Évora

G2: Largo das Portas de Moura

Spatially speaking, Portas de Moura (Moura Gates) Square is an irregular and elongated structure. It opens out to the south towards the town of Moura and is the site of the former city gates. The 14th century Silves Palace stands on the northern side. It includes the Portas de Moura tower, a square turret in the medieval wall. In which there is a curious chapel dedicated to St. Mary. This tower opens onto a narrow road where there is a palace with three Manueline windows. It is known as the House of Garcia de Resende, as the eminent writer lived here. You can see three double decorated windows from the square, and looming in the background are the cathedral spires.

A Renaissance-influenced fountain stands in the middle of the square. It has two rectangular obelisks and is made from marble. A heavy, round structure stands in the main eastern, topped by a semicircular dome, dated 1595.

The Casa Conceição lies on the eastern side of the square. It is a unique building and dates from the 17th century. It has a loggia with twin arches in the mudejar style, born aloft by thin, straight columns and covered by a conical roof. The base is finished off with regular battlements. The lapidary of what was the Carmelite Convent opens out on the southern side — a 17th-century building which is now the Episcopal seat. From the road acrossing the square to the north, you can access the former church of the Holy Spirit and its respective convent, which are now the University of Évora.

The construction of the new Palace of Justice in the 19th century under the Estado Novo period forms an architectural contrast without distracting from the group’s beauty and interest.