

Top tourism attractions in the Region of Leiria

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Abstract

Our presentation provides an overview of the key resources and tourism attractions of the city of Leiria and the surrounding region. This region is located in the center of Portugal, between the Atlantic coast and the Mountains of *Sicó* and *Aire e Candeeiros* and encompasses the municipalities of Leiria, Marinha Grande, Nazaré, Batalha, Alcobaça, Pombal, Porto de Mós e Ourém.

The main tourism products are cultural tourism, Religious Tourism, Tourism in nature and Tourism sun and sea. In cultural terms, we highlight the castles, the monasteries of Batalha e Alcobaça (classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage site) and a very rich and diverse gastronomy. With regard to religious tourism, it is determined by The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima (also known as the Fatima Shrine, the Sanctuary of Fatima or Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary) which is a Roman Catholic Marian basilica which receives over 5 million visitors year. In terms of natural resources, there is *Serra de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park*, Sico's Mountain and the National Forests, increasingly visited for outdoor leisure activities and nature sports. In addition, the coastline is comprised of a set of beaches extremely popular during the summer season.