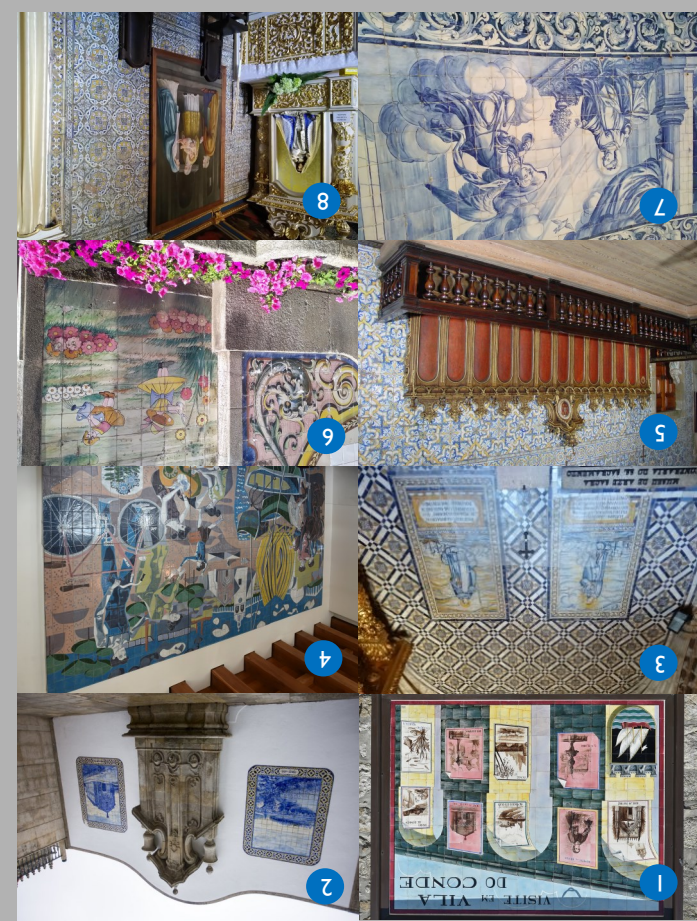


Portuguese Tile ITINERARY



The art of tilework would take root in the Iberian Peninsula under the influence of the Arabs, who brought mosaics to the conquered lands to decorate the walls of their palaces, giving them shine and ostentation, through a complex geometric game. In addition to its decorative function, it helped to cool the interiors of buildings.

The style fascinated Spaniards and Portuguese. The artisans took the time-consuming Moorish technique, simplified it, and adapted the patterns to Western taste. The originality of the use of Portuguese tile and the dialogue it establishes with the other arts, will make it of it a unique case in the world.

In 2021, the panel "Visit in Vila do Conde", located in Azurara, produced at Fábrica Aleluia, in Aveiro, and ordered by the Municipal Tourism Commission in 1954, with the aim of promoting tourism in the county, similar to what had been being adopted in other important tourist resorts in Portugal, has been restored to its original beauty.

Follow this itinerary and discover the various examples of this art in Vila do Conde, also found on the facades of houses in the historic centre or in the form of Art Nouveau style friezes, in the case of the exterior of the Municipal Youth Center.

>INTERACTIVE TOURISM STORE

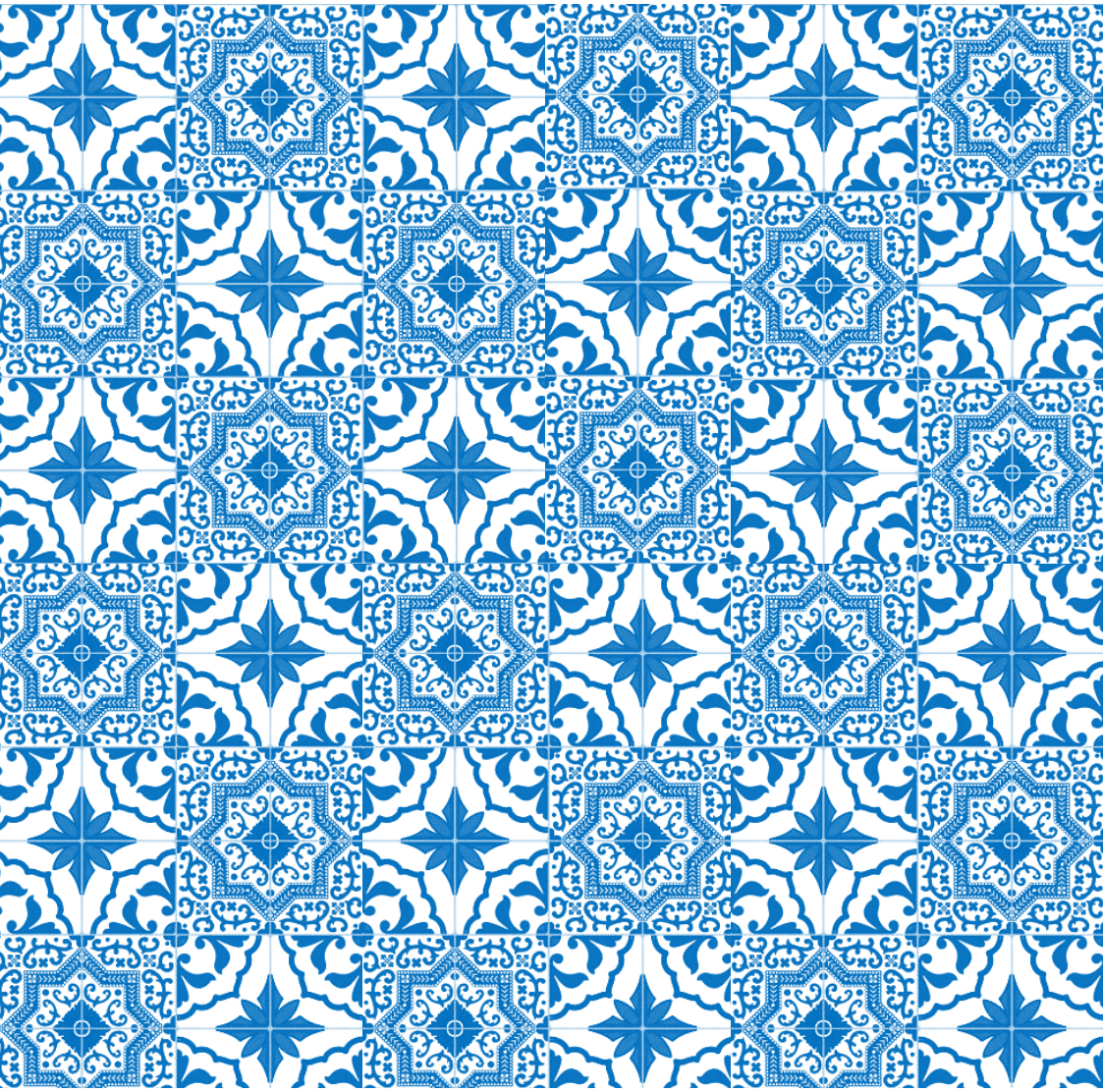
Rua Cais das Lavandeiras | 4480-789 Vila do Conde
T. (+351) 252 248 445

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Portuguese Tile ITINERARY



I. TILE MURAL “VISITE EM VILA DO CONDE”

. This tile panel, located in the Azurara Fountain on the corner between Avenida Mouzinho de Albuquerque and Rua da Misericórdia, was executed at Fábrica Aleluia de Aveiro, commissioned by the Municipal Tourism Commission in 1954, and functions as a welcome card to Vila do Conde, while at the same time presenting some of the ex-libris of the county: the Mother Church, the Pillory, the Chapel of Our Lady of Guidance, the Romanesque Bridge d'Ave, the Bobbin Lace, the beaches and the Romanesque Church of Rio Mau. Restored in 2021.

. Location: Avenida Mouzinho de Albuquerque, Azurara | . Latitude: 41.348681 . Longitude: -8.738022

2. PRAÇA DE S. JOÃO FOUNTAIN

. The Praça de S. João fountain stands out in one of the most welcoming spaces in the city. However, at the beginning of the 20th century it was dismantled in a pile of rubble. Saved by the care of Manuel Agonia Palmeira, the beautiful fountain, slightly raised in order to obtain a more aesthetic framework, was exemplarily recovered by the knowledge of the Vilacondenses stonemasons and, later, flanked by beautiful tile panels, executed in the Fábrica Aleluia de Aveiro, depicting two emblematic Romanesque monuments of the county - Ponte d'Ave and the Church of Rio Mau.

. Location: Praça de S. João | . Latitude: 41.353591 . Longitude: -8.742066

3. OUR LADY OF GOOD JOURNEY CHAPEL

. The construction of the Mother Church received a fundamental boost with the passage of King Manuel I through Vila do Conde in 1502, when he was heading on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, who defined the layout of the plan, granted a subsidy and created a tax. Of note is the portico by João de Castillo. The transept chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Good Journey, began its construction in 1542 and was built by the devotion of the sailors from Vila do Conde. Its walls are covered with checkered tiles in shades of blue, white and yellow, made in the early 17th century. Of note are the ex-votos represented there, gifts given by the faithful to their saint of devotion in consecration, renewal or thanks for a promise. The Mother Church of Vila do Conde has been classified as a National Monument since 1910.

. Location: Mother Church of Vila do Conde, Rua da Igreja | . Latitude: 41.353936. Longitude: -8.742669

4. JÚLIO RESENDE TILE MURAL

. This large tile mural, executed in polychrome tile, portrays Vila do Conde, its people and traditions linked to the sea and fishing. It is a work by the renowned Porto painter Júlio Resende and was shown to the general public for the first time on August 22nd, 1965, when the now closed Clinical Post No. 49 of the Medical-Social Services was inaugurated. Later, in 2010, the Municipality of Vila do Conde, recognizing its artistic and patrimonial importance, transferred it to the interior of the Town Hall, where it can now be enjoyed next to the Citizen Space.

. Location: Town Hall, Praça Vasco da Gama | . Latitude: 41.354037. Longitude: -8.743534

5. MERCY CHURCH OF VILA DO CONDE

. Its construction began in 1559, following the deliberation by the Assembly of the Brotherhood for the construction of the church, in which the bell and the bell tower should be executed similarly to those of the Mercy Church of Porto and the pulpit the same as that of the Church of Saint Eloy, also from the same city. It has a longitudinal plan, wide and with a single nave. The interior is highlighted by the tiled walls and wooden coffered ceilings. In the Casa do Despacho, of note, the Manueline-style window. It is classified as a Property of Public Interest.

. Location: Praça Dr. António José d’ Almeida | . Latitude: 41.354333. Longitude: -8.744197

6. LARGO DR. CUNHA REIS FOUNTAIN

. Located in front of a building that once was a Primary School (current it houses the Police Station of Vila do Conde), this tile mural adorns an old fountain, now obsolete, representing children's games. Appropriately, in the centre of the panel reads the inscription “Children's Recreation”. Executed by the famous Fábrica Aleluia de Aveiro.

. Location: Largo Dr. Cunha Reis | . Latitude: 41.351302 . Longitude: -8.743526

7. OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CHAPEL

. Located on a rock formation overlooking the river Ave, this chapel, where José Régio dreamed of “one day getting married”, has a peculiar architecture, with a square floor plan, covered by a vault, similar to other temples of the same centralized plan, such as the mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. Of note, the interior decoration of beautiful tiles from the 19th century, depicting the life of Mary, as well as the rococo-style altarpiece. It should be noted that this type of tile murals had a pedagogical function at the time, where a story was told through images, in order to combat the high rate of illiteracy that existed at the time. Its author is unknown, but some historians attribute its execution to the still enigmatic P.M.P. This chapel was built by Gaspar Manuel Carneiro, a professed knight of the Order of Christ and chief pilot of the routes of India, China and Japan, and by his wife Bárbara Ferreira de Almeida, who are buried there, also functioning as a mausoleum for this family. It is classified as a Property of Public Interest.

. Location: Rua do Socorro | . Latitude: 41.349314 . Longitude: -8.743969

8. OUR LADY OF GUIDANCE CHAPEL

. This chapel would probably already exist in 953, being referenced in 1059 in the inventory of assets belonging to the Monastery of Guimarães, but designated as Chapel of Saint Julian. In addition of being used for religious purposes, the chapel initially functioned as a point of support for the defense of the coastline. Its interior has beautiful tiles from the 17th and 18th centuries and coffered ceilings decorated with biblical scenes or figures of saints. At the southern top of the chapel, there is a high staircase topped by a platform, where a cross was placed in 1940. It is classified as a Property of Public Interest.

. Location: Av. Marquês Sá da Bandeira | . Latitude: 41.339044 . Longitude: -8.749561

