

The marshlands (Lezírias), due to their natural conditions, are very fertile lands. If, on one hand, the Tagus and Sorraia rivers generate cyclical floods, on the other hand, they guarantee the richness of the soil and, consequently, an high agricultural productivity. These lands were once hold by “Casa das Rainhas” (properties conceded by the Kings to their wives), “Casa do Infantado” (properties conceded by the Kings to their second child) and the Patriarchal Church of Lisbon. When the religious Orders were extinct in Portugal, by the nineteenth century, the expropriated properties became part of *Companhia das Lezírias do Tejo e Sado* (Marshlands of Tagus and Sado rivers Corporation). To the vast plains that form the marshlands, which represent more than half of total area of the county, are also connected the figures of the “campino” (rural worker that lead the bulls on horseback), the bulls and the horses.

## Cabo Wharf

Important wharf that connected both sides of the river, until the construction of the bridge in 1951. In the beginning of twentieth century, the “gasoline” did the passenger transport to Cabo wharf where they could take the diligences, which did the transport for all Ribatejo region. In one of the buildings of Cabo agricultural complex—property of *Companhia das Lezírias*—we can see the floods marks.



## Nossa Senhora de Alcamé Hermitage

Building of José Manuel de Carvalho e Negreiros, erected in mid-eighteenth century, by the 1st Patriarch of Lisbon, D. Tomás de Almeida. Neoclassical, has as its patron saint Nossa Senhora de Alcamé, cult object of the marshlands people.



## Ponta d'Erva

At the confluence of rivers Tagus and Sorraia, Ponta d'Erva is part of the Natural Reserve of the Tagus Estuary. It is a quiet place, where we can observe several bird species, such as the Red Heron, the Grey Heron, the Osprey, the Mallard, the Collared Pratincole, Flamingos, among others.

