

HISTORY

The Chapel of Queen Saint Isabel is located in the Largo D. Dinis, in the north western tower of the 18th century castle, where tradition says Queen Saint Isabel died.

In 1659, after the victory of the Portuguese army in the Battle of the Linhas de Elvas, Queen Luísa de Gusmão in thanksgiving, converts the old room of Queen Isabel into an oratory.

But in 1698 a violent explosion destroys the medieval palace, then adapted to gunpowder magazine. In 1715, João V ordered the construction of the present building.

BIOGRAPHY OF SAINT ISABEL OF PORTUGAL

Isabel was born on January 4, 1271 in Zaragoza, Aragon. She was daughter of Peter the Great of Aragon, granddaughter of King James I; and of Constance, daughter of Manfredo of Sicily, granddaughter of Emperor Frederick II of Germany.

The Princess was given the name Isabel in tribute to her great-aunt Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

On June 26, 1282 Isabel marries King Dinis of Portugal. The wedding was celebrated in the portuguese village of Trancoso. They had two children: Princess Constança (3 January 1290-18 November 1313) who married king Ferdinand IV of Castile; and Prince Afonso (February 8, 1291-28 of May of 1357) heir of the throne of Portugal.

On July 4, 1336 Queen Isabel dies of plague in Estremoz castle. According her will, the body was buried in the Convent of Santa Clara-a-Velha, Coimbra, later transfered to the Convent of Santa Clara-a-Nova.

During her lifetime, she was admired by her kindness, religiosity and miracles. She built convents, hospitals and orphanages. Saint Isabel also managed to appease the conflicts between her husband and her son Afonso and between the kings of the Iberian peninsula.

Saint Isabel was beatified by Pope Leão X in 1516 and canonized in 1625, by special request of King Philip III of Portugal to Pope Urban VIII.

religious tourism

The Chapel of Queen Saint Isabel



MUNICÍPIO DE

ESTREMOZ

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THE CHAPEL OF QUEEN SAINT ISABEL
ESTREMOZ

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 - 12:00 and 14:30 - 17:00

Sundays: 14:30 - 17:00

Holidays: Closed

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ARTISTIC DESCRIPTION

The access to this baroque jewel is made by an iron gate and by a portal in marble of the region. The Coat of Arms of the House of Bragança stands out. The staircase is decorated with 17th century tiles. At the Chapel entrance, two holy water stoups in Arrábida breccia. The chapel has a single rectangular nave and cradle vault.

Above the door, an exceptional Estremoz white marble chorus, in which one reads a thanks to Queen Saint Isabel for the divine intervention that in 1808 protected Estremoz from the pillages and massacres of French troops. Coats of Arms of the House of Portugal and the House of Aragon. On the wall, 18th century tiles representing two guardian angels.

On the main altar, 3 images from the 20th century: in the center the Holy Queen, on the right St. Philip Neri and on the left St. Lazarus.

On the walls, paintings attributed to André Gonçalves and tile panels attributed to Teotónio dos Santos.

TILES

1. The Queen walks on the waters of the river Tejo and saves a child from drowning.
2. This picture remembers the legend of Saint Iria whose tomb was found in the bottom of a river. Queen Isabel moves along the river to pay homage to the Saint when by miracle the waters recede opening a dry path.
3. The Legend of the Mulinha or the Peace of Alvalade, tells the historic episode of the battle of Alvalade, in Lisbon, that opposed King Dinis to his son the Prince Afonso. The Queen, riding her mule, came at the battlefield and appealed for peace.

PAINTINGS

4. The Miracle of the Roses testifies her kindness towards the poor to whom she took bread and money on the sly of the king. One day, the suspicious husband asks her what she was carrying in her lap. Elizabeth opened her apron and answered – Roses, my Lord! Bread had turned into roses...
5. The Miracle of the transformation of wine into water.

6. After the King's death, Queen Isabel goes to live next to St. Clara-a-Velha Convent, in Coimbra and decides to wear the poor Clare sisters habit till the end of her life.

7. The Miracle of Arrifana. In 1325, Queen Isabel on her way to Santiago de Compostela healed a blind child in the village of Arrifana, Santa Maria da Feira.

8. The Queens serve the sisters in the Convent of Santa Clara-a-Velha, Coimbra. In the center her daughter-in-law, Queen Beatriz and on the left, Queen Isabel.

9. The Virgin's Apparition to Queen Isabel. On her deathbed she had a vision of the Virgin Mary.

On the ceiling, painting from the end of the 18th century, depicting the ascension of Queen Isabel to heaven. The pulpit is from the second half of the 19th century, which was once accessed by a wooden staircase. On the right side of the altar, a narrow door gives access to a small compartment that according the tradition was part of the queen's bedroom.

