

Emblazoned Houses ITINERARY



The houses with coats of arms in Vila do Conde are, even today, living testimony of its millenary past and a reminder of the splendour that this town reached during the Discoveries and proof of the many imprints it has left in its urban fabric. This type of buildings, which were intended to constitute a mark of power on the part of those who inhabited it, and which thus imposed its noble ascendancy on the town, are part of a group of properties that, around the same time, appeared in Vila do Conde.

The fishing vocation of this locality, clearly visible in its modest houses, then began to be punctuated by a series of emblazoned houses, whose owners had kinship connections with the nuns who professed in the Monastery of Saint Claire.

Set off on your discovery and come across a built and intangible heritage intrinsic to the rich history of Vila do Conde.

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I. **BAJOCA HOUSE**

. Bajoca House (or Beijoca) belonged to the Freire de Andrade family. The successor of Barca House and Morgado of Santa Justa, in Barcelos, José Gomes da Costa Soares Russel do Amaral Sá Brandão lived there. Also in this building, currently inhabited by a private family, was installed the Colégio of Santa Maria Maior, for primary and secondary education. The coat of arms is located above the main entrance to the building. Of French typology, it is quartered, with representations of the Freire de Andrade, Sás, Torres and Barbosas families.

. **Location:** Rua Rancho da Praça
. **Latitude:** 41.351472 . **Longitude:** -8.745045

2. **PRAÇA HOUSE OF AZURARA**

. Built in the 17th century, it has a rectangular plan with two-story elevations. The ground floor has two barred windows at the ends, four glasses and two paneled doors. The main floor has eight bay windows with railings, with a quartered coat of arms in the center.

. **Location:** Rua Dr. Américo Silva, Azurara
. **Latitude:** 41.347072 . **Longitude:** -8.737208

3.**PRAÇA HOUSE OF VILA DO CONDE**

. Praça House, whose current property belongs to the Parish of Saint John the Baptist and where the Parish Centre operates, was owned by Luís Carneiro de Sá Barbosa, lieutenant colonel of the Vila do Conde militias and married to Isabel Margarida Carneiro Pereira Coutinho de Villena. The building, built at the end of the 18th century and beginning of the following century, features a quartered coat of arms, oval in shape, representing the Carneiro, Pereira, Sá and Coutinho families.

. **Location:** Rua da Misericórdia
. **Latitude:** 41.353690. **Longitude:** -8.743797

4. **CASA DE SÃO SEBASTIÃO**

. This building, owned by the municipality, currently houses the Memory Centre of Vila do Conde, but operated until 2001 as the Municipal Library of Vila do Conde. Its construction dates back to the 17th century. Its first known owner was Friar Manuel Azevedo e Ataíde, Commander of the Order of Christ, born in Barcelos, who sold the manour to Friar João Carneiro Rangel and his wife in 1672. The Figueiredo de Faria family lived in the house for three generations, having later sold it to the municipality. The coat of arms, removed during the occupation of the Figueiredo de Faria family, was replaced after the intervention works. Dating from the second half of the 18th century, it’s a magnificent specimen worked in limestone, quartered, representing the family

that inhabited it between 1672 and 1856 and that by matrimonial alliances were: Pereira, Rangel, Coutinho and Carneiro.

. **Location:** Largo de S. Sebastião
. **Latitude:** 41.357145. **Longitude:** -8.741726

5. **VINHAL HOUSE**

. This property presents itself as a typical Minho urban manour house, whose construction date points to the 17th century. It was ordered to be erected by D. Francisco do Couto Azevedo and his wife D. Ângela da Costa. It is currently municipal property, and since 1991 the Bobbin Lace School and the Bobbin Lace Museum have been installed there. The coat of arms, located to the left of the building’s main entrance, is quartered, of peninsular typology and features the coat of arms of the Barros, Faria, Couto and Azevedo families.

. **Location:** Rua de São Bento, 70
. **Latitude:** 41.35263 . **Longitude:** -8.743672

6. **COELHOS HOUSE**

. Coelhos House, located on the corner between Rua António José de Sousa Pereira and Rua Comendador António Fernandes da Costa, is currently, by legacy of the first Countess of Coelhos, a school for the Sisters of Doroteias. According to the “Ilustração Villacondense” of September 1912, this house belonged to Manoel Coelho Duarte, who lived there, and who also owned the Chapel of Santo António, located in Espinheira Farm, in the parish of Junqueira. On September 17, 1774, the license for the coat of arms was passed to Manuel Duarte de Amorim Coelho, son of Manoel Coelho Duarte and Francisca Micaela de Amorim Silva. He was captain-major and counselor of the Vila do Conde City Council. By marriage, the property also belonged to the family of the Counts of Azevedo. The coat of arms, located above the main entrance of the building, of the French type, is entirely composed of the Coelhos family.

. **Location:** Rua Comendador António Fernandes da Costa | . **Latitude:** 41.355934 . **Longitude:** -8.744066

7. **FARIA GAIO HOUSE**

. The construction of the Faria Gaio House, also known as Casa Grande, took place at the end of the 17th century, on the initiative of D. Estácia Maria Gaia, with the aim of offering it to her granddaughter, D. Eulália de Faria Gaio on the occasion of her marriage. Located on Rua de São Bento, the house would have remained in the family for another 3 generations, and in 1882, news appeared of its purchase by Joaquim Silva, a native of Macieira da Maia, a merchant in Brazil and known as

Comendador Macieira. It is currently private property, owned by the Holy House of Mercy, and a hotel unit is installed here. Supposedly, the original coat of arms had the Torre dos Farias as its crest, as well as the arms of Gaios, Pereiras, Farias and Rochas. The existing coat of arms will be the third crest of this house. It is of French typology and its full composition is from Guimarães, placed on the facade of the house when it was purchased by Joaquim Silva.

. **Location:** Rua de São Bento
. **Latitude:** 41.353037 . **Longitude:** -8.743239

8. **MORGADOS OF SÃO BENTO HOUSE**

. The Morgados of São Bento House seems to have been built at the end of the 17th century, around the same time and by the founders of the Chapel of São Bento, the Carneiro de Sá family. Later, in 1871, the residence was sold by Rafael Ferraz Carneiro de Sá Barbosa to a nephew and heir of João Elias da Costa de Faria e Silva, minister of Queen Maria II. The coat of arms, which can be found in the sacristy of the Chapel of São Bento, presents a split composition, of French typology, with representation of the Carneiros and the Sás.

. **Location:** Rua da Lapa
. **Latitude:** 41.357488 . **Longitude:** -8.741874

9. **VASCONCELOS HOUSE**

. The so-called Vasconcelos House, results from the adaptation of a barn to a residence, in the mid-18th century. Rectangular floor plan with two-story elevations. The ground floor has two doors and two windows, the main door being surmounted by a quartered coat of arms and flanked by two four-lobed glasses. The upper floor is torn by eight bay windows, barred, supported by stone corbels. Already owned by the Municipality, it underwent recovery and restructuring works at the end of the 1980’s, functioning since then as a Municipal Auditorium. The stone of the family’s coat of arms, officially awarded in 1779 by Queen Maria I, is preserved on the front. With a quartered composition, it represents the coat of arms of four families: Lima, Vasconcelos, Monteiro and Barros.

. **Location:** Praça da República
. **Latitude:** 41.351903 . **Longitude:** -8.741028

10. **ESPINHEIRA FARM**

. Espinheira Farm was owned by the Monastery of St. Simon of Junqueira, at least since the 16th century. It is mentioned in the Monastery’s Term Book, which allows us to reconstruct the succession of leases that the Monastery was making of that property until the

beginning of the 19th century. Among the usufructuary owners of the farm are Manuel Duarte Coelho de Amorim e Silva, captain-general and counselor of the Vila do Conde Chamber. The coat of arms, located at the entrance to the farm, is a full coat of arms, of the French type, representing the Coelhos family.

. **Location:** Rua da Espinheira, Junqueira
. **Latitude:** 41.370994 . **Longitude:** -8.696533

11. **CAVALEIROS FARM**

. Cavaleiros Farm, with its stone tower, follows the trend of building towers in manour houses in Entre-Douro-e-Minho, during the 13th century. The manour house of this period was divided into two models: the noble palace and the domus fortis (strong house). The Cavaleiros House, located in the parish of Outeiro Maior and privately owned, is part of the second type, adopted by small lineages in the process of social ascension, seeking affirmation and power in the local communities. Later, from the 15th and 16th centuries and according to the needs and trends of each era, new living spaces were added. Next to the main door is a coat of arms belonging to the Ferreiras de Eça, with a quartered composition, in granite, of peninsular type and dating from the 15th century. It depicts the coat of arms of four families: Ferreiras, Pereiras, Eças and Melos.

. **Location:** Outeiro Maior
. **Latitude:** 41.379353 . **Longitude:** -8.646991

12. **SÃO ROQUE MANOUR**

. Although based on the foundations of a 16th century building, the São Roque Manour was built at the end of the 18th century. In the 16th century, the priest of Monte Córdova, a descendant of Gomes Carneiro, established, among other benefits, the Morgado of São Roque in Vila do Conde. During the 18th century, in addition to the construction of a new home, the manor house was transferred to the Carneiro de Figueiredo family. Recently, as part of the municipal heritage recovery and rehabilitation policy, the manour house was the subject of a thorough intervention, creating yet another cultural facility of great quality and prestige.

In this recovery, due to the impossibility of replacing the coat of arms that was once seen on the facade, a panel of tiles was placed that reproduces it.

Currently it houses the University Residence, the Cinematic Art Gallery and the International Short Film Festival “Curtas” Store.

. **Location:** Rua do Lidador
. **Latitude:** 41.352224 . **Longitude:** -8.742442

