



Postcard

ÉVORA, PORTUGAL

If walls could talk, the towering ramparts surrounding Évora would speak of centuries. Romans conquered the Portuguese city in the 1st century B.C.; years later, medieval kings and Renaissance artists called it home. Stroll the city's cobbled streets today, and you'll enjoy a day that spans millennia.

The town's centerpiece is the Templo de Diana, a Roman shrine with a foundation that's still standing strong after 2,000 years. The temple has survived earthquakes as well as invasions by Visigoths and Moors. Fourteen intact Corinthian columns frame the sanctuary, a dozen of them capped with carved flora that have barely worn since the days of the Caesars. The temple now shares the city center with the castlelike Sé Cathedral and the gothic Church of St. Francis, famed for its Chapel of Bones.

Outside, locals and tourists lounge over wine and almond cakes at sidewalk cafés in Praça do Giraldo (above), the central square that was once a Moorish marketplace. A Unesco World Heritage site, Évora has changed hands many times over the years and yet, somehow, its soul remains untouched. —chris woolston

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Souvenir savvy

“Want to bring home extra mementos? You can always buy another suitcase! It can be cheaper than shipping.”

—AAA TRAVEL COUNSELOR MARY NICOL

KNOW THE RULES Before you shop in a foreign country, check U.S. customs regulations regarding dollar limits and prohibited or restricted items. Generally, you can bring back less than \$800 worth of merchandise duty free, but fresh food and certain furs are restricted. “Any run-of-the-mill souvenirs are probably OK,” Nicol says. For full details, visit cbp.gov/travel.

BUY LOCAL Seek out items hand-made in your destination. (Ask a local to recommend a specific shopping street or artisan.) Buying one-of-a-kind items will support the region's economy, and your keepsakes will possess a strong connection to the place.

BUY NOT SO LOCAL Mass-produced items such as magnets and postcards from your various travels can make for a fun collection, especially when displayed together.

INCLUDE YOUR LOVED ONES Thoughtful souvenir gifts are cherished. Nicol and her husband gave their moms hand-stitched decorations. Says Nicol, “When they display them, they can say, ‘Our kids got this on their honeymoon in Slovakia!’” —LEEANNE JONES

