

# must see borba

The "white town", recently promoted to the category of city, is a tranquil place that attracts people looking for moments of pure relaxation. Borba invites you for a stroll along the narrow cobbled streets of its historic centre, to the rhythm of the twittering of the hundreds of birds that have built their nests in the platanus trees of the Municipal Garden. Little is known about the origins of this region, but what is known is that King D. Dinis granted the official charter to Borba in 1302, which marked the beginning of a period of prosperity for the city. The construction of the Castle began that year to defend Borba from the bordering Castile region in Spain. A noble history is also there to be discovered in its imposing and beautiful buildings with their iron barred windows with coats of arms at the top, like the Noble House of the Morgados Cardosos family, the Palace of Silveira Fernandes, the Mansion House of the aristocrats Sousa Carvalho e Melo or the Palace of the Alvarez family - a history that can also be savoured through Borba's wines, sausages, cheeses and sweetmeats and the tales told by great finds in the city's antique shops and by the wise words of its craftsmen. You have more than enough reasons to spend a peaceful time exploring the enchantment of this land of friendly people.

**CHAPEL OF SENHOR JESUS DOS AFLITOS**  
 Founded in 1676 as the headquarters of the Fraternity of the Venerável Ordem Terceira, this small chapel is attached to the Church of the Real Convento das Servas. Its architecture is in the typical Baroque style, with a surprising facade decorated with dark and light coloured marble to form an original



chessboard. The story goes that this unique decoration was the result of a mistake made by a foreman who damaged the

whole of the original facade in 1679 and then built this lovely front to save his credibility.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
 The construction of the chapels of the Stations of the Cross (Via Sacra) in Borba was ordered by the Fraternity of Senhor Jesus dos Passos de Borba in the 1750s and 1760s. These four chapels, of Baroque inspiration, are the largest of their kind in the



country and today, as in the past, continue to play a special role in the religious life of the population. The route invites us to reflect on the Passion of Christ.

**BICAS FOUNTAIN**  
 The Bicas Fountain (Fonte das Bicas or Chafariz de Borba) is a national monument, constructed in the Baroque style in the white marble of the



region. The town council of the time ordered its construction in 1781 and it was dedicated to the Queen and King D. Maria I and D. Pedro III when they visited Borba.

- SYMBOLS 
- WINE TOURISM 
- WALKS 
- MONUMENT 
- CHURCH 
- CYCLE PATH/ BICYCLES 



**CASTLE**  
 Once the borders between Portugal and Spain had been established (in 1297), Borba became an important military bastion and its strategic location made it the last point of defence before Estremoz and Vila Viçosa.

Little remains today of the walled enclosure (whose construction was ordered by King D. Dinis in 1302), but inside the castle, you can still see the prison and the clock towers.



**CHURCH OF SÃO BARTOLOMEU**  
 Situated on one of Borba's main streets, this church was built at the beginning of the 17th century on the site of what used to be a small hermitage. A mural fresco on the ceiling of the temple, dating from 1630, shows scenes from the life of São Bartolomeu - a must see.

**MARBLE THEME PARK AND CEVALOR**  
 This park shows the journey of the marble - one of the municipality's main economic activities - from its extraction to processing.

If you are curious about the nature of the "white gold", you can also visit the CEVALOR (Technology Centre for the Use and Improvement of Ornamental Rocks)

**CHURCH OF NOSSA SENHORA DO SOVERAL**  
 The current location of the Main Church of Borba - also known as the Church of Nossa Senhora das Neves - was chosen by D. Fernão Rodrigues de Sequeira (Master of the Order of Avis) who ordered its construction in 1420 in a wood of cork oak trees where the Virgin Mary is said to have appear. Rebuilt at the orders of Cardinal D. Henrique, inside the church are ten chapels decorated in the 17th and 18th century styles, the Chapel of the Souls being particularly beautiful.



**CHURCH OF SANTO ANTÓNIO**  
 Founded in 1630 by the Fraternity of Santo António, that owned several farms whose revenues were used to finance the church's ornaments, such as the popular sculpture in Estremoz clay, representing the patron saint, and the magnificent altarpiece in marble built by José Francisco de Abreu in around 1750.

# route borba

**MARBLE**  
 Marble is as important to Borba society, as it is in the neighbouring municipalities of Estremoz and Vila Viçosa. The extraction and processing of this natural stone, which is so sought after at home and abroad has been the main source of revenue for families in the municipality for many years.



**ANTIQUE SHOPS AND HANDICRAFTS**  
 Visitors must walk along one of Borba's main streets called Rua de São Bartolomeu, where the antique shops are open every day of the week, and where you can discover incredible panoply of objects from times gone by. The unique furniture, porcelain, chandeliers, copper objects and farming tools displayed for sale make this journey back in time a must.



**SAUSAGES**  
 One of the trademarks of the Borba cuisine and certified with a Protected Geographical Indication.

**MARBLE**  
 The region's main economic driving force, it is one of the symbols of Borba.



**ANTIQUES**  
 Rua de São Bartolomeu - known as the street of the antique shops - is a must for your visit to Borba.

**WINE FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER**  
 Red, white or rosé, the nectar of the gods achieves levels of excellence here and is celebrated in November.

**GASTRONOMY**  
 You can lose yourself in the intensely flavoured cheeses, and the traditional sausages with their Protected Geographical Indication, which shows the quality of the thick chouriço, paia de toucinho, farinheira, morcela, among other delicacies, and assures that they are still made in the old traditional way while also satisfying today's strict criteria for quality. After a traditional meal, the dessert just has to be the Doce Dourado de Borba. Made from chopped almonds, eggs, sugar and bread, and sprinkled with cinnamon this regional sweetmeat is truly out of this world.

**PARISH OF ORADA**  
 A place where traditions are still alive today, it is worth exploring the varied heritage of this parish. You must visit the Puppet Collection of Mestre Sandes at the Pólo Museológico (Museum) of Azinhal Abelho, a space dedicated to the ethnography of the Alentejo. Another traditional place to visit is the community oven, once a symbol of community life. The bread for the whole parish was baked there, and a cross was drawn on each loaf to symbolise protection. The local cuisine is enriched with herbs, and when you leave the Orada Parish its exquisite flavours will go with you.

# borba

*Borba seduces and enchants visitors with its exceptional wines and gastronomy, and a rich man-made heritage that reflects important aspects of the Portuguese history.*

Season after season, Borba's vineyards mark the tones of the peaceful, fertile terroir of its landscape, where a strong winegrowing tradition has flourished since Roman times. The people of the municipality learned early on to value and make the best use of nature's generosity, something that can be seen clearly in its main economic activities: the extraction and processing of marble, the production of one of the Alentejo's most famous wines and the exquisite local cuisine, rich in aromatic herbs. Borba's DOP Olive Oil



**WINE ROUTE**  
The Adega Cooperativa de Borba (winery) is part of the Alentejo wine route.



**AROMA**  
The region's excellent wine is one of its calling cards.

(Denominação de Origem Protegida – Protected Designation of Origin), certified sausages and unique sheep's cheese complete the list of traditional products you must try. Borba and its rural parishes also have an important architectural heritage worth taking the time to explore.

## municipality borba

There are several places of worship in the rural areas throughout the municipality. About 4 km from Borba is the Church of Santa Bárbara, built in the mid 16th century to serve the many farm workers employed on local estates. Exploring the rural temples of this municipality, you must visit the Church of Nossa Senhora da Orada in the parish of the same name, which is said to be the place where Nuno Álvares Pereira prayed before he left for the Battle of Atoleiros in 1384. In Rio de Moinhos, in the picturesque village of São Gregório you'll find a hermitage with the same name, founded in 1556 by a shoemaker. In the village we suggest a walk around the Serra d'Ossa (hills). In 1655, this Alentejan plain was the setting for the Battle of Montes Claros – the last battle of the War of Restoration, in which the Spanish troops of Count Caracena fought against the Count of Castelo Melhor.



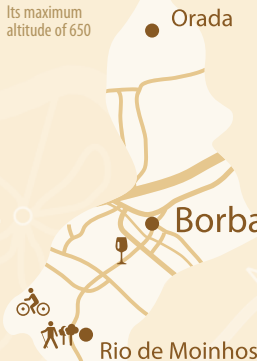
**SERRA D'OSSA (HILLS)**  
The discovery of the Serra d'Ossa is always surprising for nature lovers. Its maximum altitude of 650

metres makes it a perfect place for beautiful walks or bicycle rides.



**PARISH OF RIO DE MOINHOS**

The marble Padrão (a kind of obelisk) and memorial stone, whose construction was ordered by the Marquis of Marialva to evoke the Battle of Montes Claros, the 17th century Church of São Tiago, the Hermitage of São Gregório and the Convent of N. Sra da Luz are some of the many points of interest in this parish, as are the lime-kilns where the marble stone was fired at high temperatures to extract the lime needed for the whitewashing ritual. Every Easter since the Middle Ages, women have come together to white wash their houses to "purify" them and keep away the plague.



**QUINTA DO BOSQUE**

A place of inspiration and meditation, the Quinta do Bosque was considered to be, in the 18th century, one of the most beautiful woods in the country, with its fountains, artificial lakes, the Church and the Convent of Nossa Senhora da Consolação, founded by D. Jaime IV in 1505.



**CHURCH OF SANTA BÁRBARA**

In the 19th century, the "Santa Bárbara Sunday outing" was the favourite pastime of the Borba population, particularly the high society ladies. The church is about 4 km from the centre of the city, and hosts a unique pilgrimage at Easter time.



**INFORMATION**  
Municipal Council . [www.cm-borba.pt](http://www.cm-borba.pt)  
Tourist Office . Praça da República. + 351 268 891 630  
GPS: LAT. 38.482423 | LONG. -7.271354  
Turismo do Alentejo . [www.visitalentejo.pt](http://www.visitalentejo.pt) . + 351 284 313 540



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time to be happy



**Borba**  
Tourist route for the municipality