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### Emergency Phones

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Tel: 252 631 170

### POLICE

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4480-876 Vila do Conde  
Tel: 252 640 160

### CIVIL PROTECTION

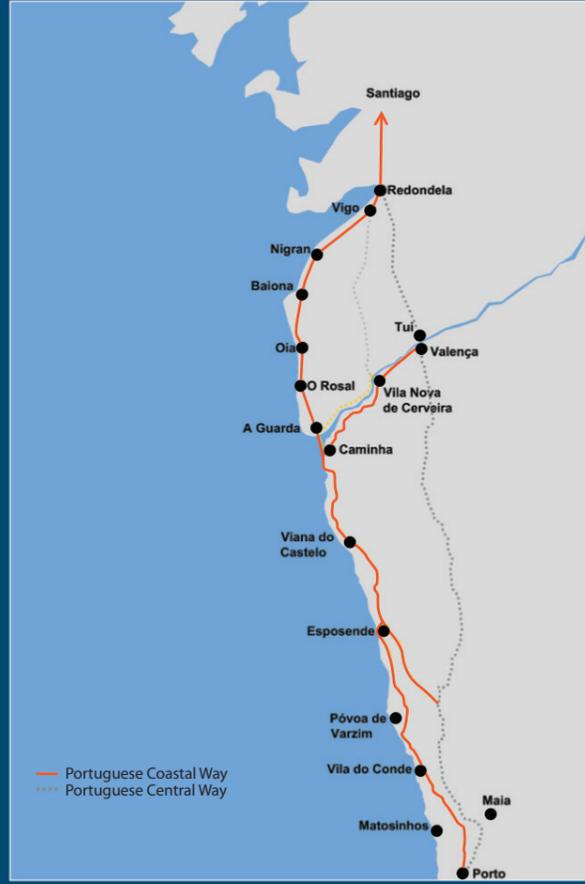
Tel: 252 640 600 / 252 248 400

### SOS - nacional emergency number

Tel: 112

more information at:

<http://caminhodacosta.wix.com/caminhodacosta>  
[www.cm-viladoconde.pt](http://www.cm-viladoconde.pt)



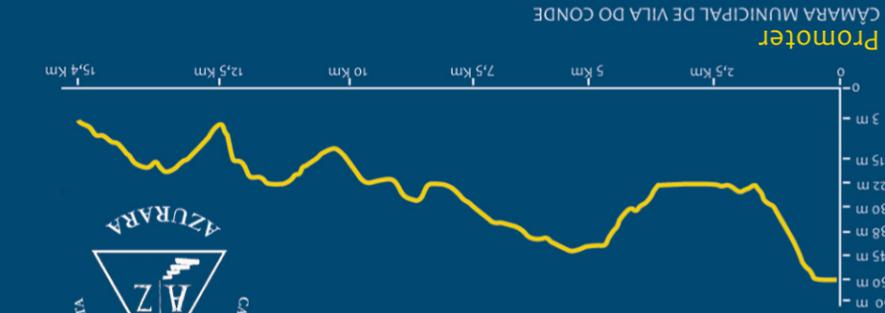
Vila do Conde  
Caminhos de Santiago



# CAMINHOS DE SANTIAGO

## PORTUGUESE COASTAL WAY

## VILA DO CONDE



### Profile

### Difficulty

### Elevation

### Duration

### Length

### Type

### FACT SHEET



The increase of value of the Portuguese Coastal Way as the primary route for pilgrimage is a phenomenon that became more visible in the beginning of the Modern Age, as a result of the increasing number of positive reports and experiences that have been left by travelers. In the case of Vila do Conde, its use as a transit point is strongly associated with the increase in economic activity in the town during and after the 15th century. The growth cycle that occurred here reflected in how the settlement was structured and in the equipments that were built, especially the ones that gave support to travel ers. So it is no wonder that the archives of the Misericórdia (Mercy) of Vila do Conde have many references to the support given to pilgrims. Also not surprising, Vila do Conde was chosen as the passage point of King Manuel the 1st when, in 1502, he returned from a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This passage through Vila do Conde and Azurara marked the daily lives of its residents forever, as it was his contribution that enabled the construction of the main Churches of both parishes.

## VILA DO CONDE

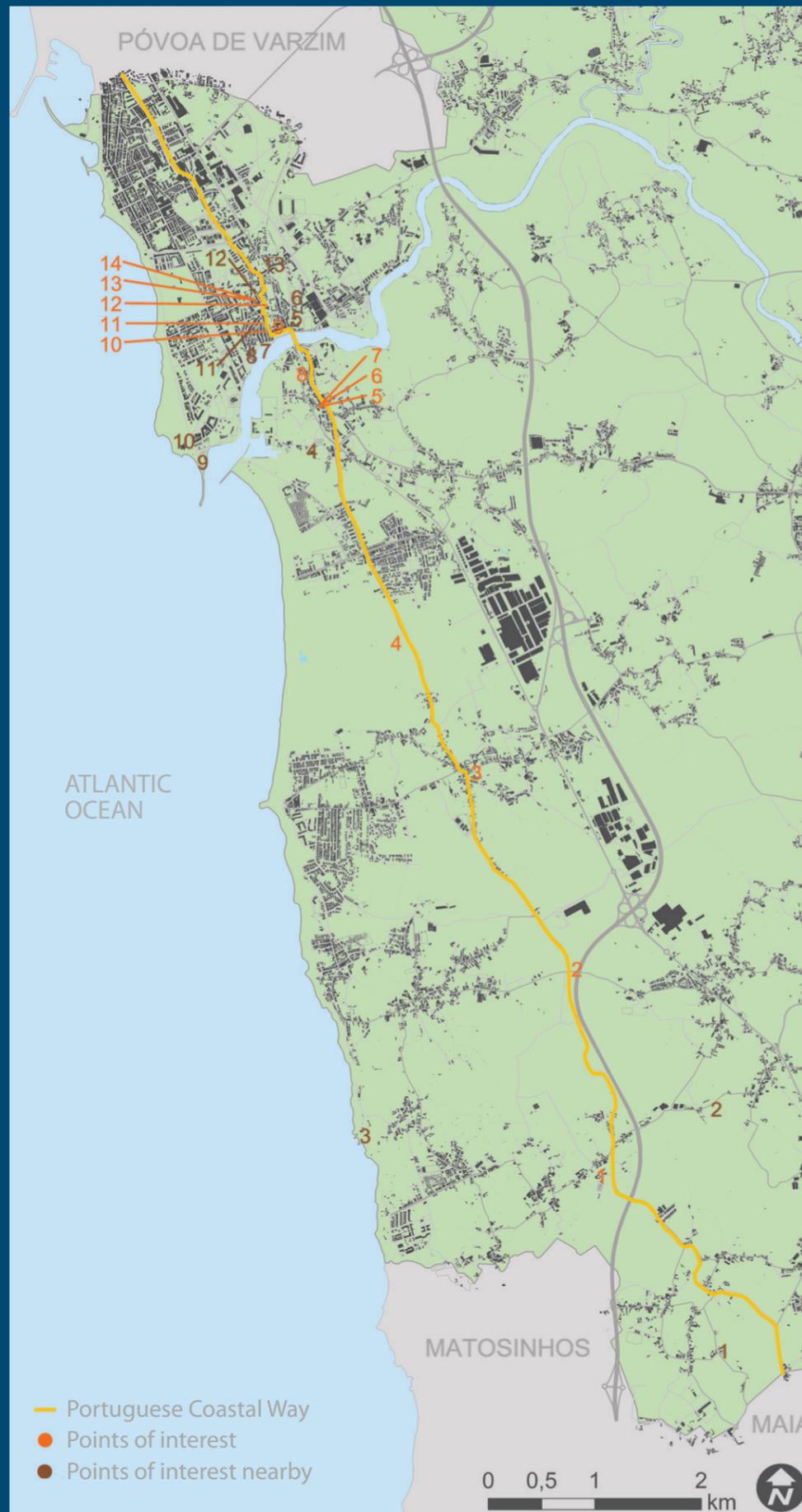
The Portuguese Coastal Way consists of several routs and roads that all lead to Santiago de Compostela. This path, that links Porto to other coastal towns, with the alternative of connecting to Galicia by crossing the Minho river at La Guardia (on the opposite margin of Caminha), Golan (through Vila Nova de Cerveira) or Tui (through Valença do Minho) was, according to some historians, one of the most important axes to reach the home of the Apostle (St. James) in Santiago de Compostela. This seartrout path that went from Porto, through Matosinhos, Maia, Vila do Conde, Póvoa de Varzim, Braga, Viana do Castelo and Caminha, Cerveira and Valença only started to grow in importance in the Modern Era, around the 15th century, and was used by coastal populations and those that were led to their ports.

## THE PORTUGUESE COASTAL WAY

# VILA DO CONDE

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 **Church of Labruga**  
The Church of Labruga is a typical building of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. However, its origin goes back much farther, being referenced in a 1058 document, with the patron saint of São Tiago (St. James).
- 2 **Almas Grandes**  
Erected in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the point of confluence of two parishes, the "Almas Grandes" (small altar) were built at a crossroads.
- 3 **Church of Mindelo**  
The construction of the present church of S. João Evangelista (St. John Evangelist) of Mindelo was initiated in 1770 and completed a year later. The justification for its construction was related to the bad state of preservation, and the reduced size of its predecessor, unable to decently house the faithful of the parish. However, the existence of a church in this parish is substantially older. The first documentary reference to a church in Mindelo dates from 1081.
- 4 **Mindelo Ornithological Reserve**  
It is part of the Regional Coastal Protected Landscape of Vila do Conde and Ornithological Reserve of Mindelo. It is a privileged habitat for over 150 species of birds and it maintains a particular landscape that is very similar to the one seen by the first pilgrims that traveled this road when it began to be structured.
- 5 **Azurara Main Church**  
The construction of this church was sponsored by King Manuel the 1<sup>st</sup>, in 1502, when he passed Azurara coming from Santiago de Compostela. It was dedicated to Santa Maria Nova (Virgin Mother), and the construction of the new main church was completed in 1552.
- 6 **Azurara Calvary**  
The Azurara calvary was erected in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and proof of that is the armillary sphere, a symbol of King Manuel the 1<sup>st</sup>. At the capital one can see scallops, an attribute of Santiago de Compostela and probable reference to the pilgrimage made by the Portuguese King. On the top we can see, on one side, the image of Christ and on the other the Virgin Mother, patron saint of the Church.
- 7 **Azurara Pillory**  
Symbol of the application of Justice the stone pillory of Azurara dates from the Manueline period. It is a mark of the administrative independence that Azurara had and lost in 1836, when it was incorporated into the municipality of Vila do Conde.
- 8 **Praça House**  
The Praça House of Azurara is a construction that dates back to the final phase of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 9 **Vasconcelos Manor**  
Erected in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, this was the residence of the Vasconcelos family. In a town dominated by modest houses, this building was a big contrast to the rest and imposed their noble ascendancy and economic power. After its acquisition by the city of Vila do Conde, it was adapted as a municipal auditorium.
- 10 **São Roque Manor**  
Built during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, its original owner was Captain Mateus Pereira da Rocha Faria Gayo. Currently it fulfills the function of university residence, municipal bookstore and gallery of cinematic art.
- 11 **São Roque Church**  
It was built in 1580 after an outbreak of the Black Plague, and dedicated to S. Roque, protector against the plague and patron of the invalids. Inside, the triumphal arch and chancel are fully coated with engravings and the walls are covered with tiles, dating from 1746.
- 12 **Vila do Conde Main Church**  
The beginning of its construction dates back to 1496 and its genesis is due to Vila do Conde's social ascending bourgeoisie. It was partially sponsored by King Manuel the 1<sup>st</sup> who passed through Vila do Conde in 1502 on his return from a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Despite the participation of several master masons in its construction, the construction was completed in 1515 under the direction of João de Castilho. It opened for worship three years later and was dedicated to S. João Baptista (St. John the Baptist).
- 13 **Vila do Conde Pillory**  
Built in 1538, a popular uprising promoted its destruction during the following year. It was rebuilt in 1582 and based on the Praça da Ribeira. It was moved to its current location in 1913.
- 14 **Vila do Conde Town Hall Building**  
The construction of the Paços de Concelho (town hall building) was determined in 1538 in order to replace another building that is referenced in a council documentation of 1466. In 1540 the work on the building was started and it ended in 1543.



## POINTS OF INTEREST NEARBY

- 1 **Church of Aveleda**  
Originally, the Portuguese Coastal Way passed near this church, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but with medieval origins. However, the construction of the airport in 1945 has cut it short, forcing a correction on the current route.
- 2 **The Insua Mound**  
The Insua Mound is the most important funerary monument in the municipality of Vila do Conde. Excavated by a remarkable group of archaeologists, this mound revealed to have been reused in the Early Bronze Age. Its construction occurred between 5000 and 2000 BC.
- 3 **São Paio Castro**  
The São Paio Castro (a fortified settlement from the iron age) was discovered in the 50s (20<sup>th</sup> century). From 1993 to 1996, archaeological excavations were carried out in order to save it from destruction. It is the only castro located near the coastline in Portuguese territory.
- 4 **Church of S. Francisco**  
The Church of S. Francisco (St. Francis) was part of the convent of Nossa Senhora dos Anjos (Our Lady of the Angels). It was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and completely rebuilt in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Fruit of the Lei da Desamortização (Law of Disentailment) of 1834, the convent became private property, while the church was given to the Venerável Ordem Terceira de S. Francisco (social institution).
- 5 **Santa Clara Church and Monastery**  
Both structures started being built in 1318, by D. Afonso Sanches and his wife, D. Teresa de Menezes, after a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. The monastery was rebuilt in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, according with the plane of a portuguese architect (Francisco Ventura Lobo).
- 6 **Church of the Monastery of S. Francisco**  
The foundation of S. Francisco (St. Francis) convent occurred in 1522, under the protection of the nuns of Santa Clara. With the Law of Disentailment (1834) the Convent was sold by the Venerable Third Order of St. Francis. The church was given to the same order by D. Maria the 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1839.
- 7 **Royal Customs House**  
The Royal Customs was established in early 1487. Maintaining the characteristics of that period, the building underwent successive enlargements, especially during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Today it holds the Museum of Naval Construction, where you can visit a replica of a 16<sup>th</sup> century ship.
- 8 **Socorro Chapel**  
This chapel has an unusual design with a quadrilateral layout topped off by a hemispherical dome. It was built in 1603, commissioned by Gaspar Manuel, knight of the Order of Christ and chief pilot of the careers to India, China and Japan, and his wife Barbara Ferreira de Almeida.
- 9 **Srª da Guia Chapel**  
The first reference to this chapel dates from the 11<sup>th</sup> century but the current building was built around the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A festival is celebrated with pilgrimages at the 15<sup>th</sup> of August.
- 10 **Fort of S. João Baptista**  
This fort was probably designed by Simon of Rouen and its construction started around 1570, but was only completed in 1793 and it still maintains its original layout.
- 11 **S. Bento Chapel**  
This chapel was built in the 1st half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Manuel Barbosa and Maria Baía, his wife. Both are buried there.
- 12 **Misericórdia Church**  
The Brotherhood of the Holy House of Mercy of Vila do Conde (social institution) was founded in 1510, but the promise of its creation dates back to 1499. In 1522 the order to build a church for the fellowship was given, but construction only started in 1559.
- 13 **S. Sebastião House**  
Probably built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the House of S. Sebastião (S. Sebastian) was located in an area that was occupied with buildings that dated back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It suffered future interventions, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it currently houses the Memory Center.