



algarve

cultural heritage guide



thanks

The Algarve Tourism Board wishes to thank all the organisations that provided assistance with the photographic survey, and have thus contributed to informing residents and tourists about the Algarve's valuable cultural and religious heritage. Specifically:

Municipal Councils | Vila Real Santo António harbourmaster's office | Faro Jewish Heritage Centre | Diocese of the Algarve | Algarve Regional Culture Directorate | Parish Offices | Ramalho Ortigão Maritime Museum | Algarve Regional Museum | Parishes | Pousadas de Portugal | Lethes Theatre

preface

holidays in the Algarve are about heritage and culture too

There is the Algarve that is known to everyone and then there is another Algarve, one that only reveals itself to those who are keen to take a closer look, eager to admire the beauty of every monument, archaeological site, church and museum. This publication focuses on the latter, raising the curtain on centuries past to hear the stories that the Algarve's cultural heritage has to tell.

Right now, you are holding over 100 of the region's treasures in your hands – this updated edition features 26 new entries, including the Belmarço Palace in Faro and the Vila Real de Santo António Lighthouse –, highlighted on over 150 illustrated pages.

This means that you will find at least a hundred unusual reasons to visit the Algarve. Which is

quite a considerable number, especially bearing in mind that visits to these sites are very popular with tourists interested in exploring a region or country's historical, cultural or religious heritage.

So, if this sounds like you, I can assure you that you have chosen the right guide book. It will help you understand the sites you visit, unveiling the curiosities and characteristics that make each one unique. It will heighten your enthusiasm for the singular luminosity of our churches, the stone constructions that bear silent witness to our grandiose past, and our mighty fortresses.

It is time to give time itself a new dimension during your holidays. The ideal time is now. The perfect place is here: the Algarve. /

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introduction

Visiting the Algarve is not just an opportunity to enjoy the magnificent beaches and delicious cuisine; it is also a chance to discover a rich cultural heritage handed down over many centuries of history.

Through the publication of this guide, the Algarve Tourism Board wishes to inform everyone who visits us about the most interesting monuments, churches, archaeological sites and museums in the region.

The aim is to draw the attention of both local residents and tourists to all the best things that can be found in each of the municipalities in the Algarve, using as criteria not only the historical,

architectural and artistic value of sites, but also their condition, whether they are easily accessible and whether they can be visited by the public who would like to do so.

As this work is intended to provide information for tourists, it was decided to write in clear, accessible language, without, however, diminishing the rigour of the content, so that this guide may serve as an introduction to the rich cultural heritage of this attractive region, where there is so much to discover. /

aljezur





brief history

Occupied since pre-historic times, the municipality of Aljezur enjoyed a period of great prosperity during the five centuries of Islamic occupation. Indeed, the town of Aljezur was founded by the Arabs in the 10th century, and they built the imposing castle that can still be visited today.

In 1249, D. Paio Peres Correia won the town back from the Moors. In 1280, King Dinis granted Aljezur its charter and in 1504 it was awarded a new charter by King Manuel I.

After a period of prosperity which coincided with the maritime Discoveries and the town sending its agricultural produce to Lagos, Aljezur faced hard times, later exacerbated by the 1755 earthquake.

The earthquake destroyed most of the town and left the main church in complete ruins. The intervention of the then Bishop of the Algarve, D. Francisco Gomes do Avelar, was needed to build this church and set in motion the construction of a new urban centre. /



Castelo de Aljezur

An Arab military building dating from the 10th century, located on the top of a hill. It has a long stretch of wall with two towers, and on the inside a vaulted cistern of Arab origin, as well as the remains of houses and barracks.

Aljezur Castle was taken by the Christians in the 13th century and fulfilled an important defensive role until the 18th century.

Despite the fact that the building is not well preserved, visitors can enjoy the wonderful view.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 289 896 070 (Algarve Regional Culture Directorate)

GPS: 37.316442, -8.805352





Igreja Matriz de Aljezur

After the 1755 earthquake, the old Aljezur Main Church, a medieval building in the Gothic style, was so badly damaged that the bishop Dom Francisco Gomes de Avelar decided to sponsor the building of a new Main Church for the town. The church that can be seen today was built between the end of the 18th century and the first years of the 19th century, in the neoclassical style.

It is a church with three naves and a chancel, two chancel chapels and two side chapels. In the chancel, there is an altarpiece from the beginning of the 19th century with an excellent statue of the town's patron saint: Nossa Senhora da Alva (Our Lady of Dawn). In addition to the side altars in the neoclassical style, some Mannerist paintings from the old main church can be seen, as well as a 16th century statue of São Sebastião (St Sebastian).

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 11 am; Sunday at 12 noon; the third Monday of every month at 11 am.

Contact: Tel. 282 998 204 (Aljezur Parish)

GPS: 37.316415, -8.795525





Museu Municipal de Aljezur

Housed in a 19th century building that was once the Town Hall, the Aljezur Municipal Museum includes an art gallery which hosts temporary exhibitions.

In the same building, there is an archaeology centre with finds from all over the municipality, and an ethnography centre with a reproduction of an old house and an interesting collection of agricultural implements.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm; in summer, Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 991 011 (Association for the Protection of the Historical and Archaeological Heritage of Aljezur)

GPS: 37.319258, -8.803352





Igreja da Misericórdia de Aljezur

A 16th century church rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake. The doorway is in the Renaissance style and it has an art collection comprising a number of pieces of religious art, including the flags of the Irmandade da Misericórdia (Mercy Confraternity) and some 18th and 19th century statues.

In an annex, there is a small museum of religious art where visitors can see objects connected with the liturgical seasons of the Catholic Church and also some personal items belonging to the patron of the museum, Monsenhor Manuel Francisco Pardal.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: in summer, Tuesday at 6 pm; in winter, Tuesday at 5 pm.

Museum open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm. In summer, Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 998 415 (Santa Casa da Misericórdia)

GPS: 37.319272, -8.804149



Igreja Matriz de Bordeira

An 18th-century Main Church, it has a longitudinal floor plan with a single nave and a chancel with a carved gilt triumphal arch in front.

The main features are the altarpiece in the chancel and the two side altarpieces in the Baroque style, where some high quality statues can be seen. Examples are the statues of Nossa Senhora da Encarnação (Our Lady of the Incarnation) and Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary)(18th century), of Santo António (St Anthony) and São Francisco (St Francis)(17th century) and of São Sebastião (St Sebastian)(16th century).

Not open to the public.

GPS: 37.196573, -8.860847



Moinho de Vento de Odeceixe

An old windmill stands at the highest point of the town of Odeceixe.

It is built in Mediterranean style and, inside, visitors can observe the entire process traditionally used to transform the grain.

Open to the public (summer only).

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 4.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 990 010 (Aljezur Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.431204, -8.77161



Adega – Museu de Odeceixe

Housed in a former winery dating from the beginning of the 20th century, this museum provides visitors with an opportunity to find out about the process of wine production and to see some of the implements used in this activity.

Open to the public (summer only).

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 6 pm to 11 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 947 255 (Odeceixe Parish Office)

GPS: 37.432168, -8.770296

Museu do Mar e da Terra da Carrapateira

Visitors to the Museum of the Sea and Land, in the village of Carrapateira, can learn about the region's traditional fishing and farming activities.

The ethnographic exhibition features a variety of documentary and audiovisual sources, as well as a vast collection of objects and utensils related to these activities.

Opening times: in summer, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 5 pm. In winter, Tuesday to Saturday, from 11 am to 6 pm.

Closed: Sundays and Mondays.

Contact: Tel. 282 970 000

GPS: 37.18472, -8.893244



vila do bispo





brief history

A place of settlement since pre-historic times, Vila do Bispo owes its name to the fact that it was granted to the Bishop of Silves at the beginning of the 16th century. For centuries, it prospered thanks to tuna fishing, an activity which Prince Henry the Navigator partly used to fund the maritime Discoveries.

Indeed, it was during the 15th century that Vila do Bispo, the municipality to which Cabo de São Vicente (Cape St Vincent) and the Sagres Fortress belong, grew most in importance, largely due to Prince Henry staying in the region, especially at the Sagres Fortress, which he founded.

Another place of great importance in the region was Cabo de São Vicente which since pre-his-

toric times had great religious significance, and during the Middle Ages was the destination for pilgrimages to the tomb of St Vincent, the martyr whose body was brought here in the 8th century, until it was taken to Lisbon in the 12th century on the orders of D. Afonso Henriques.

At the end of the 16th century, this region was systematically attacked by Moorish pirates and by the English privateer Francis Drake, who were responsible for serious damage which made the construction of a new defensive system necessary.

As along much of the Algarve coast, the 1755 earthquake caused much destruction in this region which nowadays sees its historical past as an important tourist attraction. /

Igreja Matriz de Vila do Bispo

The Main Church of Vila do Bispo dates back to the 16th century. However, the present building was the result of major remodelling work that was carried out at the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries.

The body of the church consists of a single nave and the chancel has a triumphal arch in front. The ornamentation on the inside of the church dates mostly from the first quarter of the 18th century, so that the church displays an almost perfect aesthetic unity, in which decorative elements in the Baroque style predominate.

From among the church's altarpieces, the highlights are the one in the chancel and the one in the Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel), both dating from the Joanine period.

Among the church's art treasures, the one of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception) dating from the 16th century together with a 15th century incense boat and two paintings depicting São Pedro (St Peter) and São Paulo (St Paul) particularly deserve a mention. One of the most interesting features of this church is the ceiling above the nave which consists of coffers decorated with rough nature scenes.

Also worth noting are the Baroque tiles which came from Lisbon and were used to line the church walls.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public and for worship.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 2 pm to 6 pm.

Mass Times: Sundays at 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 926 323 023 (Vila do Bispo Parish)

GPS: 37.082562, -8.908822





Centro de Interpretação de Vila do Bispo

The former Municipal Market currently houses the Vila do Bispo Interpretation Centre. The building, which dates from the early 20th century, played a predominant role in the social and economic fabric of the municipality for around 70 years. Symbolically, it was restored to house a public service of a cultural nature which, in partnership with the local community, focuses on consolidating the collective memory and cultural identity of the local people.

Two exhibition rooms and an information area are open to visitors. There is also a mini-auditorium where images of an ethnographic, environmental and historical/cultural nature may be viewed.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 3.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 630 600

GPS: 37.081717, -8.909455





Ermida de Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe (Raposeira)

This is one of the oldest chapels in the Algarve. It was founded in the 14th century as a chapel of pilgrimage, and was remodelled in the 15th century, possibly with the sponsorship of Prince Henry the Navigator, who came here to pray.

The façade, with a triangular gable, has an eye-window and an ogival doorway, and on the inside columns with abacuses and capitals with rope motifs.

It is interesting to note that the keystones of the vault and the capitals on the triumphal arch display symbols relating to the legend of Nossa Senhora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe).



CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in summer, (May to September), from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm; in winter, (October to April), from 9 am to 5.30 pm. Closed for lunch from 1 pm to 2 pm.

Closed: Mondays, 1st May, 25th December and 1 January.

Contact: Tel. 282 639 042 (Ermida N. Sra. de Guadalupe [Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe]) / 289 896 070 (Algarve Regional Culture Directorate)

GPS: 37.083628, -8.864901





Igreja Matriz da Raposeira

It is known that Prince Henry the Navigator lived in Raposeira, where he stayed frequently. However, this church is from a later period, so it was not there in his time.

Built in Manueline style, as can be seen from the doorways, triumphal arch and holy water font, the Main Church of Raposeira dates back to early 16th century.

The main doorway is a good example of the Manueline style: it has two archivolts and capitals decorated with geometrical and plant motifs. On the inside, the side altarpieces in the Baroque style and a number of statues from the 17th and 18th centuries are particularly noteworthy.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: in winter, Sundays at 4.30 pm and Wednesdays at 5 pm; in summer, Sundays and Wednesdays at 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 926 323 023 (Raposeira Parish)

GPS: 37.082826, -8.88978





Fortaleza de Sagres

Located on the Cape of Sagres, this fortress, famous for its unparalleled beauty, owes its origins to Prince Henry the Navigator who created a town and died here in 1460.

There is little left of the walls that D. Henrique ordered to be built, as the fortress was rebuilt in the 16th century and during the second half of the 18th century, at which time it was altered to the “Vauban” defensive system.



The entrance to this bastioned fortress is a good example of neoclassical architecture. On the inside can be seen cannons, a 16th century tower and also the church Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Graça (Our Lady of Grace), built in the 16th century on the exact spot where previously the church Igreja de Santa Maria (St Mary) had stood, which was founded by Prince Henry but was destroyed by the English privateer Francis Drake in 1587.

One of the most important attractions of Sagres Fortress is without doubt the “rosa-dos-ventos” (the wind rose), a sundial which many think dates from the time of Prince Henry.

A place of great historical and symbolic value, this monument offers visitors an opportunity to revisit the glorious period of the maritime Discoveries and to enjoy one of the most beautiful landscapes in the world.



CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: October to April, from 9.30 am to 6.30 pm; November to March, from 9 am to 5.30 pm; May, June and September, from 9.30 am to 8 pm; July and August, from 9.30 am to 8.30 pm.

Closed: 1st May and 25th December.

Contact: Tel. 282 620 142 (Sagres Fortress) / 289 896 070 (Algarve Regional Culture Directorate)

GPS: 37.001456, -8.948285

Fortaleza do Cabo de São Vicente

This fortress was built in the 16th century in order to protect the coast from the frequent attacks by Moorish pirates. It stands on the site of an earlier medieval convent, which, legend has it, is supposed to have housed the mortal remains of São Vicente (St Vincent).

It is a military construction with a polygonal floor plan, with a gateway crowned by the royal shield and which once had a drawbridge. Inside the fortress can be seen the lighthouse of São Vicente which was built in 1904 and is still in operation today.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: visits to the lighthouse on Wednesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm; visits to the museum, Tuesday to Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 624 234 (Lagos harbourmaster's office)

GPS: 37.023036, -8.996495



Fortaleza de Santo António do Beliche

The economic importance of tuna fishing (known as *almadrava*) in Beliche Bay led to the construction of a fortress which was mainly intended to protect the fishermen from attacks by pirates and corsairs. We do not know exactly when the fortress of Santo António de Beliche was built; what we do know, is that it was already functional in the 16th century. Multisided and with a turret in the wall, the fortress also contains a number of structures inside; one of the most noteworthy of these is the cube-shaped chapel dedicated to Saint Catherine. In the style typically used for marabouts, it has a dome on top.

This fortress was badly damaged by the attack of the corsair Francis Drake in 1587 and by the 1755 earthquake. It was decommissioned in the 19th century and restored for tourism purposes in the 20th century.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: Please contact Vila do Bispo Municipal Council if you would like to visit the fortress.

Contact: Tel. 282 630 600 (Vila do Bispo Municipal Council) / Email. patrimonio.historico@cm-viladobispo.pt

GPS: 37.03161, -8.982037





Fortaleza de Santo António do Beliche

lagos





brief history

Inhabited since pre-historic times, the city of Lacobriga has Celtic origins, dating from about 2000 B.C. It is known that its harbour was visited by Mediterranean peoples such as Phoenicians, Greeks and Carthaginians, and it was still of great importance during the period of Roman rule.

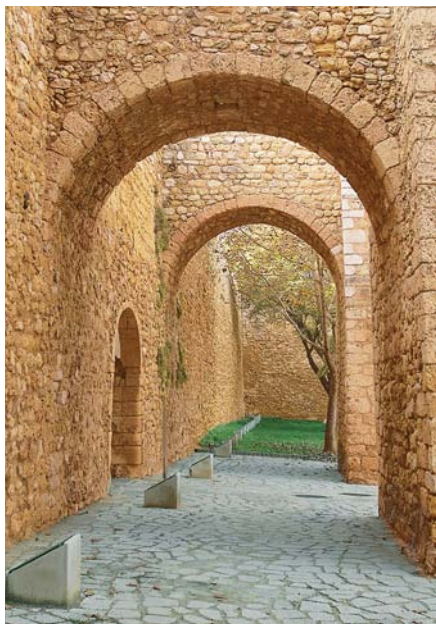
With the Arab occupation of the Algarve in the 8th century, the city changed hands but retained its economic and strategic importance, as shown by the building of an important defensive wall in the 10th century.

With the Christian re-conquest in 1249, Lagos began a new period in its long history. In the 15th and 16th centuries, it witnessed great growth in its economy and population. It was during this period that the city became the main port of ar-

rival and departure for the vessels that explored the African coast, making Lagos one of the main centres in the world for the trade in exotic produce and spices.

Prince Henry the Navigator, father of the maritime Discoveries, lived in Lagos, and it was he who made this city into the port for the ships of Gil Eanes, the Algarve sailor who rounded Cape Bojador in 1434.

The most difficult period in the history of Lagos was the 1755 earthquake, which destroyed much of the city and meant that it was only in the 19th century with the fish-canning industry, that it returned to its previous levels of prosperity. Nowadays, Lagos is one of the main tourist centres in the Algarve. /



Muralhas de Lagos

The Lagos town date back as far as the Roman period. They were rebuilt by the Arabs and considerably enlarged during the 16th century between the reigns of D. Manuel and Filipe I, because of the need to protect the growing city centre.

These walls have nine towers that were built for artillery and there are seven gates. In the late 16th century, one section of the wall was turned into a residence for the Governors of the Algarve.

CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Closed to the public.

Contact: Tel. 282 780 060 (Lagos Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.097223, -8.671695



Forte da Ponta da Bandeira

From this 17th century fort built at the entrance to the Ria de Bensafrim, visitors can enjoy a magnificent view.

It is built on a quadrangular floor plan, is surrounded by a moat and has an impressive gateway with a drawbridge which provides access to the inside. There, a 17th century chapel covered with tiled walls can be visited.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 780 060 (Lagos Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.09902, -8.668401



Mercado de Escravos

In the mid-15th century, the first African slaves arrived in Lagos and began to be sold. One of the city's oldest buildings currently houses the Slave Market Museum, which gives visitors a perspective of this regrettable chapter in Portuguese history.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm (reception closes at 5.30 pm).

Closed: Sundays, 1st January, Easter Sunday, 25 April, 1st May, 24th and 25th December.

Contact: Tel. 282 762 301 / 282 770 020

GPS: 37.100631, -8.671247



Igreja de Santo António and Museu Municipal Dr. José Formosinho

Founded at the beginning of the 18th century, the Church of Santo António suffered considerable damage in the 1755 earthquake, which led to its reconstruction in 1769. It is a church with a single nave, modest in size and with a simple façade, on which the main feature is an eye window with a border with seven shells.

Inside the church can be found one of the Algarve's great artistic treasures: a magnificent ensemble of Baroque gilded wood-carving made by Gaspar Martins and Custódio de Mesquita which, as well as the main altarpiece, includes the carved covering of the side walls and the lower choir.

The works of art include a dado of Baroque tiles, a number of 18th century paintings representing the miracles of Santo António, and also a series of statues including one of Santo António on the altarpiece.

The Church of Santo António is visited via the Dr. José Formosinho Museum, of which it forms part. Here, archaeology and ethnography exhibitions can be seen and a room of religious art which, among other pieces, has a 17th century alabaster statue representing Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Piety). The old Lagos Pillory can still be seen in one of the museum's interior patios.



CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 762 301

GPS: 37.099405, -8.67122



Igreja Matriz de Santa Maria

Built at the beginning of the 16th century as the mercy church, it was made the parish church after the 1755 earthquake.

The church has a single nave and a main doorway in the Renaissance style formed by two Doric columns flanked by figures of São Pedro (St Peter) and São Paulo (St Paul).

The main features of the ornamentation on the inside are the collections of statues of Nossa Senhora da Assunção (Our Lady of the Assumption), of São Gonçalo de Lagos, of Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel) and Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Piety), all in the Rococo style, as are the two statues of the crucifixion.

Open to the public.

Opening times: daily from 9 am to 7 pm (except Friday mornings).

Contact: Tel. 282 762 723 (Santa Maria Parish)

GPS: 37.100197, -8.670703



Igreja de São Sebastião

A 15th century church with three naves separated by semi-circular arches. On the façade there is a doorway dating from 1612, formed by two fluted Doric columns. The outstanding features on the inside of the church are the altarpiece in the chancel, typical of the 19th century but with a Baroque tribune, the 18th century altarpiece in the chapel Capela do Santíssimo (Most Holy) and an important collection of statues including one of the crucifixion from the 16th century, and one of Nossa Senhora da Glória (Our Lady of Glory) in the Baroque style.

Finally, another source of interest in the church is the chapel of bones.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Wednesday to Friday at 5 pm, and Sundays at 10 am; October to May: Saturdays at 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 089 186 (São Sebastião Parish)

GPS: 37.10397, -8.673954



Caravela Boa Esperança

Built in 1990 for the commemorations of the Portuguese Discoveries, the caravel *Boa Esperança* is a faithful replica of the 16th century caravels used by Prince Henry the Navigator and the Portuguese sailors on their voyages of discovery across the Atlantic Ocean and along the coast of Africa.

Built in maritime pine, oak and eucalyptus, the vessel is 23.8 metres long with a mast rising to 18 metres in height and a diesel engine with a maximum speed of 10 knots.

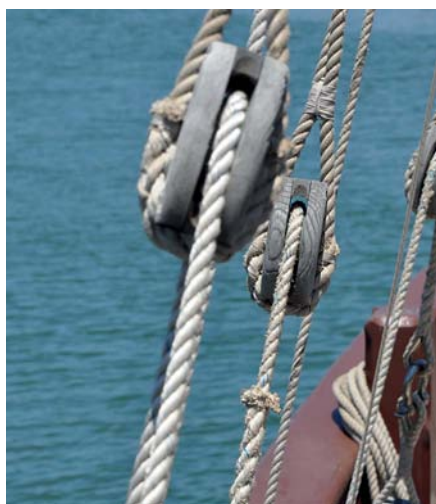
It was aboard a caravel like this one that, in 1434, the Lagos-born navigator and explorer Gil Eanes rounded Cape Bojador, also spelled Cape Boujdour, whose Arabic name, Abū Khatar, means “the father of danger”.

The *Boa Esperança* is currently docked in Lagos Marina.

Restricted access.

To arrange visits, please call: Tel. 289 800 400 (Algarve Tourism Board)

GPS: 37.106192, -8.673348





Igreja do Carmo

In 1554, the Carmelite Order chose the city of Lagos as the site for its second female convent. The building, which would be severely damaged by the 1755 earthquake, was restored by the then Bishop of the Algarve, Friar Lourenço of Santa Maria, and it remained in functions until the extinction of the religious orders in 1833. At that time, ownership passed to Lagos Municipal Council.

During the 20th century, the church was used for a variety of purposes which, together with the earthquake in 1969, contributed to the degradation of this important monument.

Fortunately, the Baroque style church was finally restored between 2005 and 2008. The church has a single nave with a vaulted roof and a rectangular chancel, and a dome with a skylight.

Inside the church, the highlights are the gilt carved altars and the tiled panels in the sacristy.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST**

Closed to the public.

Contact: Tel. 282 771 700 (Lagos Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.099711, -8.674736



Igreja Matriz da Luz de Lagos

The Main Church of Luz de Lagos dates from the late Gothic, from the buttresses on the side walls. The chancel has a ribbed vault with three keystones in a longitudinal line. Another interesting feature is the ogival triumphal arch, with three archivolts and capitals decorated with animal and human figures surrounded by foliage.

The Baroque altarpiece in the chancel is a high quality example from the first quarter of the 18th century, and is well worth having a close look at.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: every day from 9 am to 7 pm.

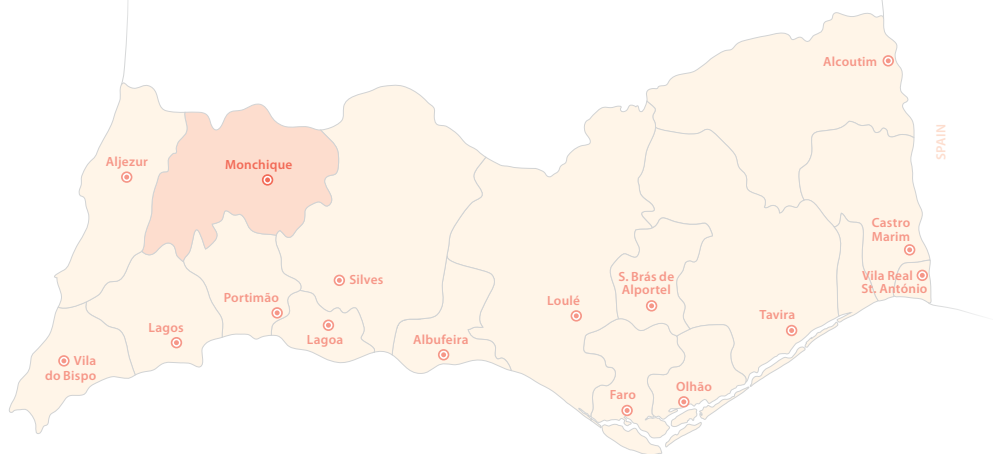
Contact: Tel. 282 762 723 (Luz de Lagos Parish) /
282 789 722 (Luz de Lagos Parish Office)

GPS: 37.085741, -8.730226



monchique





brief history

The Romans were the first people to settle in Monchique, in search of the curative powers of its waters. From the Islamic period onwards, the town prospered owing to the production of goods such as honey and medronho brandy.

In the 1570s, Monchique was visited by King Sebastião and in 1773 it became a town.

Nowadays, visitors continue to be attracted to this attractive spot by the pureness of the mountain air, the quality of its famous spa waters, and by its handicrafts and delicious cuisine. /

Igreja Matriz de Monchique

This is a fine, early 16th century church that was partially rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake. There is an interesting Manueline doorway on the main façade, with a pointed arch and decorated with plant motifs. Above the doorway there is an eye-window that is also Manueline.

Inside, there are three naves separated by pillars with capitals decorated with plant motifs and a Manueline side chapel with a simple ogival vault with a cross of the Order of Christ on the keystone and covered in figurative tiles dating from the end of the 18th century.

Equally interesting are the Baroque altarpieces in the chancel, in the chapels Capela do Santíssimo Sacramento (Most Holy Sacrament) and Capela do Sagrado Coração (Sacred Heart), on which there are some statues of great quality.

Monchique Main Church also has a small museum where visitors can view a collection of liturgical objects.



CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 912 289 (Monchique Parish)

GPS: 37.318944, -8.555719





Igreja da Misericórdia

This 16th century church has a single nave and underwent major rebuilding work in the 18th century.

Inside, the highlights are the Baroque altarpiece in the chancel and the two side altarpieces in Rococo style. Also deserving mention are the pulpit, processional panels, the statue of Christ on the Cross on one of the side altarpieces, and what are known as "imagens em roca" (statues on a wooden frame) of Nossa Senhora das Dores (Our Lady of Pains) and São Francisco (St. Francis).

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 282 912 327 (Santa Casa da Misericórdia)

GPS: 37.319467, -8.556094



Galeria de Santo António

The former Ermida de Santo António, built during the 18th century, houses a municipal gallery, a cultural space where temporary exhibitions and concerts are held regularly.

Restricted access.

Open only for exhibitions.

Contact: Tel. 282 910 200 (Monchique Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.319631, -8.555217



Igreja Matriz de Alferce

The Main Church of Alferce dates back to the 15th century. It has a main doorway with a pointed arch and a chancel with a ribbed vault with a late Gothic triumphal arch in front.

In terms of the ornamentation on the inside, the highlight is the altarpiece in the chancel, an example of the neoclassical style, as well as the “retábulo das almas”, the altarpiece of souls. This incorporates a painting from the late 18th century portraying the archangel São Miguel (St Michael).

The church’s collection of works of art also deserves mention, part of which is on display in a small museum of religious art, including a stone statue of São Romão (15th century) and a 16th century statue of Nossa Senhora da Consolação (Our Lady of Consolation).

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Sundays at 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 282 912 289 (Monchique Parish)

GPS: 37.333473, -8.489388

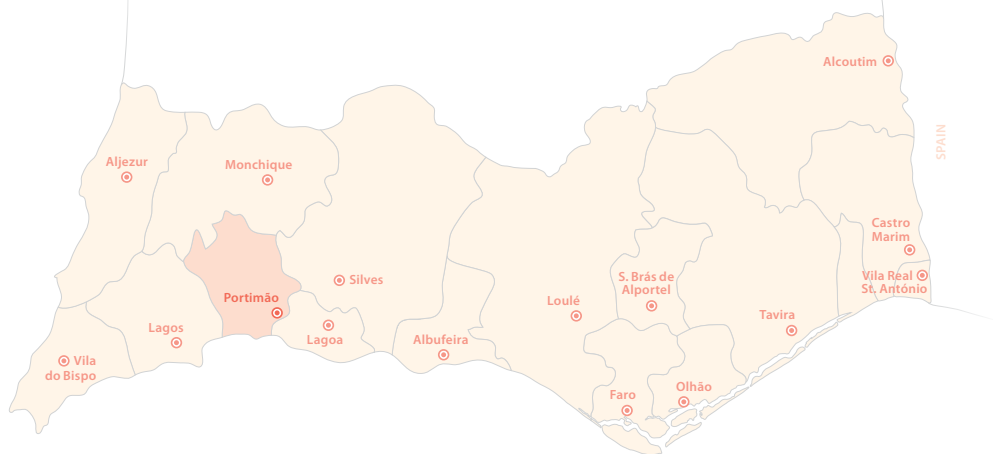




Igreja Matriz de Monchique

portimão





brief history

A human presence in the municipality of Portimão dates back to pre-historic times, as is shown by the major archaeological site at Alcalar.

It is also known that there was a Phoenician and a Carthaginian presence in this area which, like other places on the Algarve coast, played an important role in trade between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean and North Africa.

However, despite a Roman and an Arab presence in the area, it was only in the 15th century that Portimão finally made its mark through the concession by King Afonso V in 1463 of a licence to found a fortified settlement to defend the

mouth of the Arade river against Moorish pirates.

During the Discoveries, the new town of Portimão developed but the damage caused by the 1755 earthquake led to a period of stagnation which was only completely overcome in the 19th century with the fishing and canning industries.

It was made a city in 1924 by the then president Manuel Teixeira Gomes, an illustrious writer who was himself a native of Portimão, and nowadays the city is enjoying a new period of economic growth based on tourism. /

Igreja Matriz de Portimão

Built in the late 15th century, this Gothic style Main Church of Portimão would undergo significant alterations following the 1755 earthquake.

On the façade, there is a medieval doorway similar to that of the Monastery of Batalha, and a pediment decorated with the typical plasterwork of the late 18th century.

Inside, the church has three naves separated by pillars with Tuscan capitals, a triple apse and four side chapels.

With regard the ornamentation of the church, the highlights are the altarpieces in the chancel and in the chapel Capela do Santíssimo Sacramento

(Most Holy Sacrament), as well as the statues of Nossa Senhora das Almas do Purgatório (Our Lady of the Souls of Purgatory), of São Pedro (St. Peter) and São Gonçalo de Lagos (St. Gonçalo of Lagos), which date, like the altarpieces, from the second half of the 18th century.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm and 3.30 pm to 6.30 pm; Saturday, 5 pm to 7 pm; Sunday, 10.30 am to 1 pm and 5 pm to 7 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 402 487 (Municipal Tourist Office) / 282 422 612 (Portimão Parish)

GPS: 37.140015, -8.536209



Igreja do Antigo Colégio da Companhia de Jesus

Despite the fact that building work on the church began in 1660, it was only opened for worship in 1707.

Featuring a single nave with a cradle vault, it has a triple apse and six side chapels with tribunes above, which is characteristic of Jesuit architecture at that time.

On the façade, which was partially rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake, six large windows can be seen, and a pediment with curving lines and an eye window in the centre.

With regard to the ornamentation inside, the highlights are the Baroque altarpieces in the chancel and side chapels, and the 18th century statues of São Camilo de Lélis (St. Camillus de Lellis) and Santo António (St. Anthony).

Other features that are worth mentioning are the ostensory with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a statue of Christ on the cross in the chancel, as well as the mausoleum of Diogo Gonçalves, the founder of the church, who died in 1664 before seeing its completion.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 12.30 pm and from 3.30 to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 422 612 (Portimão Parish) / 282 402 487 (Municipal Tourist Office)

GPS: 37.139424, -8.537394





Museu de Portimão

The renovated building of the former Fêu fish-canning factory, next to the River Arade, houses Portimão Museum, where visitors can discover the origins and evolution of the local community and territory and most significant aspects of the city's industrial and maritime history.

In addition to the permanent exhibition "Portimão, Território e Identidade" (Portimão, Territory and Identity), the museum also organises a varied programme of cultural events in the temporary exhibition rooms and auditorium.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission; admission free for the first four hours on Sundays).

Opening times: 1 September to 14 July, Tuesdays from 2.30 pm to 6 pm; Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm. 15 July to 30 August, Tuesdays from 7.30 pm to 11 pm; Wednesday to Sunday, 3 pm to 11 pm.

Closed: Mondays and Tuesday morning.

Contact: Tel. 282 405 230

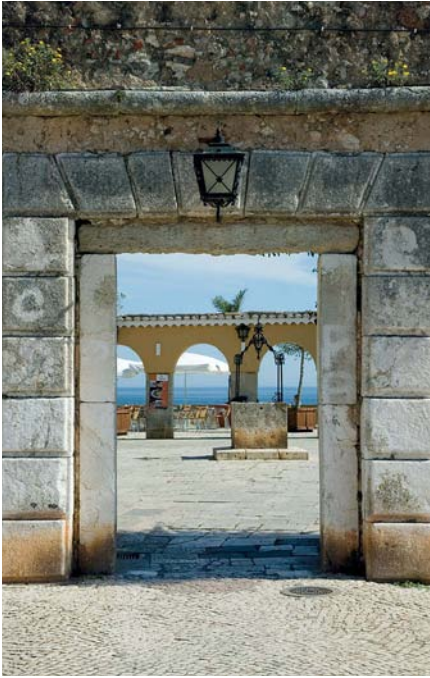
Document Centre / Historical Archive

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 405 261

GPS: 37.130658, -8.534535





Fortaleza de Santa Catarina

Built between 1623 and 1629 to defend the mouth of the Arade river, it has a small chapel on the inside and provides a magnificent view over the water.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Contact: 282 470 717 (Municipal Tourist Office)

GPS: 37.116595, -8.529591



Palacete Sárrea Garfias

Built in the late 18th century, this is a neo-classical stately house somewhat reminiscent of the Baroque style. The building was restored so that it could become the home of Portimão's Municipal Theatre, TEMPO.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 2 to 7 pm.

Closed: Sundays and Mondays (unless a performance is scheduled).

Contact: Tel. 282 402 470 (general) / 282 402 475 and 961 579 917 (ticket office)

GPS: 37.138296, -8.535954

Conjunto pré-histórico de Alcalar

One of the most important archaeological sites in the south of the country is located in Alcalar, in the civil parish of Mexilhoeira Grande.

Here we can explore the material remains of a megalithic community, where dozens of mortuary temples together with dwellings allow us to learn about the religious beliefs, rituals, death and daily life in the prehistoric community.

Because of the importance of the site, visitors have a welcome and interpretation centre at their disposal, and predefined, signposted pathways help to better understand the value of these monuments.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

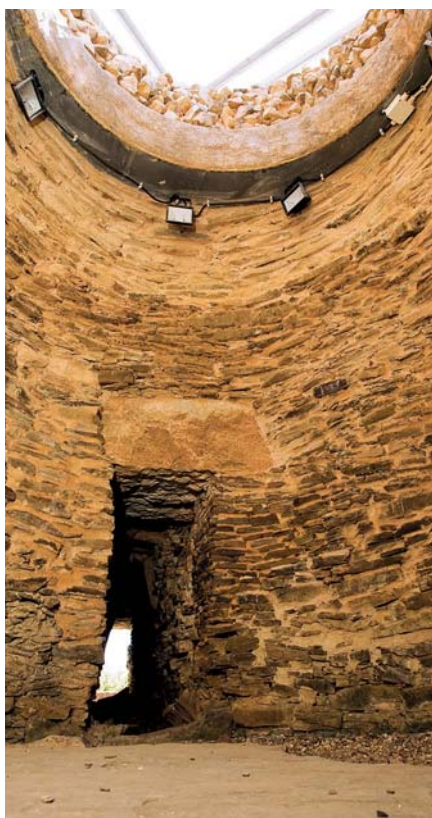
Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: 1 September to 31 June, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4.30 pm. 1 July to 31 August, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm.

Closed: Sundays, Mondays, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, 1st May and 25th December.

Contact: Tel. 289 896 070 (Algarve Regional Culture Directorate / 282 471 410 (Alcalar Megalithic Monuments)

GPS: 37.197604, -8.589373





Igreja Matriz de Alvor

This early 16th-century Main Church was built on the orders of King Manuel.

The body of the church consists of three naves with four bays and a triple apse. On the façade, the main doorway is an excellent example of the artistic style at the time of the Discoveries. It is a doorway with a semi-circular arch, with three archivolts decorated with plant motifs (leaves and stalks).

The collection of altarpieces deserves special attention, in particular the one in the chancel. It was made in the second half of the 18th century, and on it can be seen a painting of the Divine Saviour dating from the end of that century, by the Algarve painter Joaquim José Rasquinho.

Also deserving attention is the quality of the statues on the altars and the interesting panel of tiles in the Rococo style on the side walls of the church, depicting the Last Supper and the Washing of the Feet.

A final point of interest: next to the side door of the church is a small chapel which was created out of an old Muslim marabout.



CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: 1 October to 30 April, 8.30 am to 9.30 pm.

1 May to 30 September, 8.30 am to 10 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 459 151 (Alvor Parish)

GPS: 37.131471, -8.594641

Morabito de São Pedro

Still in Alvor, next to the cemetery, there is a small chapel known as the "Morabito de São Pedro" which was converted to the Catholic faith from a small Islamic place of worship with a quadrangular floor plan and a spherical cupola.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Restricted access.

Contact: Tel. 282 457 540 (Tourist Office)

GPS: 37.131633, -8.59146



Igreja Matriz de Mexilhoeira Grande

The Main Church of Mexilhoeira Grande is built in Manueline style and dates from the beginning of the 16th century. It has three naves and a triple apse. It underwent major rebuilding some years later, in the Renaissance style.

The church's outstanding features are the main doorway in the Renaissance style and the triumphal arch in front of the chancel which, interestingly, is in the Manueline style, although it reveals knowledge of the style of the early Renaissance.

The ornamentation on the inside of the church includes the excellent altarpiece in the chancel, from the beginning of the 18th century, and the altarpiece in the chapel Capela do Santíssimo Sacramento (Most Holy Sacrament), in the Baroque style. Also of great quality is the altarpiece in the Capela de Nossa Senhora da Graça (Chapel of Our Lady of Grace), in the Rococo style.

Finally, the statues of Nossa Senhora da Graça (Our Lady of Grace) and of São Luís (St Louis), both from the second half of the 18th century, also deserve mention.



Open for worship.

Mass Times: October to April, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5 pm and Sundays at 11.30 am. May to September, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 pm and Sundays at 11.30 am.

Contact: Tel. 282 402 487 (Municipal Tourist Office) / 282 968 258 (parish house)

GPS: 37.160364, -8.613912



Igreja Matriz de Mexilhoeira Grande

lagoa





brief history

Little is known about the origins of Lagoa. However, it is probable that the original urban centre developed around a lake, whose marshes were drained to allow agriculture to be practised.

Like most of the coastal area of the Algarve, the region was occupied by the Arabs between the 8th and 13th centuries, and it was retaken by the Christians during the fifth decade of the 13th century and incorporated into the area of Silves.

It is probable that, in the 15th and 16th centuries, Lagoa also enjoyed a period of economic prosperity brought about by the Discoveries.

But it was only in the 18th century that the municipality assumed true importance, especially after it became a town in 1773 under a charter issued by King José.

At the end of the 19th century, the municipality of Lagoa prospered thanks to the fish-canning industry, which began to decline in the middle of the 20th century. Today, tourism is one of the main economic activities in the region. /



Igreja Matriz de Lagoa

Built in the 16th century but considerably altered at the end of the 18th century, this church has a simple Manueline doorway on the bell tower, which, together with the three naves that form the body of the church, constitute the main remnants of the 16th century building.

The façade is in the neoclassical style, and seems to anticipate the interesting altarpiece in the chancel, where an 18th century statue of Nossa Senhora da Luz (Our Lady of Light) can also be seen. There are also four side altarpieces in the Rococo style in the church, with their respective statues.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Monday and Friday at 9 am, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6.30 pm, and Sundays at 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 282 341 056 (Lagoa Parish)

GPS: 37.136246, -8.454767





Convento de São José

Built in the early 18th century, this important monument is used as a venue for a variety of cultural events, including temporary exhibitions.

The cloister, which is of great simplicity, has four arcades and a well in the middle. In the small chapel, there is an 18th century altarpiece. Another notable feature is the foundlings' wheel located at the entrance to the convent.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 5.30 pm On Saturdays and public holidays, from 2 to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 380 434

GPS: 37.136924, -8.453854



Igreja Matriz de São Tiago de Estombar

A 16th-century Main Church, with three naves and a triple apse, it has three Manueline doorways and two interesting columns with sculpted shafts on which human figures can be seen.

On the façade, which was rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake, the magnificent main Manueline doorway is especially noteworthy, as is the pediment with interesting plasterwork decorations, typical of the second half of the 18th century. Inside, the highlight is the Baroque altarpiece in the chancel, and the Capela das Almas (Chapel of Souls) where there is an 18th century altarpiece.

There is also an interesting collection of Baroque figurative tiles in the chancel. These show representations of different scenes from the Gospels and a scene of São Tiago (St James) fighting the Moors.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Sunday at 12 noon, Friday at 6 pm and the summer also on Saturdays at 7 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 431 067 (Estombar Parish)

GPS: 37.146276, -8.487412





Ermida de Nossa Senhora da Rocha

Built on top of a cliff where there was once a military fortress, the chapel has some quite old features although the present building was built at the end of the 15th or beginning of the 16th century, as seems to be suggested by the octagonal cupola and the narthex on the façade, where a column with a Visigothic capital can also be seen.

On the inside, the most important feature is an interesting 16th century statue of Our Lady with Child, as well as a Mannerist altarpiece.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Not open to the public, but it is possible to see the inside.

Contact: Tel. 282 342 390 (Porches Parish Office)

GPS: 37.096534, -8.386711

Forte de São João do Arade

In Ferragudo, at a strategic point on the bank of the River Arade, stands the Fort de São João (St. John), which dates back to the 17th century.

Rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake, this military construction remained in use until the late 19th century, when it was sold at public auction. It was bought by the poet Coelho Carvalho who turned it into a private residence. The fort is in good condition and, as well as a wall linking Angrinha Beach to Praia Grande, it also has several watchtowers and a garden.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Closed to the public (private residence).

GPS: 37.119657, -8.522699



silves



brief history

From the distant past, the Arade river was one of the main communication routes to the Algarve interior and it was due to its navigability that a number of peoples settled in Silves. Of these, the most important in the history of Silves were the Arabs, who made it into the Islamic capital of the Algarve. Known in the 11th century for its development and prosperity, it was a cultural centre where the most brilliant poets, chroniclers and jurists in the region resided.

Precisely because of its importance, Silves was the first Algarve city to be taken by the Christians in 1189, led by King Sancho I, but two years later it was lost to the Arabs again until it was definitively retaken in 1249.

In 1266, King Afonso III granted Silves its charter and he ordered the construction of a Catholic cathedral on the foundations of the old mosque.

The city retained its importance during the following years and remained the capital of the Algarve until the middle of the 16th century, when the seat of the bishop was transferred to Faro, a decision that was strongly influenced by the fact that the river had silted up leading to the economic decline of the city.

With the 1755 earthquake, as well as the Napoleonic invasions and the liberal wars, Silves went through a difficult period, despite returning to prosperity in the 19th century thanks to the cork industry. During this period it witnessed a growth in population and major urban renewal.

Nowadays, Silves is wisely focusing on cultural tourism as a factor in economic development, attracting thousands of tourists to its historical centre and to the events that are held there. /

Castelo de Silves

Built on top of a hill, the imposing Silves Castle is Roman in origin, but it was the Arabs who built the magnificent castle we see today, between the 8th and 13th centuries.

Built of Silves sandstone, the castle has the shape of an irregular polygon and a main gate flanked by two defensive towers, three turrets and seven sides. Visitors can walk around the patrol route. There are a number of remains from the period of Muslim occupation on the inside of the castle, in particular a silo which was used for storing cereals and a cistern covered by a vault seated on five semi-circular arches.

Despite having been rebuilt in the 13th century after the city was taken from the Moors by D. Paio Peres Correia, Silves Castle is the best example of Arab military architecture in Portugal.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: 1 October to 14 June, daily from 9 am to 5.30 pm; 15 June to 30 September, from 9 am to 7 pm.

Closed: 1 January and 25 December.

Contact: Tel. 282 440 800 (Silves Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.190643, -8.437892



Igreja da Sé de Silves

Built at the end of the 13th century, probably on the site of the old mosque, this Gothic style has a floor plan in the shape of a Latin cross, with three naves, a triple apse and also a main doorway with a pointed arch in a style similar to that of the Monastery of Batalha.

One of the main sources of interest in Silves Cathedral is the chancel which was built at the end of the 15th century in the Manueline style, the principal features being the ribbed vault and the tomb of D. João II.

After the 1755 earthquake, some repairs were needed, as can be seen from the late Baroque style of what is known as the “Porta do Sol” (Door of the Sun), dating from 1781.

Amongst the artistic treasures of this church, the Baroque altarpiece in the chapel Capela do Santíssimo (Most Holy) and a jasper statue of Our Lady, dating from the late 15th or early 16th century, deserve special mention.

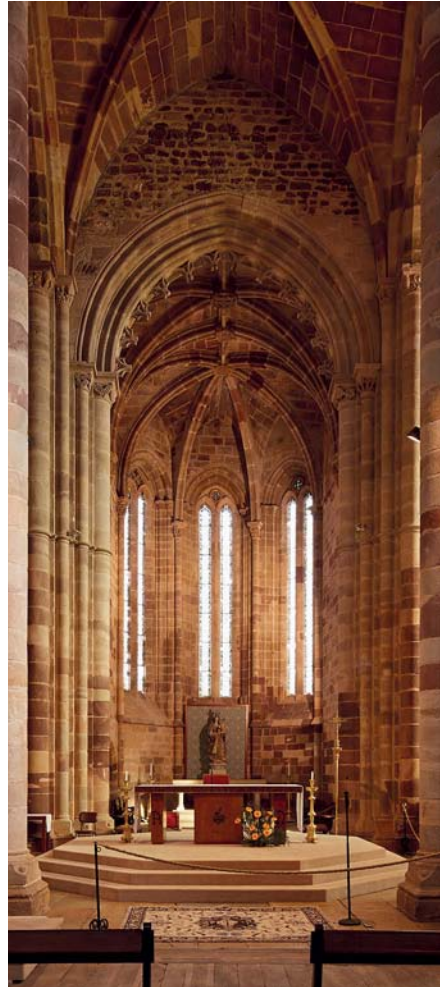
CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 442 472 / 915 413 954 (Silves Parish)

GPS: 37.190068, -8.438766





Igreja da Misericórdia de Silves

This 16th century building has a single nave. It has a side doorway in the Manueline style, decorated with foliage and crowned by a pinecone with the inscription “Casa da Misericórdia” (House of Mercy). Also of interest is the main doorway in the Renaissance style, comprising two Tuscan columns which support a triangular pediment.

The Mannerist altarpiece on the inside, on which there are eight paintings depicting the Visitation and the Seven Works of Mercy, is well worth a closer look.

Today, this church functions as an art gallery and there are regular exhibitions of painting and fine art.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 440 800 (Câmara Municipal de Silves)

GPS: 37.190059, -8.439035



Museu Municipal de Arqueologia de Silves

Not far from Silves Castle, in a building which includes a section of the town walls and a cistern well of Arab origin, is the Municipal Archaeology Museum. The museum houses an interesting collection of archaeological finds from around the municipality, dating from the Paleolithic Period to the Middle Ages, which encompass eight thousand years of human settlement in Silves.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 9 am to 5.30 pm.

Contact: 282 444 832 (Municipal Museum)

GPS: 37.188694, -8.438656





Cruz de Portugal

A cross dating from the late 15th or early 16th century, conceived in the florid Gothic style. Some researchers have identified Manueine elements on it, an idea that is reinforced by the theory that this cross could have been given to the city of Silves by King Manuel at the time of his visit in 1499.

On one side of the cross there is a Pietá, on the other a crucifix.

Located next to a public road close to the Silves Palace of Justice.

GPS: 37.194474, -8.432396



Casa da Cultura Islâmica e Mediterrânica

The former Silves Abattoir, a fine example of the region's neo-Arab architecture, built in 1914, currently serves as the House of Islamic and Mediterranean Culture, where visitors can hear talks and visit art exhibitions.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 442 096

GPS: 37.189722, -8.447194

Igreja Matriz de São Bartolomeu de Messines

Built at the beginning of the 16th century, the Main Church of São Bartolomeu de Messines underwent major remodelling at the beginning of the 18th century, which explains its mixture of styles.

From the Manueline period, the interior of the church remains, with three naves and four bays formed by interesting twisted pillars. The main façade and the chancel date from the Baroque period, with the latter having a fine altarpiece in the Rococo style.

Owing to the use of materials of contrasting colours (limestone and sandstone) and such diverse architectural features as spiral columns and a stairway, this church makes a strong visual impact.

The ornamentation on the inside of the church includes a late 18th century painting by the Loulé painter Joaquim José Rasquinho, depicting the Annunciation.

Equally charming is the altar in the Chapel of Santo António and the statues which date mostly from the 17th and 18th centuries.

Other notable features are the panel of Baroque tiles in the church's side chapels, as well as the excellent 17th century lavabo in polychrome marble.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 2 to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 338 253 (São Bartolomeu de Messines Parish)

GPS: 37.257083, -8.286473



Igreja Matriz de Alcantariilha

The Main Church of Alcantariilha, built in Manueline style in the early 16th century, has three naves separated by semi-circular arches resting on octagonal capitals, and a chancel with a vault with three key-stones, of which the central one bears a cross of the Order of Christ.

Also from the Manueline period is the triumphal arch of the chancel, which comprises two semi-circular archivolts. The ornamentation on the inside of the church includes the 18th century altarpiece in the chancel in the Rococo style, and a beautiful Baroque chest in the sacristy.

Another source of interest is the small Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones) in an annex to the church.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: from 9 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 282 322 420 (Alcantariilha Parish)

GPS: 37.12771, -8.345612





Igreja Matriz de Algoz

Built in the 18th century, this church has a single nave and simple apse.

The church's works of art include the altarpiece in the chancel, two side altarpieces in the Baroque style and the Rococo altarpiece in the chapel Capela do Senhor Jesus (Lord Jesus), where two "imagens em roca" as they are known (statues on a wooden frame) of Nossa Senhora das Dores (Our Lady of Pains) and St John the Evangelist can be seen, as well as another of Our Lord on the cross.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: in winter, Saturday at 5 pm, Sunday at 12 noon, Wednesday and Friday at 5 pm. In summer, Monday to Friday at 6 pm, Saturday at 9 pm and Sunday at 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 282 575 355 (Algoz Parish)

GPS: 37.16336, -8.304554

Igreja Matriz de Pêra

Built in the 18th century, it has a single nave and a simple apse. The highlight is the Baroque altarpiece in the chancel with a pyramid-shaped throne. Also from the Baroque period are the two side altarpieces, as well as those in the chapels Capela de Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) and Capela Sagrado Coração de Jesus (Sacred Heart of Jesus), in which some 18th century statues can be seen.

Also of interest are the figurative tiles in the chancel: they are examples of the Baroque style and depict the four evangelists.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: in winter, Tuesday at 5 pm, Thursday at 9.30 am and Sunday at 11 am. In summer, Tuesday at 6 pm, Saturday at 7 pm and Sunday at 11 am.

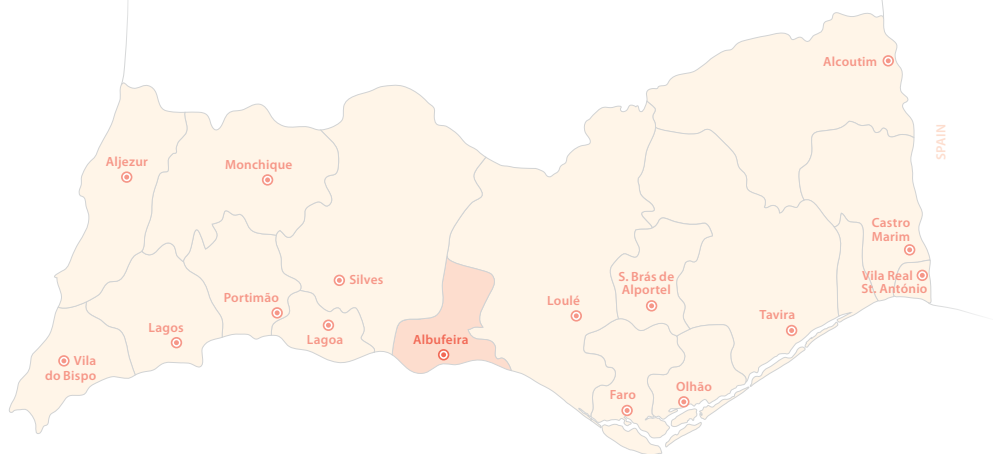
Contact: Tel. 282 322 420 (Pêra Parish)

GPS: 37.120042, -8.341998



albufeira





brief history

Occupied by the Romans over two thousand years ago, Albufeira developed as a centre for fishing and mining in the area around Paderne.

In the 8th century, the Arabs invaded the peninsula and took the city, changing its Roman name – Baltum – to Al-buhera.

At that time, the municipality developed important commercial links with North Africa, and the Arabs built a wall to protect the city, and Paderne Castle, one of the most important examples of Islamic military architecture in the Algarve.

In 1249, with the Christian re-conquest, Albufeira began a new period in its history. The 15th and 16th centuries were a period of economic

development brought about by the maritime Discoveries. And it was in 1504 that Albufeira was granted its charter as a town by King Manuel I.

In the 18th century, the 1755 earthquake caused serious damage and brought a decline in the town's fortunes, which only began to recover in the 19th century thanks to the growth of the canning industry.

Nowadays it is enjoying a new period of prosperity. It became a city in 1986 and is today regarded as the "capital" of tourism in the Algarve. /



Igreja Matriz de Albufeira

The Main Church of Albufeira, built at the end of the 18th century, is one of the most significant examples of neoclassical architecture in the Algarve.

On the façade, the main features are the triangular pediment and the three windows with masonry surrounds and semi-circular arches. The interior has a single nave and there are four side altars in the neoclassical style on which two late 18th century statues of São Luís (St Louis) and São Pedro (St Peter) can be seen.

However, it is in the chancel, which has an imposing triumphal arch in front, that the main point of interest in this church can be found. It is a statue of the patron saint of the city of Albufeira, Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception), in the Rococo style. Dating from the second half of the 18th century, this high quality work is of an unusual size: about 2 metres 40 centimetres in height!

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 10 am to 12.30 pm and from 3 to 6 pm, and Sundays from 9 am to 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 289 585 526 (Nossa Senhora da Conceição Parish)

GPS: 37.087515, -8.253974



Capela da Misericórdia

In 1499, the city's old mosque was converted into the chapel Capela da Misericórdia, and a programme of work was begun which gave this little church the late Gothic style that is still clearly visible today. It was in this period, the late 15th century, that the present-day main doorway was built.

The church has a single nave with a simple apse, whose chancel is covered by an ogival groin vault, with a Manueline triumphal arch in front.

After the 1755 earthquake, the church underwent reconstruction, which can be clearly seen from the pediment on the main façade.

Inside the church, the 18th century altarpiece in the chancel merits particular attention, as do the 17th and 18th century statues.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 289 599 500 (Albufeira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.087164, -8.252402



Igreja de Sant'Ana

This small 18th century church has a single nave with a chancel covered by a vault. On the façade, there is a pediment decorated with volutes and flanked by pinnacles.

On the inside, the highlight is the altarpiece with polychrome woodcarving in the chancel, which was made in the second half of the 18th century in the Rococo style, as were the pulpit and the side altars.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 585 526 (Albufeira Parish)

GPS: 37.087786, -8.255226





Ermida de São Sebastião

Originally built in the 16th century, as can be seen from the side door in the Manueline style, the chapel Ermida de São Sebastião (St Sebastian) was rebuilt in the first half of the 18th century and underwent major architectural renovations.

On the façade, there is an interesting doorway in the Baroque style, which is profusely decorated with volutes. The chapel is a small building with a single nave where a museum of religious art currently operates, which has a significant collection of items from churches in the municipality of Albufeira.

The works on display in the museum include a polychrome altarpiece from the second half of the 18th century, on which there are three statues: of São Sebastião (St Sebastian), São Francisco Xavier (St Francis Xavier) and São Domingos (St Dominic).

Other pieces deserving special attention are those in silver, in particular an incense boat, a chalice and the crown of Nossa Senhora da Orada (Our Lady of Orada), as well as some statues from the 16th and 18th centuries.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 599 500 (Albufeira Municipal Council) / 289 585 526 (Albufeira Parish)

GPS: 37.087011, -8.253981



Museu Municipal de Arqueologia

Housed in the former town hall building, this museum has a temporary exhibition room and a permanent archaeology exhibition, featuring items representing the history of the municipality from pre-historic times up to the 17th century.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm; Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm. In summer (July and August), Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 1.30 pm to 5.30 pm; Wednesday, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm; Thursday and Friday, from 2 pm to 10 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 599 508

GPS: 37.087045, -8.252136



Ermida de Nossa Senhora da Orada

Although this chapel dates back to the 16th century, it was rebuilt during the second half of the 18th century. It is a typical example of popular Algarve architecture and bears witness to the fishing community's great devotion to Our Lady of Orada.

On the façade, there is a lively pediment, with a neoclassical doorway crowned by a window, above which there is plasterwork decoration typical of the region. Inside, the highlight is a carved gilt altarpiece in the Rococo style.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: 1st Saturday of every month at 9 am.

Contact: Tel. 289 599 500 (Albufeira Municipal Council) / 289 585 526 (Albufeira Parish)

GPS: 37.085516, -8.264456



Igreja Matriz da Guia

17th-century Main Church, with a single nave and chancel. Inside, there is a carved high altar from the 18th century and on the side walls a dado of figurative Baroque tiles.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Thursday, from 3 pm to 5/6 pm in summer.

Contact: Tel. 289 561 103 (Guia Parish Office)

GPS: 37.126371, -8.298664



Ermida de Nossa Senhora da Guia

A 17th century church remodelled during the 18th century. Outstanding features of the ornamentation inside the chapel are the altarpiece in the Baroque style, which also includes a 17th century statue of Nossa Senhora da Guia (Our Lady of Guia), and the polychrome wall tiles.

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 289 561 103 (Guia Parish Office)

GPS: 37.1267, -8.301048



Igreja Matriz de Paderne

Built in the mid-16th century, Paderne Main Church underwent significant alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries. The church has a number of Manueline features combined with details in the Renaissance style, especially on the capitals and the triumphal arch.

The most noteworthy features in this church are the altarpieces in the chancel and the chapel Capela do Santíssimo (Most Holy), both in the Baroque style. Also deserving special attention is a group of statues from the 17th and 18th centuries, including an 18th century statue of the archangel São Miguel (St Michael).

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: from 9 am to 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 289 367 680 (Paderne Parish)

GPS: 37.176097, -8.203779

Castelo de Paderne

Paderne Castle is one of the seven castles represented on the crimson border surrounding the white shield on the coat of arms of the Portuguese flag.

Built by the Arabs in the 12th century, it was taken by D. Paio Peres Correia in 1280. It is an excellent example of Muslim military architecture, being built in taipa (made of mud mixed with lime and stones), but was badly damaged by the 1755 earthquake.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Restricted access.

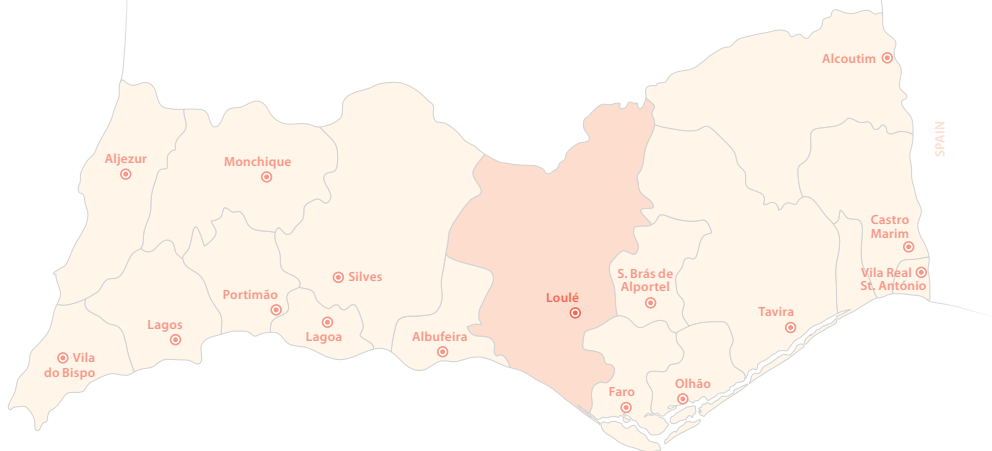
Contact: Tel. 289 599 500 (Albufeira Municipal Council) / 289 896 070 (Algarve Regional Culture Directorate)

GPS: 37.156965, -8.200614



loulé





brief history

The municipality of Loulé was inhabited from pre-historic times and it is known that there was mining in the area around Alte during the Roman period.

The old part of the city, where the medieval castle can be seen today, was also inhabited by the Romans, who were followed by the Visigoths and later the Arabs, whose 500 year presence was decisive for its transformation into an important urban centre known as Al-Ulya´.

It was retaken by the Christians in 1249, and in 1266 was granted its charter as a town. In 1291, on the orders of King Dinis, it started organising an annual fair, but this did not succeed in halting the decline of the following centuries.

With the arrival of the maritime Discoveries in the 15th century, Loulé saw a new period of prosper-

ity, based on trade and the export of produce such as olive oil, dried fruits, salt and fish.

After a recession at the end of the 17th century, Loulé, like much of the country, blossomed again during the reign of King João V, when churches and mansions were built which still today characterise the city centre.

After the destruction caused by the 1755 earthquake and the political instability of the early years of the 19th century, Loulé found a new source of development in the cork and dried fruits industries until, in the 1970s, it became one of the most important municipalities for tourism in the Algarve. /

Castelo de Loulé

A military construction that is Arab in origin, Loulé Castle was rebuilt in the 13th century after the city was taken from the Moors by D. Paio Peres Correia.

Inside, the Municipal Museum and the Municipal Document Centre can be found.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 414 536

GPS: 37.139791, -8.023472



Ruínas do Convento da Graça

In the 14th century, a convent was built of which only the doorway of the church remains. This is an interesting example of the Gothic style, with the characteristic pointed arch, flanked by two smooth columns with capitals decorated with plant motifs. Topping them, there is an engraved stone with a five-pointed star.

CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Located in the Largo Tenente Cabeçadas.

GPS: 37.137077, -8.021007

Museu Municipal de Loulé

The building of the castle's old "alcaidaria" (governor's residence) houses the Municipal Museum, where visitors can see an interesting exhibition of archaeology with objects found in the municipality of Loulé, as well as the "Traditional Kitchen" exhibition.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm. Saturday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 400 885

GPS: 37.139667, -8.023595



Mercado Municipal de Loulé

Opened in June 1908, Loulé Municipal Market is one of the finest examples of revivalist architecture in the Algarve. Designed by Lisbon architect Alfredo Costa Campos, it is neo-Arab in style, with four sections and four doorways.

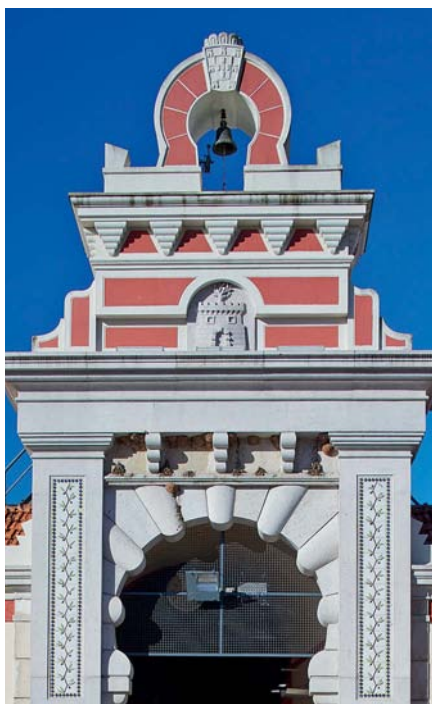
The building was recently refurbished and modernised so that the municipal market could operate in proper conditions of safety and hygiene but the original architectural style was maintained.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 7 am to 3 pm, and public holidays, from 7 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 400 733 / 926 605 437

GPS: 37.138634, -8.02216





Ermida de Nossa Senhora da Conceição

Built in the sixth decade of the 17th century, the chapel Ermida de Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception) is a small church with a single nave that is very typical of the so-called “chão” (plain) style.

Despite the architectural simplicity, the chapel contains a number of artistic treasures, such as the Baroque altarpiece in gilt woodcarving with some statues of great quality, especially that of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception).

Also of interest is the series of figurative tiles depicting the life of the Virgin which decorate the walls of the chapel. The tiles came from Lisbon in the middle of the 17th century, and reveal early elements of the rocaille style.

Finally, the painting on the ceiling must be mentioned: it is a representation of Nossa Senhora da Assunção (Our Lady of the Assumption), an 1841 work by the Loulé painter Joaquim José Rasquinho.



CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm. Saturday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 415 167 (São Clemente Parish)

GPS: 37.139665, -8.023272



Igreja da Misericórdia

Built in the 16th century, the church has a very interesting Manueline doorway, framed by two twisted columns and decorated with plant motifs.

In front of the main entrance of the church, stone statues from the early 16th century of a crucifix and Our Lady and Child can be seen.

Inside the church, the highlights are the Baroque altarpiece in the chancel and two 16th century statues, of Nossa Senhora de Leite (Our Lady of Milk) and another in alabaster of Our Lady.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 289 400 600 (Loulé Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.136996, -8.021881





Igreja Matriz de São Clemente

This Gothic church, which dates back to the mid-13th century, has three naves and a vaulted triple apse.

The church is built on the foundations of the old mosque, and the bell tower was adapted from the Muslim minaret. For its part, the main doorway is one of the few Gothic examples in the region.

At the beginning of the 16th century, two side chapels were added to the church: the chapel of São Brás, which has an entrance arch that combines Manueline decorative elements with other proto-Renaissance elements, and the chapel of Nossa Senhora da Consolação (Our Lady of Consolation), which has a ribbed vault.

There are a number of points of interest in the church, such as the quality of the altarpieces in the chancel, of the chapels Capela de São Brás and Capela das Almas, all dating from the first half of the 18th century.

The collection of 18th century tiles in the chapels Capela de Nossa Senhora da Consolação and Capela das Almas also deserves mention.



CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Open to the public and for worship.

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 12 noon.

Mass Times: Saturdays at 9.30 am and Sundays at 11.30 am.

Contact: Tel. 289 415 167 (São Clemente Parish)

GPS: 37.13752, -8.02352

Convento do Espírito Santo

After authorisation was given by the Senate of the Council in 1693, the Franciscan Friars of Our Lady of the Conception occupied the spaces adjacent to the Ermida do Espírito Santo. This chapel, which no longer exists, had a single, longitudinal nave, an altarpiece in Baroque carving and walls lined with figurative tiles.

The convent Convento do Espírito Santo (Holy Spirit) was built in the early 18th century and had to undergo significant alterations after the 1755 earthquake. The neo-classical style cloisters are particularly worthy of note among the works sponsored by Bishop D. Francisco Gomes do Avelar.

The former convent currently houses the Municipal Art Gallery.

Open to the public.

Opening times: in summer, Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 7 pm; Saturday, from 9 am to 2 pm. In winter, Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm; Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 400 684

GPS: 37.139299, -8.023308



Ermida de Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Mãe Soberana)

Built in the 18th century, this chapel with its simple architecture has, over the centuries, been a place a pilgrimage for devotees of Our Lady.

The most important aspects of the decoration on the inside of the chapel are the quality of the Rococo altarpiece and the statue of Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Piety) that can be seen there. This is an example of 17th century religious sculpture which, apart from its artistic value, also has enormous symbolic importance for the faithful of the municipality who organise an annual procession in honour of Nossa Senhora da Piedade, also known as the Sovereign Mother.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 400 600 (Loulé Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.140294, -8.03612



Ruínas Romanas do Cerro da Vila

In Vilamoura, there was an important Roman villa which was built between 27 B.C. and 14 A.D., and was occupied by Romans, Visigoths and Arabs.

Here, a number of different economic activities were carried out, the most important being the manufacture of garum, a fish preserve which was exported across the entire Roman Empire. There is also a small museum at the archaeological site which exhibits ceramic objects and mosaics.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: every day from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 312 153 (Cerro da Vila Museum)

GPS: 37.080049, -8.11996





Igreja Matriz de São Lourenço (Almancil)

The Main Church of São Lourenço (St Lawrence) in Almancil is without doubt one of the great artistic treasures of the Algarve. Built during the first half of the 18th century, it is a church with a single nave and it has a chancel with a fine cupola covered in figurative tiles, which continue on the walls of the nave and the vault.

The quality of the tiles decorating this church is especially noteworthy. Designed by Policarpo de Oliveira Bernardes in 1730, they depict the life of São Lourenço and constitute the best example of Baroque art on tiles in the Algarve.

But in addition to the impressive visual impact of the tiles, the gilt carved altarpiece in the chancel deserves mention. It is an example of the Baroque style and is attributed to master Manuel Martins, the greatest Algarve carver and sculptor, who also created the statue of São Lourenço to be found there.



CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1.30 pm and from 2.30 to 5.30 pm. In summer, Monday, from 2 pm to 6 pm; Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 395 451 (Almancil Parish)

GPS: 37.08219, -8.008943



Igreja Matriz de Alte

Although it dates back to the 13th century, the parish church of Nossa Senhora da Assunção (Our Lady of the Assumption) in the pretty village of Alte was rebuilt at the beginning of the 16th century in the Manueline style. The work done at that time included the interesting door in the main façade and the vaulted roof over the chancel. Inside, the highlights are the side altars in Rococo style carving and the Baroque tiling covering the chancel walls.

This church also has two Mannerist panels and a number of good quality statues, including those of Our Lady (in ivory), of Santa Margarida (St Margaret), of Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel) and of the dead Christ, all dating from the 17th century.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Tuesday and Thursday at 9.30 am; Sundays at 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 289 478 510 (Alte Parish)

GPS: 37.236269, -8.17676



Pólo Museológico Cândido Guerreiro e Condes de Alte

In Alte, you can also visit the exhibition “Francisco Xavier Cândido Guerreiro. Life and Work”, focusing on the famous poet, playwright and lawyer from Alte, which is open to the public in the Cândido Guerreiro e Condes de Alte Museum.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 478 058

GPS: 37.235791, -8.176004



Igreja Matriz de Querença

This 16th century church has a doorway in the Manueline style with simple, but interesting decoration.

On the inside, the quality of the main altarpiece and the two side altarpieces, all in the Baroque style, deserves special attention.

The most important works of art include the statues of Our Lady (from the mid-16th century), of Our Lord on the Cross (18th century), of Nossa Senhora do Pé da Cruz (Our Lady at the foot of the Cross) and Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) (both from the 18th century).

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Sundays at 9 am.

Contact: Tel. 289 469 510

GPS: 37.199121, -7.987131



Pólo Museológico de Querença

In the typical village of Querença, you can also visit the Water Museum. The purpose of this museum is the study and dissemination of the various aspects related to the culture of water in this region, in particular the Protected Landscape of the Fonte de Benémola (Benémola Spring).

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 422 495

GPS: 37.198841, -7.987525



Centro Interpretativo de Arqueologia de Salir

In the pretty village of Salir, where archaeological finds from different periods have been being discovered since the 19th century, visitors will enjoy the Salir Interpretation Centre. This museum has an exhibition room with a glass floor through which you can view some of the archaeological finds and a walkway that lets you see them outdoors too.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 6 pm.

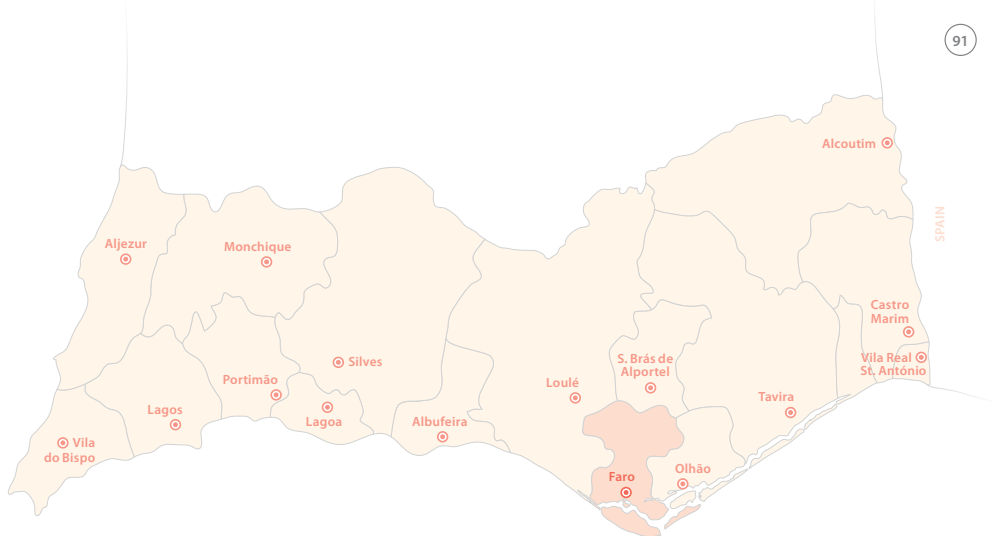
Contact: Tel. 289 489 137

Guided tour bookings: Tel. 289 400 957 / 289 400 611

GPS: 37.242613, -8.046807

faro





brief history

Faro's origins date back to the second Iron Age (5th to 4th centuries BC). It was during this period that Ossonoba was born. It is thought that the city could have been a Phoenician colony or trading post until the start of the Roman occupation of the Algarve in the 3rd century BC.

Ossonoba was one of the most important cities in the region during the Roman period, and it had the right to mint coins. During the Visigoth period, Ossonoba was the seat of the bishop, and it continued to be a place of great importance during the period of Muslim rule (713-1249), at which time it was fortified and became known as Santa Maria de Hárune, the name which later gave rise to Faro.

During the period of Christian re-conquest in 1249, the city's main economic activities were fishing and the salt trade. And it was also during this period that the Jewish community made its

mark with the printing of the Pentateuch (1487) by Samuel Gaucon, considered to be the first book printed in Portugal.

In 1540, Faro was made a city, and this period represented the culmination of a phase of profound urban renewal during which the convents Convento de Nossa Senhora da Assunção (Our Lady of the Assumption) and Convento de São Francisco (St Francis) were built, as well as the customs building, the hospital and the church Igreja da Misericórdia (Mercy).

With the transfer of the bishop from Silves to Faro, the city became the capital of the Algarve, surviving the attacks of the English privateers of the Earl of Essex in 1596, and the damage caused by a number of earthquakes.

At the end of the 18th century, the city benefited from further urban renewal, which had become necessary following the 1755 earthquake. The building of the Arco da Vila and the Episcopal Seminary was due to Bishop D. Francisco Gomes do Avelar, as well as the renewal of the Church of São Francisco (St Francis) and the commissioning of some of the most interesting works of art in the municipality.

Nowadays, Faro is a city of services, the administrative capital of a tourist region where Faro airport and the University of the Algarve are the main centres of development. /

Igreja da Sé de Faro

Built in the Gothic style after the city of Faro was taken from the Moors in 1249, the cathedral is located on the same site as the earlier Roman temple and Muslim mosque.

Some important parts of the original building still stand, in particular the tower at the front and the grand ogival doorway that gives access to the main body of the church. Also in the Gothic style, but dating from the 15th century, are the two side chapels in the transept which are covered by groin vaults.

In 1577, owing to the move of the Bishop of the Algarve from Silves to Faro, this church became the cathedral. But in 1596, it was sacked and set on fire by the privateers of the Earl of Essex, and it suffered considerable damage which led to further restoration work. The main elements that remain from this period are the columns of the Doric order on which the semi-circular arches are supported that separate the church's three naves.

In the years following the Restoration, a new chancel was built, covered by a coffered cradle vault and decorated with a Mannerist altarpiece, which is regarded as the best example of 17th century gilded carving in the Algarve.

In the 18th century, some of the side chapels were given carved gilt altars in the Baroque style, with the most noteworthy being the Chapel of Nossa Senhora dos Prazeres (Our Lady of Pleasures) and the Chapel of Santo Lenho (The Holy Cross).

Finally, the late 17th century tiles decorating the chapel Capela de Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) (made by Gabriel del Barco) deserve special mention, as well as the collection of statues on the altars (mostly from the 17th and 18th centuries), the medieval tomb of the knight Rui Valente and the Baroque organ next to the high choir which is decorated with oriental motifs known as chinoiseries.



The cathedral museum can also be visited, where a significant collection of vestments and vessels and other items for the Eucharist can be seen, which belonged to the Bishops of the Algarve.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in summer, Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm. In winter, Monday to Friday from 10 am to 5.30 pm; Saturday from 10 am to 1 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 807 590 (Chapter of Faro Cathedral)

GPS: 37.0133, -7.934889



Paço Episcopal

With the transfer of the Seat of the Bishopric from Silves to Faro at the end of the 16th century, it became necessary to create an episcopal Palace facing the cathedral in the old city. The Episcopal Palace was built at the beginning of the 17th century and is without doubt one of the most representative buildings of the “chão” (plain) style in the Algarve.

On the main façade, which is symmetrical in composition, two floors can be seen topped by a cornice, and seven scissor-roofs. The 1755 earthquake caused some damage to the building and some work was needed on the door and window surrounds which were redone in the Rococo style.

From the point of view of decoration, the highlight of this palace is the magnificent collection of tiles on the inside. Consisting of examples from the 18th century in the Baroque and Rococo styles (the latter showing enormous chromatic richness), as a whole they produce a wonderful scenic effect.

The most notable works of art in the episcopal Palace collection are 17th and 18th century sculptures and also a collection of paintings with portraits of a number of bishops of the Algarve.

Restricted access.

Contact: Tel. 289 894 040 (Diocese of the Algarve)

GPS: 37.013819, -7.935166





Muralhas de Faro

The old part of Faro, known as the Vila Adentro, is surrounded by a wall that is oval in shape and dates back to the Roman period about two thousand years ago.

The wall underwent major alterations and enlargement between the 9th and the 11th centuries during the period of Arab occupation, and it has two “albarrã” towers dating from this period which protected the entrance to the Arco do Repouso (Arch of Rest) where, legend has it, King Afonso III rested after the city had been taken from the Moors in 1249. Also dating from the Arab period is the entrance with a gateway in the shape of a horseshoe arch which can be seen inside the Arco da Vila.

Also of interest are the two octagonal towers which were built by the Byzantines a century before the Muslim occupation of the city.

Since the early 19th century, the main entrance into the historical part of the city has been the Arco da Vila, an interesting example of neoclassical art which was designed by the Italian architect Francisco Xavier Fabri. It contains a niche with a statue of St Thomas Aquinas and it was classified as a national monument in 1910.

Despite the damage caused in the 16th century by earthquakes and attacks by English privateers, as well as the destruction caused by the great earthquake of 1755, the walls have survived until the present day and some restoration work has been carried out in recent years.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Contact: Tel. 289 897 400 (Faro Municipal Museum)

GPS: 37.013461, -7.933115



Convento de Nossa Senhora da Assunção and Museu Municipal de Faro

The construction of the convent Convento de Nossa Senhora da Assunção (Our Lady of Assumption) began in 1519, on the initiative of two nuns from Beja, who were sponsored by the Queen Leonor, commander of the town of Faro at that time.

The first phase of the work was late Gothic, but in about 1530, Queen Catarina, the wife of King João III, to whom the town had recently been granted, sponsored a second phase, which included work in the Renaissance style in the cloisters and on the outer doorway to the church).

Completed in 1548, this is one of the first cloisters built in proto-Renaissance style in Portugal. Decorative details include gargoyles in grotesque shapes and with fantastic creatures typical of the early Renaissance.

Another characteristic feature of the architecture of this period is the main doorway which, like the cloister, was built by master Afonso Pires and which features a rectangular surround framed by finely worked pilasters.

This building is currently home to Faro Municipal Museum, which was founded in 1894. Here, visitors can see an interesting exhibition of old paintings, featuring 17th and 18th century works by Portuguese, Italian and Spanish painters. There are also three archaeology exhibitions, featuring collections of Islamic pottery and Roman inscriptions, sculptures and mosaics.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Tuesday to Friday, from 10 am to 6 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from 11.30 am to 5 pm. In summer, Tuesday to Friday, from 10 am to 7 pm; Saturday and Sunday, from 11.30 am to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 870 827

GPS: 37.012943, -7.933814



Igreja da Misericórdia de Faro

In 1583, the Manueline church Igreja do Espírito Santo (Holy Spirit) was rebuilt, and was replaced by the present-day Faro church Igreja da Misericórdia (Mercy)

This Mannerist church features a Greek-cross layout with a dome at the centre.

In 1596, English corsairs commanded by the Count of Essex set fire to the church, as a result of which new building work had to be carried out and the decorative features renovated.

Inside, the 17th century carved altars can still be admired along with a collection of paintings representing the “works of the misericórdia” and a holy water font designed from a Gothic capital.

In the late 18th century, as a result of damage caused by the 1755 earthquake, the façade was remodelled in neoclassical style by Italian architect, Francisco Xavier Fabri.

This church also has a small museum where visitors can admire works of sacred art from the Faro Misericórdia’s collection.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday, from 9.30 am to 12 noon and from 2 to 4.30 pm (last admission time 4 pm).

Contact: Tel. 289 805 992 / Fax. 289 805 996 (Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Faro)

GPS: 37.01502, -7.934787



Palácio Belmarço

Close to Largo de São Francisco (St. Francis' Square), stands Belmarço Palace, one of the most interesting examples of revivalist architecture in the Algarve.

Built in 1912 by a rich merchant, Manuel de Jesus Belmarço, and designed by architect Manuel Norte Júnior, the palace is two storeys high and features a turret.

Worthy of note inside are the tiled panels depicting Portuguese landscapes and monuments.

CURRENTLY UNDERGOING CLASSIFICATION

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 289 870 870 (Faro Municipal Council, Historical Centre Division)

GPS: 37.014466, -7.932867



Igreja da Ordem Terceira de São Francisco

Built at the end of the 17th century, the church Igreja de São Francisco (St Francis) underwent major renovations 40 years later, such that the new main entrance was built where the chancel had been previously, and vice versa.

After the 1755 earthquake, work continued for years and it was the Italian architect Francisco Xavier Fabri who finally completed this church in the 1780s.

As regards the decoration on the inside of the church, the most notable features are the altarpiece in the chancel, the tiles on the vault, the side altars (from the middle of the 18th century) and the carved work on the cupola above the crossing.

Other important features are the four Italian paintings that were commissioned by the Bishop of the Algarve D. Francisco Gomes do Avelar in 1792, and in particular "The Death of São Francisco" painted in Rome by Marcello Leopardi.

As a whole, the church is a magnificent example of the 18th century decorative style in Portugal, owing to the combination of gilt woodcarving and tiles.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Monday to Saturday, at 8.30 am and 6.30 pm, and Sundays at 9 am and 6.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 823 696

GPS: 37.012225, -7.931133



Igreja Matriz de São Pedro

Built during the second half of the 16th century, the Main Church of São Pedro (St Peter) has an interesting doorway framed by two pairs of Ionic columns, and features a shell-shaped niche, flanked by pilasters, and with a statue of São Pedro inside.

The church has three naves and an apse consisting of a chancel and two vaulted side chapels. The chancel contains an altarpiece dating from the 1680s, probably one of the first examples of the Baroque in the Algarve.

However, the highlight is the chapel Capela do Santíssimo (Most Holy) which has a magnificent Baroque altarpiece from the "Joanine" period (1808 – 1821) on which a splendid relief of the Last Supper can be seen. Also important is the painting of the descent from the cross located in the sacristy, painted by Diogo Teixeira, regarded as the best example of Mannerist painting in the Algarve.

Other features deserving of mention are the chapel Capela de Nossa Senhora da Vitória (Our Lady of Victory) which has an interesting Rococo altarpiece, the tiles in the chapel Capela das Almas (Chapel of Souls) and the series of 17th and 18th century sculptures on the church's different altars.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 3 to 7 pm, and Sundays from 9.30 am to 12 noon.

Contact: Tel. 289 805 473 (São Pedro Parish)

GPS: 37.018642, -7.934727



Igreja da Ordem Terceira de Nossa Senhora do Monte do Carmo

Work on the building of this church began in 1713 and it was completed in 1719. The initial work was the responsibility of a Carmelite architect and was done in the “chão” (plain) style.

After the 1755 earthquake, the church was remodelled including the rebuilding of the façade and the chancel in the late Baroque style.

The most notable pieces of ornamentation inside the church are undoubtedly the gilt carved altars. And the altarpiece in the chancel deserves special mention as it is a genuine masterpiece created by Master Manuel Martins in 1736-37, and was the first example of the “Joanine” style (first half of the 18th century) in the Algarve.

The remaining altarpieces also date from the 18th century, with the one in the chapel Capela São José (St Joseph) being a good example of Rococo woodcarving in the Algarve.

The statues on the church’s different altars, almost all of them made by the craftsmen responsible for the altars, should also not go unnoticed.



Because of the quality of their craftsmanship, the statues of Santa Teresa de Ávila (altarpiece of Santa Teresa) and of São José (altarpiece of São José) also stand out. The Baroque organ, which has recently been restored, is also interesting and can be seen in the high choir.

Finally, the Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones) deserves mention. Located in the courtyard attached to the church, it is an attraction for many tourists visiting the city.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 5.30 pm; Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm. In summer, Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 pm to 6 pm; Saturday, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 824 490

GPS: 37.019944, -7.934491



Teatro Lethes

Occupying the old College of the Society of Jesus, this 17th century building was bought by an illustrious Faro family after the abolition of the religious orders in the 1830s.

Once the work to turn it into a theatre was complete, it opened to the public on 4th April 1845. It is a clear example of the Romantic decorative style, and is very similar to the Teatro de São Carlos in Lisbon.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Not open to the public.

Open only for performances.

Contact: Tel. 289 878 908 (The Algarve Theatre Company – ACTA)

GPS: 37.018288, -7.931841



Museu Regional do Algarve

Housed in the building of the Algarve District Assembly, the Regional Museum has a reproduction of a typical Algarve house on public display, with all the objects used in domestic life and the tools used in the different economic activities in the region. In addition, visitors can see a collection of paintings by the Algarve artist Carlos Porfirio.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1.30 pm and from 2.30 to 6 pm.

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Contact: Tel. 289 878 238

GPS: 37.016179, -7.931368



Museu Marítimo Almirante Ramalho Ortigão

Opened in 1889, this is the oldest museum in the region. It is located on the first floor of the building of the Faro harbourmaster's office, and gives visitors the opportunity to see a wide range of items connected with fishing, including models of naval and fishing boats.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission, for adults only).

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 12 noon, and from 2.30 to 5 pm.

Closed: Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Contact: Tel. 289 894 990

GPS: 37.016359, -7.937537



Centro Histórico Judaico de Faro

Next to the Estádio de São Luís (Stadium of São Luís), you can visit the cemetery of the former Jewish community of Faro. In use from 1838 to 1932, it was restored in 1992 and reopened to the public as an interpretive centre.

Inside the cemetery, there is a small museum and a synagogue where a Jewish wedding has been re-created.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 829 525 / 282 416 710

GPS: 37.023702, -7.927795

Ruínas do Milreu

On the way in to the village to Estoi can be found the Milreu archaeological site. This is an old Roman villa, which was occupied as far back as the 1st century A.D. It had baths and a religious building built in the 4th century. And a large number of mosaics can still be seen today.

CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5.30 pm In summer, from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 6.30 pm.

Closed: Mondays, 1st May and 25th December.

Contact: Tel. 289 896 070 (Algarve Regional Culture Directorate) / 289 997 823 (Milreu Ruins)

GPS: 37.095169, -7.903983





Palácio de Estoi

Although it began being built in the 1840s, Estoi Palace was not completed until 1909, by José Francisco da Silva, the Viscount of Estoi. The architectural design of the property, by architect Domingos da Silva Meira, is markedly eclectic, combining neoclassical and Rococo styles.

The buildings are exceptionally beautiful, particularly the palace. A double staircase leads up to an impressive facade and the interior is decorated with tiled panels, stained glass and plasterwork. Equally interesting are the gardens, laid out in French style and containing fruit trees, palm trees, fountains and a number of sculptures.

Recently restored, the palace now functions as a “pousada de charme” (charm hotel).

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Open to the public: Pousada de Portugal.

Contact: Tel. 289 990 150 (Pousada de Estoi) / 289 991 620 (Estoi Civil Parish Office)

GPS: 37.095169, -7.903983





Igreja Matriz de Estói

Built in the middle of the 16th century, Estói Main Church underwent two periods of remodelling; the first in the years following the 1755 earthquake; the second during the first half of the 19th century when, thanks to the support of Bishop D. Francisco Gomes do Avelar, it was possible to start a restoration project under the guidance of the Italian architect Francisco Xavier Fabri to retain the essence of the architecture that existed prior to the earthquake.

The church thus has the same internal structure that it had in the 16th century, namely a body with three naves and a chancel. The façade, however, was completely redesigned in the neoclassical style.

As regards the ornamentation on the inside, the altarpiece in the chancel deserves special mention, with its pyramidal throne built, like the other altarpieces, in the fourth or fifth decade of the 19th century.

However, the most important feature is the fine collection of sculptures in the church, especially that of São Vicente (St Vincent), in the mannerist style as are those of Santo António (St Anthony) and São Luís (St Louis), and those of Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) and Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel), both dating from the 18th century.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Sunday at 12 noon, Wednesday at 10 am and Friday at 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 991 133 (Estói Parish)

GPS: 37.094246, -7.895003





Igreja Matriz de Santa Bárbara de Nexe

The medieval Main Church of Santa Bárbara de Nexe was rebuilt at the beginning of the 16th century, and has three naves separated by columns with octagonal capitals and a vaulted chancel.

Owing to the destruction caused by the 1755 earthquake, a new doorway was built in 1805.

The most important point of interest in this church is the vaulting in the chancel. It is a ribbed vault, on which the ribs create a five pointed star and whose keystones are joined by ribs in the shape of ropes, and it is a magnificent example of the Manueline decorative style.

In front of the chancel, there stands a triumphal arch that is quite richly decorated with plant and proto-Renaissance motifs.

The highlights among the works of art are the altarpiece in the chapel Capela de Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) and the chapel Capela de Santo Amaro, both in the Baroque style.

The statues of Santa Bárbara (Saint Barbara) (late 17th century), of São Luís (Saint Louis), Santo Amaro (St Amaro) and Santa Luzia (St Luzia) (from the 18th century) are also of great quality.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2.30 to 5 pm, and Fridays from 9 am to 1 pm.

Contact: Tel. 926 671 872 (Santa Bárbara de Nexe Parish Office)

GPS: 37.103878, -7.964241





Palácio de Estoi

são brás de alportel





brief history

Occupied from pre-historic times to the Roman period, São Brás de Alportel was home to the Arab poet Ibne Ammar during the period of Arab occupation.

A small town in the Algarve interior, São Brás de Alportel became the summer residence of the Bishops of the Algarve from the 17th century until the institution of the Republic in 1910.

In the 19th century, São Brás de Alportel witnessed great development, partly thanks to its location. This was where the roads linking Loulé to Tavira and Faro to Almodôvar met, which was

also favourable for transporting the region's main product, cork, the production and processing of which were largely responsible for turning the town into the national cork capital.

As a consequence of economic development, the population of São Brás grew significantly and in 1914 this rural parish became a municipality.

Years later, the town entered a period of decline as many factories moved to the north of the country which had better roads, which led to a surge in migration which lasted for decades. /



Igreja Matriz de São Brás de Alportel

Built in the sixth and seventh decades of the 16th century, the Main Church of São Brás de Alportel has three naves separated by columns of the Tuscan order.

It suffered considerable damage in the 1755 earthquake and the chancel had to be renewed and the main façade rebuilt, including its pediment with curved lines.

The main features of the ornamentation on the inside of the church are the neoclassical altarpieces in the chancel and the baptistery, and the rocaille altarpiece in the Chapel of Senhor dos Passos (Lord of the Stations).

In addition, the statues of São Libório (St Liborius), São José (St Joseph), Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) and the Archangel São Miguel (St Michael), dating from the 18th century, deserve special mention.

In the chancel, there are some paintings from the end of the 17th century.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Saturday at 7 pm, Sunday at 10.30 am, Monday to Friday at 10.30 am and 7 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 842 125 (São Brás de Alportel Parish)

GPS: 37.150321, -7.888329





Antigo Palácio Episcopal de São Brás de Alportel

Built at the end of the 16th century to serve as the summer residence of the Bishop of the Algarve. The Episcopal Palace of São Brás de Alportel was a spacious building with an interior patio, a private chapel and ample gardens with fruit trees and fountains.

Unfortunately, the alterations that were carried out in the 20th century changed its original form. However, what is known as the “Episcopal fountain” remained, covered by an interesting dome. It served the local population for many years and was a symbol of the role of the church in society.

Next to the Episcopal Palace stands the “Paço da Paixão”, the Palace of the Passion. Despite having been remodelled in the 20th century, it still has a late Baroque pediment, with interesting plasterwork.

Restricted access.

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 840 000 (São Brás de Alportel Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.150458, -7.887117



Museu do Traje do Algarve

In this pleasant town in the Algarve interior is located the Museum of Algarve Costume. Housed in a late 19th century mansion, which belonged to a rich cork industrialist, it enables visitors to see exhibitions of traditional vehicles, agricultural implements and popular art.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm. At weekends and on public holidays, from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 840 100

GPS: 37.152877, -7.885879





Calçadinha

The “Calçadinha” cobbled road of S. Brás de Alportel is 1,480 metres long and was part of the Roman road network. The archaeological remains consist of two stretches designated “A” and “B”, and they are separated by a few metres that were surfaced at a different time.

The stretches of road differ one from the other. Stretch “A” is about 100 metres long and the paving was renewed in the 19th century, probably on the initiative of Bishop D. Francisco Gomes do Avelar. Stretch “B”, which is 550 metres long and 2.50 metres wide, is more true to its Roman origins.

The refurbished building that was formerly the Municipal Abattoir currently houses the Calçadinha of São Brás de Alportel Explanatory and Welcome Centre, where you can find all the information available about this ancient road of Roman origin.

Open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 289 840 000 / 289 840 004 (São Brás de Alportel Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.150167, -7.887761 (Calçadinha)

37.150024, -7.886446 (Explanatory and Welcome Center)



olhão



brief history

Since the distant past, an abundance of fish has attracted people to the municipality of Olhão. For centuries, Olhão was only a small fishing community with humble people who lived in huts. However, the growth in population and the economic importance of fishing led in 1679 to the construction of the Fortress of São Lourenço (St Lawrence), with the aim of repelling pirates from North Africa.

In 1698, the first stone building was built, the Main Church dedicated to Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary). The settlement developed in the years that followed, and an urban centre began to grow with houses in the style of the Maghreb, in North Africa, cube shaped, with terraces and decorated chimneys reminiscent of Islamic minarets.

But it was in the 19th century that Olhão established itself as an important urban centre.

In 1808, King João VI made Olhão a town as a gesture of thanks for the struggle that had been waged against the Napoleonic troops. And it was from here that the boat set sail taking the news of the expulsion of the French to the Portuguese monarch, who had taken refuge in Brazil, which earned Olhão the epithet "The Town of the Restoration".

The end of the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries brought great economic growth to Olhão thanks to the fish canning industry, which made Olhão into one of the most industrialised cities in the Algarve.

Today, fishing is still one of the municipality's main economic activities, although tourism has been growing in importance over the last decade. /

Igreja de Nossa Senhora do Rosário

Built between the late 17th century and the early 18th century, this church has an imposing façade, marked by a series of large windows which afford excellent illumination inside. A particularly important feature is the pediment decorated with interesting plasterwork in Rococo style.

In terms of the ornamentation inside the church Igreja Nossa Senhora do Rosário, the highlights are the Baroque altarpiece in the chancel and the two side altarpieces, dating from the second half of the 18th century. Here, we find a fine series of statues, mostly from the 18th century, including one of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception).

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Saturday, from 9 am to 12 noon and from 3 pm to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 705 117 (Olhão Parish)

GPS: 37.026404, -7.84062



Casa do Compromisso Marítimo and Museu da Cidade de Olhão

The building of the Olhão House of the “Compromisso Marítimo” (the “Maritime Agreement” mutual society) was funded by the local fishermen. It was built in the 18th century and has two floors and roofs with four sloping sides, typical of Algarve architecture.

On the façade, a niche with a statue of Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) can be seen.

This historical building currently serves as the city's museum. Here visitors can see an exhibition of archaeology, and others about fishing and the history of the city of Olhão.

Open to the public (admission free).

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday, from 10 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 to 5.30 pm; on Saturdays, from 10 am to 1 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 700 103

GPS: 37.025953, -7.841086





Réplica do Caique Bom Sucesso

On 6 July 1808, a group of fishermen from Olhão boarded the Caique *Bom Sucesso*, a fishing boat approximately 20 metres in length and 5 metres wide and with 2 sails. They crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Brazil to inform King João IV, who was in refuge there at the time, that the population of Olhão had managed to drive out the French invaders.

As a reward for such a brave feat, the king granted Olhão the charter of “Villa da Restauração” or “Town of the Restoration”, making it administratively independent from Faro.

The replica of the Caique *Bom Sucesso* is currently anchored in Olhão Marina.

Available for hire. Advance booking required.

Contact: Tel. 289 090 287 (Fesnima)

GPS: 37.023143, -7.841017





Igreja Matriz de Moncarapacho

A few kilometres from Olhão stands the Main Church of Moncarapacho. Built at the end of the 15th century, it has a Gothic side door with a pointed arch and capitals decorated with plant motifs and human figures. The chapel Capela do Calvário (Calvary) is also medieval, and has a ribbed vault.

The church was renovated in the 16th century, and it was provided with a doorway in the Renaissance style with fabulous representations of demonic figures, twinned heads and cherubs.

Inside, the three naves are divided into five bays defined by semi-circular arches which are supported on columns in the Doric style; the chancel has a triumphal arch in front of it in the Renaissance style.

Among the church's works of art, the Mannerist altarpiece in the Capela das Almas (Chapel of Souls) deserves special mention, along with that in the chapel Capela de Santo António (St Anthony) in the Rococo style, and the collection of statues from the 17th and 18th centuries, especially the statue of Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel).



Open for worship.

Mass Times: Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, Saturday at 5 pm and Sunday at 10 am.

Contact: Tel. 289 792 084 (Moncarapacho Parish)

GPS: 37.084562, -7.7879



Ermida de Santo Cristo de Moncarapacho

This is a small chapel built in the 17th century during the period of rule by the Philippine Dynasty.

In the chancel, there is an interesting Mannerist altarpiece with three paintings depicting the Passion of Christ. The highlights are the two 18th century statues – one representing Santa Catarina (St Catherine), another São Francisco (St Francis). There is also a notable collection of 17th century polychrome tiles covering the walls of the chapel.

The Moncarapacho Parish Museum operates in an annex where there is a collection of religious statues from the 16th to 18th centuries, among which five ivory statues and a Neapolitan nativity scene merit special attention.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 4 pm.

Contact: Tel. 289 792 084 (Moncarapacho Parish)

GPS: 37.08434, -7.789035





tavira



Igreja Matriz de Santiago



brief history

It is probable that the city of Tavira was founded by the Phoenicians, but it was the Romans who left the most significant traces from the pre-Islamic period in the region, including the famous old bridge which links the two banks of the Gilão river.

In the 8th century, as everywhere in the Algarve, Tavira was occupied by the Muslims who gradually developed the city until it became, along with Silves and Faro, one of the most important cities in the Islamic Algarve, something that can be seen from the size of its castle. In 1242, the city was retaken by the master of the Order of Santiago (St James), D. Paio Peres Correia.

During the centuries that followed, Tavira grew in economic importance thanks to its harbour, which played a key role during the 15th and 16th centuries in supporting Portuguese garrisons in North Africa. In 1520, Tavira was made a city by

King Manuel I, who thus gave recognition to the importance of the town which was one of the richest and most populous in the region, as can be seen from the large number of churches and civic buildings built in the 15th and 16th centuries.

With the Iberian Union, Tavira lost some of its strategic and economic importance to port cities such as Seville and Cadiz. But it was only with the silting up of the harbour mouth, which made it difficult to reach the port, with the epidemics of 1645/46 and with the 1755 earthquake that Tavira saw much of its earlier economic dynamism disappear.

In the early 20th century, Tavira found a new source of economic prosperity in tuna fishing and the canning industry. In the 1970s, however, tuna virtually disappeared from the waters off the Algarve coast and the city turned instead to tourism, an activity which has become one of the pillars of its economy. /

Castelo and Muralhas de Tavira

Although Phoenician in origin, the walls of Tavira were rebuilt over the course of the 11th and 12th centuries, during the Arab period.

After the Christian re-conquest of the city in 1242, the walls benefited from various improvements during the reigns of D. Afonso III and D. Dinis. There are some sections of wall still standing, as well as the nucleus of the castle.

Inside there is a pleasant garden and you can enjoy a fine view over the city.

CLASSIFIED AS A **NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Open to the public.

Opening times: in summer, Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am to 7 pm; Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, from 10 am to 7 pm; in winter, Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am to 5 pm; Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 329 660 (Tavira Verde)

GPS: 37.125314, -7.651396



Igreja Matriz de Santa Maria do Castelo

Built during the second half of the 13th century, on the site where the Tavira mosque previously stood, the Main Church of Santa Maria do Castelo (St Mary of the Castle) was originally built in the Gothic style, as can be seen from the ogival doorway, but it suffered considerable damage at the time of the 1755 earthquake, which meant that it needed to be rebuilt.

The design was the responsibility of the Italian architect Francisco Xavier Fabri, who wanted to retain the church's original structure – three naves and four bays - and he made use of the apse and some side chapels, for example the Gothic Capela do Evangelho (Chapel of the Gospels) and the Chapel of Senhor dos Passos (Lord of the Stations) in the Manueline style but covered in 17th century tiles.

The main features of the ornamentation on the inside of the church are the chancel, where an early 19th century altarpiece with simulated architecture (painted) can be seen. On the side walls of the chapel can be seen two medieval



inscriptions marking the presence of the tomb of D. Paio Peres Correia and the six knights who died in the Christian re-conquest of Tavira.

Also of interest are the altarpiece of the Passion, in the Rococo style, and the neoclassical altarpiece in the baptistry, which incorporates a fine late 18th century painting depicting the Assumption of Our Lady, ascribed to the Italian painter Corrado Guaiquinto.

There is also an opportunity to visit an exhibition of sacred art at this church with images and paintings dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 10 am to 5 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 326 286 (Santa Maria Parish)

GPS: 37.125203, -7.651975



Pousada do Convento da Graça

Founded in 1542 but only opened in 1969, the old convent Convento dos Eremitas de Santo Agostinho (Hermits of St Augustine) is located on the castle hill and it was recently remodelled in order to house one of the Pousadas de Portugal.

This was one of the first buildings in the “chão” (plain) style in the Algarve and despite its poor state of repair and the fact that it was then converted to a pousada, it is still possible to see the cloister with arches seated on columns and capitals of the Tuscan order, and the old convent church with its single nave and a chancel with a triumphal arch in front.

Inside the convent, there is also a museum area where the remains of two Islamic houses from the Almohad period are on display.

Open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 329 040

GPS: 37.125239, -7.652923





Igreja Matriz de Santiago

Located in the old part of the town, this is a medieval church built during the second half of the 13th century.

The church has a single nave with a chancel and a number of side chapels. It has a collection of carved altarpieces of great quality as well as four 15th and 16th century paintings depicting St John the Baptist and São Pedro, São Vicente and São Brás.

The main façade is the outcome of the work that was done during the second half of the 18th century, as a direct consequence of the 1755 earthquake, and of special interest is the medallion with plasterwork representing São Tiago (St James) on horseback.

Open to the public.

Opening times: from 9 am to 12.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 326 286 (São Tiago Parish)

GPS: 37.124788, -7.651976



Igreja da Misericórdia de Tavira

Work on the Tavira Misericórdia Church began in 1541, and it was completed a decade later. It is a church with a wooden ceiling and three naves with four bays supported on columns with Renaissance capitals.

The main doorway, which was designed, like the body of the church, by André Pilarte, is regarded as a masterpiece of the Algarve Renaissance. At the top, it has three sculpted figures of great quality of Our Lady and two apostles.

With regard to the ornamentation inside the church, the highpoints are the altarpiece in the chancel and the two side altars which were built in 1722 and 1723 in what is known as the “National Baroque” style.

Also of interest are the magnificent tiles covering the lower part of the walls of the church. Made in Lisbon in about 1760, the series comprises 18 panels depicting the Works of Mercy.

Other highlights are an excellent painting of the Immaculate Conception, dating from 1730 by the Italian painter Giovanni Odazzi.

Finally, visitors should have a look at the statues dating from the 17th and 18th centuries on the different altars.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public.

Opening times: in summer, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 12.30 pm and 3 pm to 6.30 pm; in winter, Tuesday to Saturday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and from 2 pm to 5.30 pm.

Closed: Sundays, Mondays and public holidays.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Tavira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.125832, -7.650677



Igreja de São José do Hospital (or “Igreja do Espírito Santo”)

Built in the second half of the 15th century, the Church of São José do Hospital was originally a church in the Gothic style, but all that remains today is a late medieval side chapel.

As a result of the 1722 and 1755 earthquakes, this church suffered irreparable damage which led to the building of a new church. The building work took a decade, and was completed in 1768.

The reconstruction produced a church with a single nave, an octagonal floor plan and a chancel.

The façade has a pediment decorated with late Baroque plasterwork, and the door and window surrounds are in the rocaille style.

On the inside, the main feature worth noting is the altar in the chancel, one of the few examples in the region executed with a “trompe l’oeil” effect, ascribed to the Algarve painter Joaquim José Rasquinho.

The beauty of the church’s four side altars should also be stressed, two in the Rococo and two in the neoclassical style, and the “imagem em roca” (statue on a wooden frame) of São José, in the Baroque style, which has been held to be miraculous since 1721.

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Tavira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.124884, -7.651968



Igreja da Ordem Terceira de Nossa Senhora do Carmo

This church was built between 1747 and 1789 in the style that was typical at the time: a single nave with a floor plan in the shape of a Latin cross covered by a cradle vault. On the façade, which is clearly late Baroque, there is a large window above the doorway on the main entrance and a pediment that is typical of the period.

On the inside, a magnificent ensemble of carved gilt altars can be seen, including the one in the chancel which is regarded as being the most interesting Rococo altarpiece in the Algarve.

In the chancel, apart from the quality of the carving, a number of statues in niches can be seen, as well as a choir stall, four paintings and a cupola painted in perspective with a representation of Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel) in the centre.

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Tavira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.129354, -7.646367





Igreja do Antigo Convento de Nossa Senhora da Ajuda (or “Igreja de São Paulo”)

This is a 17th century building in plain style. Its floor plan is in the shape of a Latin cross and it has three windows in the façade, the middle one crowned by a niche containing the statue of St Paul the Hermit.

Inside, visitors have the opportunity to admire a series of Baroque altarpieces. Also worthy of mention are the side altars, which are dark in colour because they have not been gilded.

There is also an interesting collection of statues, mostly from the 17th and 18th centuries, and a number of paintings, in particular four examples in the 16th century style.

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Câmara Municipal de Tavira)

GPS: 37.128729, -7.649733



Ermida de São Sebastião

This small chapel was rebuilt in 1745. It has a cube-shaped chancel with a hemispherical dome.

The interior walls of the chapel are covered with paintings in “trompe-l’œil” and canvases from the 18th century, mostly depicting episodes in the life of St. Sebastian. Notably, this little church has the largest set of painted imagery about the life of St. Sebastian in the whole of Portugal, as a result of a decorative programme that provides a perfect example of the typical Baroque “total work of art” concept.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Tavira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.123011, -7.650936



Ermida de Sant'Ana

This small chapel of medieval origin has a single nave with a chancel and two 17th century doorways, which are contemporary with the fine altarpiece in the chancel. After the 1755 earthquake, it began to be used as the chapel for the Governor of the Algarve's Palace, which was built nearby.

Another important feature is the statue of the patron saint, probably from the 15th century. The chapel is one of Tavira Municipal Museum's hubs.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF MUNICIPAL VALUE

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Tavira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.128738, -7.651346



Palácio da Galeria

Occupying one of the most typical buildings of civic architecture in Tavira, the Palácio da Galeria was rebuilt in the 18th century on the site of a former Phoenician settlement, remains of which can still be seen today.

This venue, which serves as the central hub of Tavira Municipal Museum, offers visitors the opportunity to learn about the municipality's history and heritage, as well as featuring exhibitions of contemporary art.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in winter, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 5.30 pm; in summer, Tuesday to Saturday, from 10 am to 12.30 pm and 3 pm to 6.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 320 540

GPS: 37.126052, -7.651384





Igreja de São Francisco

This church and former convent dating from the 14th century were among the first to be built outside the city walls.

It was severely damaged in the 1755 earthquake and was almost burned to the ground in 1881 due to a fire caused by lightning. Nevertheless, important medieval remains have survived, the highlights being the two Gothic chapels which can be seen in the garden adjacent to the church, and a series of coats-of-arms scattered throughout this "romantic" garden, where the nostalgic memory of Tavira's past takes on a special charm.

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 966 107 239 / 281 324 868

GPS: 37.123086, -7.650943





Ponte Velha

Oral tradition ascribes this bridge to the Romans, as an integral part of the road linking Faro to Mértola. What is certain is that its existence has been documented since the Middle Ages.

The bridge provides a link between the two banks of the Gilão river as it passes through the city. It is 87 metres long and has seven arches. Its current appearance is the result of the reconstruction carried out on it in 1655 and 1657.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Contact: Tel. 281 320 500 (Tavira Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.126902, -7.649857

Mercado da Ribeira

Next to the Jardim do Coreto (Bandstand Garden) stands the old Waterfront Market. This 19th century building, which has an iron structure, was recuperated in 1999 to house a varied series of spaces to be used for traditional commerce and restaurants.

GPS: 37.125556, -7.647696



Igreja Matriz da Nossa Senhora da Luz

This 16th-century Main Church is regarded as the first hall church in the Algarve. It has three naves covered by ribbed vaults supported on very elegant columns.

On the façade, the highlight is the main doorway in the Renaissance style and the interesting semi-circular pediment, below which a niche with a statue of Nossa Senhora da Luz (Our Lady of Light) can be seen.

Interestingly, this church, which in some respects is so clearly in the Renaissance style, has a Manueline doorway on the southern side with small columns suggesting twisted ropes, evidence of its Manueline origin.

As regards the decoration on the inside of the church, the Mannerist altarpiece in the chancel stands out. A number of 17th and 18th century statues can also be seen, as well as a Manueline holy water font and an excellent statue of Nossa Senhora da Luz, dating from the 16th century.

Open to the public.

Opening times: from 2.30 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 962 469 (Luz de Tavira Parish)

GPS: 37.091996, -7.704176





vila real de santo antônio





brief history

Despite the fact that there was a small village here in the 16th century, it was not until 1774 that the city of Vila Real de Santo António was born.

The city took only two years to build and it came about following a political decision by the Marquês de Pombal, who was seeking to affirm the power of the Portuguese crown in an area coveted by the Spanish.

The approach was typical of the enlightenment and proclaimed a type of urban planning that was based on the careful measurement of areas, heights and volumes, which explains the geometric layout of the streets.

The 19th century brought great prosperity to Vila Real de Santo António, which took advantage of the abundant fish in its waters to develop an important canning industry. An indication of the flowering of the town is the fact that, in 1886, it was the first town in the Algarve to have gas lighting.

Nowadays, Vila Real de Santo António is concentrating on tourism and its proximity to Spain means that many thousands of Spanish people visit every year. /

Igreja Matriz de Vila Real de Santo António

This Main Church of Vila Real de Santo António was built in the late 1770s to early 1780s as part of the Marquês de Pombal's project for the reconstruction of Vila Real de Santo António. It has a single, longitudinal nave and an imposing neo-classical style triumphal arch stands before the chancel.

The Rococo-style altarpieces stand out from the rest of the church's ornamentation because of both the quality of the woodcarving and the splendid statues of Nossa Senhora da Encarnação (Our Lady of the Incarnation), Nossa Senhora do Carmo (Our Lady of Carmel) and Santo António (St Anthony), all dating from the 18th century.

Finally, the 17th century painting depicting the crucifix should also be mentioned.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: in winter, Monday to Friday at 9 am, Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am and 11.30 am. In summer, Monday to Friday at 9 am, Saturday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am and 7 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 510 001 (Vila Real de Santo António Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.194937, -7.415721



Farol de Vila Real de Santo António

Built in 1923, the Vila Real de Santo António Lighthouse replaced the earlier *"Farolinho de ferro"* ("Little Iron Lighthouse").

The circular tower stands 40 metres high. Initially, the light beam was obtained through the incandescence of oil vapour but by 1927 the lighthouse had been electrified using generator engines and was connected to the public grid in 1947.

A lift up to the tower was installed in 1960 and in 1989 the lighthouse was fully automated, although lighthouse keepers are still required today to ensure it functions properly.

May be visited. Advance booking required.

Contact: Tel. 281 512 035 (Vila Real de Santo António harbourmaster's office)

GPS: 37.186916, -7.416343





Centro Cultural António Aleixo

One of the historical buildings in the city of Vila Real de Santo António houses the António Aleixo Cultural Centre, opened in 1998. The centre regularly hosts exhibitions of painting, sculpture and photography.

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 1 pm and from 3 to 7 pm In July and August: Tuesday to Friday, from 5 pm to 11 pm. Weekends: open to the public from 8 pm to 11 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 510 045 / Fax. 281 510 049

GPS: 37.194452, -7.416134



Núcleo histórico de Cacela Velha

In the small village of Cacela Velha, occupied over the centuries by different peoples, can be found a historical centre which includes a church of medieval origins, which was restored in the 16th and 18th centuries, and a 16th century fortress, rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake.

The Renaissance doorway on the church façade deserves special mention, as does a neoclassical altarpiece on the inside.

From the historical centre of Cacela Velha, you can enjoy a wonderful view over the Ria Formosa and discover this village with its typical houses.

Open to the public.

Opening times: Monday to Friday from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 952 600 (Cacela Heritage Research Centre)

GPS: 37.157199, -7.545976



Cacela Velha

castro marim





brief history

Starting in the Phoenician period, Castro Marim, which was surrounded by water at that time, served as a harbour for boats which sailed up the Guadiana to collect the copper that was extracted from the mines in Alcoutim and Mértola.

In 1242, D. Paio Peres Correia took the village from the Moors and in 1277 King Afonso III granted it a charter with the aim of attracting more people to this strategically important location.

Years later, during the reign of King Dinis, the Castle of Castro Marim was rebuilt. It became one of the most important in the Algarve and served as the headquarters of the Order of Santiago (St James) from 1319 to 1356.

With the arrival of the 15th century and the beginning of maritime expansion, Castro Marim was granted the status of a place of exile by King João I with the aim of increasing the local population. In 1509, King Manuel I ordered the renovation of the castle.

After the Restoration in 1640, Castro Marim's strategic location was once again decisive for the crown, and work on the building of the Fortress of São Sebastião began.

Nowadays, following a period of decline in the 19th century, Castro Marim has found in tourism an economic activity which may secure the future of this fine, historical town in the Algarve. /

Castelo de Castro Marim

Built in the 13th century by King Afonso III, Castro Marim Castle has an interesting stretch of wall that is semi-circular in shape, on the inside of which stand the Old Castle, the Church of Nossa Senhora dos Mártires (Our Lady of Martyrs) and a number of ruins, including the old governors' palace.

This major monument provides visitors with a breathtaking panoramic view over the town and the River Guadiana.

There is also a museum inside the castle, where visitors will have the opportunity to discover a vast collection of archaeological finds dating from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages, and which bear witness to the region's history.

CLASSIFIED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Open to the public.

Opening times: April to October, from 9 am to 7 pm; November to March, from 9 am to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 510 746

GPS: 37.218419, -7.441822



Forte de São Sebastião

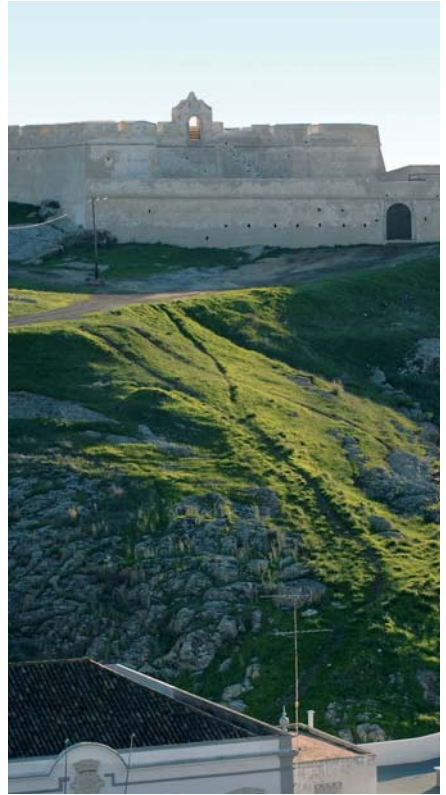
This fort was built in the mid-17th century with the aim of reinforcing the defences of this border town during the wars of the restoration.

Irregular in shape, the walls of this military structure have five defensive bastions.

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 510 740 (Castro Marim Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.21668, -7.443213



Igreja Matriz de Castro Marim

This late 18th-century Main Church has a façade with a late Baroque doorway, a triangular pediment and three large windows which provide good illumination of the inside.

On the roof of the church, the main feature is the imposing dome surmounted by a false lantern.

On the inside, the principal features are the altarpieces in the neoclassical style, a statue of the archangel São Miguel (St Michael) (15th century), a statue of Nossa Senhora dos Mártires (Our Lady of Martyrs) (16th century) and some others dating from the 18th century, including one of Santa Luzia.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: Wednesday and Friday at 10 am, Sunday at 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 531 232 (Castro Marim Tourist Office)

GPS: 37.21751, -7.441908





Revelim de Santo António

At the top of the hill known as the Zambujal Rock, to the east of the town of Castro Marim, stands the Ravelin of Santo António, a 17th century military fortification. Inside the revelin walls are the chapel Capela de Santo António (St Anthony), a traditional mill and the local Interpretation Centre, which serves as a viewpoint overlooking the river Rio Guadiana and the Castro Marim Marshlands, as well as providing visitors with all the information they need about the municipality.

The chapel, which is longitudinal in layout, features baroque style altars and a curious collection of paintings depicting scenes from St. Anthony's life.

Open to the public.

Opening times: in summer, daily from 10 am to 7 pm; in winter, daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

Contact: Tel. 218 510 160 (Municipal Enterprise)

GPS: 37.216031, -7.439511



Igreja Matriz de Odeleite

The façade of this 18th century church has a triangular pediment, and on the inside there is a single nave and a chancel.

The highlights are the neoclassical altarpiece in the chancel and the two side altarpieces in the Rococo style.

From the collection of statues in this church, the ones of Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary) and the archangel São Miguel (St Michael) deserve special mention.

Open for worship.

Mass Times: in winter, Sunday at 3 pm; in summer, Sunday at 3.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 531 179 (Castro Marim Parish)

GPS: 37.334589, -7.486515





alcoutim





brief history

From at least 2500 B.C., veins of copper, iron and manganese attracted different peoples to Alcoutim. However, it was the Romans who developed a mining industry in the region, building access routes and transporting the minerals needed by the empire down the Guadiana to the Mediterranean.

This occupation by people whose main motivation was the search for minerals continued with the Visigoths and the Arabs until 1240, when Alcoutim was retaken by the Christians; the town received its charter in 1304 during the reign of King Dinis.

Because of the town's strategic location, its importance was recognised by the Portuguese crown who, in addition to reinforcing its defensive structures, granted Alcoutim to the Military Order of Santiago (St James).

After the Wars of the Restoration, Alcoutim lost its strategic importance. This coincided with a decline in mining which, along with the relative poverty of the agricultural land in the municipality, led to economic stagnation and many people leaving the area, which increased in the second half of the 20th century. /

Castelo de Alcoutim

Built in the 14th century with the aim of defending this border region, Alcoutim Castle has a long stretch of wall with defensive towers.

Visitors to the castle can enjoy a magnificent view over the Guadiana river, the town of Alcoutim and the Spanish village of Sanlucar.

Inside the castle, there is an opportunity to visit the Alcoutim Archaeology Museum, where a variety of finds bear witness to all the different periods of the municipality's history, as well as the Exhibition of Timeless Games. It is worth noting that this collection is part of the largest, most varied collection of Islamic-era board games found at a single archaeological site and the only known examples of Mancala III in Portugal.

CLASSIFIED AS A BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission). Tickets give admission to other museums in the town (the Museum of Religious Art and the Museum of the River).

Opening times: in summer, (April to September), from 9.30 am to 7 pm; in winter, (October to March), from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 540 500 (Alcoutim Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.470592, -7.472012



Igreja Matriz de Alcoutim

The medieval Main Church of Alcoutim was rebuilt in the 16th century in the Renaissance style. It has three naves separated by arches supported on columns with Corinthian capitals, and a doorway in the classical style.

A statue of Christ the Saviour, another of São Luís Bispo, from the 17th century, a statue of Nossa Senhora do Rosário (Our Lady of the Rosary), made in the Baroque style, and the sacramentum on the altarpiece in the chapel Capela do Santíssimo (Most Holy) are the most important works of art in this church.

Open to the public.

Opening times: open daily but without set times.

Contact: Tel. 281 546 491 (Alcoutim Parish Church Factory)

GPS: 37.471901, -7.471235





Capela de Santo António

It is not known when this chapel situated next to the river Rio Guadiana in the lower section of the town of Alcoutim was founded, but it could have belonged to the Count of Alcoutim. Inside, the neoclassical altar decorated with marbled paint is particularly worthy of note.

At the moment, this chapel houses the Museum of Sacred Art of Alcoutim where the exhibition "A Look at the Churches of Alcoutim" gives visitors the opportunity to view an interesting collection of sacred art from the municipality's various temples.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: in summer, (April to September), from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. In winter, (October to March), from 8.30 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5.30 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 540 500 / 281 540 509 (Alcoutim Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.471473, -7.471412





Museu do Rio

Situated 8 km south of Alcoutim, at a place called Guerreiros do Rio, this museum has recently been expanded.

Visitors to the museum can see an exhibition about the river Rio Guadiana and its history, its connection to mining through river transport, and the natural and cultural heritage connected to the river, such as the various types of traditional fishing and the smuggling that went on during the time of the New State.

There is also an opportunity to enjoy an exhibition of Traditional Fishing Boats of the Lower Guadiana, comprising replicas of the boats that used to travel that part of the river.

Open to the public (There is a charge for admission).

Opening times: In summer, (April to September), from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 2.30 pm to 6 pm. In winter, (October to March), from 9 am to 1 pm and from 2 pm to 5 pm.

Contact: Tel. 281 540 500 / 281 540 509 (Alcoutim Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.39743, -7.447696





Igreja Matriz de Martim Longo

Originally a mosque, the Main Church of Martim Longo was converted into a Catholic church, which can be seen from the cylindrical buttresses and the bell tower, the result of the remodeling of the old minaret.

It has a simple façade with a doorway with a pointed arch, and three naves on the inside separated by ogival arches supported on truncated-pyramidal capitals displaying a Byzantine influence.

Inside, there are three statues of particular interest: one of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception) from the 16th century, one of São Luís Bispo from the 17th century and one of Santo António (St Anthony) in the Baroque style.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

Not open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 498 434 (Martim Longo Parish)

GPS: 37.440872, -7.771808





Villa Romana do Montinho das Laranjeiras

At a place called Laranjeiras, near Alcoutim, there is an interesting archaeological site which was uncovered during the 1876 floods.

It is an ancient Roman villa, built in the 1st century and remains can still be seen of a *pars fructuaria*, a storeroom where farm produce was kept.

Equally interesting are the archaeological remains of a 6th century Christian church, fruit of the Visigoth occupation of the Iberian Peninsula, following the decline of the Roman Empire.

Two semi-detached dwellings here bear witness to the fact that this large-scale farm continued to operate during the Islamic occupation of the Algarve in the 8th century.

CLASSIFIED AS A **BUILDING OF MUNICIPAL INTEREST**

Open to the public.

Contact: Tel. 281 540 500 (Alcoutim Municipal Council)

GPS: 37.404456, -7.460353



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