

Tomar



Tomar 2011

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The City of Tomar is a medium-size city in central Portugal, beautifully located on the banks of the river Nabão, which gives its name to the city's inhabitants, the *Nabantinos*. With about 43 000 inhabitants, it spreads over an area of 352 km². The municipality is composed of 16 parishes and it is located in the district of Santarém, which in turn is part of the province of Ribatejo. It is a natural area of great heritage and touristic value where the beautiful *Albufeira do Castelo de Bode* is integrated.

The city is dissected by the river Nabão, a tributary of the river Zêzere, which contributes to the basin of the river Tagus, the longest river in the Iberian Peninsula.

The streets and squares in Tomar's picturesque centre are organized following a chessboard pattern. Scattered throughout the town are many interesting houses with facades dated from the Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic periods. On a small island in the middle of the river Nabão there is a park, the Mouchão gardens, that offers nice views of the city and its surroundings.

History

The city was founded in the 12th century. It was conquered from the Moors by king Afonso Henriques in 1147 and donated to the Templar Order in 1159. Tomar was founded by Gualdim Pais in 1160, Grand master of the Order and city's mythical founder, who laid the first stone of the Castle and Monastery that, would become the Headquarters of the Order in Portugal.

The first human settlement (more than 30 000 years ago) was due to the excellent climate, abundant water, easy communication and excellent river soils.

The Templars ruled a vast region of central Portugal from Tomar, which they pledged to defend from Moorish attacks. Tomar was especially important in the 15th century when it was the centre of Portuguese overseas expansion under the supervision of Henry the Navigator, the Grand Master of the Order of Christ; the organization that succeeded the Templars in Portugal. Today, the *Convento de Cristo* (Convent of the Order of Christ) is one of the most remarkable monuments in the country, having been included on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1983.



Access to Tomar

➔ Lisbon International Airport is located in Portela, 7 kilometres northeast from the city centre. It offers daily flights to and from the major Portuguese cities and overseas. The airport is about 130 kilometres from Tomar.

✈ It's possible to take a taxi from Lisbon Airport to Orient Station at Parque das Nações. It should be taken into account that at the beginning of the trip the meter should automatically mark € 2, for trips made during the day, or € 2.50, for trips made after 9.00 pm, or trips made on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. To travel outside the city the trip will be charged at the value of € 0.45 per kilometre; plus an extra flat fee of € 1.60 for luggage. Taxi vouchers can be purchased at the tourist information desk, at arrivals in the airport. The price of these vouchers is increased by 20% on Saturdays, Sundays, Holidays and for Night Services (from 21.00 pm to 6.00 am).

🚌 You can also catch a bus: two possibilities are the number 705, which runs on weekdays only, or the number 208, which is a night service; the cost per person is € 1.75 and tickets can be bought on board. The luggage allowance is up to 50 X 40 X 20 cm. Where buses are concerned, Aerobus is perhaps the best way of getting to and from the airport, with regular daily links. This service provides transportation between the main points of the city, such as: Parque das Nações, the bus terminals of Sete Rios and Oriente, and the railway terminals of Entrecampos, Cais do Sodré and Oriente.

Bus Schedule: Line 2 – Oriente (runs every 30 minutes)

Airport – Oriente from 8.50 and until 21.50 pm

Oriente – Airport from 7.30 and until 22.00 pm

Single ticket costs € 3.50 and round-trip ticket cost € 5.50.

The single ticket can be bought or at the tourist information desk, situated in the entrance hall for arrivals at Lisbon airport. It is valid for 24 hours for use on Aerobus services and also on any of the other Lisbon city buses, known as *Carris*. Round trips can only be bought on board, and are also valid for 24 hours on Aerobus services.

Once you arrive at Oriente Station, a train can be easily taken to Tomar or Abrantes.

There are also daily coaches (express buses) from the main cities in the country to Tomar.



The Airport Underground, which was recently opened, is perhaps the best and fastest way to get to Oriente Train Station.

Single ticket – zones (1) = € 0.80

Single ticket – zones (2) = € 1.10

For both of these options, it is compulsory to acquire an Electronic Card 7 Colinas/Viva Viagem, which can be used each time a journey is made on the underground system. The one-off cost is € 0.50.

🚗 To access Tomar by car from the airport take the A1 motorway up to the exit for Torres Novas and then take the A23 motorway, leaving at the second exit that says Tomar. Even before entering the city you will find IPT on your left side. If you come from the direction of Coimbra, take the A1 motorway, exit at Coimbra and take the N110 or exit at Torres Novas and take the A23. The rest of the way is exactly the same as the route already mentioned above.

🚂 The railway station is located within 5 minutes' walk from the city centre. There are direct connections from Lisbon to Tomar (a two hour trip) but not from cities north of Tomar, such as Coimbra, Aveiro or Porto. If you come from Lisbon Airport, take the train from Oriente Station in Parque das Nações. There are direct trains to Tomar. If you come from Sá Carneiro Airport in the north, you have to change at Entroncamento Station and take the connecting train to Tomar. The train service is run by Comboios de Portugal (CP).

Abrantes

Abrantes is very well connected by main roads, particularly by the Lisbon – Oporto highway, and it is also highly accessible by rail, being serviced by the *Beira-Baixa* Line. It is a municipality that stretches for about 713.46 km², which, in terms of population, has a total of 42 436 inhabitants, distributed throughout its 19 parishes.



In terms of natural assets, Abrantes boasts two of the largest water resources in the country: The river Tagus (which crosses the county a distance of approximately 30 km) and the Albufeira de Castelo do Bode. It is a city of services, but is also of a strong industrial tradition that increasingly asserts the city's strategic position in the region.

History

Abrantes was founded in the mid-twelfth century, resulting from the need to defend the conquered territories and ensure the active life of Santarém. To better safeguard the defences, D. Afonso Henriques donated the town's castle to the Order of Saint James of the Sword in 1173, and six years later, in 1179, he granted himself the town charter. In 1385, King João I, who resided in Abrantes, left to fight in the battle of Aljubarrota.



On 13th June 1476, the count ship of Abrantes was founded, a title that was heavily associated with the Almeida clan, when Lopo de Almeida, father of the first Viceroy of India, was appointed 1st Count of Abrantes by King Afonso V, his fourth cousin, in 1476. In 1506 and 1507, Princes Luís and Fernando, sons of King Manuel I, were born in Abrantes, at the former Royal Palace, where the king was a resident for approximately twenty years.

In 1518, D. Manuel retired the old town charter, and in 1641 Abrantes was renamed *Notável Vila de Abrantes*, for having been, after Lisboa, the first town to hail King João IV. In 1771, an important river trade was burgeoning in the region, remaining as such until the early nineteenth century. Abrantes had a vital means of development, the river Tagus, at its disposal, which allowed a diverse business to prosper. On 23rd November 1807, the town was occupied by French troops, commanded by General Junot, to whom Napoleon awarded the title the Duke of Abrantes.

On 14th June 1916, the town of Abrantes is elevated to city status.

Access to Abrantes

Abrantes is located 30 kilometres away from Tomar. The easiest way to get to Abrantes is by road access. Entry to the city is simple and fast whether you come from the north or from Lisbon. Take the A1 (exit Torres Novas) and then the A23 (exit Abrantes).

There are also good train connections to the city (the railway station is 2 kilometres from the city centre).

The closest airport is in Lisbon.

The Village of Mação

The Mação municipality is situated on the right bank of the river Tagus, between the borders of Upper Ribatejo and Beiras, in a land of transition, marked by the stark diversity between the two surrounding regions.

Mação is a Portuguese village with about 2 200 inhabitants, that belongs to the district of Santarém, and the eastern sub-region of Médio Tejo.

It is the seat of the municipality with a total area of 400.83 km² and 7 338 inhabitants, divided into eight parishes.

The calm and lush waters of the Tagus and the Ribeira de Eiras on the Belver Dam, in Ortiga, are a heaven for water sports.

Its landscape ranges from beautiful mountains to waterfalls that end in delightful rock pools, to cliff faces, that resemble medieval castles, implanted in the immense peaks, basking in the pure mountain air, to the further charm of vast refreshing reservoirs, by the Belver and Pracana dams, where everything is possible and desirable, with water going as far as the eye can see.

History

An immensely rich zone for palaeontology and archaeology is spread over the whole council of Mação. Fossils can be found in each of Mação's parishes.

In the field of archaeology, the main focal point of the village's heritage, a lot of which comes from the Roman era, are the Roman baths in Ortiga.

Access to Mação

Once you arrive at Lisbon Airport you must get the underground or a bus to Oriente station. Here you must buy a train ticket to Alvega/Ortiga (keep this name in mind because there are no direct trains to Mação), which is a train station located 5 kilometres away from Mação. Normally, there are four available trains to Mação every day (except on Sundays):

Departure from Estação do Oriente:

5.56 am - € 10.60 (you must change train at Entroncamento)

9.56 am - € 10.60 (you must change train at Entroncamento)

16.24 pm - € 10.60 (direct train)

18.39 pm - € 16.95 (you must change train at Entroncamento)

For more information please see the contacts below.

It takes around two hours to travel to Mação by train.

When you arrive at Alvega/Ortiga train station, you need to get a taxi. This is a small train station, so it's easier if you phone ahead to advise the Museum of the time of your arrival in Alvega/Ortiga, which you can do from Oriente train station after you have bought your train ticket, so that they can organise a taxi to pick you up.


Masters degree classes take place mainly in the Museum of Prehistoric Art in Mação (it is an hour away from Tomar).



The museum has a student halls of residence (there's a limited amount of places available), and there's also houses and flats in the town that are available to rent.


Useful Contacts

Lisbon Airport

 (+351) 218 413 500


 <http://www.ana.pt>

Rede Expressos (Coaches)

 (+351) 707 223 344

 <http://www.rede-expressos.pt/>

CP (Trains)

 (+351) 808 208 208

 <http://www.cp.pt>