

Discover Longa: History and Culture

Located halfway up the hillside, **Longa** is a village filled with history and tradition, currently part of the municipality of Tabuaço. Its archaeological and heritage sites narrate the story of an ancient settlement, spanning from prehistory through the Early Middle Ages to the present day.

Origin of the Toponym

The name *Longa* is likely of Latin origin, possibly associated with a burial site or necropolis with rock-cut tombs from the Early Middle Ages, similar to those recently discovered in the area.



Citânia de Longa

Archaeological Sites

Longa is home to an impressive archaeological treasure trove. Key highlights include the **Citânia de Longa** (with evidence of occupation from the Bronze and Iron Ages), situated atop the Muro. Also known as “*Castelo de Longa*” or “*Castelo dos Mouros*,” it has been classified as a *Monument of Public Interest* since 1992. Other significant sites are the **Menir da Chã** (Megalithic), considered the second largest menhir in Portugal, and the **Menir do Alto da Popa** near Mãe da Loba (Talefe). Additionally, there are the **Povoado do Graíl** (Chalcolithic), the **Povoado da Encosta do Muro** (Late Bronze and Iron Ages), various sections of **Roman/medieval roads** linking Longa to Citânia, Granja do Tedo, and Arcos, a fragment of a **medieval sarcophagus** and a **rock-cut tomb** in Largo do Eirô, and a possible **Roman milestone** along the Covais path. Also notable are the **Mesinha do Redoiro** and the **Early Medieval remains of Monte Rei**.

History of Longa



Saint Mary of Longa

The parish of Longa likely dates back to the 10th century when its parish church was founded. Historical records from 1220-1229 refer to the parish as “*Sancta Maria de Longa*,” within the Diocese of Lamego. A few decades later, its patron saint was established as St. Pelagius, probably at the behest of its patrons.

In the *Cadastro do Reino* of 1527, Longa is mentioned as a town and municipality with 50 households. It belonged to the House of Marialva, under the Lords of the Couto de Leomil, until its extinction, one decade later, after which reverted to the Crown.

The municipality of Longa was abolished in 1836, and the civil parish became part of the municipality of São Cosmado, later transitioning to Tabuaço in 1855.

The Former Municipality



Pillory of Longa

A symbol of its former municipal autonomy, likely established through a contract between the Lords of the Couto de Leomil and the residents of Longa, the **Pelourinho** (pillory) **of Longa**, dating from the 15th century, can still be admired today. Other historic landmarks include the **Old Jail** and **Town Hall**, the **Penedo da Forca** (gibbet), and the **Court** and **New Jail** (currently the Civil Parish Council headquarters, dating to 1789).

Religious Heritage

Longa boasts an exceptional religious heritage, with emphasis on the **Parish Church of St. Pelagius**, of medieval origin, featuring Mannerist and Neoclassical architecture and a richly decorated interior in Baroque Joanine and Neoclassical styles, including painted panels and gilded and polychrome altars.



Parish Church of St. Pelagius of Longa

Other sites worth visiting include the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Health** and the small **Chapel of Senhora da Guia**, inaugurated in 1930 in Neoclassical style, a place of great devotion. Also noteworthy are the **Chapel of St. Anthony** with elements from the late 16th century, the **Chapel of St. Isidore** (17th century), the **Chapel of St. Michael** (17th-18th centuries), and the **Chapel of St. Sebastian** (18th-19th centuries).

Other religious landmarks include the old and new **Calvary** near Senhora da Saúde, the **Cruzeiro do Alto da Quinta** (a devotional cross), and the **monuments to Our Lady of Health** and **Christ the King**, as well as traces of the parish's **Stations of the Cross**.

Residential Civil Architecture

Longa retains excellent examples of residential architecture from various periods. Of particular note is the **Casa do Abade** (Abbot's House), featuring a Manueline-style window, possibly dating to the late 15th or early 16th century.

Many other structures, from more refined architectural styles to traditional Beira houses, can also be admired. Some date back to the 16th century, while others are from later periods, bearing inscriptions with their construction or restoration dates.



Casa do Abade

Notable examples include the **Solar dos Ferreira Cardoso** (a 17th-century manor with a coat of arms, defaced in 1910), a 17th-18th-century **mansion on Rua José Antunes Figueira**, the so-called **Casa dos Leões** on Rua Direita, the 19th-century **Casa dos Pimentas** on Rua de São Miguel, the **Villa Braga**, and the centennial **Quinta das Enxudas** (also known as *Quinta de Longa* or *Riba Tedo*), with origins in the 17th century.

Fountains and Other Monuments

Over the centuries, the people of Longa constructed various fountains for public benefit, some with monumental characteristics.



Fonte da Rigueira

Notable examples include the **Fonte do Castelo** (a likely medieval cistern fountain), the **Fonte da Rigueira** (16th-17th century), the **Fonte do Cimo de Vila** (19th century), the **Fonte da Lapa** (also known as *Alminhas* or *St. Anthony Fountain*), and the **Fontanário da Praça** (built in 1835, bearing a Latin inscription inviting travelers to drink from its waters).

Other monuments include the **Cruzeiro dos Centenários** in Largo da Praça, commemorating various historic dates in Portugal and constructed in the mid-20th century by Longa stonemasons.

Landscape and Nature

Nestled in a region of great natural beauty, Longa is the perfect starting point for exploring the surrounding Douro landscape, with breathtaking views of valleys, hills, and streams.



Longa viewed from Muro

Contacts: Civil Parish Council of Longa | Phone: +351 254 535 200 | Email: jfreguesialonga@gmail.com

Come and discover Longa: a destination where history, culture, and nature converge!

Location: Civil Parish of Longa, municipality of Tabuaço
How to get there: Easy road access (EM 514), with available parking.



Credits: Editing and Printing: Civil Parish Council of Longa, 2024 | Texts and Photos: Gustavo Monteiro de Almeida, 2024 | Acknowledgements: Civil Parish Council of Longa.



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