are within 15 minutes of each other. The streets are cobbled, so wear good shoes.
- **Cable car**: The cable car runs from Teleférico de Guimarães (Estação das Hortas) up to Teleférico de Guimarães (Estação da Penha) on Penha hill. The ride takes under 8 minutes and climbs about 366 m.
- **City bus**: Guimabus runs the local bus network. See Guimabus for lines and timetables.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are the easy option for Citânia de Briteiros and the villages.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and mostly flat. Penha hill is steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Cobbled streets and hills make cycling hard in the centre.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the old town. A car helps only for villages, hill forts and wine estates in the countryside.
- **Parking**: The centre has narrow streets. Use paid car parks at the edge.

Food & drink

Look for *toucinho do céu*, a rich almond and egg pudding cake, and *tortas de Guimarães*, a flaky pastry.

For a meal, walk around the old town. Restaurants and cafés cluster around the old squares and the streets near Largo da Oliveira and Largo do Toural.

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.

Guimarães – 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

Guimarães is very safe for visitors. Pickpocketing is rare but can happen at festivals and on crowded buses. Keep an eye on your bag in crowds.

Wet granite pavements are slippery. Wear shoes with grip, and expect steep streets near the castle.

History

The city grew around a monastery and a fortress in the 10th century. Today you can still see the fortress at Castelo de Guimarães.

Afonso Henriques is traditionally said to have been born here. In 1128 he won the Battle of São Mamede near the city. This is seen as a key step towards the independent Kingdom of Portugal. Later he became the first king.

In 1340 Portuguese and Castilian forces won the Battle of Salado. A Gothic monument beside Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira recalls this. In the 15th century the Duke of Braganza built Paço dos Duques de Bragança. The old leather-working quarter of Couros is part of the World Heritage area. Guimarães was a European Capital of Culture in 2012.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



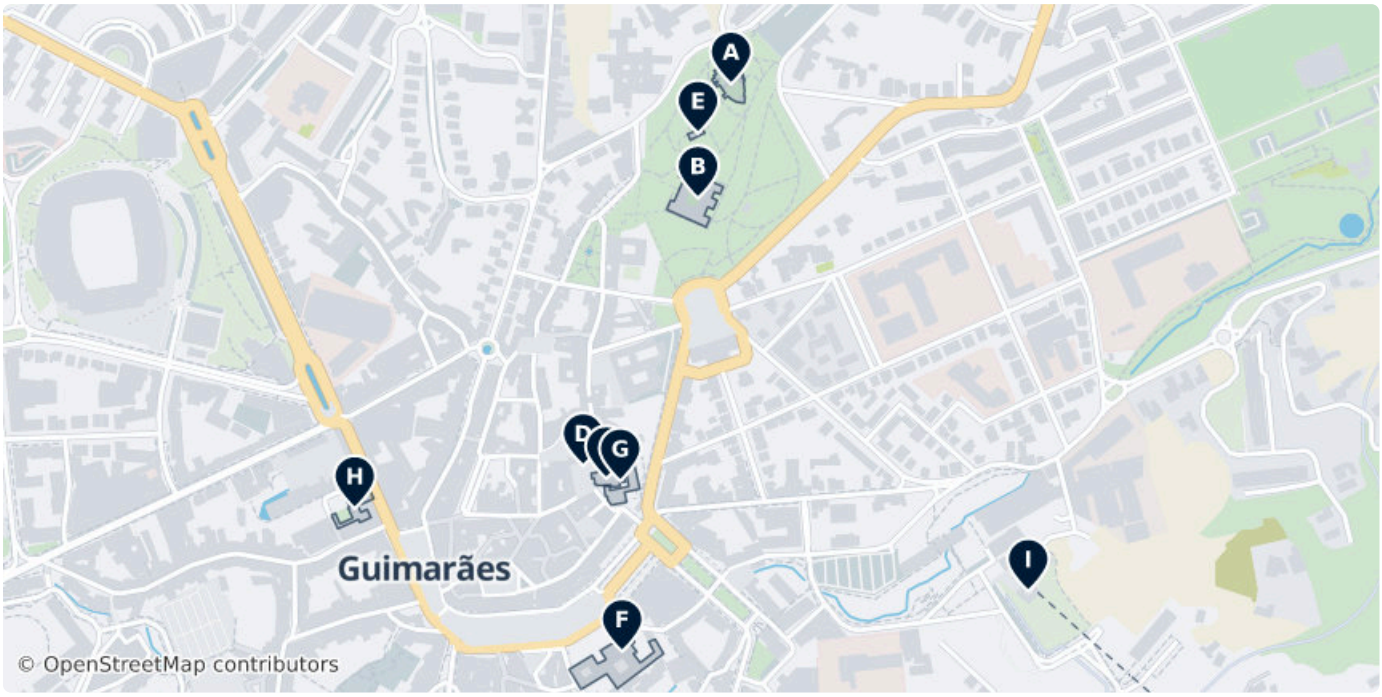
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Guimarães: Birthplace of a Nation Essentials

Guimarães, a UNESCO World Heritage site, preserves a dense concentration of medieval and Renaissance architecture essential to Portugal's foundation. This collection highlights the 10th-century castle and the 15th-century Palace of the Dukes of Braganza. Key cultural landmarks include the Romanesque chapel of São Miguel, the religious art collections at Museu Alberto Sampaio, and Iron Age artifacts within the Sociedade Martins Sarmento. The historic center's layout is anchored by Largo da Oliveira, while the cable car provides access to the high-altitude viewpoints of Monte da Penha.





A Guimarães Castle

The Castle of Guimarães, is the principal medieval castle in the municipality Guimarães, in the northern region of Portugal.

Rua Conde Dom Henrique, 4810 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44790, -8.29040)

+351 253 412 273



B Palace of the Dukes of Braganza

The Ducal Palace of the Braganza or Palace of the Dukes of Braganza is a medieval estate and former residence of the first Dukes of...

Rua Conde D. Henrique, 4810-245 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44646, -8.29096)

pacodosduques.gov.pt, +351 253 412 273



C Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira

Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira is a collegiate church in Guimarães, Portugal. It is classified as a National Monument.

27 Rua Alfredo Guimarães, Guimarães 4800026, Portugal (41.44293, -8.29250)



D Largo da Oliveira

A historic square featuring the Padrão do Salado, a 14th-century Gothic shrine commemorating the Battle of Rio Salado. It is surrounded by traditional northern Portuguese houses with distinctive wooden balconies.

Largo da Oliveira, 4800-443 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44309, -8.29289)



E Igreja de São Miguel do Castelo

A small 12th-century Romanesque chapel located between the castle and the palace. According to tradition, it is the site where Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, was baptized.

(Unnamed Road), Guimarães 4800, Portugal (41.44728, -8.29096)



F Convento e Igreja de São Francisco

Originally founded in the 13th century, this church features a Gothic portal and an interior decorated with 18th-century azulejo tile panels illustrating the life of Saint Anthony.

17 Travessa de São Francisco, Guimarães 4810549, Portugal (41.44075, -8.29223)



G Alberto Sampaio Museum

Housed in the cloister of the Colegiada de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira, this museum displays the tunic worn by King João I at the Battle of Aljubarrota and a significant collection of medieval religious silverware.

26 Rua Alfredo Guimarães, Guimarães 4800026, Portugal (41.44290, -8.29227)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

museualbertosampaio.gov.pt, +351 253 423 910



H Sociedade Martins Sarmento

An archaeological museum preserving significant artifacts from the Citânia de Briteiros, including the Pedra Formosa and various Iron Age Celtic sculptures and inscriptions.

34 Rua do Paio Galvão, Guimarães 4810426, Portugal (41.44255, -8.29673)

msarmento.org

I Teleférico de Guimarães

A 1,700-meter cable car line connecting the city center to the summit of Monte da Penha, ascending 400 meters to offer panoramic views of the surrounding Minho region.

Rua Aristides de Sousa Mendes, 4810-274 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44151, -8.28541)

Castles and Heritage Sites

Guimarães, often called the "Cradle of Portugal," preserves a dense concentration of medieval and early modern landmarks. This collection includes the 10th-century Guimarães Castle and the 15th-century Palace of the Dukes of Braganza, notable for its Burgundian-style architecture and cylindrical chimneys. The selection also features Gothic commemorative monuments like the Padrão de Dom João I and the 18th-century Vila Flor Palace, which integrates Baroque gardens with a modern cultural center and theater.





A Guimarães Castle

The Castle of Guimarães, is the principal medieval castle in the municipality Guimarães, in the northern region of Portugal.

Rua Conde Dom Henrique, 4810 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44790, -8.29040)

+351 253 412 273



B Palace of the Dukes of Braganza

The Ducal Palace of the Braganza or Palace of the Dukes of Braganza is a medieval estate and former residence of the first Dukes of...

Rua Conde D. Henrique, 4810-245 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44646, -8.29096)

pacodosduques.gov.pt, +351 253 412 273

C Maria da Fonte

Monument commemorating the 1846 popular uprising in Northern Portugal led by local women against new tax and burial laws.

Alameda Doutor Alfredo Pimenta, 4800-151 Guimarães, Portugal (41.44423, -8.29745)

D tanque

(41.43997, -8.29335)

E Padrão de Dom João I

14th-century Gothic shrine located in Largo da Oliveira, built to commemorate the victory at the Battle of Rio Salado in 1340.

271 Rua Dom João I, Guimarães 4835, Portugal (41.44149, -8.30103)

F Centro Cultural Vila Flor

18th-century Baroque palace and terraced gardens converted into a cultural center with contemporary art galleries and a modern theater.

452 Avenida Dom Afonso Henriques, Guimarães 4810431, Portugal (41.43727, -8.29501)

Historic Churches of Guimarães

Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal, preserves a dense concentration of religious architecture spanning the Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque periods. This collection features the 12th-century Igreja de São Miguel do Castelo, where the first Portuguese king was baptized, and the ornate Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira. These sites showcase significant monastic history, intricate gilded woodcarvings, and traditional azulejo tilework that define the city's UNESCO-listed historic center.





A Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira

Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira is a collegiate church in Guimarães, Portugal. It is classified as a National Monument.

27 Rua Alfredo Guimarães, Guimarães 4800026, Portugal (41.44293, -8.29250)



B Convento e Igreja de São Francisco

13th-century foundation featuring a Gothic portal and 14th-century cloister. The interior is decorated with 18th-century azulejo tiles depicting the life of Saint Anthony and ornate Baroque gilded woodcarvings.

17 Travessa de São Francisco, Guimarães 4810549, Portugal (41.44075, -8.29223)



C Igreja de São Gualter

18th-century church known for its twin spires and the long floral garden leading to its entrance. The interior houses a notable Baroque altarpiece dedicated to Saint Gualter.

413 Largo República do Brasil, Guimarães 4810446, Portugal (41.44086, -8.28970)



D Igreja de São Miguel do Castelo

12th-century Romanesque church located near the castle. It is the traditional site of the baptism of Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal, and contains several medieval floor tombs.

(Unnamed Road), Guimarães 4800, Portugal (41.44728, -8.29096)



E Igreja da Misericórdia

16th-century Renaissance church with a Baroque interior. It contains an impressive gilded wood altarpiece and 18th-century azulejo panels decorating the nave.

46 Rua Rainha Dona Maria II, Guimarães 4800431, Portugal (41.44222, -8.29476)



F Convento do Carmo

17th-century Baroque convent and church featuring a high altar with intricate gilded carvings and traditional blue and white tilework.

63 Largo Martins Sarmento, Guimarães 4800432, Portugal (41.44579, -8.29218)



G Igreja de São Pedro

18th-century Neoclassical church located near the city center. It features a sober exterior and a spacious interior with marble altars.

88 Largo do Toural, Guimarães 4810, Portugal (41.44161, -8.29608)

H Igreja de São Miguel

Parish church serving the local community.

558 Rua de São Miguel, Guimarães 4835106, Portugal (41.43777, -8.30958)

I Igreja de Santa Marinha

Former 12th-century Augustinian monastery featuring Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque architectural elements. The site now functions as a luxury Pousada while retaining its historic cloisters and chapel.

(Unnamed Road), 4810, Portugal (41.44352, -8.27653)

J Casa Murtuária

Modern mortuary chapel located near the local cemetery.

562 Rua de São Miguel, Guimarães 4835106, Portugal (41.43784, -8.30938)

K The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Modern meetinghouse for the local congregation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

(41.43811, -8.29058)

L Igreja Matriz de Azurém

Traditional parish church serving the Azurém district.

328 Rua de São Pedro, Guimarães 4800070, Portugal (41.45679, -8.29410)

M Igreja de São Dâmaso

18th-century church featuring an elegant façade, located within the local parish network.

444 Rua Dona Mafalda, Guimarães 4800430, Portugal (41.44985, -8.28779)

DATA SOURCES

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

IMAGE CREDITS

- Guimarães Castle — "Alcáçova do Castelo de Guimarães." by sarahkassim, CC BY 2.0
- Palace of the Dukes of Braganza — "Hall of the Dukes of Bragança in Guimarães, Portugal." by Feliciano Guimarães, CC BY 2.0
- Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira — "Guimarães - Igreja de Nossa Sra. da Oliveira ou Igreja da Colegiada de Guimarães" by António Amen, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Largo da Oliveira — "Praça da Oliveira" by Gerd Eichmann, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Igreja de São Miguel do Castelo — "Igreja de Sao Miguel do Castelo" by José Mendes Alves, CC-BY-SA
- Convento e Igreja de São Francisco — "Igreja de S. Francisco" by Schwarze engel, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Alberto Sampaio Museum — "Claustro da Colegiada de Guimarães." by tadekk, CC BY 2.0
- Sociedade Martins Sarmento — "With the Igreja de Sao Domingos in the background." by Varun Shiv Kapur, CC BY 2.0
- Guimarães Castle — "Alcáçova do Castelo de Guimarães." by sarahkassim, CC BY 2.0
- Palace of the Dukes of Braganza — "Hall of the Dukes of Bragança in Guimarães, Portugal." by Feliciano Guimarães, CC BY 2.0
- Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira — "Guimarães - Igreja de Nossa Sra. da Oliveira ou Igreja da Colegiada de Guimarães" by António Amen, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Convento e Igreja de São Francisco — "Igreja de S. Francisco" by Schwarze engel, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Igreja de São Gualter — "Igreja de Sao Gualter" by Mister No, CC BY 3.0
- Igreja de São Miguel do Castelo — "Igreja de Sao Miguel do Castelo" by José Mendes Alves, CC-BY-SA
- Igreja da Misericórdia — "Igreja da Misericórdia de Guimarães no Centro Histórico de Guimarães XII" by Maragato1976, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Convento do Carmo — "Convento do Carmo" by André Luis Marques Barros, CC-BY-SA
- Igreja de São Pedro — "Igreja de São Pedro" by Florian Cretual, CC-BY-SA

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.