



## Constância

The enchanting and white washed town of Constância nestles between the rivers Tagus and Zêzere, forming a sort of peninsula.

On a slope overlooking the waters, the town's narrow streets exhibit arches and small belvederes, and its alleys full of flowers convey a fresh, clean and soothing atmosphere.

At the top, the Church of Our Lady of Martyrs, with a ceiling painted by the great Portuguese artist José Malhoa (1855-1933), offers a dazzling panorama.

Constância cherishes the memory of Portugal's most famous poet, Luís Vaz de Camões (also known in foreign languages as Camoes or Camoens, author of the epic poem "Os Lusíadas", "The Lusiads"), who may have lived here briefly (from 1547 to 1550) after having been exiled from Lisbon for misbehaviour with a court lady. The Casa Memória de Camões (Memory House of Camões), where his home at Constância might have been, was restored and there is a statue in his honour on the river bank.

It is worth visiting the St. Anthony's Church and the pillory.

At the confluence of the two rivers, the last houses of Constância almost seem to form a fortified wall, as if they were defending the town from the floods that occasionally happen in winter.

To the north, on the county's limits, the large dam of Castelo de Bode lies between hills covered with pines and eucalyptus and is an extremely popular area for boating, fishing and water sports.

