



## Revive the cinquecentist in Vila do Conde



### Vila do Conde

#### The pearl of the 15th century

*Wheaten "Vila do Conde"  
Over to the sea leaning  
A thousand years a sailor  
A thousand years seafaring*

Dário Marujo

Vila do Conde is very ancient, goes back to the Foundation of Portugal. The first reference to the town comes from the year 953.

In the 15th and 16th centuries in the port of Vila do Conde there was a constant bustle with the departure and arrival of the ships from Africa, Far East and Brazil which greatly enriched the local citizens.

Noble houses and streets that embellished the town were built. At the same time the construction of the majestic and laced Mother Church was sponsored by the king D. Manuel I who issued the charter to the town in 1516. In the new square the new Town Hall and the Pillory were founded. The carpenters, caulkers and blacksmiths of the Shipyards of Vila do Conde became very famous.

Paulo and Francisco de Faria, inhabitants from the town were sailors with Vasco da Gama in the first sea journey to India.

#### Tour Route

The departure starts at 9 am by car in the direction of the Underground station of Vilar

do Pinheiro. It will only take 10 minutes and it's just 3km from the Country House.

Then you go in the underground until the stop of Vila do Conde.

**Hill of Saint John** – The discovery of the 15th century heritage of the town starts in old Fort of Saint John where you can admire the monumental Monastery of Saint Claire and the Aqueduct to appreciate the excellent sightseeing of the town.

**Republic Square** – The ancient Public Square is beneath the monastery where the Markets of the Town and many other events took place.

**The 15th century ship** – The replica of the 15th century ship anchored near the Customs open to the public since 2007 is a tourist and pedagogical attraction. It was built according to the scientific investigations joining the ancient knowledge of the carpenters and caulkers of the Shipyards of Vila do Conde.

**Royal Customs** – Built by the king John II in the second half of the 15<sup>th</sup> century this building endured successive amplifications in the course of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in order to balance the need of the intense commercial traffic that existed back then. The permanent exhibition to the public shows the shipyards, the maritime navigation and the history of the Royal Customs, its operation, officials and products.

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| <b>Itinerary name</b>                  | Revive the cinquecentist in Vila do Conde   |
| <b>Promoter Entities/ Partnerships</b> | Town Hall of Vila do Conde, Parish Council of Guilhabreu, Villae Piloto-Country House |
| <b>Itinerary Type</b>                  | Circular/ Small route   |
| <b>Location</b>                        | Town of Vila do Conde   |
| <b>Area field</b>                      | Landscape/ Cultural/ Religious/Architectonic  |
| <b>Length</b>                          | 3 km  |
| <b>Duration</b>                        | 6 hours (Lunch and snack break)   |
| <b>Ground type</b>                     | Asphalt/Parallel  |
| <b>Difficulty</b>                      | Low   |
| <b>Maximum Altitude</b>                | 100 MT  |
| <b>Price</b>                           | 65 € (route, journey, and lunch)  |

**The lunch break is in a riverside regional restaurant with marina views.**

**Chapel of "Socorro"** - It was commissioned by Gaspar Manuel, a pilot who sailed to India, China and Japan in 1599. Its architectonic style shows the influence of the lands where the famous pilot sailed.

From the peak of this small Hill, an old defence fort of the village you can see the union between the sea and the river where the small white chapel of Our Lady of "Guia" lays surrounded by the waving foam.



**Chapel of "S. Roque"** - It was commissioned by the village inhabitants in 1580 owing to the existent plague.

**Mother Church** - It was commissioned by the town people in 1496. Later in 1502 when the king D. Manuel was passing through the small town towards Santiago de Compostela, he sponsored the building making of this church a magnificent example of the "manuelino" style and a masterpiece of the Biscayan masters. The beautiful portico highly decorated with architectural features connected to the Portuguese Discoveries, was created by the master João de Castilho.



**"Vasco da Gama" Square** - In this beautiful square you can see the Town Hall, the Pillory, the old Prison and the Chapel of Our Lord of "Agonia" which was commissioned by Pedro da Silva from Beiriz, in the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1695.

**The Church Street** - This is a real pearl with houses of the "manuelino" style inhabited by the nobles and the richest of the town. This street was inhabited by the dictionaryist Pinho Leal and, in an already demolished house, the doctor and civil governor of Porto, Bento de Freitas Soares.



**Square of "Misericórdia"** - Here you can see the building from the Our Lady of "Conceição" Hospital, the Transept, the House of the Chapter and the Church of Holy House of "Misericórdia".

This is the end of the tour. You will go back to the Country House by the same means of transport as in this morning.

### **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

