



**DAY TRIP ROMAN RUINS AND COIMBRA, PORTUGAL: ANCIENT SIGHTS /
TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE**

During the excursion to the Roman ruins of **Conimbriga** and the city of **Coimbra**, our experienced English-speaking guide will take you along with your partner, friends or family in the footsteps of the Romans and to the university centre of science and culture. After visiting the **excavations of an ancient Roman city**, our full-day excursion will take you to Coimbra, home to **one of the oldest universities in Europe**.

Type of travel: **Day**
trips
Number of days: **1**

A day with numerous sights and a lot of walking, so put on your walking shoes and don't forget your camera!

Programme

In the morning

The Roman ruins of Conímbriga: national monument



After pick-up at your accommodation, we start our educational day trip in Conímbriga, about 120 km north of São Martinho do Porto. Well worth the drive! Not only because you can take a rest along the way, but also because this is the place with the **best-preserved Roman settlement** in Portugal!

The excavations only started at the beginning of the 20th century but are still ongoing as the entire Roman city has not yet been fully mapped. During this day trip you can already enjoy the many beautiful mosaics, city walls that have largely remained intact, ruins of Roman villas, the *Castellum Divisorium*, the forum and more.

Noon-Lunch

Coimbra, the university city

We leave the Roman site of Conímbriga behind us and continue our day trip 20 km further north to Coimbra, situated on the banks of the river Mondego. In the Middle Ages, Coimbra was the country's capital for a while. Today, the city is best known for the **University of Coimbra, one of the oldest universities in Europe** and the oldest in Portugal. The university was founded on March 1, 1290 by King Dionysius (Dom Dinis).



Afternoon

The old university library of Coimbra: books, books and more books



The *Biblioteca Joanina* is part of the old university complex. The library is a national monument and of inestimable historical value. The books kept in this library remain in excellent condition all year round. Because the outer walls are about 2.11 m thick - yeah - a stable climate can be guaranteed inside. As in the [Palace of Mafra](#), bats help protect the books from insects.

To maintain the right conditions, not many people are allowed into the library at the same time. **Booking in advance is required.** Not on time at the entrance for the reserved time window? Too bad then! But it is worth the hassle because the interior is simply beautiful. We bet you will feel as if you're in a Harry Potter film!

Still afternoon

The city of Coimbra: old, old and old

It shouldn't surprise you anymore that Coimbra is a very old city. There are, of course, also more modern city districts and buildings, which you will certainly catch a glimpse of, but we ignore these during our day trip.

If you still feel like walking up and down the steep streets of the oldest district with its many back-breaking stairs (*quebra-costas*), our guide will take you to the **Sé Velha** (the old cathedral) in Romanesque style. The only cathedral in Portugal in that style that remained relatively intact.



Late afternoon

Coimbra and tradition



During this day trip you will discover that Coimbra is synonymous with tradition. Many students still wear the **traditional dress** and the university's oldest building is still in use. Every year in the month of May, the academic year ends with the **Queima das Fitas**, the "burning of the ribbons". The highlight is the *Cortejo*, the **parade** from the top of the mountain to the lower part of the city.

Coimbra's fado music is world famous and very different from the fado in Lisbon. Perhaps because the fado music here is peppered with funny student antics and opinions.

If there's still time left, would you like to visit more or would you prefer to have a drink at an outdoor terrace? Ask our guide about the possibilities! Then we end our day trip with a return ride of about 1.5 hours back to São Martinho do Porto! We can imagine that you'll doze off after 15 minutes at the most...

Good to know

- In Coimbra you will find numerous lunch bars and restaurants where you can go for a quick bite or a lunch at reasonable prices.
- If you want to make the most of the time on your day trip, you can always bring your picnic.

Book well in advance! Why?

Making your reservation in advance is always necessary! Jinah Trans' airport transfer service and [day trips with private driver](#) have become very popular over the years. Therefore, book well in advance so we don't have to disappoint you.

Airport transfers can be booked online. If you don't want to order online, send us an e-mail. Also contact us if you want to plan a day trip. We will be happy to assist you!

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