

Local Campsites

Coimbra Camping

Open all year. Coimbra Camping has an area of 70,000 m² and capacity for 750 guests. It is a modern space, where in addition to unwind, one can perform numerous sports and leisure activities, from swimming, gym, among other sports. The pitches are spacious, offer an easy access and were specially designed to accommodate caravans and campers. **Tariff** From €23.70.

Address: Rua da Escola, 3030-011 / Coimbra, Portugal

Tel: 00351 239 086 902

Email: coimbra@cacampings.com



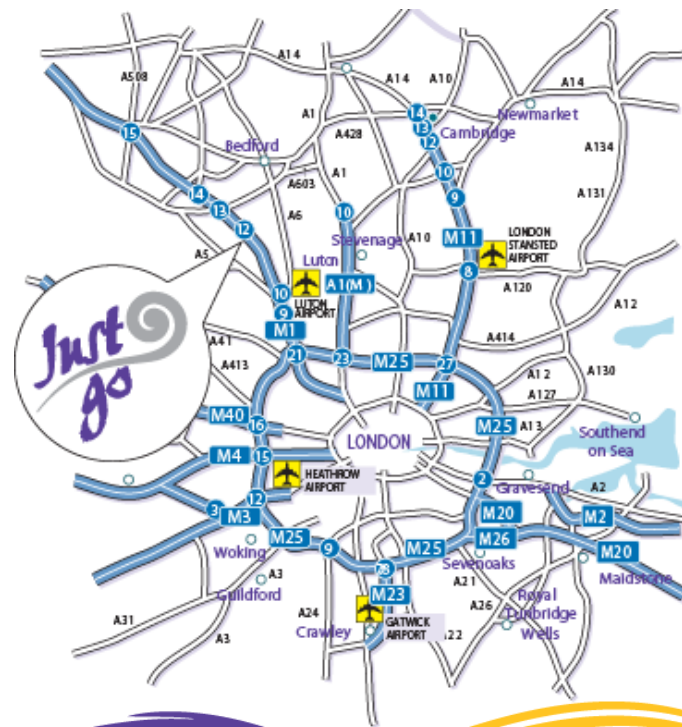
Camper & Caravan Park Tapadinho

Camper & Caravan Park Tapadinho is a dog-friendly site located in the green heart of Portugal. It is a small rural retreat beautifully situated in the unspoilt countryside where dogs can wander around freely. The region of Beiras has yet to be discovered by tourists, providing a quiet spot to relax. It is a paradise for hikers, nature lovers and tranquility. A little help from the guests is always welcome, including harvesting olives in November and pineal picking in January or you can just relax with a glass of wine the campfire. **Tariff:** €6.75 per night per motorhome, Adults €3.25, Child €1.75, Dogs €1.

Address: Vila Nova de Oliveirinha, Portugal

Tel: 00351-238692314

Email: info@campingtapadinho.com



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Portugal, Coimbra



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Portugal, Coimbra

Coimbra, a river front city in central Portugal and the country's former capital, is home to a preserved medieval old town and the historic university of Coimbra. Built on the grounds of a former palace, the university is famed for its baroque library, the Biblioteca Joanina, and its 18th-century bell tower. In the city's Oldtown lies the 12th-century Romanesque cathedral Se Velha. The medieval capital of Portugal for over a hundred years, and site of the country's greatest university for the past five centuries, Coimbra wears its weighty importance in Portuguese history with dignity. Its atmospheric, beautiful historic core cascades down a hillside in a lovely setting on the east bank of the Rio Mondego; it's a multicoloured collage of buildings spanning nearly a millennium.

If you visit during the academic year, you'll be sure to feel the university's influence. Students throng bars and cafes; posters advertise talks on everything from genetics to genocide; and graffiti scrawled outside *repúblicas* (communal student dwellings) address the political issues of the day. If you can, come during the Queima das Fitas in early May, a raucous weeklong celebration featuring live music every night. Or stroll the streets on a summer evening, when the city's old stone walls reverberate with the haunting metallic notes of the *guitarra* (Portuguese guitar) and the full, deep voices of fado singers.

Take a few steps outside the historic centre and you'll also see the city's modern side - a modern riverfront park with terrace bars and restaurants, a spiffy pedestrian bridge across the Mondego, and vast shopping complexes offering everything you'd expect in a major European city. The city also makes a fine base for day visits to the remarkable Roman ruins at Conimbriga, the medieval hilltop fortress of Montemor-o-Velho, or the outlandishly ornate Palace Hotel do Buçaco.



Places to visit

University Tower

In every way the city's high point, the Old University consists of a series of remarkable 16th- to-18th-century buildings, all set around the vast Patio das Escolas, entered by way of the elegant 17th-century Porta Férrea, which occupies the same site as the main gate to Coimbra's Moorish stronghold. The highlight is the magnificent library. The square's most prominent feature is the much-photographed 18th-century clock tower nicknamed a cabra (the goat).

Sé Velha

Coimbra's stunning 12th-century cathedral is one of Portugal's finest examples of Romanesque architecture. The main portal and facade are exceptionally striking. Its crenellated exterior and narrow, slit-like lower windows serve as reminders of the nation's embattled early days, when the Moors were still a threat. These buildings were designed to be useful as fortresses in times of trouble. The church was financed by the first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques, in the 12th century. The high, barrel-vaulted nave preserves its main Romanesque features; side altars and well-preserved Gothic tombs of bishops are backed by bright Andalusian tiles.

Coimbra Walking Tour: History, Queen and Kings

Enjoy original city walks in the company of famous characters of Portugal and Coimbra's history. Delight yourself at the plots and secrets told by a storyteller. Be amazed at the drama performance in the streets and next to the most interesting sites and landmarks. City Tales Tour, discover the history of Dinis & Isabel, the Portuguese King founder of the University and the Holy Queen of Portugal.

Share your experience with us, we would love to hear about your trip or any recommendations; email: joinin@justgo.uk.com

