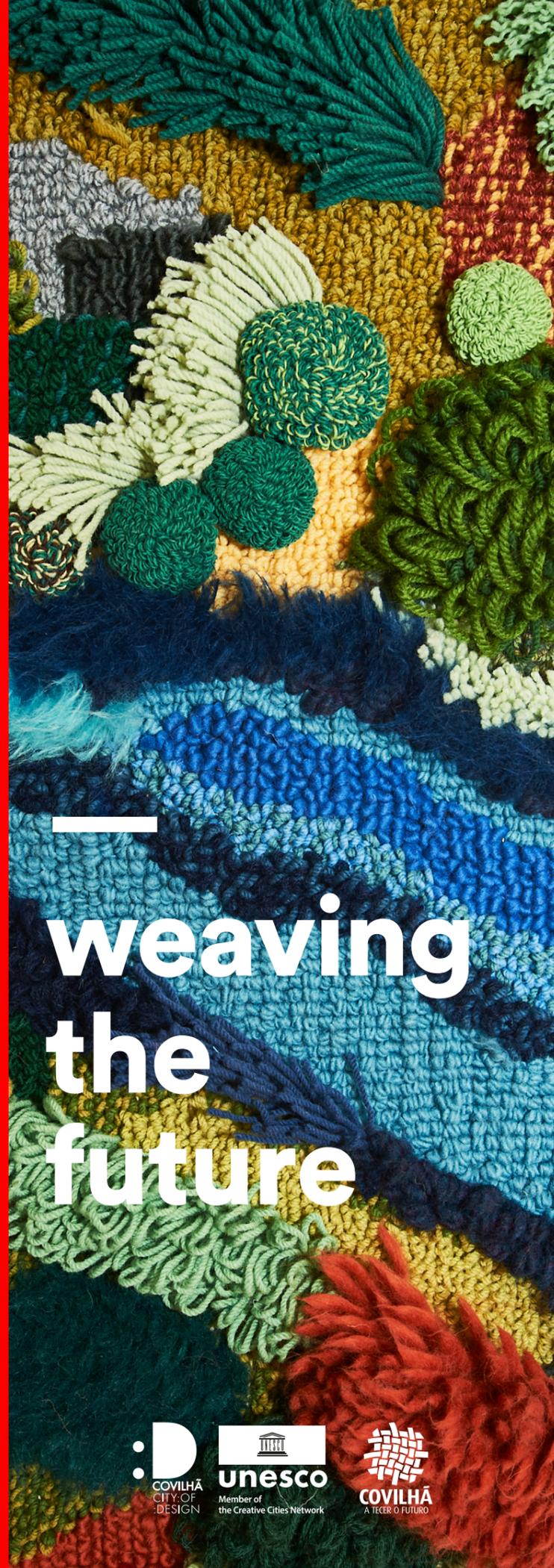




● ● **D**
 COVILHÃ
 CITY:OF
 :DESIGN

covilhacriativa.com



—
**weaving
 the
 future**



**industrial
 city,
 weaving the
 future**

In 1186, Covilhã was made the seat of a territory that would eventually become the province of Beira Baixa. It was then raised to city by king D. Luís (1870), which demonstrates the success of the 18th century industrial policy incremented by Marquês de Pombal. Few urban centers can praise themselves for taking on the same regular economic activity for so long. Being the main textile and wool producer in the country, Covilhã was nicknamed "Portuguese Manchester". Its river streams fed the immense factories during the 19th and 20th centuries. "Rooted in a sea of wool", the legacy of the industrial city lives through Professor António Lopes's tapestry, Manuel Peixeiro's Portuguese Stitch (1949), and the development of the textile "Debuxo". Wool and textiles have been in the city's DNA up until now when the textile industry allies with new areas of innovation, production, and avant-garde.

mountain city, sculpted by nature

As the grand entrance to Serra da Estrela, the highest mountain in mainland Portugal, Covilhã is embraced by UNESCO's Estrela Geopark, the largest protected area on Portuguese territory (2.216 km²). It is an important urban center located in the country's interior region, with invaluable biodiversity and cultural wealth. The human occupation of this land dates back thousands of years, and has made it an authentic living mosaic. The ancient routes cross territories of contrasts and encourage the discovery of picturesque mountain villages, river beaches, breathtaking granitic landscapes, enchanted lagoons, centuries-old trails, natural rock formations, waterfalls, and hot springs.

enchanted city, testimony of the past

Covilhã takes advantage of its natural richness, exquisite landscape, crystalline waters, and superior air quality. The architectural heritage, as a result of both historical and geographical influences, is also worthy of mentioning: old factories with imposing chimneys spreading down the valleys, multiple Art Nouveau mansions of the industrial bourgeoisie, magnificent iron elements ornamenting the buildings, ancient castle walls, centenary chapels and churches, and the 16th-century buildings of the Jewish quarters. The Bridge over Ribeira da Carpinteira is one of the most impressive worldwide. Awarded with an AIT-Award and candidate for a Mies van der Rohe, this pedestrian bridge earned Covilhã the spotlight as the World's Coolest Design Destination. This metamorphosis environment is one of the reasons that placed Covilhã at the Top50 of the best cities to live in.

crib city, designed by men

Creativity reigns in every corner of old and new urban spaces, where past and present come together to imprint the city with a strong identity and character. Sprawled at the slope of the mountain through winding and sloping streets, and shaped by water streams running from the heights, its unique orography makes Covilhã an authentic "crib city". In addition to the mythical winter snow, as well as its diverse fauna and flora, Covilhã's territory attracts its visitors by the mountainous reliefs of colossal proportions that form Serra da Estrela, shaped almost 20.000 years ago by the melting ice of the glacial valleys.



academic city, centre of knowledge and emotions

Developing according to high standards of knowledge and innovation, Covilhã stands out in Sciences and Arts. While the University of Beira Interior becomes a reference in international academic research, Parkurbis and UbiMedical incubate and promote technology-based companies and product developers. Covilhã is the birthplace of personalities from the Arts and Letters, including Eduardo Malta, Morais do Convento, Costa Camelo, Frei Heitor Pinto, Alçada Batista or Ernesto Melo e Castro.

Covilhã is also a territory of folklore and strong traditions, including music, dance ("Trancas"), crafts ("Mantas de Ourelos"), and traditional games ("Rapoula"). It is also possible to delight the senses with local gastronomic delicacies such as "pastel de molho", "panela no forno", "brulhão", cod "à Assis", "bolachas de cerveja", "massapães", "talassas", "papas de carolo", "doce de mogango", "requeijão" and "queijo da Serra", in addition to the delicacies prepared with cherry or the famous "pastinaca".

mystical city, embraced by the clouds

Proud of its past and facing the future, the identity of Covilhã is designed by the daily dreams and expectations of its community. By culture and knowledge. By audacity and imagination. By originality and authenticity. It is frequent to wake up, in the morning, facing its "sea", a phenomenon only possible when the clouds descend from the heights of the mountain, covering the city with a white cloak. The afternoon is the perfect hour to explore the historic center, that echoes the memory of the ancient city built inside the castle walls. Past and present are put face-to-face through dozens of urban art pieces scattered through the narrow streets, forming an open-air museum that houses artworks from Rodolfo Passaporte (Curvilinism, 1988), Vhils (2011 and 2013), Bordalo II (2014), Pantónio (2015), Bosoletti (2017) or Cinta Vidal (2022). At night, Covilhã goes to bed under the stars, lulled by the cosmopolitan buzz of a university city. By dawn, it will be, once again, the first awakened by the rays of the morning sun.

global city, birthplace of explorers

Covilhã is the birthplace of navigators and cosmographers such as Pêro da Covilhã, brothers Francisco and Ruy Faleiro, and Master José Vizinho, who played a leading role in the European overseas navigations between the 15th and 17th centuries. Due to its fast urban development and openness to the world, allied with the willingness to welcome everyone who calls it home, Covilhã transformed into a cultural melting pot. Emphasis on the presence of important Jewish communities and others that, during the course of centuries, have been settling in the city, whether to work or study.