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**CANNING PORTIMÃO. PROPOSAL OF A PEDESTRIAN ROUTE IN
PORTIMÃO, PORTUGAL**

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ABSTRACT

Being tourism the main driver of the region's economy, the touristic proposal presented here, based on the canning industrial heritage, is original and topical. This proposal includes places, buildings, and neighborhoods of the city linked to the theme of the canning industry, and it was intended to make known this heritage. The suggested pedestrian path aims to provide a visit to the city of Portimão from another point of view and to be a promoter of hiking and, simultaneously, to be another offer of cultural tourism in this city. On the other hand, being an urban route, it can be carried out by several age groups and all year round. It is possible to reach a more in-depth knowledge of the industrial history, as well as the political, social and economic past of Portimão, and simultaneously, of the country itself, through the history of canned fish and of the canning industry, reason why there is a great touristic potential for the proposal. It is intended to sensitize the local community and tourists to the richness of the existing heritage in Portimão, positively influencing their social responsibility, while valuing the city and showing its history. The development of this paper was based on bibliographical research, photographic surveys and visits to the sites related to the subject, to obtain relevant information. However, there were found some contradictions in the consulted bibliographical sources and the disappearance of some records, along with the closure and/or demolition of the existing canneries, made the development of this work difficult.

KEYWORDS: Canning industry; industrial heritage; tourism; portimão; portugal.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Algarve located in southern Portugal, well-known for its beaches, has moved from one of the poorest regions in Europe to the second richest in Portugal due to the tourist industry, which is the region's biggest economic driver. Portimão is the most important city in the western Algarve. It is a coastal city where the Arade River mouth is located, it has a fishing port, and the fishing and canning industry have always played an important role in the city's economy and daily life. The fish canning industry was very important in Portimão, and there are still some testimonies of this past which is a heritage that must be maintained and preserved. In fact, only some heritage elements have been restored and some have been given new functions; nevertheless, there are still others that are in ruins and many have disappeared.

For the development of this paper bibliographic research, as well as photographic and field surveys were made in order to obtain relevant information. However, there were found some contradictions in the consulted bibliographical sources and the disappearance of some records, along with the closure and / or demolition of the existing canneries, made the development of this work difficult.

This paper aims to make Portimão's cultural heritage linked to the fish canning industry become a cultural icon, promoter of walking, which originate differentiating elements of the global city, transmitting identity to the city. The proposal presented here, constitutes a different way of approaching Portimão's heritage, and therefore it has relevance and utility. These objectives were achieved with this proposal because it includes elements that contributed to the canning industry, directly or indirectly, such as canning factories, but also elements that were used at the port to unload boats, as well as the system of coast defense.

2. THE CITY OF PORTIMÃO AND THE CANNING INDUSTRY

Portimão was founded in Prehistory and the Alcalar necropolis was its greatest proof. The Phoenicians and Carthaginians were the key peoples in commercial and cultural exports between the Mediterranean, the Atlantic and North Africa. The presence of the Romans is demonstrated by the existence of salting tanks, among other examples [1]. In the 15th century, Vila Nova de Portimão, now known as Portimão, was assumed as an urban nucleus due to the recognition given by the kingdom through the attribution of the Manueline charter. However, it was from the second half of the Discoveries period that this village became one of the centers of trade expansion, but the damage caused by the 1755 earthquake caused its stagnation until the second half of the 19th century [1].

The village of Portimão has had a huge development in the dried fruit and canning industries and, consequently, in terms of buildings and infrastructures commissioned by the Marquis of Pombal (18th century), attracting the surrounding population. Noteworthy is its riverside area as the most striking area of the village, built in the late 19th century, with the purpose of serving as a basis for a new road bridge and for a pier to support fishing activities. However, during World War I the demand for tinned food increased significantly causing the emergence of new industrial units. In Portimão, Mexilhoeira and Parchal, all in the municipality of Portimão, in 1916, there were 5 factories and, in 1928, the work on the Arade river bank increased providing the population with sustenance from fishing or canning fish. In the following years, the canning industry increased with exports of around 11 000 tons of canning boxes, which corresponds to around 400 000 units to foreign countries, providing the economic and social growth of Portimão. This development led Portimão to be elevated to the city in 1924. It was as a city with a boom in the fish canning industry and its exports worldwide, having been created more industrial zones and social neighborhoods. However, at the end of World War II, this industry decreased due to the decline in fisheries, aging machinery and growing foreign competition having been replaced by tourism as a driver of the city's hotel development and restoration [1].

3. THE PEDESTRIAN PATH “CANNING PORTIMÃO”

The proposed path consists of two parts: one within the city of Portimão and another that continues to Praia da Rocha, which is Portimão beach. The first part begins in Portimão, near the riverside area of the city, near the S. José factory, runs part of the riverside promenade, near the right bank of the Arade river, enters the city and ends at Facho factory, in Estrada da Rocha. The second part begins exactly where the other ends at Facho factory and goes to Praia da Rocha where, in addition to the Santa Catarina Fortress, with the old dwellings of the owners of the Portimonense canning factories. The chosen sites were mostly based on the book by Duarte (2003) [2]. The selected sites were those that could be identified; others have uncertain location or have been demolished. These sites are part of Portimão's cultural heritage, which are directly or indirectly linked to the canning industry. Only some of the constituent elements of this proposal have classification or asset protection. Thus, the first part of the proposed pedestrian route consists of the elements shown in Figure 1. It starts at S. José factory and ends at Facho factory. It is a mostly flat path, about 3,4 km long and lasting approximately 1 hour.

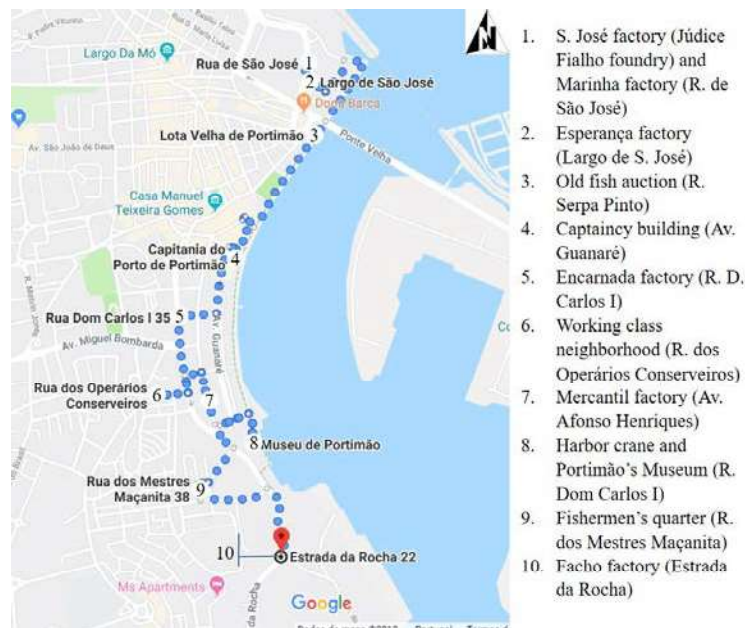


Figure 1: First part of the pedestrian path *Canning Portimão*, with the cultural elements selected and the path (authors based on Google Maps)

The S. José factory belonged to the firm Júdice Fialho Ld.^a and was built in the 20th century at R. de São José, also working there a foundry, reason why it is also known as Júdice Fialho foundry [3]. The name Júdice Fialho is linked to canning industry and foundries played an important role in the production of cans. The site of Marinha factory, owned by Severo Ramos Ld.^a, across R. de S. José, was used for the construction of some apartment blocks, leaving only the chimney's factory for future memory (Figure 2).

The Esperança factory belonged to the company Cristóvão de Brito & Gomes Ld. ^a and was located in the Largo de S. José area. It is now almost in ruins. With the construction of an embankment by the river in the last quarter of the 19th century, the face of Portimão changed profoundly [4]. In Ventura & Marques (1993) [4] there is reference to the construction of a fish market in 1907, but it is not possible to define precisely if the authors refer to the old fish auction or not. However, it is believed that the old fish auction might have been built at the end of the 19th century, beginning of 20th, at the time of Portimão's fishing and canning industry peak. In 2012 the building was vacant [5], as it is currently (Figure 3), but in 2018 there was an intention to make an investment in its rehabilitation and revitalization [6] which, to date, has not been completed. This fish auction was used to sell the caught fish.

The Portimão's Port Captaincy building was built in the 20th century by the Direcção de Construções Civis do Ministério da Marinha and is considered a security architecture, housing the port captaincy [3]. The captaincy serves, mainly, for all bureaucratic matters related to maritime navigation, such as the registration of boats, fishermen, etc. The Encarnada factory, belonged to the firm Portugália, Ld.^a is another example of the abandonment of this industry in the city of Portimão, with its building in poor condition (Figure 4).



Figure 2: Left: S. José factory; right: chimney of the Marinha factory (authors)



Figure 3: Left: what remains of the Esperança factory facilities; right: old Portimão's fish auction (authors)



Figure 4: Left: Portimão's Port Captaincy building; right: Encarnada factory (authors)

The medium-sized working-class neighborhood, Bairro dos Operários, situated on Rua dos Operários Conserveiros, is a district of state-run public housing, with an organicist layout, which was built for the workers of canning factories. The houses were terraced, single-family and semi-detached of three types, with patio and back garden. However, its conception and implementation were designed to allow future expansion to accompany the growth of the household, thus ensuring the continuity of the unit's unity. It was built in the 20th century and inaugurated in 1936. This quarter was concluded thanks to the

intervention of a commission composed of the main canning industrialists, led by Caytano Feu Marchena [3]. From Mercantil factory, belonging to Bívar & C^a Ld.^a, there remain only a few machines and the chimney that are currently part of the exterior arrangement of a building complex and left for the collective memory of this place (Figure 5).



Figure 5: Left: Working quarter; right: some of the remaining elements of the old Mercantile factory (authors)

Walking now towards the riverside promenade, the proposed path suggests a visit to the Portimão's Museum and the Crane located in the harbor. The crane was used to move goods in the harbor or to lift them from boats. At its base is a sign where we can read, among other information, as follows: "*It begins operating in the Port of Portimão in 1948, next to the cannery factory São Francisco, of the firm Feu & Hermanos, in the loading and unloading of domestic and foreign goods, which departed from or reached Portimão's Port*" (Começa a operar no porto de Portimão em 1948, junto à fábrica de conservas São Francisco, da firma Feu & Hermanos, na carga e descarga de mercadorias nacionais e estrangeiras, que do Porto de Portimão partiam ou ao qual chegavam). It is located next to the Museum of Portimão. This museum, formerly the La Rose Canning factory of the firm Feu Hermanos, is located nearby the Arade river, where the fish was unloaded and transported to the factory (Figure 6). Inside the factory, the head removing room was the most important division. The mechanisms of the washing and transport system, the brine tanks and the machine that imprinted the firm's metal cans were preserved [3]. As a curiosity, it is noted that Caytano Feu made a radio and film advertising campaign, within the national market and, for that, a jingle was recorded with the *fado* singer Hermínia Silva promoting the canned La Rose. The film entitled "The Sardine's Game" (*O Jogo da Sardinha*), was shot in the facilities of La Rose factory (where today is the Museum of Portimão), to be presented at the beginning of the cinema sessions as advertising [3]. From this point you can see the S. Francisco Convent, from the 16th century, of Manueline and Mannerist architecture and classified as a Property of Public Interest (Imóvel de Interesse Público) [3].



Figure 6: Left: Crane by the Arade river, with the Museum's façade behind; right: Museum of Portimão, with the La Rose canning insignia (authors)

The route continues to the so-called Fisherman's quarter (Bairro dos Pescadores). This neighborhood, similar to the Working-Class neighborhood, is composed of single-family houses that were built to accommodate families of fishermen with low possessions. The Facho factory belonged to the firm Facho Ld.^a. It is located on Estrada da Rocha which, as the name implies, connects Portimão with the village of Praia da Rocha. What remains of the Facho factory facade has been integrated into the facade of several buildings, belonging to a hotel, “hiding” the driveway entrance; the factory chimney was also maintained, which has a base with a reproduction of the factory façade (Figure 7).



Figure 7: Left: Fisherman's quarter; right: detail of the former Facho factory (authors)

The second part of the proposed pedestrian path is a continuation of the first part of the same pedestrian route. It consists of the elements shown in Figure 8, starting at Facho factory and developing along the waterfront street of Praia da Rocha, ending at the House Francisco Alvo Júnior. It is a mostly flat path, with a length of 3 km and lasting approximately 45 minutes.

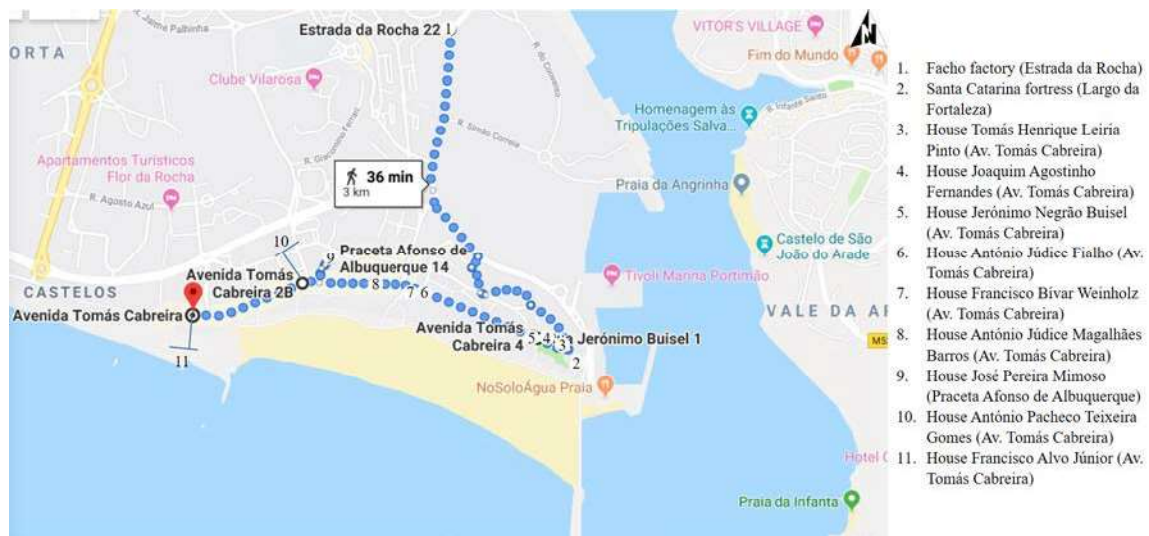


Figure 8: Second part of the pedestrian path *Canning* Portimão, with the cultural elements selected and the path (authors based on Google Maps)

From the Facho factory, towards Praia da Rocha, we arrive at the Santa Catarina fortress, from the 16th/18th century and classified as Property of Public Interest, from where you can enjoy a panoramic view of the sea, the mouth of the river Arade and, on the other side of the mouth, the Fort of S. João de Arade of the 17th century, also classified as Property of Public Interest [3]. These two forts had the important role of defending the mouth of the Arade river and protecting the fishing gears that existed on the coast. Fort Santa Catarina is built on a hill which makes it stand out and has direct access to the beach. It is a military architecture, of renaissance age, whose interior dependencies currently function as cafeteria and gazebo [3]. Leaving now from the Fortress and following the proposed route, mostly

along Av. Tomás Cabreira, the beachfront of Praia da Rocha, one can see the houses of the former owners of the Portimão's canning companies. Right in front of the Fortress is the house of Tomás Henrique Leiria Pinto, which is currently a hotel unit (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Left: Santa Catarina fortress; right: house Tomás Henrique Leiria Pinto (authors)

Slightly beside the previous house, is Joaquim Agostinho Fernandes house, and on the left, almost in front, is located Jerónimo Negrão Buisel house. Following the proposed path, on the right side, is located the house of João António Júdice Fialho and, on the left side, the house of Francisco de Almeida de Bívar Weinholz, currently a hotel unit (Figure 10). Continuing on Av. Tomás Cabreira, a little further on the left, is the house of António Júdice Magalhães Barros, currently a hotel unit. Making a slight detour towards Praceta Afonso de Albuquerque, we can find José Pereira Mimoso house. Returning to Av. Tomás Cabreira, the house of Antonio Pacheco Teixeira Gomes, today a bar, is almost in the opposite side. Continuing a little farther up to number 36 we can find a restaurant in what was once Francisco Alvo Júnior's house (Figure 11).



Figure 10: From left to right, houses of: Joaquim Agostinho Fernandes, Jerónimo Negrão Buisel, João António Júdice Fialho and Francisco Bívar Weinholz (authors)



Figure 11: Left: António Júdice Magalhães Barros house; right: José Pereira Mimoso house (authors)

The proposed pedestrian path can be traveled at once, interpreting it as a whole (about 6,5 km traveled in about 1 hour and 45 minutes), or it can be divided into two distinct parts, one in the city of Portimão (3,4 km and 1 hour), purely urban with factories, and the other on the beach of Portimão, Praia da Rocha (3 km and 45 minutes), enjoying the great view that the waterfront of Av. Tomás Cabreira offers and perhaps complement these paths with a stay on the beach... All the path is mostly flat and can be done by different age groups and throughout the year, as the climate of the Algarve is mild and allows outdoor activities practically all year round.

4. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

From the above, it has been shown that Portimão has the potential for tourism exploitation of heritage related directly or indirectly with the canning industry. So, the proposal of a pedestrian path aims to provide a visit to the city of Portimão from another point of view and to be a promoter of hiking and, simultaneously, another offer of cultural tourism in this city. It is possible to reach more in-depth knowledge of the industrial history and the political, social and economic past of Portimão, and simultaneously, of the country itself, through the history of canned fish and of the canning industry, reason why there is a great tourist potential for the proposal of a circuit under this topic.

Most canning factories in the city have disappeared, giving way to high-rise building blocks. In some, elements of the old factories were kept so that parts of the collective memory would not disappear. In Praia da Rocha, the situation is even worse: with the high price of land, single-family homes of canning factory owners, for example, have become easy targets for the rampant construction of multi-stories buildings, all competing with the first shoreline, hoping to offer sea views. It is not surprising then that most of these houses were demolished for new construction or assigned new functions such as hotels, restaurants or bars, always to serve mass tourism. The ones that remain are an oasis within the density of high-rise buildings that proliferate in Praia da Rocha, featureless and being an instrument for tourism.

Stem from this knowledge, it is intended to sensitize the local community and tourists to the richness of the existing heritage in Portimão, positively influencing their social responsibility, while valuing the city and showing its history.

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