

PLACES TO VISIT

Discover and explore some of the places that we have chosen for you

❖ Santa Rita / Porto Novo e Termas do Vimeiro

Just take a deep breath and soak up nature! It's perfect for a bike ride! As you leave Areias do Seixo, turn left onto the main road and follow the cycle path. Why not visit the Seixo viewpoint on the left? Savor the majesty of the Atlantic below...

Back on the main road, before reaching Santa Rita beach, take a detour to the right and visit the ruins of the Penafirme Convent.

Completely abandoned after the 1755 Lisbon earthquake, it was probably started in 1547, immediately after the reformation of the province of Portugal by the hermit monks of the Order of St Augustine. A legend tells the story that the convent was swept by a tidal wave during the earthquake. One of the monks, Brother Aleixo, is said to have fled up the hill in front of the convent. On reaching the top, he dropped down dead, the cross there marking the spot where he died.

Continuing along the cycle path, you reach Santa Rita beach on your left, which is particularly popular for paragliding. Further along, at Porto Novo beach, the River Alcabrichel meets the ocean, to the delight of the many ducks that stop off here.

Surrounded by cliffs, this beach forms a small bay and is where British troops came ashore before fighting at the Battle of Vimeiro during the first French invasion of the Peninsular War (1807-1811).

After crossing the bridge, turn onto the dirt trail on the right and enjoy the magic of the winding path along the river bank, while you enjoy the whispering trees and spectacular mountain views! As you reach a gateway,

you'll see the Vimeiro Spa Complex, also known as the Fonte dos Frades (Friars' Spring). The spa dates back to the 19th century, with the therapeutic qualities of its sodium chloride- rich waters recognized since January 1921.

As you continue, you pass the Vimeiro swimming pools, surrounded by mountains and bathed in silence! On reaching the main road, turn right and you reach Vimeiro. Here, you find a monument commemorating the battle of 21st August 1808, against the Napoleonic forces under General Junot. These were heavily defeated by the Anglo-Portuguese army under General Wellesley. The monument was unveiled to mark the centenary of the battle, and is approximately 4.5 meters high. It commemorates the valiant role played by English forces in the battle.

Opening hours are Tuesday - Sunday, from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Rua do Monumento, 17, Vimeiro

Tel: 00 351 261 988 471

SNACKS

⦿ Grão de Areia

Beach Bar. Try the fish roe salad, octopus salad and snails.

PRAIA DE SANTA RITA

⦿ Restaurante Ernesto

Try the clams with garlic and coriander and the steamed mussels.