

Doubts



Overcome by a spontaneous inspiration that occupied me on the way to the Algarve, back from being away. How many times have I driven this route without turning here to take a look.

Unknown

Passed by stoically many times, stopped at most once at the gas station for petrol and a short visit to the shop. So far, only the roundabout and the name of this place on a road sign stick in my memory. Always chugging along on the way to the valley of *Monte da Afeiteira*. At the time when grandma Rita and grandpa Dick still lived there.

A diligent search for background information about Ourique yields hardly any results, searching the internet. A spectacular viewpoint spreads out like a small Eldorado, situated on a hilltop. A photogenic pleasure spot with a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape. *Miradouro Ramiro Sobral* unfortunately in a dilapidated state of maintenance.

But something is being done about that. Restorations are provided, of course with the help of European funding. Ourique is an average, apparently not worth mentioning provincial. After typing the keyword at *Portugal Portal*, three blog articles will pop up on the screen.



Dubbing

Under a promising title: [Retirement in Portugal](#) enthusiasm and impatience compete for dominance. Who doesn't like to see a dream come true? In this case, to move into a home purchased in this village as quickly as possible. Inner dichotomy there is no person not being overtaken by it. It brings about worrying and uncertainty. Doubters are just like beds 120 cm. wide with plenty of room for one person. Until someone or something unwanted just creeps in.

Great for those who like to lie close to each other. All in all (too) tight to turn around and continue snoring undisturbed. Undeniably a beautiful location to spend the night. But eh... those short, narrow beds. Exactly tailor-made for Portuguese sleepers. Well, too little bed space is unfortunately a downside. Not an unexpected natural phenomenon for Northern Europeans. But... really wrong bed policy that causes a sleep crisis for many non-Portuguese visitors. Distracted, so just lost the thread.

Anyway, the sequel continues to all that overestimated enthusiasm. About settling permanently in a cozy Portuguese village. In such a sympathetic-looking town, with which nothing is wrong at all. Just Ourique, I mean right next to the IC1.



Silence

It is strange that only blank pages have appeared since December 28, 2019. Except that Wanda does not get around to blogging, due to other priorities. At a *café com leite* in this surprisingly nice village reflections keep me busy. Never before have I bothered to turn right and drive up the hill. To explore this place so I promised myself today. As if this successive series of questionable decisions had to come to an end.

Besides, unsatisfactory for the readers. Such a promising I'm-leaving-series that ends abruptly unfinished. What itches is why, because of Wanda's reasoning of 'other priorities'. It sounds like running away from the harsh reality and is therefore hardly convincing. What fiftysomething doesn't want to know how to manage retirement in middle age in Portugal. Delayed but not stopped by the Coronavirus.

To keep on dreaming about living in the sunnier south. In mid-April 2021, [Wanda Best](#) gives a sneak peek of adjusted plans. Verily, the idea was conceived to travel to Portugal by camper to live on a trial basis for a while. Already a year later still complete 'radio silence'. Hence the question marks again as to why, as a result of which and for how long. Due to illness, financial worries, postponement because of setbacks, or has the 'holy fire' gone out and why?



Choice stress

In doubt as to what I am actually concerned about, I decided to send a message requesting clarification. Curiosity always wins over a hesitant mind. It's a shame to tell yourself that waiting is better, because with delay comes cancellation. Clinging to sedation, no longer feeling like adventure. Longing for a glorious life, enjoying the most beautiful beaches. Phenomenal landscapes, good food, great wines and amazingly nice, warm people.

Too bad if things apparently don't go well. Following the Portuguese, I would say: "Não há mal que dure para sempre", which says something like no evil will last forever. In short, even headwinds strong or less strong will pass at some point. Therefore, always keep looking ahead and pledge loyalty to your dreams, especially when you are plagued by unpredictable doubts.