



Faith, History and Tradition Route



Itinerary name	Faith, History and Tradition Route in Guilhabreu
Promoter Entities/ Partnerships	Town Hall of Vila do Conde, Parish Council of Guilhabreu e Villae Piloto- Country House
Itinerary Type	Circular/ Small route
Location	Guilhabreu
Area field	Historical-Cultural/ Religious/
Length	2 km
Duration	3 hours (snack break)
Ground type	Asphalt/Parallel
Difficulty	Low
Maximum Altitude	100 MT
Price	30€ (route and lunch)

Guilhabreu – Marvellous village

The oldest written document known about this village goes back as far as 907. Therefore Guilhabreu is a millenary village inhabited by friendly people with plenty of stories to tell and also a valuable and substantial heritage to be admired.

Main sightseeing

This route from a heritage and architectonic point of view has many interesting spots such as the Church and the Parish Centre, the Arches of Meca, the Parada Square, the Chapel of Our Lady of Amparo and some typical farmsteads, which are material witnesses of the millenary story of Guilhabreu that enriches and embellishes it.

Route description

The departure from the Country House will be around 4 p.m. towards the architectonic centre of the village which entails the Church and Parish Centre, Arches of Meca and Chapel of Saint Antony. The Parish Church of S. Martinho de Guilhabreu built in 1885 is one of the most beautiful and grand temples of the County of Vila do Conde.

When seen from the outside the Bell Tower stands out in the middle, as well as its façade divided in three wings by vertical straight frames of squared stone. Its interior is made of only one nave and it is subdivided in the main-chapel and the centre of the church with 6 excellent gilded altars. From the churchyard you can gaze the wide and multifaceted landscape made of houses, farms, kitchen gardens, orchards and shining forests spreading as far as the sea.



In the Parish Centre opened on the 11th May 1986 you can enjoy many facilities. You have a small Museum of Religious Art with liturgical objects of ancient use, such as sculptures, furniture, monstrance, trunks with relics, priestly garments, books, and the first clock of the parochial church. The highlights of this collection are the picture of the “Holy father” which was brought from the old church and has more than 500 years and also the lovely bright dress of “Our Lady of Dores” which was bought in Paris in 1907 by the

benefactor Joaquim de Oliveira Maia, who was living in Brazil.

The Meca Arches are one of the most outstanding monuments in the village. This small aqueduct carries the water from Monte Grande to supply the Farm of Meca whose manor house is opposite the Arches. Some say these Arches date from the Roman Empire.

The Chapel of Saint Anthony stands in the Farm of Meca opposite the Arches of Meca. It is a graceful chapel. Long ago many pilgrims came to this chapel every 13th of June to honour its patron.

Then you go to the Parada Square, the main square of the village to visit a shop selling glass and also a painting and sculpture studio.

Afterwards you pause to have a snack in one of the cafés in the Parada Square.



The route goes on to the “Chapel of Our Lady of Amparo”. The private blazonry chapel was built in the 16th century in neoclassic architectonic style with a simple square portico

and a triangular front. Every year in May this chapel is decorated and welcomes the visit of many pilgrims honouring “Our Lady of Fatima”. In front of the chapel there is a simple granite transept.

This Chapel of “Our Lady of Amparo” belonged to the Farm of the Old Tower that was from D. Miguel Vaz Guedes de Ataíde, who was a noble in the Royal Palace. The legend of the Black Saint is connected to this farm which has as main characters the noble of the Farm and a black servant perhaps a slave brought from Africa during the Discoveries Time.



During the return trajectory to the Country House you can admire some of the most important farmsteads from the village whose local granite façades testify the community traditions and show the village rusticity and identity.

Route regulation:

- Follow only the signed treks;
- Avoid noise and attitude that disturb the local peace;
- Watch the fauna with binoculars from a long-distance.
- Respect the private propriety;
- Preserve the nature, don't collect plants, animal or rocks;
- Always use comfortable and light shoes and clothes.

The activity will take place only with a minimum number of 4 participants. This memorable tour will be lead by enthusiastic, experiment and fluent in several languages guides.

Itinerary Map

