



# COIMBRA FOR THE LITTLE ONES

## ITINERARY POINTS



### 1. UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA MUSEUMS | MUSEUS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA

The *Natural History Cabinet* was the first Portuguese University Museum that was the result of the reform conducted by the *Marquis of Pombal* (a reform that promoted the experimental teaching of sciences in the 18<sup>th</sup> century) in the University and established the foundations of education and modern scientific research in our country. This reform gave also rise to the *Physics Cabinet*, the *Anatomical Theatre*, the *Pharmaceutical Dispensary*, the *Chemistry Laboratory*, the *Astronomic Observatory* and the *Botanic Garden*.

These collections were the basis of the science museums, recently united under the *Science Museum of University of Coimbra*, consisting of the *Science Museum*, *Experimental Physics Cabinet*, *Gallery of José Bonifácio de Andrade e Silva* and the *Natural History Cabinets*.

**SCIENCE MUSEUM | CHEMISTRY LABORATORY | MUSEU DA CIÊNCIA | LABORATÓRIO QUÍMICO** – Corresponding to the need of requalifying the *Chemistry Laboratory building*, the *Science Museum* was inaugurated in December 2006, with an interactive space that brings science knowledge to all types of public.

The requalification of the building, who received the *Diogo de Castilho Architecture Award* in 2007, was made according to the project of the architects *João Mendes Ribeiro*, *Carlos Antunes* and *Desirée Pedro*.

This museum is composed of the various scientific collections of the *University of Coimbra*, distributed in two large buildings: the *College of Jesus* and the *Chemistry Laboratory* conceived during the *Marquis of Pombal Reform* (18<sup>th</sup> century) for the experimental teaching of chemistry.

**CHEMISTRY LABORATORY | LABORATÓRIO QUÍMICO** – During the renovating works, it was discovered that the 18<sup>th</sup> century building had been constructed by taking advantage of the refectory of the old *College of Jesus*, of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The museum has the permanent exhibition “*Secrets of Light and Matter*” that illustrates, through interactive experiences and multimedia, the history of science.

**COLLEGE OF JESUS | COLÉGIO DE JESUS** – The old *College of Jesus* received a new façade, designed by *William Elsdon*, during the restoration works made to accommodate the equipment destined to the experimental teaching of sciences. It is in this enlightenment spirit that the offices of *Natural History* and *Experimental Physics* are created in the building, today the *Natural History Cabinets* and *Physics Cabinet*.

**PHYSICS CABINET | GABINETE DE FÍSICA** – The collection of scientific and didactic instruments of physics of the *University of Coimbra* is one of the most remarkable and rare collections in *Europe* that, in 2016, was recognized as a European historical site by the European Society of Physics.

**NATURAL HISTORY CABINETS | GALERIA DE HISTÓRIA NATURAL** – Created for the experimental teaching of the then *Faculty of Philosophy*, it consists of a collection of animals, plants, fossils, minerals, rocks and models that form part

of the oldest museum in *Portugal* that remains in its original space.

**COORDINATES:** 40.210085, -8.423552

### 2. NATIONAL MUSEUM MACHADO DE CASTRO | MUSEU NACIONAL MACHADO DE CASTRO

Founded in 1911, the *National Museum Machado de Castro* opened to the public in October 1913 and was elevated to the status of National Museum in 1965, due to the quality and importance of its various collections.

The museum occupies the former *Episcopal Palace* built above the *Cryptoporticus* of the *Aeminius Forum*, which is the most significant Roman work by *Caius Servius Lupo*, on the national territory, dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> century. Between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries were created and renewed the various buildings for the episcopal residence. Of the various restructurings, the highlight stands out the remains of the Romanesque cloister of the *Condal period* (c. 1100-1140) belonging to the former *collegiate church of Saint John of Almedina*; the classic and harmonious *Loggia* from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century; and finally the renovated *Saint John's of Almedina church* from the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Already in this century the building was target of a project of requalification and expansion of spaces, designed by the architect *Gonçalo Byrne*.

The name of the museum honours one of the greatest figures of the national sculpture, *Joaquim Machado de Castro* (1731-1822) who was born on the limits of the city and was a royal sculptor during the reigns of *King José I*, *Queen Maria I* and *King João VI*.

The museum was added to the *World Heritage of University of Coimbra*, *Alta and Sofia* list, on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**COORDINATES:** 40.209001, -8.425512

### 3. ALMEDINA TOWER AND ARCH | WALLED CITY INTERPRETATIVE CENTRE | TORRE E ARCO DE ALMEDINA | NÚCLEO DA CIDADE MURALHADA

Main gate of the walls of the city of *Coimbra*, whose foundations date back to the time of Islamic occupation. Over the centuries it has been under several renovation and restoration, particularly in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when it received the top addition to be used as the *Aldermen House* and is therefore also known as the *Relation Tower*.

Nowadays hosts the *Walled City Interpretative Centre*, whose purpose is the recovery of the existence of the wall, in the collective memory, demonstrating its defining influence on the urban organization of the city.

**COORDINATES:** 40.208950, -8.428902

### 4. MONDEGO GREEN PARK | PARQUE VERDE DO MONDEGO

Designed by the architect *Camilo Cortesão*, under the *Polis Program*, the *Parque Verde do Mondego*, was inaugurated on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2004. Along 4 km

on the river banks, it occupies, on the right bank, an area of 400 000 m<sup>2</sup> totally dedicated to leisure with pedestrian walkways and bicycle lanes, through pavilions with temporary exhibitions, of which stands out the *Centro de Portugal Pavilion*, designed by *Souto Moura* and *Álvaro Siza Vieira*, which represented *Portugal* at *Expo 2000*, in Hannover.

During the summer of 2006 was inaugurated the magnificent and innovative pedestrian bridge *Pedro e Inês*, a project by *Cecil Balmond* and *Adão da Fonseca*, which connected the two banks of the *Mondego River*.

On the left bank, a sandbox was built that allows the practice of beach volleyball; a basic level skate park, a variety of children's playground equipment, an entry-level skatepark, a picnic park and 4 pavilions that host nautical activities clubs (canoeing, rowing and sailing), guarantee many sports and leisure activities.

**COORDINATES:** 40.201822, -8.425677

### 5. EXPLORATÓRIO - COIMBRA'S LIVE SCIENCE CENTRE | EXPLORATÓRIO - CENTRO DE CIÊNCIA VIVA DE COIMBRA

Founding in 1995, by the *University of Coimbra* and the *Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra*, the *Exploratory Prince Henrique*, a nonprofit association, was the first interactive science centre in *Portugal*.

It began its activity at the *Municipal House of Culture*, integrating, in 1998, the network of *Living Science Centres* and, in 2000, it was awarded with the title of *Public Utility*.

In 2009, it was transferred to the left bank of *Mondego Green Park*, where it was given its own building.

**COORDINATES:** 40.197246, -8.429462

### 6. PORTUGAL DOS PEQUENITOS

Conceived by the *Physician and Professor Bissaya Barreto*, designed by the architect *Cassiano Branco*, the *Portugal dos Pequenitos* opened to the public on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1940. It is one of the works making part of a vast child protection plan that included medical, sanitary, education and social assistance, carried out in the central coastal region of the country, following modern educational methods.

It is the oldest Portuguese thematic park, consisting of replicas made to the scale of children (so that they can play inside of the buildings) divided in five major themes: *Regional houses* (representation of the traditional houses of the different regions of *Portugal*); *Monumental Portugal* (where the most significant monuments of *Portugal* are reproduced); *City of Coimbra* (special highlight for the city and its history); *Insular Portugal* (with reproduction of monuments from *Madeira* and the *Azores*) and *Portuguese Speaking Countries*, ancient colonial territories (where the old traditional houses and ethnographic elements of the ancient colonial territories are represented).

**COORDINATES:** 40.203083, -8.434766

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## COIMBRA FOR THE LITTLE ONES

Everything is tiny for us - but big for the kids  
- and everything is true.

**Bissaya Barreto**

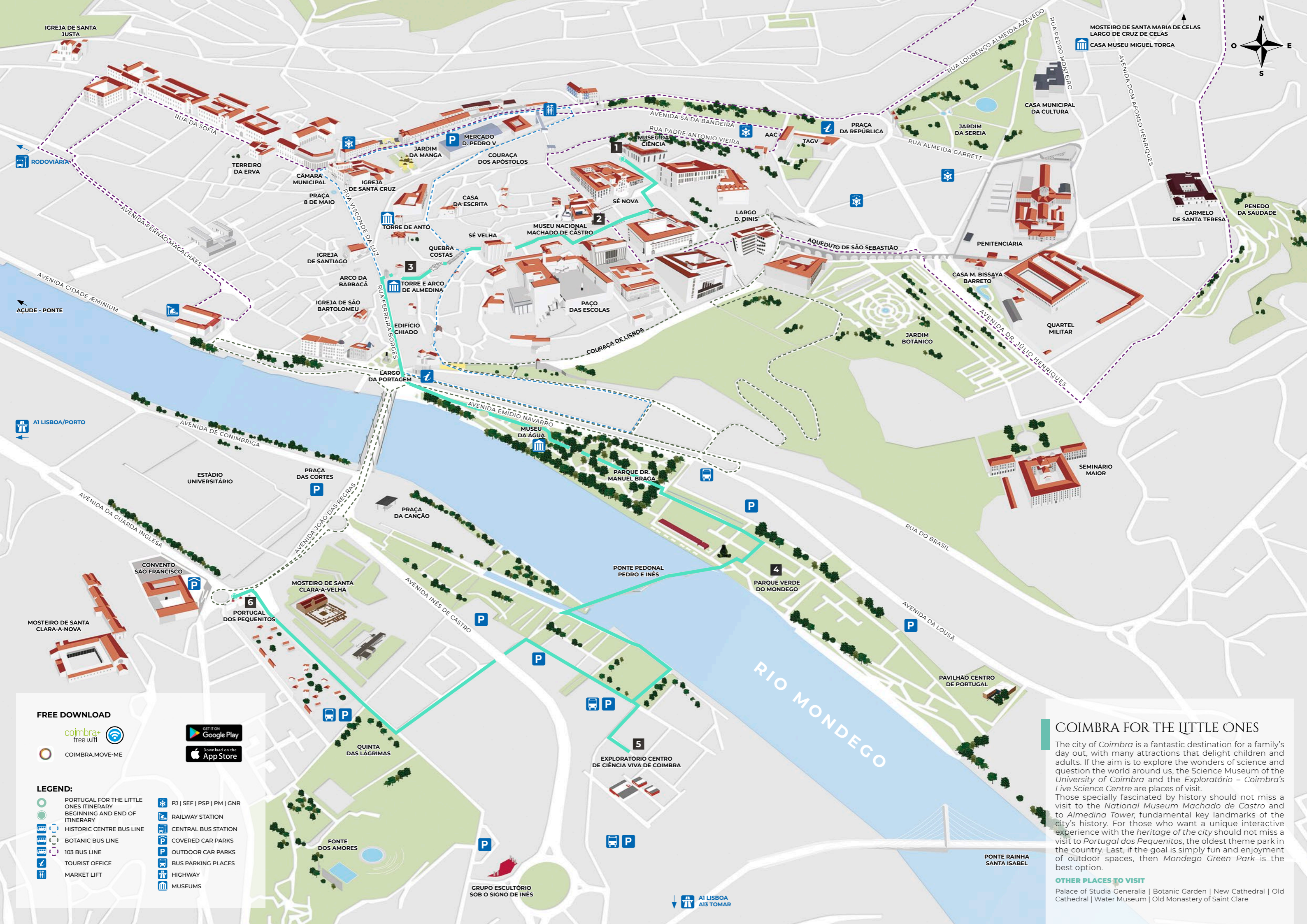
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- D. CATHEDRAL OF LISBON
- E. VILLA OF BEIRA ALTA
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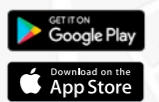
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**COIMBRA FOR THE LITTLE ONES**

The city of *Coimbra* is a fantastic destination for a family's day out, with many attractions that delight children and adults. If the aim is to explore the wonders of science and question the world around us, the Science Museum of the *University of Coimbra* and the *Exploratório - Coimbra's Live Science Centre* are places of visit. Those specially fascinated by history should not miss a visit to the *National Museum Machado de Castro* and to *Almedina Tower*, fundamental key landmarks of the city's history. For those who want a unique interactive experience with the *heritage of the city* should not miss a visit to *Portugal dos Pequenitos*, the oldest theme park in the country. Last, if the goal is simply fun and enjoyment of outdoor spaces, then *Mondego Green Park* is the best option.

**OTHER PLACES TO VISIT**

Palace of Studia Generalia | Botanic Garden | New Cathedral | Old Cathedral | Water Museum | Old Monastery of Saint Clare