



ROTEIROS TURÍSTICOS DO  
PATRIMÓNIO MUNDIAL

TURISMO DE  
**PORTUGAL**



# A TOURIST'S GUIDE TO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

ALCOBAÇA · BATALHA · TOMAR

IN THE HEART  
OF PORTUGAL



***In the Heart of Portugal*** In the extreme south west of Europe lies a region we can call the Heart of Portugal. Many of the events dating from the birth of Portugal — the realm with the oldest borders in Europe — took place in this region, which is infused with History, but also with myths and legends. The existence of three of the most important Portuguese monuments, recognised as World Heritage sites by UNESCO, in an area of little more than 90 km.<sup>2</sup>, bears witness to this amazing truth.

The Cistercian Abbey of Santa Maria de Alcobaça was founded in 1153 by the first King of Portugal, D. Afonso I, with the blessing of St. Bernard of Clairvaux. It is one of the best-preserved Cistercian monasteries, where we can find the original buildings of the monastery complex and one of the order's most monumental churches. It was no mere chance that the taming of a formerly swampy and uninviting land radiated from Alcobaça, transforming it into a veritable orchard for the kingdom.

In order to protect these territories, the Knights Templar built a castle to the south at the request of the King. Founded in 1160, in Tomar, it became the seat of the Portuguese Order of the Temple and one of the most important Templar sites outside of the Holy Land. Here, the knights ensured that the conquered lands were maintained and launched offensives, pushing Christian domination ever southwards. When the Order of the Temple was disbanded, in the aftermath of a celebrated and incredible trial, the Order of Christ was created in Portugal to provide it with continuity. The headquarters of the Order of Christ, naturally, was in Tomar. It was here that Prince D. Henrique ("the Navigator") settled and, from the 15th to the mid 16th centuries, monastic buildings in the most varied styles were added to the original Templar building. The final building phase resulted in an impressive architectural amplification that is a veritable masterpiece of the Renaissance. In turn, the Order of Christ — as if keeping the famous and allusive "Templar mission" alive — played a fundamental role in the Portuguese discoveries.

But it was also in the area around the old Cistercian monastery and to the north of Tomar where one of the most dramatic pages in Portuguese History was written: at the Battle of Aljubarrota. This took place on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1385, with around three thousand men in the Portuguese army confronting the Castilian army of around forty thousand. They were fighting to prevent D. Juan I of Castile from taking the throne



## WORLD HERITAGE SITES

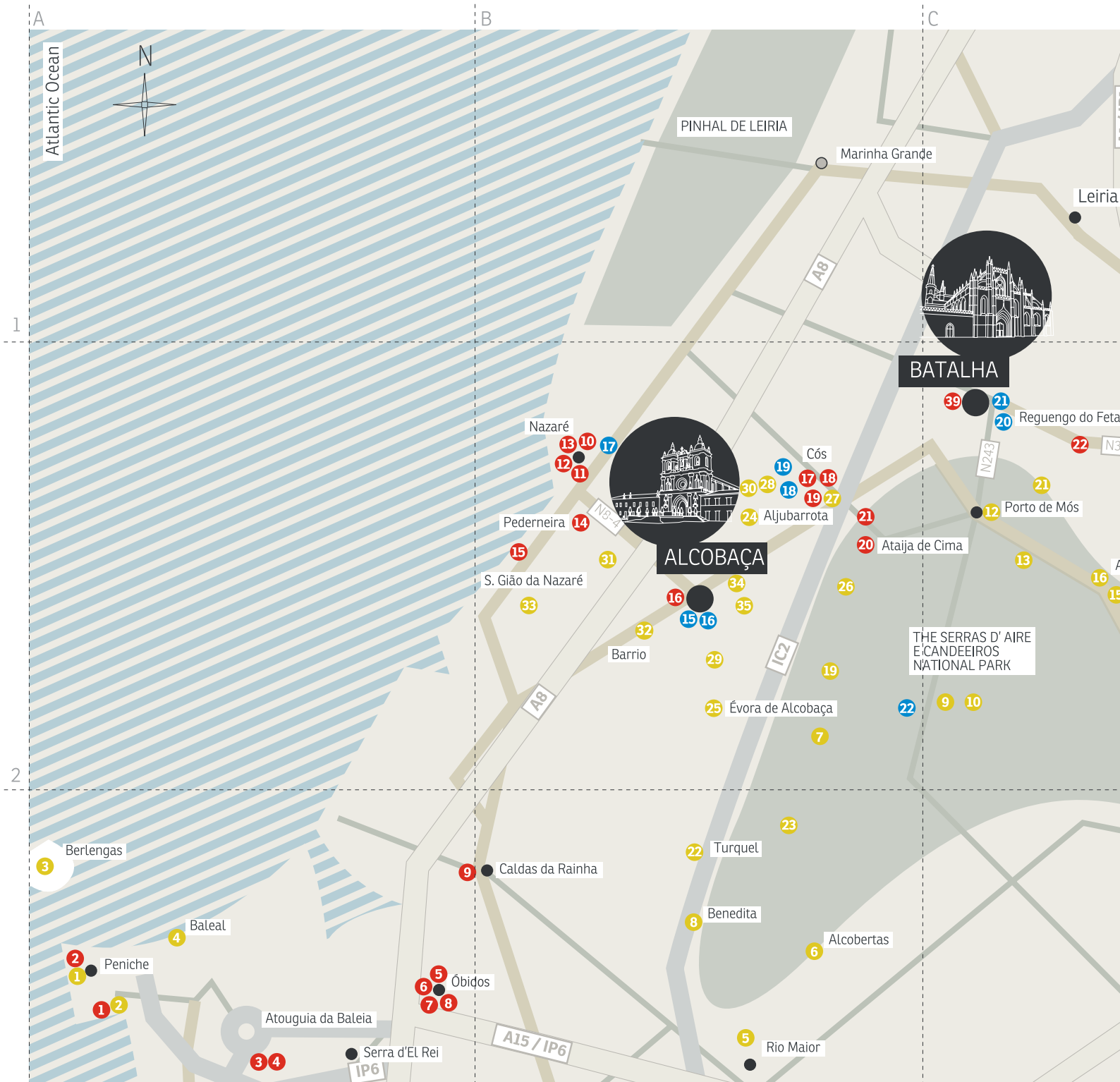
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from the newly acclaimed King of Portugal, D. João de Avis. Despite the clear disproportion in numbers, the Portuguese army and its English allies, commanded by D. João and by the Constable D. Nuno Álvares Pereira, occupied a favourable strategic position and adopted a tactic that led to the defeat of the Castilian army and its French allies. On the battlefield of Aljubarrota a chapel dedicated to St. George was built to commemorate the encounter, while the Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Vitória (Our Lady of Victory) — also known as Batalha Monastery — was built a little further north, to fulfil a vow that the newly victorious monarch had made to the Virgin on the eve of the great battle. The monastery, founded in 1385, is a late gothic masterpiece, and, on the death of King D. João I, it became the official pantheon of the new reigning dynasty in Portugal.

These three monuments constitute an authentic compendium of medieval art and architecture and a unique portrait of historical sedimentation in the forming of Europe. Alcobça was not merely a project for territorial consolidation at the height of the feudal period, it also represented cultural consolidation — since the monastery was a medieval centre for culture, housing the largest library in Portugal. In addition to keeping alive the link to the “mysterious Templars”, Tomar was a centre of military power and European expansion, while Batalha venerated a generation of men — the victorious and the vanquished — that shaped the present contours of Europe and the world.

Heart of Portugal. Heart because, long before, long after and far beyond the ambit of historical matters, this region remained a melting pot of cultures, as expressed in the syncretism of the “Mozarab” people, the place where Portuguese identity was forged. Furthermore, it is in this “magic triangle”, as it has been called, that one can find nature that is simultaneously wild and welcoming, among the peaks and the valleys of the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros — where the four elements declare themselves with quiet force —, and one of the world’s major pilgrimage sites: Fátima.



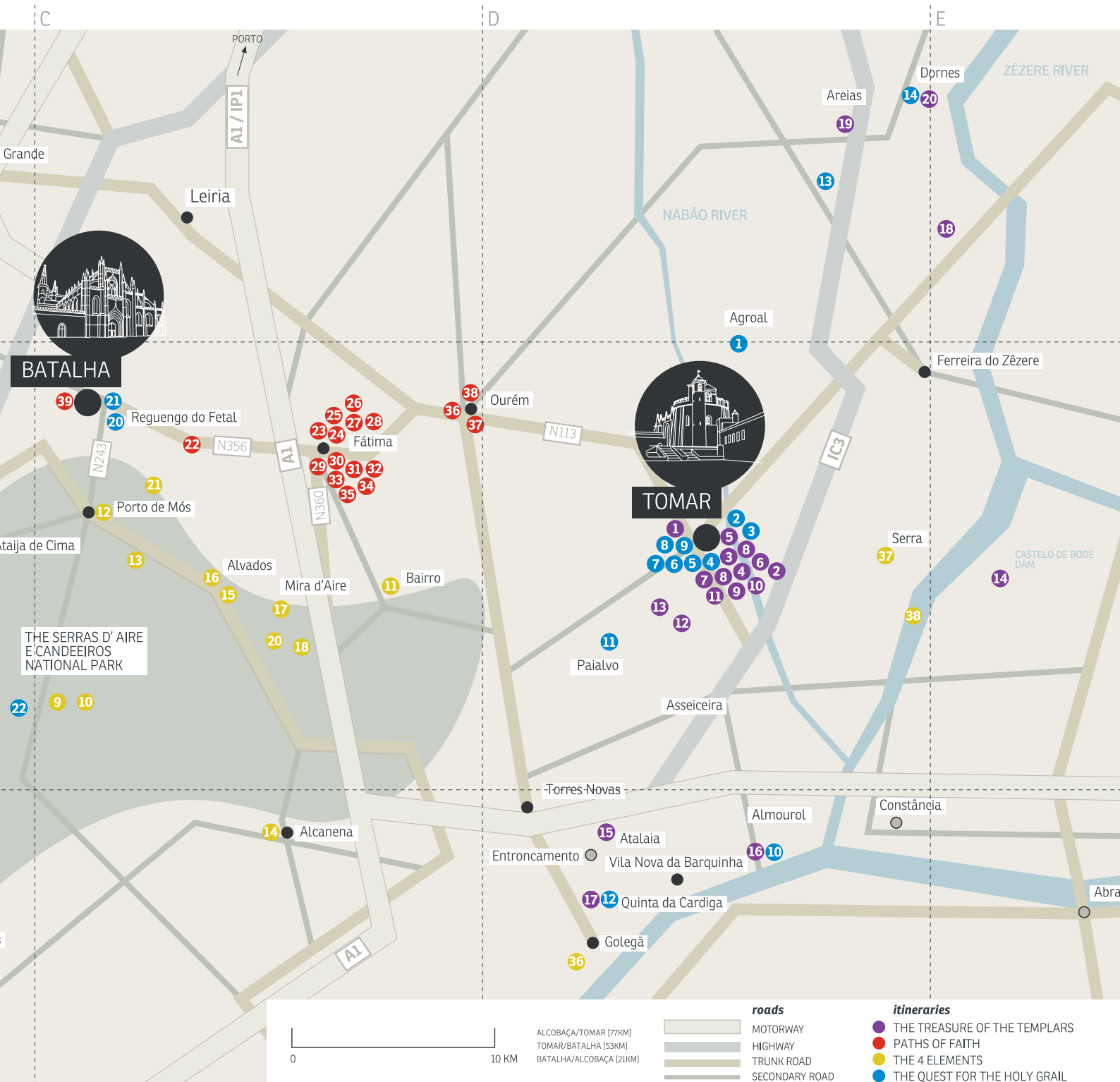
### The Treasure of the Templars

- 1 CITY OF TOMAR D2
- 2 CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DO OLIVAL, TOMAR D2
- 3 CHURCH OF SÃO JOÃO BAPTISTA (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST), TOMAR D2
- 4 TOMAR SYNAGOGUE, TOMAR D2
- 5 CHAPEL OF SÃO GREGÓRIO, TOMAR D2
- 6 RODA DO NABÃO D2
- 7 TOMAR CASTLE, TOMAR D2
- 8 CHAROLA OF THE CONVENTO DE CRISTO, TOMAR D2
- 9 MANUELINE CHURCH OF THE CONVENTO DE CRISTO, TOMAR D2
- 10 CONVENTO DE CRISTO, TOMAR D2

- 11 CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE CONCEPTION CHAPEL), TOMAR D2
- 12 MATA DOS SETE MONTES (WOOD OF THE SEVEN HILLS), TOMAR D2
- 13 PEGÕES AQUEDUCT D2
- 14 CASTELO DO BODE (CASTLE OF THE RAM), TOMAR E2
- 15 CHURCH OF ATALAIA, ATALAIA, VILA NOVA DA BARQUINHA D3
- 16 ALMOUROL CASTLE, VILA NOVA DA BARQUINHA D3
- 17 QUINTA DA CARDIGA, GOLEGÃ D3
- 18 D. GAIÃO'S TOWER, PEREIRO E1
- 19 AREIAS, FERREIRA DO ZÉZERE D1
- 20 DORNES TOWER, FERREIRA DO ZÉZERE D1

### Paths of Faith

- 1 MISERICÓRDIA CHURCH, PENICHE A3
- 2 CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS REMÉDIOS, PENICHE A3
- 3 CHURCH OF SÃO LEONARDO, ATOUGUIA DA BALEIA A3
- 4 CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO, ATOUGUIA DA BALEIA A3
- 5 TOWN OF ÓBIDOS A3
- 6 ALCÁÇOVA DE ÓBIDOS, ÓBIDOS A3
- 7 CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DE ÓBIDOS, ÓBIDOS A3
- 8 MISERICÓRDIA CHURCH, ÓBIDOS A3
- 9 CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DO PÓPULO, CALDAS DA RAINHA B3



ALCOBAÇA/TOMAR (77KM)  
TOMAR/BATALHA (53KM)  
BATALHA/ALCOBAÇA (21KM)

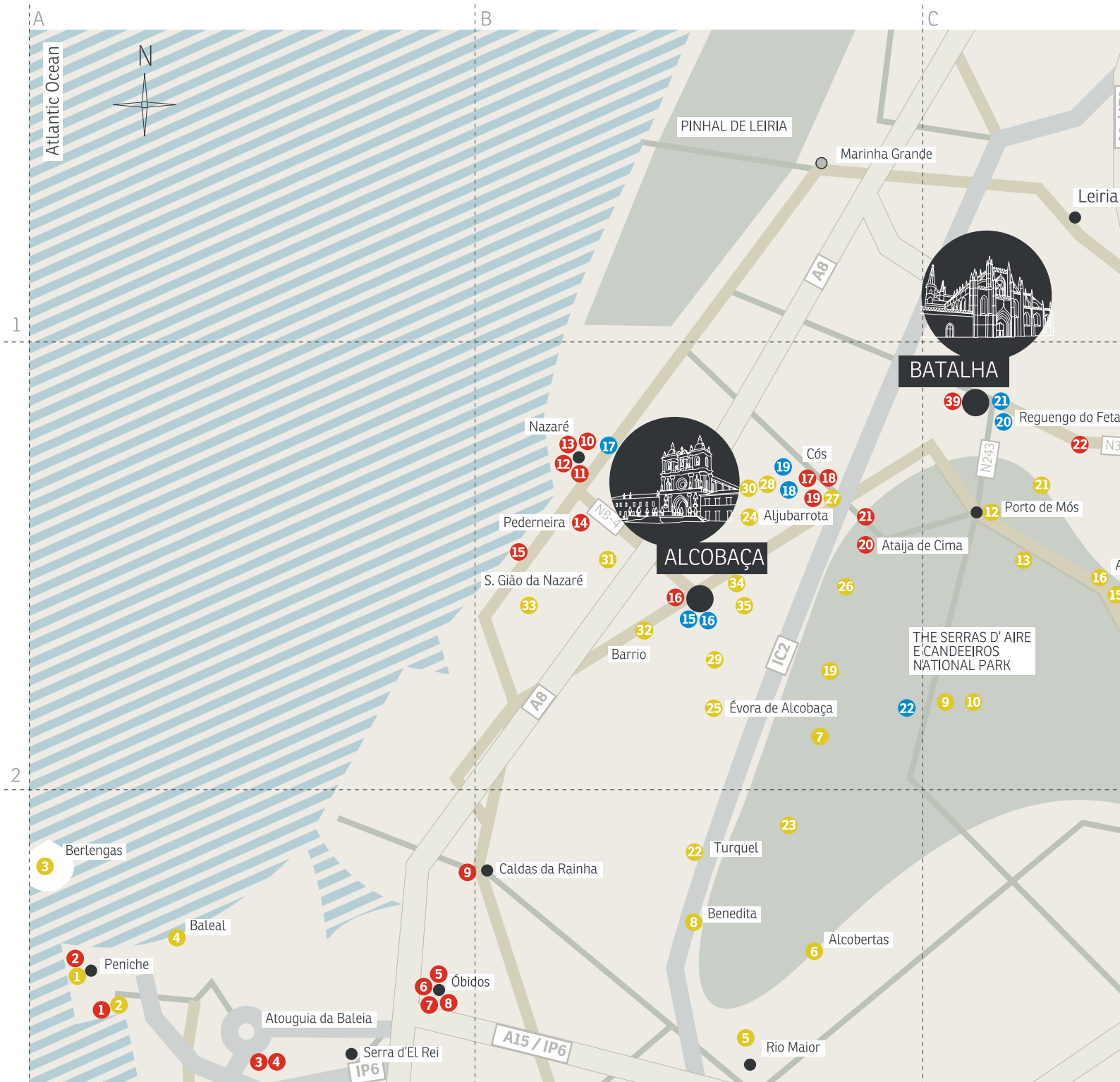
**roads**  
 MOTORWAY  
 HIGHWAY  
 TRUNK ROAD  
 SECONDARY ROAD

**itineraries**  
 THE TREASURE OF THE TEMPLARS  
 PATHS OF FAITH  
 THE 4 ELEMENTS  
 THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

- 10 NAZARÉ B2
- 11 PEDERNEIRA B2
- 12 CHAPEL OF MEMORY, NAZARÉ B2
- 13 CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA NAZARÉ (CHURCH OF THE MIRACLE) B2
- 14 CHAPEL OF SÃO BRÁS, PEDERNEIRA, NAZARÉ B2
- 15 SÃO GIÃO DA NAZARÉ, NAZARÉ B2
- 16 ABBEY OF SANTA MARIA DE ALCOBAÇA, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 17 MONASTERY OF CÓS, CÓS B2
- 18 SANTA RITA CHAPEL, CÓS B2
- 19 CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ, PÓVOA DE CÓS B2
- 20 SENHORA DA GRAÇA (OUR LADY OF GRACE) OR DAS CANDEIAS (OF CANDEIAS), ATAÍJA DE CIMA B2

- 21 SENHORA DAS AREIAS CHAPEL, CHÃOS, ALJUBARROTA B2
- 22 SANCTUARY OF NOSSA SENHORA DO FETAL, REGUENGO DO FETAL C2
- 23 CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ORTIGA, FÁTIMA, OURÉM C2
- 24 SANCTUARY OF FÁTIMA, FÁTIMA C2
- 25 HEART OF THE SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA C2
- 26 CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS, FÁTIMA C2
- 27 IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA C2
- 28 BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (BASILICA OF FÁTIMA), FÁTIMA C2
- 29 MONUMENT TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS, FÁTIMA C2

- 30 BASILICA OF THE HOLY TRINITY, SANCTUARY OF FÁTIMA, FÁTIMA C2
- 31 CABEÇO, ALJUSTREL, FÁTIMA C2
- 32 HAMLET OF VALINHOS, FÁTIMA C2
- 33 WAY OF THE CROSS AND CALVARY, VALINHOS, FÁTIMA C2
- 34 HOUSES OF THE SHEPHERD CHILDREN, ALJUSTREL, FÁTIMA C2
- 35 ARNEIRO WELL, ALJUSTREL, FÁTIMA C2
- 36 OURÉM C2
- 37 OURÉM PALACE AND CASTLE, OURÉM C2
- 38 OURÉM COLLEGIATE CHURCH, OURÉM C2
- 39 HAND OF FÁTIMA, SOUTH WINDOW, CHAPTER ROOM, BATALHA MONASTERY, BATALHA C2

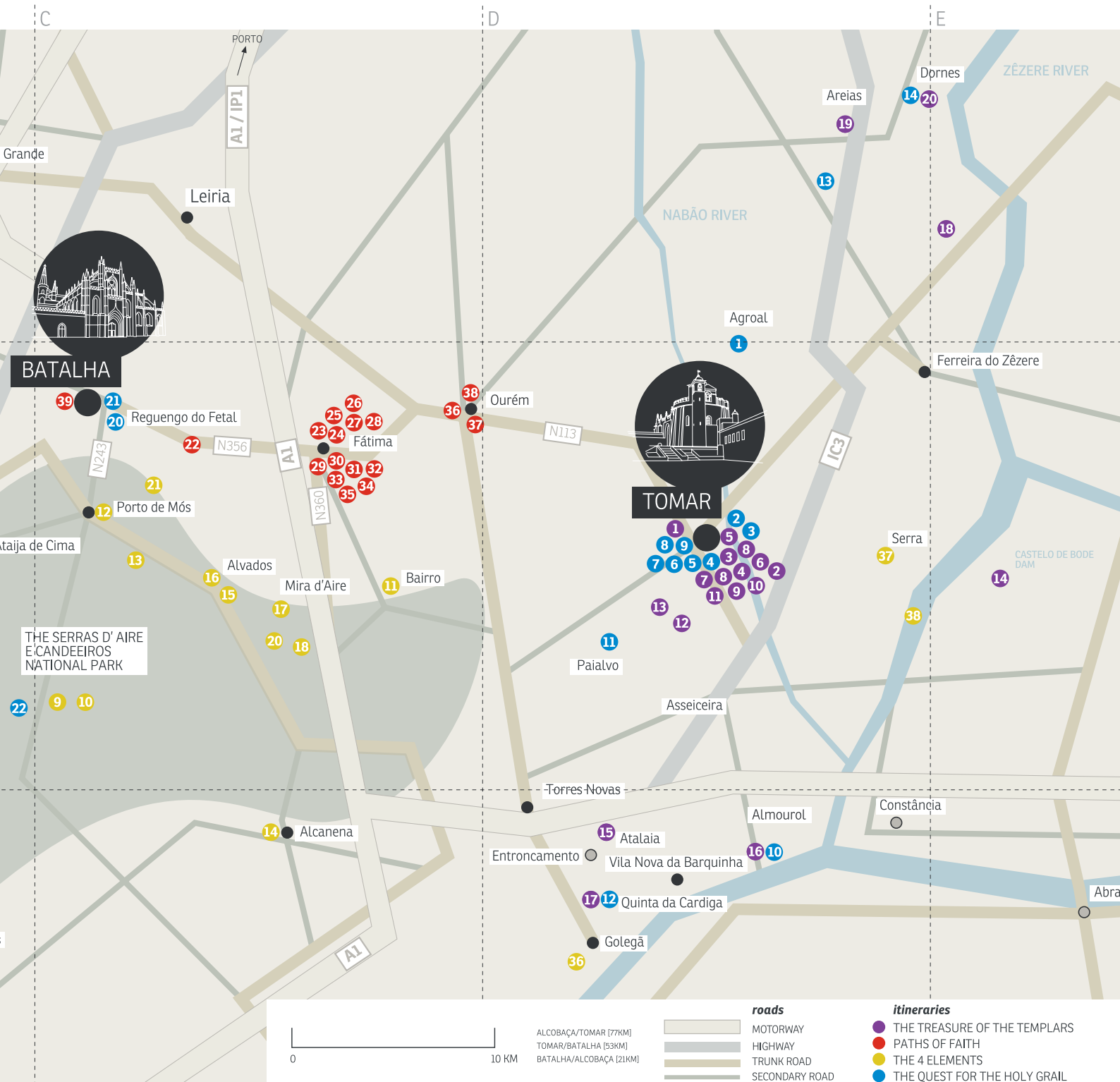


### The 4 Elements

- 1 CAPE CARVOEIRO, PENICHE A3
- 2 FURNINHA CAVE, PENICHE A3
- 3 BERLENGAS ISLANDS, PENICHE A3
- 4 BALEAL, PENICHE A3
- 5 FONTE DA BICA SALT PANS, RIO MAIOR B3
- 6 DOLMEN-CHAPEL OF ALCOBERTAS, ALCOBERTAS, RIO MAIOR B3
- 7 ARCO DA MEMÓRIA (MEMORY ARCH), PORTELA DO PEREIRO, ÉVORA DE ALCOBAÇA B2
- 8 STONE OF THE FONTE DA SENHORA, BENEDITA B3
- 9 SERRAS DE AIRE E CANDEEIROS C2
- 10 CANDEEIROS GEODESIC POINT, SERRA DOS CANDEEIROS C2
- 11 NATURAL MONUMENT OF DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS IN THE SERRA D'AIRE, BAIRRO, PORTO DE MÓS C2

- 12 JURASSIC VANTAGE POINT, ALQUEIDÃO DA SERRA, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 13 FÓRNEA, ZAMBUJAL DA ALCARIA / CHÃO DAS PIAS, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 14 CAVERN OF ALGAR DA PENA, VALE DO MAR (VALDEMAR), ALCANEDE C3
- 15 SANTO ANTÓNIO CAVE, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 16 ALVADOS CAVE, ALVADOS, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 17 MIRA D'AIRE CAVE, ALVADOS, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 18 QUINTA DA MURETA, MINDE, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 19 ARRIMAL LAKES, ARRIMAL, PORTO DE MÓS B2
- 20 MIRA D'AIRE/MINDE POLJE C2
- 21 CAMPOS DE LAPIÁS, MENDIGA, PORTO DE MÓS C2
- 22 QUINTA DO VALE DE VENTOS, TURQUEL, ALCOBAÇA B3
- 23 CABEÇO DA LUA, SERRA DOS CANDEEIROS, TURQUEL B3

- 24 CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA AJUDA, VESTIARIA, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 25 ÉVORA DE ALCOBAÇA, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 26 QUARRIES, MOLIANOS B2
- 27 HOLY FOUNTAIN OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ, JUNCAL, COZ B2
- 28 POÇO SUÃO, PRAZERES, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 29 FONTE DA CHIQUEDA, CHIQUEDA (CHIQUEDA DE CIMA), ALCOBAÇA B2
- 30 MAIORGA PILLORY, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 31 VALADO DOS FRADES, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 32 ROMAN VILLA OF PARREITAS, VALADO DOS FRADES, BARRIO, ALCOBAÇA B2
- 33 MENHIR OF THE SERRA DA PESCARIA, FAMILIÇÃO, NAZARÉ B2
- 34 MEGALITHIC SANCTUARY, CASAL DO RESONEIRO, ALJUBARROTA B2



- 35 PEDRA GALEGA, CASAL DO RESONEIRO, ALJUBARROTA B2
- 36 PAÚL DO BOQUILOBO, RIACHOS, GOLEGÃ D3
- 37 DOLMEN I OF VALE DA LAJE, SERRA, TOMAR D2
- 38 CASTELO DO BODE DAM, TOMAR D2

### The quest for the Holy Grail

- 1 AGROAL D2
- 2 TOMAR D2
- 3 A RODA DO NABÃO D2
- 4 TOMAR CASTLE D2
- 5 A CHAROLA E A IGREJA MANUELINA DE TOMAR D2
- 6 CHAROLINHA, MATA DOS SETE MONTES, TOMAR D2
- 7 CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DO OLIVAL, TOMAR D2

- 8 SANTA IRIA CONVENT, TOMAR D2
- 9 FESTA DOS TABULEIROS, TOMAR D2
- 10 ALMOUROL CASTLE, VILA NOVA DA BARQUINHA D3
- 11 STONE OF THE HOLY MARTYRS, PAIALVO, TOMAR D2
- 12 QUINTA DA CARDIGA, GOLEGÃ D3
- 13 GAIÃO'S OR LANGALHÃO'S TOWER, PEREIRO, FERREIRA DO ZÊZERE D1
- 14 DORNES TOWER, DORNES, FERREIRA DO ZÊZERE D1
- 15 ABBEY OF SANTA MARIA DE ALCOBAÇA B2
- 16 TOMBS OF D. PEDRO I AND D. INÉS DE CASTRO, ABBEY OF ALCOBAÇA B2
- 17 MENHIRS OF THE WEST B2
- 18 BATTLEFIELD OF ALJUBARROTA, CALVARIA DE CIMA, SÃO JORGE DE ALJUBARROTA, PORTO DE MÓS B2

#### roads

- MOTORWAY
- HIGHWAY
- TRUNK ROAD
- SECONDARY ROAD

#### itineraries

- THE TREASURE OF THE TEMPLARS
- PATHS OF FAITH
- THE 4 ELEMENTS
- THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

- 19 CHAPEL OF SÃO JORGE DE ALJUBARROTA, SÃO JORGE DE ALJUBARROTA B2
- 20 MONASTERY OF SANTA MARIA DA VITÓRIA, OR BATALHA MONASTERY, BATALHA C2
- 21 CAPELA DO FUNDADOR, BATALHA MONASTERY, BATALHA C2
- 22 SERRAS DE AIRE E CANDEEIROS (THE SERRAS DE AIRE E CANDEEIROS NATIONAL PARK) B2

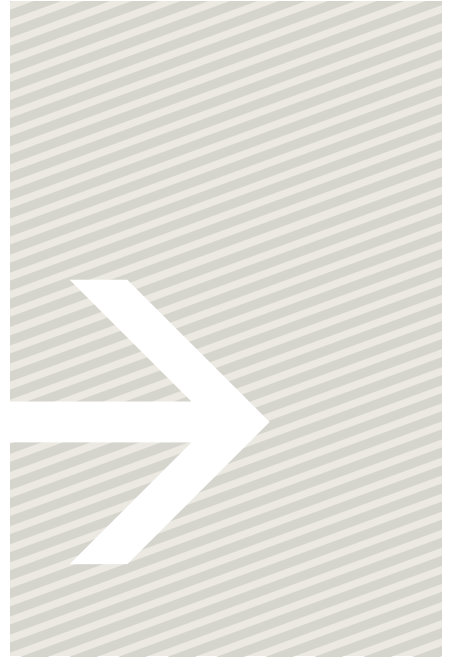
**The Treasure of the Templars** The Order of the Temple was founded in Jerusalem, in 1118, by Hugues de Payens, with the enthusiastic support of his cousin, St. Bernard. Under the Portuguese Grand-Master, Gualdim Paes, there was a "national" expansion of the Templar vocation in Portugal, and it was during this time that the castles of Pombal, Tomar and Almourol were built.

The order came to have immense international power and was extremely rich and famous. A veritable *popular mythology* grew up around it, not always congenial, which explains the accusations made against the Templars in the trial that led to their disbandment. Pope Clement V, who had been elected through the machinations of the French King, Philip, *the Fair*, who was keen to appropriate Templar wealth, ordered an iniquitous inquisitorial trial. On 2nd May 1312, the order was disbanded.

However, everything was different in Portugal. In 1319, King D. Dinis founded the Order of Christ, which perpetuated the Templars in name and form. All the knights and possessions of the old order were transferred to the newly created Order of Christ. In 1357, the headquarters was "re-established" at Tomar Castle, returning to the point of origin. In this unusual case, the Order of the Temple was re-founded as the Order of Christ. In 1417, the position of Master came to be held by the dignitaries of the Royal Household, with the first incumbent being the famous Prince D. Henrique, who, to all appearances, configured the Order of Christ in such a way as to maintain its knightly and crusading spirit, but directing it towards what would seem to have been its original "mission": the conquest of Asia by sea voyages, financed by the order itself.

The establishment was reformed in 1529, during the reign of D. João III, when it became a strictly cloistered order, inspired in the Rule of St. Benedict. The change was so great that it led to the construction of the "new" Renaissance convent of Tomar, which was built on to the medieval monastery and fortress. The castle remained as a relic of the original vocation, that of the Templars.

Thus, the possessions of the order remained untouched in the extreme south-west of Europe. And this reconstitution of the medieval (and modern day) Templar high places can be made by following the route that does not disdain including the sorcery of the countless enigmas which, rightly or wrongly, have been linked to the Knights Templar and their successors. There is no other region where the Templar legends have left such a clear and evocative trail of mystery and magic.







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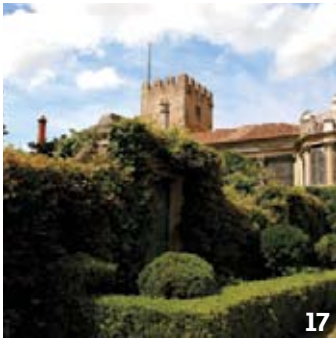
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- **CITY OF TOMAR (2)**  
One of the most important "memory sites" in Portuguese History, the true centre of the sacred geography of the Templars, the city has a rich symbolic heritage, including, on the hilltop, the fascinating Convento de Cristo (Convent of Christ).  
C- 39° 36' N 8° 24' W
- **CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DO OLIVAL, TOMAR**  
One of the first Portuguese churches in the gothic style. Pantheon of the Templars, containing the tomb of the knight D. Gualdim Paes, founder of Tomar Castle and 4th Grand-Master of the Order of the Temple in Portugal.  
C- 39° 36' 05" N 8° 24' 26" W
- **CHURCH OF SÃO JOÃO BAPTISTA (ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST), TOMAR (5)**  
Gothic-Manueline church. It is the mother-church of the city and bears symbols relating the legend of the founding of Tomar.  
C- 39° 36' 13" N 8° 24' 52" W
- **TOMAR SYNAGOGUE, TOMAR (6)**  
One of the oldest synagogues in Europe; built in the 15th century and almost fully preserved.  
C- 39° 36' 11" N 8° 24' 51" W
- **CHAPEL OF SÃO GREGÓRIO, TOMAR (7)**  
A small, circular chapel that mirrors the cosmogram of Tomar: the perfect circle of the host, symbol of the glorification of the Eucharist.  
C- 39° 36' 25" N 8° 24' 54" W

- **RODA DO NABÃO, TOMAR (8)**  
Key elements in the economic life of Tomar, the shapes of the seemingly prosaic water wheels on the dams of the river Nabão, reflect the "idea" of Tomar as the spiritual and political centre of the sacred world.  
C- 39° 36' N 8° 25' W
- **TOMAR CASTLE, TOMAR (9)**  
At the time when it was founded, circa 1160, the Templar castle was the largest, most modern and advanced military equipment in the realm, inspired by the fortifications of the Crusades in the Holy Land.  
C- 39° 36.230' N 8° 25.109' W
- **CHAROLA OF THE CONVENTO DE CRISTO, TOMAR (10)**  
The great Templar rotunda, the largest and best-preserved in Europe, is inspired by the "image" of the Holy Sepulchre. It is the mythical remembrance of Jerusalem and of the founding place of the Templars: the Temple of Solomon.  
C- 39° 36.230' N 8° 25.109' W
- **MANUELINE CHURCH OF THE CONVENTO DE CRISTO, TOMAR (4, 1)**  
In 1510, construction began on this addition to the Templar rotunda. The symbology of the building expresses the ideas of the time of King D. Manuel I. In the western facade can be seen the great "window", one of the most famous works of art in the world.  
C- 39° 36.230' N 8° 25.109' W

- **CONVENTO DE CRISTO, TOMAR (3)**  
In this masterpiece of Renaissance architecture, the convent buildings conform to a rational and symbolic concept, fruit of the great reform in the Order of Christ in 1529.  
C- 39° 36.230' N 8° 25.109' W
- **CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE CONCEPTION CHAPEL), TOMAR**  
This intriguingly perfect work of pure classicism was destined for the pantheon of King D. João III.  
C-39° 36.230' N 8° 25.109' W
- **MATA DOS SETE MONTES (WOOD OF THE SEVEN HILLS), TOMAR (12)**  
The most important part of the ancient estate of the Convento de Cristo, its leafy vegetation hides a miniature temple: the Charolinha.  
C- 39° 36' N 8° 25' W
- **PEGÕES AQUEDUCT (13)**  
This 7 kilometre long aqueduct in the Pegões valley has great monumental value. One of the most significant seventeenth century public works in Portugal.  
C- 39° 36' N 8° 26.309' W
- **CASTELO DO BODE (CASTLE OF THE RAM), TOMAR (14)**  
In its name can be found echoes of the famous (and infamous) Templar *bafomet*, the idol supposedly worshipped by the "heretical" Templars.  
C- 39° 32' 34" N 8° 19' W

- **CHURCH OF ATALAIA, ATALAIA, VILA NOVA DA BARQUINHA (15)**  
This building, which the Count of Cantanhede had constructed in 1528, is one of the earliest examples of Renaissance architecture in Portugal.  
C- 39° 28' N 8° 27' W
- **ALMOUROL CASTLE, VILA NOVA DA BARQUINHA (16)**  
*Al-morolan* (= *big rock*). A castle on an island in the middle of the Tagus. Building work began in 1171. It has generated mythical and literary appropriations. A favourite setting for "spiritual chivalry" where "legends of giants" endure.  
C- 39° 27' N 8° 23' W
- **QUINTA DA CARDIGA, GOLEGÂ (17)**  
One of the most productive farming establishments in the whole country, this former fortress – part of the Templar front line – was later transformed into country house and farm.  
C- 39° 26' 43" N 8° 27' 02" W
- **D. GAIÃO'S TOWER, PEREIRO**  
The property of D. Gaião, the alcaide of Santarém, who donated it to the Templars in 1152. Ruined residence of the fabled giant Langalhão.  
C- 39° 37' N 8° 28' W
- **AREIAS, FERREIRA DO ZÉZERE**  
This former parish of the Templar territories is today a small village with a huge, three-naved church (1502-1548).  
C- 39° 41' N 8° 17' W
- **DORNES TOWER, FERREIRA DO ZÉZERE (18)**  
This Templar watch-tower on the Zézere-Tejo line has a pentagonal floorplan and leans over the waters forming one of the most evocative landscapes in the region.  
C- 39° 37' N 8° 28' W

**Paths of Faith** In the extreme south-west of Europe is the site of what is now one of the most important sanctuaries of the Catholic faith and one of the largest pilgrimage centres in the world: Fátima.

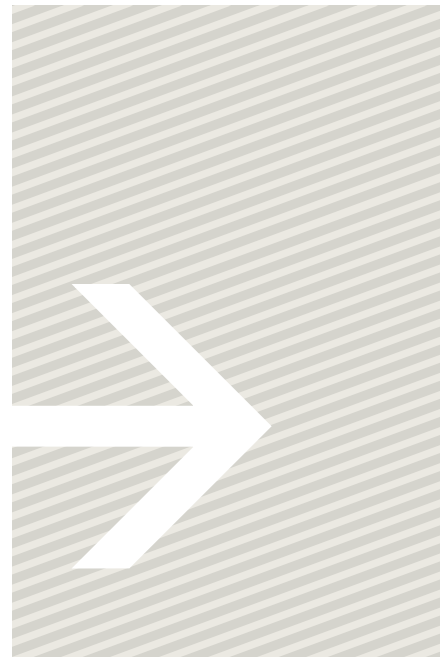
The older basilica, opened in the 1950's, is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. It opens onto a large square where the pilgrims gather on the most holy dates, as happens during the spectacular "Candlelit Procession". It honours the site as a key point of religious experience and includes the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, which was built next to the holm oak where the Virgin appeared to the three shepherd children, according to the story of the miracle. 13th May 1917, the date of the first miraculous event – the first apparition of the Virgin –, is now celebrated worldwide. On the far side a new basilica was recently inaugurated, dedicated to the Holy Sacrament.

Nowadays one can make a journey through Fatima's sacred geography, recognising the places where various events related with the said miracle took place.

However, it is a known fact that man's veneration of divinities in this region, especially of female deities, is an apparently continuous tradition whose roots are lost in the mists of time, with pagan legends dating back to mythical times — the "time of the Moors" — that magical and miraculous expression that attended the peopling of the region. Thus we have the legend of the fairy Oriana, after whom Ourém is named. Christianity was able to harness this powerful sense of devotion, perhaps rooted in female agrarian divinities, focussing it in the figure of the Mother of God, Our Lady. Worship of Santa Maria and the countless places of worship dedicated to her attest to this ongoing and deeply entrenched religious feeling that has gained even greater universal strength.

A circuit of the places of Marian devotion coincides with the paths of faith and with the ancient pilgrimage routes that have been long established here. To start with a land's end: Nossa Senhora da Nazaré. The miracles of Our Lady, as experienced in the 12th century by a personage who seems to inhabit a dimension outside "History", the Knight Templar D. Fuas Roupinho, were bolstered by the chroniclers of the Cistercian Order. The place of worship came to be the tip of the cliff at Nazaré, transforming the place into one of the most significant Marian sanctuaries in Portugal, from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

However, other places have exercised the same fascination, although they have been circumscribed to regional devotions, almost unknown and unheard of in the outside world. Nevertheless, they represent a priceless religious landscape: Nossa Senhora de Reguengo do Fetal, Nossa Senhora da Ortiga, countless springs, formerly with curative properties, or the great monuments that were also dedicated to Our Lady, such as the grandiose Abbey of Alcobaça or Batalha Monastery. A filigree overlay on the historical — but also mythical — narratives that forged the identity of this region.





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- **MISERICÓRDIA CHURCH, PENICHE**  
In this church there is an important painting by Josefa d'Óbidos (*The Holy Face*, 1630-1664), reflecting the sweet, mystical devotion of the 17th century.  
C- 39° 21' 23" N 9° 23' 13" W
- **CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS REMÉDIOS, PENICHE**  
A small church that is fully tiled inside, mainly in blue and white, depicting scenes of the *Life of the Virgin*. This is an important land's end sanctuary.  
C- 39° 21' 23" N 9° 23' 13" W
- **CHURCH OF SÃO LEONARDO, ATOUGUIA DA BALEIA**  
The village was granted by King D. Afonso Henriques to the crusaders who helped him to conquer Lisbon, D. Roberto and Guillaume Le Corni. It may have been one of the places to accommodate the first wave of French refugee Knights Templar arriving by sea at the time of the "trial" brought against the Order of the Temple.  
C- 39° 20' N 9° 19' W
- **CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO, ATOUGUIA DA BALEIA**  
Built between 1694 and 1698, the Royal Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Conceição is a pilgrimage church. It is one of the first essays in the Baroque style in Portuguese architecture.  
C- 39° 20' N 9° 19' W
- **TOWN OF ÓBIDOS (5, 7)**  
One of the jewels of Portuguese architectural heritage, this ancient town, contained within its old city walls, still displays the layout of a large medieval settlement.  
C- 39° 21' 41" N 9° 09' 26" W
- **ALCÁÇOVA DE ÓBIDOS, ÓBIDOS (6)**  
Óbidos Castle generically defined the perimeter of the town at the time of its conquest by King D. Afonso Henriques' Christian army, in 1148.  
C-39° 21' 47" N 9° 09' 26"
- **CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DE ÓBIDOS, ÓBIDOS**  
Rebuilt almost from scratch in 1571, this church is an important example of the early regional Baroque style in Portugal. In the Santa Catarina Chapel there are good quality paintings by the greatest local artist, Josefa d'Ayalla, who became considerably famous in Portugal, and was known as Josefa d'Óbidos.  
C-39° 21' 41" N 9° 09' 26" W
- **MISERICÓRDIA CHURCH, ÓBIDOS**  
One of the best endowed religious building in Óbidos in terms of artistic content. Of special interest are four paintings by André Reinoso and the gilded carvings.  
C- 39° 21' 41" N 9° 09' 26" W
- **CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DO PÓPULO, CALDAS DA RAINHA**  
An important example of the so-called "Manueline style", this could be the oldest part of the Hot Spring Hospital of Caldas da Rainha.  
C- 39° 24' 09" N 9° 08' 10" W
- **NAZARÉ (8)**  
This is one of the most fascinating coastal places in Portugal. At this tall rocky spur, the Knight Templar D. Fuas Roupinho was saved from falling to his death while hunting a deer by the apparition of the Virgin.  
C-39° 35' 59" N 9° 04' 24" W
- **PEDERNEIRA (9)**  
This site gave rise to the current town of Nazaré. In past times, it was called "serro petronero" and has pre-historic roots.  
C- 39° 35' 51" N 9° 03' 52" W
- **CHAPEL OF MEMORY, NAZARÉ (2, 10)**  
Perched on the edge of the cliff, this stands at the exact rocky point where the mark from the horseshoe of D. Fuas Roupinho's horse remains.  
C- 39° 36' 16" N 9° 04' 34" W
- **CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA NAZARÉ (CHURCH OF THE MIRACLE) (11)**  
The main temple of the sanctuary, housing the image of Our Lady of Nazaré, a "dark skinned virgin", a gothic variation of a Black Virgin.  
C- 39° 36' 19" N 9° 04' 36" W
- **CHAPEL OF SÃO BRÁS, PEDERNEIRA, NAZARÉ**  
Site of one of the most important feasts dedicated to St. Brás in the Portuguese Estremadura region.  
C- 39° 35' 35" N 9° 03' 07" W
- **SÃO GIÃO DA NAZARÉ, NAZARÉ**  
One of the oldest Christian churches in Portuguese territory (7th to 10th centuries), it stands on the coastal zone to the south of Nazaré, around 300 metres from the sea.  
C-39° 33' 46" N 9° 05' 22" W
- **ABBAY OF SANTA MARIA DE ALCobaça, ALCobaça (3, 4, 12)**  
Work on the abbey started in 1178 and the *dedication* of the temple was in 1252. This is one of the biggest and best-preserved Cistercian abbeys in all Europe. It was one of the political and cultural "cradles" of Portugal.  
C- 39° 32' 53" N 8° 58' 48" W
- **MONASTERY OF CÓS, CÓS**  
The church, which is about 50 metres long, shows how big the old ruined monastery was. The interior is a good example of the Mannerist and Baroque style of decoration.  
C- 39° 36' 07" N 8° 57' 20" W
- **SANTA RITA CHAPEL, CÓS**  
This church is a site of popular festivals, situated at a high point accessed by flights of steps, such that visitors have to undertake a climb, with connotations of penitence and purification.  
C-39° 36' 20" N 8° 57' 17" N
- **CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ, PÓVOA DE CÓS**  
17th century construction. The legend of its founding relates the apparition of Our Lady to a little shepherd girl.  
C-39° 35' 16" N 8° 06' 05" W
- **SENHORA DA GRAÇA (OUR LADY OF GRACE) OR DAS CANDEIAS (OF CANDEIAS), ATAÍJA DE CIMA**  
The seat of a widespread ritual in the SERRAS DE AIRE E CANDEEIROS: the use of oil lamps, a Christianised form of the worship of the pagan divinities Isis (Ceres) and Osíris.  
C- 39° 33' N 8° 54' W
- **SENHORA DAS AREIAS CHAPEL, CHÃOS, ALJUBARROTA**  
This small chapel is a site of popular festivals. It was founded to celebrate an apparition of Our Lady who returned to a village woman her lost house keys.  
C- 39° 34' 34" N 8° 54' 56" W
- **SANCTUARY OF NOSSA SENHORA DO FETAL, REGUENGO DO FETAL (13)**  
The chapel was founded at an unknown date following another apparition by Our Lady to a little shepherd girl. Local centre for worship of the Holy Spirit.  
C- 39° 34' 39" N 8° 55' 56" W
- **CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ORTIGA, FATIMA, OURÉM**  
According to the legend and miracle of Ortiga, a deaf and dumb shepherd was tending his sheep when he suddenly saw the shining and extremely beautiful image of Our Lady descending from heaven. The proptotype of the miracle of Our Lady of Fátima.  
C- 39° 36' 19" N 8° 37' 33" W



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- **SANCTUARY OF FÁTIMA, FÁTIMA (14)**  
The Sanctuary of Fátima is one of the biggest devotional spaces in the world these days, visited by over two million pilgrims every year. It has become one of the most popular religious destinations for Catholics in the long history of the religion, and the devotion to Our Lady of Fátima has not ceased growing.  
C- 39° 37' 55" N 8° 40' 20" W
- **HEART OF THE SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA (15)**  
This is at Cova da Iria, in that depression ("cova") of land where the three shepherd children witnessed the majority and the most significant of the apparitions of Our Lady.  
C- 39° 47' 39" N 8° 40' 27" W
- **CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS, FÁTIMA**  
Built between 28th April and 15 June 1919, to comply with the will of the Lady who appeared to the three shepherd children. This chapel, still standing today within the sanctuary thanks to successive restorations, forms the focal point on which the crowds of pilgrims converge.  
C- 39° 37' 53" N 8° 40' 24" W
- **IMAGE OF OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA**  
By José Ferreira Thedim (III) (1892-1971), a maker of holy images from São Miguel do Coronado, in Braga.  
C- 39° 37' 53" N 8° 40' 24" W
- **BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY (BASILICA OF FÁTIMA), FÁTIMA (1)**  
This is the biggest 20th century religious construction in Portugal (founded in 1953).  
C- 39° 37' 56" N 8° 40' 18" W

- **MONUMENT TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS, FÁTIMA (16)**  
This column at the centre of the square or esplanade, crowned with a gilded bronze image, was made possible thanks to an anonymous donation. It is mounted over water well.  
C- 39° 37' 56" N 8° 40' 18" W
- **BASILICA OF THE HOLY TRINITY, SANCTUARY OF FÁTIMA, FÁTIMA**  
The new basilica was officially inaugurated on 13 October 2007. It has a circular floor plan and smooth outer walls containing thirteen doors — the main door plus twelve secondary doors.  
C- 39° 37' 45" N 8° 40' 32" W
- **CABEÇO, ALJUSTREL, FÁTIMA (17)**  
The exact site of the first and third apparitions of the Angel to the three shepherd children.  
C- 39° 37' 01" N 8° 40' 12" W
- **HAMLET OF VALINHOS, FÁTIMA**  
Around 3 kilometres from the Sanctuary, in Valinhos, is the place of the fourth apparition of Our Lady to the three shepherd children (19 August 1917).  
C- 39° 37' 05" N 8° 40' 15" W
- **WAY OF THE CROSS AND CALVARY, VALINHOS, FÁTIMA (18)**  
A route echoing the Way of the Cross and Christ's Calvary, just outside the Sanctuary of Fátima.  
C- 39° 37' 05" N 8° 40' 15" W
- **HOUSES OF THE SHEPHERD CHILDREN, ALJUSTREL, FÁTIMA**  
The three sheers of Fátima were born in this small village and lived here with their respective families. Lúcia was the cousin of brother and sister Jacinta and Francisco, and they lived close to each other, taking part in the everyday village tasks from an early age, such as the traditional task of herding the sheep.  
C- 39° 36' 56" N 8° 39' 53" W

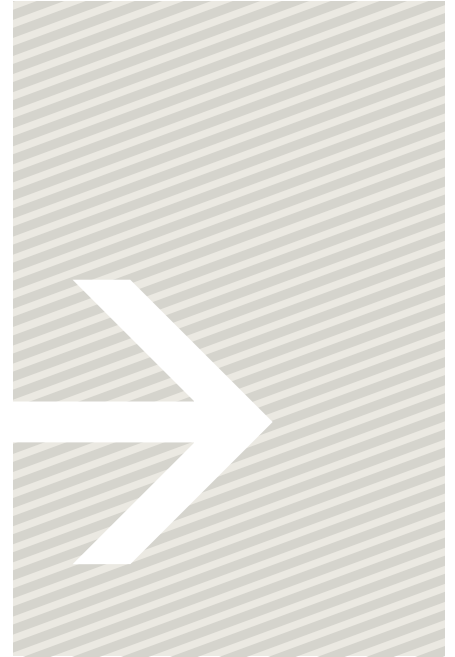
- **ARNEIRO WELL, ALJUSTREL, FÁTIMA**  
Also known as the Angel's Well, this was the private well belonging to the house of seer Lúcia, where the second apparition of the Angel occurred.  
C- 39° 36' 53" N 8° 39' 50" W
- **OURÉM**  
The name of the town is indelibly linked to the Templar legend of the knight D. Gonçalo Hermigues, who fell in love with the Moor Fátima. She converted to Christianity to be able to marry him, being baptized with the name of Oureana.  
C- 39° 38' N 8° 35' W
- **OURÉM PALACE AND CASTLE, OURÉM (19)**  
One of the most innovative Portuguese works of military architecture in the 15th century. It was sponsored by D. Afonso, the Count of Ourém and later Marquis of Valença, the eldest son of the Duke of Bragança, D Afonso.  
C- 39° 38' N 8° 35' W
- **OURÉM COLLEGIATE CHURCH, OURÉM**  
This was founded in 1445 by D. Afonso, the Count of Ourém. His mortal remains are kept in the crypt in a remarkable sarcophagus.  
C- 39° 38' N 8° 35' W
- **HAND OF FÁTIMA, SOUTH WINDOW, CHAPTER ROOM, BATALHA MONASTERY, BATALHA (20)**  
Representation of the Virgin with a pitcher in her hand and a rope with six "open hands" around her neck, i.e. amulets known as the *hand of Fátima*.  
C- 39° 39' N 8° 49' W

**The 4 Elements** Not many people are aware that just over an hour's drive from the capital is one of the most fascinating orogenetic systems in Portugal. This system is made up of the mountain ranges of Aire and Candeeiros, the bona fide backbone of Estremadura and one of the most influential groups of mountains in the Peninsular West. Its mainly limestone soils are crossed by some of the most important rivers of Portugal. Above its imposing and apparently bare crest rises a celestial dome, of an intense blue such as is rarely found elsewhere, or else there are heavy and invasive downpours, responsible for the waters and the inaccessible life of subterranean worlds that sometimes call to mind the incredible myth of the "hollow earth". Here, summer's heat can be inclement and the cold of the rocks faceted by the extreme temperatures can burn. Aire: the seamless purity of the air and the wind; Candeeiros: the firmament and the flame of magical lights.

Part of the far south westerly territory is divided up between the four elements of nature. Water, in the boundless sea horizons, is found in the coastal zones, in the magic of land's end, but also in the abundant rivers and ribbons of water that have gouged out the inhospitable valleys or basins humanized by mankind over the centuries, or even the underground caverns, unsuspected by many. Air, disarmingly limpid, is there to be enjoyed in the sparkling blue sky of day or in the star filled vault of the night time. Fire reveals its igneous power in the rocks moulded by the geological antiquity of the countryside, while Earth devotes itself to providing man with sustenance, or denying it, so thin is its mantle, subsiding at times into hard rock.

Could this have been the home of the famous mares fertilized by the wind that Herodotus fixed for posterity in ancient myth? We cannot tell. But we do know that the harshness of the peaks and the mildness of the valleys permit every eventuality, even the most obscure. Here can be found, moulded by thousands of years of erosion, rocks with capricious fissures, the so-called "fields of *lapiás*"; but also natural pools opened in the limestone crust, the "algares", that provide us with a reading of geological sedimentation over aeons. Some of these also provide access to the most spectacular Portuguese caves (Mira d'Aire, Santo António, Alvados, Algar da Pena). But even small lakes, like the bounty of divine whim, appear here and there in the high mountain range, in the valleys carved out, natural deposits of pure icy waters dotted among the dolines (sinkholes) and the poljes (large depressions in the limestone). A testament to this remarkable nature are the dinosaur footprints, a veritable Jurassic Park come true, or the rock salt works, white mantles harvested since Roman times.

A magical nature? Undoubtedly, and one that has nourished the strange archaic landscapes that men of all eras have made sacred, as happened with the dolmen-chapel of Alcobertas.





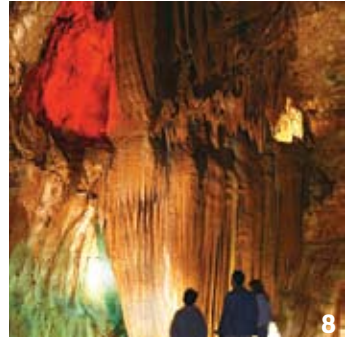
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- **CAPE CARVOEIRO, PENICHE (2, 4)**  
The extreme point of the Iberian Peninsula, where the city of Peniche now stands. Inhabited since pre-history, it is a site of archaeological remains.  
C- 39° 21' 54" N 9° 22' 45" W
- **FURNINHA CAVE, PENICHE**  
Traces of human occupation from the Middle Paleolithic (by Neanderthal men, around 100000 B. C.) to the Ancient Neolithic (5000-4000 B. C.).  
C- 39° 21' 21" N 9° 24' 4" W
- **BERLENGAS ISLANDS, PENICHE (5)**  
A micro-archipelago made up of Berlenga Grande island, Berlenga Pequena island (the *Berlengas*) and the islets of Farilhões, Estelas and Forcadás.  
C- 39° 22' 29" N 9° 20' 27" W
- **BALEAL, PENICHE (6)**  
An urban agglomeration built on the rocky outcrop of Santo Estêvão. It was once an island (as was Peniche), but is now linked to land by a sandy isthmus.  
C- 39° 22' 29" N 9° 20' 27" W
- **FONTE DA BICA SALT PANS, RIO MAIOR**  
Salt in the middle of the mountains. A white or grey mantle, in level, geometrically carved plots dotted around a valley, crossed by small channels made of coffered wood.  
C- 39° 21' 49" N 8° 56' 36" W
- **DOLMEN-CHAPEL OF ALCOBERTAS, ALCOBERTAS, RIO MAIOR (11)**  
A Christianised dolmen. The most spectacular Portuguese dolmen chapel and one of the most important megalithic monuments of its kind in the whole of Europe.  
C- 39° 25' 06" N 8° 54' 12" W
- **ARCO DA MEMÓRIA (MEMORY ARCH), PORTELA DO PEREIRO, ÉVORA DE ALCOBAÇA**  
According to legend, it was from this point that D. Afonso I fired an arrow indicating the site for the foundations of the Alcobaca Monastery. The arch marks the event and delimits the territory of the monastery  
C- 39° 29' 03" N 8° 54' 06" W
- **STONE OF THE FONTE DA SENHORA, BENEDITA**  
Linked with a duly Christianised water spring, the stone, which is probably pre-historic, stands in front of the drinking fountain.  
C- 39° 27' 00" N 8° 58' 21" W
- **SERRAS D' AIRE E CANDEIROS (1, 7)**  
In these high mountain ranges, we are taken amazed by their aridness and their wild aspect, as if nobody had ever set foot there before. A central site to the entire Western region, it appears to be an infertile land where only the miraculous "lights" impel man to settle there.
- **CANDEIROS GEODESIC POINT, SERRA DOS CANDEIROS**  
The right place to be astounded by the view to the wide horizons, especially during the limpid days of Spring, which are also the most highly perfumed.  
C- 39° 26' N 8° 06' W
- **NATURAL MONUMENT OF DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS IN THE SERRA D' AIRE, BAIRO, PORTO DE MÓS**  
The footprints date from around 175 million years ago and are preserved in Jurassic soil, discovered in an old quarry (Interpretive Centre).  
C- 39° 34' N 8° 35' W
- **JURASSIC VANTAGE POINT, ALQUEIDÃO DA SERRA, PORTO DE MÓS**  
At an altitude of 500 metres in the Aires and Candeeiros mountains, this observation point provides views to the north and west of the mountain ranges. From here one sees Porto de Mós, with its castle, Batalha Monastery and the city of Leiria.  
C- 39° 36' 41" N 8° 47' 19" W
- **FÓRNEA, ZAMBUJAL DA ALCARIA / CHÃO DAS PIAS, PORTO DE MÓS (12)**  
A large natural amphitheatre, around half a kilometre in diameter, formed by the semicircular junction of the tops of the Ladeiras, Pena de Águia and Cabeço Raposeiro mountain ridges.  
C- 39° 33' 29" N 8° 48' 17" W
- **CAVERN OF ALGAR DA PENA, VALE DO MAR (VALDEMAR), ALCANEDÉ**  
The biggest subterranean chamber ever discovered in Portugal.  
C- (Alcanedé) 39° 24' 48" N 8° 49' 18" W
- **SANTO ANTÓNIO CAVE, PORTO DE MÓS**  
One of the biggest in a group of caves in the Serra de Minde. Its subterranean chambers are considered to be among the most spectacular in the world.  
C- 39° 33' 06" N 8° 45' 33" W
- **ALVADOS CAVE, ALVADOS, PORTO DE MÓS**  
Group of rock chambers in a cave, with suggestive names inspired by the formations there.  
C- 39° 32' 20" N 8° 4' 08" W
- **MIRA D' AIRE CAVE, ALVADOS, PORTO DE MÓS (3, 8)**  
This is about 700 metres in length, and lies 110 metres below ground.  
C- 39° 32' 38" N 8° 42' 29" W
- **QUINTA DA MURETA, MINDE, PORTO DE MÓS**  
From here one can see the characteristic vegetation and typical birdlife.  
C- 39° 28' 39" N 8° 42' 25" W
- **ARRIMAL LAKES, ARRIMAL, PORTO DE MÓS**  
The waters in the Lagoa Grande come from run-off from the Vale de Espinho, other lakes are fed by the Mendiga polje.  
C- 39° 29' 57" N 8° 52' 18" W
- **MIRA D' AIRE/MINDE POLJE**  
Maximum length 4 kilometres and 1.8 kilometres wide. In winter, the surface of the polje fills with water, forming an impressive natural lake.  
C- 39° 31' 00" N 8° 41' 05" W
- **CAMPOS DE LAPIÁS, MENDIGA, PORTO DE MÓS (9)**  
The campos de lapiás consist of areas of rocks, almost always limestone that have been eroded by rainwater.
- **QUINTA DO VALE DE VENTOS, TURQUEL, ALCOBAÇA**  
One of the key sites for the development of the Alcobaca estates, at around 5 kilometres to the east in the vicinity of Turquel, on the slopes of the mountain range. This was the main site of one of the order's largest farms (Accommodation Centre).  
C- 39° 28' 31" N 8° 54' 12" W
- **CABEÇO DA LUA, SERRA DOS CANDEIROS, TURQUEL**  
In the Serra dos Candeeiros, a legend is associated to the Vale de Ventos Country Manor that seems to perpetuate the memory of a sacred prehistoric geography.  
C- 39° 28' 15" N 8° 53' 25" W



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- **CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DA AJUDA, VESTIARIA, ALCOBAÇA (10)**  
The building was founded to commemorate the discovery of an image of Our Lady. Miraculous recapitulation of the Miracle of Nazaré. Note the remarkable Manueline doorway.  
C- 39° 33' 17" N 8° 59' 53" W

- **ÉVORA DE ALCOBAÇA, ALCOBAÇA (13)**  
Parish church (15th-17th centuries). On the southern facade is a low-relief plaque representing Santiago "knight".  
C- 39° 30' 55" N 8° 5' 25" W

- **QUARRIES, MOLIANOS**  
In Portugal, "molianos" is a synonym for stone. If stone flooring is required for a given room, the contractor might say: "Put in a little moliano" ...  
C-39° 3' 09" N 8° 54' 19" W

- **HOLY FOUNTAIN OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ, JUNCAL, COZ**  
One of the most remarkable fountains in the region, being of unusual type and superior architectural interest.  
C-39° 35' 47" N 8° 56' 28" W

- **POÇO SUÃO, PRAZERES, ALCOBAÇA**  
A break in the rock, a small cave, providing a glimpse of the subterranean waters of the Alcoa before it breaks to the surface at its "source".  
C- (Prazeres) 39° 31' 57" N 8° 55' 24" N

- **FONTE DA CHIQUEDA, CHIQUEDA (CHIQUEDA DE CIMA), ALCOBAÇA**  
In this village is the main spring that provides drinking water for the hydraulic system of Alcobça Monastery.  
C- 39° 32' 17" N 8° 56' 57" W

- **MAIORGA PILLORY, ALCOBAÇA**  
The charters granted by the lord determined the rules by which matters in the sub-district should be determined. The pillory was the monument that certified feudal power and local laws.  
C- 39° 34' 43" N 8° 58' 49" W

- **VALADO DOS FRADES, ALCOBAÇA**  
The Pousada of the Quinta do Campo is in a large 18th century civil building. This simple and imposing building is a former grange of the Cistercian Order.  
C- 39° 35' 12" N 9° 01' 38" W

- **ROMAN VILLA OF PARREITAS, VALADO DOS FRADES, BARRIO, ALCOBAÇA (14)**  
On this site, there was once a settlement with very ancient foundations, dating back in all probability to the Iron Age, and which was Romanized in the I/II - IV centuries AD.  
C- 39° 34' 54" N 9° 01' 50" W : Geocache Parreitas (GCNXJ9)

- **MENHIR OF THE SERRA DA PESCARIA, FAMALICÃO, NAZARÉ**  
One of the most significant megalithic remains in the region. It stands on top of one of the hillocks that make up the mountain landscape and, from here, one can see the sea and the lands around Nazaré.  
C- 39° 27' 00" N 8° 58' 21" W

- **MEGALITHIC SANCTUARY, CASAL DO RESONEIRO, ALJUBARROTA**  
Prehistoric sanctuary, resulting from the use of rocky outcrops or the choice of one or more suggestively shaped stones placed there. An integral part of a ritual landscape.

- **PEDRA GALEGA, CASAL DO RESONEIRO, ALJUBARROTA**  
Associated with several legends and with the Church of Nossa Senhora das Areias, this is part of a sacred Christianised landscape.  
C-39° 27' 00" N 8° 58' 21" W

- **PAÚL DO BOQUILOBO, RIACHOS, GOLEGÁ (15)**  
A wet area, with lakes, streams and calm brooks, it culminates in the basins of two rivers, the Tagus and the Almonda, found substantially in this zone (Interpretive Centre of Paúl do Boquilobo). An ideal area for bird watching.  
C- 39° 23' 20" N 8° 31' 58" W

- **DOLMEN I OF VALE DA LAJE, SERRA, TOMAR**  
Dolmen I of Vale da Laje offers a treasure dating back to the Late Neolithic period (c. 3500 BC.). It was part of a nucleus with at least another four monuments of the same type, of which only this one has survived.  
C- (Casalinho) 39° 43' 06" N 8° 18' 12"

- **CASTELO DO BODE DAM, TOMAR (16)**  
A popular tourist spot, thanks to its beautiful scenery that provides facilities for water sports and fishing (trout, eel and bass), this is one of the largest artificial lakes in Europe.  
C- 39° 32' 34" N 8° 19' 11" W

**The quest for the Holy Grail** At the exact same time that the formation of Portugal as an independent state was underway, the famous narratives dedicated to the search for the Grail by the Knights of the Round table appeared in Europe. The first versions of the story date from the end of the 12th century by the Burgundian Chrétien de Troyes and by Frenchman Robert de Boron, and yet another, in 1207, by the German Wolfram von Eschenbach. However, the most widespread had to be the anonymous and probably collective version: the so-called "vulgate cycle", *Quest del Saint Graal*, written around 1210.

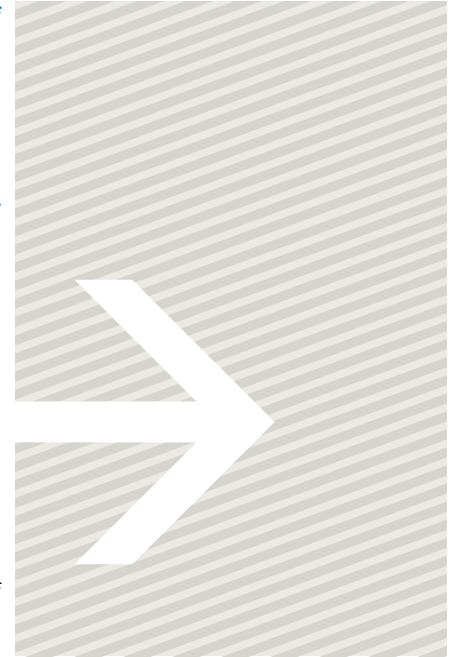
This version was translated shortly after into the Portuguese language, and became known as *The Quest of the Holy Grail*. It has all the ingredients of the previous versions: virtuous knights, from the court of King Arthur, set off in search of the chalice in which the Blood of Christ was collected after his crucifixion. The main hero, Galahad, who, with his companions, penetrated the thick forests of the imaginary Kingdom of Logres, meeting beautiful (and ugly...) damsels, strange folks, monsters and dragons, on an enigmatic journey with traces of magic that subsume to one goal: finding the famous vessel, which represents Man's salvation. We now know that this story was the fruit of an adaptation by Cistercian monks, who transformed an old pagan narrative into something more in keeping with the principles of Christian virtue and spiritual knightly chivalry.

Why not, then, project the map of the Grail Quest onto the lands of the extreme south west of Europe, where one of the most important Cistercian monasteries stood (Alcobaça), where there were clear connections to Burgundy (the Cistercian St. Bernard and the founder of Burgundian descent, King D. Afonso I) and where, in and around Tomar, there was always the high-profile presence of the knights of that fighting religious order, supreme representatives of the spiritual chivalry that St. Bernard himself sponsored and encouraged, known as the Knights Templar?

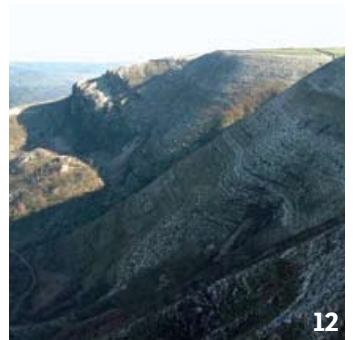
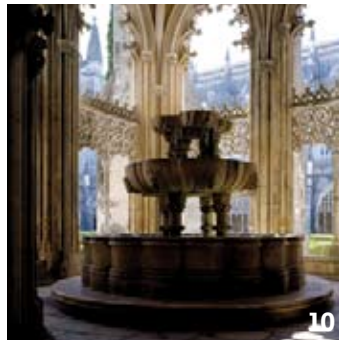
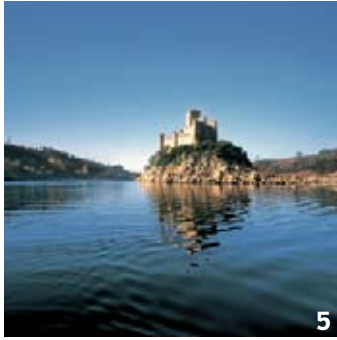
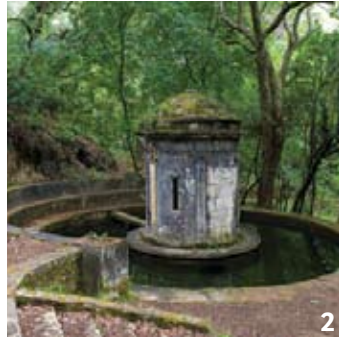
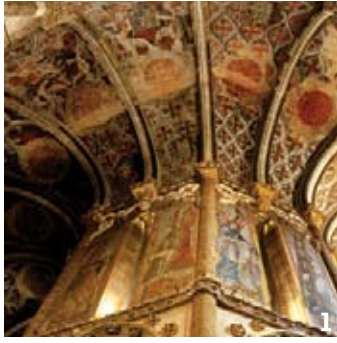
This imaginary geography, as will be seen, then becomes a mythical geography that can be explored with the eyes of the imagination.

The fictional places become real places, should we wish to project them onto the Western landscapes, filled with legends and myths, transposing, without exhausting them, the symbols of the Quest. As if we were really dealing with the Kingdom of Logres — as if we were dealing with the imaginary *Britains* and *Irelands*, superimposed with *Hibernias* and *Iberias*, and where we finally find that which could be the true *Portugal* or *Porto do Graal* (the *Grail's Harbour*...)

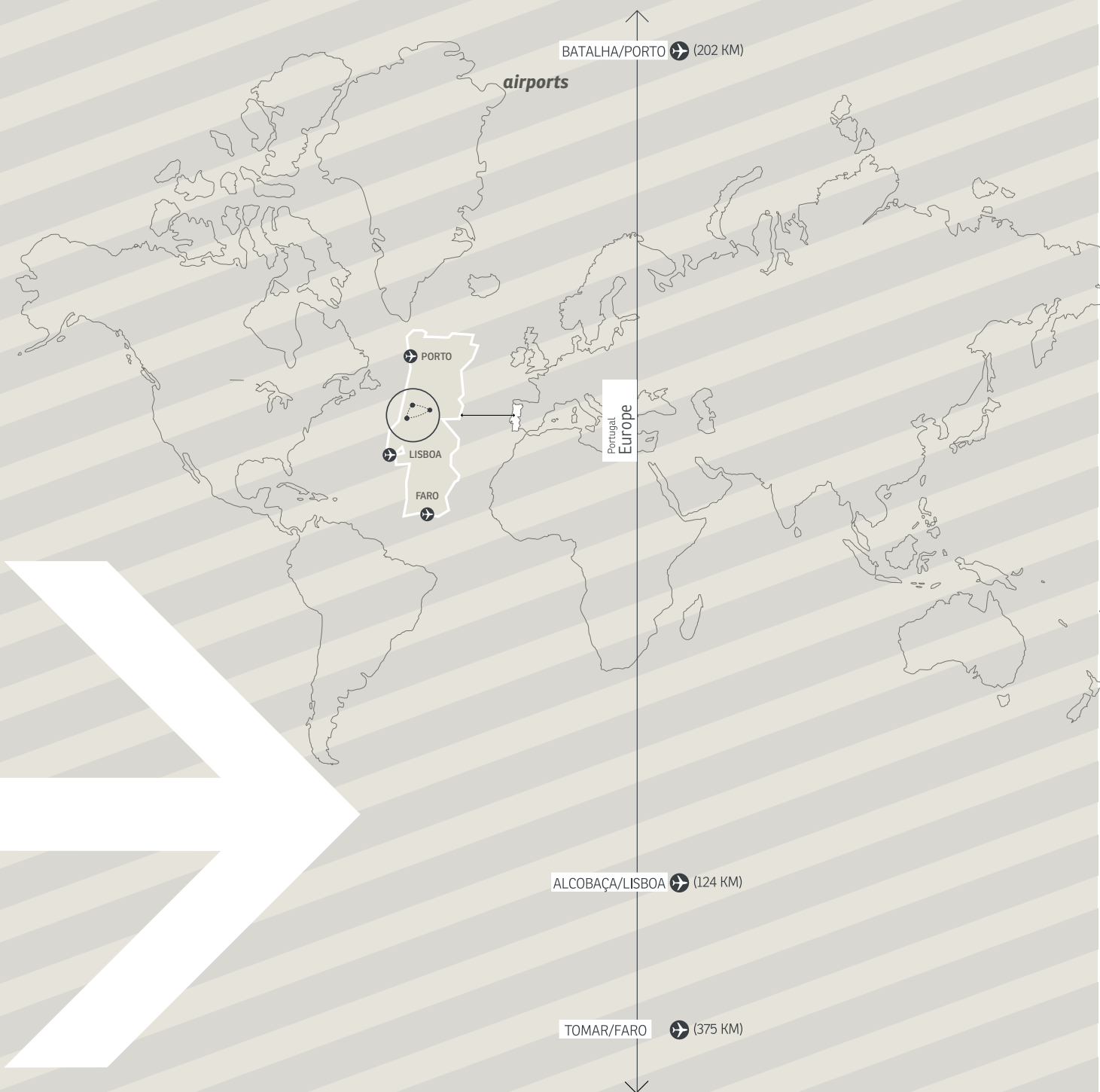
However, this is not an exercise in draining symbolic meaning. The quest is internal and the way is personal.







- **AGROAL**  
The River Celisa
- **TOMAR**  
Meeting point for the heroes of the Quest, the Spiritual Palace (*Spiritual or Celestial*) is also the site of the principal manifestation of the sacred chalice of the grail.
- **A RODA DO NABÃO**  
Portugal as *Door to the Grail*
- **TOMAR CASTLE**  
The *New Jerusalem*
- **A CHAROLA E A IGREJA MANUELINA DE TOMAR (1)**  
The Temple of Solomon
- **CHAROLINHA, MATA DOS SETE MONTES, TOMAR (2)**  
The *Garden of Urganda*
- **CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DO OLIVAL, TOMAR**  
*Hermitage of the Red Olive Tree* where the knights Gawain and Hector had their prophetic visions.
- **SANTA IRIA CONVENT, TOMAR (3)**  
Saint Iria of Tomar: from Irene to Fátima, from Fátima to Oureana.
- **FESTA DOS TABULEIROS, TOMAR (4)**  
The Pentecostal *Bodo* (religious feast where food was distributed to the needy): at the table of the Grail. The apparition of the Grail to the Knights of the Round Table.
- **ALMOUROL CASTLE, VILA NOVA DA BARQUINHA (5)**  
Castle of Jaïam [the giant Jaïam]. The legend of the giant Almourol and the damsel Miraguarda.
- **STONE OF THE HOLY MARTYRS, PAIALVO, TOMAR**  
Legend of the holy Martyrs
- **QUINTA DA CARDIGA, GOLEGÃ**  
The Giant Cardiga
- **GAIÃO'S OR LANGALHÃO'S TOWER, PEREIRO, FERREIRA DO ZÉZERE**  
Jaïam's tower. Home of the fearful giant Jaïam.
- **DORNES TOWER, DORNES, FERREIRA DO ZÉZERE (6)**  
*Strange Castle*
- **ABBAY OF SANTA MARIA DE ALCOBAÇA**  
Abbey of Uther Pendragon. Founded by king Uther (Uther Pendragon). The vigil of Galahad in the church. The mission of the Quest.
- **TOMBS OF D. PEDRO I AND D. INÉS DE CASTRO, ABBAY OF ALCOBAÇA (7, 8)**  
The *Lady of the Chapel*. *Tristram* in the Quest for the Holy Grail
- **MENHIRS OF THE WEST**  
The *Sword in the Stone*
- **BATTLEFIELD OF ALJUBARROTA, CALVARIA DE CIMA, SÃO JORGE DE ALJUBARROTA, PORTO DE MÓS**  
The "*Painful ground*" ("*Chão dooroso*") (The Quest for the Grail, § 304). Camlann: where there was a fierce battle in which Lancelot killed the son of Mordred and Bors killed Melehan. King Lionel was also slain the battle
- **CHAPEL OF SÃO JORGE DE ALJUBARROTA, SÃO JORGE DE ALJUBARROTA (9)**  
The *Perilous Chapel*
- **MONASTERY OF SANTA MARIA DA VITÓRIA, OR BATALHA MONASTERY, BATALHA (10)**  
The *Celestial City*
- **CAPELA DO FUNDADOR, BATALHA MONASTERY, BATALHA (11)**  
The *True Chapel* and the *King's Chapel*
- **SERRAS D' AIRE E CANDEEIROS (THE SERRAS D' AIRE E CANDEEIROS NATIONAL PARK) (12)**  
The *Waste land*



### roads

- FROM LISBOA (LISBOA-ALCOBAÇA): A 1 - A 8 - N 8-4
- FROM LISBOA (LISBOA-BATALHA-PORTO DE MÓS): A 1 - N 356 - N 1 / IC 2 - N 243
- FROM LISBOA (LISBOA-FÁTIMA): A 1 - N 356 - N 360
- FROM LISBOA (LISBOA-TOMAR): A 1 - A 23 - IC 3
- FROM MADRID (MADRID-ALCOBAÇA): A 6 - A 13 - A 8 - N 8-4
- FROM MADRID (MADRID-BATALHA-PORTO DE MÓS): A 6 - A 13 — IC 10 — A 1 — N 356 — N 1 / IC 2 — N 243
- FROM MADRID (MADRID-FÁTIMA): A 6 — A 13 — IC 10 — A 1 — N 356 — N 360
- FROM MADRID (MADRID-TOMAR): A 6 — A 13 — IC 10 — A 1 — A 23 — IC 3
- FROM PORTO (PORTO-ALCOBAÇA): A 1 — IC 36 (LEIRIA) — A 8 — N 8-4
- FROM PORTO (PORTO-ALCOBAÇA): A 1 — N 356 — N 360
- FROM PORTO (PORTO-BATALHA-PORTO DE MÓS): A 1 — N 356 — N 1 / IC 2 — N 243
- FROM PORTO (PORTO-FÁTIMA): A 1 — N 356 — N 360
- FROM PORTO (PORTO-TOMAR): A 1 — A 23 — IC 3

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