



## Tomar

Tomar is the city of Templar.

The pride of Tomar is undoubtedly the **Convento de Cristo**, a 12th-century castle which includes a monastery founded by the Order of the Templar.

The church and cloisters are in Manueline style, and an elaborate Manueline window with marine motifs is particularly famous.

The Charola, the original Templar church, has an octagonal shape and was recently restored.

But Tomar offers many other pleasures: while exploring its narrow streets, you can enjoy the shops in Rua de Serpa Pinto or the cosy restaurants; visit the Gothic church of **São João Baptista** in the main square or one of the **oldest synagogues** in Portugal, which now includes a small Jewish museum - the **Museu Luso-Hebraico**.

The gardens of the Parque do **Mouchão**, by the River Nabão, are ideal for a peaceful walk and exhibit an ancient water-wheel. In the 17th-century church of **São Francisco**, a curious little museum boasts of having the largest collection of matchboxes in Europe.

If you are lucky to visit Tomar in July, you can watch the **Festa dos Tabuleiros**, a popular festival with pagan origins in which there is a procession of women carrying platters of bread and flowers on their heads.

Tomar gives the tourists the time to enjoy the life in a typical Portuguese small city. This breathtaking tourist attraction, classified by UNESCO as **World Heritage**, is a must for anyone and everyone who is interested in art, history or just the majesty of the grandiose structures of the past.



