



# WATER IN ÉVORA

Central Elevatória  
de Água

UNIDADE MUSEOLÓGICA  
Rede de Equipamentos  
Culturais Municipais



## CREDITS

**PRODUCTION**  
Divisão de Cultura e Património

**TEXTS**  
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2022

PRODUCTION:



PARTNERSHIP:



## PERMANENT EXHIBITION

**CEA - MUSEOLOGICAL UNITY  
CENTRAL PUMPING STATION**  
Rua do Menino Jesus  
T. +351 266 777 072  
E-mail: cme.dcp@cm-evora.pt

**SCHEDULE**  
Monday to Friday  
09H00 - 12H30 / 13H30 - 16H30  
Closed weekends and holidays

**FREI MANUEL DO CENÁCULO  
NATIONAL MUSEUM**  
Largo do Conde de Vila Flor

**SCHEDULE**  
Tuesdays to Sundays  
09H30 - 13H00 / 14H00 - 17H30

## ROUTES



INTRAMURAL ROUTE



**1 ÁGUA DA PRATA AQUEDUCT**



**2 ROMAN BATHS**



**3 RUA NOVA WATER BOX**



**4 PRAÇA DE GIRALDO WATER FOUNTAIN**



**5 PAÇO REAL DE ÉVORA**



**6 PORTA DE MOURA WATER FOUNTAIN**



**7 LARGO DO ESPÍRITO SANTO STANDPIPE**



**8 FREI MANUEL DO CENÁCULO NATIONAL MUSEUM**



**9 ROMAN TEMPLE**



**10 CENTRAL PUMPING STATION MUSEOLOGICAL UNITY**



EXTRAMURES ROUTE



**1 PORTA NOVA WATER FOUNTAIN**



**2 LEÕES FOUNTAIN**



**3 D'EL REI FOUNTAIN**



**4 ROSSIO DE S. BRÁS WATER FOUNTAIN**



**5 NOVA WATER FOUNTAIN**



**6 CONVENTO DOS REMÉDIOS CLOISTER FOUNTAIN**



**7 DAS BRAVAS FOUNTAIN**

**Routes and Memories of Water in Évora** is an itinerary of a historical nature, of public enjoyment of the municipal hydraulic heritage and of its collection of pieces, kept by the National Museum Frei Manuel do Cenáculo.



1 ÁGUA DA PRATA AQUEDUCT



Started without much effort, around 1490, during the reign of D. João II, and resumed without success, at the end of the life of D. Manuel I, his construction work finally took place, between 1533 and 1539. Having the first Água da Prata, from Divor, arrived in Évora on March 29, 1537, symbolically a "foot wash Thursday". The person responsible for the work was the experienced Manueline master of construction Francisco de Arruda.

2 ROMAN BATHS



The thermal complex is located in the urban space of the former Palácio dos Condes de Sortelha (today the current building of the City Hall of Évora), an area known in the Middle Ages as "Castelo Velho" and associated with the legend of the castle or headquarters of Sertório. Of the remaining archaeological remnants, the *Laconicum* (hot bath zone), the *Praefurnium* (furnace) and *Natatio* (cold water pool, now buried for conservation reasons) stand out. The roman baths date from the 1st century and worked at least until the 4th century.

3 RUA NOVA WATER BOX



Hydraulic structure of the Aqueduct with functions of aeration, decantation and visitation. It has the shape of a small classical temple, with possible symbolic association with the water's end point near the walls, in the memory of the Roman "Castle of Water". Dated work from the years 1536/37, it is attributed to the architect Miguel de Arruda.

4 PRAÇA DE GIRALDO WATER FOUNTAIN



Imposing marble pyramid water fountain, dedicated to the young King D. Sebastião, with whom the Cardinal-Infante D. Henrique, his great-uncle, dismantled the facade of the Church of Santo Antão, near which it was located (until 1570) the previous fountain that received the first silver water. The work, already finished in 1571, is due to the architect Afonso Álvares.

5 PAÇO REAL DE ÉVORA AQUEDUCT TERMINAL TORRINHA



Classic turret (Torrinha) of great artistic beauty. Unfortunately disappeared in 1873, it was built around 1539, to supply the Paço Real and the Monastery of São Francisco; work probably due to the architect Miguel de Arruda, in partnership with the sculptor Nicolau Chanterene.

EVORA. 8 - (PORTUGAL). AQUEDUTO DO SERTÓRIO. F. A. Martins - Lisbon • Chronology: 19th century (previous to 1873) • Photographic Archive Municipal • 14 x 9 cm

6 PORTA DE MOURA WATER FOUNTAIN



Piece of marble of great beauty, already in a mannerist shape, ordered to be erected in 1556 by Cardinal-Infante D. Henrique, with the contribution of the local residents as it is one of the main squares in the city. Its form, very erudite, underlined by the quotation of a biblical psalm, is due to Diogo de Torralva.

7 LARGO DO ESPÍRITO SANTO STANDPIPE



This is a piece in wrought iron, characteristic of the time (1895), built by public subscription and that initially received water from the Aqueduct.

8 FREI MANUEL DO CENÁCULO NATIONAL MUSEUM



It displays a set of epigraphs forged in the 16th century, to highlight both the classic origins of the city and its historical protagonists. Three of these tombstones are dedicated to the Aqueduct and its Roman origins. As well as a marble lion, which was reused as a decorative piece in the primitive fountain in Praça Grande, between 1537 and 1570; and a fragment of a lead pipe (*fistula plumbea*), with the municipal inscription LIB IVL (*Liberalitas Iulia*), which shows that Roman Eborá already had household water distribution.

9 ROMAN TEMPLE



It is one of the oldest monuments in the city, located at the highest point of ancient *Eborá Liberalitas Iulia*. It was an integral part of the great public square (*Forum*), circumscribed by a vast porticada gallery, and would have a water mirror surrounding it. The Roman Temple, dating from the 1st century and dedicated to the imperial cult (and not to the goddess Diana), it was freed from the medieval adventitious structure that kept it for many centuries as a slaughterhouse.

10 CENTRAL PUMPING STATION MUSEOLOGICAL UNITY



A set of infrastructures that has survived over time and which testifies the great technical innovation that made it possible to ensure the first home water distribution system in the city. Work from 1933, with a project by engineer Castro Cabrita and construction by engineer Vergílio Preto. At its headquarters, which is the old pumping station, a set of water meters is displayed. Material legacy of the municipality that illustrates the technical evolution of measuring the flow of water for public consumption, during the 20th century.

1 PORTA NOVA WATER FOUNTAIN



Replaced twice in different places, it received water from the Aqueduct. In 1866, it was removed from Largo da Porta Nova (now Largo Luís de Camões) to Praça Joaquim António d'Aguar. In the 20's of the last century, for reasons of urban requalification of this square, it was again removed and placed in Largo da Porta de Avis. It is a work of 1573, attributed to Afonso Álvares or Mateus Neto.

2 LEÕES FOUNTAIN



Spring water retention tank, decorated with two marble lions from Roman chronology, from the primitive fountain of the old Praça Grande (1537-1570). It was originally supplied by **Poço Novo do Pombal (2.1)**, already documented in 1341, and it is already the front fountain, called **Chafariz de São Bartolomeu (2.2)**, from the beginning of the 16th century. Work known since the end of the 15th century or early 16th century.

3 D'EL REI FOUNTAIN



Built during the reign of King Manuel I, when the king was in Évora (1497), it presents the Cross of Christ and the royal arms. Its location, taking advantage of good and abundant spring water, is related to the important path that, leaving the old Porta da Mesquita, went to Portel and Moura.

4 ROSSIO DE S. BRÁS WATER FOUNTAIN



Set built in the Philippine period, after the expropriation of a public well as a cavalry fountain. It received the water from the Aqueduct and the leftovers supplied a huge tank, the water of which came out of the mouth of one of the Roman lions, now in the care of the Museum.

5 NOVA WATER FOUNTAIN



Fountain dated from 1793, located below Rossio de São Brás, which takes advantage of a source of calcareous water.

6 CONVENTO DOS REMÉDIOS CLOISTER FOUNTAIN



Like all the major religious and civil buildings in the city, it received water from the Aqueduct, through a fountain located at the Porta de Alconchel, demolished in the 1960's, in the context of the construction of the Salesian Church of Our Lady Help of Christians (Nossa Senhora Auxiliadora). In the conventual cloister, the 17th century fountain and the cistern of private use of Carmelitas Descalços are still standing.

7 DAS BRAVAS FOUNTAIN



Name of medieval origin: Bravas was the name given to women who provoked contempt. Hydraulic structure to support travelers, known since the 14th century, already in the current configuration in the illumination of the Foral de Évora of 1501. In 1891, one of its tanks was adapted to a public washroom; there, during the first decades of the 20th century, there was the first public swimming pool, called Balneário das Bravas, built at the expense of Francisco Eduardo de Barahona.