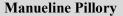


GUIDE Nr.6 - ALVERCA HISTORICAL NUCLEUS

On the castle hill, began the first Alverca's urban cluster, of which remain, still today, traces of the medieval wall and where the archaeological excavations have proved there was an important roman presence. Places of interest are São Pedro's Church, the surrounding streets, some ancient habitations, Misericórdia, the 15th century pillory and the former

Former Town Hall

The former Town Hall was rebuilt in 1764, after the big earthquake destroyed the 15th century building. On the front side we can see the Queen's Mariana Victória coat of arms, right bellow the one of Paulo de Carvalho e Mendonça, purveyor of D. Afonso IV Chapels, institution to which the former county belonged. The coats of arms are above the epigraphic tombstone, which celebrates the rebuilding. At the ground floor level, we can see the roman funerary stele, proof of the antiquity of the village. Bellow is the niche which served as oratory, when the city council prison was on that floor.



The pillory, symbol of the judicial and administrative power of the former Alverca's county, was built in Manueline style and shows on the top the royal coat of arms and armillary sphere, symbols of village belonging to D. Afonso IV Chapels and to Portugal Kingdom, the date of edification in 1530 and, on the opposite side, the former county coat of arms. It was demolished in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and recovered by the city council in 1988, being visible parts of the originals, which were restored.

São Pedro's Parish Church

The founding date is unknown, but it already existed in 1449, when the Battle of Alfarrobeira took place. The body of D. Pedro, Duke of Coimbra, was buried there temporarily. The earthquake in 1755 caused the ruin of the building, which was rebuilt in that period. Most of the pieces, on the inside, come from the 18th century, such as the columns of the nave, the presbytery altarpiece, the ceiling stucco and the paintings. Yet it is possible to find artistic and architectural traces of former centuries, such as the marble pediment on the front door, dated the 16th century and the tiles from the 17th century, with scenes from São Pedro life.







