

## **City of Braga**

Braga is situated in the heart of the Minho region, and forms part of the Costa Verde (Green Coast) region in the northwest corner of Portugal.

Often referred to as Portugal's "Rome", Braga dates back to Celtic times and was an important Roman settlement. The Romans dedicated it to their Emperor and called it *Bracara Augusta*, making it their Galician head-quarters in 216 BC. Following a succession of destructive invasions, the city was rebuilt by Bishop Pedro (1070-1093), who established it as one of the most important religious centres in the Iberian Peninsula.

In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it became the seat of Portugal's archbishops, and the country's religious capital.

This rich historical and cultural past has been lovingly well kept in various monuments and churches that contrast with the new city buildings and give the city a modernity which is harmonious with tradition.

Today, Braga is a modern city with a young population, bustling with commerce and industry surrounding a lively and attractive old centre with a number of pedestrian streets.

For further information: <http://www.cm-braga.com.pt/turismo/turismo.asp>