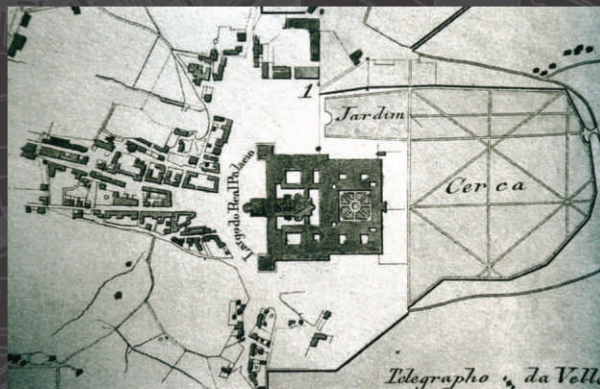


The medieval town of Mafra, known locally as the Old Town as opposed to the new town that grew up in the shadows of the Palace-Convent, was granted its charter in 1189, by Dom Nicolau, Bishop of Silves, who had been given the town by the King, Sancho I. The town, thought to have been walled originally, was built around a regular, linear design with a main street, known then as Straight Street (today Pope Peter Julian), that joined the eastern and western ends of town. In medieval times Saint Andrew's Church was built there, as was the Mafra Lay Brothers' House, which later on was the site for the Palace of the Marquises of Ponte de Lima.

In 1513, King Manuel I granted Mafra a new charter, aimed at reorganising the area's social, economic and administrative life. The 16th century, as happened in other locations in the municipality, saw the founding of the Holy Spirit Hermitage and Guesthouse next to one of the town's main access roads, to the east, where Quinta da Raposa was later built.

Then at the end of the 16th century, a new administrative and judicial structure was built, the Town Hall, in what is today Pillory Square. This caused the town to expand to the east and northeast. This resulted in a new neighbourhood named in the Parish Records of 1758 as Bairro da Boavista (Good View District). This was to come to house not only the Town Hall, but also the prison, Pillory Square and the slaughterhouses.

When King John V ordered the erecting of the Palace-Convent, it meant the town of Mafra would grow markedly from the 18th century onwards. Mafra Old Town was connected to the site of the Royal Works by means of a major artery, today called Rua Serpa Pinto, but originally known as Royal Works Street. On the other hand, the building of a genuine "ephemeral city" a few hundred metres from the Palace's façade, in order to watch the tens of thousands of people involved in the Royal enterprise, became the genesis for the new urban development that took place during the 18th and 19th centuries, and later joined the various parts of Mafra into a whole.



Plan of site of the Mafra Royal Building, drawn by Amâncio José Henriques, 1827. ANTT, A.H.M.F., Almocharifado de Mafra, pasta 7. (PIMENTEL, A. 2002 – *Arquitectura e poder: O real edificio de Mafra*.)

Note: This leaflet suggests a route. Of the monuments shown, only Mafra National Palace, the Former Town Hall and Quinta da Raposa are open to visitors.

Guided Tours: May to September (1st Saturday of the month), 10.30, by appointment through the Complexo Cultural Quinta da Raposa, Mafra (tel. 261 819 711)

Opening Hours:

Mafra National Palace

10.00 am to 5.00 pm (last ticket sold 4.30 pm)

Closed Tuesdays

Former Town Hall (Prof. Raúl de Almeida Municipal Museum)

Complexo Cultural Quinta da Raposa

Tuesday to Friday - 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Saturdays - 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

Closed Mondays and Public Holidays

INFORMATION



Mafra Tourist Office

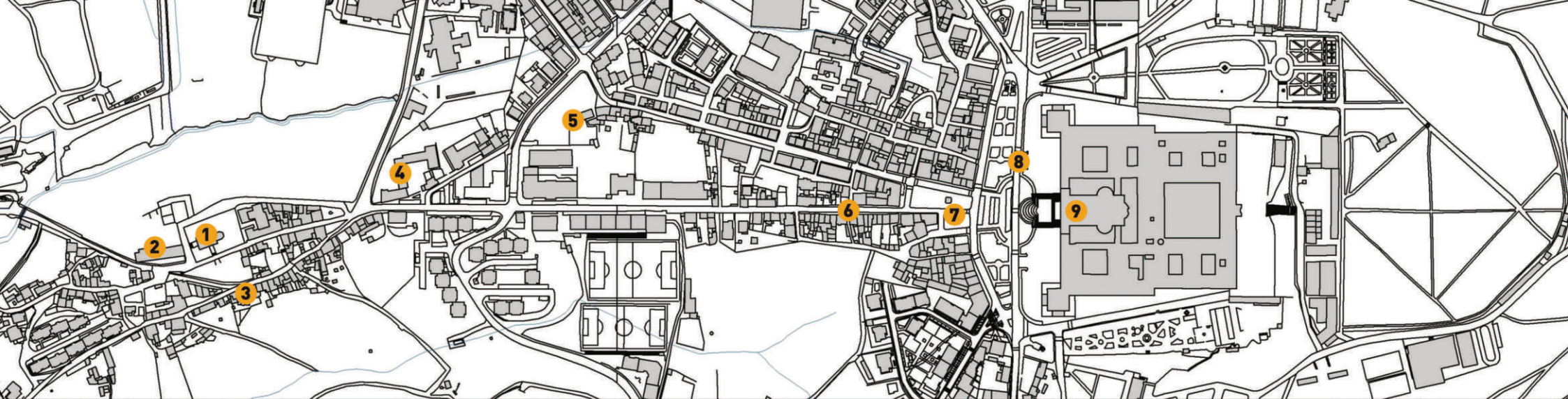
Terreiro D. João V - 2640-492 Mafra

Tel.: (+351) 261 817 170 - Fax: (+351) 261 817 179

e-mail: turismo@cm-mafra.pt - site: www.cm-mafra.pt



Historic Walk
in **Urban Mafra:**
from the **Medieval Town**
to the **Palace-Convent**



1. Saint Andrew's Church

Saint Andrew's Church was built in the 13th and 14th centuries, and replaced a previous temple of worship whose location is unknown. In the 17th and 18th centuries the church underwent reconstruction in terms of both architecture and artwork. It was restored in the 20th century by the Direcção Geral dos Edifícios e Monumentos Nacionais. The restoration was carried out in the spirit of the age and was intended to give the church its original appearance. It was classified as a National Monument in 1935.



2. Palace of the Marquises of Ponte de Lima

The Palace of the Marquis of Vila Nova de Cerveira (the title was later changed to the Marquis of Ponte de Lima), the Lord of the town of Mafra, was built in the 17th century on a site where once stood the house of the Mafra lay brothers, and use was probably made of the latter's structures. When King John V came to Mafra to inspect the progress of the "Royal Works" it stayed here and the place became immortalised by travel writers, in particular the gardens, orchards and leafy woodland.



3. Manueline Arch (Tecedeiros Street)

This arch is a rare vestige of Manueline art and is a remainder of the architectural work conducted in Mafra during that period. It has an indented, polylobed lintel, and dates from the early 16th century, from the time when the town's charter was granted by King Manuel I (1513).



4. Quinta da Raposa Cultural Complex

The Estate's main building was erected near the former Holy Spirit hermitage and guesthouse, which provided an important social welfare service. It was probably built in the 16th century and housed the monks before they moved into Mafra Convent. In the 20th century the building was expanded to accommodate the São Vicente de Paulo seminary, which was later converted into the Mafra Preparatory and Secondary School. It currently houses the municipality's department of culture and is known as the Quinta da Raposa Cultural Complex.



5. Former Town Hall and Pillory

The Town Hall, now the Prof. Raúl de Almeida Municipal Museum, was built at the end of the 16th century and expanded in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a fine example of administrative and judicial baroque architecture. It originally housed the court, audience chambers, town hall and prison. The pillory, dating from the 17th century, has been classified as an Object of Public Interest since 1933.



6. Serpa Pinto Street

Formerly known as Royal Works Street as it was named in the 18th century, this road is the axis that provides a direct link between Mafra's mediaeval town and the site of the Palace-Convent.



9. Republic Square and Count of Ferreira Square

The squares were built during the course of the 19th century, at the heart of the urban development that grew up near the Palace-Convent, and which opened out onto a wide square. Count of Ferreira Square owes its name to the school that was opened there in 1886. In his will the Count expressed a wish for a school to be built in all of the nation's municipalities. It was demolished in 1930.



8. King John V Public Square

When King John V decided to found the Convent in Mafra, the land was marked out to house the complex that included a "large square" in front of the façade. As the town grew to the west of the Palace-Convent, the Royal Palace Square (as it was called at the beginning of the 19th century) was taken over by the mansion and Public Square and assumed its current size in the 19th century. King John V Square was given its current appearance in 1929 and 1930 by the architect Paulino Montez. Saint Andrew's Fair has been held in the square since the bascentury.



9. Palace-Convent

King John V ordered the Royal Convent of Our Lady and Saint Anthony of the Arrábida Capuchin Order to be built in 1711. The project, originally envisaged thirteen monks (in keeping with the religious order's founding principles), but it was reworked to receive three hundred monks and a palace for the Royal Family. It became the Portuguese Monarchy's largest architectural project. The basilica was consecrated in 1730, and the remaining buildings took a few decades to complete. It is a Baroque masterpiece and a symbol of John V's power. It was designed originally by the German architect João Frederico Ludovice. In 1907 it was classified as a National Monument.