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Cerca Velha (Old Fence) or Românica (Romanesque), which was reconstructed in the 12th century. Stroll down this historic lane, once called the Rua dos Cónegos because many canons used to live in the houses here. The building that now contains the **Casa-Museu de Guerra Junqueiro**^⑤, for example, 50 metres ahead, was the home of Dr. Domingos Barbosa, canon of the Cathedral. It is a beautiful 18th-century building, and another of the structures attributed to Nicolau Nasoni. It deserves a lengthy visit.

Directly opposite, on the left, is the **Fundação Maria Isabel Guerra Junqueiro**^⑥, housed in the Casa dos Freires de Andrade, a fine example of 17th- to 18th-century Porto architecture.

Continuing onwards, on the right at the end of the lane is an old wall that surrounds the small garden of the Bishop's Palace. On the left is a chapel, the **Capela de Nossa Senhora das Verdades**^⑦, built next door to the home of another canon.

It is worth going down the little flight of stairs beside the chapel to reach the terrace overlooking the River Douro. The archway that appears here, called the **Arco das Verdades** due to its proximity to the chapel, is the



CASA-MUSEU DE GUERRA JUNQUEIRO AND THE FUNDAÇÃO MARIA ISABEL GUERRA JUNQUEIRO

remnant of an aqueduct across which water was transported to the Jesuit-run Colégio de São Lourenço.

But we won't go down any further. Instead, let's go back to the Rua de D. Hugo. Along the final stretch of the street are the south- and west-facing façades of the ostentatious **Episcopal Palace** [see box]. We will go up the stairs that



ARCO DAS VERDADES

lead to the **Terreiro da Sé**® in order to get a closer look at the palace. This is the home of the Bishop of Porto, and it also houses the diocesan administrative offices. It is a beautiful and imposing 18th-century building with Baroque features, also by Nicolau Nasoni. It took the place of another older building, dating from the 13th century, where Philippa of Lancaster stayed when she came to Porto to marry Dom João I at the Cathedral.

Now look more closely at the Terreiro da Sé, upon which stands **Porto Cathedral**®. This large lookout point, entirely paved with granite, was the result of radical guidelines laid down between 1939 and 1940 that sought



The construction of the Episcopal Palace

Construction work began on the current building of the Episcopal Palace in the time of Bishop Dom João Rafael de Mendonça (1771–1793), who did not live to see the work completed. The interior is preceded by a large, vaulted vestibule with Romanesque architectural features. This would once have been part of the earlier construction. A huge staircase gives access to the upper floor and is lit by a skylight installed in the 19th century. The Discalced Augustinian Friars who occupied the Igreja de São Lourenço, now part of the Museu de Arte Sacra (which we will pass on this stroll), did everything they could to stop this palace from being built, as its ideal location dominating the whole town meant that the façade of the Augustinians' church was pushed into second place. The palace was severely damaged during the Siege of Porto (1832–1833). After the Republic was declared the building passed into the possession of the State, which used it to house Porto Town Hall in 1916. In 1957 this moved to its new premises at the top of the Avenida dos Aliados, and the building once again became the residence of the Bishop of Porto.



TERREIRO DA SÉ

to show off monuments to their best advantage. Before the redevelopment work, this area was a maze of narrow, dark, damp lanes, with wet and slippery stones. Some of them had names that indicated the trades carried out there, such as Rua da Sapataria (Shoemakers' St), Rua da Feira (Fair St), Rua do Poço da Cidade (City Well St) and Largo do Açougue (Butcher's Square). Everything was demolished, including the pretty 16th-century chapel of Nossa Senhora de Agosto.

Now look at the **pelourinho** (pillory). It does not have any historical significance; the city's pillory, a symbol of municipal power, did not have this form and lay on the wall of the Ribeira, along with the gallows. This one, however, was placed here in 1945 at the behest of the Town Hall, as a purely decorative feature.

In front of the Cathedral is a smooth stone inlaid with a granite pattern, leaning against a wall that runs around a garden area. This plaque commemorates the appeal made by the then Bishop of Porto, Dom Pedro Pilões, on





A Largo de Soares dos Reis

B Rua de António Granjo

C Avenida Camilo

D Campo de 24 de Agosto

E Rua de Fernandes Tomás

F Rua de Coelho Neto

G Largo do Padrão das Almas

H Rua de D. João IV

I Jardim de São Lázaro

J Praça dos Poveiros



1 Museu Militar

2 Biblioteca Pública Municipal do Porto



a Casa Guedes

b Café Majestic



d Queijaria Amaral

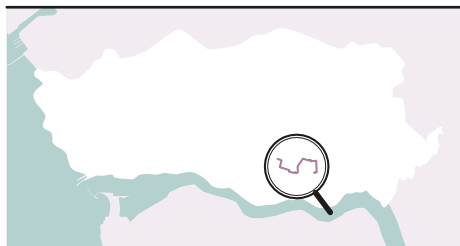
e A Pérola do Bolhão



FROM SOARES DOS REIS TO THE BOLHÃO

VIA EASTERN PORTO

We now find ourselves strolling through Porto's downtown. This area is relatively modern in comparison with other parts of the city, not more than 300 years old. It represents liberalism and civilisation. This is where the hustle and bustle of Porto takes place. Shop windows display all the latest wares. At one time it was the custom for families to go out in the evening and peruse the shop fronts, drawn by the enticing items that crowded the shelves and fashions newly arrived from Paris. But the Baixa is still a place of tradition, and this can be seen better than anywhere at the Bolhão. No mere market, this is the best place to gauge the city's mood.



🕒 0h45

📏 1.5 km

🚶 easy

K Rua de Passos Manuel

L Rua de Santa Catarina

M Rua Formosa

N Bolhão

3 Coliseu do Porto

c Café D. Gina

f Mercado do Bolhão