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# Knights Templar

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## ABOUT



### Knights Templar

**Why not make a journey inspired by the mysteries of the history of the Knights of the Order of the Temple and their symbolism full of occult messages, to discover Portugal's Templar treasures?**

The **Knights Templar** settled in Portugal in the 12th century to help the first Portuguese kings in the Christian Reconquest and to continue the Crusades. The castle they founded in Tomar in 1160 was inspired by the fortifications of the Holy Land, and at the time was the most modern and advanced military stronghold in the kingdom. But nearly two centuries later, in 1312, the Order was dissolved by Pope Clement V, who was intent on ending their fame and power. In Portugal, however, the **Order of Christ** was created, as the true heir and custodian of all the Templars' spiritual and material wealth, preserving its crusading spirit during the Discoveries.

Let yourself be guided to the very heart of Portugal by stories that take you on an imaginary quest for the Holy Grail.

Between the River Tagus and its tributary the Zêzere, you will find the emblematic **Almourol Castle**, the riverside town of **Constância** and the mysterious **Dornes Tower**. The city of **Tomar**, which was once the meeting place of knights and heroes in the Quest for the Holy Grail, is now the culmination of a tour on which you will discover breathtaking landscapes and monuments.

You will learn more about the brave Christian knights who built the **Convent of Christ**, and discover that the **Charola** was built in the likeness of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and that the Manueline church replicates the proportions of Solomon's Temple, where the Order was founded.

### Don't miss

- > in Tomar, visit the church of Santa Maria do Olival, also related to the Templar theme
- > also in Tomar, visit the Mata Nacional dos Sete Montes (Seven Hills National Forest) that surrounds the castle, with a summer house called "The Charolinha"

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## GETTING HERE

Lisbon Airport is 120km from Tomar

By rail: [www.cp.pt](http://www.cp.pt)

By coach - Rede Expresso: [www.rede-expressos.pt](http://www.rede-expressos.pt)

Lisbon to Tomar and the Templar region around the river Zêzere: A1-A23-IC3.