



19.

**MEMORIAL  
OF ERMIDA**Lugar da Ermida  
Irivo  
Penafiel41° 10' 10.360" N  
8° 19' 48.594" W

+351 918 116 488



x



x

National Monument  
1910

P. 25



Free



x

The Memorial of Ermida is a remarkably interesting monument that is well worth a visit. It corresponds to a typology of monuments of which only six examples are left in the entire Portuguese country.

It is, today, out of the context of the ancient medieval road network with which it should be associated with and within which it should be understood. It was originally located close to the old road that, leaving Porto, crossed the parish of Paço de Sousa, the bridge of Vau, and then headed towards east, already within the limits of the medieval parish of Santa Maria de Coreixas, which later became part of the parish of Irivo.

Although the purpose of this type of monument is still not entirely clear, it was probably related to the placement of tombs, to the evocation of someone's memory, as well as to the passing of funeral processions. Usually placed close to paths or crossroads, these monuments mark passage points that Man always needed to turn into symbols.

The monument rests on a rectangular stone base, in which a sepulchral cavity was opened; according to Abílio Miranda, it was an anthropomorphic cavity.



The upper end includes a frieze in which carved leaves were bevelled using the technique of the stonemasonry workshop that worked at the building site of the Monastery of Paço de Sousa (p. 90), also in Penafiel, in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. The stylistic features shown by the decoration of the Memorial of Ermida suggest it may date back to the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century.

## THE MEMORIALS

The Memorials of Ermida (Penafiel), Sobrado (Castelo de Paiva) (p. 104), Alpendorada (Marco de Canaveses) (p. 147), Santo António (Arouca) and Lordelo (which no longer exists, in Baião) are, according to the legend, related to Princess Mafalda (1195-1256) (p. 158), the daughter of King Sancho I (k. 1185-1211) and granddaughter of King Afonso Henriques (k. 1143-1185), the first king of Portugal. Legend has it that Mafalda, a devotee of Our Lady of Silva, from the Porto cathedral, went on a visit to that image, accompanied by her entourage, and died during the return trip, in Rio Tinto (Gondomar), on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1257. According to the legend, throughout the course of this journey, several memorials were built in order to lay down the princess' coffin on their way back to the monastery of Arouca, which she reformed and where she was buried.



### DON'T MISS OUT

- 3.0 km: "Honra de Barbosa" (p. 261)
- 4.4 km: Hill Fort of Monte Mozinho (p. 262)
- 6.1 km: Magikland (p. 263)
- 6.5 km: Municipal Museum of Penafiel (p. 262)
- 6.7 km: "Quinta da Aveleda" (p. 261)