

GUEST BOOK

Casa Morgado Esporão

ÉVORA · PORTUGAL

CASA
MORGADO
ESPORÃO

Casa Morgado Esporão is located in the historic centre of Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986, just 80 metres from the Roman Temple and 200 metres from the iconic Praça do Giraldo.

This boutique aparthotel occupies a manor house whose origins date back to the 14th century and which, in the 16th century, belonged to Álvaro Mendes de Vasconcelos, the 4th "Morgado do Esporão" and ambassador of King João III to the court of Emperor Charles V.

Casa Morgado Esporão
Rua Dona Isabel, Travessa das Casas Pintadas, 6
7000-880 Évora, Portugal
www.casamorgadoesporao.com
Email: casamorgadoesporao.reservas@gmail.com
Tel.: (+351) 960 267 700
Internal phone: 3000
Reception hours: 11:00–13:30 and 14:30–20:00

01

Welcome

Dear Guest,

Casa Morgado Esporão is delighted to welcome you and wishes you an excellent stay at our boutique aparthotel. This guide is designed to make your stay easier and more comfortable: here you will find useful information and the services available at the house, in Évora and in the surrounding region.

If this is your first visit to Évora, we are sure you will be enchanted as you discover its corners and secrets. You will certainly enjoy days of blue skies and wonderful food, the perfect way to make the most of the rich tangible and intangible heritage of Évora and the Alentejo.

We have gathered the most relevant information in a single document. If you need anything else, please do not hesitate to contact reception.

We wish you an unforgettable stay at Casa Morgado Esporão and hope to welcome you back soon.

Best regards,

The Management


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Travel back in time without giving up
21st-century comforts.



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Évora

The museum-city, whose roots go back to the Roman occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, reached its golden age in the 15th century, when it became a residence of the Portuguese kings. Its character comes from whitewashed houses adorned with tiles and wrought-iron balconies dating from the 16th to the 18th century.

Since the 1755 earthquake destroyed Lisbon, Évora has been the finest surviving example of a city from Portugal's golden age. Its townscape also helps explain the influence of Portuguese architecture in Brazil, in cities such as Salvador da Bahia.

The capital of the Central Alentejo, Évora is one of the most remarkable destinations in the south of the Iberian Peninsula. Despite population growth, which brought new neighbourhoods to the west, south and east, the city has kept all its traditional charm within its Vauban-style walls, built in the 17th century to plans by the French engineer Nicolas de Langres.

The countryside to the north has remained largely unchanged, with its wheat fields, cork and holm oak *montados*, and vineyards.

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Casa Morgado Esporão

The house, listed in the heritage records as the "Antiga Casa dos Senhores do Morgado do Esporão", was acquired in April 2015 from the Fernandes family, pioneers of cork production in Portugal. Locally, the building was known as the "Casa do Menino de Ouro" (House of the Golden Boy), the nickname of its former owner, João Lopes Fernandes (1905–1973). His parents, long childless, vowed to offer the child's weight in gold if they were blessed with an heir. The vow was fulfilled in honour of Our Lady of the O, a statue of the pregnant Virgin still venerated in Évora Cathedral.

The origins of the house, however, go back much further. Records show that in the 16th century parts of the ground floor belonged to Álvaro Mendes de Vasconcelos, a knight of the House of Braganza and the 4th "Morgado do Esporão" (holder of the Esporão entailed estate). Mendes de Vasconcelos served King João III and was for 12 years Portugal's ambassador to the court of Emperor Charles V. His second wife, Dona Guiomar de Melo, was a lady-in-waiting to Empress Isabella of Portugal, wife of Charles V, who governed Spain as regent during the emperor's absences.

As ambassador of King João III, Mendes de Vasconcelos was also tasked with negotiating with Pope Paul III the establishment of the Inquisition in Portugal — a dark chapter of Portuguese history that is also part of this house's memory.

The Morgados do Esporão held the Herdade do Esporão, near Reguengos de Monsaraz, where an ancestor of the same name, Álvaro Mendes de Vasconcelos, built between 1457 and 1490 the famous tower that still stands on the estate. Since 1973 the estate has belonged to another family and is renowned for its wine and olive oil.

There are also 14th-century architectural remains on the ground floor and in one of the kitchens. Local sources suggest that the site originally held a palace owned by nobles in the service of King João I and Queen Philippa of Lancaster, the English princess who became Queen of Portugal. In 1415, it is said, their daughter, the Infanta Isabel, took refuge here to escape the plague that swept through Lisbon and claimed her mother's life.

The street was named Rua Dona Isabel in her honour. It follows a Roman road aligned with one of the gates of the Roman city, known today as the Arco de Dona Isabel.

When it was acquired in 2015, the house had stood empty for almost 40 years and parts of it were at risk of collapse. The conservation and restoration project was carried out under the close guidance of the owner, who chose a conservative approach. In the owner's words, "the use of the house should be shaped by what already exists and by its historical memory, not the other way around." The result is a place to stay that honours the medieval and Renaissance memory of a building shaped over the centuries.





Explore the ancient city of Évora from one of its most remarkable houses.



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What you will find at Casa Morgado Esporão

- Character, history, refinement, comfort and tranquillity in the heart of the ancient city of Évora.
- 12 apartments of 30 to 80 m², with one or two bedrooms, all with a kitchenette, an elegantly decorated bathroom, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, TV and a hairdryer.
- Common areas including a courtyard, a Mediterranean garden, an outdoor pool, a lounge with a library and a wine bar.
- The *piano nobile* of the manor house, built in the 17th century, is available for private and corporate events. It includes meeting rooms decorated with 18th-century frescoes and a drawing room with 19th-century wall paintings.
- A friendly, professional team at your service throughout your stay.

> *For long stays or groups, please get in touch and we will prepare a tailored quote.*







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Sustainability

Casa Morgado Esporão would like to work with you to make your stay more sustainable.

What we do

- We have installed solar panels with 150 kWp of installed capacity, backed by storage batteries, which supply around 50% of the electricity we use each year.
- The apartments are heated and cooled by a quiet VRV air-conditioning system.
- Certified timber windows with thermal and acoustic insulation save energy, reduce carbon emissions and keep the apartments quiet.
- We collect up to 43 m^3 of rainwater from the roofs in an old cistern restored beneath the house, and use it to fill the pool and water the garden.
- Flow restrictors in the showers help us save water.
- We have planted a Mediterranean garden, mainly with species native to or naturalised in Portugal, to reduce watering and attract wildlife.

What you can do

- Switch off electrical appliances when you leave the apartment.
- A comfortable room temperature is around 19 °C (66 °F) in winter and 22 °C (72 °F) in summer. Please keep within this range to avoid wasting energy.
- Where possible, use energy during daylight hours, when we generate our own solar power.
- Every day, thousands of litres of water are wasted on unnecessary hotel laundry. Please consider reusing your sheets and towels.
- The rubbish bins are at the bottom of Rua Dona Isabel, by the Arco de Dona Isabel.

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Emergency

In an emergency (ambulance, police, fire), dial:



> And give your location (read it out as written): **Rua Dona Isabel, 6, esquina com a Travessa das Casas Pintadas, 7000-880 Évora**

In case of fire, what should I do?

If a fire starts in your apartment and it is safe to do so, try to put it out with the fire extinguisher. If the fire is in the kitchen, cover the burning object with the fire blanket to cut off the oxygen.

If in doubt, leave the apartment and close the door to stop smoke and fire from spreading.

Immediately press the nearest manual fire alarm button and, if this happens outside reception hours, call 112.

If the fire is elsewhere in the house, stay calm and:

- leave calmly, without shouting or running;
- go to the main gate of the house (assembly point);
- if no one has done so yet, call 112 and (+351) 960 267 700.

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Useful contacts

INTERNAL

Reception, during opening hours	3000 (from the apartment phone)
Reception, in an emergency	(+351) 960 267 700

EXTERNAL (+351)

Taxi	266 735 735 / 967 767 700 / 960 438 890
Fire brigade (Bombeiros Voluntários de Évora)	266 702 122
Police (PSP)	266 109 800
Espírito Santo Hospital (public)	266 740 100
Misericórdia Hospital of Évora (private, Hospital da Luz network)	266 760 630 (Luz 24 triage line: 217 104 424)
Tourist office	266 777 071



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A few suggestions

FOOD AND WINE

The Alentejo, dubbed the "new Tuscany" by Condé Nast Traveller, is surely one of Europe's best-kept secrets. Alentejo cooking ranks among the finest in Europe, known for its honest dishes, fresh produce, traditional recipes and ancient influences.

The Portuguese love to gather around the table and know their food well. Grilled sardines, lamb stew and roast chicken are local favourites, but do try something special such as *carne de porco à alentejana* (pork with clams), pork cheeks in red wine, *sopa de cação* (dogfish soup with coriander) or the famous tomato soup.

To discover the renowned Alentejo wines, there are many wineries to visit. In Évora, why not start with a tasting at the CVRA (Comissão Vitivinícola Regional Alentejana), next to the Cathedral, while you plan a visit to one of the region's wine estates?

Visiting Évora means discovering new flavours. Without claiming to be exhaustive, here are some suggestions.

Enoteca da Cartuxa

Contemporary signature cuisine, paired with wines from the Eugénio de Almeida Foundation.

Momentos

Signature cuisine with local produce, plenty of vegetables, mushrooms and a contemporary touch.

Origens

Signature cuisine with strong regional roots and local produce.

Celeiro (formerly A Bruxa)

Regionally inspired signature cuisine with a contemporary twist, in a very pleasant dining room.

Tua Madre

Signature cuisine with a surprising fusion of Alentejo and Italian cooking.

Fialho

Évora's oldest and most famous restaurant, serving the best of traditional Alentejo cooking.

Taberna Típica Quarta-Feira

An Évora classic with a wide range of regional dishes.

1/4 p'rás 9

Another Évora classic, with a wide range of regional dishes.

Café Alentejo

Another classic, with a wide range of regional dishes.

Dom Joaquim

Also in the classic vein, with a wide range of regional dishes.

Luar de Janeiro

Regional small plates and main courses.

Dona Laura

Small plates and tapas with Portuguese and European influences.

Taberna Sal Grosso

Small plates for sharing, Portuguese cooking with a personal twist and a frequently changing menu. Ideal for groups; booking recommended.

Alegrias e Vinho Tinto

Traditional tapas with matching wines, and a charming terrace on summer evenings.

D'Iberica

Portuguese–Spanish fusion cuisine, with a very pleasant terrace in summer.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Évora and the surrounding region offer a wealth of sights, above all their historic heritage. Do not miss the Almendres Cromlech, a megalithic site over 6,000 years old, the Roman Temple, some 2,000 years old, the Chapel of Bones, Évora Cathedral and the cloister of the Espírito Santo College at the University of Évora.

It is also well worth exploring towns such as Arraiolos, known for its rugs, Vila Viçosa, with the Ducal Palace of the Braganza family, and Monsaraz, with its picturesque charm and sweeping views.

And then there is the countryside: vineyards and cork and holm oak *montados* — the Alentejo's own savannas — where forestry, livestock and farming blend harmoniously to produce fibre and food in a landscape rich in biodiversity.

Contact us for more information about history and nature tours.

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Check-in and check-out

CHECK-IN

- Check-in is between 15:00 and 20:00.
- Payment for your booking must be made before check-in. Évora's municipal tourist tax (€1.50 per night per guest over 16, up to 3 nights) is charged separately.
- At check-in, please show a valid identity document: a national ID card from a European Union country, or a passport.
- At check-in you will receive a PIN code that opens your apartment door and the entrances on the way to it (courtyard gate, building door).
- In an emergency, you can call the contacts provided at reception.

CHECK-OUT

- Check-out is by 11:00.
- Occupying the apartment after 11:00 will be charged as an additional night.



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Common areas

GARDEN AND SWIMMING POOL

- The pool is open from 10:00 to 19:00, exclusively for guests of Casa Morgado Esporão. Outside visitors are not allowed.
- Pool towels (blue and brown) are available from reception.
- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Please shower before entering the pool.
- Smoking is not allowed in the pool or garden areas.
- Food and drink are not allowed in the pool.
- For safety reasons, glass is strictly prohibited in the pool area.
- Inappropriate behaviour, including loud noise, offensive language or any disruptive conduct, will not be tolerated.
- For safety reasons, running and jumping in and around the pool are not allowed.
- Please respect other guests' personal space and do not disturb other pool users.





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Behaviour, noise and security

BEHAVIOUR

In addition to the usual rules for tourist accommodation, the following are not permitted at Casa Morgado Esporão:

- smoking, except in the entrance courtyard, where ashtrays are provided;
- rearranging the furniture in the apartments;
- leaving litter in common or private areas;
- pets, with the sole exception of guide dogs.

NOISE

- For the comfort of our guests and neighbours, please keep noise to a minimum during quiet hours (22:00–07:00), both in the outdoor common areas and inside the apartments.
- If you are disturbed by noise, please let us know so that we can take appropriate action to ensure your rest.
- Non-compliance may result in fines under Portuguese law (General Noise Regulation, Decree-Law no. 9/2007 of 17 January).

Quiet hours, happy neighbours.

SECURITY

- For your safety and peace of mind, Casa Morgado Esporão has a 24-hour video surveillance system covering most of the common areas.
- Each apartment has a safe for small valuables. To use it, please ask reception for the key (a deposit is required and refunded at check-out when you return the key).
- Casa Morgado Esporão is not liable for the loss of money, jewellery or other valuables not kept in the safe.
- Luggage storage is available on request at reception, within opening hours.

- Please always close the main gate of the house, as well as your apartment's doors and windows, when you go out.
- Only registered guests may stay on the premises.

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Housekeeping

- Apartments are cleaned and tidied, and bed and bath linen changed, daily, except for long stays, when cleaning may be less frequent.
- Housekeeping takes place until 13:00. If you have asked for your apartment not to be cleaned before then, it will be cleaned the following day.
- If you need an extra change of bed or bath linen, please ask at reception during opening hours and with as much notice as possible.
- We offer a personal laundry service: hand the bag provided in your apartment to housekeeping for washing and ironing (see "Extras").



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Extras

Breakfast in the apartment — €17 PER PERSON

served in your apartment between 9:30 and 10:30; order at check-in or, during your stay, by 19:00 the day before

Cot — €20 PER NIGHT

request when booking

Laundry and ironing — €35 PER BAG

request by 11:00 the day before

Babysitting — €35 PER HOUR

book as early as possible, subject to availability

Bicycle hire — PRICE ON REQUEST

subject to availability

Car hire — PRICE ON REQUEST

subject to availability

History and nature tours — PRICES ON REQUEST

subject to availability

Transfers — PRICE ON REQUEST

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A–Z directory

ACCESSIBILITY

Apartments whose number begins with 0 are on the ground floor. Apartments whose number begins with 1 or 2 are on upper floors and reached by stairs; apartment 2 (Morgado Esporão) has direct access from the street, with five or six steps. If you have reduced mobility, please let us know when booking so that we can allocate the most suitable apartment.

AIR CONDITIONING

Each unit in your apartment has a remote control to adjust the temperature. Keeping doors and windows closed makes it more efficient. If you notice a fault, please tell reception.

ALTERATIONS

For minor clothing repairs, please contact reception.

AMENITIES

Your apartment has complimentary shampoo, shower gel, liquid soap, a make-up remover kit and cotton buds, a shower cap, sanitary bags, laundry bags and slippers. If you need anything else, please contact reception.

BANKS

There are several bank branches in Évora, open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 15:00, except public holidays. Cash machines (Multibanco) are available 24/7.

BREAKAGES

Please tell reception about any damage or breakages as soon as possible so that the items can be replaced.

CINEMA

Évora has a commercial cinema (Évora Plaza) and a film club (Auditório Soror Mariana). Reception can tell you where they are and what is showing.

COTS AND BABY CHAIRS

If you need a cot or a baby chair, please ask at reception. Subject to availability.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE

We do not offer currency exchange. You can change money at bank branches in Évora.

DENTIST

For urgent dental care, please contact reception, who will direct you to the nearest clinic.

DO NOT DISTURB

Hang the "Do not disturb" sign outside your door whenever you do not wish to be disturbed. If the sign is still up at 13:00, housekeeping will take place the following day.

DOCTOR

Please contact reception for information.

ELECTRICITY

The voltage is 230 V (European type F sockets). If you need an adapter or converter, please contact reception.

FLOWERS

If you would like to order or send flowers, please contact reception.

GAMES

Draughts, backgammon, chess, cards and other games are available from reception.

HAIRDRESSER

There are several hairdressers open Monday to Saturday; reception has a list of contacts.

INTERNET

All guests have free Wi-Fi, with the password provided together with your entry code.

KEY

The main gate and your apartment door open with the code given to you at check-in. If you have any problems, please go to reception or call the reception number. Please note: the code stops working at 11:00 on your departure day. In a power cut, the doors open by pressing the white button next to the door.

LAUNDRY

We offer a laundry service; please contact reception (see "Extras").

LOST AND FOUND

Any items found in the house are handed in to reception. If you have lost something, please contact us.

LOUNGE, LIBRARY AND WINE BAR

Available to guests; we will explain how they work at check-in.

LUGGAGE

If you would like to store your luggage, please contact reception.

MAINTENANCE

If anything needs repairing, please contact reception straight away so it can be fixed as quickly as possible.

MARKETS

Évora's municipal market is next to the Public Garden. A local producers' market is held every Saturday morning in the street around it, and a monthly fair takes place at the Rossio, just outside the walls.

MASS TIMES

Masses are held at various times during the week in the city's churches. Reception can provide maps and times.

MESSAGES

All messages for our guests are passed on as quickly as possible.

MINI-MARKET

There are grocery shops a short walk from the house, open Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 19:00. Reception can tell you where they are.

PARKING

The house has no parking. All spaces in the historic centre are paid (except Saturdays after 14:00 and all day Sunday), and some are reserved for residents. There are also paid underground car parks and free surface car parks at the entrances to the walled city. Please ask reception for recommendations.

PAYMENT CARDS

We accept American Express, Visa, Mastercard and Multibanco.

PETS

Pets are not allowed at Casa Morgado Esporão, except guide dogs.

PHARMACY

Several pharmacies in Évora are open on weekdays from 9:00 to 19:00. Outside these hours there is always a duty pharmacy; reception can tell you which.

PHOTOCOPIES

Black-and-white photocopies cost €0.50 each and colour copies €1 each.

POOL

For your safety, please read and follow the pool rules. Use the pool only during opening hours and be mindful of noise that might disturb other guests. If you need a pool towel or bathrobe, please contact reception.

POST OFFICE

There is a post office on Rua de Olivença, under the arcades by the Arco de Dona Isabel, at the start of Rua Dona Isabel. Open Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 18:00.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Please contact reception for bus and train times and bookings.

RESTAURANTS

Évora has countless restaurants, and this guide includes some of our favourites. Reception can give you more information and help you book a table.

ROOMS

All items in the apartment and bathroom are for your personal use and belong to the house, including towels and bathrobes. White towels are for use in the apartment only and must not be taken to the pool.

RUBBISH

The rubbish bins are at the bottom of Rua Dona Isabel, by the Arco de Dona Isabel.

SATISFACTION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please share your suggestions, or tell us what we could do better, by filling in the questionnaire in your apartment.

SMOKING

Smoking is strictly prohibited in the apartments and common areas, except in the entrance courtyard.

TAXI

Taxi numbers are listed in this guide, and reception can also book a taxi for you. Please book in good time.

WATER

Unless otherwise indicated (for example at some public fountains), tap water in Portugal is safe to drink. In the Alentejo it is generally hard.

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Suggestions and complaints

A Complaints Book (Livro de Reclamações) is available at reception.

If you wish to make a complaint, please tell us the name of the staff member involved and the time, and describe what happened in detail.

You can also use the electronic Complaints Book: https://www.livroreclamacoes.pt/

If you enjoyed your stay, please share your thoughts on Google or on the platform you booked with — it helps us a great deal.





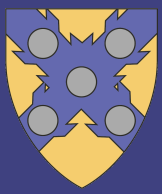






Thank you

We look forward to welcoming you back.



CASA MORGADO ESPORÃO

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www.casamorgadoesporao.com · (+351) 960 267 700