



experience
Viana



"Those who like it come, those who love it, stay" is the slogan that has invaded the city and the municipality by appealing to everything that is significant and memorable: the landscapes and the history; the beaches and the sea; the traditions and the gastronomy.



1 — 28 Points of interest

Information	Library	Post office	Tennis	Train
Hospital	Sightseeing point	Shopping Centre	Sports	Bus
Pharmacy	Settlement of Santa Luzia	Supermarket	Pool	Taxi
Car park	Environmental Monitoring and Interpretation Centre	Fire house	Rowing centre	Ferry
University	Interpretative Center for the Portuguese Coastal Way	Police	Sailing centre	Funicular
Museum	Beach	Cemetery	Canoeing centre	High performance surf centre
Cultural Centre		Petrol station		
Theatre		Charging station		

Portuguese Coastal Way - Saint James Way

Republic Square

Formerly known as “Campo do Forno” and “Praça da Rainha,” *Praça da República* is the heart of the city. It is adorned with numerous 16th-century buildings such as **Chafariz** (fountain) built by master banker mason João Lopes o Velho; **Antigos Paços do Concelho** (Old City Hall), former City Hall where the chamber in which council members would meet is on the noble floor and an arcade used by scribes who wrote documents for the illiterate is on the ground floor. Last but not least, the square boasts **edifício da Misericórdia e Igreja** (Misericórdia building and Church), a unique example of Renaissance and Mannerist architecture dating back to 1589.



Costume Museum

Museu do Traje is housed by an architecturally modern building which was erected between 1954 and 1958. It is an austere building with accentuated vertical lines and was used as the city's delegation of the Bank of Portugal until 1996. After being acquired by the City Hall in 1997, it welcomed the colour and joy of the *Vianesa* costume and continues its mission of studying and divulging the identity and ethnographic heritage of Viana do Castelo.



Interpretative Centre for the Portuguese Coastal Way – Hospital Velho

Installed in a former guesthouse for pilgrims on their way to Santiago, the Interpretative Centre for the Portuguese Coastal Way was founded by João Paes (aka “O Velho”) in 1468 and later restored in the 16th century. On display are the Manueline windows as well as an inscription which was transcribed from the original. This building has served this purpose since November of 2018 and provides relevant information regarding the conclusion of the pilgrimage of the Portuguese Coastal Way.



Niche House

Casa dos Nichos is a 15th-century building. Having undergone renovations to create an exhibition area, one can now visit and see part of the county's archaeological estate. The items on display are from Prehistory, the Iron Age and Romanization. Heavily oriented by a pedagogical vocation, visitors can utilize a wide range of multimedia tools to access information regarding local heritage such as Citânia de Santa Luzia (Santa Luzia settlement), the medieval tombs of Santa Maria de Geraz do Lima or the rock engravings of Carreço.



Public Garden and Statue of Viana

Located on the city's marginal along the Lima River, the Public Garden is approximately 20 000m². Finding its origins in 1881, it is the oldest green space in the city. While taking a walk through it, the Statue of Viana can be seen. It was commissioned in 1774 by the Count of Bobadela, José António Freire de Andrade, Arms Governor of the Minho Province. Of Rococo style, the feminine figure in undulating clothing, holding a caravel, symbolizes Viana's sea vocation.



Window of the Costa Barros House

This Costa Barros manor-house dates back to the Age of Discovery. Its main highlight is the monumental central window of Renaissance inspiration with Manueline and Plateresque decorative motifs. It is undoubtedly the most beautiful 16th-century window in the city.



Cathedral of Viana

The construction of Igreja Matriz (Matriz Church) in Viana do Castelo dates back to the first half of the 15th century and was influenced by Gothic style. In November of 1977, the local people saw their aspirations met when Pope Paul VI authorized the creation of the Diocese of Viana do Castelo, thus elevating the then Matriz Church to Cathedral. Its prominent interior is composed of three luxuriously ornamented naves and holds a collection of painted and carved tombs of local nobility.



Arcos House or João Velho's House

Casa dos Arcos or *de João Velho* is a 16th-century house with Gothic features. It is one of the few stone constructions of this style conserved to this day. The ground floor has a porch with large arches. It is also significant because João Velho, a remarkable man from Viana, lived there.



Train station

This beautiful building from the 19th century acts as Viana do Castelo's central train station. It is a point of passage between Oporto and Spain and definitely a must-see.



Melo Alvim House

Built in the beginning of the 16th century, *Casa Melo Alvim* is considered to be the oldest manor house in the city. It displays Manueline windows and battlements. Its interior houses numerous elements dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries, more specifically the monumental granite staircase. Later on in the 90s it underwent a praiseworthy restoration to become a Hotel



Charity Church or Sant'Ana Convent

This was an all female Benedictine Monastery founded in 1510. Its Manueline Tower, a few cloister capitals and a dislocated portal are what is left of it. The church was rebuilt between 1707 and 1737 in Baroque style. It was later nationalized and transformed into a nursing home by the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity in 1905.



Sá de Miranda Municipal Theatre

Teatro Municipal Sá de Miranda is an “Italian” theatre from the end of the 19th century designed by architect João Marques Sardinha. It is a modest building containing a few neoclassical elements. The vaulted ceiling, accented by a fresco painting by João Baptista Rio, also highlights the space. It is also important to note that the theatre is still in possession of its original curtain, which was idealized by Italian stage designer Manini and executed by Hercole Lambertini.



Eiffel Bridge

Ponte Eiffel was inaugurated on June 30th, 1878, in the middle of the Cast-Iron Architecture age. It was designed and planned by the prestigious *Casa Eiffel*. The metallic bridge which crosses the Lima River was not only built to permit railway traffic, but also to substitute the old wooden bridge that linked the public square of São Bento in Viana to the left bank of the Lima River in Darque. Measuring 563m in length and 6m in width, more than 2 000 000kg of iron were necessary to build the platforms which are placed on 9 granite masonry pillars whose bases can reach up to 22m in depth.



Public Library

Containing features from the award-winning Álvaro Siza Vieira, the public library has a total area of 3 130m² which is divided into two floors. The ground floor is dedicated to technical services, offices, a deposit area, a multi-purpose room, a bar, a reception, boxrooms and bathrooms. The higher floor has a large reading room, a child section, working rooms, multimedia rooms, areas reserved for quiet reading and studios for artistic expression. This floor is also equipped with a reception atrium, a helpdesk and a reprography. The space is naturally illuminated, thus providing ideal reading conditions.



Liberty Square

Containing features from Fernando Távora, *Praça da Liberdade* is a major city attraction. There, you will find two buildings by the same architect which are dedicated to the catering industry. At its end, close to the river, stands the monument dedicated to the 25th of April (Estátua do 25 de abril or Estátua da Liberdade) homage from the people of Viana to those who fought for freedom. This sculpture by José Rodrigues was inaugurated on the 25th of April, 1999.



Cultural Centre

Designed by architect Eduardo Souto Moura, this venue was built to host cultural events as well as municipal and outer-municipal sporting events. It measures 3 792m² (70.1m length, 54.1m width, 9.12m height). Located next to the Lima River, it is equipped to receive large events such as music festivals, concerts, cinema, conventions, expositions, markets and fairs.



São Domingos Church

This church subsists the old convent of Santa Cruz founded by Dominican Bartolomeu dos Mártires. It is a 16th-century temple, edified between 1566 and 1576 under the vision of Friar Julião Romero. Inside, visitors can admire altars with splendid golden carvings. The retable of the north arm of the transept in golden carving is of great beauty. It was carved by Master José Alvares de Araújo using a design commissioned by Confraria do Rosário to Master André Soares in 1760. This element was also classified as “a master-piece of Rocaille style in all of Europe” by the prestigious Robert Smith.



Santiago da Barra Fort

It is thought that the reign of Afonso III of Portugal witnessed the first construction of a fortification on the bar of the mouth of the Lima River. However, the oldest and most credible date refers the reign of Manuel I of Portugal as suggested by Manueline architectures, namely Torre da Roqueta (Roqueta Tower). At the end of the 16th century, the fortress underwent continuous renovation and it was already during the reign of Filipe I of Portugal that the current fortress was edified with its polygonal plan created by Filippo de Terzi.



Our Lady of Agony Church


The current church dates back to the middle of the 18th century and is the final result of the reconstruction of an old Stations of the Cross chapel. In this example of end Baroque, one can detect influences from the Luso-Brazilian Baroque. The altar retables are to be highlighted, especially the cenotaph of the Passion drawn by André Sousa. The tower, dating back to 1868, was built separately from the main building so as not to impede the traditional pilgrimage which would go around the church.




Funicular to Santa Luzia

Overcoming a declivity of 160m, visitors can take a 6 to 7-minute-trip on the funicular to Santa Luzia. It is the longest of its kind in Portugal (650m). This is double the distance of the funicular in Nazaré (310m), Lisbon (283m), Glória (276m), Lavra (188m) and Braga (274m). It has a capacity of 24 passengers, 11 of which are seated and 13 standing. The funicular is also capable of transporting people in wheelchairs, strollers and two bicycles.







 City Hall Viana do Castelo
Passoio das Mordomas da Romaria
4904-877 Viana do Castelo
T (+351) 258 809 300
www.cm-viana-castelo.pt
cmviana@cm-viana-castelo.pt



 **Caminhos de Santiago**
CAMINHO PORTUGUÊS DA COSTA

Viana Welcome Centre
Municipal Tourist Office
Praça do Eixo Atlântico
4900-040 Viana do Castelo
T (+351) 258 098 415 / (+351) 913 348 813
vwc@vivexperiencia.pt
www.vivexperiencia.pt/viana-welcome-centre



Malheiras Chapel

Capela das Malheiras inherits its name from its proprietors – the Malheiro Reimão family. It is one of the most beautiful examples of Portuguese Rococo. Its construction was commissioned by D. António do Desterro (Malheiro), during the time of the Bishop of Rio de Janeiro. In addition to its elegant façade, this chapel displays a remarkable retable in polychromatic carving. According to Robert Smith, this is one of the best examples of Minhota carving in Rococo style.



City Hall

Casa dos Alpuins, dos Viscondes da Carreira e Casa dos Monfalim

The City Hall has been in its current location since 1972 and occupies three small palaces: Casa dos Alpuins, Palácio dos Abreu Távora (later known as Condes da Carreira) and Casa dos Monfalim. The first two are lovely 16th and 17th-century city manor-houses. One of the highlights of these houses are its Manueline windows and doors, whose alterations and restorations came to preserve, enhance and add value.



Soul Chapel

Capela das Almas was Viana's first main church until the construction of the Cathedral within the walled perimeter in the middle of the 15th century. Originally known as *Matriz Velha*, it soon adopted the name *Capela das Almas* due to the fact that its churchyard had been a burial ground from the time of Afonso III of Portugal until the end of the 19th century. From its primitive 13th century structure, re-edified and enhanced in 1719 by Canon Domingos de Campos Soares, one can still see the arcossolium in the south wall of the temple and the cross. The remaining edifice is typical of small 18th-century Baroque temples.



Urban Ecological Park

Located between the City Centre and to the west of *Ponte Eiffel*, this is a natural space comprised of approximately 20 hectares. This park is part of the Lima River estuary, which has stretched an arm into its right bank and is therefore an area of great interest and environmental importance. It contains areas dedicated to diversion and leisure, educational programs regarding the environment and nature conservation. It is also part of the *Rede Portuguesa de Estações da Biodiversidade* and also received the national award for Landscape Architecture in the Parks and Gardens category in 2009. The project was headed by architect Ana Barroco.



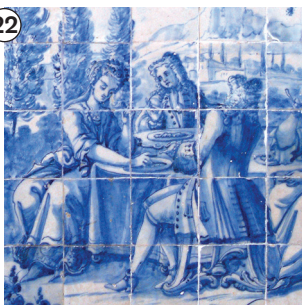
Gil Eannes Hospital Ship

The Gil Eannes Hospital Ship was built in Viana do Castelo in 1955 in order to support the Portuguese cod fleet that operated on the banks of Newfoundland and Greenland for decades. Once the cod fishing fleet was deactivated, the ship was left to rot on the docks in Lisbon for many years until it was salvaged in 1998 as it was considered part of the city's cultural heritage. It was received with joy and celebration on the 31st of January, 1998, at the mouth of the Lima River. Once cleaned and restored, it was opened to public visitation. Today it is the city's most visited museum.



Decorative Arts Museum

The MAD is situated in a small 18th-century palace known as “Barbosa Maciel”. The museum possesses an exceptional collection of decorative arts including Indo-Portuguese meters and furniture which belonged to John V of Portugal and Joseph I of Portugal. An important part of the collection is composed of faience, namely the one made in *Fábrica de Loíça de Viana* (Viana Crockery Factory). Its rooms with glazed-tile framing representing the four continents, hunting scenes and palace life are also worthy of mention.



Santa Luzia Santuário Diocesano do Sagrado Coração de Jesus

The Sanctuary standing on the west spur of Santa Luzia Mountain is one of Portugal's most emblematic monuments. It is an excellent example of Revivalist architecture by Miguel Ventura Terra, also responsible for the remodeling of *Palácio de São Bento*. Although the project dates back to 1898, construction was only commenced in the beginning of the 20th century. The temple was opened to worship on the 22nd of August, 1926 after its creator's death. Only almost half a decade later was it concluded, in 1943.



Settlement of Santa Luzia

Known as *Cidade Velha* (Old City), this is one of the most well-known hillforts in the north of Portugal. It is also one of the most important in terms of the study of the Protohistory and Romanization of the Alto Minho region. Its location permitted the dominance of vast littoral areas as well as the control of all entries and exits from the Lima River, which was greatly navigable at that time. This settlement differentiates itself greatly from others in terms of architectural structures. In this case, some were polygonal and presented a circular plan with a vestibule or atrium.

