

Leiria and The Superior School of Technology and Management

A striking royal castle, built in 1135 by the first king of Portugal Dom Afonso Henriques, hangs above the graceful city of Leiria. The castle was restored in the early 14th century, when it gained a fine keep and graceful loggia, with eight ogival arches fixed on twofold pillars. The castle commands a magnificent view over the city, namely the charming old town, with small dwellings over archways and elegant arcades. It is also worth admiring the small



Romanesque Church of St. Peter (12th century), the 16th-century Cathedral with an archaeology museum on its premises, Our Lady of Pena Church (Gothic) and the grand stairway leading to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Incarnation (16th century).



Crossed by the rivers Lis and Lena, the whole region is characterized by fertile fields and forests, namely pinewoods, which provide a landscape of unusual amenity and soothing shades of green. The Leiria pine forest, a long coastal pine forest planted by king Dinis to supply wood for ship building, extends northwards to the beach of Pedrógão, quite popular during the summer, while the nearby lagoon of Ervideira offers good fishing. Other well known beaches are the typical beach of Nazaré or the cosmopolitan beach of S. Pedro de Moel.



Leiria is set between Lisbon and Oporto, at the central section of the Portuguese coastline, where intense reflections on the water lend their name to Costa de Prata (Silver Coast, with 57 Km of extension).

The mild temperatures and white sandy beaches offer one the choice between practicing water sports and the calm life of the seaside. The curative springs and the lush vegetation of secular forests have preserved all the rewards of their unspoiled nature. The monasteries (Batalha, 16th century, and Alcobaça, 12th century, both classified Human World Heritage by UNESCO), convents, castles, churches, and museums witness the priceless historic and artistic heritage of renowned universal value. You can also find a vast cave system of rare beauty in the region, such as the caves of Mira de Aire, Santo António and Alvados, or Moeda.



Costa de Prata is also home of famous traditional art treasures, such as its porcelain and crystal, as well as its gastronomy, strongly influenced by the sea, its tasty wines and delicious sweets. In the fishing villages or urban historic centers, the kindness of the people is another asset to add to its extensive and diverse list of qualities.

To know more about Leiria or the region:

<http://rotadovidro.rt-leiriafatima.pt/>

<http://portal.icnb.pt/ICNPportal/vPT2007-AP-SerraAiresCandeeiros>

www.cm-leiria.pt

www.rt-leiriafatima.pt/

About the Superior School of Technology and Management of Leiria

The Superior School of Technology and management (ESTG-Leiria), which is part of the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, is a dynamic institution that started its activity in 1989/1990, with 100 students and 3 bachelor day courses. Created under the government decree 46/85 of 22nd of November, it is currently the largest superior education school in the Leiria district, and one of the largest in Portugal.

It has now about 5000 students in the fields of engineering, management, languages e applied juridical sciences. Besides the 15 courses of base formation, ESTG-Leiria provides also advanced courses, services, research and development, and technology transfer. These are activities the school is strongly committed too, which materialize in projects and partnerships, mainly with companies in the region.



The school is formed by several modern buildings: Building A (pedagogic building); Building B (administrative and academic services); Building C (Research and projects with external entities); Building D (pedagogic building); Building E (Automobile Engineering). The students have at their disposal laboratories and technical means which, in some cases, constitute a reference at the national level of superior education. The continual improvement of these conditions is, and will continue to be, um of vectors that distinguish the ESTG-Leiria.

In terms of cooperation with external entities, the School has established several partnerships with national companies, allowing the development of projects, service providing and teaching at the corporate level. Currently ESTG-Leiria is know as a Cisco Academy, Microsoft Academy and Oracle Academy, having a also a diversified set of protocols celebrated with other companies and institutions.

More information in www.estg.ipleiria.pt

Arriving at Leiria

Leiria is situated in the coast at the centre of Portugal, 120 Km from Lisbon, 180 km from Oporto and 20 km from the Atlantic Coast.

The closest airports are the Lisbon and Oporto ones. The best alternative to reach Leiria from Lisbon or Oporto is through the Express bus network, or by car through highway A1. Highway A8 is another alternative if you are coming from Lisbon.



Coming from the International Lisbon Airport:

Arriving at Lisbon Airport, catch a taxi (8€) to the “Rede Expresso” bus station of “Sete Rios/Jardim Zoológico”. In low traffic conditions, it should take around 10-15 min. At the bus station you should buy a ticket to Leiria (10€). The journey takes around 2 hours. Having reached the bus station in Leiria, located in the city center, you should take a taxi or walk to the hotel. All hotels are located relatively near, so you should be able to walk there.

Coming from the Oporto Sá Carneiro Airport:

Arriving at the Oporto airport, catch a bus (the 601 leaves at every 30 min. - 1,35€), or the subway (there are 3 departures per hour to the city center - 1,35€) or a taxi (less than 18€) to the the “Rede Expressos” bus station in “Praça da Batalha”, where you should buy a ticket to Leiria (12€). The journey should take around 2h30min, having a possible stop at Coimbra. Having reached the bus station in Leiria, located in the city center, you should take a taxi or walk to the hotel. All hotels are located relatively near, so you should be able to walk there.

Bus schedules - www.rede-expressos.pt

Going by Car

You can opt to rent a car at the Airport

From the Lisbon International Airport, take highway A1, headed North (“Norte”). You can also take the highway A8, direction “Norte” and “Leiria”. After 120 km you will find the “Leiria” exit.

From the Oporto Sá Carneiro Airport, you should take highway A1, headed South (“Sul”). You will find the “Leiria” exit after about 190 km.

Transports in Leiria

All hotels in Leiria, bus station and conference sight are at a walking distance (maximum 30 min.), but Leiria has a public bus transportation system (Mobilis), available every 15 min. The tickets can be bought directly to the bus driver. A single ticket costs 1,10€, while the all day ticket costs 1,75€.



Reaching the IPLeiria/ESTG campus

You can reach the ESTG-Leiria campus from the hotels using the public transports system (Mobilis), taxi, or walking (between 15 and 30 min., depending on the hotel).

More information at www.rt-leiriafatima.pt