



Lines of Torres Vedras Historical Trail

GUIDE

CREDITS

COORDINATION

Carlos Silveira
Carlos Guardado da Silva
Ana Catarina Sousa
Graça Soares Nunes

TEXTS

Ana Catarina Sousa [ACS]
Ana Correia [AC]
Carlos Guardado da Silva [CGS]
Carlos Silveira [CS]
Florbela Estêvão [FE]
Paula Ferreira [PF]
Sandra Oliveira [SO]

TRANSLATION

Monica Green

REVISION

Technical Team 5 – Publications
Francisco de Sousa Lobo
Monica Green

TECHNICAL TEAM 5 – PUBLICATIONS

Graça Soares Nunes
Ana Catarina Sousa
Ana Correia
Carlos Guardado da Silva
Carlos Silveira
Florbela Estêvão
Isabel Silva
Joaquim Jorge
Natália Calvo
Paula Ferreira
Rui Brás
Sandra Oliveira
Susana Gonçalves

PHOTO CREDITS

António Pedro Vicente
Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal
Câmara Municipal de Arruda dos Vinhos
Câmara Municipal de Loures
Câmara Municipal de Mafra
Câmara Municipal de Sobral de Monte Agraço
Câmara Municipal de Torres Vedras
Câmara Municipal de Vila Franca de Xira
Carlos Guardado da Silva
Carlos Silveira
Fernando Zarcos
Florbela Estêvão
Francisco de Sousa Lobo
Gabinete de Estudos Arqueológicos/
Direção de Infraestruturas do Exército
Instituto Geográfico do Exército
Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade
Royal Engineers Museum

GRAPHIC DESIGN

www.tvmdesigners.pt

PUBLISHER

PILT – Plataforma Intermunicipal
para as Linhas de Torres

PRINTED BY Gráfica Maiadouro

IMPRESSION 3000 copies

LEGAL DEPOT 000000000000

1st EDITION – NOVEMBER 2011

CATALOGUE

Lines of Torres Vedras Historical Trail : Guide / coord.
Carlos Silveira, Carlos Guardado da Silva, Ana Catarina
Sousa, Graça Soares Nunes; [texts by]
Ana Catarina Sousa, Ana Correia, Carlos Guardado
da Silva, Carlos Silveira, Florbela Estêvão, Paula
Ferreira, Sandra Oliveira. – Vila Franca de Xira : PILT,
2011. – 120 p. : il. ; 20 cm

ISBN 978-989-8398-16-1

CDU

355.48 Lines of Torres Vedras (036)
94(469.411)“1809/1811” (036)
94(4)“1807/1814” (036)

ACRONYMS

GEA/DIE Gabinete de Estudos Arqueológicos/
Direção de Infraestruturas do Exército
MAV Municipality of Arruda dos Vinhos
ML Municipality of Loures
MM Municipality of Mafra
MSMA Municipality of Sobral de Monte Agraço
MTV Municipality of Torres Vedras
MVFX Municipality of Vila Franca de Xira
MMLT Museu Municipal Leonel Trindade
(Torres Vedras)
MMVFX Museu Municipal de Vila Franca de Xira



COVER: View of the Lizandro valley from Fort Zambujal. Photo: MM

CONTENTS

Introduction	5
The Story of the Lines	6
Trails	16
Sites to visit	17
<hr/>	
 Torres Vedras – along the 1 st Line	18
 Wellington	34
 The Defence of the Tagus	54
 The Great Passes	66
 The Junction of the Lines	88
 From the Palace to the Atlantic	100
<hr/>	
Biographies	112
Chronology	116
Glossary	118



In 1810, the peninsular to the north of Lisbon was the setting for the construction of one of the most effective defensive systems in the world: the Lines of Torres Vedras. In the expectation of a third Napoleonic invasion and yet another attempt to capture the Portuguese capital, three “lines”, comprising 152 fortifications, were constructed in secret along an 88 km stretch of hilly terrain between the river Tagus and the Atlantic Ocean. They were the result of a very close collaboration between British engineers and the local population. The third line in Oeiras was constructed so as to guarantee the safe embarkation of British troops, should the military strategy fail.

Joining our forces with those who were so successful two centuries ago, the “Lines of Torres Vedras Historical Trail” has been created. This tourist initiative brings together six of the regional municipalities: Arruda dos Vinhos, Loures, Mafra, Sobral de Monte Agraço, Torres Vedras and Vila Franca de Xira. We have researched local history related with the invasions and planned an integrated project for the conservation, recuperation and valorisation of more than twenty forts on the Lines of Torres Vedras, and so create trails across the region, supported by an inter-municipal network of Heritage and Information Centres. All this has been made possible by inter-municipal will collaboration and co-operation as well as the financial assistance of the European Economic Area (EEA grants).

All of these efforts have led to the compilation and publication of this *Guide to the Lines of Torres Vedras Historical Trail*. We invite visitors to explore a heritage that belongs to us all and to make a journey through time along the six trails on the 1st and 2nd Lines, – across hilltops and valleys where the landscape stretches as far as the eye can see – from the river Tagus to the Ocean. To discover local history, flavours and culture for themselves by way of a unique system of historical sites which belongs to Portugal, to Europe and to the world.

MARIA DA LUZ ROSINHA

President of Plataforma Intermunicipal
para as Linhas de Torres (PILT)

←
Historical re-enactment of the siege of Almeida, 2010.
Photo: Carlos Guardado da Silva

THE LISBON PENINSULA

The scenery of the Lisbon Peninsula is a patchwork of colours: from the reddish clay at the base of the steep valleys to the earthy shades of the heights and summits, occasionally interrupted by outcrops of white limestone breaking free from the soil and adding contrast to the greens and browns of the vegetation. A vegetation whose hues subtly alter from day to day, greeting each visitor in a new garb. In this multi-coloured painting, the rises and falls of the landscape make it anything but monotonous. It almost seems as though the Creator paused here, on the plains beside the banks of the Tagus, between the hills of Montejunto and Sintra, and allowed the ocean to shape the rolling



Map of the Lines of Torres Vedras and their connection with Lisbon in the years 1810 and 1811. From: Simão Luz Soriano – *História da Guerra Civil e do estabelecimento do governo parlamentar em Portugal. 2.ª época*. Lisboa: Imprensa Nacional, 1874, Volume 3

hills and valleys from the Atlantic to the Tagus. In this way, if you were to draw an imaginary line along the northern edge of the Lisbon Peninsula, its course runs between Torres Vedras and the river Tagus. There are many fast-flowing rivers and streams crisscrossing the region: the Alcabrichel, the Sizandro and the Lizandro flow from the interior



Historical re-enactment in St. Vincent's Fort, Torres Vedras. Photo: MTV

towards the coast, while the Ota and the Trancão empty into the Tagus. This has never been an enclosed space and any attempt to contain and define it would be in vain. People have always passed through it: from the north to the south, from the coast to the interior. For this reason, too, this territory does not fit within itself but juts into neighbouring spaces – how can you define a fixed border when daily lives constantly overlap and withdraw?

The land is fertile, as it always has been, attracting peoples since the Middle Ages. It was here that monks from Santa Maria de Alcobaça, Santa Cruz de Coimbra, Celas, São Vicente de Fora and Santa Maria de Oia, as well as military orders from Hospital and Santiago, farmed the land intensively and where wine production has always been of particular importance. Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington, drank Torres Vedras wines while he was living in Portugal and Byron's favourite wines were from Bucelas. The same wines that Arruda incorporated into the very name of the town!

THE PENINSULAR WAR

At the start of 1810, Napoleon Bonaparte realised that his biggest problem was with Portugal, making it imperative for him to conquer Lisbon and drive out the English. From 1806, when the Emperor had decreed a Continental Blockade, Portugal had maintained its neutrality beside England, her ally since 1386. Napoleon had tried to conquer Portugal twice before, sending his armies under the command of Junot (1807) and then Soult (1809). And they had



Napoleon in his study. Portrait by Jacques-Louis David, 1812. National Gallery of Art, Washington

been defeated twice, thanks to the efforts of Arthur Wellesley and his English soldiers.

Having brought his military campaigns in Austria to yet another victorious conclusion in 1809, and having signed the Treaty of Schönbrunn, Napoleon turned his attentions once more to the Iberian Peninsula, his *open wound*. He decided to launch a new offensive against Spain and Portugal. In an Imperial Decree, dated 3rd April 1810, Napoleon created the *Armée de Portugal*, an army of 86,000 men. It was made up of the 2nd, 6th and 8th Corps of the *Army of Spain*, commanded by Reynier, Ney and Junot, respectively. On 17th April 1810, the Emperor issued another decree, naming André Massena, Duke of Rivoli and Prince of Essling, as commander of this expedition.

Massena was to take Lisbon. His principal attack route was to be through the Beira Alta, neutralising Ciudad Rodrigo and Almeida on his way, with Soult launching a secondary attack through the Alentejo towards Lisbon, along the left bank of the Tagus.

On Napoleon's orders, the *Armée de Portugal* would only march south after the siege of Almeida (15th - 28th August) at the end of summer, thus protecting the troops from the very high early summer temperatures. This decision, exacerbated by the length of the siege at Ciudad Rodrigo (25th April until 10th July) and the parlous state of the roads, delayed the Napoleonic troops' march and allowed Wellington to fine tune his plan for the defence of Portugal. This led to changes in the construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras in July 1810. The Artillery's slow, difficult march forced Massena to remain in Viseu for a few days, once more benefitting Wellington's plans, as had the wait in Almeida for the reformation of the army, which had only left for the south on 15th September. Of all the possible routes, Massena chose to advance towards Coim-



Massena. Engraving, 19th century MMLT, Torres Vedras

bra, despite the fact that Boucherat (who had accompanied Junot's invasion of Portugal in 1807) had warned him that he would not be able to follow the right bank of the river Mondego to the end. Added to that, Massena's topographical maps were neither very accurate nor very up-to-date as they had been sourced in France. Even Pamplona and the Marquis of Alorna, two Portuguese nobleman who were on his staff, could not help him as they were not familiar with the proposed route. From Coimbra southwards, Massena journeyed through a silent country, devoid of people. The local population had been forced to flee from the French army and, on Wellington's orders, they were seeking refuge behind the Lines of Torres Vedras, which had been under construction since the beginning of November 1809. And Wellington, knowing that Napoleon's armies kept themselves supplied using locally available resources, had imposed a *scorched earth* policy, exhorting the locals to abandon their houses and their belongings (which they had had to either take with them or destroy), so that no French soldier would be able to use or take possession of them. Little did the English General realise how supremely difficult it is for someone to destroy something that they have managed to obtain by their own sweat and toil!

Wellington, seeing that Massena was following a route along the right bank of the Mondego, brought his forces together on the hills around Bussaco in an attempt to defend Coimbra. The Prince of Essling had roughly 65,000 men at his disposal. At Bussaco, the Napoleonic and Anglo-Portuguese armies joined battle on 27th September 1810. The English claimed victory, and the numbers of dead and wounded underline their success, but this was really a victory postponed until later on the Lines of Torres Vedras.

Wellington turned tail. He retreated to Coimbra and then Condeixa, heading south. On 7th October, the Anglo-Portuguese army reached the Lines of Torres Vedras and took up their defensive positions on the first Line. Two days



Marshall General Viscount Wellington
Engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi, 1810.
MMLT, Torres Vedras



The people's flight. Engraving by Nogueira da Silva, 1863.
From: Cláudio Chaby – *Excerptos Históricos*. Vol. 3

later, the advance corps of the Napoleonic army arrived at the 1st Line and, on 12 October, Massena established his headquarters in Alenquer. Reynier's 2nd Corps were positioned first at Carregado and then at Vila Franca de Xira. Ney's 6th Corps were at Ota, while Junot's 8th was at Sobral de Monte Agraço. Massena had thought that Wellington's withdrawal south had been because of

a lack of troops and that he had wanted to embark his men and set sail for England. He persisted in this belief until he reached the Lines of Torres Vedras, which had been built in secret with only a few references made to the works in the London press. Only when he stood in front of them did he understand the enormity of the project, exclaiming – *What the devil! Wellington didn't build these hills!* Massena realised almost immediately that the Lines were an impregnable obstacle....



Military and Topographical Map of the Lines of Lisbon. By Manuel Joaquim Brandão de Souza. Lithograph, Imprensa Nacional, 1871



Torres Vedras from the North. Engraving by Stadler and Landmann, 19th century. Ant3nio Pedro Vicente Collection

THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS

The usual date given for the start of the construction of the Lisbon defensive Lines was 20th October 1809, when Wellington wrote his Memorandum to Richard Fletcher, ordering a reconnaissance of the terrain and the fortification of the most strategic points. Thus was created a defence system to the north of the capital, later known as the Lines of Torres Vedras. When the allied armies reached the Lines, they found 126 military works already completed. (26 more were to be built by 1812). The defensive system comprised three Lines, with a total of 152 redoubts and 600 pieces of artillery, and a communications system with ten signal stations. It was defended by approximately 140,000 Portuguese, British and Spanish soldiers, as well as Portuguese irregulars, along more than 88 kilometres, making it the largest effective defence system in history. It was built between 1809 and 1812, under the direction of two British Engineers: Richard Fletcher and John Thomas Jones.

Before this, Neves Costa had finished his reconnaissance of the terrain to the north of Lisbon in February 1809 and had completed his written descrip-



View of Fort Alqueidão. Photo: MSMA

tion on 24th May 1809. He had presented this, along with a map, to the Secretary of War on the Regency Council on 6th June 1809, and it had then been passed to Arthur Wellesley. Neves Costa's work, therefore, provided the background for Wellington's Memorandum, written by the general at his then headquarters in Badajoz. Although he used the Portuguese engineer's conclusions extensively, the Duke was responsible for giving the order to construct the fortifications – his strategic military skills are unchallenged. His decision to order the construction had been made after the Battle of Talavera on 27 July 1809.

Wellington's plan of defence was based around a fortified space, protected by a group of military constructions arranged in a line. These would defend the access routes to the capital, while also serving as a refuge for the Anglo-Portuguese army and the local population. If required, they would also facilitate the withdrawal of the army from an embarkation point at St. Julião de Barra. This was, in fact, the only reason for the third Line to the north of the Tagus, which added little to the defence of the capital. Bounded by the river

Tagus and the sea, this defence system was conceived for a mobile force that could exhaust and delay the French army. For this, they would rely on the support of guerrillas. In truth, Portugal's frontier was too long to defend comprehensively and this was the only way to defend the capital from renewed attack. Work on the fortifications began on 3rd November 1809 at São Julião (St. Julian's), followed by the Great Fort at Alqueidão near Sobral de Monte Agraço on the 4th, and the large St. Vincent's Fort in Torres Vedras on the 8th.

Initially, only two Lines were planned. These would eventually become known as the 'Second' and the 'Third'. The First Line – between Alhandra and the mouth of the Sizandro – was not in the original plan. It evolved on the ground when the builders of the military works had gained some time. The Second Line (which was to have been the First Line until another was built to the north) was the main Line, linking the Tagus to the sea at Vialonga and Ribamar. The passes at Arruda, Torres Vedras and Mafra were closed off by



Convent of Mafra. Engraving by D. Roberts, 1832. MM Collection

large forts, with smaller forts constructed at intervals between them, accommodating smaller garrisons.

The forts were interconnected so that it was (and is) possible to see the closest redoubts to the left and right of every fort. The fortifications were usually polygonal (a shape used by the Marquis of Montalembert, a French military engineer) because this allowed for the placing of more artillery than in solid military constructions, and they were built with fortified walls and parapets designed to permit crossfire. These defences were further protected by stonework and tree trunks. Most of them had a garrison of 200 to 300 men and three to six cannon.

To the rear of the forts, roads were built (mostly between 1811 and 1812) to facilitate communications between them; to guarantee the movements of troops and artillery; to supply materials and to transport water and provisions. To improve the efficacy of the defence, an optical communications system was installed, comprising ten signal stations. This meant that a message sent by Wellington from his headquarters in Pero Negro could be received by any position along the Lines in only seven minutes, thanks to the use of semaphore. This service was under the command of Lieutenant Leith of the British Royal Navy, whose headquarters were located at Serra do Socorro. Of course, this efficiency depended on weather conditions and the quality of the telescopes and binoculars, which was initially poor.



French cavalry at the chafariz (fountain) in Arruda dos Vinhos. Drawing by Francisco Laski, 1956. MAV Collection



Praça Dr. Eugénio Dias, Sobral de Monte Agraço. End of 19th century. MSMA Collection

On reaching the Lines, Massena, taking his example from other cities, attempted to besiege Lisbon for a month without any sort of success. Then, on the night of the 14th /15th November, hidden by the nocturnal mists, Napoleon's troops withdrew from their positions in front of the Lines to the region around Santarém and Torres Novas, where they met up with Junot. There, they waited for reinforcements so that they could make another attempt on Lisbon. Wellington observed their movements closely. He set up his headquarters in Cartaxo and waited....

But disease and hunger proved to be worse enemies to the French soldiers than the war! Massena continued to wait for reinforcements. He could not be sure that they would arrive and he found himself fighting for his own army's survival. To his rear, communications had been cut by the actions of the Portuguese and Spanish guerrillas. Troop morale was low, leading to high numbers of deserters. Even the horses were dying from lack of fodder.

On 4th March, the French soldiers could no longer hold out for reinforcements. They started to retreat from Portugal, crossing the Spanish border a month later. Wellington chased Massena, keeping his enemy's army out of Portugal once and for all. Thus ended the invasion of the kingdom by Massena's *Armée de Portugal*. The flame of victory sputtered here and was extinguished forever some years later at Waterloo.

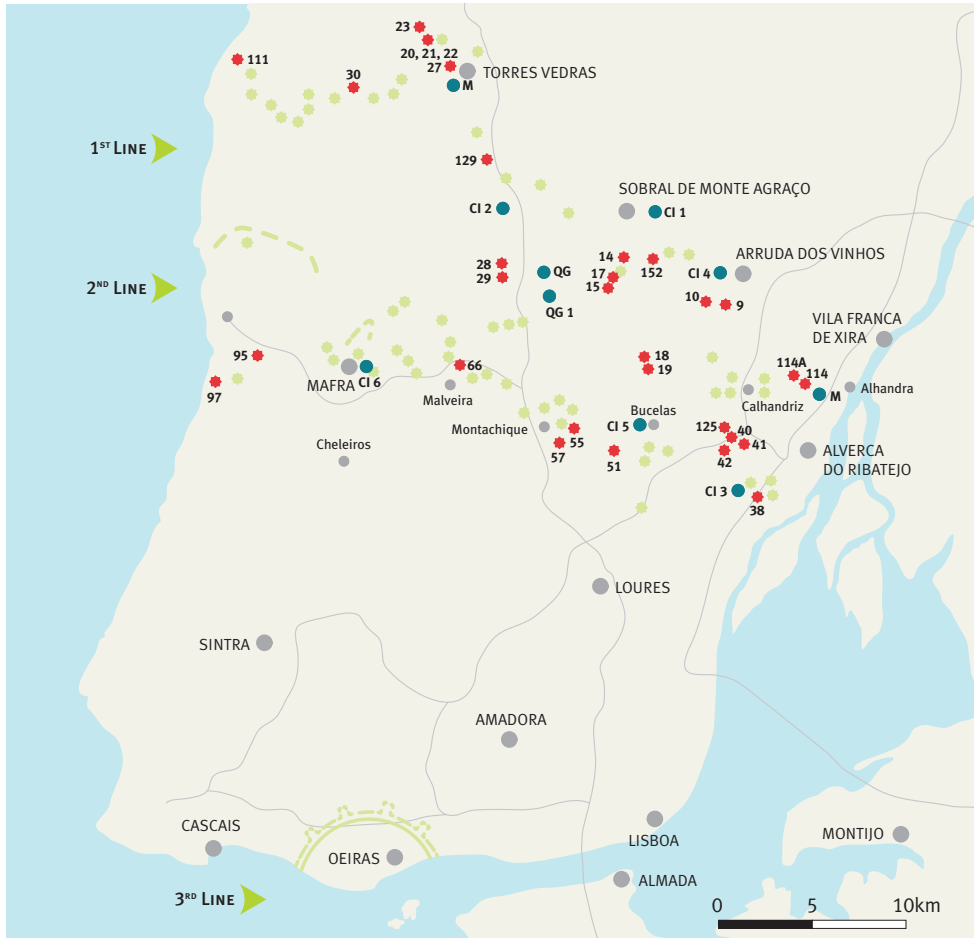
CARLOS GUARDADO DA SILVA



- - - TRAIL TORRES VEDRAS – ALONG THE 1ST LINE
- - - TRAIL WELLINGTON
- - - TRAIL THE DEFENCE OF THE TAGUS
- - - TRAIL THE GREAT PASSES
- - - TRAIL THE JUNCTION OF THE LINES
- - - TRAIL FROM THE PALACE TO THE ATLANTIC

■ HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE FOR THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS

▲ VIEWPOINT

**ARRUDA DOS VINHOS**

- CI 4 Arruda dos Vinhos Heritage and Visitors' Centre
 9 Fort Cego
 10 Fort Carvalha

LOURES

- CI 5 RHLT Heritage and Visitors' Centre – Bucelas
 18 Ajuda Grande Redoubt
 19 Ajuda Pequeno Redoubt
 51 Ribas Redoubt
 57 Mosqueiro Redoubt
 55 Montachique Redoubt
 125 Fort Arpim

MAFRA

- CI 6 Mafra Heritage and Visitors' Centre
 CI 2 Enxara Heritage and Visitor's Center – Serra do Socorro
 28 Fort Grande
 29 Fort Pequeno
 66 Fort Feira
 95 Fort Zambujal
 97 Fort São Julião

SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRÃO

- CI 1 Sobral de Monte Agraço Heritage and Visitors' Centre

QG

- Wellington Headquarters (Pero Negro)
 QG 1 Beresford Headquarters (Casa Cochim, Sapataria)
 14 Fort Alqueidão
 15 Fort Machado
 17 Fort Símplicio
 Fort Novo

TORRES VEDRAS

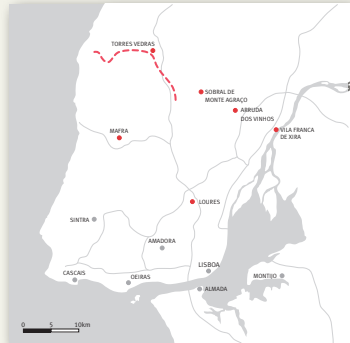
- 20, 21, 22 St. Vincent's Fort
 23 Fort Olheiros
 27 Castle
 30 Fort Grilo
 111 Fort Paço

129

- Fort Feiteira
 Monument to the Peninsular War

VILA FRANCA DE XIRA

- CI 3 Forte Casa Heritage Centre
 38 Forte Casa
 40 Fort Agueira
 41 Fort Portela Grande
 42 Fort Portela Pequeno
 114 Subterra Fort no. 1
 114A New Subterra Battery
 M Monument to the Lines of Torres Vedras – Viewpoint





HOW TO GET THERE

- From Lisbon: take the A8. There are 2 junctions for Torres Vedras: North (norte) and South (sul).
- From Oporto: take the A1, then the A17 and, finally, the A8. There are 2 junctions for Torres Vedras: North (norte) and South (sul).
- From Santarém: take the A15, then the A8 (signposted for Torres Vedras).
There are 2 junctions for Torres Vedras: North (norte) and South (sul).



- From Campo Grande in Lisbon (next to the metro station of the same name).
There is a service every 30 minutes, via the motorway.



- Take the “Linha do Oeste” from Lisbon. This runs from the stations at Entrecampos or Rossio as far as Cacém, where you will have to change for Torres Vedras /Figueira da Foz.

**TORRES VEDRAS TOURIST
INFORMATION OFFICE**

Rua 9 de Abril

GPS: 39°05'29,13"N; 09°15'31,87"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 310 483

E-MAIL: postoturismo@cm-tvedras.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Saturday:

10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

Public Holidays: 10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

**SANTA CRUZ TOURIST
INFORMATION OFFICE**

Rua da Azenha – Azenha de Santa Cruz

GPS: 39°08'01,80"N; 09°22'59,23"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 937 524

E-MAIL: postoturismosantacruz@cm-tvedras.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday:

10 am – 1 pm / 2:30 pm – 7 pm

SUMMER: 15 June – 15 September: 10 am – 10 pm

We suggest that you set aside a whole day for exploring the countryside, and another day to visit Torres Vedras – the town which lent its name to the Lines. One day in the field fortifications, built to house battalions of national and foreign troops. Yesterday’s soldiers, made travellers into the unknown. You can follow this route by car or by bicycle, or, if you prefer, when in the city itself we invite you to take a good long walk. With plenty of time to look back to another era...

John Jones, the British engineer in charge of the construction of the fortifications, said that the Lines took the name of Torres Vedras because of the pioneering nature of construction in the town. So, we'll start here! This should be your starting point, heading north. Still in the city, walking outwards to the west near Choupal, you will come across a road called: Linhas de Torres. It's steep! You'll have to climb and ask your legs to make a supreme effort if you decide to leave the car behind! Two hundred metres on and we are surely reminded of the number of times men and women went up and down the hill, the pain they must have endured in the construction of Fort St. Vincent

You've made it! St. Vincent's Fort! The largest fort in Torres Vedras, holding a key position as one of the advance posts on the Lines (along with the Great Fort



St. Vincent's Fort. Photo: MTV

at Alqueidão) before becoming part of the Line between the estuary of the river Sizandro and Alhandra. It is the second largest fort on the Lines. Wander through the three redoubts [nos. 20, 21, 22] which are linked by three narrow bridges. Visit the parade ground, the Governor's residence, the medieval hermitage and then relax a little ... perhaps asking St. Vincent for the strength to carry on It's going to be a long day! A long day like those days and nights experienced by soldiers on the Lines – because war always makes even the shortest day seem long.

Near the hermitage, looking out over the city, imagine how the defence system was set up. Stand for a moment in the boots of a military strategist, invoking José Maria das Neves Costa and Arthur Wellesley, later to become the Duke of Wellington. From here, they would have defended the town from Napoleon's troops, in carefully planned articulation with Fort Forca [no. 24], to the east; Torres Vedras Castle [no. 27], in the centre, (which had been adapted for artillery use), Fort St. João [no. 25], (next to the hermitage which gave it its name, and now in the city centre), and a battery to the left of Varatojo.

We have to go! On leaving St. Vincent's Fort, turn right. Two hundred metres further on, turn up an earth road, similar to almost all military roads in the autumn of 1810, and you will soon reach Fort Olheiros [no. 23]. It's smallbut fascinating! You can take it all in at one glance! The entrance is no longer over the moveable bridge that it would originally have had, in common with all the



Footpath on the Great Historical Trail of the Lines of Torres
– GR30. Photo: MTV

other forts. In front of it is a barrier, a *traverse*, to protect the entrance. Soldiers from the Anglo-Portuguese army would have sheltered behind here, hoping to drive the enemy army back. At the end, there is a windmill which was (reluctantly?) transformed into a magazine. The external walls of the fort have embrasures for the gun emplacements, where the cannon would have stood on their wooden plat-



Aerial view of Torres Vedras Castle. Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo

forms. Imagine the noise! And make a mental note to return for one of the re-enactments which are staged annually during the first or second weekend in October as part of the Commemorations of the Lines of Torres Vedras.

It's time to retrace our steps, only to climb up again – this time up the hill opposite St. Vincent, to the east. This is Forca hill, topped by a fort [no. 25] which also took its name from the mouth of a valley that would have been much deeper two hundred years ago. This Fort will soon house a Heritage and Visitors' Centre for the Lines of Torres Vedras.

Let's go back to the city, where the old medieval castle awaits us. The winding, narrow, cobbled streets transport us back to the beginning of the 19th century. Every stone could tell a story. We will have to climb up, as did the Bailiff who no longer lives in the castle, – to enter a fortress that has received kings and queens and survived a siege by the Master of Avis in 1384, after the feast of St. Gonçalo de Lagos (27th October). The same fortress which has held prisoners, paid homage to the Soares de Alarcão family and defended Portugal from Napoleon's troops.

Is it time for lunch yet? There is no shortage of good restaurants in the city and you might like to accompany your lunch – *dinner* for those from the 19th century – with a glass of the local wine. Because wine can also help us remember! When Wellington was living in Portugal, he only drank two table wines and they were from Torres Vedras – a red from Quinta de Charnixe and a white from Ribeira de Maria Afonso. For an afternoon snack, we suggest one of the local *pasteis de feijão* (bean tarts), which can be bought at most cafés in boxes of half a dozen or a dozen.

Let's head for the south of the city – to the roundabout near the southern slip road for the motorway (A8). Go across it, and turn left about 50 metres further on. We have to climb again, because the interest and the beauty of the Lines is steeped in Nature who, in a gesture of solidarity, placed herself at the service of military strategy. In this way, height after height, summit after summit, in a continuous line between the sea and the river Tagus, aligned themselves with the population, contributed to their resistance, rising even higher at the hands of men. In little over a year, the hills became mountains – a transformation to which André Massena, the commander of the *Armée de Portugal* in the service of the Emperor of France, could attest.

On the way up, having crossed the bridge over the motorway, there is a stretch of military road, following the contours of the land. You can only complete this part of the trail on foot or by bicycle. At the top of the path, a windmill marks Fort Catefica. If you are travelling by car, you will have to go back and then go around and up the hill to reach the top. Half way up, you will come across Fort Feiteira [no. 129]. The original stonework of the trench is of particular interest. This is a good moment to pause – if the lucky visitor has time – and to contemplate the vastness of the lands into which the Lines were integrated. There is a stunning view, stretching to the estuary of the Sizandro, which marks the end of the 1st Line, and beyond to the ocean. This is the land behind the Lines, where military roads were built to facilitate Anglo-Portuguese army communications and along which travelled men and beasts, arms and provisions. In front is the valley of Runa. We can visualise the fighting at Runa on 1st November 1810, between French soldiers and

troops of the Loyal Lusitanian Legion, under the command of Captain Veloso Horta.

Carry on a little further and upwards along the spine of the sierra. At the top is Fort Archeira [no. 128]. Once there, you can again enjoy the marvellous view, with the Lines almost touching the sky. Let us turn our gaze north-north-west and imagine the invading army crossing the Lines in front of us. This is the spot where they could have passed through! The French always knew this, as did Wellington. They could have breached the Lines here in the Runa valley, where there were no fortifications. Behind the last hill, to the west, the Battle of Dois Portos took place on the 13th October 1810. It involved General Solignac's Division and a Portuguese Brigade from General Cole's Division, commanded by Colonel Collins. Cole's headquarters were nearby, in the coaching inn at Quinta de A da Guerra.

Let's return to the city on our way to the sea, by bicycle or by car. On the other side of town, you'll have the river Sizandro on your left and some steep hills alongside you. This part of the sierra is where 24 of the 152 forts are



View taken from a hill at Archeira. Photo: Carlos Guardado da Silva

located. Your first stop is in Ponte do Rol. On your way, it's worth remembering that when the allies occupied the forts in October 1810, only 126 had been completed. On reaching the centre of the village, there is a church on the left and, after the bend, you should turn left.

Fort Grilo [no. 30] is up ahead, perched above the opposite side of the river. Cross the bridge, turn left and carry on up the hill. At the top, turn right and cross the vineyard on foot, passing between the vines that produced the Torres Vedras wine that Wellington so appreciated. The escarpment is impressive, but it also worth remembering that this was the site of one of the signal posts that communicated with St. Vincent's Fort and Leith's headquarters at Serra do Socorro .

The best time of year to do this walk is definitely the spring or the autumn, when the temperatures are more comfortable. Winter can make your day out less pleasant, but still possible. Remember the poor soldiers marching, working and living in the torrential rain that fell steadily from 8th October 1810 onwards, as well as the extraordinarily wet conditions that chilled the bones of the thousands of labourers who had been working



Aerial view of Fort Paço. Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo



Monument to the Peninsular War, Torres Vedras.
Photo: Carlos Guardado da Silva

on the Lines since the autumn of 1809. It isn't hard to imagine the cold that each soldier on sentry duty would have suffered as he trudged between the forts – especially if he had forgotten his greatcoat! Onwards! Across the river Sizandro to the sea!

Once you are over the river, and before the roundabout, turn right and carry on for about another kilometre. You are climbing again, but this incline is much gentler. At the top, after the bend, turn right onto an unmade road. It's a good track, passable by car or bicycle. Or, park the car and go on foot.

It will be roughly a kilometre there and another one back.

The fort is easy to spot as it was constructed around an old windmill, turned by war into a magazine. There is a fabulous view from here if the vegetation has been cut back. It's the end of the afternoon and almost the end of the day. It won't be long before dusk falls over the land. Listen to the afternoon silence and the background murmur of the sea. You are probably feeling a little tired. We can carry on from here to the 2nd Line, or return to Torres Vedras and complete our tour of the 1st Line to Alhandra tomorrow. It's up to you. If you decide to stay in Torres Vedras, we have one further suggestion. Visit the 1954 monument commemorating the Peninsular War in the square, *Praça 25 de Abril*. On each face, you can read about the Battle of Roliça, the Battle of Vimeiro, the Battle of Bussaco and the Lines of Torres Vedras. The quiet of the late evening can make us think we hear faint voices from the past. The lives of how many soldiers and civilians are represented by these stones? How many lines, how many visible and invisible lives have crossed here, now only remembered as part of a nameless multitude? [CGS]

ST. VINCENT'S FORT

NOS.: 20, 21 e 22

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°05'59,75"N; 09°15'53,64"W

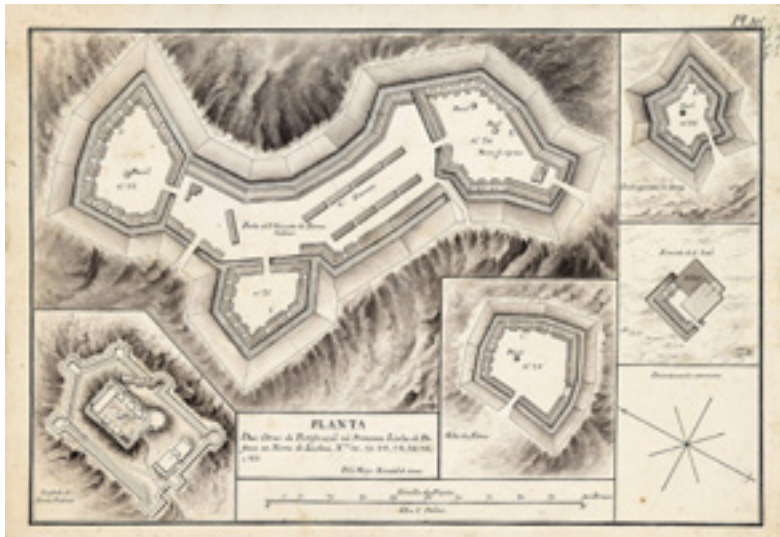
GARRISON: 2,000 – 2,200 men; large enough to accommodate roughly 4,000
 GUNS: 26 (10 x 12 calibre*; 2 x 9 calibre; 11 x 6 calibre and 2 x obuses)



Photo: MTV

The name derives from the small medieval hermitage of St. Vincent, which dates from at least 1322, integrated into the military works at the beginning of the 19th century. The fort is one of the two proposed advance points originally planned to be in front of the principal Line, the other being the Great Hill Fort (Sobral de Monte Agraço). Some months later, however, it became part of the 1st Line, while the

2nd Line became the principal Line. The plan had been for three redoubts on St. Vincent's hill. During construction, it was decided that the position would be further reinforced, bringing the redoubts together by building a perimeter wall, roughly 1,500 metres long, to enclose the substantial internal space.

Plan of St. Vincent's Fort. Brandão de Souza, 19th century. GEA/DIE Collection

* Projectile weight in pounds, as was used at the time.

FORT OLHEIROS

NO.: 23

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°06'11,21"N; 09°16'12,92"W

GARRISON: 180 men

GUNS: 7 (4 x 9 calibre & 3 x 6 calibre)

This is the northernmost point of the 1st Line, between Alhandra and the mouth of the Sizandro. As well as completing the defence of the Sizandro valley, alongside the forts on the heights near Varatojo [nos. 132, 133 & 134] and Fort Grilo [NO. 30], this fortification



Photo: João Reis

protected the west of St. Vincent's Fort. It had a smaller garrison because of its position on this shorter slope.

TORRES VEDRAS CASTLE

NO.: 27

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°05'40,68"N; 09°15'40,06"W

GARRISON: 500 men

GUNS: 5 (12 calibre)

Situated in the heart of the old town, this medieval castle was adapted to accommodate heavy artillery and then integrated into the 1st Line of defence of the capital. Its true origins are lost in antiquity. Perhaps Roman, it was reconstructed during the reign of King Afonso Henriques and then enlarged by King Dinis at the end of the 13th century. Work was also carried out in 1373 during the reign of King Fernando, using Castillian investment, and again in 1516, during King Manuel's reign. In the Middle Ages, it defended the



Photo: Carlos Guardado da Silva

people in the town and surrounding countryside. No other military construction would be erected in the area until the last decade of the 14th century. The ogival doorway is from this era, as are the Manueline coat of arms and the two armillary spheres with Christ's Cross above them. Inside, only the exterior walls of the Alcaydes' Palace are still standing, the rest of the building having been destroyed in the 1755 earthquake.

FORT GRILO

NO.: 30

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°05'10,97"N; 09°19'21,40"W

GARRISON: 340 men

GUNS: 4 (1 x 9 calibre & 3 x 12 calibre)

This fort is on a hill immediately to the south of Ponte de Rol, overlooking the river Sizandro and the village.

It defended the river valley and the road to Mafra, under the command of Lieutenant-General Thomas Picton. It was built to cover the plains, across which run the river Sizandro and the Ponte do Rol road, as well as the lowland tracks from the village to Bordinheira. It crossed fire with Forts Pombal [NO. 71], Bordinheira [NO. 73] and Outeiro do Monte [NO. 74].



Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo

It had a signal post, next to the trench to the west, and was used to communicate with St. Vincent's Fort. There is a particularly steep escarpment to the north.

FORT ARCHEIRA

NO.: 128

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°02'05,23"N; 09°13'06,13"W

GARRISON: 500 men

GUNS: 6 (12 calibre)

Also known as "Cheira" ("Scent"), this fort is on the 1st Line, near the forts at Catefica [no. 130] and Feiteira [NO. 129] to the north. They defended the Runa and Ribaldeira valleys, under the respective commands of Baron Eben and General Spencer. This is a strategic position as the Lines were potentially penetrable at this point



Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo

through the pass at Runa to the east of the hills. Both the Allies and the enemy were aware of this.

FORT FEITEIRA

No.: 129

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°02'39,76"N; 09°13'55,34"W

GARRISON: 350 men

GUNS: 9 (3 x 12 calibre & 6 x 9 calibre)

Fort Feiteira is on the 1st Line, with the forts at Catefica [No. 130] and Archeira [No. 128] to the north and south, respectively. It defended the valleys of Runa and Ribaldeira, under the command of Baron Eben and General Spencer. The fort was built after the withdrawal of Napoleon's army from its position in front of the Lines.



Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo

HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE FOR THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS

MUNICIPALITY: Torres Vedras

GPS: 39°05'56,85"N; 09°15'27,60"W

The future Heritage and Visitors' Centre for the Lines of Torres Vedras will be built on the summit of the Forca hill, next to the redoubt with the same name. It will be a modern building – a landmark on the

landscape of the city of Torres Vedras, alongside the Castle and St. Vincent's Fort. Its architectural design, comprising a series of apparently 'unbalanced' prisms, communicates a feeling of insecurity and catastrophe, and this is intended to evoke the drama of war and act as a hymn in praise of the people who constructed and lived with the Lines of Torres Vedras.



Preview: MTV



**MUSEU MUNICIPAL
LEONEL TRINDADE**

Convento da Graça
Praça 25 de Abril
2560 Torres Vedras

TEL./FAX: [+351] 261 310 484

E-MAIL: museu@cm-tvedras.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday,
10 am – 6 pm

The Leonel Trindade Municipal Museum is located in the convent of Nossa Senhora da Graça built by Augustinian monks in the 16th century. Its cloister walls still retain the 18th century hand-painted tile panels, depicting the life of Frei Aleixo de Menezes (the Augustinian prior). The permanent collection of the museum is diverse: hand-painted tiles, ceramics, pottery, porcelain, coins and one of the largest Portuguese collections of medieval

tombstones. The archaeological and Peninsular War collections are of particular note.

At the moment, any visitor to the Lines is directed to the Museum for information, but also to see the permanent exhibition dedicated to the strategy and construction of the defensive system, the efforts of the local population, the logistics of war, as well as the telegraphic system. There are original artefacts from the time, including arms and examples of a limited edition of porcelain statuettes, made by the famous Sacavém factory to the designs of Armando Mesquita. There are interactive displays and models to illustrate the complex nature of the Lines. For anyone wishing to visit the exhibition or the forts, individually or in a group, the Torres Vedras Museum runs guided tours, by prior arrangement.



Photo: MTV

EVENTS

FEIRA DE SÃO PEDRO (ST. PETER'S FAIR)

→ Last week of June and first week of July (10 days).

Founded in 1293 by Don Dinis, the fair still retains many of the characteristics of secular medieval fairs: the tents and marquees in the open air, the shouts and exhortations of the stallholders. These have blended with the more modern aspects of a Fair – stalls exhibiting the goods and services offered by local industry and commerce. This is the shop window of the Oeste region, with hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors enjoying the fun, the food and the local wine. www.cm-tvedras.pt

FARMERS' MARKET

→ First Saturday of every month, from April to October (8.00am – 6.00 pm)

On the first Saturday of every month, the streets and lanes of the old town open themselves up to crowds and countryside. Here, where the rural meets the urban, you can enjoy a patchwork of sights, sounds, tastes, aromas and colours: fruits, vegetables, flowers and handicrafts. The stage is set and the stars are the produce from the fields, the wines, the breads and the preserves. There are also antique and bric-a-brac stalls..... www.cm-tvedras.pt

CARNAVAL

→ Friday to Ash Wednesday

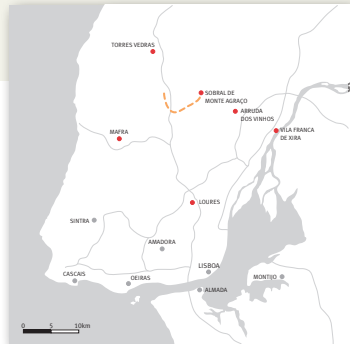
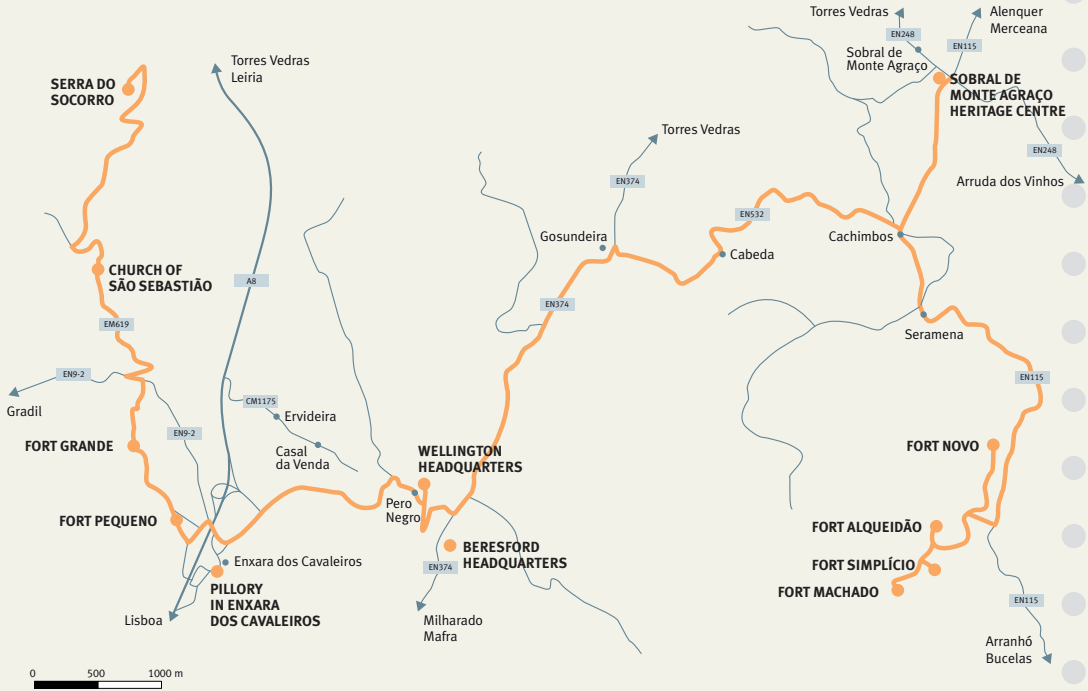
They say that this is what should be written on Torres Vedras' visitors' card! Carnival here is known as the "most Portuguese in Portugal". People wearing large caricatured heads meet up in the streets with others in bizarre fancy dress, with musicians and kings, enjoying the return of the monarchy and of anarchy, where everything is done in the name of fun and silliness. There are processions of marvellous floats both day and night. For six days, life in Torres becomes Carnival – anything goes! There is political and social satire, symbolism, narrative, fun and frolic. And the '*matrafonas*' – all the men dressed up as outrageous versions of women – are not to be missed! At the end of the revels, Carnival is ceremonially buried until the following year. www.carnavaldetorres.com

CITY FESTIVALS

→ 27 October – 11 November

Between the two saints' day – São Gonçalo and São Martinho – the city dresses itself up in praise of vine and wine. There are events for children and teenagers, as well as parties and festivals – accordions, celebration of the grape harvest, music, exhibitions, good food and local wines and, the veritable queen of tarts: *the pastel de feijão*. www.torresvedrasemfesta.com





HOW TO GET THERE

- From Lisbon: take the A8, coming off at the Sobral de Monte Agraço exit.
- From Oporto: take the A1, coming off at Carregado.
Then take the A10 to Arruda dos Vinhos and follow the N248 to Sobral de Monte Agraço.
- From Faro: take the Via do Infante, then the A2 and A12 (the Vasco da Gama bridge), then the A8, coming off at Sobral de Monte Agraço, following the N374 and then the N248-1 until you reach the town. Alternatively, after the N374, take the EM 532 and the N115.



- Boa Viagem, from Campo Grande in Lisbon – Sobral de Monte Agraço



- Take the “Linha do Oeste” from Lisbon, getting off at Pero Negro (then by taxi for the 8 km to Sobral de Monte Agraço)



SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRAÇO HERITAGE CENTRE AND TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Praça Dr. Eugénio Dias, 12

GPS: 39°01'07,134"N; 09°09'05,520"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 942296

FAX: [+351] 261 940 301

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-sobral.pt

MAFRA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Palácio Nacional de Mafra – Torreão sul

Terreiro D. João V

GPS: 38°56'11,10"N; 09°19'37,28"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 817 170

FAX: [+351] 261 817 179

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-mafra.pt | arqueologia@cm-mafra.pt

OPENING HOURS: Every day: 9:30 am – 1 pm / 2:30 pm – 6 pm

At the heart of the Lines, visit some of the most notable places connected to Sir Arthur Wellesley's stay on the Lines of Torres Vedras. From Quinta dos Freixos, where the allied commander established his headquarters, to the Great Fort at Alqueidão, which served as the command post for the Lines of Torres Vedras, passing through Serra do Socorro, which was the telegraphic communications centre. Wellington regularly used the roads and tracks between Sobral, Pero Negro and Enxara and these were strategically defended by a group of redoubts, including those by Enxara near Pero Negro and those linked to the fort at Alqueidão (Simplício and Machado).

This trail can start at Sobral de Monte Agraço and go on to Serra do Socorro, or vice versa. There are several shorter tours that can be made separately: the Alqueidão Circuit and the Enxara Circuit.

We suggest starting the trail in Sobral de Monte Agraço, a town roughly 35 km from Lisbon, and no more than half an hour away on the A8 or the A10.

When you arrive, park in the historic main square, classically Pombaline in design, which has served as the stage for many commercial, political and social transformations over time. It has witnessed important movements demanding change. Amongst other events, there was the establishment of the



Praça Dr. Eugénio Dias, Sobral de Monte Agraço. MSMA Collection

Morgadio de Sobral de Monte Agraço, granted by King José I to Joaquim Inácio da Cruz; the re-establishment of the Council in 1890 and 1898; the coming of the Republic in 1910, or, a hundred years before that, the skirmishes on the 12th October 1810, when the 8th Corps of *l'Armée de Portugal*, commanded by Jean-Andoche Junot, encountered Spencer's advance forces. The French troops forced the Anglo-Portuguese to withdraw in what was to be Massena's first taste of the Lines of Torres Vedras. There were various skir-



Combat at Sobral, 12th October 1810. Watercolour by the architect Canelhas. MSMA Collection

mishes throughout the town and the French, under the command of General Clausel, had to stay and defend their position there until 15th November of the same year, when they initiated their stealthy retreat from the Lines of Torres Vedras.

The Heritage and Visitors' Centre for the Lines of Torres Vedras, focusing on the theme of *Military Strategy, Command Post and Headquarters* is here, and is well worth a visit. Its display and literature will help you contextualise the places you will be visiting, which were the setting for one of the most important episodes in the struggle for national sovereignty.

On leaving the Heritage and Visitors' Centre, drop into the Tourist Office (which is in the same historic building) and pick up more information on what the Municipality has to offer.

Back in the car, take Rua Heróis da Bélgica and go straight ahead at the roundabout on the EN 115. Look to your left and you will see the Manueline church of Santo Quintino in the distance. This is classified as a National Mon-



Manueline-style portal at the church of Santo Quintino. Photo: MSMA

ument and its interior is a veritable treasure trove of traditional hand-painted tiles from the 15th – 18th centuries.

A little farther on, you will go through the village of Seramena, site of a battle on the 14th October. There, the British 71st Regiment barricaded the Bucelas road, which wound around the base of the Alqueidão hills. These barricades were very close to the enemy front line. They were shelled on Junot's orders, but the British troops counter-attacked, killing more than a hundred French soldiers. The enemy did not renew their attack.

Leaving the village, go straight ahead, taking note of the scenery to your left. You look down into a deep green valley, crowned by the *Moinho Céu*, around which fort no. 11 was constructed, and sweeping downwards towards Arruda dos Vinhos and then beyond to the banks of the river Tagus, from Vila Franca da Xira to Carregado.

Be on the alert because, on the right, after one of the bends, is the sign for the Great Fort of Alqueidão.

Turn up the unsurfaced road and then turn right towards Fort Novo. This fort is situated on the summit of the Galhofos, on the road which, in 1810, linked Sobral de Monte Agraço with Lisbon. It was one of the last to be built and was to reinforce the defences on the Alqueidão sierra, covering the land to Santo Quintino (on its right), and parts of the main road and the Arcela, Chancos and Seramena valley (to its front and left). Get out of the car near the windmill, which was built at the beginning of the 20th century. Immerse yourself in the muted seasonal



Windmill at Fort Novo. Photo: MSMA

colours of the landscape stretching out below. Back in the car, retrace your movements, turn right and then immediately left. The Visitors' Centre is just a short distance farther on. Leave your car in the car park and enjoy your picnic lunch – if you have brought one with you! You will need all your energies to walk between the forts along the Alqueidão sierra. Keen walkers can opt for the *GR30 – Rota das Linhas de Torres*, roughly 16 km in length, and enjoy Nature along the way. The vegetation mostly comprises deciduous species which thrive in the humid coastal breezes.

Walk up the military road, imagining the stories these cobbles could tell. Let yourself be transported back to the time of ox carts laden with uniforms, provisions, wounded soldiers and medical supplies; the artillery and the troops that moved between and behind the forts; the Duke of Wellington himself, on his daily ride from his headquarters to the fort at Alqueidão to observe the enemy positions in front of Sobral.

At the top of the slope, you'll have a pleasant surprise – Fort Alqueidão or, as it was known at the time, the *Great Redoubt at Sobral* or the *Great Hill Fort*. Pass the information panel and go in, following the signs to the observatory and go up the steps to the viewing platform. Standing here, you will immediately understand why it was called the *Great Fort*. You are 439 metres above sea level, looking over the majestic landscape all around. Your eye will



Visitors' Centre on the Alqueidão Circuit.
Photo: MSMA



Military road approaching Fort Alqueidão.
Photo: MSMA



Viewpoint at Fort Alqueidão. Photo: MSMA



Governor's house at Fort Alqueidão. Photo: MSMA

pass over the 1st and 2nd Lines, from the Tagus to the Atlantic, resting on Monte-junto and Monte Socorro. There are tile panels to help identify the forts you can see around you. You are now at the heart of a unique stronghold in Europe.

Your observation of the topography of the landscape will have clearly illustrated the geographical reason for this being Wellington's choice as the centre of his strategic defence and his Command Post for the Lines of Torres Vedras. Its construction was started on 4th November 1809. It occupies an area of 35,000 m² and incorporated a range of military structures: there are four magazines and three smaller interior redoubts. Given its importance, this was the only fort garrisoned by regulars: General Pack's Brigade from October 1810. Exceptionally, William Beresford also decided to create two artillery companies – the *Companhias de Artilharia da Vila de Sobral*.

Leave the observatory and take the time to explore what remains of the interior of the fort: the magazines, the Governor's house and the traverses. When you leave Fort Alqueidão, go down the unsurfaced road that runs parallel to the military road, turning right at the first junction towards the forts known as *Simplicio* and *Machado*. Go in among the stands of eucalyptus which have taken the place of the undergrowth, oaks, pines and olive trees that used to grow here. You will see the sign to the two forts to your left. There is an information panel in front of each, giving details of their garri-



Signposts. Great Historical Trail of the Lines of Torres – GR30. Alqueidão Circuit. Photo: MSMA

sons, guns and objectives. These forts complemented Fort Alqueidão, crossing fire over the access routes to the sierra and transforming it into an enormous entrenched fortification, powerful enough to dissuade Massena from taking decisive action and so leading him inexorably towards his decision to retreat.

Retrace your steps and go downhill towards the Visitors' Centre. Get back in the car and retake the EN 115, heading for Sobral de Monte Agraço. Turn left at the sign for Cabeda. Carry on along and down the steep, winding road until you reach the junction with the ER 374. Turn left, following the signs for Pero Negro.

There are steep slopes either side of the road (Patameira and Zibreira), once occupied by allied troops – ready and waiting.

Go through the hamlet of Perna-de-Pau, and turn right towards Pero Negro. Go over the level crossing and, a little farther on, in the village itself, there is a large orange building on a slope to your right, next to the river Sizandro. This was Arthur Wellesley's headquarters. The house, Quinta dos Freixos, now privately owned, has a commemorative plaque on its front wall, stating:

It was here, in Baron Manique's house, that Marshal Sir Arthur Wellesley established his headquarters in 1810, during the occupation of the Lines of Torres Vedras. The site of the headquarters of the Commander of Anglo-Portuguese Forces was chosen because it was only 1 km from William Beresford's headquarters in Casal Cochim, in Sapataria, as well as for its proximity to the Command Post for the Lines – Alqueidão – and the signal station at Serra do Socorro.

Strategically, it was also only a short distance from the headquarters of the Marquis de La Romana (Enxara do Bispo, Mafra) and Sir Brent Spencer (Quinta da Póvoa, Torres Vedras).



Quinta dos Freixos, Pero Negro. Wellington's Headquarters.
Photo: MSMA

From Pero Negro, take the EN 9-2 towards Enxara do Bispo, thus coming into the “Circuito da Enxara” and the municipality of Mafra. The Marquis de La Romana, Pedro Caro y Sureda, was probably stationed in Enxara dos Cavaleiros, with an army of 8,000 men. La Romana’s contingent was the sole Spanish military force defending the Lines of Torres Vedras, reflecting the dedication of their commander, who had fought against Napoleonic troops all across Europe – from Denmark to Portugal – where he was to die suddenly in January 1811. There are few vestiges of La Romana’s army’s stay here, but the redoubts they manned are in a good state of repair, and are worth a visit.

The Enxara forts are situated between Enxara do Bispo and Enxara dos Cavaleiros. Enxara, *an-xara* – uncultivated heathlands dotted with thickets – were mentioned for the first time at the beginning of the 18th century. The two villages, *Enxaras*, sprung up in the middle of the 16th century. Both Bispo (Bishop) and Cavalheiros (Knights) boast important civil and religious buildings, and Cavalheiros was made the seat of the Municipality. There are important Manueline architectural traces dating from this illustrious era: the pillory in Enxara dos Cavaleiros, the parish church of Nossa Senhora da Assunção and the Espírito Santo hermitage in Enxara do Bispo and the hermitage of Nossa Senhora do Socorro.

You should cross the motorway bridge after Enxara dos Cavaleiros and turn left up an unsurfaced road, signposted “Circuito da Enxara”. About 200



Parish church of Nossa Senhora da Assunção, Enxara do Bispo. Photo: MM



Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Socorro. Photo: MM

metres further on, you will come to the sign for Fort Pequeno [no. 29], restored in 2008. Its gun emplacements point directly at the Lisbon road, perfectly illustrating the purpose of this fort, to fire on the enemy columns. Situated just off a track, Fort Pequeno is in a reasonably good state of repair, with a magazine and two traverses.

Turning westwards, Fort Grande [no. 28] is about 200 metres away.

These two redoubts are positioned between the 1st and 2nd defensive Lines, and their objective was to defend the Torres Vedras - Montachique road, and protect Wellington's headquarters in Pero Negro.

Having visited the Enxara forts, we can now go back to the road and on to Serra do Socorro. Head towards Enxara do Bispo and turn right at the first junction, in the direction of São Sebastião. This village is at the foot of Serra do Socorro, where the Duke's cobbled and stepped road (from the time when Wellington paid regular visits to the signal station) is still in use. Also at the base of the hill, you will come across Quinta da Póvoa, Earl Spencer's headquarters and now a centre for rural tourism.

Serra do Socorro, the highest point in the municipality of Mafra, must always have been recognisable to human settlements in the area. There is archaeological evidence of its occupation from the Bronze Age onwards: through the 1st Millennium to the Iron Age and the 4th Century BCE.

Archaeological excavations of this National Monument (2007, 2008) have identified a possible Bronze Age dwelling near the hermitage and it also seems likely that the settlement was enclosed by an oval defensive wall.

Closer to Heaven, far from the daily grind, the summit of Serra do Socorro was christened with the construction of a hermitage, the oldest



View of Serra do Socorro from Fort Grande. Photo: MM

parts of which date back to the first half of the 16th century. In Manueline style, a small church was erected, surrounded by a long porch, of which the vault in the nave and the South door still survive.

In the middle of the 18th century, the symbolism of the chapel was changed. An altarpiece of gilded carved wood was added; the walls were covered with hand painted tiles and statues were commissioned from the sculptors in Mafra. The last restoration was in 1820. By enclosing the ancient porch, access to the chapel was limited to a new triumphal archway and a series of illustrations were planned to pay homage to the figure of the Virgin Mary.

Serra do Socorro's prominent position meant that it was the obvious candidate for the location of a telegraph station during the 3rd French Invasion (1810-1811). This was part of the Duke of Wellington's strategy for the Lines of Torres Vedras. The communications system was specifically conceived for the Lines of Torres Vedras by Admiral Berkeley, at the Duke's request. It was an adaptation of the naval code used by the Royal Navy (Popham).

A central communications station was built on Serra do Socorro, communicating with the other eight forts where signals masts had been erected. The system included two lines of communication: Grilo, St. Vincent, Serra do Socorro, Alqueidão and Sinais on the 1st Line; and St Julian's, Sonível, Chipre and Cabeço de Montachique on the 2nd Line; Alagoa linked both Lines, on the Atlantic side. To the south, the link to Lisbon was from Cabeço de Montachique, using the telegraph at Monsanto.

Using perishable materials and moveable by design, with no detailed plans remaining, the Serra do Socorro telegraph station is a historical memory, with no surviving vestiges of its existence. The reconstruction project was based on historical documentation (letters, images, dispatches and a few sketches) and archaeological evidence (the discovery of the probable post hole next to the hermitage).

Any visit to Serra do Socorro, at the real heart of the Lines, can therefore include several interesting activities. You can enjoy the views (perhaps with

a little birdwatching) and seek out the various forts and headquarters in the surrounding area. What might be part of the original mast has been conserved and is on display in the churchyard of the hermitage

The Heritage and Visitors' Centre is dedicated to the theme of communications. It is housed in the buildings around the hermitage, in the cells of the pilgrims who came to pay homage to Our Lady of Socorro. The hermitage and the Visitors' Centre are open every Sunday or by prior arrangement [TEL.: [+351] 261 819 711].

On the north side, there is a full scale replica of the mast. Annual events are held here, re-enacting the use of the signal station. A mast and yardarm are erected, from which telegraphic balls are hung. [so, ACS]



Fort Grande with Serra do Socorro in the background. Photo: MM



View from Serra do Socorro to the coast. Photo: Carlos Guardado da Silva

FORT ALQUEIDÃO OR THE “GREAT FORT”

NO.: 14

MUNICIPALITY: Sobral de Monte Agraço

GPS: 38°59'13,472"N; 09°09'04,427"W /

38°59'07,676"N; 09°08'58,388"W

(Visitors' Centre)

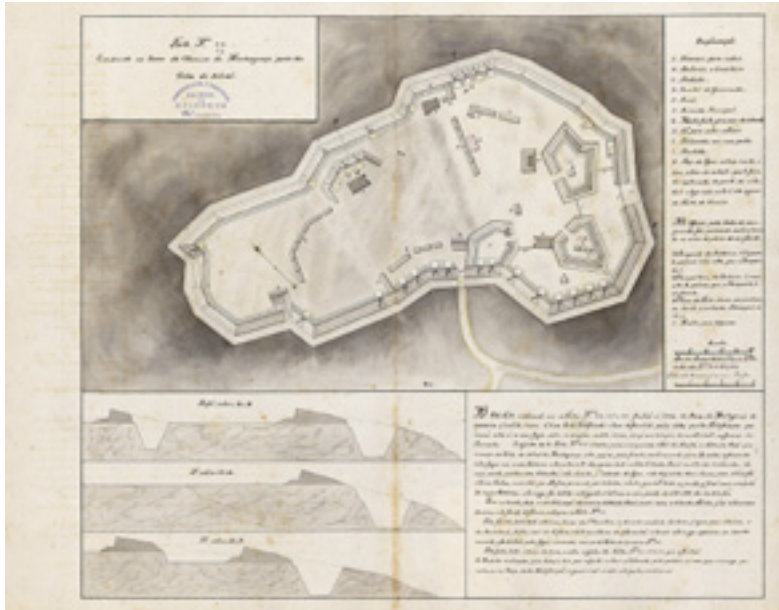
GARRISON: 1,590 men

GUNS: 27 (12 x 12 calibre*; 8 x 9 calibre;

6 x 6 calibre; 1 x 5^{1/2} obus)

This was the largest fort on the Lines of Torres Vedras and the most important defensive position on the 1st Line. From here, there is a 360° panoramic view of the valleys and passes surrounding

it and you can see a considerable part of the 1st Line. As it was the highest point on the defensive system (442 metres) with an ideal battlefield in front of it and given its central position on the Lines,



Plan of Fort Alqueidão. Lourenço Homem (c. 1820). GEA/DIE Collection

* Projectile weight in pounds, as was used at the time.



Cannon. Historical re-enactment in Fort Alqueidão. Photo: MSMA

Wellington established his Advance Command Post here. He would frequently visit the fort on horseback, riding up from his headquarters in Pero Negro, or from the main signal station on the hill at Senhora do Socorro, and stay until dusk, observing enemy manoeuvres and watching the enemy troops camped in front of the fort through his telescope until daylight failed. A large part of the regular Anglo-Portuguese army was concentrated around the fort. Supported by the forts known as Trinta, Simpício and Machado [nos. 15, 16 & 17], the positioning of which allowed for effective crossfire upon the targets,

Alqueidão Fort made excellent use of the summits of the Monte Agraço sierra and formed a very powerful fortified group. Its purpose was to be able to fire on the Arcela valley to the left, the Santo Quintino area to its front and cover the slopes up to Caneira, a fort with which this group could also cross fire. It protected the royal road between the town of Sobral de Monte Agraço and Bucelas, as well as the military road to Louriceira de Cima and its guns also protected Fort Machado from attack. Alqueidão was a signal station on the 1st Line and had 5 magazines and a well supplying the fort with fresh water.

FORT MACHADO

NO.: 15

MUNICIPALITY: Sobral de Monte Agraço

GPS: 38°58'56,614"N; 09°09'17,404"W

GARRISON: 460 men

GUNS: 7 (12, 9 & 6 calibre)

Along with the forts of Alqueidão, Trinta and Simplício [NOS. 14, 15 & 16], this fortification sits at the summit of the Monte Agraço sierra. Its purpose was to defend against any possible enemy attack on Fort Alqueidão. To the front, it covered access to the sierra from Casais and, to the left, the land around



Plan by Lourenço Homem (c. 1820). GEA/DIE Collection

Baço, Alcareia, Camondes and Arcos. It could provide barrages of short, medium and long range gun fire.



Magazine. Photo: MSMA

FORT SIMPLÍCIO

NO.: 17

MUNICIPALITY: Sobral de Monte Agraço

GPS: 38°59'01,923"N; 09°09'05,403"W

GARRISON: 300 men

GUNS: 6 (5 x 6 calibre; 1 x 5^{1/2} obus)

Positioned on a slope on the Monte Agraço sierra, this advance fort protected the ridge of the sierra in conjunction with Forts Alqueidão, Machado and Trinta [NOS. 14, 15 & 16]. To the front, it covered the Royal Sobral /Bucelas road and the military roads to Louriceira de Baixo and Casais. To the left, it crossed fire with Alqueidão – the Great Redoubt – [NO. 14]. Several tracks between the forts were upgraded to military roads to facilitate access between them.

FORT NOVO

No.: 152

MUNICIPALITY: Sobral de Monte Agraço

GPS: 38°59'34,680"N; 09°08'46,744"W

GARRISON: 250 men

GUNS: 5 (12 & 9 calibre; 1 x 5^{1/2} obus)

Positioned on the Galhofos summit, above the Sobral de Monte Agraço royal road, this fort is a little further forward than the fort at Alqueidão. Its purpose was to reinforce the defences on the Monte Agraço sierra, covering the land that was less well defended by those forts along the ridge of the sierra.

It overlooks the lands around Santo Quintino to the right and some points along the royal road: the Arcela valley, Chancos and Seramena to its front and left. It was consolidated as an



Inside the windmill at Fort Novo. Photo: MSMA

advance post of the Monte Agraço position after the retreat of the Napoleonic army.

FORT GRANDE

No.: 28

MUNICIPALITY: Mafra

GPS: 38°59'31,19"N; 09°13'25,62"W

GARRISON: 280 men

GUNS: 4 (9 calibre)

This fort was built in the shape of a Vauban-type star. It is an earthwork, with trench, magazine and a traverse to protect the entrance. There are six gun emplacements and a banquette for the riflemen.



Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo

FORT PEQUENO

NO.: 29

MUNICIPALITY: Mafra

GPS: 38°59'11,90"N; 09°13'11,20"W

GARRISON: 270 men

GUNS: 3 (12 calibre)

An elongated redoubt, similar to a battery, with six gun emplacements facing east over the Torres Vedras – Lisbon road. It is an earthwork, with trench, magazine and one traverse to protect the entrance and another inside. Forts 28 and 29 are between the 1st and 2nd defensive lines. Their principal strategic objective was the defence of the Torres Vedras – Montachique road,



Photo: MM

supporting the Duke of Wellington's headquarters in Pero Negro. They were manned by the Divisions of Spanish General, Don Pedro Caro y Sureda, Marquis de la Romana, who was stationed in Enxara dos Cavaleiros with an army of 8,000 men.

**SOBRAL DE MONTE AGRAÇO
HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE**

MUNICIPALITY: Sobral de Monte Agraço

GPS: 39°01'07,134"N; 09°09'05,520"W

Located in the historic centre of the town, the Heritage and Visitors' Centre is on the site of one of the major battles between Napoleonic and Anglo-Portuguese troops during the siege of the Lines of Torres Vedras, on 12th October 1810. The exhibits have been developed to complement the other Heritage and Visitors' Centres along the RHLDT, and takes "Strategic and military thinking" as its theme. Special attention has been paid to the roles played by the various military headquarters, principally

Wellington's in Pero Negro and Beresford's in Casal Cochim, and their interconnection with the command post at the Great Redoubt at Alqueidão and its subsidiary forts, where the British commander concentrated most of his army.



Photo: MSMA

MILITARY ROAD

MUNICIPALITY: Sobral de Monte Agraço

GPS: 38°59'09,290"N; 09°08'55,620"W

The prime objective of this military access road to the Great Redoubt at Alqueidão, which today covers a conservation area of 1,379 m², was to secure communications between this fort and the forts of Trinta, Simplício and Machado, as well as providing a link to the network of routes that would connect the fortifications on the two

defensive lines – from the river Tagus to the Atlantic ocean. This network facilitated the easy circulation of garrisons and troops stationed along the lines, artillery and munitions and general supplies. If necessary, it would also ensure the speedy withdrawal of troops coming under enemy fire. In addition, it allowed there to be rapid concentrations of forces at any point. All manoeuvres could be swiftly and flexibly carried out in the secrecy that was at the heart of the success of the allies' strategy.



Military road to Fort Alqueidão. Photo: MSMA



Serra do Socorro.
Chapel and Visitors' Centre.
Replica of telegraph.
Photos: MM

VISITOR'S CENTRE AND HERMITAGE

GPS: 39°01'03,32"N; 09°13'31,44"W

OPENING HOURS: Sunday: 10 am – 5 pm

Or by appointment:

TEL.: [+351] 261 819 711

E-MAIL: arqueologia@cm-mafra.pt

SERRA DO SOCORRO VISITOR'S CENTRE HERMITAGE VIEWPOINT

MUNICIPALITY: Mafra

This hill dominates the landscape and the heartland of the Lines of Torres Vedras, offering excellent views between the 1st and 2nd defensive Lines. Serra do Socorro is synonymous with telegraphic communications, as it was here that a semaphore station was established during the Peninsular Wars. This signals post was the main centre for the complex communication system installed along the Lines. Visit the Visitors' Centre, which focuses on the theme of Communications. There is a full-scale replica of the telegraph, as well as the site itself being a viewpoint for the surrounding countryside. The original post hole, discovered during an archaeological dig, is described and contextualised. At the same time, Serra do Socorro is an archaeological treasure trove, with architectonic and artistic features dating back as far as the Bronze Age. Most notable is the Manueline hermitage, which has been added to over the centuries and which is now classified as a National Monument. The Enxara Trail follows the contours of the sierra: at the foot of the mount are Fort Pequeno [NO. 28] and Fort Grande [NO. 29], which defended Wellington's headquarters at Pero Negro, just a few kilometres away.

EVENTS**BREAD FESTIVAL / HANDICRAFT FAIR**

[Sobral de Monte Agraço]

→ Weekend after the Municipal holiday (Ascension Day)

On the weekend after the Municipal holiday, in the main square (Praça Dr. Eugénio Dias), various local associations offer different breads, some of which are cooked in traditional wood ovens. There are also stalls selling local handicrafts. There are traditional and world musical events in the streets, as well as other entertainments for the whole family.

SUMMER FESTIVALS AND FAIR

[Sobral de Monte Agraço]

→ 2nd weekend in September

A week of musical shows, dance and bullfights, including a themed procession on the 2nd Sunday in September, re-enacting local historical and social events.

FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF SOCORRO

[Maфра]

→ 5th August

This is the most important popular festival in the municipality, attended by locals and by visitors from neighbouring municipalities. It takes place around to the hermitage of Nossa Senhora do Socorro. Many pilgrims come here to honour their vows, witnessed by their predecessors.

Programme of events and initiatives
based around the Lines of Torres Vedras:

www.cm-sobral.pt and **www.cm-mafra.pt**



THE DEFENCE OF THE TAGUS



Arruda dos Vinhos
Sobral de Monte Agraço

Arruda dos Vinhos
Sobral de Monte Agraço

Santarém
Porto

Vila Franca
de Xira

VILA FRANCA
DE XIRA PIER

Benavente

QUINTA MUNICIPAL
DE SUBSERRA

NEW SUBSERRA
BATTERY

SUBSERRA FORT NO. 1

MONUMENT
TO THE LINES OF
TORRES VEDRAS

EN10-6

EN248-3

A1

Loures
Lisboa

EN116

FORT AGUIEIRA
FORT PORTELA PEQUENO
FORT PORTELA GRANDE

CREL A9

EN10

Alverca do Ribatejo

EN10-1

PADRÕES DO
TERMO DE LISBOA

Forte da Casa

Rio Tagus

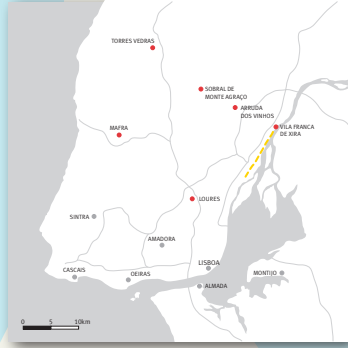
A1

FORTE CASA
HERITAGE CENTRE

Lisboa

Lisboa

EN10



0 500 1000 m

HOW TO GET THERE

- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A1, getting off at Vila Franca de Xira.
- From Faro, take the Via do Infante, then the A2 and the A12 to Lisbon, then the A1 to Vila Franca de Xira.



- Boa Viagem bus company from Lisbon.



- CP on the Azambuja line, getting off at Vila Franca de Xira, Alhandra or Alverca.

**VILA FRANCA DE XIRA TOURIST OFFICE**

Praça Afonso de Albuquerque, 12

GPS: 38°57'13,055"N; 08°59'25,859"W

TEL.: [+351] 263 285 605

FAX: [+351] 263 271 516

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-vfxira.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

10 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

**VILA FRANCA DE XIRA
MUNICIPAL MUSEUM**

MAIN EXHIBITION

TEL.: [+351] 263 280 351

E-MAIL: museumunicipal@cm-vfxira.pt

MÁRTIR SANTO EXTENSION

TEL.: [+351] 263 280 350

E-MAIL: museumunicipal@cm-vfxira.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday:

9:30 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm

Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays

ALVERCA EXTENSION

TEL.: [+351] 219 570 305

E-MAIL: museumunicipal.nucleoalverca@cm-vfxira.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday:

10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays

BARCO VARINO *LIBERDADE* EXTENSION

TEL.: [+351] 263 280 351

Boat trips from May to October

QUINTA MUNICIPAL DE SUBSERRA

TEL.: [+351] 219 500 082

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

8:30 am – 16:30 pm;

weekends: 10 am – 6 pm (Summer);

10 am – 5 pm (Winter)

The defence strategy of the Lines of Torres Vedras also included the wide banks of the river Tagus, near the town of Alhandra, at the starting point of the 1st Line. A flotilla of Royal Navy corvettes and gunboats stopped the invading army crossing from the south of the river and watched over the important road that ran parallel to it. The defence of the Tagus was strictly aligned to the forts and earthworks which had been constructed in the hills to the north of Alhandra. Visit the viewpoint next to the Monument to the Lines of Torres Vedras and visit the military works at Sub-serra, as well as the Heritage and Visitors' Centre of the Lines of Torres Vedras nearby, in Fort Casa.

Across the Vila Franca da Xira region, there are many good access routes to the capital that Napoleon so coveted. There was the impressive river Tagus, the most extensive and direct route for the efficient transport of people and cargo and, parallel to that, the Royal Highway between the towns, which wound from Santarém to the capital, passing through Alhandra and Alverca. Three years earlier, Junot's soldiers had used this road to reach Lisbon as quickly as they could, arriving only a little too late to capture and imprison the Portuguese Royal Family.



A view taken on the Tagus near Villa Franca which shows a part of the British Lines. Engraving by Henri l'Évêque, 1812. Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal Collection

To the north of Alhandra, along the ridge at Subserra and the Formoso hills, eight fortifications were built using local labour and troops under the command of British military engineers. In the summer of 1810, there were 2,500 workers in the area of Alhandra alone. It was an advanced position in permanent reinforcement, comparable to the works in the area of the Great Fort at Alqueidão, in Sobral de Monte Agraço, or in St. Vincent's Fort, in Torres Vedras.

While you are here, take some time to get to know Alhandra. Have a coffee in one of the pavement cafés near the quay, taking in the views of the river. Or walk along the path beside the river - three kilometres from here to Vila Franca da Xira - used by the locals to jog, exercise, cycle or simply for a stroll and a chat.

As you look around and appreciate the beauty of the scenery, with the fens stretching away into the distance beyond the calm waters of the Tagus, imagine for a moment the arrival of the French cavalry in October 1810 and their dawning realisation that fortifications had been built on the hills to the northwest of the town. They must surely have been able to see the allied sentries through their telescopes. And they could venture no further: blockades manned by courageous Portuguese troops had made the town impassable.

There were two battles during this month, on the 14th and the 16th. French patrols tried to breach the position, using the Royal Highway in direction of the town gates but, in the face of staunch resistance by the 12th Portuguese Infantry Regiment, they were forced to retreat.

From the quay, you can still see the imposing white column on which stands the statue of the warrior, Hercules. It is the *Monument to the Defenders of the Lines of Torres Vedras*, its original title, on the summit of the sierra amid the pine trees. There is a viewpoint next to this monument and we will start our visit to the Lines from there.



Footpath along the river Tagus. Photo: MVFX



Alhandra seen from the river Tagus. Photo: MVFX



Hercules. Monument to the Lines of Torres Vedras. Photo: MVFX

Access is by way of the EN10, off the A1 at Alverca. In the direction of Vila Franca de Xira/Alhandra, turn off at the second sign for Sobralinho (the first if you are coming from Alhandra), and carry straight on over the motorway bridge towards the viewpoint. Climbing the hill, follow the sign for the monument and then keep right at the junctions. You will soon reach the summit, where there's a car park. (You can also walk up by way of the footpath that starts near a tiled panel depicting the forts, under the A1 viaduct.)

From the monument, you can marvel at the view over the river Tagus, the fens, the town of Alhandra and São João dos Montes. This is the best viewpoint in the region, and one immediately gets a sense of the strategic importance of the hills to the north of the town. Look at the pride with which the statue of the Greek hero, Hercules – referred to by the townsfolk as the “hunk” – stands defiantly over the hills around him. At the base of the monument are inscribed the words: *NON ULTRA*. And Napoleon's armies did not pass. There are plaques commemorating the military engineers, Neves Costa and Richard Fletcher, and the supreme efforts made by the population during the construction of the Lines.

The monument was erected on the site of the Boavista Redoubt [no. 3] and was completed in 1883. It was a project of General Joaquim da Costa Cascais, constructed on the orders of the Marquis Sá da Bandeira, Prime Minister and veteran of the Peninsular Wars. The statue of Hercules, by the sculptor Simões de Almeida, symbolises the tenacious resistance of the Portuguese people and the Lines in the face of the invading Napoleonic forces. The figure is wearing a lion's skin and holding a stout staff.

Defence of Alhandra and the Tagus was a constant preoccupation for the Duke of Wellington, who even placed cannon on the high ground next to the parish church. He also had another idea: to place artillery pieces on the small river island at Alhandra, to halt the advance of the invading troops along the riverbank. He had earlier concluded that a defence using floating batteries would be the most efficient. In those rainy days in October 1810, off Alhandra, a flotilla of

Royal Navy corvettes and gunboats patrolled the waters around the river island, watching the Royal Highway that had been restored by Queen Maria I.

Take a trip on the narrow boat *Liberdade* (Freedom) [BOOKINGS [+351] 263 280 351], a traditional Tagus vessel, which is part of the Vila Franca da Xira Municipal Museum, whose main building houses an exhibition partly dedicated to the French Invasions. Other museum exhibitions can be found in Alhandra and in the 16th century church of *Mártir Santo São Sebastião* (Building of Municipal Interest) in the centre of Vila Franca da Xira. The boat trips leave from the town quay [GPS 38° 57' 05,752" N; 08° 59' 17,141" W] from May to October and sail around some of the river islands in the Tagus, giving the visitor the opportunity to observe the local flora and fauna. On the river itself, it is easier to comprehend Alhandra's advantageous position and the ways in which the British sailors would have been able to keep watch over the road which runs alongside it.

One of their victims was the cavalry general, Sainte-Croix, who, with Junot, was one of the proponents of a direct attack on the Lines. During a reconnaissance mission near Vila Franca, he was shot and killed by one of the sailors on a gunboat. Massena, recognising his worth, felt his loss deeply. He was 28 years old.

There are still two more military constructions in the hills that you should visit. For a walk that will take roughly 15 minutes, take the path to the right of the "Moto clube de Alhandra", between the pine trees. On reaching the top, follow a narrow track to the left, which leads to a wider path, with the CIMPOR factory in front of you. The river island off Alhandra is clearly visible. Turn right and carry on up until you reach a wider road, whose surface is compacted earth and stone and which is also passable by car. This road will guide you for the rest of the trail.

Walk on between the pines and eucalyptus, accompanied by birdsong, until you reach a clearing with an old windmill to the right and an EPAL building to your left. You're almost there! In the distance, you will already be able to see part of the wall of the first Subserra fort [NO. 114]. Carry on



Vila Franca de Xira Municipal Museum
– Barco varino *Liberdade* extension.
Photo: MVFX

for about 200 metres, up a slight incline and you'll arrive at the entrance to the fort.

There is a stunning view from this fortification across the valley and over the town of Alhandra, beside a huge expanse of river. During preparations for the defence of the hills of Formoso and Subserra, roughly three kilometres of the continuous natural ridge was scarped to impede any enemy attacks. In July 1810, with Napoleon's armies already advancing across Portuguese soil, Wellington ordered the construction of new redoubts to reinforce this position.

Fort no. 114 was built in a few short weeks. It could garrison 100 men and had 3 artillery pieces. Watching over the Subserra heights, it impeded the progress of the enemy along the Arruda - Alhandra road below, as well as any attempts to surround the hills to our left, through the Calhandriz valley.

There's still more to see. Retake the main path and you will quickly come to a junction. Go to the left and a little further up you will come to the two windmills of Fort Subserra. One of them is still in working order, a rarity in the municipality of Vila Franca da Xira. Once again, there is a superb view, including the extraordinary position of fort no. 114 from above. The defence forces took advantage of the large number of windmills in the region, converting some of them into blockhouses. In the unprotected areas of Vila Franca, the Anglo-Portuguese army destroyed as many windmills as it could so that they would not be used by the enemy.

Leaving the windmills behind, take the main path again. A few metres further on, you will come to two tracks leading into a small wood and, about 50 metres on, the New Subserra Battery [no. 114A]. Able to cross fire with its neighbouring fort, this position shared the same military objectives: to curtail any incursions by French soldiers into the sierra and provide fire cover over the Arruda - Alhandra road.

Very near to these military works is the beautiful *Quinta Municipal de Subserra*, which merits a visit. This is a country estate from the time of the invasions. After the 1820 revolution, it became the home of the liberal soldier Manuel Inácio Martins Pamplona Corte Real (1760-1832), 1st Count Subserra. During the defence of the Lines, General Pamplona was on the other side of the barricades

as Commander of Napoleon's Portuguese Legion, invading the country as part of Massena's general staff. He was only pardoned and allowed to return after the success of the Liberal revolution of 1820.

The centre of Subserra is on a slope watched over by the forts and windmills above. If you still have the energy and want to go there on foot, it's a pleasant walk down but a steep climb on the way back! Go back by the same route and go past the two windmills to the junction we encountered earlier. There, take the path to the right, passing the wall

at the back of the manor house, by way of Rua do Marquês de Subserra. When you arrive, you will see the gate to the estate, opposite the *Clube Recreativo de Subserra*. If you prefer, go back to the car park near the monument and go down the EN10 in the direction of Alhandra, until you are under the A1 viaduct. Follow the road to the left, signposted "Subserra" until you reach the village.

As you pass the gate to the estate, look across the vineyards on the slopes. The local Council still supports the traditional production of wine and table grapes. The Counts of Subserra rebuilt the chapel and the 16th century palace, which had lain in ruins since the 1755 earthquake. Wander around the geometrically laid-out gardens, where General Pamplona once strolled, and enjoy the frescoes and the rococo-style fountain.

Stand back and admire the imposing, sunny building and the chapel, dedicated to St. Joseph, with its sixteenth century hand-painted tiles and the ornate altarpiece by the celebrated painter Bento Coelho da Silveira on the high altar. As he rode his horse to Subserra, the old general must have looked at several of the military works that we have been visiting which were responsible for the defeat of the invading army and the assurance of continuing national independence. What must he have thought, as he gazed across this impressive valley and recalled the historical events that it had been witness to?

Perhaps it's time to go back to the car and think about a good lunch or afternoon snack to revive you after your exertions? There is no shortage of



Quinta Municipal de Subserra. Photo: MVFX

good restaurants and cafés in Alhandra and Vila Franca. You can eat in one of the restaurants near the quay in Alhandra, with a fabulous view of the river and the fens beyond or, if you prefer, go into the centre of Vila Franca da Xira, where you will have a wider choice. In March and November, the better known restaurants in the area take part in gastronomic festivals and offer fine examples of good local fare. In the Spring, try the famous *Açorda de Sável*, a delicious dish of thinly sliced and fried, locally caught shad, accompanied by a tasty mash of bread, stock and herbs.

Having recovered from your earlier adventures, round off your visit with a trip to the Heritage and Visitors' Centre in Fort Casa. Retake the EN10 in the direction of Lisbon, through the small city of Alverca. As you leave, you will see the *Padrões do Termo de Lisboa* (Building of Public Interest), two elegant stone obelisks dating from 1782, one on either side of the road. They were erected to mark the renovation of the road by Queen Maria I. We are travelling along the old Royal Road – now an A road – which connected the towns and which Massena wanted to use to reach Lisbon, as Junot had three years previously.

At the roundabout, follow the sign for *Rota Histórica da Linha de Torres* (the Lines of Torres Vedras Historical Trail) and turn right up a steep incline. From there, follow the signs for the Heritage and Visitors' Centre (Centro Interpretativo) until you reach the middle of the town. You will certainly have noticed the uneven roads in this parish: it is located on the old Albueira sierra, at the start of the 2nd Line, just beyond the Tagus salt-marshes. The scenery here is a stark contrast to the calm, bucolic Subserra.

The town grew up around the fort, whose location in the centre is unusual, and is named after it. The Fort Casa redoubt [NO. 38] was part of a group of military works constructed at key points along the sierra. Today, the area is rather built up. Wander through the interior of the fort's original structure so as to build up a mental image of the layout of regional forts on the Lines of Torres Vedras. Find out about the turbulent history of the invasions and their impact on Vila Franca da Xira. You will certainly feel that you have made the most of your visit. [cs]

VIEWPOINT MONUMENT TO THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°55'28,362"N; 09°00'58,380"W

Located near the town of Alhandra, the monument was finished in 1883, on the orders of Marquis Sá da Bandeira, a war veteran, and designed by Lieutenant-Colonel Joaquim da Costa Cascais. The statue of Hercules, on a tall column, is by José Simões de Almeida Junior. The monument was built on the site of the Boavista redoubt [No. 3], near the start of the first defensive line.

It is accessible via a footpath from the centre of the town of Alhandra, or by road to the car park. There are several paths for the visitor to explore and the views over the Lezírias, the river Tagus, the town of Alhandra and the valley of São João dos Montes are magnificent. There is also a picnic area.



Photo: MVFX

The information panels use text and images to describe the importance of the military fortifications constructed in the municipality, as well as giving the history of the monument itself.

SUBSERRA FORT NO. 1

NO.: 114

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°55'29,236"N, 09°01'25,418"W

GARRISON: 100 men

GUNS: 3 (2 x 9 calibre* & 1 x 6 calibre)



Photo: Francisco de Sousa Lobo

* Projectile weight in pounds, as was used at the time.

NEW SUBSERRA BATTERY

NO.: 114A

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS 38°55'32,658"N; 09°01'40,051"W

GARRISON: 370 men

GUNS: 9

These two structures are located on the hills that were part of the defensive position at Alhandra, at the beginning of the 1st Torres Vedras Line, next to the Tagus. Their objective was to impede any enemy attack on the left flank of the position, near the São Fernando Battery [No. 4] and they crossed fire to prevent

access to the valley at the foot of the range, as well as making the enemy's progress along the Alhandra – Arruda road as difficult as possible. Control of this road would have enabled the enemy to surround the position. Construction was started in February 1810. The garrison was made up of Portuguese Militias, Regulars and Artillery, supported by Lieutenant-General Rowland Hill's 2nd Division and, in the town, by regiments from Major-General John Hamilton's Portuguese Division. In the hills, corps of national militiamen, under the command of Colonel Carlos Frederico Lecor, observed enemy movements.

FORT CASA HERITAGE CENTRE

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°52'24,892"N; 09°03'26,672"W

TEL.: [+351] 926 531 121 /263 280 351

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday,
9:30 am – 12:30 pm /2 pm – 17:30 pm

Established on the perimeter of Fort Casa [No. 38], in the centre of the town which took its name, this resource describes the RHLT project for the visitor, providing information on the construction of the two Lines of Torres Vedras, the impact of the Napoleonic invasions on the municipality of Vila Franca da Xira and the relationship between fort no. 38 and the other military works in the Vialonga defence area. Here visitors can also



Photo: MVFX

examine the interior of some of the structures in the fortification, uncovered by archaeological digs in 2008 and 2010. They can look at the trench, the magazine and the gun emplacements, aided by information panels which place them in their historical and local contexts.

EVENTS

THE SCARLET WAISTCOAT (COLETE ENCARNADO)

[Vila Franca de Xira]

→ 1st weekend in July

The iconic festival in this municipality, dedicated to the art of bullfighting and its hero, Campino. There are traditional street and arena events involving bulls, a night where everyone eats grilled sardines. There are parties run by local associations and events throughout the city, as well as bullfights in the hundred-year-old Palha Blanco bullring.

ANNUAL HANDICRAFT FAIR AND EXHIBITION

[Vila Franca de Xira]

→ October

Sideshows, restaurant tents and stalls are erected in the city park, selling articles for every taste and every pocket, as well as a sizeable Handicraft Exhibition. Admire the range of artefacts, handmade by artisans from all over the country and, in some cases, actually see them creating. The art of bullfighting, so traditional in this region, cannot be forgotten – there are bull runs in the streets of the city and bullfights in the Palha Blanco bullring.

FESTIVAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST (SÃO JOÃO BAPTISTA)

[Alhandra]

→ June

In the square with the bandstand, near the river. The programme includes concerts, processions, a moonlight parade, an evening bull run and a procession along the river Tagus with the statue of St John the Baptist being carried on board a narrow boat.

POPULAR FESTIVAL OF SENHOR DA BOA MORTE

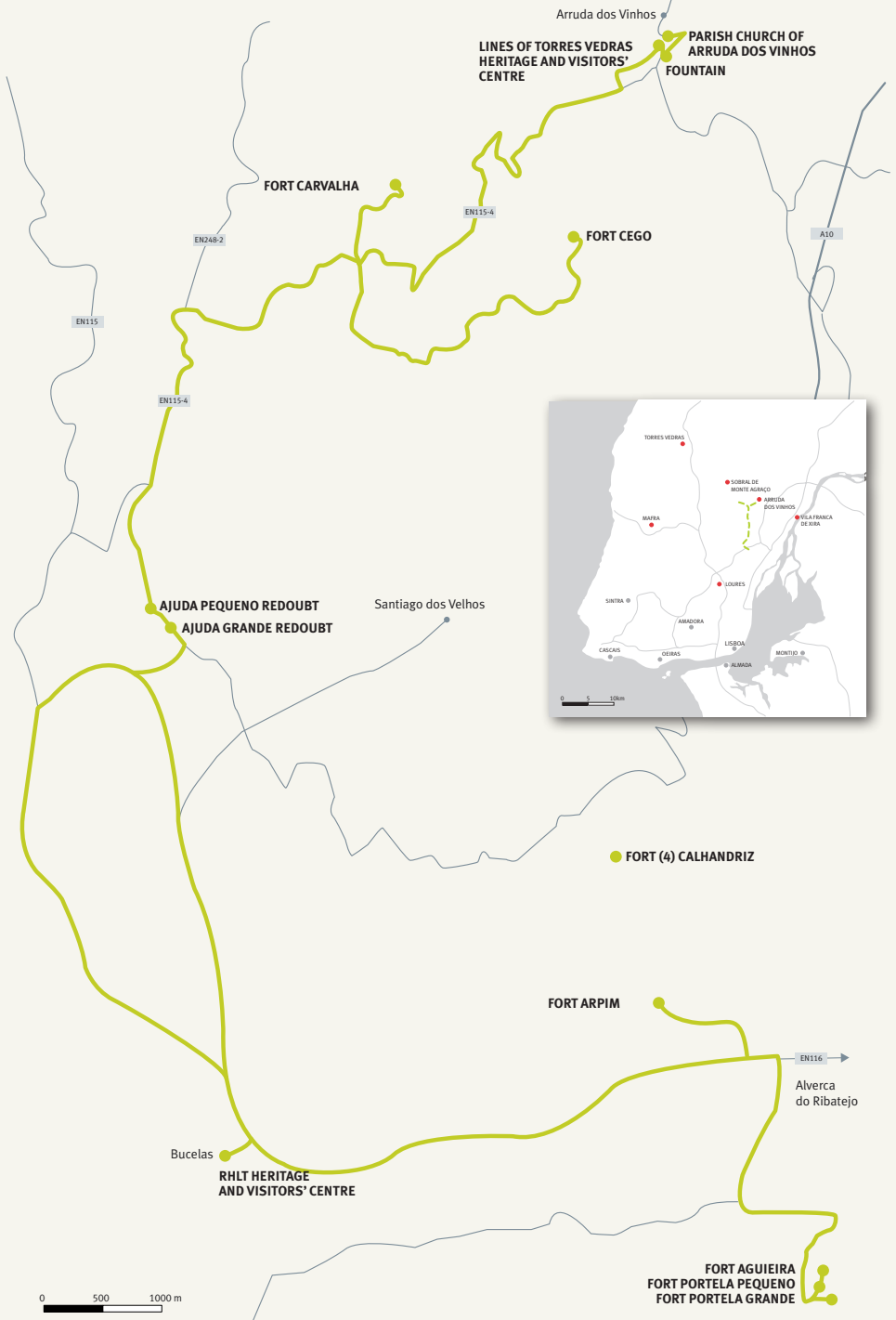
[Povos]

→ Ascension Day (40 days after Easter)

Municipal holiday. On the Thursday of Ascension Day, the Senhor da Boa Morte hill becomes a place of pilgrimage. This day is known throughout Portugal as Dia de Espiga and is traditionally a day for blessing the fields and collecting small bouquets of wheat, olive, vine leaves etc. which represent bread, oil, wine etc. and are said to bring good fortune for the year to come.



THE GREAT PASSES



HOW TO GET THERE



- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A1, then the A10, getting off at Arruda dos Vinhos.
- From Faro take the Via do Infante, then the A2 until the A13 (in the direction of Santarém), then the A10 to Arruda dos Vinhos.



- Boa Viagem bus company from Lisbon.



- CP on the Azambuja line, getting off at Vila Franca de Xira, Alhandra or Alverca.

**ARRUDA DOS VINHOS
TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE**

Centro Cultural do Morgado

GPS: 38°58'60"N; 09°04'40"W

TEL: [+351] 263 974 004

E-MAIL: pturismo@cm-arruda.pt

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Friday:

9 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm

Saturdays and Sundays:

10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

Closed on Mondays and Public Holidays

**VILA FRANCA DE XIRA
TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE**

Praça Afonso de Albuquerque, 12

GPS: 38°57'13,055"N; 08°59'25,859"W

TELEPHONE: [+351] 263 285 605

FAX: [+351] 263 271 516

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-vfxira.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

10 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 6 pm

Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm

Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays

**LOURES TOURIST
INFORMATION OFFICE**

Pavilhão de Macau – Parque da Cidade

GPS: 38°49'36,50"N; 09°09'38,03"W

TELEPHONE: [+351] 211 151 509/10

FAX: [+351] 211 151 793

E-MAIL: divisao_turismo@cm-loures.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

9 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm

Closed weekends and Public Holidays

What we are about to suggest will certainly make for a very different sort of weekend among the hills, whose summits seem to touch the cotton clouds, where the sun lights up the streams at the foot of the valley and where you can hear the song of the tumbling waters. This trail starts in the centre of Arruda dos Vinhos, the town which the first king of Portugal, D. Afonso Henriques (1139-1187), gave to the Order of Santiago in 1172.

The same town that took the word for wines (Vinhos) as part of its name, the same town where Moorish secrets await you whether its name derives from the German name *Rut(h)a*, or from the bitter plant *ruta* (*ar + ruta*). Whatever the answer, everything you see during your visit will be a contradiction because even the air is sweet! And the only way of commenting on the wine is to try it! And there are many people who have tasted it before...wine like nectar, produced from grapes harvested from the sun-drenched slopes...wine like honey, bought in the markets in Lisbon... the wine of poetry, which the poet Gil Vicente immortalised in *Pranto de Maria Parda*.

In Arruda dos Vinhos you can breathe in the countryside, stretching out all around you, as far as the eye can see. Don't think of the eponymous arruda bush that can be found in the 19th century gardens of the Morgado Palace! Difficult to find Morgado!? You will certainly approve of the Morgado Cultural Centre, gateway to the Lines of Torres Vedras, where you'll find the Heritage and Visitors' Centre, the Tourist Office, the Municipal Library and the Craft Workshop. Irresistible! Even though we all know that we can't take all the handicraft home!

Next to the palace is the 18th century water fountain, which still runs as clear and fast as it ever did – and it would rush down the very streets of the city if it had not been tamed! Water from this spout has filled many pitchers! There used to be a carving of the crown of King José on the back wall above the fountain, but the locals pulled it down when the monarchy fell.

As you are in the Arruda valley, this may be a good time to visit the parish church, a 16th century reconstruction, dedicated to Our Lady of Salvation,

where prayers were offered up continuously during the longest days in 1810 – between 10th October and 14th November. Perhaps the clairvoyant king had forecast some invasion of his realm by Napoleon’s troops when, at the beginning of the 16th century (between 1525 and 1531) he changed the name from Our Lady of Arruda to Our Lady of Salvation. In the church, the allied troops found an old woman who had died of her grief – she had not had the strength to obey Viscount Wellington’s orders that every inhabitant must abandon their house, destroy their crops and withdraw behind the Lines. The scorched earth policy and its destruction of her life’s work must have been too heavy a burden to bear!

From the valley, looking up the hills towards the skyline you can imagine the “wall” of fortifications: Fort Cego [NO. 9], Fort Carvalha [NO. 10] and, if your eyesight is good enough, perhaps one or two others. Trace the Line: this is the 1st of the defensive Lines to the north of Lisbon which halted the march of Massena’s *Armée de Portugal* towards the capital.

But an empty stomach can make any beautiful green landscape seem like desert! Time to find a restaurant and some regional cuisine? There are some



Chafariz (Fountain) at Arruda dos Vinhos. Photo: MAV



Parish church of Arruda dos Vinhos. Photo: MAV

excellent places for the wayfarer to try! Once replete, it's a good time to wander around the town, travelling back in time as far as the Middle Ages or keeping the trip shorter and only venturing as far as the 19th century. In the autumn of 1810, the town was occupied by a Light Division of the Anglo-Portuguese army, under the command of Captains Simmons and Kincaid. But French troops also passed through, staying at the Quinta do Alcambar.

You can climb up the scrubby slopes to the top of the hill and walk along the *sierra de ar-ruta*, surrounded by colourful landscapes of wheat field and vineyard. This is best accomplished at any time of year other than winter, when you will need a coat to protect you from the howling winds! Up a little more ... Cego and Carvalha await on the summit. From here you can see the saltwater estuary of the Tagus, which flows steadily to the horizon and the bridge, inaugurated on 6th August 1966, spanning a narrower point over the river; Pena Palace, on the top of the hills of Sintra and the Montejunto sierra. Could there be anything more pleasing to the eye? Perhaps not, but we still have the interiors of the 1810 forts to visit. In Carvalha, the gun emplacements with three cannon, the magazine, the traverses, the trench space enough for 400 soldiers. Fort Cego, with four cannon, and space for 280 soldiers.

Looking back over the valley, let your imagination take flight! Imagine the valley impassable to Massena's troops. Imagine the town beset by French troops, a town deserted, with only a few people remaining, hoping for the best rather than abandoning their homes. Craufurd played an important role in its defence – the place was not unfamiliar to many of those in the ranks of the regular army and the militias.

I now invite you to go back down to the town. Dinner and a night at the Quinta de Santa Maria awaits you, with its view of the hills. This is a view from the French perspective! Before that, retrace your steps along the streets, in search of entrancing stories.... Who doesn't know the story of the wall built by the English to aid the country folk: twelve, fourteen, sixteen, eighteen, twenty metres high – or more. They say it was just to the west of the town.... And that it was almost five metres thick, say some of the others.... It was definitely

a great wall, the fortified mountain that Wellington had ordered built!

You can get up early or have a lie-in. Please yourself – we aren't at war! After breakfast, resume your exploration of the valleys and passes, seeing for yourself that which the French could only imagine. A privilege! Head towards Nossa Senhora da Ajuda, using the EN road which leads from Arruda dos Vinhos on to the village of Alrota, which will, in turn, lead you along the “Estrada do Forte” to two military earthworks.



Vineyards at Arruda. Photo MAV

We suggest that you go along the unsurfaced road until you reach a small parking place, and then take the short walk to the Ajuda Grande redoubt. This old track also leads to an abandoned windmill, a reminder of other times, which was used as a lookout post during the Peninsular Wars.

Carry on along this path between the Mediterranean vegetation, and don't be surprised if a rabbit or a hare – or even a flustered partridge – runs out in front of you. It's an easy walk to the top of a plain, where there are two military positions.

The location chosen for the Serra de Alrota fortifications could not have been more favourable. The plain offers uninterrupted views of a vast area of the valley. This group of military works protected an important road between Sobral, Arruda and Bucelas, with visual communication with the positions at Calhandriz, Montachique, Ribas, the fort at Carvalha and Fort Alqueidão.

Both redoubts, Ajuda Grande [NO. 18] and Ajuda Pequeno [NO. 19] were on the 2nd Line. They were advance positions, articulating with those positions on the 1st Line. They were to slow the enemy's march towards the capital down, should they have managed to get over the first barrier.

Given their advance position, they offer an excellent place from which to view the territory occupied by this important defensive system. Standing with your back facing north, you will have the heights at Serves and Picotinhos on



Escarpment at Serves. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

the horizon. These are natural barriers, only passable through the Tranção valley in Bucelas or around the hills at Aguieira, in the direction of Alverca. Along the slopes of these ranges (Serves and Picotinhos), several batteries were constructed to defend the Bucelas pass. To reinforce their defensive capabilities, escarpments were constructed, several kilometres long.

The Ajuda Grande redoubt is a unique shape: two linked redoubts, with three external accesses. Surrounded by a trench (excavated through the rock in some places), there is a curved traverse on the outside, defending the northern entrance. Inside, there is a magazine, five gun emplacements and two traverses, for use should the entrances be threatened. Defence of the access points was reinforced with palisades, which were also used in the trench.

The site on which this fortification sits was reconfigured to create stepped terraces, making it even more difficult for the enemy army to gain access. Along the Serra da Alrota plain, more to the north, you can visit the Ajuda Pequena redoubt. This is a small fortification, reached by a path. This redoubt has a trench excavated from the rock, a traverse to defend the entrance, a small magazine and several gun emplacements, pointing towards the military road joining Arruda dos Vinhos to Bucelas.

Apart from the historical importance of these works, militarily, socially and culturally, this place is also significant in terms of geo-history.

If you look carefully at what is near your feet, you will see various fossils, which are also present in the limestone of the stonework. These types of outcrops, with their strong fossil content, give us valuable information as to their chronology and the environment in which they were formed. Here, there are numerous seaweed, sponge, coral and shell fossils.

These sedimentary rocks, formed in calm, temperate sea water, survived several tectonic movements and readjustments of the surface of the land. Throughout the geological history of the planet, there have been simultaneous episodes of the folding and corrugation of sedimentary matter, shifting it from its place of origin.

To finish the visit, you should go back to the village of Alrota and carry on towards Bucelas, passing the gate to Quinta da Murta, a wine production and rural tourism centre. From this estate you can marvel at the beautiful valley along the Boição and the vine-covered slopes, so characteristic of this demarcated region.

In Bucelas, take a break and sample the local gastronomic delights, accompanied by the famed Arinto wine, leaving room for a traditional local dessert, made with almonds. After this refreshing pause, we suggest a stroll through the streets and squares of the town of Bucelas, especially *Largo do Coreto*, with its charming 19th century fountain, including a milestone marking the boundary of Greater Lisbon; the parish church of Nossa Senhora da Purificação, with its collection of Sacred Art; the Roman inscriptions in the churchyard; the local handicrafts and the Heritage and Visitors' Centre for the Lines of Torres Vedras.

Sources tell us that an Anglo-Portuguese army corps set up camp in a cherry orchard next to the parish church, where a terrace of houses now stands. At the time, Wellington used the current Day Centre as his headquarters.

This Heritage and Visitors' Centre in Bucelas boasts interactive displays describing and interpreting the history of the Peninsular War and the contribution of the civilian population to the construction of the defensive system. It focuses on the impacts the French invasions had on local communities.



Ajuda Grande Redoubt. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML



Panoramic view of the Serves hills and Bucelas valley. Photo: Fernando Zarcos/ML

It contextualises the shortage of resources dating back to this turbulent period of our history. You will find information on what to visit, where to eat and where to stay.

Continuing on, having enjoyed what this friendly town has to offer, we suggest that you carry on along the EN 116 towards Vila de Rei, until you reach the junction at Mato da Cruz. To your right all along this route are the imposing Serves hills. They are thickly forested with pine trees (which play a fundamental role in what distinguishes the region of Bucelas from other regions and safeguard its special micro-climates). These characteristics, along with the soil types around Bucelas, have made this the centre of an ancient wine producing region, which has marked out the local landscape.

At the Mato da Cruz crossroads, follow the signs to that village along the EN 1250-4, where you will be directed to Casal do Forte, which is the road to Fort Arpim [NO. 125].

This military construction is polygonal in shape, surrounded by a trench, with an extant exterior traverse to protect its entrance. Although primarily an earthwork, the access was reinforced with stone walls. Archaeological excavations have confirmed the existence of wooden structures: two gate posts.

Inside the Fort, there are several gun emplacements (most pointing in the direction of Calhandriz, with a few towards the Aguieira hills) made of packed



earth, with vestiges of the wooden platforms which facilitated movement of the artillery pieces. In contrast, the stone magazine is in an unusually excellent state of repair.

Fort Arpim [NO. 125] is in a strategic area with a strong concentration of military works. In the summer of 1810, Wellington realised that Alhandra could be bypassed via the Matos pass and through the Calhandriz valley to Alverca. Starting that September, 1,500 men built the four Calhandriz forts [NOS. 121 TO 124] to the left of the position, still on the 1st Line, to defend the only place where the artillery would be able to go around the position at Alhandra.

As military engineer, John Thomas Jones wrote in his 1829 *Memorandum* the forts on the Lines were usually independent of one another: Calhandriz was the only location where three forts were built to cross fire between themselves so as to collaboratively defend a fourth advance fort [NO. 121]. Fort Arpim, to the rear of these, linked the Calhandriz position to its right with the three earthworks on the Aguieira sierra, which had been constructed to the south [NOS. 40, 41 AND 42] on the 2nd Line. In front of the forts, the summit was scarped to make it inaccessible to the enemy, in imitation of Alhandra, as Jones had recorded. Thus, a defensive arc was formed, which ran from Calhandriz to Fort Casa along the Tagus, linking the two Lines of Torres Vedras.



Path across Aguieira sierra. Photo: Carlos Silveira

To complete our tour of the passes, visit these three forts on the ridge of the Aguieira sierra, whose summit overlooks the whole of the region. You won't regret it. Take the EN 116 and return to the crossroads at Mato da Cruz, then head in the direction of Alverca. A few metres further on you will see the Morgado Lusitano on your right, on Quinta da Portela, which bear the same name of the forts [GPS: 38°54'15,748"N; 09°04'16,141"W]. In this building (restored in the 18th century), there is a leisure centre offering horse riding, gastronomy and rural tourism. Park here and go up the path which leads to the Aguieira forts.

Climbing up the country road next to the estate will take you to the top of the hills. Imagine the effort required by the hundreds of peasants and militiamen involved in the construction of these fortifications, determinedly driving the ox carts that carried the heavy guns up the slope, using tracks that no-one had used before.

These are three forts with one function – almost a large redoubt, alone at the top of the sierra. They closed off the left flank of Military District no. 5, with its headquarters in Bucelas. This was one of the seven districts defined by Wellington for the organisation of troops on the Lines.

Visit Fort Aguieira [no. 40] first. It was constructed from February 1810 onwards, under the supervision of Lieutenant Stanway (as were its two sister forts). When the Napoleonic army reached the Lines on 11th October of the same year, the fortresses in this part of the 2nd Line were manned by corps of Portuguese militias, regulars and artillerymen, supported to the rear by General Rowland Hill's 2nd Division. Eight English battalions were ready to assist in the defence of Alhandra, or come to the aid of the main defensive corps in Sobral, should they suffer a reverse. There were also five regiments of national militia, under the command of Colonel Carlos Frederico Lecor.

You can see the other two forts from here, facing the river Tagus and its fens. They defended routes that might be used by the Napoleonic army if they were to break through the 1st Line near Calhandriz: going along the narrow valley at Bucelas, following the valley of the river Tranção, or by the roads leading to Alverca, thus avoiding the position at Alhandra.

All of this group offer spectacular views: to the north, the whole of the Bucelas valley at a glance, with the town in the distance. To the south, you



View from Aguieira sierra to Alverca and the river Tagus. Photo: MMVFX

can see the city of Alverca, the river islands in the Tagus and its fens, with the hills of Calhandriz to your left. Looking along the river, past Alverca are the heights of the Formoso sierra and the town of Alhandra, at the beginning of the 1st Line. This is the point at which the two Lines are closest to each other. Here we can clearly see how the military structures blended advantageously with the mountainous topography of this region to the north of the capital, and how they were able to defend it from the army sent by the all-powerful Napoleon.

Don't forget to visit the nearby Heritage and Visitors' Centre, located in the internal courtyard of Fort Casa [NO. 38]. This is now in the centre of the town and is reached via the EN10 through Alverca. (see: *The Defence of the Tagus* trail). This area is where the 2nd Line of Torres Vedras commences, climbing up the slopes from the river Tagus and crossing the Great Passes. [CGS, AC, PF, FE, CS]

FORT CEGO

NO.: 9

MUNICIPALITY: Arruda dos Vinhos

GPS: 38°58'08"N; 09°05'09"W

GARRISON: 280 men

GUNS: 4 (1 x 12 calibre*; 3 x 9 calibre)

FORT CARVALHA

NO.: 10

MUNICIPALITY: Arruda dos Vinhos

GPS: 38°58'22"N; 09°06'13"W

GARRISON: 400 men

GUNS: 4 (2 x 12 calibre; 2 x 9 calibre)

Situated to the right of the Matos pass, Fort Cego was originally known as “St. Sebastian’s Fort” but later took the name of the neighbouring hamlet, Casal do Cego. It had an efficient drainage system, with a central channel designed to prevent flooding by draining rainwater from the interior.



Fort Cego. Photo: MAV

Fort Carvalha is sited on the highest point in the municipality. The gun embrasures which housed the heavy artillery pieces are still intact. The mission of both these forts was to use crossfire to its full advantage in defence of the Arruda valley against the invading forces.



Fort Carvalha. Photo: MAV

* Projectile weight in pounds, as was used at the time.



Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

AJUDA GRANDE REDOUBT

NO.: 18

MUNICIPALITY: Loures

GPS: 38°56'17,07"N; 09°07'43,56"W

GARRISON: 300 men

GUNS: 4 x 12 calibre

This redoubt is on the 2nd defensive Line and is in the 5th District, which comprises the river Tagus, around Fort Casa and the Bucelas pass. It is on a raised plain, 311 metres above sea level, known at the time as the sierra of Santa Ajuda, but now called the Alrota sierra. The redoubt was to sit at the right of the military road from Arruda dos Vinhos to Bucelas. In conjunction with the Ajuda Pequena redoubt [NO. 19], which sits on the same heights but further to the north, it would facilitate control of the whole of a vast area between these positions and Fort Carvalha in Arruda, as well as the positions in Calhandriz valley.

It is also unique inasmuch as it is a position to delay the enemy action, in case of withdrawal from the 1st Line. It enjoys a panoramic view from which the visitor can see many of the other military works, including: Fort Carvalha, Fort (4) Calhandriz, Fort Arpim, the three forts on the Agueira hills, and others on the 2nd Line on the Picotinhos and Ribas sierras and on the Achada ridge.



Archaeological excavations at Ajuda Grande Redoubt (2009). Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

AJUDA PEQUENO REDOUBT**NO.:** 19**MUNICIPALITY:** Loures**GPS:** 38°56'24,22"N; 09°07'51,39"W**GARRISON:** 200 men**GUNS:** 3 x 9 calibre

This fort's purpose was directly linked to that of the Ajuda Grande redoubt [no. 18], both functioning together as one unit. From their high position, they overlooked the military road and a panoramic view of the plains between their position and Fort Carvalha [no. 10]. It is situated on the northernmost edge of the Nossa Senhora da Ajuda hills (now known as the Alrota sierra), at an altitude of 305 metres. Its mission was to fire on the road on its right flank. Many of the local communities can be seen from here: Nossa Senhora da Ajuda,

Santiago dos Velhos and Bucelas, with its pass through the valley of the river Trancão, as well as all the main access routes from this area to Lisbon. It enjoys a panoramic view from which the visitor can see a great many of the other military works and, because of this, can better appreciate the strategy behind the construction of this system of defence.

The two Ajuda fortifications are clearly an advance position on the 2nd Line, serving as a link between the two defensive Lines.



Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

FORT ARPIM

NO.: 125

MUNICIPALITY: Loures

GPS: 38°54'43,63"N; 09°04'56,18"W

GARRISON: 250 men

GUNS: 4 x 12 calibre

Situated on the top of a small hill, 227 metres high, this fort was constructed to link the positions on the 1st Line in the Calhandriz valley to the Line to the rear, which runs from Fort



Magazine. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

Casa. Once again, this is a non-linear articulation, which functions at a more complex level.

Its action articulates with that of Fort (4) Calhandriz [NO. 124] to produce crossfire covering the whole of the part of the valley which separates the two positions, as well as the main access routes.

To defend the road to Bucelas and Alverca, this position crossed fire with the three fortifications on the ridge of the Aguieira sierra

[NOS. 40, 41 AND 42].

It enjoys a wide field of vision – the visitor can see other military works on the hills of Alrota, Serves, Picotinhos and Ribas, including Cabeço de Montachique.

It boasts an exceptionally well-preserved, stone-built magazine.

FORT AGUIEIRA

NO.: 40

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°54'01,472"N; 09°04'20,531"W

GARRISON: 150 men

GUNS: Unusually on the Lines, this fortification was not equipped with cannon

This fort was on the 2nd Torres Vedras Line, closing off the left flank of the defensive position at Vialonga, which

was linked to the start of the Line on the Tagus at Fort Casa [NO. 38].

It is situated on the top of the Aguieira sierra, which overlooks the Bucelas pass. Its ramparts were designed to facilitate rifle fusillades to cover Forts Portela Pequeno [NO. 42] and Portela Grande [NO. 41], as well as to be able to provide continuous fire in front of the hills over the São Tiago dos Velhos road and the Alverca /Casal da Portela road.



Fort Aguieira. Rampart and the magazine's original archway. Photos: MVFX

FORT PORTELA GRANDE

NO.: 41

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°53'52,799"N; 09°04'17,320"W

GARRISON: 240 men

GUNS: 5 x 12 calibre

FORT PORTELA PEQUENO

NO.: 42

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°53'56,920"N; 09°04'21,771"W

GARRISON: 350 men

GUNS: 6 x 12 calibre



These forts were constructed at the top of the Aguieira sierra, overlooking the Bucelas pass.

They have a superb view over the river Tagus and its plains.

Their mission was to be able to provide fire cover to the eastern and western slopes of the hills, but also to impede enemy progress along the roads from Alverca and São Tiago dos Velhos to Casal da Portela. Fort no. 42, the more northerly of the two, watched over the road which runs from Bucelas valley to Alverca, sharing this objective with the later Fort Arpim [NO. 125].

The Portela forts are unique on the Lines inasmuch as the roof of the magazine is a stone vault, in contrast to the more usual wooden constructions.

Fort Portela Grande. Photos: MVFX

LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE

MUNICIPALITY: Arruda dos Vinhos

GPS: 38°59'03"N; 09°04'41"W

Located in the foyer of the Municipal Auditorium, this Centre's interactive, multifunctional exhibits bring the context of the Peninsular War to life, as well as giving information about the military works in the municipality, so that the visitor can fully appreciate the rich historical local legacy. Entitled "Arruda on the Lines of Torres Vedras", it also



Photo: MAV

touches on the role of the town and the events that took place here during the 3rd Napoleonic Invasion.

LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE

MUNICIPALITY: Loures

GPS: 38°54'10,14"N; 09°07'16,29"W

Rua D. Afonso Henriques, 2-4
2670 – 637 Bucelas

TEL.: [+351] 211 150 660

FAX: [+351] 211 151 702

E-MAIL: dc@cm-loures.pt

WEBSITE: www.cm-loures.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Saturday:
10 am – 1 pm / 2 pm – 6pm



Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

Situated in the historic centre of Bucelas, visitors to this Centre are invited to experience a little of the daily lives of the ordinary people who lived in this area. It includes fascinating information about the considerable effort that the civilian population put into the construction of this collection of fortifications and earthworks. The visitor can also find out more about what the Lines of Torres Vedras has to offer along the trails in Loures and the inter-municipal GR30, in terms of exploration, walking, rambling and the discovery of buildings and of nature. It is housed in a building steeped in the history of winemaking: the Wine Museum (Museu do Vinho), an activity which characterises the whole of the demarcated region of Bucelas.

FORT CASA HERITAGE CENTRE

MUNICIPALITY: Vila Franca de Xira

GPS: 38°52'24,892"N; 09°03'26,672"W

TEL.: [+351] 926 531 121 /263 280 351

OPENING HOURS: Tuesday – Sunday:

9:30 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm

Established on the perimeter of Fort Casa [no. 38], in the centre of the town which took its name, this resource describes the RHLT project for the visitor, providing information on the construction of the two Lines of Torres Vedras, the impact of the Napoleonic invasions on the municipality of Vila Franca da Xira and the relationship between fort no. 38 and the

other military works in the Vialonga defence area. Here visitors can also examine the interior of some of the structures in the fortification, uncovered by archaeological digs in 2008 and 2010. They can look at the trench, the magazine and the gun emplacements, aided by information panels which place them in their historical and local contexts.



Photo: MVFX



EVENTS

CELEBRATIONS IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SALVAÇÃO

[Arruda dos Vinhos]

→ 6 – 18 de August

Processions, music, concerts, folk dancing, handicrafts, exhibitions, historical re-enactments, bullfights and bull runs in the streets of the town.

FESTIVAL OF VINE AND WINE

[Arruda dos Vinhos]

→ Beginning of November

Restaurant and wine competitions. Handicrafts. Concerts.

'GOOD FOOD' COMPETITION

[Arruda dos Vinhos]

→ May

Event promoting innovative local recipes that showcase the flavours of Arruda.

FESTIVAL OF ST ANTHONY

[Arruda dos Vinhos]

→ 8 – 13 June

Popular street festival with singing, folk dancing, handicrafts, bullfights and bull runs.

FESTIVAL OF THE SNAIL

[Arruda dos Vinhos]

→ 1st weekend in July

Gastronomic festival dedicated to the snail, involving various local associations.

LOURES MUNICIPALITY FESTIVAL

→ 26 July, municipal holiday.

MEDIEVAL FAIR

[Sacavém]

→ September (Saturday)

Conjurors, jugglers, acrobats, music, bagpipes, street entertainment. The visitor can come in costume – wearing an Arabic tunic or a medieval gown – and take part in various events involving men-at-arms, medieval dances and games. The high point of the fair is the re-enactment of an important 17th century battle between the King, Don Afonso Henriques, and the Moorish governor of Sacavém, next to the Roman bridge. Stay until the end because there is a magnificent firework display set to music – and a feast of tasty medieval delicacies to keep you going!

18th CENTURY FAIR

[Santo Antão do Tojal]

→ 27 September, International Tourism Day

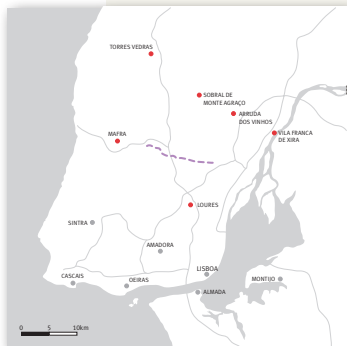
A daylong festival which transports the parish back to the 18th century and a visit by King João V and his retinue. The day starts with a fair celebrating the produce of the time, with sausages and sweets, dancing and singing. In the afternoon, after the King's arrival, António de Almeida, the first Archbishop of Lisbon, blesses the bells and they are then taken on to Mafra. The day is brought to a close with a firework display.

FESTIVAL OF WINE AND THE GRAPE HARVEST

[Bucelas]

→ 2nd weekend in October

Held since 1988, this is Bucelas' main annual event, attracting thousands of visitors who come to enjoy the traditional celebrations of the grape harvest in a truly rural setting. Popular and folk music, handicrafts and exhibitions make up the programme, whose main feature is the costumed procession on the Sunday. The twenty-seven floats illustrate the history and cycle of wine production, from the digging of the one-metre deep furrows needed to plant the new vines to the tavern, where the finished product is drunk, showing the work in the sun-drenched vineyards on the slopes around Bucelas and the conviviality of the lunch that marks the successful end of the harvest.



HOW TO GET THERE



- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A8, getting off at Malveira.
- From Faro, take the Via do Infante, then the A12 to Lisbon and the A8 to Malveira.



- Mafrense, Barraqueiro, Isidoro Duarte.



- CP on the Linha do Oeste, alighting at Malveira.



POSTO DE TURISMO DE MAFRA

Palácio Nacional de Mafra – Torreão sul
Terreiro D. João V

GPS: 38°56'11,10"N; 09°19'37,28"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 817 170

FAX: [+351] 261 817 179

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-mafra.pt

OPENING HOURS: Every day:

9:30 am – 1 pm / 2:30 pm – 6 pm

POSTO DE TURISMO DE LOURES

Pavilhão de Macau – Parque da Cidade

GPS: 38°49'36,50"N; 09°09'38,03"W

TEL.: [+351] 211 151 509/10

FAX: [+351] 211 151 793

E-MAIL: divisao_turismo@cm-loures.pt

OPENING HOURS: Monday – Friday:

9 am – 12:30 pm / 2 pm – 5:30 pm

Closed at weekends and on Public Holidays



The strategic concept of the Lines of Torres Vedras was based on the control of the access routes to Lisbon by which the French Army would arrive behind the retreating English Army, in the direction of the lines of redoubts. The main available routes were the Royal Road along the river from Alhandra and the road from Torres Vedras to Lisbon, with its connections to Montachique and Mafra. The area around Malveira and Venda do Pinheiro is a juncture of the Lines, where the Mafra and Torres Vedras roads to Lisbon cross. The road network and the sharp contours of the region resulted in one of the largest concentrations of redoubts on the Lines of Torres Vedras.

Start your tour in the town of Malveira. In essence, the road junction is still in use, only now this is where the A8 and the A21 intersect, as well as there being railway access (Linha do Oeste).

In Malveira, there are three forts (Santa Maria, Feira and Malveira). Our first visit will be to Fort Feira [NO. 66]. Situated in the town, this fort took its

name from the annual fair, created by Queen Maria I on 14th December 1782, where livestock were bought and sold. In 1945, given the huge popularity of this fair and the developments in the area brought about by the arrival of the railway, it was decided that it would become a weekly market, held every Thursday. Malveira Market is still very popular today. Agricultural produce, plants, livestock, tools, clothing, furniture, poultry and antiques are all on sale here.

At the time of the French Invasions, Malveira only occupied a small area near the chapel of Nossa Senhora dos Remé-



Fountain at Largo da Feira. Photo: MM

dios, but the space next to where the fort was built was often used for the Fair.

From the centre of town (the large market square), you can easily find the fort no. 66. It is in “Rua do Forte”!

Hidden behind trees and houses, Fort Feira has been the subject of a series of archaeological excavations, bringing to light important structures and evidence of previous occupations

that had been buried under metres of soil. Near the entrance to the fort, there is detailed information about it and you can decide how you want to conduct your visit. We suggest that you go across the wooden bridge and straight into the fort. The entrance was protected by two curved earthworks, reinforced by a palisade. Your route is marked on the ground. You will immediately see the magazine, which is in front of the entrance, protected by a traverse.

The structure of the magazine was completely buried before the archaeological excavations, but we can now mentally reconstruct the building, which was built using a combination of packed earth, stone walls, mortar and wood. There was a stone structure built on the half-buried one. This supported a wooden roof embedded in the stonework and held with mortar. Access to the magazine was by way of a wooden ramp and it had a false wooden floor to protect its contents from the damp.

There are several traverses positioned around the magazine, and six embrasures, pointing in the direction of the Malveira–Lisbon road. One of these gun emplacements has been excavated and restored. The work revealed the construction techniques used: stone footings at the sides to support a wooden platform, part of which was identifiable.

After visiting the rest of the fort, you can walk around the trench and get a new perspective on this type of structure.



Fort Feira. Magazine after restoration. Photo: MM

To round off your visit, stand at the marked observation points. Despite the fact that the fort is now surrounded by trees, you should be able to see its sister forts: Fort Matoutinho [NO. 68] to the east and Fort Santa Maria [NO. 67] to the north.

In effect, virtually all the hills along the Malveira - Montachique road were selected for the 2nd Line defensive system.

From Malveira, head towards Montachique, stopping off at one of the local restaurants (if one takes your fancy!). Follow the signs for the motorway and take the A8 in the direction of Lisbon. Alternatively, you could carry on along the EN 8 towards Lousa and then follow the signs to Cabeço de Montachique on the EN 374-2 and then head towards Lisbon.

In the village of Lousa, the parish church of São Pedro is interesting because of the stepped access to it. It is simple, with just one nave and a bell tower, set back slightly from the main façade, with a Manueline side door, dated 1546.

During the Peninsular Wars, there was a storehouse for Anglo-Portuguese army supplies in Cabeço de Montachique. The Moinho (Windmill) redoubt is located in this village, now partly ruined. It defended this secondary road route with the Achada redoubts [NOS. 60 AND 61], and was directly linked to the Montachique redoubt [NO. 55] and the Mosqueiro redoubt [NO. 57], which are part of this tour.

From the other side of Cabeço de Montachique, head towards Loures until you reach the crossroads at Casal do Andrade. From here, there is easy access to several interesting sites related to the Lines of Torres Vedras: the viewpoint at Montachique, the Montachique redoubt [NO. 55] and the Ribas Circuit, which includes the Mosqueiro redoubt [NO. 57], the Ribas redoubt [NO. 51], the military road and the Ribas Escarpment.

You have various options at Casal do Andrade. You could turn right and go up to the Alto do Mosqueiro, the highest point in the Municipality of Loures, with its superb views over the countryside. There was a signals post here, similar to the semaphore replica at Serra do Socorro (Mafra). Or you

could head for Casaínhos and visit the military works on the Ribas hills. Or, perhaps you could choose the Freixial road and visit the Montachique redoubt [NO. 55].

Alto do Mosqueiro is a basalt hill – evidence of an ancient volcanic vent. Here, you can look north across the various villages and the mosaic of the landscape to other military positions on the 2nd Line. On the western horizon is the magnificent Serra de Sintra.

To the south and east lie Caneças, Loures, Lisbon, the river Tagus and the imposing Serra da Arrábida.

The Mosqueiro redoubt [NO. 57] is the closest military fortification to this viewpoint, located just a few metres from the Alto do Andrade crossroads, at the beginning of the *Estrada do Forte*, a road which links this military position and Ribas redoubt, at the top of this hill.

As with the other sites chosen for fortification, the Mosqueiro redoubt is another example of a place from which other forts can easily be seen; access to which is difficult because of the steep incline and that can combine with other positions nearby to defend the passes at Montachique, Ribas and São Gião.

The Mosqueiro redoubt is situated in an area of marl and limestone formations dating back to the Cretaceous Period, cut through by a basalt mass. This geology can be seen in the stonework of the escarpment, where limestone and basalt were used, depending on what had been dug out from the trench which surrounds the military edifice. If you look closely, some of the limestone contains fossils of shells.

The visitor can follow the trench, where parts of the stonework from the escarpment and counter-escarpment are still in evidence. You will notice



Road and escarpment at Ribas. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

marked differences in the types of vegetation around the fort. Mediterranean creepers, alternating with plants which enjoy more humid conditions, as grown on the Serra de Sintra.

Inside the redoubt, there is a traverse (to protect the entrance), a magazine and several embrasures. From here, the visitor can observe the natural obstacles to the north which make access to the capital difficult. You will also be able to identify several military structures on the 2nd Defensive Line (e.g. the Montachique redoubt, Fort Permouro, the positions at Achada), as well as on the 1st Line, including the positions at Calhandriz. Another characteristic of this military structure is its close articulation with the Ribas escarpment [no. 1], which reinforces the line of defence along the length of the ridge, linking this military position with the Ribas redoubt [no. 51].

Next, we suggest a short trip to the Ribas redoubt, walking along the ridge on the old military road beside the Ribas escarpment. Along the way through the Loures countryside, the scenery is stunning: the heath and scrublands at the top of the hills contrasting with the patchwork of the fields below. Another characteristic of this rural area are its hedges, identical to those in the neighbouring municipalities of Sintra, Mafra and Arruda dos Vinhos. They are strangely reminiscent of certain landscapes in the Azores and the UK. In the space around the Ribas redoubt, there are many varieties of wild orchid.

The Ribas redoubt [no. 51] is worth visiting, if only for its magnificent views. Various fortifications can be seen from this point, including Montachique and Serra dos Picotinhos in the foreground, with Serra de Alrota and Calhandriz in the distance. Part of the slope was used for the trench; the escarpments are made with limestone, as is the counter-escarpment near the entrance. Inside, the footings are also in stone and are 50 cm high. This military position was built to protect the left flank of the Freixial pass, in combination with the Quadrado redoubt [no. 50] on the opposite side.

From here, you can follow the military road down the slope, until you reach the modern road. Turn right towards Fanhões or left to Ribas de Baixo,

Freixial and Bucelas. To complete your visit to the *Junction of the Lines*, we suggest that you head for Ribas de Baixo, going up to Ribas de Cima and then from here to the Parque Municipal de Montachique, where the redoubt of the same name is situated. Near the entrance to this Municipal Park, the visitor will find information about the GR30, the part of the walk that is within the municipality of Loures.

This municipal trail offers a range of open-air activities and support services, so it is an excellent place for a short pause. The Parque Municipal de Montachique is home to many species of tree: pine, eucalyptus, ash, cork and oak. Other plants include gorses, ericas and strawberry trees. In this wooded environment, there are many species of bird, including robins, tits, wrens and greater spotted woodpeckers.

Located on the inner perimeter of the park, the Montachique redoubt [NO. 55] has a walkable trench excavated in the rock and, inside the fort, a small magazine, a traverse and several gun emplacements, turned towards the São Gião valley and so defending that roadway.

To round off your explorations, you again have a choice: return to Lisbon by the EN 8 or the A8, or go down into the verdant valley of Freixial, where you can visit the church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição, the gardens, bandstand and fountain. Then head for Bucelas, famed for the variety of its restaurants and the quality of its wine.

Bucelas, capital of the *arinto* grape-growing and wine-producing region, is on the “Bucelas, Carcavelos and Colares Wine Route”. Locally, the fame of its wines is centuries old, but it was only during the Peninsular War that it



Trail near the Ribas escarpment. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML



View of Mosqueiro Redoubt and Cabeço de Montachique. Photo: Fernando Zarcos/ML

gained international recognition. Wellington took some of this local wine to present to King George III, the Prince Regent, and it was much appreciated. Thereafter, it was drunk regularly at the English Court.

The Lines of Torres Vedras Heritage and Visitors' Centre is located in the old part of the town of Bucelas (*SEE: THE GREAT PASSES TRAIL*). It offers the visitor a wealth of information on the military works located in the Municipality of Loures, as well as the circuits at Alrota/Arpim, Ribas, Picotinhos and Serves, and the GR30. [ACS, FE]

FORT FEIRA

NO.: 66

MUNICIPALITY: Mafra

GPS: 38°56'08,78"N; 09°15'18,31"W

GARRISON: 350 men

GUNS: 4 x 12 calibre*

This fort is located in the centre of a complex group of 19 redoubts which cover the roads and other access routes to Lisbon and constitute one of the greatest concentrations of redoubts on all of the Lines. It is part of the 2nd Line



Magazine. Photo: MM

and overlooks the royal road between Torres Vedras and Lisbon, as well as other roads to Mafra. Feira was in the 6th District, under the supervision of the headquarters at Mafra, whose control went as far as the Atlantic. Defence of the 6th District was under the command of Captain Ross and Lieutenant Hulme.

RIBAS REDOUBT

NO.: 51

MUNICIPALITY: Loures

GPS: 38°53'43,54"N; 09°09'43,47"W

GARRISON: 270 men

GUNS: 3 x 12 calibre

Situated in Ribas de Baixo, in the parish of Fanhões, this fort is on the 2nd Line and part of the group of field fortifications which make up the 6th District, with its headquarters in Mafra. It is situated on the top of a 300 metre high limestone platform, which was reshaped and reinforced by the construction of an escarpment along the length of the ridge and a military road alongside it. Some sections of the original road surface are still in existence. The fort defended the Freixial pass to its left, connecting directly with other military earthworks. This meant that they

could be used to defend the Ribas valley and any possible access to Fanhões or through the Freixial pass towards Bucelas, through the valley of the river Trançao. As well as defending the main roads between Mafra and Torres Vedras, its position gave it very effective control of these passes and of the platform itself, which allowed easy access to Fanhões. From this point, any visitor to the Lines can easily understand the defensive concept for this district and enjoy magnificent views of the rural landscape, which includes the juncture of the two Lines.



Escarpment and ditch. Ribas Redoubt. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

* Projectile weight in pounds, as was used at the time.

MONTACHIQUE REDOUBT

NO.: 55

MUNICIPALITY: Loures

GPS: 38°54'20,02"N; 09°11'7,71"W

GARRISON: 250 men

GUNS: 2 x 12 calibre

Situated in the Montachique Municipal Park, on the top of a rocky outcrop, 273 metres above sea level, this fort is part of a group of field fortifications on the 2nd Line, defending the 6th District. It provided a defence of the Perneiro valley, the São Gião road and, most importantly, the Mafra – Torres Vedras road, which gives access to the



Embrasure. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

Montachique pass. This military earthwork was part of a group of fortifications, which also included the Mosqueiro, Moinho and Achada redoubts.

MOSQUEIRO REDOUBT

NO.: 57

MUNICIPALITY: Loures

GPS: 38°53'55,85"N; 09°10'57,49"W

GARRISON: 270 men

GUNS: 3 x 12 calibre

Situated at Casal do Andrade, in the parish of Fanhões, this fort is on the 2nd Line and is one of a group of fortifications



Magazine. Photo: Florbela Estêvão/ML

defending the 6th District. Built on the summit of a rocky outcrop, 337 metres above sea level, its objective was to defend the pass at Montachique, covering the right side of that valley. Along with the fortifications at Ribas, Montachique and Achada, it overlooked the main access routes between Mafra and Loures, Mafra/Montachique/Freixial. Near the signals post at Cabeço de Montachique, the fort had the advantage of some exceptional views, taking in many of the fortifications on both the defensive lines. These include Serra do Socorro in the far distance, where the main signal station for the Lines was located.

LEISURE

**MALVEIRA MARKET**

[Mafra]

→ Every Thursday

Successor to the annual livestock fair, which was held from the end of the 18th century, this popular weekly market is held in the centre of Malveira. Its soundtrack is the sound of the stallholders' cries as they sell everything imaginable: from local fruit and vegetables to clothing, furniture, handicrafts and antiques.

CABEÇO DE MONTACHIQUE MUNICIPAL PARK

[Loures]

Cabeço de Montachique – Fanhões

2670-000 Lousa LRS

TEL.: [+351] 211 151 531

FAX: [+351] 211 151 774

E-MAIL: parque_montachique@cm-loures.pt

WEBSITE: www.cm-loures.pt

GPS: 38°54'06,88"N; 09°11'09,15"W

Thirty-two hectares of Mediterranean forest, with sports facilities, two football pitches and four tennis courts. There is also a sports hall with table tennis, swimming pool, a space for traditional games, a fitness circuit, nature rambles and orienteering, a picnic area and a café /restaurant. Visit the “iron water” springs.



HOW TO GET THERE



- From Lisbon or Porto, take the A8 and then the A21, getting off at Mafr Este.
- From Faro, take the Via do Infante, then the A12 to Lisboa, then the A21, getting off at Mafr Este.



- Mafrense.



MAFRA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Palácio Nacional de Mafra – Torreão sul
Terreiro D. João V

GPS: 38°56'11,10"N; 09°19'37,28"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 817 170

FAX: [+351] 261 817 179

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-mafra.pt

OPENING HOURS: Every day:
9:30 am – 1pm / 2:30pm – 6 pm

ERICEIRA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Rua Dr. Eduardo Burnay, 46

GPS: 38°57'46,50"N; 09°25'01,00"W

TEL.: [+351] 261 863 122

FAX: [+351] 261 864 136

E-MAIL: turismo@cm-mafra.pt

OPENING HOURS: Every day: 10 am – 6 pm

The National Palace of Mafra is the perfect place to begin a tour of the section of the historic Lines of Torres Vedras that runs from the town to the coast. This building was one of the most important settings for events in the Peninsular Wars, with many key moments having taken place here during the Napoleonic invasions of Portugal.

The Royal Palace at Mafra had been a royal residence since 1805, when the Prince Regent, Dom João, converted part of it for his family's use. He sought refuge here from family problems and, more importantly, from the intense political pressure exerted by France and England on the Portuguese colonies overseas. There are many written accounts and stories of Dom João's stay in Mafra, including the one concerning the six organs in the Basilica, ordered from Machado de Cerveira e Peres Fontana, and inaugurated in October 1807. With the coming of the French Invasions, there began a disorderly process that led to the organs being dismantled, especially the one dedicated to São Pedro de Alcântara. After a lengthy restoration, they are now back in use and can regularly be seen and heard in concerts.

It was in the Royal Palace of Mafra that the decision was taken for the flight to Brazil. Planning and preparations for the voyage took place in Mafra from the summer of 1807 onwards, including several Councils of State. Having exhausted all other options and given the rapid approach of the Napoleonic armies, the only course of action open to the Royal family was for them to travel to Brazil to avoid the King being deposed.

During the First French Invasion, Mafra became a military headquarters, initiating a use that persists to this day. On 8th December 1807, a Division of the French army was installed in the Palace, under the command of the feared General Loison, popularly known as "Maneta" ("the Man with One Hand"). The presence of the French army in Mafra had a huge impact on the population. They were subjected to constant demands for goods and provisions, their houses were occupied and there was constant conflict and unrest. A local diarist, Eusébio Gomes, relates some of the incidents that occurred during the French

occupation. The most striking of these is his account of the execution of a Palace servant, Jacinto Correia, who had revolted against the constant, excessive demands of the French soldiers. In the Jardim da Alameda, the avenue of gardens to the south of the Mafra Palace, near the place where Jacinto Correia was put to death on 26th January 1808, there is a commemorative plaque, inscribed with his last words: “If everyone had done as I did, there would not be a single Frenchman left alive”.

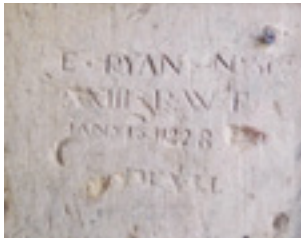


National Palace of Mafra. Photo: MM

The end of the First Invasion was also declared in Mafra. On the 2nd September 1808, the English army entered Mafra accompanied by the peal of the bells. An infantry brigade and a cavalry detachment remained in the town.

After 1809, Mafra continued to play an important part in the French Invasions, especially in the construction of the defensive fortifications. Colonel Fletcher, Commander of the Royal Engineers on the Lines of Torres Vedras, had two Adjutants: Engineer Captain Guilherme Rossi, based in Mafra, in charge of the main line of fortifications (which came to be the 2nd), and Engineer Lieutenant Rice Jones, based in the town of Ericeira. The Figueira Militia Regiment collaborated in the construction of the forts. They were stationed in Mafra and were to work on the redoubts on the 2nd Line.

On the eve of the Invasions, in October 1810, part of Mafra Palace was also converted into a Military Hospital, using the Monastery Infirmary. The Tapada de Mafra (the King’s hunting grounds) was extensively used to supply wood and to keep and tend the herds of livestock needed to supply the British army.



Private E. Ryan’s inscription, from the 13th Regiment of Royal Welsh Fusiliers, at the Practical School of Infantry, Mafra. Photo: MM

In May 1811, at the end of the Third Invasion, Marshal Beresford requested of

Dom Miguel Pereira Forjaz that the Recruitment Centre (which had probably been in existence since 1809) in the “Royal Palace and Monastery of Mafra” be officially recognised. This has retained its teaching and training functions to this day and is now known as the “Practical School of Infantry”, founded in 1887.

To see where these events took place, you must visit the Mafra Palace. In the South Cloister, you can visit the Mafra Heritage and Visitors’ Centre in the atrium, next to the Tourist Office. There is a lot more information about the history of the French Invasions in Mafra, including a film and various other media, in this Centre. Enjoy a tour of the Mafra National Palace while you are here. There is a great deal of interesting evidence of the presence of King João’s Court, including ceilings painted by Cirilo Volkmar Machado and the “Invasions Room”, where there is a collection of paintings related to the theme on display. If you pre-book, you can even visit the Museum of the Practical School of Infantry, which has a military flavour, and visit Fort Juncal, in the Tapada da Mafra. This is the only fort on the Lines of Torres Vedras that is still used by the military.

Leaving the Monastery for the Lines, you will find many of the 2nd Line forts, a considerable part being constructed within the Municipality of Mafra, from the Atlantic coast to the heights of the Tapada.

The importance of this area led to the construction of a large number of redoubts, originally the left of the main defensive line. Work in Mafra was carried out between February and October 1810, with all the forts having been constructed at the time of the French Invasion, in contrast to what took place in other sections.

It is possible to visit selected parts of the 2nd Line, especially the Carvoeira Circuit near the Atlantic coast. Leave the Monastery Palace, going straight ahead along Rua José Elias Garcia, passing through Largo do Pelourinho, until you reach Vila Velha. You will see the



Church of Santo André, formerly Mafra’s parish church, near Gorcinhos. Photo: MM

old Mafra parish church of Santo André, which was built by Don Diogo de Sousa and his wife, Dona Violante Lopes Pacheco. It is Gothic and dates from the beginning of the 14th century. Carry on past the cemetery and, after going across two roundabouts, carry on straight ahead, leaving Mafra by the EM 549 in the direction of Carvoeira, passing through Gorcinhos (where Jacinto Correia confronted the French in 1808) to the village of Zambujal. There is a sign for Fort Zambujal. You can

continue in the car (following the road signs) or go on foot, parking your car in the signposted car park in the Lizandro valley and then hiking up the steep slope of “Serra Gorda” to the fort.

Fort Zambujal [NO. 95] has a different layout to the other forts on the Lines. It is a combination of a central redoubt and an advance battery. These structures are surrounded by a protective trench and joined by a tunnel and a walled walkway. This fort was the subject of an intensive campaign of excavation and restoration and it has information panels about all the principal elements of the fort, as well as the findings of the archaeological digs. These include a palisade and a wooden artillery platform.

These forts, São Julião [NO. 97], Carvoeira [NO. 96] and Zambujal [NO. 95], were known as the Carvoeira group. They were to the south of the 2nd Line and were autonomous, having as their objectives: the defence of the beaches of Lizandro and São Julião; support for the English fleet; control of the Ericeira – Sintra road.

Fort Zambujal defended the Fonte Boa da Brincosa pass, the valley of Senhora do Porto (or *Senhora do Ó*) and the Carvoeira road. From this fort, you can enjoy the scenery of the Lizandro valley immediately below you, with its cultivated fields and interesting historical buildings.



View of Lizandro valley from Fort Zambujal.
Photo: MM



Tunnel. Fort Zambujal. Photo: MM



Historical re-enactment, 2010. Fort Zambujal. Photo: MM



Chapel of São Julião, near the fort of the same name. Photo: MM

There is the Senhora do Ó medieval bridge, probably dating from the 14th century to cross from one bank of the river Lizandro to the other. Next to the medieval bridge is the church of Nossa Senhora da Expectação do Porto da Carvoeira (also known Our Lady of Ó), also of probable medieval origin, although what we see now is the result of an extensive restoration in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Known as Ribeira de Cheleiros or simply as the river Lizandro, this watercourse boasts a quay near the Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Ó, where it is believed that cargoes of coal were once loaded for transport to the capital. This is the land of legendary hermits, who sought isolation on the inhospitable cliffs of São Julião. It is said that the locals watched over the sea, using a signalling system which tradition places in the Middle Ages and which is justifiable given the Moorish threat, although it must have previously been related to marine navigation. It was one of the São Julião hermits who originated the legend of a “King Sebastian” at the end of the 16th century (Mateus Álvares). The revolt was later crushed by the army of King Filipe in the Senhora do Ó valley and the false “Sebastian” was executed.

To finish your tour, head for the Atlantic and the most southerly section of the

2nd Line. Retake the EM 549 in the direction of Carvoeira. Once there, turn right on to the EN 247, towards Sintra. Further up the road you will come to a crossroads signposted for São Julião /Valbom. When you reach Valbom, go through the village and, near a geodesic marker, you will see Fort São Julião.

Situated to the south of Ericeira, on the high ground near Valbom, between the beaches of São Julião and Lizandro, Fort São Julião would clearly have been in contact with the English Navy, who closed the defence of the Lines in the Atlantic. There was a telegraphic station which communicated between ships and land, linked to the Fort Lagoa [no. 90] signal post, to the north, and to Fort Sonível [no. 75], to the east. [ACS]



Mouth of river Lizandro with Fort São Julião in the distance. Photo: MM

FORT ZAMBUJAL

NO.: 95

MUNICIPALITY: Mafra

GPS: 38°56'57,74"N; 09°23'21,98"W

GARRISON: 250 men

GUNS: 2 x 12 calibre*

This fort defended the pass at Fonte Boa da Brincosa, the valley of Senhora do Porto (otherwise known as Senhora do Ó) and the Carvoeira road. It is a mixed construction, comprising a central redoubt and a forward battery, making it



Access structure at Fort Zambujal. Project by João Seabra Gomes.
Tunnel exit and walled access. Photo: MM

one of the most elaborate structures on the 2nd Line.

Access to the battery area is via a tunnel through the rock.

In the visitors' area, some of the original steps are still in existence.

This is a unique structure on the Lines, along with the walled access to the battery. This construction combines excavation of the rock with a stone wall, making it one of the most noteworthy parts of this fort.

Facing the control and defence points of Zambujal Fort is the battery, where the two artillery pieces in the fort's arsenal were sited.

This structure is also surrounded by a trench and was linked to the road by a palisade, as archaeological excavations have shown.

The platform where the artillery pieces were positioned consists of 4 cannon emplacements in the wall and a wooden platform, all of which have been uncovered during archaeological digs.

* Projectile weight in pounds, as was used at the time.

FORT SÃO JULIÃO

NO.: 97

MUNICIPALITY: Mafra

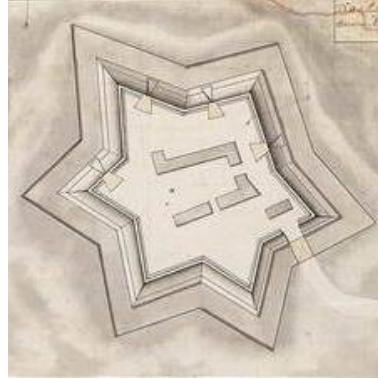
GPS: 38°56'13,55"N; 09°24'47,81"W

GARRISON: 350 men

GUNS: 2 (calibre 12)

Fort São Julião is an earthwork in the shape of a star. Documentation describes 4 cannon positions, one of which is near the entrance.

There is also a signals mast, which is part of the communications system for the Lines of Torres Vedras. The yardarm probably rotated to communicate with the north [LAGOA, NO. 80], the east [SONÍVEL, NO. 77] and, possibly, the west, thus communicating with any English squadron which may have been anchored in the Atlantic, near the beach



Plan by Lourenço Homem (c. 1820). GEA/DIE Collection

at São Julião. Fort São Julião, in conjunction with the other Carvoeira redoubts, was to cover any withdrawal by way of the estuary of the river Lizandro and the Carvoeira road. [SEE NO. 95]

MAFRA HERITAGE CENTRE.

Located in the Mafra National Palace, next to the Tourist Information Office, this magnificent building was of special significance during the French Invasions. In 1807, during the Junot's First Invasion, Mafra Palace was the home of the Portuguese Royal Family. It was later occupied by the French, Spanish, British and Portuguese armies. Between December 1807 and September 1808, Mafra Palace and Convent was used as the headquarters of the French, under the command of Loison. From 1809, Mafra continued to play an important part in the



Mafra Heritage Centre. Photo: MM

French Invasions, particularly in the construction of the defensive fortifications and, in October 1810, the



Mafra Heritage and Visitors' Centre. Photos: MM

Military Hospital was installed here. At the end of the 3rd Invasion, in May 1811, Marshal Beresford requested permission of Don Miguel Pereira Forjaz for the establishment of the Mafra Recruitment Centre. This teaching and training capability still exists today through the Escola Prática de Infantaria, which was created in 1887. The theme of the exhibitions at the Heritage centre is based around the various military forces present in Mafra during the Peninsular War and their impact on the town and its surroundings. The Heritage and Visitors' Centre is divided into two. In the part concerned with the Peninsular War, the visitor can watch a film which portrays the main events that affected Mafra during the Napoleonic Invasions. In the part covering the Lines of Torres Vedras, the visitor will find more details accounts and descriptions of their story and fortifications and so choose where to go and what to visit.

MAFRA HERITAGE AND VISITORS' CENTRE
MAFRA TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Terreiro D. João V

2640 – 492 Mafra

TEL.: [+351] 261 817 170 /261 819 711

GPS: 38°56'11,10"N; 09°19'37,28"W

OPENING HOURS: Every day:

9:30 am – 1 pm /2:30 pm – 6 pm

Closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Easter Sunday, 1st May, Municipal Holiday (Ascension Day)

E-MAIL: arqueologia@cm-mafra.pt

WEBSITE: www.cm-mafra.pt

EVENTS**PROCESSION IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF NAZARÉ
OR PRATA GRANDE PROCESSION**

[Mafra and Nazaré]

→ 3rd Saturday in September

The most important religious festival in the municipality, this procession has been in existence since the 18th century and involves various municipal communities who receive the statue of Our Lady once every 17 years for them to carry to Nazaré. The statue is passed to the next parish on this day. One of the distinctive features of this event, apart from the carriage and horse parades, is the recital of the Procession Songs, a performance involving religious speeches and chants.

“ESPIGA” DAY OR ASCENSION DAY

[Mafra]

→ 40 days after Easter

Celebration of Christ’s Ascension into heaven, this festival is associated with the blessing of the fields, the renewal of the life cycle, the blossoming of spring and Nature’s revitalisation. This municipal holiday is marked by a walk through the countryside and the picking of a variety of flowers and grasses that make up the “espiga” (bouquet) that is reputed to bring happiness and plenty to the household for the year to come.

LENT CELEBRATIONS

[Mafra]

Of the four large Lenten processions in Maфра, the “Terceiros” and “Dores de Nossa Senhora” (locally known as “Burrinha”) stand out for their artistic and traditional content. The former, inaugurated by King João V in 1740, and the work of the sculptor, Manuel Dias, is the largest contemporary display of Joanine splendour and takes place on the fourth Sunday of Lent. The latter, inaugurated in 1786, is the latest work by the Maфра School of Sculpture and it attracts a variety of scenes, which are carried through the streets on large wooden platforms. This takes place on Palm Sunday.





The Duke of Wellington. Portrait by Francisco Goya, 1812-1814. National Gallery, London

ARTHUR WELLESLEY
1st DUKE OF WELLINGTON
 (1769–1852)

Arthur Wellesley was one of the most famous 18th century military chiefs. He defeated Napoleon in the Peninsular Wars and, finally, at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. He became known as the “Iron Duke” and his important place in the history of Portugal is unquestionable, having emerged victorious in all three of the Napoleonic invasions of the country. He was granted the titles of Count of Vimeiro, Marquis of Torres Vedras and Duke of Vitoria by the grateful Portuguese king, and is the only foreigner ever to be invested as a duke. He was sent to Portugal in 1808 and defeated the French troops at Rolíça and Vimeiro in the same August. The following year, he was victorious again at the Battle

of the Douro, thus liberating the north of the country. His name is synonymous with the construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras, which confirmed his status as one of the great military strategists. During the 3rd Invasion, with the enemy bearing down upon the Lines, he established his headquarters in Pero Negro, between the Great Fort at Alqueidão (his Command Post) and Monte do Socorro, where his central communications station was situated. His military acumen ensured the systematic exhaustion of the French troops and the impregnability of the defensive system constructed to the north of Lisbon led to the withdrawal of Napoleon’s invading army led by His Marshal, André Massena.

WILLIAM CARR BERESFORD
 (1768–1854)

Commander-in-Chief of the Portuguese Army from March 1809 until the Liberal Revolt in 1820, William Beresford carried out this important role during the self-imposed exile to Brazil of the Portuguese Court (1808-1821). Appointed Marshal in March 1809 by the Regency Council, he came from Britain to reorganise the Portuguese army after the 1st French Invasion, making it ready to face any new onslaughts by Napoleonic troops. The Prince Regent, Don João, granted him the titles of 1st Count Trancoso (1811) and 1st Marquis of Campo Maior (1812).



William Carr Beresford, Count of Trancoso. Engraving by Francesco Bartolozzi, 1812. Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal Collection



The Marquis de la Romana. Portrait by Vicente Lopez y Portaña, ca. 1800-10. From: Magnus Mörner – *El marqués de la Romana y el Mariscal Bernardotte*. Villa y Corte: Centro de Estudios Políticos y Constitucionales, 2005

An energetic administrator, he was Arthur Wellesley's favourite lieutenant. At the height of the 3rd Invasion, he established his headquarters at Casal Cochim (Sapataria), a short ride from the quarters of the Supreme Commander of the Anglo-Portuguese forces.

PEDRO CARO Y SUREDA
MARQUIS DE LA ROMANA
 (1761-1811)

The 3rd Marquis de La Romana was a highly educated man, having attended the most famous of the Spanish military schools and academies and studied both languages and mathematics. He started his career in the Navy, only later transferring to the Army, where he achieved the rank of General. In July 1810 and already in command of the *Ejército de la Izquierda*, La Romana signed an agreement with Wellington that promised mutual and reciprocal support. During the 3rd Napoleonic Invasion, he fought alongside the Anglo-Portuguese army, taking up a position with his two Spanish Divisions (roughly 8,000 men) between the 1st and 2nd Lines, first at Enxara dos Cavaleiros and later in Cartaxo, where he died on 23 January, before the end of the 3rd Invasion of Portugal. Wellington wrote of him: "I have lost a colleague, a friend and an adviser, with whom I had lived on the happiest terms of friendship, intimacy and confidence".

JEAN-ANDOCHE JUNOT

(1771–1813)

French Ambassador to Portugal since April 1805, Junot was well-acquainted with the country, the political class and Portuguese customs. When Napoleon entrusted him with the mission to invade Portugal (following its lack of respect for the Continental Blockade), Junot took command of the Gironde Observation Corps, an army of roughly 26,000 men that crossed Spain into Portugal on 19th November 1807.



Jean-Andoche Junot. French engraving, 19th century

They arrived in Lisbon on the 30th, just too late to capture the Royal Family, who had set sail for Brazil. He thus occupied the orphaned nation. Military defeats at Roliça and Vimeiro in August 1808 forced the French troops to withdraw from Portugal, under the terms of the Convention of Cintra. In 1810, during the 3rd Invasion, Junot re-entered the country in command of the VIII Corps of *l'Armée de Portugal*, under Marshal

Massena. In front of the Lines of Torres Vedras, his advance guard attacked Spencer's posts in Sobral de Monte Agraço and succeeded in occupying the town. Two days later, Junot attempted to breach the allied lines near Seramena, on the Sobral – Bucelas road. This offensive failed and resulted in the loss of more than a hundred men. He remained in front of the Lines until the 15th November, when the invading army commenced its retreat. On 17th January 1811, he was badly wounded in the face by a bullet during his troops' occupation of Rio Maior.

ANDRÉ MASSENA

(1758–1817)

André Massena, Prince of Essling, Duke of Rivoli, was one of eighteen Imperial Marshals. He was an ambitious soldier and a brilliant military tactician. Napoleon referred to him as the “Dear Child of Victory”. As Commander of the 3rd Invasion of Portugal in 1810, he was venturing into a country completely unknown to him, accompanied by discontented and argumentative subordinate generals, Junot and Ney, in particular. Commander-in Chief of the largest army of the three Napoleonic invasions (roughly 57,000 men), he took Almeida on 28th August 1810 after a short siege. He was defeated by Wellington on the 27th September at the Battle of Bussaco,



André Massena. French engraving, 19th century

but he still managed to bypass the hills and reach Coimbra. His *Armée de Portugal* was then confronted by the Lines of Torres Vedras and it became clear that he would not be able to complete the mission given to him by Napoleon. His position was further exacerbated by the success of the English General's scorched earth policy and he began his final retreat from the country in March 1811. The failure of this invasion of Portugal effectively marked the end of his otherwise illustrious military career.

JOSÉ MARIA DAS NEVES COSTA
(1774-1841)

Officer in the Portuguese Royal Corps of Engineers, gifted draughtsman and a specialist in military cartography, Neves da Costa was responsible for the military mapping of the Lisbon region – a feat which he achieved in only three months (end of 1808 /beginning of 1809). This, along with his study of the defensive

positions of the land surrounding and to the north of Lisbon (May 1810), was the basis of Wellington's plan for the construction of the Lines of Torres Vedras.

RICHARD FLETCHER
(1768-1813)

Military engineer and Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army, Fletcher assumed command of His Majesty's Royal Engineering Corps in Portugal. In 1809, Wellington's famous dispatch made him responsible for the fortification works which would become the Lines of Torres Vedras. His adjutant was Captain John Thomas Jones, who replaced him in 1810 when Wellington ordered him to join him. In the final stages of the Peninsular War he oversaw the sieges of the cities of Pamplona and San Sebastian, where he died in action.



Portrait of Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Fletcher. English painting, 19th century. Royal Engineers Museum, Kent

	PORTUGAL DURING THE PENINSULAR WARS	THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS
1806	21 NOVEMBER: Napoleon imposes a Continental Blockade.	
	27 OCTOBER: Treaty of Fontainebleau, signed by France and Spain, proposes the division of Portuguese territory into three parts.	
	17 NOVEMBER: French troops under the command of Junot enter Portugal through the Beira Baixa.	
	29 NOVEMBER: The Royal Family set sail for Brazil from Belém.	
	30 NOVEMBER: The French advance troops arrive in Lisbon.	
1808	2 MAY: Uprising against the Napoleonic invaders by the Spanish population in Madrid.	Survey of the terrain carried out by the Chief of the French Engineering Corps, Colonel Vincent, on the orders of Junot.
	9 MAY: Don João, the Prince Regent, formally declares war against France and recognises the friendship of his old, faithful ally: Great Britain.	
	17 AUGUST: Battle of Roliça: The French, commanded by General Laborde, retreat after facing a smaller Anglo-Portuguese army (roughly 14,000 men).	
	21 AUGUST: Battle of Vimeiro: Defeat of the French army under Junot's command.	
	30 AUGUST: Convention of Cintra. Negotiations as to the withdrawal of the French army from Portugal which allowed them to take the spoils they had looted with them.	
	15 SEPTEMBER: Embarkation of Junot's Napoleonic troops.	
1809	6 MARCH: The French army, under the command of Marshal Soult, enters Portugal through Chaves.	After the 1 st French Invasion, Morais Antas Machado presents a memorandum on the fortification of Lisbon.
	29 MARCH: The Ponte das Barcas disaster takes place during the attack on the city of Oporto.	
	18 APRIL-2 MAY: General Silveira's Portuguese forces defend the bridge at Amarante.	10 APRIL: Construction of fortifications in Torres Vedras, later part of the 1 st Line
	18 MAY: Soult's French army withdraws from Portugal through Montalegre.	24 MAY: Neves Costa presents his memorandum with plans for the defence of Lisbon.
		6 JUNE: Neves Costa delivers his memorandum to the Secretary of the Regency Council at the Ministry of War.
	20 OCTOBER: Wellington's Memorandum to Lt. Col. Fletcher describing the survey and construction of the defensive system	
	3-8 NOVEMBER: Work commences on the larger fortifications: São Julião da Barra, Alqueidão and St. Vincent's forts.	
1810		5-10 FEBRUARY: Wellesley and Fletcher visit the Lines and construction work intensifies.
		17 FEBRUARY: Work started at Mafra, Ericeira, Montachique, Bucelas, Vialonga, Alhandra, Ponte do Rol and São Pedro da Cadeira.

PORTUGAL DURING THE PENINSULAR WARS		THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LINES OF TORRES VEDRAS	
3 RD INVASION	17 APRIL: Napoleon creates l'Armée de Portugal by Imperial decree.		
	25 APRIL: Start of the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo.		
	29 APRIL: André Massena is appointed Commander-in-Chief of l'Armée de Portugal .		
	10 MAY: Massena reaches Valladolid, where he joins the troops that will become part of l'Armée de Portugal.		
	10 JULY: The fall of Ciudad Rodrigo.	6 JULY: Captain John Jones replaces Lt. Col. Fletcher as commander of the Royal Engineers. Reinforcement of the 1 st defensive Line and additional complementary work.	
	24 JULY: Battle of Rio Côa. French army, under Marshal Massena, enter Portugal. First action by the Portuguese army under Beresford's command.		
	15 AUGUST: Start of the siege of Almeida.		
	28 AUGUST: Almeida surrenders.		
	27 SEPTEMBER: The Battle of Buçaco: a victory for the Anglo-Portuguese army commanded by Arthur Wellesley and the subsequent withdrawal of allied troops to the Lines of Torres Vedras.	AUGUST-OCTOBER: On Wellington's orders, positions reinforced at Torres Vedras and Sobral de Monte Agraço.	
	7 OCTOBER: Advance troops from the allied forces take up positions along the Lines.		
	1810	7-9 OCTOBER: Advance troops from the Napoleonic army reach the 1 st Line.	Before the French army arrived at the Lines, 126 fortifications were constructed and work was to continue until 1812, when 152 fortifications had been completed.
		10 OCTOBER: Engagement at Alenquer. The French army arrive at the Lines of Torres Vedras, two days after the allies.	
		12 OCTOBER: Engagement in Sobral de Monte Agraço, followed by skirmishes over the next two days. The French emerge the victors of the confrontation in the centre of the town. The headquarters of l'Armée de Portugal established in front of the Lines.	
		13 OCTOBER: Engagement at Dois Portos (Torres Vedras). A French Division is attacked by an allied Battalion.	
		14 OCTOBER: Engagement at Seramena (Sobral de Monte Agraço). French artillery assaults the Anglo-Portuguese barricades.	
		14-16 OCTOBER: Engagements around Alhandra. French attacks are repulsed by the 12 th Portuguese Infantry Regiment.	
	28 OCTOBER: Engagement at Bulhaco.		
	1 NOVEMBER: Engagement at Runa.		
	14 NOVEMBER: Start of Massena's army's retreat, which lasted until the 19 th .		
1811	4 MARCH: Start of the withdrawal of l'Armée de Portugal from Portuguese territory.		
	4-8 APRIL: The French army, under the command of Marshal Massena, crosses the Portuguese frontier at Aldeia do Bispo.		
	10 MAY: Evacuation of the French garrison at Almeida, led by General Brénier. Napoleonic troops finally abandon Portugal.		
	17 DECEMBER: Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington, is created 1 st Marquis of Torres Vedras.		



Illustrations by Pedro Ramos/MM

1. DITCH

The ditch is an obstacle constructed by excavating the ground to the front of the rampart so as to hinder the approach of the enemy. It may be reinforced with palisades

2. SCARP AND COUNTERSCARP

Outer ditch wall.

3. RAMPART

A type of defensive wall consisting of a low earthen embankment topped by a parapet or palisade. It was built using the spoil dug out of the ditch. In some cases the rampart partially consists of a stone wall or a palisade. The structure serves to hide the maneuvering of the guns from the enemy and as protection from musket and rifle fire.

4. BANQUETTE

A small, step-like elevation of packed earth immediately behind and at the foot of the parapet, high enough to enable defenders to fire over the top.

5. PLACE OF ARMS

An open area in a fortress where troops could assemble.

6. TRAVERSE

A packed earth construction designed to shield the troops from enemy fire.

7. EMBRASURE

Opening in the outer wall where the artillery pieces (cannon) were placed.

8. PLATFORM

Wooden base for artillery.

A. SHARP-SHOOTER**B. FIREARMS**

The riflemen used Baker rifles and Brown Bess muskets.

C. ARTILLERY

