



cantanhede

cantanhede

Geographical Position
Social and Economic Indicators
Physical Characterization
Geological Map of the Municipality
General Characterization
Historical Background



Geographical Position

Cantanhede is the biggest Municipality in the District of Coimbra, and it is situated in the centre of a geographical triangle of notorious economical importance, in each vertex of which you can find the cities of Aveiro and Figueira da Foz, as well as the district centre. Established in an area with a temperate climate, with both Atlantic and Mediterranean characteristics, it has the Atlantic Ocean on the West and is surrounded by the Municipalities of Mira, Vagos and Oliveira do Bairro to the North; Figueira da Foz, Montemor-o-Velho and Coimbra to the South; and Anadia and Mealhada to the East.

With an area of almost 400 km², Cantanhede is made up of 19 civil parishes, a total of 168 villages, connected through an internal road network of great quality, demonstrating excellent road accessibility thanks to a number of motorways, of which we can highlight the junctions to motorway A1 (Lisbon – Porto), in Murte, and the A14, in Ançã, and soon, the A17, in Sanguinheira, as well as the main road EN109 (Aveiro – Figueira da Foz), that crosses the entire western zone of the Municipality.

Social and Economic Indicators

Of the 38,032 inhabitants currently living in

the Municipality, 17,920 compose its active population of economic activity: 36% in the primary sector, 26% in the secondary sector and 38% in the tertiary sector. As well as the high levels of production of potatoes, milk and forest resources, Cantanhede is most famous for its viticulture, due to the recognition achieved by its wine production, as a true *ex libris* of the Região Demarcada da Bairrada (Demarcated Bairrada Wine Region). Meanwhile, the Municipality faces at the present time an economical expansion process, which is allowing it to go beyond the constraint that resulted from the historic dependence on the agricultural and commercial sector. This process, based on a strategic plan for sustained development, which includes rigorous mechanisms to safeguard environmental quality, is consubstantiated in a profound transfiguration of the productive landscape, as a result of the significant number of companies that have recently been installed in the industrial areas of Cantanhede, Murte, Febres and Tocha.

During this registered evolution, the Biocant Park assumes particular relevance, as it is the only existent biotechnology park in Portugal, as a result of a partnership between the Cantanhede Town Council and the Centre for Neuroscience and Cell Biology of Coimbra (C.N.C).

The Biocant Park incorporates Biocant, I&D

centre, which includes laboratories for Genomic, Molecular Biotechnology, Cellular Biology and Microbiology, and also plays an interface role between national and international knowledge institutions, and local business, while at the same time being the anchor point for attracting technology companies.

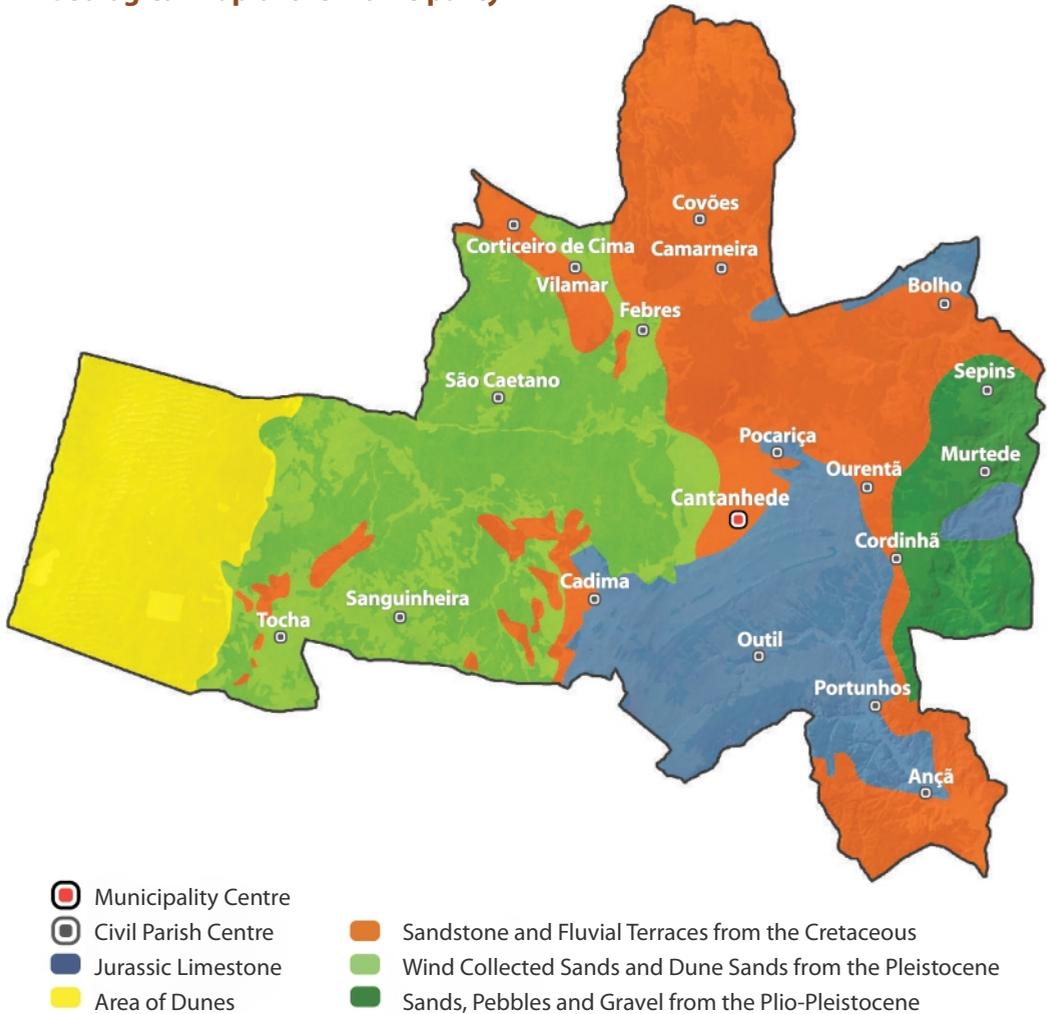
Inaugurated on June 20th, 2006, the Biocant Park has many different biotechnology companies established. Its influence may be evaluated not only by the number of investigation projects that are ongoing, but also by the number of investigators involved, and by the links to important investigation centres, both national and international.

Physical Characterization

The Municipality of Cantanhede can be identified as a plain without many altimetric changes at an altitude of around 100 metres. The biggest exceptions to this are the nestling valleys, of Ribeira de Ança and Rio da Ponte, where the slopes reach 15%, an obvious contrast to the 3%, which can frequently be found along the plain. Situated in the western Meso-Cenozoic strip of terrain, the Municipality is divided into three geological areas, with a diversification of the rocky substrata. Having the Atlantic Ocean as a limit in the West, resulted in the existence of an

extensive area of NW-SW and parabolic dunes, up to 6 km into the interior, where the Holocene and the Pleistocene sands, as well as alluviums transported by small streams of water that go through it, tend to subsist. As you progress towards the interior, small areas of sandstone from the grove of the Holm-oaks and fluvial terraces appear, enfolded in wind collected and dune sands, which give rise to small hills, created by erosion and tectonic movements. These geological formations, typical of the Pleistocene, Plio-Pleistocene, Palaeogene, and Miocene, extend themselves more characteristically up to Murte de Sepins. In the East and Southeast areas of the Municipality, harder types of rock emerge, as part of two distinct formation groups that constitute their most elevated areas: on one hand, the Jurassic limestone group; on the other hand, the Cretaceous sandstone and gritstone, as well as Plio-Pleistocene sands, pebbles and gravel. In the limestone group, the Limestone Marls of S. Gião, the Marly Limestone from Póvoa da Lomba and the Limestone from Ança stand out, and these last ones are frequently used in the construction of monuments and artwork, due to their softness and easy handling. In the Cretaceous and Plio-Pleistocene, the Sandstone from Carrascal and the Areias Gordas from Cordinhã stand out.

Geological Map of the Municipality





General Characterization

Those who visit the Municipality of Cantanhede encounter an enormous range of experiences through direct contact with nature, which stimulates with its richness and diversity or in the social intercourse with a socio-cultural existence, united around the references and patrimonial values that consubstantiate the particular lifestyles of the three natural regions that constitute the territory: Gândara, spreading out along the ocean; Bairrada, in the interior, where the seasons of the year are seen through evolution of the vineyard; and the Baixo Mondego, to the South, in a contiguous valley all the way till the stone-pits, famous for the pedra de (rock of) Ançã.

In Gândara, with a horizon intersected by the chromatic nuances of the forest and the corn fields, it is possible to enjoy the pastoral retreats of the water springs, in Fervença or in other places, the soft and white shores and the smell of the sea, from beaches that maintain their traditions of fishing-net art intact, and enjoy the savoured tastes of the traditional fish-stew, the sea-bass or the sardines grilled on the tile.

Bairrada is famous for its roasted suckling-pig, as the best delicacy from its rich gastronomic tradition, and for its Cantanhede wine, the most precious nectar from this demarcated region. Here, the traditional neat tilling of the sunny slopes, which are part of a collective imaginary, persist. In the Baixo Mondego, after passing through the steep terrain of the stone-pits, where the frequent



marks from activities related to the extraction of the pedra de Ançã which was greatly appreciated by the most prominent sculptors of the XV and XVI centuries, a fertile and swampy valley, which incorporates the Campos do Mondego (Mondego Fields), is spread out.

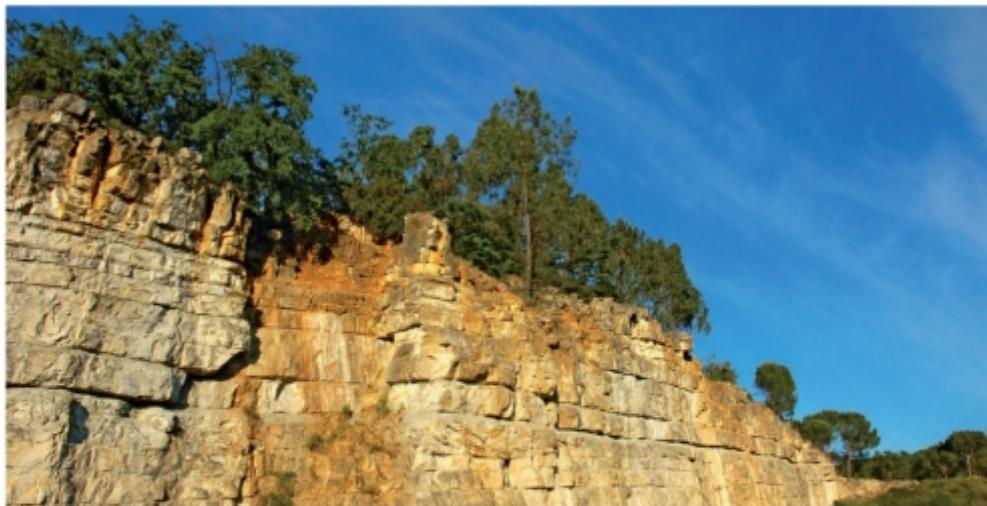
With an urban landscape distinguished by certain dispersion, the Cantanhede Municipality maintains visible components characteristic of the ancestral forms of social organization related to the agricultural activities of the ancient times.

At this level, there are still some remarkable examples of the traditional house of Gândara, a true *ex libris* of the traditional Portuguese architecture, or the manor houses, with the traditional Manueline windows with three lobules or windows with apron panel inset, staircases of

the XVII century and doors embellished with studiously sculptured coats of arms.

From the point of view of the building heritage, there is a significant group of churches and chapels that still have countless references to the Manueline, Renaissance and Mannerism styles in their interior, also visible in some elements of the façade.

On the other hand, the countless examples of statuary with great artistic and historic value constitute precious evidence of a sculptural activity that began in the Municipality some centuries ago, which is related to the fact that the famous pedra de Ançã has characteristics that were always greatly appreciated by national and international sculptors.



Historical Background

Although there are no elements that lead us to a precise date of the establishment of Cantanhede, there are some important archaeological findings that show us human presence in the territory during the Middle Palaeolithic (at least), which had its terminus around 30,000 to 28,000 B.C.. During this time, the Neanderthal occupied the region and were responsible for countless artifacts in flint, which were found in several archaeological sites in the civil parishes, like Ançã, Outil and Portunhos.

These findings, collected throughout the years by the archaeologist Carlos Cruz, are currently on exhibit at the Museu da Pedra (Rock Museum) and catalogued in the Carta Arqueológica do Concelho de Cantanhede, recently edited by the Cantanhede Municipality.

The toponym Cantanhede comes from Celtic root cant, which means "big rock", and which relates to the stone-pits that exist in the region. From this root, the primitive "Cantonieti" was born, as is mentioned in documentation from the XI, XII, and XIII centuries, but it was also written in different ways: "Cantoniedi", "Cantionidi" and "Cantonetu". Its first historical references go back to 1087, when D. Sisnado, governor of Coimbra, had it fortified and populated. According to some authors, D. Afonso II gave Cantanhede its charter, having been later confirmed by D. Manuel I in a bestowed charter, on May 20th, 1514.

The Meneses were its donees, and D. Pedro de Meneses was the first Count of Cantanhede, this noble title having been created by D. Afonso V by written mandate on July 6th, 1479. The title would

be renewed later, by Filipe II, in 1618, to his grandson, also father of D. António Luís Meneses, 3rd Count of Cantanhede and 1st Marquis of Marialva, who became well-known in the Battle of the Linhas de Elvas and the Battle of Montes Claros, and he was also one of the most important figures in the Restoration of the Portuguese Independence in 1640.

Thanks to the Meneses family, today there are some exemplars of the Renaissance in the Municipality, and the house that perpetuates its memory, has been the venue of Town Council meetings since 1805, although it only became the main office for the municipal autarchy at the end of that century.

Among the outstanding people associated with Cantanhede, it is also important to mention Captain Pedro Teixeira, who conquered the Amazon; D. João Crisóstomo de Amorim Pessoa, prelate, remarkable sacro rhetorician and Archbishop of Braga (1876-1883); Jaime Cortesão, doctor, historian and essayist; Carlos de Oliveira, writer and poet; António de Lima Fragoso, pianist and distinguished composer; Augusto Abelaria, writer; and Maria Amélia de Magalhães Carneiro, artist





D. DILOGO DE MENEZES, D. JOÃO DA COSTA,
D. ANTÔNIO LUZ DE MENEZES,
O POVO E MAIS FIDALGOS
ACLAMAM D. JOÃO IV

Civil Parishes

Ançã



Population: 2,579 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Chapels of S. Bento, S. Sebastião and Espírito Santo (Holy Spirit), Ançã Fountain, Pillory, Ethnographic Museum, Court Square, Court of the Marquis of Cascais, and Manueline windows.
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Ançã Fountain, Water Mills, and Baronial Manors

Bolho



Population: 943 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Chapel of the Anjo da Guarda, Cruzeiros (large stone crosses) of Bolho and Venda Nova, and Bolho Water Fountain

Cadima



Population: 3,127 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Chapel of Santo Amaro, Parochial Church, and Bridge
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Olhos (eyes) of Ferveça, and Porto Sobreiro Fountain

Camarneira



Population: 870 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Cruzeiro of Camarneira, and Monument to the Immigrants
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Town Square of Cabeço do Rebolo

Cantanhede



Population: 7,066 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Chapel of Varziela, Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Misericórdia (National Monument), Town Hall

(previously the Palace belonging to the Meneses Family), Mother Church, Church of the Misericórdia (Mercy) (previously Convent of S. António or Nossa Senhora da Conceição), Municipal Culture House, Rock Museum, House of Bogalhos, Cruzeiros of Póvoa da Lomba and Lemedo, Chapel of S. João, Chapel of S. Mateus, and Sculptures from the International Symposiums of

Cordinhã



Population: 1,141 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Chapel of Senhora da Saúde, and Cruzeiro of Cordinhã

Corticeiro de Cima



Population: 858 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church and Corticeiro de Cima Fountain

Covões



Population: 2,468 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Cruzeiro of Covões, Cruzeiro of Monte Arcado, and Monument to the

Febres



Population: 3,591 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Monument to the Goldsmith, Monument to the Discoveries, Chapel of Fontinha, and Public Washing-Tanks
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Coadoçais Lake (Cedros), Village Centre

Murtede



Population: 1,530 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Murtede Fountain, and Cruzeiros

Ourentã



Population: 1,310 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, and Chapels of Nossa Senhora da Nazaré, of Póvoa, and of Lapa

Outil



Population: 865 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Chapel of Santa Rita, Roman Water Spring, and Cruzeiro of the Town Square
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Town Square of the Cruzeiro, Church Square, and Lime Ovens of Vila Nova

Pocariça



Population: 1,163 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Chapel of S. Tomé, Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Dores (Arrôtas), Chapel of the Montinho, Cruzeiros, and the Family Evaristo Pessoa Palace
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Fonte Velha (Ladeiras), and Montinho Lake

Portunhos



Population: 1,228 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, House of the Captain, Chapels of S. João, S. Pedro, S. Francisco, and of the Cemetery, and Cruzeiros
Other Places of Touristic Interest: King's Caves and Stone-pit, old Lime Ovens

Sanguinheira



Population: 2,158 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church and Chapels of Pedras Ásperas
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Pedras Ásperas, Ferveça Windmills, Negra Lake, and Alta Lake

São Caetano



Population: 938 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Alminhas of Perboi de Cima, and Cruzeiro of S. Caetano
Other Places of Touristic Interest: Corgo Covo and Pisão Windmills, Ameiras Fountain and Equestrian Centre

Sepins



Population: 1,200 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church, Chapel of S. Jorge, the Távoras House and Cruzeiro

Tocha



Population: 4,016 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church
Other Places of Interest: Tocha Beach, Palheiro Beach, Forest, Salgueira, Teixoeiros and Mata Lakes.

Vilamar



Population: 770 inhabitants
Cultural Heritage: Parochial Church and Public Drinking Fountain

Heritage



Mother Church of Cantanhede

(classified building of historical interest)

Probably founded in the time of Count D. Sisnado, in the XI century, the Mother Church of Cantanhede was submitted to successive changes which resulted, in the middle of the XVI century, in the dimension and architectonic lines that it currently displays. The external lines the church are sober, drawing attention to the baroque style doorway and the tower which is connected to it through the north side. The façade is framed by square corner stones with chapiters on which elegant pyramids are set, exhibiting a triangular fronton rounded off with cymas on the upper part, from where the pedestal and the cross rise. The main entrance is flanked by two straight columns with pillowed bases and

surmounted by chapiters, over which the entablature is set, which forms a base to an undulated fronton.

The interior is composed of three naves divided by arched vaults which are sustained by columns in the style of the Doric order, with five bays, from the XVI century. It has a chancel, two adjacent chapels (one of Our Lady, the other of the Holy Sacrament), and five others distributed throughout the church: on the Gospel side, the chapels of the Baptistry, Nossa Senhora da Piedade and Sacred Heart of Jesus; on the Epistle side, the chapels of Santa Rita and Nossa Senhora da Misericórdia.

In the Mother Church of Cantanhede the right-hand side adjacent chapel in honour of the Holy Sacrament stands out. It was built in the XVI century by João de Ruão, to house the vaults of the Meneses family.



Convent of S. António (St. Anthony) or of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception)

The construction of this building began in 1675, by order of the 1st Marquis of Marialva, D. António Luís de Meneses, to fulfil a vow he had made during the Battle of Montes Claros. It belonged to the province of St Anthony and invoked Nossa Senhora da Conceição. At the present time, only the church with its respective tower and sacristy remains; the other elements, which were initially part of the convent, having been demolished in 1866. The façade of the building is relatively sober, with a three centred arch opening into a small atrium in the interior that corresponds to a high choir. The cornerstones of the façade display rustic stone masonry, with the bell tower, of more recent construction, rising on the left. The date of 1733 is engraved in the niche of the façade of the building, which probably indicates the year in which it was

concluded.

The interior is formed by the chancel and the nave with four altars, two of which are secondary: one is dedicated to Nossa Senhora das Dores, on the Gospel side. The other invokes Santo António, on the Epistle side, next to which we can also find the altar of Senhor da Cana Verde. The chancel has a polychromic altar piece with throne and walls covered with panels of elaborated glazed tiles portraying some stages of Our Lady's Life.

At the entrance of the church, you will find the tomb of the 1st Marquis of Marialva, where you can read:

("HERE LIES THE BODY OF THE MARQUIS OF MARIALVA. D.ANTÓNIO LUÍS DE MENEZES, WHO DIED ON THE MAY 19TH 1675, ASKS FOR CHRISTIAN MERCY, THE LORD'S PRAYER AND A HAIL MARY FOR HIS SOUL")

On the west side wall, you will find the tombstone of D. João Crisóstomo de Amorim Pessoa, Archbishop of Braga from 1876 to 1883.





1st Marquis of Marialva

The equestrian statue, very vivid in its proportions and details, was made by Celestino Alves André, a prestigious sculptor from Cantanhede, and is installed on a plinth of considerable dimensions, in the Praça Marquês de Marialva.

D. António Luís de Meneses, 3rd Count of Cantanhede and 1st Marquis of Marialva, is said to have been born at the beginning of the XVI century, and died on August 16th, 1675. A nobleman endowed with a refined military education, he was one of the most important personalities of the Restoration in 1640, having shown himself to be outstanding by commanding the Portuguese troops in the battles of Linha de Elvas and Montes Claros, which hindered the entrance of the Castillian army in national territory. For his military accomplishments he was awarded the title of Marquis of Marialva, through a royal decree, on August 11th, 1661, and he was given the

posts of Counsellor of State and War, Overseer of the Royal Treasury, Minister of Dispatch, Governor of Arms of Lisbon, Setúbal, Cascais and Estremadura, and Captain General of the Alentejo Province. In 1669 he was nominated Procurator for the Lisbon Court by the unanimous suffrage of the people and the nobility.

Pedro Teixeira

Sculpture of enormous proportions, sculpted in bronze, by Celestino Alves André, in 1993, perpetuating the memory of Captain Pedro Teixeira, pioneer and conqueror of the Amazon. Pedro Teixeira was born in Cantanhede, around 1585, and went to Brazil in 1607, where he would be acclaimed for expelling the French from Maranhão, and for commanding the Portuguese against the attempts of the Dutch and the English to occupy the area. Navigating the Amazon River, from the estuary to Quito, he contributed decisively towards the definition of the Brazilian territory, the largest country in Latin America, and the only country in this continent where Portuguese is the official language.





Varziela Chapel

It is believed that D. Jorge de Meneses, fourth Lord of Cantanhede, had the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Misericórdia built, in around 1530, to house his tomb, in the Quinta da Varziela, a location which is today the village of Varziela. Restored in 1840, it is a modest chapel, which, however, contains elaborate decoration of its doorways and arches. In the chancel you can admire the precious altarpiece of the Senhora da Misericórdia, made of Pedra de Ançã, and considered to be one of the most beautiful of its kind in the central region of the country, "a charming piece of pure renaissance".

The panel, situated between the baluster columns and the decorated pilasters that sustain the entablature with the coat of arms of the Meneses family, is supported on a predella of five aediculas, occupied by four saints and the Virgin, which are, according to the accompanying information, Saint Barbara, Saint Catherine, Saint Ursula, and Saint Apollonia.

Accredited to João de Ruão, the altarpiece represents the Senhora da Misericórdia, whose mantle, which is held by two angels, shelters the clergy and the nobility. The attention to detail and the precision of the work led master António Augusto Gonçalves to consider it "a magisterial and magnificent piece of work of an unsurpassable perfection and complete integrity", and also that the sculptures of the predella "are of a moving spirituality".

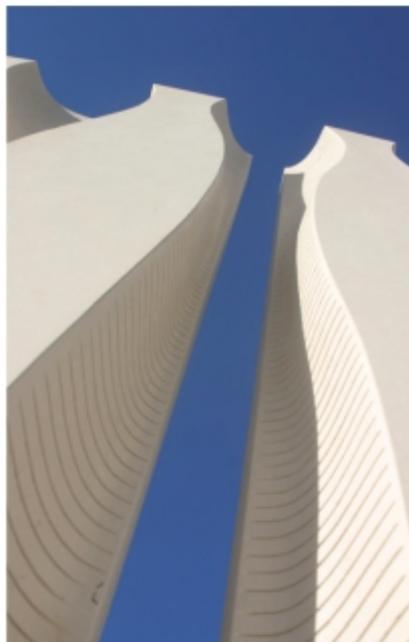


AQUI IAZ DOM IORGE DE MENESES
SENOR DA VILLA DE CANTANHEDE
FALECEO EM A SVA VILLA DE
TANQVOS O PRIMEIRO DIA DE
MARÇO DE 1532

Sculptures from the International Sculpture Symposiums in Cantanhede

A collection of sculptures which were created 'in situ', by international and national artists, who left a legacy to the Municipality of works of art which evoke some of the most significant social and cultural references of the Municipality. The main objective of the International Sculpture Symposium of Cantanhede is to celebrate the art of stone masonry, an activity that has constituted, for centuries, a tradition from the south of the area. This created important public interest in the artistic production, which has allowed us to accompany the development of the creative process of prominent international and national sculptors, in the elaboration of works of art symbolically connected to the pedra de Ançã, which is still extracted from the quarry located in the south of the Municipality, namely in Ançã, Portunhos and Outil. On the other hand, and in accordance with another of the objectives that was mapped out by the organisation of the International Sculpture Symposiums of Cantanhede, they represent a recollection of the traditional trades and crafts related to stone masonry, as a homage to all those who had, and still have, an active role in the preservation of an activity with secular origins in the Municipality and which is strongly in evidence in the important patrimony made up of sculptures, tombs and altarpieces (which are produced in local workshops), which decorate churches, monasteries, parishes, chapels, and oratories .

The sculptures elaborated throughout the various editions of the symposium are on exhibition in public spaces and leisure areas of the Municipality, which not only adds to their value from an aesthetic point of view, but also dignifies them as patrimony.







The House of the Bogalho Family.

This seventeenth century building in the Largo Pedro Teixeira still maintains some characteristics from its original construction. Considered to be one of the last remaining examples of the old civil urban architecture in the town of Cantanhede, the building displays a stone balcony on the main façade, with a small covered entrance, partially lined with blue and white tiles, added during this century, and stone surrounds on the doors and windows. The lower floor was used to shelter animals, and to store goods and agricultural implements, while the first floor was the living quarters. The House of the Bogalho family has belonged to the administrative council of the Church of S. Pedro of Cantanhede since 1992, and it has been transformed into a small Museum of Sacred Art, after having been subjected to a complete renovation by the Municipality of Cantanhede.

Cruzeiro da Póvoa de Lomba (classified as a building of historical interest to the Municipality)

Although the exact date of its construction is not known, its typology is similar to those of the XVI and XVII centuries, of Renaissance style. It is a quadrangular cross which is set on a platform which is echeloned in three steps, on which four smooth shafted columns are implanted. The columns bear the weight of an entablature characterised by an architrave joined to the abacus of the columns, with a smooth shaft which ends with a cornice completed with small pinnacles on the four sides. Over the columns, a round dome is erected, completed in the centre with a decorative element that is used as a support for an iron cross. This construction shelters a column with an image of the Crucifixion.





The Town Hall

Originally known as the Palace of the Meneses, Lords of Cantanhede, the great work of construction was probably ordered by D. João de Meneses, successor to the title in its fifth generation. The building still has some of the elements of the 16th century, which go back to the time in which it was inhabited by this family of the nobility, in spite of the many changes to which it was submitted, from the 17th century up to the 20th century.



This is an ample building dating back to the 16th century, entirely built of the soft, white limestone from Ançã. The design constitutes, at the present moment, a closed quadrilateral, involving various wings or aisles that surround an open interior courtyard.



In the interior, there is a patio with two floors : the lower floor has a gallery with seven vaulted bays, decorated with crossed ribs, brackets and key-stones of renaissance style, and you can read the inscription "ESTA OBRA/ SE F(E)Z NO/ ANO DE 1553" (This building was built in 1553) on one of them; the upper floor presents a colonnade from the ionic order, typical of the late renaissance from the school "castilhiana coimbrã". The façade, as well as the lateral tower, was built more recently. The building has been the venue of meetings of the Town Council since 1805, but the Town Hall itself was only established here at the end of that century. Since then, much work has been done, allowing a greater functionality and accommodation of the services of the Town Hall, without depreciating the elements of the original design which still persist.



House of the Capitão-Mor

Situated in the Largo Cândido dos Reis, the House of the Capitão-Mor is the most significant noble residence in the town of Cantanhede. It was built by the first-captain of Recardães, Dr. João Henriques de Castro, at the end of the 18th century, keeping the stone with the coat of arms of its former owners on the corner.

About fifty metres in length, the main façade, facing the square to the west, has eleven windows with apron panel inset, made of stone surrounds (two of which are divided) on the principal floor of the house, with a superior entablature cushioned and completed by cornices, and on the lower floor there are two doors and seven windows. On the side facing north, there are four doors on the first floor and two windows on the lower floor, and there is also a balcony with columns in the style of the Doric order.

The elegant stone work adornments, made in *pedra de Ançã*, which discern the structure of the building, reflect the importance of this limestone in the construction of palatial houses in the region. At the present time, a part of the House of the Capitão-Mor is home to the Municipal House of Culture, and the *Museu da Pedra* (Stone Museum) was installed in the remaining space. The latter was opened to public in 2001, after being submitted to significant improvement and adaptation work.





Historical Centre of the Town of Ançã

From the historical past of the Town of Ançã, it is important to refer to the archaeological elements which indicate the Roman presence, also mentioned in some old records (the will of Eldara to Gundemiro Iben Dauti, in the year of 937), originating at a time before the founding of the Portuguese nation. The economic and social importance of Ançã would be confirmed with its upgrade to the category of town, by D.

Fernando, in the 14th century, taking on the municipal duties inherent to the decree immediately, which would later be reinforced on June 28th 1514, with the amendments to the charter made by D. Manuel I.

At the beginning of the XIX century, with the separation of the administrative and judicial systems, the Municipality of Ançã was abolished by the Decree of December 31st, 1853, having then been integrated in the Municipality of Cantanhede. At the present time, the town of Ançã constitutes the patrimonial and cultural heart of the Municipality, possessing a patrimonial collection worthy of note.

The projection of the town of Ançã is owed not only to the abundance of water, but, more importantly to the fact that the famous limestone, with the same name as the town, has been extracted from the stone-pits in the surrounding area for many centuries. The unique characteristics of the pedra de Ançã made it the raw material favoured by many of the great names in renaissance sculpture, among whom João Ruão and Nicolau Chanterenne stand out.

Land of water and stone, Ançã envelopes an enviable patrimonial legacy of construction , possessing also excellent natural conditions which are detected through the whisper of running streams, which move water mills, and subsequently join up in the natural pool, so cool and desirable on warm summer days. The journey along the itinerary of numerous places of interest in the town must definitely include the tasting of the magnificent cake of Ançã, made in a wood-burning oven by experienced cake-makers, who await the visitors to the town at the door of their houses.



ANÇÃ, THE LAND WHERE I WAS BORN, IS A TOWN FULL OF CHARACTER

HOWEVER, WHAT GIVES CHARACTER TO THE SMALL TOWN, BESIDES THE PEDRA DE ANÇÃ, RAW MATERIAL OF ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, IS THE RUSTIC AND NOBLE LOOK, ARID AND COOL, AND ABOVE ALL, ANTIQUE, THAT EXHALE STREETS, TEMPLES AND PALACES

Jaime Cortesão, O Primeiro de Janeiro, 15-7-58



The home of Carlos de Oliveira

Situated right in the centre of the town of Febres, the house where the writer Carlos de Oliveira lived a significant part of his childhood and youth, was bought by the Town Council, to create a didactic and pedagogic space, dedicated to the life and work of one of the most important names in Portuguese literature of the second half of the 20th century. Substantial part of the poetic and narrative work of Carlos de Oliveira makes reference to Gândara, which forms the root, the core and the substance of his own literary style and not only as a simple geographical context.



Monument to the travelling goldsmith

Bronze sculpture by Celestino Alves André, which can be seen in the Largo Florindo José Frota, in front of the Parochial Church of Febres. It is a realistic piece of work which closely reproduces a very characteristic figure native to the northwest area of the Municipality.



Parochial Church of Pocariça

It is one of the most beautiful places of worship in the region. It is believed that the original construction may have taken place in the middle of the XVII century, the church having suffered more profound remodelling work in 1786, and more recently, in the 20th century. The body of the church is particularly valuable from a patrimonial point of view, with the panelled roofing, painted with rococo motives, the ceiling of the chancel with a stone dome decorated with ornamental octagonal vault chambers, the adjacent chapels, the main altarpiece and two baroque angels of considerable dimension.



Chapel of Santo Amaro

Situated in the village of Quintã, civil parish of Cadima, and formerly known as the Quinta do Mosteiro de Santa Cruz de Coimbra. The small chapel from the XVI century presents a simple architectonic conception, with a portico with a round arch, over which a four-lobed eye-window from the following era catches the attention. In its interior, an altarpiece made of pedra de Ançã with three niches stands out. The niches shelter the images of Santo Amaro, Saint Anthony and the Virgin with the Infant Jesus, all from the 16th century.



Altarpiece from the Parochial Church of Sepins

In the chancel of this temple lies a Romanesque tympanum of appreciable artistic and patrimonial value, which has a modern inscription that says that it was crafted in the year of 1118. The work is about one metre long, representing Cristo em Majestade, sitting under an arch and on either side there are traditional symbols of two Evangelists. It is also important to refer to the two Manueline fountains of holy water and some sculptures from the XV century, particularly the Virgin with the Infant Jesus.



Parochial Church of Tocha (classified as a historical building of public interest)

It originated as a small chapel consecrated to Nossa Senhora de Atocha, of Madrid. It was edified as a thanks offering by a Spaniard, João Garcia de Bacelar, who, having his life under threat, promised to build a temple in the most deserted spot he could find. The original chapel (1610) evolved throughout the centuries XVII e XVIII century into the big church which can today be admired, where the chancel and the tiled panels stand out.

CULTURAL

Museum of Stone
Municipal House of Culture
Municipal Library
Tourist Office

SPORT

Municipal Pools
Sporting Complex of Tocha
Pavilion of Marialvas

SOCIAL

Colmeia
Ponto Já



Museum of Stone

Space of identifying symbolism and an ideal place to learn, the Museum of Stone promotes various pedagogic activities of a cultural and scientific nature in accordance with its theme.

The Museum opened up on 20th October, 2001, and received an Honourable Mention in the Best Portuguese Museum of the Triennial Awards, 1999/2001. More recently it was distinguished with the National Award for Geoconservation, 2006, which is awarded by the ProGEO – European Association for the Preservation of Geological Patrimony.

The Stone Museum has been part of the Portuguese network of museums since its foundation, and it also belongs to the Association of Portuguese Museums and Centres of Science, and to the Portuguese Association of Museology.

Origins and Contents

The extraction of limestone from the most important sources which extend to the south of the Municipality (Ançã, Portunhos, Outil, and Vila Nova) and the activities which were always associated with it, have produced evidence of an anthropological, cultural and artistic nature, whose indisputable patrimonial value is important to perpetuate.

Therefore, the Municipality of Cantanhede decided to create the Museum of Stone, to preserve and divulge an important collection of antique works of art made in pedra de Ançã, as well as to maintain the artistic crafts and the traditional trades associated to it, and also to preserve the important paleontological

testimonies which can be seen in the area.

The central area of the museum is dedicated to the exhibitions: the permanent one includes, among other things, the exhibition of antique statuary and other ornaments made of pedra de Ançã, the tools used for making them, the geological characterization of the Municipality, the methods used in the extraction of stone, archeological artifacts and an important assemblage of fossils from the local stone-pits; the gallery of temporary exhibitions keeps us in regular contact with the contemporary sculptural production and a deeper and more up-to-date knowledge of the multiple aspects that the work in stone involves.

At the same time, the museum has been promoting, in collaboration with religious authorities, a project of great patrimonial and pedagogic interest which aims to divulge, through the temporary exhibitions, the icons of sacred art existent in the many churches and chapels of the Municipality of Cantanhede.

Articulating with this nuclear service is the area designated “living museum”, which possesses an auditorium and art workshops, essentially for sculpture, in which entertaining and pedagogic activities are regularly provided by the educational services of the Museum, providing a service for the schools.

The Museum of Stone is open to the general public from Tuesday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm, and on Saturday and Sunday from 2 pm to 6 pm (winter timetable) and 2 pm to 7 pm (summer timetable)
Admittance is free.





Municipal House of Culture

A space directed towards educational and cultural functions, the Municipal House of Culture receives regular painting, sculpture, sacred art and photograph exhibitions, offering the residents and the visitors the possibility to become familiar with different aesthetic works by some of the most significant national and international names in the world of painting. The cultural services of the Municipality which are installed here promote cultural trips, debates, conferences, cultural evening entertainment and they are

also responsible for drawing up inventories and studying the historical patrimony of the Municipality.

Besides these activities, the Municipal Music School António de Lima Frago and the Centre for the Diffusion of Information Technologies are also established in the Municipal Culture House.

The exhibition spaces are open to the general public from Tuesday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm, and from 2 pm to 6 pm, and on Saturday and Sunday, from 2 pm to 6 pm (winter timetable) and from 2 pm to 7 pm (summer timetable).
Admittance is free.

Municipal Library



Known as an institution of great quality, the Municipal Library of Cantanhede is endowed with modern and functional facilities, offering a variety of cultural services and initiatives which have become more and more in demand.

The building has an auditorium with 100 seats, available for conferences, colloquiums and debates, a reception area with excellent conditions for putting on exhibitions, a reading room, a space dedicated to children, which includes a play area and an area for babies, and an audiovisual room, as well as a bar and other facilities. Its bibliographical section is made up of a total of 56,282 documents, of which 22,021 are books, and there are also countless digital items, such as CD-ROMS's, DVD's, slides, video cassettes and audio cassettes.

Cantanhede organizes events to promote interest in books and encourage reading orientated towards different age groups, puts on theme exhibitions, and runs an infant-juvenile theatre group. Of the activities of the Municipal Library, it is also

important to refer to the service of an itinerant library, which also extends to Praia da Tocha, during the summer, as well as the baby library, and the Hospital Library.

Tourist Offices

Cantanhede Tourist Office

Largo Conselheiro Ferreira Freire
Telephone: 231410155
E-mail: turismo@cm-cantanhede.pt
Monday to Saturday
10 am - 1 pm / 2 pm - 6 pm



Ançã Tourist Office

Praça do Pelourinho
Telephone: 239964545
Tuesday to Sunday
10 am - 12.30 pm / 2 pm - 7 pm



Varziela Tourist Office

Rua Dr. Santos Silva
Telephone: 231420798
Tuesday to Sunday
10 am - 12.30 pm / 2 pm - 6 pm



Praia da Tocha Tourist Office

Praia da Tocha
Mid-June to Mid-September
10 am - 1 pm / 2 pm - 6 pm



Municipal Swimming Pools

R. Luís de Camões, 3060-183
Cantanhede
Telephone: 231419780/ Fax:
231419789
E-Mail: piscinasmunicipais@cm-
cantanhede.pt

- Municipal Swimming School
- Hydro-Gymnastics Swimming
- Weight-Training Gymnasium
- Cardio-Fitness
- Indoor Cycling
- Localized Body Fitness



Sporting Complex of Tocha

Industrial Area of Tocha

- Stand with cabins-capacity up to 1,000 people
- 2 football fields
- Rugby
- Athletics Field
- Balneotherapy
- Jacuzzi
- Formation Room

Marialvas Pavillion

Rua Luís de Camões, 3060-183 Cantanhede
Telephone: 231419780/ Fax: 231419789
E-mail: pavilhaomarialvas@cm-cantanhede.pt

- Sporting Pavillion
- Teaching Room
- Entertainment and Pedagogic Space
- Physical Activity Rooms

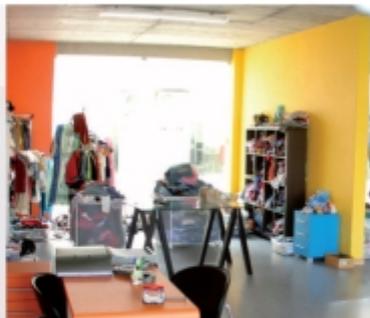


Colmeia

Resource Centre of Cantanhede

Rua Luís de Camões, 3060-183 Cantanhede
Telephone: 231419780/ Fax: 231419789
E-mail: pavilhaomarialvas@cm-cantanhede.pt

- Sporting Pavillion
- Teaching Room
- Entertainment and Pedagogic Space
- Physical Activity Rooms



Open since January 2007, the Resource Centre of Cantanhede is an innovating social service, constituting a space which provides group work and social solidarity, aimed at helping the least fortunate families in the municipality. In accordance with the rules which regulate its functioning, the institutions (IPSS's, social and charitable groups, associations, movements and groups) and citizens can have their donations passed on to the needy, or they can pick up the goods that they will then deliver to those who need them most, according to a method properly established administratively and logistically.



Shop Ponto Já

Marialvas Pavillion, Rua Luís de Camões
3060-183 Cantanhede Telephone: 231000544

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 8 pm

- Free internet access
- Cartão Jovem and Cartão de Alberguista
- Multimedia (printing, recording, research)
- Formation and support of associations
- International work camps
- Young Volunteers
- Summer Camps Licensing

The Shop Ponto Já of Cantanhede has been open to the public since January 2007 in the building Marialvas Pavillion, and it is the result of a partnership between the Portuguese Youth Institute and the Town Council. It is a service aimed at young people, where all information of interest to young people is available, and which is based on a multichannel logic with the supply of many different items of utility, such as the Portal da Juventude (Youth Portal) and the Contact Centre.



BEACHES

Praia da Tocha

Praia do Palheiro

Praia Fluvial (Fluvial Beach) dos Olhos da Fervença





PRAIA DA TOCHA IS A PICTURESQUE VILLAGE, CALM AND PEACEFUL, WITH A GOLDEN SANDY, SHORE, WHERE EVEN TODAY THE FISHING NETS AND THE TYPICAL BOATS CAN BE SEEN, WHILE THE FISHERMAN WAIT FOR THE WEATHER TO ALLOW THEM TO GO OUT TO SEA.

Praia da Tocha

Praia da Tocha has been distinguished every year with the Blue Flag, prize which is given in true acknowledgment of the excellent standard the beach maintains, not only concerning the sea water and the irreprehensible cleanliness of the beach itself, but also concerning the level of the services rendered to the beach-goers, especially concerning security and a choice of fun activities and occupations for your spare time. Considered by magazines of authority on the subject as the best seaside resort in the Centre Region, it possesses an urban environment of excellence, in which many well structured green areas and a group of sporting and leisure facilities of great quality stand out. In this old fishing village where the art of net-fishing is still performed, in the Civil Parish of Tocha, in the Municipality of Cantanhede, it is also possible to find remains of old wooden hay barns, where, in days gone by, the fishermen used to keep the equipment used in their daily work during the summer. Although the touristic demand in the last few years has led to an inevitable urban growth, it has happened without affecting the village's identity. The measures taken to preserve the identity of the village of net-fishing are quite obvious in the recovery of the fishermen's sheds, now transformed into beach houses, or in the adoption of characteristic local materials in new constructions.



Praia do Palheiro

A few kilometres north of Praia da Tocha, the Praia do Palheiro remains in its natural state, a true sanctuary exceptionally well preserved environmentally. Officially recognized as the Praia Dourada (Golden Beach), the Praia do Palheiro stretches along many kilometres of untouched shore, in between the undulating sand-dunes contiguous to an enormous area of forest and the never-ending horizon of the blue ocean. For those who desire an intimate and secluded contact with the immaculate landscape, it is well worth the effort of a trip in which you will have to deal with unfavourable access conditions.



Praia Fluvial (Fluvial Beach) dos Olhos da Ferwença

The springs of Olhos de Ferwença, in the Civil Parish of Cadima, source of water supply to the Municipality of Cantanhede and other outlying places, have been attracting a significant yearly influx of visitors, not only due to their unusual and unique characteristics, but also due to the fact that they are integrated in a natural beauty spot.



To take advantage of the touristic potential of the place, a fluvial beach was developed, through a complete reconstruction of the area, which included a tasteful adaptation of the surrounding area as a leisure zone, more specifically with the creation of a small beach and an area of grassland for sunbathing and relaxing, walking circuits, a bar with an esplanade, changing rooms, picnic area and sports field.



CANTANHEDE
MUNICÍPIO