

# REGUENGOS DE MONSARAZ

## Tour Guide







**Reguengos<sup>de</sup> Monsaraz**

Évora . Elvas . Alentejo . Portugal

EUROPEAN WINE CITY 2015





## ONE OF THE BEST PLACES IN THE WORLD IN THE HEART OF A GREAT LAKE!

### COUNTY OF REGUENGOS DE MONSARAZ

It's with great pride that, on behalf of all Reguenguenses, we warmly invite you to visit our town.

We'd like to welcome you with the genuine hospitality of the people of Alentejo, with our valuable historical, architectural, archaeological, scenic and environmental heritage and the great ethnographic richness of traditional arts and crafts...

This Tour Guide of Reguengos de Monsaraz aims to introduce the full potential of this tourist destination of excellence in the heart of the Great Lake, where we can enjoy the practice of several water sports and unforgettable boat rides among hundreds of islands and hidden nooks of a huge lake that knows how to captivate our attention.

The County of Reguengos de Monsaraz offers an excellent quality of life for its inhabitants and for all tourists who visit us, offering a wide range of high quality tourist services and facilities regarding hotels, restaurants and wine tourism.

Nowadays, the historical village of Monsaraz is the balcony of the Great Lake, and is one of Portugal's most beautiful tourist postcards. Its surroundings take our imagination back for centuries and the presence of more than 150 megalithic monuments offers us the pleasure of discovering legends with



*"...the values of culture and natural beauty are the main strengths of intelligent luxury tourism of the XXI century".*

Sonu Shivdasani, president and founder of Six Senses

over five thousand years, among which we highlight the Cromlech of Xerez, the Menhir of Barrocal, the second largest in the Iberian Peninsula with 5.70 m, the Dolmen of Olival da Pega and the Menhir of Belhoa.

We also made a strong investment in public infrastructures: a Municipal Auditorium that currently allows us to develop actions in the Business Tourism industry; a modern Equestrian Center; a swimming pool complex; a Fair & Exhibition Park; the Rojão Palace turned into a Municipal Library; the Bullfighting Museum José Mestre Batista; and modern facilities for sports, social, educational and health activities throughout the County.

The Pottery of São Pedro do Corval<sup>®</sup>, the largest pottery centre in Portugal, currently has about two dozen pottery shops, and its pottery tradition dates back to prehistoric times. This great pottery centre is still one of the few places where any visitor can see, without prior appointment and at any time of day, the potters working on the wheel in their daily activity, a manifestation of cultural authenticity which reminds us at every moment of one of the oldest human connections to nature: earth moulding.

And our traditional and delicious cuisine... it's so

good to taste the migas alentejanas (bread stew), the lamb stew, the gazpacho, the açordas (bread-soups), freshwater fish and wild game such as rabbit, hare, partridge and wild boar!

It's also important to remind you that Alentejo was considered one of the 21 best destinations in the world to visit in 2014 by the American travel magazine of National Geographic.

Most recently, the Alentejo region was also voted "Best Wine Region to Visit", in an online poll, organized by the travel website of the American newspaper USA Today.

The Alqueva Dark Sky Reserve<sup>®</sup>, which is part of the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, was also recognized as the first World Reserve to obtain the certification of Starlight Tourist Destination awarded by UNESCO and the World Tourism Organization and, as such, confirms the unique features of the night sky in this area of Alentejo.

José Calixto  
Mayor of Reguengos de Monsaraz







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## A LOOK ON THE COUNTY

In the County of Évora, the town of Reguengos de Monsaraz stands out, whose magnificent setting on the Alentejo plain and in the blue waters of the Alqueva reservoir make it a tourist destination of reference in the region.

Bordered by the Counties of Redondo and Alandroal to the north, Mourão to the east, Moura and Portel to the south and Évora to the west, the town of Reguengos de Monsaraz is located in a predominantly agricultural region, which constraints the livelihoods associated to agriculture - essentially extensive farming of cereals, olive and vineyard.

The climate, typically Mediterranean, with hot, dry summers and short rainy winters, characterizes the vegetation, wildlife, landscape and the people of this region.

Thus, Reguengos de Monsaraz offers exceptional environmental conditions that encourage the enjoyment of outdoor activities in contact with nature, such as boating, hiking or horse riding through dirt roads, hunting, fishing...

Here you can also enjoy a trip back in time to wander through the historic medieval village of Monsaraz and visit several archaeological remains of megalithic monuments throughout the County. Mainly located in the Parish of Monsaraz, some of them are worthy of emphasis at a European level.

In addition to a rich historical heritage and a striking landscape, the County holds a strong identity characterized by traditional customs and practices, which are reflected in the cuisine, wines and arts and crafts, most notably in São Pedro do Corval, Portugal's largest pottery centre.











PLACES





**CROMLECH OF XEREZ**

38.453438, -7.370951

## MEGALITHIC

The County of Reguengos de Monsaraz is witness to the ancient human interest for the region that is the home of one of the largest artificial lakes of the entire European continent - the Great Alqueva Lake.

From dolmens to cromlechs, without forgetting the menhirs (isolated and in group), the County is the privileged heir of over 150 archaeological finds left by our prehistoric ancestors, who lived here over 6000 years ago.

This set of monuments and remains of megalithic settlements reflects the human settling in the region, favoured by the vast and fertile Alentejo plains.

The gradual human settling to earth imposed the need to raise great blocks of carved granite, whose primary purposes were related to the demarcation of the land and, above all, to the practice of fertility cults and cults to the unknown, which resulted in atmospheric phenomena.

This close relationship between the menhirs, the landscape and the first demonstrations of faith and belief in some higher power by prehistoric man reveals a framework of the Old/Middle Neolithic.

These lands, which were once some of the most densely populated in prehistoric times, promise a unique experience for lovers of this ancient art.

Identified in 1969 by José Pires Gonçalves, after being discovered by José Cruz and Leonel Franco, the Cromlech of Xerez was raised between the beginning of the fourth and middle of the third millennium BC.

Its unique square shape develops around a central menhir of about 4 meters tall, which has several "dimples" in one of its several faces, along its height.

This megalithic monument consists of 50 granite menhirs, of phallic shape, whose height varies between 1.20 m and 1.50 m. Although most of these menhirs are partially broken, the fact that they are placed *in situ* allowed the eventual reconstruction of their original shapes.

Due to construction of the Alqueva dam, this cromlech was the only monument in the region to be transferred in 2004 to the vicinity of the Convent of Orada (Telheiro).



#### **MENHIR OF BELHOA**

38.462268, -7.382875

Erected in the chronological beacon named "eborene megalithic universe", i.e. between the beginnings of the fourth and the middle of the third millennium BC, the Menhir of Belhoa laid broken when it was finally identified in 1970.

In order to reconstruct its original size, a base was cut, of conjectural height, in granodiorite from the region, on which the fragment found in situ at Herdade da Bulhoa was placed using mortar of lime and sand.

Largely decorated with engravings, representing solar motifs and a crosier, this impressive phallic menhir is also adorned with several broken lines, wavy, meandering and zigzagging. Therefore, in 1970, it was recognized as a National Monument (Decree No 516/71 of 22/11/70).



#### **MENHIR OF OUTEIRO (PENEDO COMPRIDO)**

38.470405, -7.393618

This phallic menhir, known locally as Penedo Comprido, has a height of over 5.6 meters, and at the top has a possible crosier with 30 cm diameter.

Rebuilt in its original location in 1969, when it was discovered by Henrique Leonor Pina and José Pires Gonçalves, the Menhir of Outeiro is located on a plain halfway between the villages of Outeiro and Barrada.

This stunning monolith, considered the most impressive isolated menhir of the Iberian Peninsula and also one of the most notable in Europe, will delight the prehistory enthusiasts.



#### **DOLMENS 1 AND 2 OF OLIVAL DA PEGA**

38.451546, -7.398860

The Megalithic site of Olival da Pega, which dates from 3500 to 3000 BC, consists of Dolmens 1 and 2, and was a funerary complex of truly staggering proportions.

The monumentality of these dolmens is clearly demonstrated by the number of funerary objects found during their study that brings together nearly 134 schist plates and 200 ceramic pots, and its impressive necropolis of notoriously collective features, where about 118 to 140 persons would be buried in each of the complexes.

This rich collection, found in these megalithic tombs seem to not only demonstrate a cultural continuity of the funerary structures that preceded them, but also suggests that the "Dolmen 2 of Olival da Pega" belongs to a wider funerary complex, making this site a monument worth visiting.

Many of these pieces, found during excavations carried out in 1985, integrated the important Megalithic exhibition of Reguengos de Monsaraz, which was open to the public at the National Museum of Archaeology in 2000.



## MEGALITHIC MUSEUM JOSÉ MARIA DA FONSECA

38.424868, -7.529735

*Rua de Mourão 1, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

This museum is installed in a room reserved for objects belonging to the megalithic culture found in excavations at Monte da Ribeira, owned by the company Safrá - Investimentos Agrícolas, Lda., in the 90s. In this room we can find a series of period tools and a menhir-estela with 4.7 meters tall and a maximum width of 1 meter. This monument is dated from the last quarter of the fourth millennium (calendar years) or in the transition to the third. In the menhir-estela we can see several symbols that were drawn there about 6,000 years

ago, among which: a trapezoidal axe, a snake of naturalistic nature, a belt, a simple axe, isolated circles, a crosier and dimples.

In the same room there is also a set of tools dating from the same period.





## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM OF COMPLEXO DOS PERDIGÕES

38.390859, -7.551476  
*Herdade do Esporão, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

In 1996, Herdade do Esporão inadvertently discovered an archaeological complex with more than 16 acres, dating from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic, i.e., of an age range somewhere between 3500 and 2000 BC.

This important site aroused the interest of the international scientific community, becoming a reference for the research of European Prehistory. The classification of the Archaeological Complex of Perdigões as a national monument is under evaluation. Herdade do Esporão assumed from the very first moment the intention and responsibility of studying and preserving the heritage site and, assuming the costs of not planting vineyards in the area of the archaeological site and participating financially in its scientific research, ongoing since

1997.

The Núcleo Arqueológico dos Perdigões, an important prehistoric site with about 5000 years, consisting of the remnants of a megalithic sanctuary, including several menhirs and an extensive village, includes a graveyard, and is located 5 km away from Herdade do Esporão.

Some of the most relevant pieces from the excavations that started in 1995 are exhibited in Torre do Esporão, which houses the Archaeological Museum of the Complex of Perdigões.





## MONSARAZ THE CRADLE OF THE COUNTY

Defying time and contrasting with the harmony of the Alentejo landscape, the historical village of Monsaraz imposes its greatness.

Its occupation dates from prehistoric times, with several hundred archaeological sites of the Paleolithic, Neolithic (megalithic), Chalcolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods in the region. The primitive human occupation of Monsaraz, probably a fortified hill fort, was later Romanized and successively occupied by Visigoths, Arabs, Mozarabs and Jews.

In the VIII century, Monsaraz would fall under the domain of Islam during the Muslim invasions which occupied much of the Iberian Peninsula. It was then renamed Saris or Sarish and belonged to the reign of Badajoz, one of the largest and main centres of Arab culture. The process of Christian reconquest reaches Monsaraz in 1167, in an expedition departing from Évora and led by Geraldo Sem Pavor.

The reconquest of Monsaraz lasts a few years, since in 1173 it falls back under the domain of the Almohad Caliphate, after the Portuguese defeat in Badajoz. Only later, in 1232, D. Sancho II, with the help of the Knights Templar, is able to definitely integrate Monsaraz under Christian domain, making his donation to the Order of the Temple, which is responsible for its defence and repopulation.

The repopulation of the village only occurs during the reign of D. Afonso III and by the hand of the knight Martim Anes, the king's right-hand man, who was responsible for fighting the Arab resistance groups and for the enforcement of administrative, judicial and military institutions prepared in the foral (royal document in Portugal) of 1276. By this time, the County of Monsaraz is





established, whose territory is demarcated by D. João Peres de Aboim, lord of the estate of Portel and Defesa do Esporão.

Thus begins the Christian period in Monsaraz. And as such, the structures described in the foral of 1276 began to be built. Despite the fortifications built in Monsaraz, during the third Fernandine Wars (1381-1382) an English force takes over and plunders the village, which, four years later, was again invaded by Castilian troops. Before the war is over (1383-1385), Monsaraz would be recovered by Nuno Álvares Pereira.

In 1422, by donation of the Constable D. Nuno Álvares Pereira to his grandson D. Fernando, Monsaraz is incorporated in the House of Braganza, and one of the most valuable bonds of this Portuguese ducal house is established, regarding taxation. In 1512, D. Manuel granted a new foral to the village of Monsaraz, reforming and regulating the public and legal life of the County.

After the proclamation of independence in 1640 regarding the Spanish Crown, the dynasty of Braganza starts a huge construction campaign of modern fortifications on the Portuguese border, which Monsaraz is no exception. The construction of Vauban style starts around the castle, placing the village within the walls adapted to artillery fire.

The condition of castellated medieval village, the strong growth of the villages of Reguengos, located on a plain of easy access, and the development of craft and wine activities, along with the loyalty of the population of Monsaraz to the Miguelist ideals, which would be defeated during the civil war of 1828 -1834, are decisive factors that led to the transfer of the County seat to the Village of Reguengos in 1838, where it would be permanently established in 1851.



**monsaraz**  
museu aberto

## MONSARAZ, AN OPEN MUSEUM

Arriving in Monsaraz we are faced with its magnificent architectural complex protected by a medieval wall built during the reigns of Afonso III and D. Dinis.

This wall embraces several monuments, including the Main Church of Our Lady of the Lake, the Church of Misericórdia of Monsaraz, the Paços da Audiência, the Church of Santiago and all the houses.

The latter, built up over the centuries, began receiving persons who saw in the small, but majestic village and fortress, a refuge to improve ancient techniques related to both agriculture and craft traditions of Arab origin, which are a delight to passers-by who immediately surrender to its authenticity.

For those who venture into the discovery of the narrow streets, corners and sunny nooks or high spots such as the Campanário (Bell Tower) and the Torre das Feiticeiras (Sorceress Tower), one of the five towers of this military monument, the sensation of wonder and surprise caused by the magnificent

and traditional landscape now enriched by the beauty of the Great Lake Alqueva is certain.

The greatness of this fortress and the landscape that surrounds it, makes Monsaraz a stage of excellence for all kind of artistic and cultural events.

Visitors to this historic medieval village will have the opportunity not only to enjoy of all the heritage and landscapes, but also exhibits of many different forms of arts that are constantly displayed in several historical buildings of this town, and enjoy a high quality cultural program throughout the year.

Thus, Monsaraz assumes itself as a genuine Open Museum.



## CASTLE AND MEDIEVAL FORTIFICATION

38.442257, -7.381643

*Largo do Castelo, Monsaraz*

The construction works begin after the Christian reconquest and extend for several reigns. Looking to increase the population and its defence, King D. Afonso III, by the hand of the Knight Martim Anes, begins the construction of the new alcazar and its five square towers and the south Barbican section. In the following reign, under the auspices of King D. Dinis, the Torre de Menagem (Donjon) and almost the whole outer Barbican was built. Finally, D. Fernando builds the inner dividing curtain of the alcazar and the houses of the village. The wall delimiting the Parade Ground consists in schist and lime reinforced by towers, while the masonry panels surrounding the village are based on schist, granite, clay mortar and lime.

Curious fact: Around 1830 the old buildings of the Parade Ground of the Castle of Monsaraz were in early state of disrepair because of the human abandonment of the military building. The inhabitants of Monsaraz then began building "their" bullring, taking advantage of the materials of these old buildings and taking the necessary stones for some sections of the wall that was also in ruins. Since then, the usual bullfight held on that bullring became a tradition of the festivities in honour of Our Lord Jesus of the Steps.



## 17TH CENTURY FORTIFICATION

These fortifications were built during the Restoration War (1640-1668) and the progress of siege artillery. With a key role in the defence of the border, the layout designed for Monsaraz, authored by Nicolau de Langres and Jean Gillot, was based on the Franco-Dutch system, designed by Vauban, which included the construction of a new wall composed by the Fort of Saint Benedict, a "defensive key of the surroundings" with star ravelin and artificial curtain, the Fort itself, star-shaped, the Bastion of St. John and the Bastion of the Castle. The construction of three towers in the region of Monsaraz was also planned, the first was implemented in the watchtower of St. Genesius, the second in the estate of Pipas and the third in the estate of Ceuta.





## THE DOORS OF MONSARAZ

The interior of the walled fence, a reflection of the village as a parade ground, with medieval and 17th-century military concerns, we have access through four large granite doors, two of gothic arch - the Door of the Village and the Door of Evora (the main doors) - and two with full arch - Alcoba and Buraco. The Door of the Village, as the main access and the most characteristic of Monsaraz, displays a defensive structure protected by two semi-cylindrical turrets, one of which (the one at the West) is topped by the clock bell, which was built later during the reign of D. Pedro II.

Curious fact: As we enter the Door of the Village, embedded in the left jamb, we immediately see the daily life of a population that made use of the "ell" and the "cubit" (ancient measures) to standardize their business practices and to evaluate the measures of the fabric merchants who entered the village.

## CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

38.443150, -7.380452

*Largo Dom Nuno Álvares Pereira, Monsaraz*

The early Gothic church is built in the second half of the XIII century, and is the earliest reference to the reign of King D. Dinis. Because of the plague that devastated the region, the original church disappeared during the reign of D. João I, resulting in the construction of a new Main Church, since the small size of the building didn't allow the burial of the local population. The construction of the current Main Church, by the architect Pêro Gomes, is from the 16th-century, based in the Renaissance style, with three naves supported by four Tuscan columns, where we can find mainly regional schist. The pediment is decorated with a panel of tiles and at the top by a Cross of the Order of Christ, representative of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception. The High Altar, composed of gilded woodcarvings, shows two wooden sculptures representing St. Augustine and St. Monica. Its interior is decorated with artistic decorations of the XVII and XVIII centuries and eight side chapels. It's important to note the grave of Gomes Martins Silvestre, first mayor and settler of Monsaraz, built in Estremoz marble, whose front face shows a funeral cortege with several figures and at the top an allusive figure to the Knight Templar actions.



### PILLORY

38.443084, -7.380622

*Largo Dom Nuno Álvares Pereira, Monsaraz*

The Pillory of Monsaraz is a symbol of the jurisdiction and autonomy of the County. It's built under a socle of three square steps, where the base, column, capital and housing stand. Of 19-century workmanship, it is built in white Estremoz marble and inspired by classical art, by reusing the elements of the original pillory which was lost during the 1755 earthquake.



### ESPÍRITO SANTO HOSPITAL AND CASA DA MISERICÓRDIA

38.443253, -7.380658

*Largo Dom Nuno Álvares Pereira, Monsaraz*

The Hostel of Espírito Santo (Albergaria do Espírito Santo) is a construction of the XIII century, at the service of pilgrims who came from Andalusia and from the left banks of Guadiana and headed towards Santa Maria de Terena, while serving as a place of worship and attraction for new populations. This hospital is one of the fundamental elements of healthcare in medieval Monsaraz. The foundation of Monsaraz Casa da Misericórdia is associated to the actions of the Duke D. Jaime de Bragança, donor of the village, who in 1520 brought together notables of the village and the brothers of the ancient brotherhood of the Holy Spirit and gave them statutes based on the *Manuelino das Misericórdias* commitment. In the XVII and XVIII centuries, the building underwent major renovation work and enlargement. It has an important collection of documents dating from the XVI century.

### CHURCH OF MISERICÓRDIA

38.443168, -7.380674

*Largo Dom Nuno Álvares Pereira, Monsaraz*

Its construction took place in the XVI century, the date of establishment of Misericórdia, and was incorporated into the structure of the old Espírito Santo Hospital. Since it's a church of simple rectangular architecture, Baroque style, it's flanked by two chapels adorned with gilded woodcarvings of the second half of the XVIII century, showing an image of Our Lord Jesus of the Steps, patron of the village of Monsaraz, which had been offered by the Duke of Braganza, D. Teodósio II. On the facade, the royal shield of D. José, sculpted in marble, offers some sobriety. It is also worth noting the fact that Santa Casa da Misericórdia has in its outbuildings a vast documentation centre dating from the late XVI century.



#### CHAPEL OF ST. JOSEPH

38.443364, -7.380511  
Rua Direita 3, Monsaraz

Located just over an old 15th-century house, this baroque chapel with Gothic arch was founded in 1708 by Domingos Lourenço Perdigão. Its architecture is simple and rectangular. Located in Rua Direita, St. Joseph's Chapel was built with the intention of teaching the divine offices to the County jail inmates.



#### NEW CITY COUNCIL - CASA MONSARAZ

38.44293, -7.380722  
Largo Dom Nuno Álvares Pereira, Monsaraz

The last City Council of the village of Monsaraz, built or adapted, reveals architectural features from the late XVII century, perhaps contemporary of the reigns of D. Afonso VI and D. Pedro II. The facade is composed of a ground arcade with three flat spans, with Tuscan shafts and an equal number of windows, two with windowsills and a central balcony, worked in white marble. It has a hipped roof. In the upper corner of the ledge, on the facade of Rua do Castelo, stands the coat of arms of the village and also of the kingdom, in limestone and apparently a XVI century piece, probably recovered from the original building. Years after the extinction of the County in 1838 the building, which suffered damages from the earthquake of November 1st, 1755, was divided and part of it alienated, and only the main structure facing the square, with access through a slate staircase, was preserved and is property of the Parish of Monsaraz.



## FRESCO MUSEUM

FORMER PAÇOS DE AUDIÊNCIA AND FRESCO OF THE GOOD AND THE BAD JUDGE

38.443267, -7.380360

*Travessa da Cadeia, Monsaraz*

In architectural terms, it was the noblest and most representative civil building of the old Monsaraz. It's located on the eastern front of Rua Direita and was built in the second quarter of the XIV century, during the reign of D. Dinis and D. Afonso IV, as a result of administrative and economic development of the village and was also used as the County's jail.

Although the oldest documented reference to the building dates from 1362, it's assumed that the construction was carried out during the reign of D. Dinis or its successor. Between the late XV century and the beginning of the next, the building was expanded with the construction of a second floor meant to house the County's jail. After losing its council duties in the late XVII century, it would suffer considerable damage in the 1755 earthquake.

The courtroom was decorated in the XV century with a fresco that remained covered for centuries with a brick wall and it was only in 1958, during the renovation works, that this unique Portuguese work of art, regarding its profane subject, was rediscovered and saved from destruction.

This unusual work of artistic heritage represents the allegory of earthly justice, in which the good and the bad judge are the main elements, which shows the traditional forms of exemption and human corruption.

The painting dates from the late XV century, showing at the top the figure of Christ in majesty, seated on the globe with the inscription UROPA. Flanking the figure of Christ are two prophets showing the Alpha and the Omega, respectively symbolizing the Beginning and the End.

In the main bottom pane are the figures of the Good and the Bad Judge, accompanied by common figures of a civil trial. The Good Judge holds the straight rod of justice with dignity and solemn expression, as opposed to the Bad Judge with a double face and a broken rod of justice.

The figures over the chairs of the Good and the Bad Judge are Mercy over the Good Judge and Perversion, represented by the head of a demon, over the Bad Judge.

In 2010, the Fresco Museum began hosting annual thematic exhibitions that offer visitors the opportunity to gain a broader perspective of history and culture of the region.





#### CHURCH OF SANTIAGO

38.443652, -7.380560  
Rua de Santiago 1, Monsaraz

Of date and construction unknown, this church already existed in the second half of the XIII century, according to the existing documents. An original offering of the Order of Saint James of the Sword and later integrated into the Order of Christ, the original church completely disappeared, except the frame of Gothic design. The current design belongs to the reign of D. José I, who undertook repair works after the damage caused by the earthquake of 1755. In the 80s of the XX century, the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz initiated the renovation of this church, which is located at the West of the village, near the houses that belonged to D. Durando Pais in the medieval period. Currently, this monument hosts art exhibitions.



#### HOUSE OF THE INQUISITION

38.442807, -7.381620  
Travessa do Quebra-Costas 7, Monsaraz

This two-storey building with a tiled panel, where some iconographic elements are present is, according to oral tradition, the House of the Inquisition, whose reports describe as a place of torture, in which the inquisitors judged their prisoners. However, in the absence of documentary evidence, this fact is not proven, therefore it's assumed that it was used by the Inquisition as a file storage facility or as temporary jail, for later being sent to the Court of the Holy Office in Évora.



#### HOUSE OF JUIZ DE FORA

38.444167, -7.379954

*Rua dos Celeiros, Monsaraz*

Located on the corner of Rua Direita and Travessa dos Celeiros, it's an interesting house of XV century origins, whose name derives from the fact that for centuries it was the residence of the village governors and foreign judges. Expanded and remodelled in the XVI and XVII centuries, the building combines Gothic architectural elements, of Manueline and Renaissance styles. Recovered by private individuals in the mid- twentieth century, was later donated to the University of Évora.



#### CISTERN

38.443932, -7.379806

*Travessa da Cisterna, Monsaraz*

A construction of the late Middle Ages, the cistern of the village was the main intramural water tank of Monsaraz and major supplier of the population. The work is paired on the eastern front with the walled Dionysian cloth, emerging from the Porta do Buraco (the Hole Door), and features a gothic stone arch at the West of the public street with the same name, which gave way to the public water collecting system.

Curious fact: Legend has it that a Muslim mosque preceded this cistern, probably built between the XI and XII centuries.



#### CHAPEL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (CUBA)

38.443866, -7.379113

*Monsaraz*

This hermitage, which remained enclosed since the XVII century in the Baluarte de São João (The Bastion of St. John), has a curious cubic shape of Moorish nature, which has led some researchers to think it's an ancient Arab cuba. Others, however, claim its XVI century origin, during which the mudéjar style strongly influenced the architecture of Alentejo. The interior of the temple is covered by mural paintings, which were painted by artists from Évora, in 1622.





#### HERMITAGE OF ST. BENEDICT

38.446736, -7.378632  
Monsaraz

Located in the outskirts of the village, this Chapel, founded in the late XVI century, with the donations of the residents of Monsaraz with the purpose to serve the religious festivities and the Sunday religious services, was built on the XVII century ravelin perimeter. With a simple and rectangular structure, it's divided into two separate levels, which correspond to the nave and the chancel, and also with a vestry adjacent to these two areas. The nave is covered by a barrel vault and the chancel is covered with a dome, which is decorated with mural paintings from 1629, with symbols of the patron Saint: the mitre, the chalice, the crosier and the cross of Aviz. The main facade is divided into two settlements, and is flanked by buttresses. A portal of rectangular frame was opened on the former, encircled by two windows with the same format. The set is completed by a triangular pediment, opened at the centre of the lunette.



#### HERMITAGE OF ST. LAZARUS

38.442317, -7.375915  
foothills of Monsaraz

Founded in the XIV century, this hermitage is located on the eastern outskirts of Monsaraz, near the path leading to the hermitage of St. Catherine. With a simple and rectangular shape, this Gothic hermitage served as spiritual support to the adjoined lazar house. Currently, the masonry exterior walls of schist and the Gothic arch of the doorway still exist. Its facade is presumed to have had a gable roof, supported by wooden beams.



#### HERMITAGE OF ST. CATHERINE

38.444646, -7.371678  
foothills of Monsaraz

Built in the XII century, this hermitage is located on the outskirts of Monsaraz. Its castellated construction, as well as the symbols found, indicated that it was built by the Knights of the Order of the Temple and its purpose might have been the protection to passing travellers. The temple is composed by two different structures, the rectangular-shaped nave and the hexagonal-shaped apse. The apse is topped by merlons which form a tower, built in the XVI century. The facade, with a simple design, is opened at the bottom by a straight frame portal, on which lies an oculus. Inside, the nave features a vast area with a Romanesque arch that gives way to the apse. It's covered by an ogival dome, under which a set of arches was opened, complemented by a notched ledge.



#### HERMITAGE OF ST. SEBASTIAN

38.446135, -7.388047  
*sopé de Monsaraz*

Of XVI century design, it's a typical construction of small rural churches that exist throughout Alentejo, consisting of a nave and chevet with a hemispheric dome, plastered and whitewashed. It formerly belonged to the City Council of Monsaraz that promoted the Annual Festivities of February and the gathering in profound worship to the Roman martyr centurion which, since the period of D. João III and D. Sebastian, grew in the transtagana province. Has traces of ancient mural paintings, and it's possible to see on the right side of the chevet a panel depicting St. Francis receiving the stigmata, a work apparently from the early XVII century. After a relative abandonment, it benefited from great improvements in the late 60s, thanks to Casa Leal, of D. Catarina Saramago and other anonymous parishioner benefactors.



#### CONVENT OF OUR LADY OF ORADA

38.455017, -7.373414  
*Ferragudo*

In spite of belonging to the Order of Discalced Augustinians and despite its formal foundation dates from 1670, the convent only began to be built in 1700 by Prior João Calvário. However, due to its size, it was only possible to inaugurate it in 1741, mainly due to the efforts of the priors of the parish of Santiago and the Convent. The facade represents the Baroque style of the period of D. João V, adapted by mendicant orders. The porch consists of an arc and two large side windows, corresponding to the substructure that precedes the main structure, protected by slate pilasters, encircling three ledged windows. The interior of the porch is composed by a groin vault and three portals, two side portals in schist and the main portal in white marble, featuring the heart of the patron, St. Augustine. The nave, paved with regional brick, displays an architecture and ornamentation typical of the monastic buildings of that period, especially the lack of interior decoration. The vast square chancel is preceded by a high triumphal arch. According to local traditions, the Orada of Monsaraz has its name associated with the Constable D. Nuno Álvares Pereira, who prayed there before the battles against Castile.

Curious fact: In 1587, a Monsaraz cowboy named Manuel Gonçalves, offered his animals to Our Lady of Orada so that his product could be used in the establishment of wedding dowries for the orphan girls of Monsaraz. In the mid-20th century, the City Council still included a fund in its budget intended for the wedding dowries of the maidens of Monsaraz. The money no longer came from the sale of livestock as stipulated by Manuel Gonçalves four centuries before, but from the County's safe.



## OLIVE OIL MUSEUM - SEM-FIM

38.454425, -7.381411  
Rua das Flores 6, Telheiro

The Press Room gave way to the dining room of the restaurant. The colors, floors, ceiling trusses, presses, all that remained from the original olive mill wasn't changed.

The worm-type conveyor is in this room, next to the Casa das Tulhas (storehouse). The worm-type conveyor is a machine, a spindle carrying the olives from the storehouse, where they were cleaned for the churn. The olives were grounded and the resulting paste was spread into the moresques, then

they were pressed and on the other side the decanted olive oil oozed into large deposits of hot water. They immediately tasted the first one, the most pristine of all, with a piece of bread toasted on a wire in the wood stove. These heated the water and provided heat during the winter. What was left of this process went to Hell or to the Thief, because people always spilled a little on purpose for taking home.





## HOUSE OF CANTE

38.451821, -7.380472  
Rua da Fonte 38, Telheiro

In Alentejo, the history of the region and its people is vaunted through the streets in a convivial atmosphere and tradition that survived until today.

Sung in groups and originally by rural workers, the *Cante* tells the story of its people and of Alentejo through *modas* (traditional songs).

The *cante alentejano*, candidate for classification as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, evokes the hard life of the Alentejo people in the agricultural work. The *ranchos*, groups of people working in the field, soothed the hardness of the work by singing life's issues.

This *cante* persisted until today by influence of the Alentejo choral groups who

are the "ambassadors" of this very representative form of our musical tradition.

The *Casa do Cante* is a space that aims at the promotion, exaltation and study of the *cante alentejano*. It results from the renovation and adaptation of the old primary school of Telheiro into the registered office of the *Grupo Cultural e Desportivo* of the Parish of Monsaraz.

It's at this location that the *Grupo Coral da Freguesia de Monsaraz* rehearses and receives visitors. Here you can learn the County's history of *Cante*, and attend and participate in the rehearsals.



## REGUENGOS DE MONSARAZ

By the XVIII century, Reguengos unfolded into two villages, the Upper and Lower, and in the latter there was a hermitage dedicated to St. Anthony. Then these villages underwent a major urban and demographic boost, especially the core formed around the hermitage of St. Anthony, which became evident in the actions of its inhabitants regarding pastoralism, woolen and farming of vineyards. These actions were definitive for the dismemberment of the villages of Reguengos regarding the parish of Caridade, which led, in 1752, to the request for the establishment of the new parish of Santo António dos Reguengos, which would be established later that year.

In the following century, the economic boom of the villages of Reguengos - due to the operation of the wool factory, founded by José Maria Papança, and the allotment of lands on the outskirts of Reguengos and its wide distribution by the old trustees of the House of Braganza - was a force of technical progress and development of the village which, along with the growth of the population, is one of the administrative bases that led to the first transfer of the County's seat from Monsaraz to Aldeia dos Reguengos, on April 17, 1838. However, the disputes between Monsaraz and Vila Nova dos Reguengos – established back then by Charter of Queen D. Maria II (1840) for services rendered by the inhabitants of Reguengos to her cause – only ceased in 1851, when the County's seat was definitely established in Vila Nova dos Reguengos, putting an end to the successive changes that occurred during this period. This is the turning point for the people of Vila Nova dos Reguengos.

In 1852, he appears with his own administration and it's the beginning of the first term of office of Manuel Augusto Mendes Papança, the greatest personality of the County (was Mayor from 1852-1865, 1868-1871 and 1876-1877). It's during the term of office of Manuel Augusto Mendes Papança, that the village undergoes great urban





changes. Soon after, new long streets were built, the ancient paths were adapted and the village received a new centre. In fact, the main centre of the village moved from Praça de Santo António to Praça da Liberdade, where the new Paços do Concelho was built (opened in 1869). It was also in this square that the new church was built, whose project of António José Dias da Silva dates from 1887.

Other buildings essential for the operation of Vila Nova dos Reguengos were built, such as the Hospital (1871), new wells in several locations of the village, the Municipal Slaughterhouse (1871), the Cemetery (1866) and the paving of the streets (1871). The urban outbreak was duly accompanied by agricultural development and the establishment of textile, wine and olive growing industries.

The Mayor, Manuel Papança, was one of the promoters of this project, creating a Commission of large landowners to purchase a large area of land from House of Braganza in Reguengos, to divide it into plots of land, to distribute them by the population at low costs, given the condition of the plantation of vineyards (1 million vines were planted) prodigiously developing wine production in this region.

This expansion of the late XIX century helped to unify the cores of the Upper and Lower Reguengos. Arising from the century change is the emergence of industrial units, such as grain mills and the new power station (1904), which were adapted into old abandoned buildings.

In the beginning of the century and accompanying this industrial growth, the train station would revolutionize the transport of people and goods and mainly expand the core of the village with a connecting road that would gradually be surrounded by houses. On December 9, 2004, Reguengos de Monsaraz is elevated to the administrative status of town.



### PRAÇA DE SANTO ANTÓNIO

38.425562, -7.532538

*Praça de Santo António, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

At a time when the village was divided between Upper Reguengos and Lower Reguengos, the Praça de Santo António, located in Lower Reguengos, was the centre of the village. The hermitage of St. Anthony was located in this square. It's small, narrow and has a chapel and a porch, and is of great historical importance to the village. Thanks to it, the inhabitants no longer needed to travel to the village of Caridade, and started to attend the religious services at the chapel of St. Anthony. Around this hermitage and the Praça de Santo António, a strong housing and urban core began emerging (which became later known as the "Village of Palaces"), which eventually led to the establishment of the parish of Santo António in 1752, by order of D. Frei Miguel de Sousa (whose real last name was Távora), at the time Archbishop of Évora.



### NEW PAÇOS DO CONCELHO - CITY COUNCIL

38.424645, -7.534980

*Praça da Liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Previously installed in Casa Rojão (located in one of the streets of the Praça de Santo António), in 1869 the City Council moved to its own building, of neoclassical style, built in the new Praça da Liberdade of the village by the master architect Manuel Joaquim dos Santos Galhordas. The building consists of three well-marked structures. In the central structure there's an atrium with five basket-handle arches supported by columns. The access is through a wide, double staircase that opens sideways. In this set it's important to note the main facade of the building, topped by a triangular pediment, which features the arms of the County in the tympanum.

Curious fact: The construction of the new Paços do Concelho was shrouded in hardened opinions about the best place for its construction. The vast majority of Aldermen of Manuel Papança was in favour of its construction in the vicinity of Praça de Santo António, claiming that the site "is without a doubt the most suitable and appropriate for this building, because it is a central point and the most popular in this village and therefore preferable to any other". Visionary and resolute in his convictions, Manuel Papança managed, a few months later, that the 1893–1895 administration changed their vote and decided by the construction of a new Town Hall in the central square of the village – the future Praça da Liberdade. A new urban concept for the new village was born here.





### MAIN CHURCH OF ST. ANTHONY - IGREJA MATRIZ DE SANTO ANTÓNIO

38.424196, -7.534421

*Praça da Liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Its historical roots date back to 1887, with the decision of the Parish of Reguengos to build a church near the new Paços do Concelho and thus increase the number of faithful. After the decision of the Parish Council, which included the donation of 14 contos de Reis (old Portuguese currency) that Manuel Papança left in his will for such purpose, the project was commissioned to the famous architect António José Dias da Silva, author of the Bullring of Campo Pequeno, who designed the building with the romantic spirit of the Gothic-Manueline period. Replacing the old hermitage of St. Anthony and still professing to the same saint, the first stone would be cast in October 27, 1887. On August 25, 1912 it was finally inaugurated.

As to its composition, the Church has the shape of a Latin cross and a bell tower in the middle of the facade. The interior consists of three naves, flanked by five altars, a prominent transept and three chapels in the chevet. Outside we can see the large flying buttresses and the bell tower. Later, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council, it underwent works of adaptation to the ordination determined by the liturgical reform.

### BRONZE BUST OF MANUEL AUGUSTO MENDES PAPANÇA

38.424442, -7.534771

*Praça da liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Work began in September 1932 and was directed by the author of the project, the sculptor Costa Mota. The purpose of the statue was a lasting tribute, always visible and eternal, to the great benefactor of Reguengos de Monsaraz, who everyone respectfully called "velho Manuel Papança" (the elderly Manuel Papança). A month later, on October 13, the bust of Manuel Augusto Mendes Papança was inaugurated with the presence of the Mayor Braz Garcia da Costa, who stressed that the place where the monument was built – a plot of land of Praça da Liberdade – was chosen because it is precisely between the two greatest works of Manuel Papança, the Paços do Concelho and the Main Church (Igreja Matriz).



#### HERMITAGE OF OUR LADY OF REMEDIES

38.390643, -7.550788

*Herdade do Esporão, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Included in the complex of Herdade do Esporão, the hermitage dedicated to Our Lady of Remedies was commissioned by morgado João Mendes de Vasconcelos at the beginning of the XVI century. Since early this hermitage became subject of intense popular cult in the region, which continued until the XVIII century.

The main structure of the hermitage is preceded by a rectangular galilee opened by three full arches, built in the XVIII century. The chapel boasts a structure topped by merlons, of military reminiscences, with a late Alentejo Gothic design. The structure of the nave, of rectangular shape, is entirely deprived of decoration, displaying the rustic apparatus of the bottom wall of the main facade, a space covered by a groin vault settled on corbels of Manueline style, whose keys bear the cross of Christ and the coat-of-arms of the patrons. The chancel, of quadrangular shape and smaller than the nave, is also covered by a groin vault, with the altar and the niche garnished by the patron saint. This space is completely covered with mural paintings of lush brutesque ornaments and frames that group Marian and Holy Spirit allegories, crafted in 1711, possibly by a workshop in Évora.

#### TORRE DO ESPORÃO - ESPORÃO TOWER

38.390878, -7.551471

*Herdade do Esporão, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

The first references to Herdade do Esporão date back to the XIII century, a period in which the estate was owned by D. João Peres de Aboim, lord of Portel and advisor to King Afonso III. Regarding the period in which the tower was built there are no certainties, but is likely to have been built by order of Álvaro Mendes de Vasconcelos, between 1457 and 1490. Built in the family's land, its major purpose was to ennoble his lineage and his new social status, which was on the rise.

Square-shaped, the tower is divided into three structures with fenestrations on the upper floors, aligned symmetrically. A staircase was built on the main facade over an arch. The tower was meanwhile subject to renovation, in order to restore its ancient and original design.

Currently, on the ground floor of the Tower it's possible to visit the Archaeological Museum, where several findings of Esporão and pieces of the Archaeological Complex of Perdígões are exhibited.





#### HERMITAGE OF OUR LADY OF CHARITY

38.447116, -7.563737  
Rua Velha, Caridade

This small hermitage has very ancient origins, and, according to historians, it's prior to the hermitage of St. Anthony of Reguengos. Probably built in the XV century, this hermitage, typical of the Alentejo rural religious buildings, has clear Gothic and Manueline features that make it one of the most valuable churches in the County. It has a chancel, of ribbed vault, completely covered with mural paintings dating from the Manueline and Baroque period.



#### BULLRING JOSÉ MESTRE BATISTA

38.420430, -7.535574  
Campo 25 de Abril, Reguengos de Monsaraz

An old wish of the local people, the construction of a bullring, only begins to be planned at the end of the first quarter of the XX century, through the incorporation of a limited liability company with a capital of over 200 contos (old Portuguese currency), for such construction. Designed by the master António Caeiro do Forno, the bullring was built with stone, lime and brick. With a seating capacity for about three thousand people, the committee headed by the County's health deputy assured comfortable and safe seats, and the bullring was finally inaugurated on August 15, 1924 before an audience full of enthusiasts. Recently renovated, the bullring continues to offer excellent bullfights.



## ROJÃO PALACE - MUNICIPAL LIBRARY

38.424802, -7.533474

*Rua Conde de Monsaraz 30, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Built in the first half of the XIX century, in the town's historic centre, as the urban household of the Papança family, this palace, despite unfinished, was a bold building for its time. Inspired by the romantic style, it has some Moorish features on its facade.

The facade is large and has a few doors and dozens of windows that reveal its magnificence. Inside there are several areas which once had other purposes, but that after the building's renovation for adaption as a Municipal Library, it kept such structures.

The vaulted entrance hall is followed by a colossal staircase that gives access to the first floor, covered with painted plaster and marble work, and extraordinarily illuminated by the main skylight of the three skylights of the palace. The ground floor has sixteen rooms with no relevant history, except for the cistern.

The first floor, which is the noble palace area, has twenty rooms. Two long corridors start at the staircase, each receiving light from its own skylight. Due to their richness, a significant part of the elements of the grand hall, the fresco room and the blue room, were preserved until today. The blue room, with its painted ceiling and walls in such colour is composed of geometric images, birds and flowers and a fireplace. The grand hall, which runs through the five balconies of the facade has three arches in the middle and has the second

fireplace of the palace. The fresco room, facing the garden, is composed of several frescos (forty-four) which adorn the walls, ceiling and doors.

Between 1975 and 1988, the sixteen rooms that were here, were adapted to high school classrooms and offices until 2013, when we proceeded to its restructuring and opening as a Municipal Library, an area composed of about thirty thousand books and a permanent exhibition devoted to the traditional arts and crafts of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

Outside, we can find a beautiful wide space which is distributed over three different themed gardens: the Metaphor Garden, the Word Garden and the Silent Garden. The guide is the alphabet, translating letter by letter the elements of the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, leading the visitors on a cultural trip.

The space encourages reading, among a great variety of vegetation which repeatedly characterizes the space, creating sunny and shade areas.



## PERMANENT EXHIBITION OF TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

38.424802, -7.533474

*Municipal Library, Rua Conde de Monsaraz 30, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

There are several collections currently in the permanent exhibition of "Traditional Arts and Crafts", through which we intend to reconstruct the lifestyle memories of a people who, through its tradition and customs, has significant knowledge of its cultural identity.

Wine, vineyards, agriculture, wool, clay and coppers were and are living elements of history, whose estate is not only a form of material reproduction of one or more kinds of popular knowledge, but are also elements that contributed in a meaningful way for the social and economic development of the County.

Obviously, the biggest and the most important exhibition of the collection is the one related to vineyard and wine. It's a collection of about a thousand pieces, showing the entire evolutionary process of wine, from the treatment of the vines, the harvest of grapes to the marketing of wine in old wineries. Therefore, a winery with its barrels, pots, tables and benches, counter and low light was recreated, where we can actually see at first hand the whole process.

Even within this collection it's possible to remember or learn more about the old cattle driven vehicles or *muar*, which were used as cargo vehicles, many of them intended for transporting grapes from the vineyards to the wineries.

The other less significant collections regarding the available estate, but equally important as historical elements, relate to other arts that were developed in the County, whether linked to agricultural practices, such as land treatment tools, or those related to the development of clay, copper and the Alentejo blankets.

Another practice, which is no less common in the region and that still has some visibility in some more rural areas, is the processing of milk (especially goat and sheep) into cheese. Here, as in the processing of grapes into wine, the whole process was recreated, from the collection of milk in the *ferrados* (metal recipients) to the manufacture of cheese in the cheese dairies.





## MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

38.423974, -7.534901

*Praça da Liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

It was in the distant day of July 4th, 1915, a Sunday, that Joaquim Lopes Fernandes Franco and Ignacio Villa Bañez inaugurated the Salão Teatro Liberdade, with the great and exciting movie "The Three Musketeers", directed by J. Searle Dawley, rapidly becoming the new movie theatre of Reguengos de Monsaraz. From the mid-50s and until 1962, the Salão Liberdade stopped gathering the necessary conditions to continue to operate as a concert hall, so it was decided to shut it down. The construction of a new movie theatre was

then carried out, which lasted until the end of 1965. It was inaugurated on January 8th, 1966, at 9:00 p.m., with the projection of the movie "The Fall of the Roman Empire". Currently this restored building is the main stage of events and shows of the County, and even operates as a movie theatre during the weekends.





## MUSEUM JOSÉ MESTRE BATISTA

38.424587, -7.535133

*Rua 1.º de Maio, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Inaugurated on May 30th, 2014, the Museum Mestre Batista honours one of the most illustrious Portuguese tauromachian riders, born in the County, more precisely in the parish of Campo.

In this space, the bullfighting fans will appreciate the most relevant professional and personal estate of the rider. Among the exhibited pieces, donated by "D. Tina" Mestre Batista, the bullfighter's widow, are the coats, a full short suit, jackets, bullfighting suits (suit of lights) of the banderilleros, the head, mane and a paw of the horse Falcão, bullfighting saddles and two English style saddles, several complimentary harnesses, bridles and stirrups.

In addition to these, several personal objects of the rider enrich the collection, such as pocket watches with silver chains, necklace with silver crucifix, silver cufflinks, wedding ring and the book of Padua, a prayer book with mother-of-pearl cover, reading glasses and trophies.

In this space you can also purchase a special edition of the Reguengos Reserva wine, released by CARMIM in homage to José Mestre Batista (1940-1985).



## CITY PARK

38.422348, -7.536823

*Campo 25 de Abril, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Recently reclassified, this "lung" of the city combines the beauty of the characteristic vegetation of Alentejo with the water element.

This whole area is covered by a representation of the Guadiana river, as it was before the filling of the Alqueva dam, where through the several curves that shaped the river route, we can find small waterfalls representative of the many windmills and watermills which were formerly the livelihoods of many people in the County.

It's an open space that allows for an array of outdoor activities supported by a bandstand, a restaurant-bar with terrace, a playground, a picnic area, green

areas and several pieces of street furniture, inviting you to rest and contemplate the area.

In addition to the green and water areas, it's also possible to learn more about some typical aromatic herbs of this region, which occupy large flowerbeds that invite you to enjoy these flavours and a wide variety of trees that were chosen and planted by the students of the County's schools.



## MUNICIPAL MARKET

38.423210, -7.536100

*Avenida António José de Almeida, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Next to the City Park, the Municipal Market is located near the centre of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

It opened in 1966 and was used for the trade of local products and fresh fish.

In addition to the areas for the trade of vegetables and fresh fish, in 2013 it was remodelled to include a commercial gallery that meets the needs of a diverse audience.

Here you can find unique products from Alentejo such as freshwater fish, aromatic herbs (coriander, oregano, etc.), vegetables (green beans, purslane, etc.), wild products (asparagus, silarcas [amanita ponderosa]) and products produced through traditional methods (sausage, cheese, bread).

The building includes restaurants, terraces and landscaped outdoor areas allowing you to enjoy pleasant moments of leisure.

There are also decorative elements inside, such as wall paintings of Gonçalo Jordão representing native products of the region.

The Municipal Market also houses the Tourist Office of Reguengos de Monsaraz.





## FAIR & EXHIBITION PARK

38.423212, -7.530026

*Rua dos Mendes, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

The Fair & Exhibition Park of Reguengos de Monsaraz is an infrastructure that includes several areas with different uses.

The *Pavilhão Multiusos* (Multipurpose Pavilion), with an area of about 2.800 m<sup>2</sup>, features a conference room, bar, hall and three multipurpose rooms.

The outdoor area of the Fair & Exhibition Park consists of an outdoor amphitheatre with a seating capacity for 1,500 people and areas for fairs, stages, parties or any infrastructure necessary for the several types and formats of the events.

The Equestrian Center is located in this same park, which is composed of competition tracks with spectator stands, a warm-up track, guide tracks, indoor riding arena and support facilities. Among others, major events such as the Festivities of St. Anthony, ExpoReg and Rally TT Ervideira, among many others, are held here.

The Fair & Exhibition Park of Reguengos de Monsaraz has several parking lots with a capacity for about 450 vehicles.



## MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOLS

38.429489, -7.533140  
*Rua Doutor António Vaz Natário, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

The swimming pool complex is part of the Sports and Recreation Area in Reguengos de Monsaraz, aiming to promote sports and leisure. This area is located at the exit of the city of Reguengos de Monsaraz towards Alandroal.

It has 5 swimming pools: an Olympic pool with 8 lanes, a diving pool, a leisure pool, a children's pool and indoor pool for learning purposes.

## SPORTS AND RECREATION AREAS

38.429299, -7.530078  
*Rua Maria João Pires, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

38.445493, -7.483924  
*Rua Teófilo Conde Fialho, São Pedro do Corval*

38.337199, -7.510535  
*Largo da Liberdade, São Marcos do Campo*

38.44731, -7.563344  
*Rua Velha, Caridade*

38.468552, -7.382378  
*Rua da Escola, Outeiro*

38.361993, -7.472271  
*EM1129, Campinho*

The Sports Centre and Tennis Courts are included in the Sports and Recreation Areas of Reguengos de Monsaraz .

These areas aim to meet the needs of the lovers of outdoor physical activities and stimulate sports through the practice of soccer, volleyball, handball, basketball, tennis, among others.

Likewise, there are other Sports Centres in São Marcos do Campo, São Pedro do Corval, Caridade, Outeiro and Campinho.







SENSATIONS



## AUTHENTIC FLAVOURS

In Alentejo, there's a perfect relationship between regional dishes created by the people of this land and the wines produced here.

The highly diversified flavours of the local cuisine reflects the wise use and combination of excellent aromatic herbs, olive oil and bread.

In the superb starters, the traditional Alentejo bread is never forgotten, accompanied by olives, goat or sheep cheese and the famous black pork sausages...

Over time, the Alentejo regional cuisine has been enriched, especially by the influence of a climate of pronounced features which, whether in the summer or in the winter, has always influenced the way and quality of life of the Alentejo people. The use of imagination and of what is affordable and at hand was the perfect solution.

Thus appeared at the table of the kitchens of the *montes* (farms) and small villages the *Açorda alentejana* (Alentejo bread-soup), the *Migas de espargos bravos com ovos* (bread stew with wild asparagus and eggs), *silarcas*

(*amanita ponderosa*), the *Favada* (stew of broad beans), the *Migas de porco* (bread stew of pork), the *Ensopado de borrego* (lamb stew) or the tasty game dishes prepared with rabbit, hare, partridge or wild boar.

The wine selection is currently an art promoted by many internationally renowned producers. The alliance between the Alentejo cuisine and wines was considered by the tourists as one of the main attractions that make Alentejo a destination of choice.

Dry and fruity white wines are perfect to accompany the starters as well as the several desirable bread hot soups during the winter. As for the reds, characterized by the touch of wood, they are the ideal choice to accompany the oven-roast lamb and all the game dishes. Those who think that red wine only goes best with the main course couldn't be more wrong. It's also the perfect companion for enjoying the famous Portuguese conventual sweets made with eggs, sugar, almonds and walnuts.



## OLIVE OILS

The olive oils of Reguengos de Monsaraz, internationally renowned, have already won several awards.

As a truly dynamic industry, olive oil is one of Alentejo's greatest potential industries, both in terms of culture and economy of this region. The ancient olive growing in the south of the country, resulted in a product of excellence that has continued to evolve over time.

Olive groves, olives, olive mills... an idyllic setting that enriches the silhouette of the Alentejo plain which, at harvest time, is transformed, temporarily drawing a veil over the hot days to dazzle us with green and brown colors and the bustle of these people. The "olive harvesting" (typically called *apanha da azeitona*) is carried out during the colder days, manually or mechanically, which is one of the toughest agricultural works. The traditions are kept and the quality of this golden liquid is ensured.

With fruity aromas specific of the olives from the region, this complex and high quality olive oil comes from the different varieties of olives, the *Galega* (mild, sweet, spicy and slightly bitter), the *Verdeal* and *Cordovil* and is used in the preparation of virtually all the Alentejo typical cuisine, giving it a unique touch and an unforgettable flavour.







## WINES

The cultivation of vines is ancient in the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, although it didn't represent a crucial activity in the economy of the region until the end of the XIX century.

What is today an established wine region has its origins in an intervention conducted in the late nineteenth century, when Manuel Augusto Mendes Papança, who was mayor for several administrations (between 1852 and 1877), formed a commission of important landowners to purchase a large area of land of the House of Braganza in Reguengos. The goal was to make the division of these lands in small strips of land and distribute them by the population at low prices and with payment facilities, on the condition of planting vineyard on them. This intervention led to the planting of nearly a million vines, which led to a prodigious development of wine production in just five years. In the late XIX century, another personality emerged as a champion of the Reguengos' vineyards. Joaquim Rojão had a pioneering activity regarding vine growing, especially in one of the darkest periods of the wine history of the County. In June 1893, after phylloxera invaded the vineyards of

the region of Reguengos de Monsaraz, he locally organized a society which he called the Comissão de Vigilância Anti-Filoxérica (Anti-phylloxera Supervisory Commission) to fight this terrible scourge. Thus, in the early years of the XX century, the wines of Reguengos consolidated their reputation in the market for their undeniable quality.

At the end of the XX century and early XXI century, we are witnessing the establishment of a growing number of wine tourism units that found in this region, known for the quality and tradition of its vineyard production, a breeding ground for such activity and for the production of wines.

Among the vine varieties used are the *Touriga Nacional*, *Trincadeira*, *Aragonez*, *Antão Vaz* and *Roupeiro*, whose different features can be tasted in the many existing wine tourism units in the County.



## WINE TOURISM

For those who seek to just enjoy a wonderful day in the relaxing and peaceful atmosphere of Alentejo, enjoying a glass of special wine surrounded by a stunning landscape, or for those wishing to learn more about the wines of the "Best Wine Region to Visit" according to the travel website of the American newspaper USA Today, the wine region of Reguengos de Monsaraz is the perfect destination.

From the grape to the glass there are countless techniques and experiences that we can learn in the wine region of Reguengos de Monsaraz. From the deep knowledge of the characteristics of the soil and climate of the region and the selection of vine varieties to be able to create the idealized wine, to the planting techniques, the treatment of vineyards, irrigation, traditional or mechanical harvest, evaluation of the grapes (sugar and acidity), stem, and fermentation and filtration to which this nectar is subject. Afterwards it's the beginning of the aging stages in oak barrels, jars or clay amphoras - for special wines - for subsequent bottling and possible aging in the bottle, without forgetting the wine tasting and all its rituals, from the most suitable type of glass to the way the bottle is opened and the preparation of the wine to be served, evaluating its texture, colour and aroma. All of this finally offers an explosion of some of the most unique flavours in the world while tasting some of the best wines in the world.

Among the vine leaves, cellars and vats, all these experiences are part of the history and culture of the ancient town of Reguengos de Monsaraz, where the vines are interrupted by megalithic monuments, hermitages and military structures of yesteryear. Together with the boutique wineries, unique rural tourism units, excellent restaurants and outstanding wine, this is the wine tourism in Reguengos de Monsaraz.



## THE LAKE

The Alqueva dam reservoir, with its 250 km<sup>2</sup>, 83 km long and more than 1,100 km of riverbanks, emerges as the largest artificial lake in Europe.

The Great Lake, besides having one of the most powerful hydroelectric production plants in Portugal, is a strategic reservoir of water, essential to the region.

Throughout more than 200 km of riverbanks in the County, it's possible to enjoy the practice of several water sports and unforgettable boat rides among hundreds of islands and hidden nooks of a huge lake, whose unparalleled charm really knows how to captivate our attention.

With the intention of promoting and offering a truly unique experience, the County has quay berths with infrastructures to support water sports and boat mooring, which also act as boarding points for sightseeing in the Grand Lake, specifically in Monsaraz and Campinho.

Near the water, but on land, you can enjoy several open areas for picnics, with tables and benches shaded by large trees, viewpoints from where you can enjoy a clear view of the breathtaking landscape or visit the riverside villages.

Along the paths of the County it's possible to observe the native fauna and flora or go hiking through paths prepared for such purpose.

### NAUTICAL CENTER OF MONSARAZ

38.434134, -7.350701

*Monsaraz*

### QUAY BERTH AND PICNIC AREA OF MONSARAZ

38.426706, -7.382598

*Monsaraz*

### QUAY BERTH AND PICNIC AREA OF CAMPINHO

38.355381, -7.443758

*Campinho*











## ARTS & CRAFTS

### ART AND TRADITION

The tradition of ceramics in this area dates back to prehistoric times, thanks to the existence of deposits and suitable clays, which have always encouraged this activity.

The small village of S. Pedro do Corval reveals the ingenuity and the art of knowing how to benefit from the magnificent clay of neighbouring lands, by intelligently combining raw materials to agricultural and livestock needs, manufacturing large jars for wine, recipients to preserve olives, pitchers and jugs to keep the water fresh.

From the combination of cuisine and art that emerges from the wheel, by the wise hands of the potters, is born the *Assado de Borrego* (Roasted Lamb) and *Cozido de Carne* (Meat Stew) whose unique flavours and textures are amplified by the preparation in the *tigela de fogo* (fire bowl).

In Alentejo, the craft demonstrations reflect the close and ancient relationship between people, landscape, raw materials and the severe and inhospitable survival in a region where the weather in the winter is cold and harsh.

The manufacture of the Alentejo blanket on looms operated by talented weavers perpetuates the patterns of Arabic origin, reproducing the vivid colors of the spring fields of Alentejo. The garments in pure sheep's wool, such as *capote* (Alentejo cloak), *pelico* (Alentejo ves) and *saões* (Alentejo chaps) are the effective response of the rural man to the harshness of the icy winter mornings he has always had to face.

The Alentejo painted furniture is a furniture style of popular and regional features, which falls within the traditional crafts and involves three professional activities: carpentry, stuffing with straw and painting. These are pieces of pure and genuine Alentejo craftsmanship. Unique pieces that are being shaped by the hands of the craftsman in a mixture of knowledge and art.

For lovers of tradition and authenticity we suggest visiting us and enjoying the genuineness of the Alentejo art.



## POTTERY OF SÃO PEDRO DO CORVAL®

THE GREATEST POTTERY CENTER OF PORTUGAL

38.448390, -7.484555

The tradition of ceramics in São Pedro do Corval dates back to prehistoric times, thanks to the existence of clay deposits with specific features of this area in the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, and which have always encouraged this activity.

Among pots, potter's wheels and kilns, we find unique traditional practical pieces that take us to ancient times when the clay was moulded according to the needs of the work in the fields and the humble lives of Alentejo.

We currently find true works of art in São Pedro do Corval, whether in shape or decoration - the pottery painting - made with an ancestral knowledge and with a unique aesthetic of the region. Combined with the unique live experience of being able to see the clay being moulded by the expert hands of the master potter at his wheel and to share his knowledge and experiences, São Pedro do Corval, with more than two dozen pottery shops in constant operation, is by excellence the largest pottery centre in the country and one of the largest in the Iberian Peninsula.



## ROCHA DOS NAMORADOS (LOVERS' ROCK)

38.445501, -7.475669

This natural mushroom-shaped granite outcrop is a valuable witness to the continuity of cults related to fertility over time.

Adorned with megalithic engravings resembling "dimples", this fertility stone of over 2 meters tall has its top covered by a blanket of small loose stones, representing an ancient pagan rite that has remained to this day.

According to the archaic tradition, single girls go there on Easter Monday to consult the menhir on their wedding. Each stone cast into the top of the monument that falls represents a year waiting for their wedding.





## NATURE

The appearance of the Alentejo landscape and nature depends on the seasons: rainy, harsh, cold winters; mild temperature spring and autumn with moderate rainfall; extremely hot dry summers.

The region has a unique set of environmental features that result from the combination of Mediterranean and Atlantic influences.

Thus, the chromatic richness of nature's cycles is different in each of the seasons. In the spring, the fields are dressed in purple and yellow wildflowers, which make up the green meadow and vineyards. The yellow-brown of the vast rain fed production plains predominates during the summer. In the strong autumn colors, the red from the "fall of the vine leaves" is the dominant colour. The trees are stripped of their foliage painting the winter of brown-gray colors.

It's in this diversity and breadth that proliferates a symbiosis of scents that change according to each season of the year, the result of a diversified flora, some permanent, as the holm oak, the cork oak, the kermes oak, the wild olive tree and others of seasonal nature, such as gorse, rosemary, pennyroyal and the honeysuckle.

Also the different sounds occur season after season, with the native and migratory wildlife performing unique concerts in a scenario of extreme quietness, which spans across the vast plains and the water surface of the Great Lake Alqueva, echoing through the schist hills and the white of the Alentejo montes (farms) that sprinkle the landscape.



## STARLIGHT TOURISM

Alqueva Dark Sky–The first reserve worldwide with certification "Starlight Tourism Destination"

The Great Lake Alqueva is the first destination in the world to bear the quality seal Starlight Tourism Destination Certification awarded by the Starlight Foundation, with support from UNESCO, the World Tourism Organization and the Astrophysical Institute of the Canary Islands (IAC).

This certification was obtained because of the quality of the night sky, which has unique features for the practice and development of astro tourism, i.e., choosing a destination whose main motivation is the observation of the cosmos and stars.

The clear nights, mild temperatures and low light pollution, characteristics of the region, make the surrounding area of Lake Alqueva a window to the universe, with a priceless cultural and scientific value. The sky has always played a key role in history, myths, symbols and the insatiable quest of man to understand the world, which is clearly visible in the megalithic heritage of the County.

Resulting from the awareness to this important tourist attraction, emerges the project Alqueva Dark Sky®, an invitation to contemplate the starry sky and all its elements, in a

permanent and privileged contact with nature.

In order to improve the quality of the destination, the Alqueva Dark Sky® Route was created, which includes lodging, restaurants, regional producers and tourist entertainment companies, regarding the provision of services related to the observation of the sky. The main activities offered include the observation of celestial bodies through telescopes; night tours, on foot, on horseback or by canoe; and nocturnal bird and wild life watching.

Thus, the region of the Great Lake promises its visitors magical experiences whether during the day or night.

Curious fact: Contrary to what one might think, the most favourable night for astronomical observations is during the new moon, because the sky is darker, thus offering a more than suitable scenario for the observation of the stars and other celestial bodies.





## ACCOMMODATION

The Alentejo *montes* (cottage farms) sprinkle the magnificent landscape and make the hospitality a familiar gesture, revealing its genuine art, a unique feature of these people. Opening the doors of a typical cottage and its traditional cuisine, a privileged witness of a timeless routine, results in memorable sensations.

Olive groves and vineyards surround the *Monte Alentejano* (Alentejo's typical farmhouses), where the stay turns into therapy, satisfying the demand of the most demanding tourists to offer them history, beautiful landscapes, peacefulness, boating or horse riding, hunting and fishing.

The ancestral recipes hide secrets and arouse the curiosity of those who come to stay and taste the best regional bread, the famous *migas* (bread stew),

*açordas* (bread-soups) and lamb stew, which spread unique scents throughout the house. Nowhere else in the world the cuisine is this authentic.

Combining this experience to wine tasting of the excellent local wines and the surrounding environment, will offer unique moments to the visitor.

The County has more than 30 housing units of the most varied types, from the 4-star rural hotel to manor houses, including a wide variety of local housing units.





## SPA & WELLNESS

This is the ideal place to find refuge. An idyllic place to regain strength.

Surrounded by a beautiful landscape, with all the energy the water element offers, you can enjoy natural therapies, which help you find balance and physical and spiritual well-being.

Try a simple massage or discover the wine therapy, as well as different relaxation techniques that encompass every sense. Turkish bath, Ayurvedic

massage, Tibetan bowls, energy balance or simply a Jacuzzi bath while contemplating the Lake, are sensations not to be missed.



-  Writings of Stone and Lime
-  Writings on the Horizon
-  Writings on the Water
-  Writings on the Iron Paths
-  Writings in the Valley
-  Writings in the Must and Olive Oil
-  Writings in Reguengos
-  Writings in the Meadow
-  Writings in the Clay

## BIOGRAFIA DA PAISAGEM Reguengos de Monsaraz

9 nature trails  
9 micro landscapes  
9 stories  
9 tales  
14 urban centres  
5 parishes  
1 County  
243 km of total length

## HIKING TRAILS BIOGRAFIA DA PAISAGEM - LANDSCAPE BIOGRAPHY

The charm of what the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz has to offer in terms of cultural, scenic, historic, megalithic, architectural and social heritage can be found in fantastic walks through the hiking routes.

The network of hiking routes called Biografia da Paisagem (Landscape Biography) tells the story of the County's territory through nine stories told to the rhythm of the walks. Altogether there are 243 km of beautiful rural landscapes full of history and stories offering the visitor a direct contact with the people, customs and traditions of this County.

There are 9 themes, 9 nature trails, 9 micro landscapes throughout the County that lead us through worlds of clay, stone and lime, endless horizons, with writings on the water, in the valley or in the meadow, through paths of iron, must

and olive oil throughout these Reguengos.

There are pathways within large farms that lead us through vineyards, ancient olive trees or the historical heritage of this region. Day or night you can follow these paths, alone or in groups, joining any of the many initiatives of this activity that take place throughout the year.



## MOTOR CARAVANNING

In the last 40 years we've seen the development of a concept, which is currently one of the most widely practiced throughout Europe - motor caravanning.

This small house on wheels and an engine provides a tourist experience of unparalleled freedom and flexibility.

Motor caravanning is travelling without a schedule and often with no destination; it's to move driven by the will to discover; it's wandering through nature and exploring the nooks and crannies that mark our history; it's sleeping near the walls of a castle and simply letting ourselves be lulled by the most pure sounds.

In Alentejo, motor caravanning is synonymous of unexpected and unforgettable adventures, where the journey is made with a more careful and attentive look over a land of peaceful people.

### SERVICE AREA OF REGUENGOS DE MONSARAZ

38.421200, -7.535275

Voluntary Firefighters of Reguengos de Monsaraz  
Campo 25 de Abril, 33, Reguengos de Monsaraz

### SERVICE AREA OF TELHEIRO

38.453181, -7.381292

Rua da Fonte, Telheiro

### PARKING AREA OF REGUENGOS DE MONSARAZ

38.431058, -7.532850

EN 255, Reguengos de Monsaraz (next to the Municipal Swimming Pools)

### PARKING AREA OF MONSARAZ

38.442586, -7.379836

Monsaraz





## GEOCACHING

This is the treasure hunt of modern times. Grab the map, the GPS and bring a lot of curiosity and set out on the discovery of the several "geocaches" scattered around the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, with the help of geographic coordinates posted on websites dedicated to this modality.

Treasures and experiences are shared with the several "cachers" and adventures are immortalized in the most beautiful photographs, with the idyllic backdrop of the Alentejo landscape.

The "caches" hidden in the town of Reguengos de Monsaraz are an invitation to discover places with unique beauty, medieval castles, historical ruins, megalithic heritage, the islands of the Great Lake Alqueva, the vast fields of vineyards, wineries, among many others. To set out on the discovery of these treasures will be a wonderful experience and a very rewarding challenge at all levels.

## EQUESTRIAN ACTIVITIES

The tranquillity of the striking Alentejo landscape on the horizon of the village of Monsaraz and bathed by the crystal clear waters of the Great Lake Alqueva, is the perfect setting for a truly unforgettable and romantic equestrian experience.

From simple horse riding or by cart, not to mention the night walks under the starry sky of the Dark Sky® Reserve, the offers take the most diverse forms, lengths and combinations, to provide a unique feeling of rest, through a privileged contact with nature.



## BIRD WATCHING

The huge variety of existing birds in this region enables the privileged observation of the behaviour of our species.

Considered one of the best bird watching locations nationwide, the district of Évora has about 250 species of birds, of which more than 100 can be easily observed in the area surrounding the reservoir of the Great Lake Alqueva.

The tranquillity, the landscape and the amount and diversity of birds in the County invites all kinds of observers, from the novice to the most experienced,

to enjoy the best of nature, watching birds such as the azure-winged magpie, the Eurasian wigeon, the gadwall, the red-crested pochard, the great egret, the hen harrier, the common crane, the collared pratincole, among many others.



## HUNTING

The vast plains of Alentejo, generously gifted by nature with a rich wildlife, is the privileged stage for all hunting lovers, with more than 20 tourist hunting areas in the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

The natural habitat of the region, consisting mainly of grazing land and Mediterranean scrub, invites to the practice of hunting rabbits, hares, thrushes, partridges, pigeons, quails, and the wild boars.

In the quiet of Alentejo, an area of tranquillity and unquestionable natural, gastronomic and heritage value, Reguengos de Monsaraz invites all hunting lovers to participate in several types of hunting practiced in the County, such as *caça de salto*<sup>1</sup>; *caça de batida*<sup>2</sup>; *espera noturna*<sup>3</sup>; *montaria*<sup>4</sup> e *a postos*<sup>5</sup>.

1. One or more hunters move to seek, pursue or capture specimens of wild game that they themselves collect, with or without the help of hounds.
2. The hunter waits to capture the wild game that the scouts will collect for him, with or without hounds in the case of small game and without hounds in the case of big game.
3. At night, the hunter, standing still, hidden or not, with or without a decoy and with or without hounds for collection, waits for the species he's trying to capture.
4. The hunter waits in a previously defined location to capture specimens of big game collected by packs of hounds led by the *matilheiros* (a hunter or hunters responsible for leading the hounds).
5. Similar to *espera noturna*.



## FISHING

The river basin of the Great Lake Alqueva ensures unforgettable fishing trips, both amateur and sport fishing. Among its fishing richness, the most prominent are the largemouth bass, barbels, carps, sunfishes, pikes, eels, crayfish and goldfishes.

This wide range of resources of the Great Lake Alqueva, results in the preparation of delicious dishes, which do justice to the excellence of the Alentejo cuisine. Among them, it's worth noting the *Açorda de Peixe do Rio* (bread-soup of freshwater fish), where the barbels are the main star, the grilled largemouth bass in butter and lemon sauce, the cooked or grilled crayfish, among many others.





## AVIATION ACTIVITIES

In the vast Alentejo plain it's easy to be charmed by the beauty of the monuments and fall in love with the landscape on a trip through the skies. Depending mainly on the weather, the aviation activities benefit from an environment with unique conditions for the practice of ultralight aviation, paramotor, ballooning, among others.

This memorable experience promises breathtaking moments to the bolder, with truly exciting flight simulations and baptisms.



## ALL-TERRAIN ACTIVITIES

Behind the Alentejo serenity it's possible to discover hidden adventures on the paths of the rich historical and cultural heritage of the County, an experience full of challenges and thrills. The all-terrain activities in quads, crosskart, MTB, four wheeler, ATV motorcycle, jeep, among many others, are available to the most daring visitors.

In addition to the tourist industry, throughout the year there are numerous different events dedicated to these sports, some internationally renowned which count for the ranking of the ATV National Championship, such as the Rally TT Ervideira.





EVENTS CALENDAR





## JANUARY

### CANTE AOS REIS (SINGING TO THE KINGS)

JANUARY 6 (EPIPHANY DAY)

38.442335, -7.381244

*Largo do Castelo, Monsaraz*

Organized by Grupo Cultural e Desportivo of the Parish of Monsaraz - Choral Group (see note).

### JANUARY FAIR

15 DE JANEIRO (FIM DE SEMANA SEGUINTE)

38.423212, -7.530026

*Fair & Exhibition Park of Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Trade of several products, animals and agricultural machinery.



### CANTE AOS REIS (SINGING TO THE KINGS)

The *Cante Alentejano*, candidate for classification as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, evokes the hard life of the Alentejo people in the agricultural work. The ranchos, groups of people working in the field, soothed the hardness of the work by singing life's issues.

This *Cante* persisted until today by influence of the Alentejo choral groups who are the "ambassadors" of this very representative form of our musical tradition.

Every year, around the time of the Epiphany, on January 6, the Choral Group of the Parish of Monsaraz revives the religiosity of the Alentejo people and their worship to the Baby Jesus, organizing the *Cante ao Menino* (Lullaby for the Baby). This event takes place in the medieval town of Monsaraz near the Nativity Scene and with the participation of other choral groups.

### FESTIVITIES OF ST. ILDEFONSO

LAST WEEKEND OF JANUARY

38.485995, -7.472049

*Santo António do Baldio*

Mass, procession, concerts, dances and shows.

Organized by the Comissão Social of Santo António do Baldio.

## FEBRUARY

### CACHOLEIRA FESTIVAL

FIRST WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY

38.464042, -7.398530

*Centro Cultural da Barrada*

*Rua Nova, Barrada, Monsaraz*

Organized by Centro de Convívio of Barrada, this is a contest in which community members compete on the gastronomic quality of the handmade cacholeira (black pork sausage). Includes a *Sueca* (card game) tournament, lunch and dance.



### ATV RIDE "ROTA DOS FOGOS" (FIRE ROUTE)

EARLY FEBRUARY

All-terrain ride, without competitive nature, which goes through rural and municipal roads of the County and neighbouring Counties.

Organized by the Voluntary Firefighters of Reguengos de Monsaraz.



### CARNIVAL

THE DATE CHANGES

Carnival festivities with carnival parades of the County's schools, dances and masks contests in several villages, organized by the respective communities.



### SWIMMING FESTIVAL

CIDADE DE REGUENGOS A NADAR - THE CITY OF REGUENGOS GOES SWIMMING

END OF FEBRUARY

38.429621, -7.532816

*Municipal Swimming Pools Victor Martelo*

*Rua Doutor António Vaz Natário, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz - Municipal Swimming Pools



## MARCH

### DANCE OF PINHA

Traditional dance held during the month of March on different dates and in different villages of the County, organized by the respective communities.

### HIKING OF THE PARISHES

#### END OF MARCH

Integrated into the project "Walk, Clean and Plant", it's a hiking/gathering that takes place in different parishes every year. Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

### ÉVORA MTB TROPHY

#### END OF MARCH (THE DATE CHANGES)

A set of competitions that, in its entirety, compose the Troféu BTT Évora (Évora MTB Trophy). The MTB section of Casa de Cultura de Corval organizes the 2nd competition of this trophy supported by the Portuguese Cycling Federation.

### BOOK FAIR

#### END OF MARCH (THE DATE CHANGES)

38.424806, -7.533454

Municipal Library

Rua Conde de Monsaraz, Reguengos de Monsaraz

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).







## BOOK FAIR

Held in one of the most beautiful and charismatic buildings of the County, the current Municipal Library and former Rojão Palace, the Book Fair is an important event, held annually in Reguengos de Monsaraz in the month of March.

With nearly two dozen previous editions, the event's main objective is cultural dissemination and public awareness for reading habits.

There are thousands of books, numerous different genres, which are exhibited during the week of the event, inviting visitors on a journey through the world of

culture, magic and imagination.

This cultural event includes several free shows, such as book releases and readings, lectures, musical performances and dances as well as several activities for children.

The Book Fair also aims to promote the local artists and writers of a County with a strong tradition in literature and art.



## APRIL

### RALLY TT ERVIDEIRA

MID APRIL

38.423436, -7.529598

*Fair and Exhibition Park*

*Rua dos Mendes, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Organized by the Moto-tourism Section of Sociedade Artística Reguenguense, this competition is part of the ATV National Championship of the Portuguese Car and Karting Federation and the Motorcycle Cup (see note).

### CELEBRATIONS OF APRIL 25TH

25 DE ABRIL

38.424476, -7.534844

*Praça da Liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

### RELAY RACE OF THE CARNATIONS

INTEGRATED IN THE CELEBRATIONS OF APRIL 25TH

38.449764, -7.481542

*Praça Doutor Manuel Fialho Recto, São Pedro do Corval*

Organized by Casa de Cultura de Corval and the Parish Council of Corval.

### FESTIVITIES OF THE PATRON SAINT MARK

APRIL 25TH

38.340166, -7.511669

*Largo do Cruzeiro, São Marcos do Campo*

Religious festival with cultural component.

Mass, procession, bazaar, bullfight, concerts and dances.

Organized by the festivities commission.



## CELEBRATIONS OF APRIL 25TH

In April 1974, in Portugal, a revolution ended nearly fifty years of a totalitarian political regime. This important date in our history has implemented democracy and freedom. It was a revolution that brought together the military and the people in a peace process, which is symbolized by a flower: the red carnation.

Every year this date is celebrated in a heartfelt way through several institutional and popular initiatives, in which we pay tribute to the military and evoke values such as freedom.

The celebrations include musical shows with protest songs, sports competitions, such as the Carnation Marathon and official ceremonies.



## RALLY TT ERVIDEIRA

Organized by the Moto-tourism Section of Sociedade Artística Reguenguense, this competition is part of the ATV National Championship of the Portuguese Car and Karting Federation and the Motorcycle Cup.

The competition includes all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, quads and buggies, with the participation of over a hundred pilots, including the biggest names in national all-terrain competitions.

The selective route extends along the paths and rural roads of the County of Reguengos and the neighbouring Counties of Mourão, Évora, Redondo and Alandroal.

The parc fermé is located at the Fair and Exhibition Park of Reguengos de Monsaraz.





## MAY

### MAY FAIR

MAY 15 (THE WEEKEND NEAREST TO SUCH DATE)

38.423436, -7.529598

*Fair and Exhibition Park*

*Rua dos Mendes, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Trade of several products, animals and agricultural machinery, funfair.

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

### FESTIVITIES OF THE HOLY CROSS

MID MAY

38.463502, -7.398753

*Barrada*

Mass, procession, concerts, dances and shows.

Organized by Centro de Convívio of Barrada.

### IBERIAN POTTERY AND CLAY FAIR - FIOBAR

SECOND HALF OF MAY (ODD YEARS)

38.448391, -7.484550

*São Pedro do Corval*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz, Corval Parish Council and

Ayuntamiento de Salvatierra de los Barros (see note).

### ST. ISIDORE FESTIVITIES

LAST WEEKEND OF MAY

38.485978, -7.472068

*Santo António do Baldio*

Mass, procession, concerts, dances and shows.

Organized by the Comissão Social of Santo António do Baldio.

### CYCLE TOURING

END OF MAY

Cycle tour by several paths in the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, organized by Atlético Sport Clube.



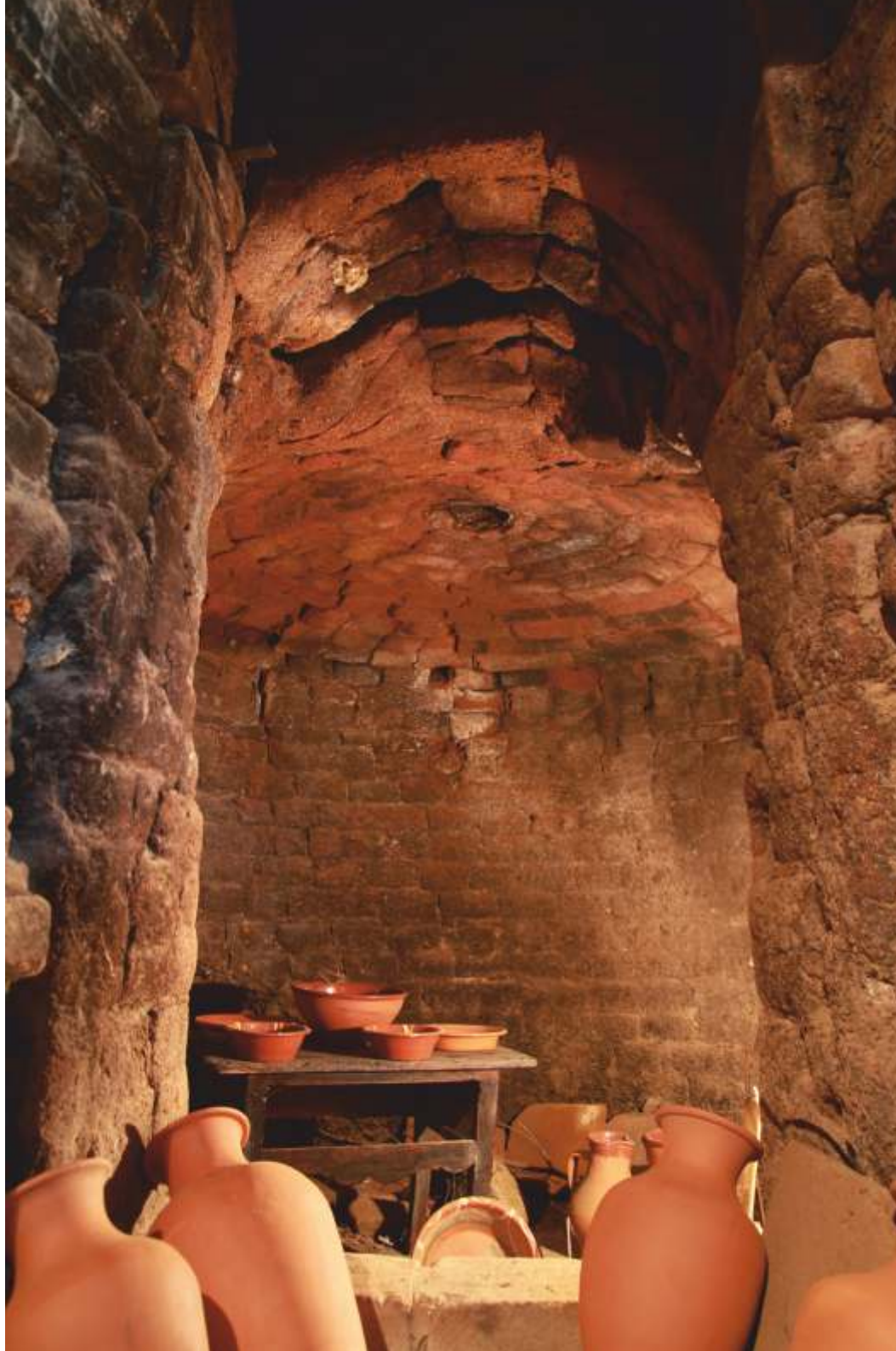
## IBERIAN POTTERY AND CLAY FAIR - FIOBAR

FIOBAR is a cross-border event, which for two decades joins the two largest pottery centres of the Iberian Peninsula: São Pedro do Corval – Reguengos de Monsaraz (Portugal) and Salvatierra de Los Barros (Spain). This event is organized in alternate years in each County and aims to value pottery, demonstrating its craftsmanship and artistic value and takes place in the second half of May, in odd-numbered years in Portugal.

The village of Salvatierra de Los Barros is an ancient pottery centre with ten pottery shops in operation.

The Pottery Center of São Pedro do Corval, in the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, is considered the largest in Portugal with 22 pottery shops in operation, which continue to offer traditional motifs of Alentejo, such as the herder, the harvest of olives and grapes, and with this new generation of artisans, they also offer innovation in the design and in the usability of the new pieces.

The Pottery of São Pedro do Corval dates from the Arab period, as evidenced by the content of the Alphonsine Foral granted in Monsaraz, in 1276. Thus, and since ancient times, the pottery of this village continues to be a strong witness of Portuguese ancestral culture, craft and tradition that is displayed in the representative pieces of this popular art, which are available to visitors in any of the 22 pottery shops of São Pedro do Corval.







## JUNE

### MTB RAID "PIRANHAS DO ALQUEVA"

BEGINNING OF JUNE

MTB Marathon through the paths of the County. An event integrated in the District Championship of the Setúbal Cycling Association. Organized by the association "Piranhas do Alqueva".

### OPENING OF THE BATHING SEASON

BEGINNING OF JUNE

38.429489, -7.533140

Municipal Swimming Pools Victor Martelo  
Rua Doutor António Vaz Natário, Reguengos de Monsaraz

Opening to the public of the outdoor municipal swimming pools, a date celebrated with many leisure activities in the area of the Municipal Swimming Pools. Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

### ST. ANTHONY FESTIVITIES

JUNE 13

38.423436, -7.529598

Fair and Exhibition Park

Rua dos Mendes, Reguengos de Monsaraz  
Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

### FAMILY RACE

INTEGRATED IN THE ST. ANTHONY FESTIVITIES

38.424270, -7.534587

Praça da Liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz  
Popular competition, of leisure and conviviality for all ages, on the main streets of the city of Reguengos de Monsaraz. Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

### BULLFIGHT

JUNE 13

38.420419, -7.535574

Bullring José Mestre Batista  
Campo 25 de Abril, Reguengos de Monsaraz

A majestic bullfight with century old tradition organized by a tauromachic company.



### GATHERING OF MOTORCYCLES TERRA D'EL REI

MID JUNE

Held on different locations

Gathering, camping, motorcycles and wine.  
Organized by the Grupo Motard Terra d'El Rei.

### CRAYFISH FESTIVAL

END OF JUNE

38.448409, -7.484698

Garden of São Pedro do Corval  
Rua do Jardim, São Pedro do Corval

Organized by the MTB section of Casa da Cultura de Corval (see note).





## ST. ANTHONY FESTIVITIES

The St. Anthony Festivities in Reguengos de Monsaraz are already a landmark of the summer concerts in this region of the country.

Held at the Fair & Exhibition Park of Reguengos de Monsaraz, with a duration of 4-6 days, this event receives around 40,000 visitors from a variety of locations.

With a strong musical component, with quality bands and musical groups, the St. Anthony Festivities gather several sports and cultural initiatives, such as the ReguengosComVida Photo Contest, the Family Race, the gastronomic exhibition of regional products, fashion shows and, obviously, the popular marches.

It's a youthful event, which aims to associate the playful nature of the initiative to the exhibition and the launching of new values of the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz and introduce areas of interest, such as fine arts and heritage.

Over the years, the event has been enriched with new cultural demonstrations, losing its exclusive local nature, and is now organized in a broader perspective, which significantly extended its importance in the regional framework.

This is also a moment of religious nature to celebrate St. Anthony, the patron of our Council, becoming a time of reunion with the local people who left looking for new lifestyles and who, at this time of year, return to rediscover their roots.

Combining the great weather and the proximity to unique landscapes in the world, it really is an experience not to be missed.



## CRAYFISH FESTIVAL

This annual gastronomic event is held in São Pedro do Corval and aims at promoting the river crayfish, which exists in the Great Lake Alqueva, and also the Pottery of São Pedro do Corval®, the largest pottery centre in Portugal and one of the largest in the Iberian Peninsula.

In addition to the gastronomic exhibition and the several musical shows, the visitors can also visit one of the two dozen pottery shops and attend live to the art of "transforming" clay into beautiful pieces. This is one of the rare places

where you can see the potter "working at the wheel" at any time of the day, without an appointment.

The event provides a perfect combination of food, wine, clay and traditional culture, offering visitors a broad overview of the specific heritage of the region and its people.



## JULY

### WATER POLO TOURNAMENT "VICTOR MARTELO"

MID JULY

38.429489, -7.533140

Municipal Swimming Pools Victor Martelo  
Rua Doutor António Vaz Natário, Reguengos de Monsaraz

Organized by Coral - Lifeguard Association of Reguengos de Monsaraz

### REGTRAMP E GIMNOSAR

National Trampoline Tournament and Group Gymnastics Festival

MID JULY

38.430524, -7.534775

Sports Pavilion Arquitecto Rosado Correia

Rua Capitão Salgueiro Maia, Reguengos de Monsaraz

Organized by the Gymnastics Section of Sociedade Artística Reguenguense (SAR), this tournament has the participation of gymnasts from several teams from all over the country.

### MONSARAZ MUSEU ABERTO - MONSARAZ OPEN MUSEUM - CULTURAL BIENNIAL

SECOND AND THIRD WEEKENDS OF JULY

38.443202, -7.380569

Monsaraz

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

### CANTE FESTIVITIES

LAST WEEKEND OF JULY

38.443202, -7.380569

Monsaraz

Organized by the Choir Group of the Grupo Cultural e Desportivo of the Parish of Monsaraz, by the Parish Council of Monsaraz and by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see notes).



## CANTE FESTIVITIES

This activity will allow visitors to attend and listen live to one of the most beautiful and important traditions of the region. The Alentejo *Cante*!

Don't be surprised to see a group of people singing with their arms entwined in the idyllic landscape of Monsaraz. In Alentejo, the history of the region and its people is vaunted through the streets in a convivial atmosphere and tradition that survived until today.

Sung in groups and originally by rural workers, the *Cante* tells the story of its people and of Alentejo through *modas* (traditional songs). The *Cante Alentejano* is a candidate for

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The *Cante* Festivities is an annual event that takes place during the month of July in the medieval village of Monsaraz. A decade old-tradition, this event allows visitors to enjoy a wide range of activities related to the *Cante Alentejano*, particularly choral groups' parades through the streets of Monsaraz, concerts, exhibitions, seminars, lectures and workshops.

The event aims at the dissemination and promotion of *Cante*, as well as awareness of the importance of sustainability and communication.





## MONSARAZ MUSEU ABERTO - MONSARAZ OPEN MUSEUM

### CULTURAL BIENNIAL

The medieval village of Monsaraz, marked by lime and schist, has kept its original architecture throughout the centuries and since 2000 became the *Monsaraz Museu Aberto* (Monsaraz Open Museum), assuming the role of a Living Museum, available to be enjoyed by thousands of visitors who annually visit it.

It's an initiative of cultural promotion that offers you the opportunity to learn more about the rich Alentejo heritage and landscape, habits and customs, crafts and cuisine.

Throughout the year, visitors are offered various artistic events, including art

exhibitions, shows and a life-sized Nativity Scene.

Every two years in July is held a Cultural Biennial which hosts key artists in such diverse areas as music, dance, the *Cante Alentejano*, painting and sculpture, among others, already a reference in the Portuguese cultural scene.

# AUGUST

## FESTIVITIES OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS

FIRST WEEKEND OF AUGUST

38.365277, -7.470592

*Praça Bernardino José Cruz, Campinho*

Religious festival with cultural component. Mass, procession, bazaar, concerts and dances. Organized by the Festivities Association of Our Lady of Sorrows

## FESTIVITIES OF HORTELÕES

FIRST WEEKEND OF AUGUST

38.464042, -7.398530

*Cultural Center of Barrada*

*Rua Nova, Barrada, Monsaraz*

Festival of cultural and sports nature. Consists of dances, cycle touring, parlour games (Sueca tournament, a card game) and lunch. Organized by Centro de Convívio of Barrada.

## EXPOREG (BUSINESS ACTIVITY FAIR)

AUGUST 15 (several days)

38.423436, -7.529598

*Fair & Exhibition Park of Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

## AUGUST FAIR

INTEGRATED IN EXPOREG

Trade of several products, animals and agricultural machinery, funfair

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

## MTB IN THE MOONLIGHT/HIKING IN THE MOONLIGHT

INTEGRATED IN EXPOREG

MTB ride and night hiking through some of the trails in the Parish of Reguengos de Monsaraz and in the Parish of Corval.

Organized by Casa de Cultura de Corval - MTB section.

## BULLFIGHT

AUGUST 15

38.420419, -7.535574

*Praça José Mestre Batista*

*Campo 25 de Abril, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

A majestic bullfight with century old tradition organized by a tauromachic company.

## FESTIVITIES OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

LAST WEEKEND OF AUGUST

38.447084, -7.467912

*Hermitage of Our Lady of the Rosary, São Pedro do Corval*

Religious festival with cultural component, organized by AMIJOVEM.

## DARK SKY PARTY

END OF AUGUST

*different locations in Monsaraz*

Organized by Dark Sky Alqueva® and by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

## FESTIVITIES IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

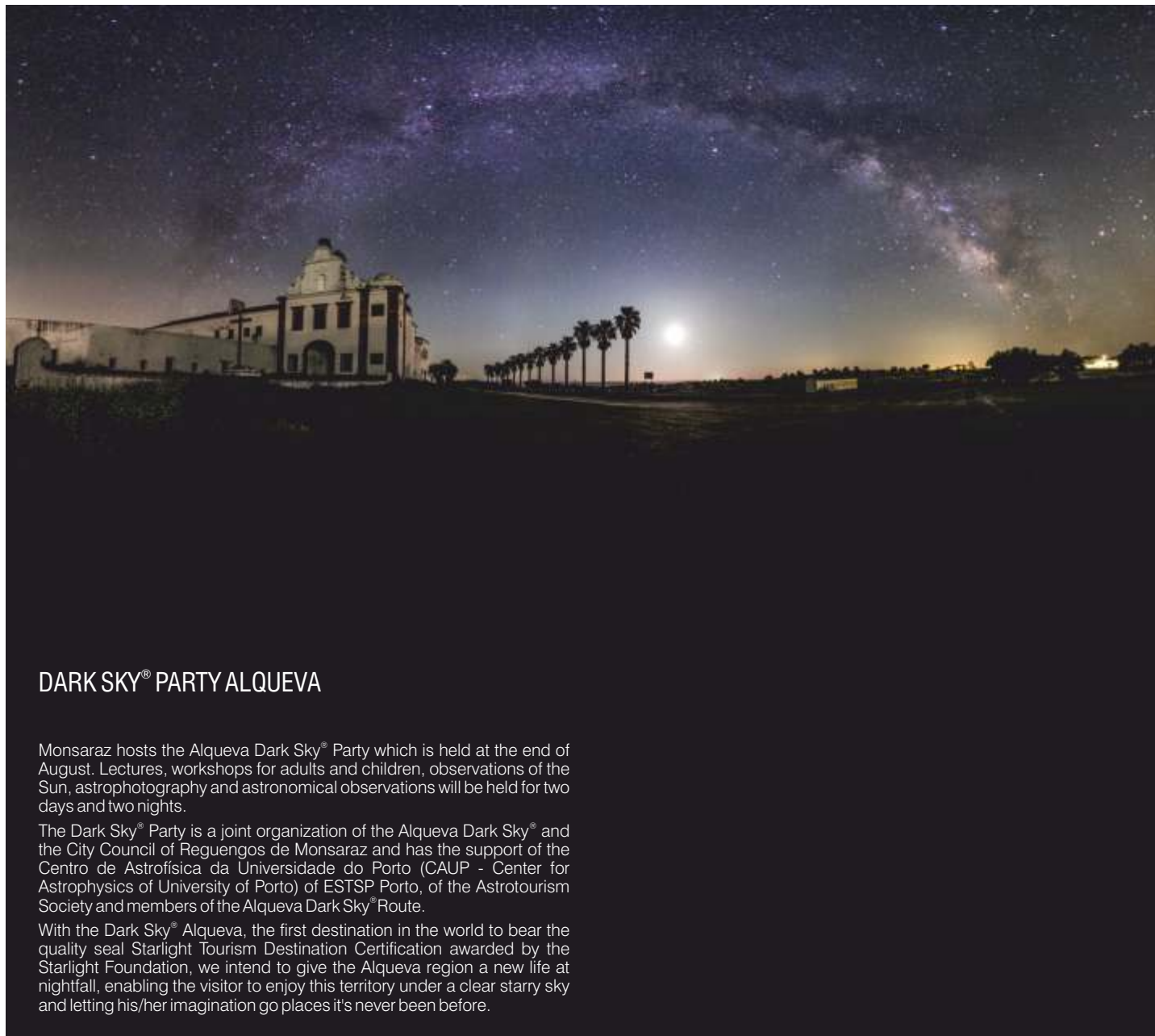
END OF AUGUST

38.340180, -7.511647

*Largo do Cruzeiro, São Marcos do Campo*

Popular festival with cultural component. Bazaar, concerts, dances, cow and bull run, organized by the festivities commission.





## DARK SKY® PARTY ALQUEVA

Monsaraz hosts the Alqueva Dark Sky® Party which is held at the end of August. Lectures, workshops for adults and children, observations of the Sun, astrophotography and astronomical observations will be held for two days and two nights.

The Dark Sky® Party is a joint organization of the Alqueva Dark Sky® and the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz and has the support of the Centro de Astrofísica da Universidade do Porto (CAUP - Center for Astrophysics of University of Porto) of ESTSP Porto, of the Astrotourism Society and members of the Alqueva Dark Sky® Route.

With the Dark Sky® Alqueva, the first destination in the world to bear the quality seal Starlight Tourism Destination Certification awarded by the Starlight Foundation, we intend to give the Alqueva region a new life at nightfall, enabling the visitor to enjoy this territory under a clear starry sky and letting his/her imagination go places it's never been before.





## EXPOREG

### BUSINESS ACTIVITY FAIR

It's an initiative that aims to promote the companies in the region, encourage the development of contacts and businesses and promote Reguengos de Monsaraz as a tourism destination of excellence, based on the quality of its products and the historical and cultural richness of the County.

This 4-day event with free admission has nearly a hundred exhibiting companies from several industries, such as food, wine, tourism, insurance, vocational training, real estate, health, arts and crafts, footwear, clothing, appliances, HVAC, agricultural products, photography and video, nautical activities, automobile trade, among many others. The exhibiting companies and businesses are mostly from the County of Reguengos de Monsaraz, but recently the fair was opened to the corporate sector of Spain.

Held at the Fair and Exhibition Park in mid-August, with several activities that go beyond the business activity fair, such as the livestock show, bull run, musical entertainment and sports.



This initiative is also strongly marked by the timeless traditions of the holiday of August 15 in this region, which consist in the Saint Mary Fair and the emblematic bullfight with national renowned cartels.



## SEPTEMBER

### FESTIVITIES OF ST. SEBASTIAN

FIRST WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER

38.452945, -7.380880

*Telheiro*

Religious festival with cultural component. Mass, procession, bazaar, concerts and dances. Organized by Associação Gerações of Telheiro.

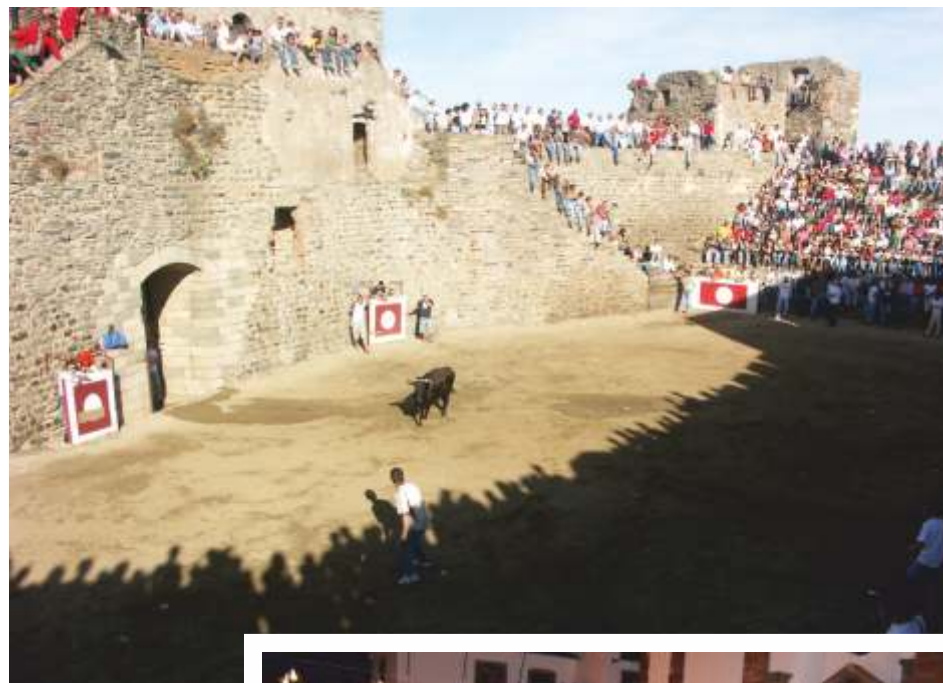
### FESTIVITIES OF OUR LORD JESUS OF THE STEPS

SECOND WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER

38.443209, -7.380562

*Monsaraz*

Religious festival with cultural component. Mass, procession, bazaar, concerts, dances, fireworks, cow run and bullfight. Organized by Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Monsaraz.



### FESTIVITIES IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

THIRD WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER

38.463385, -7.418476

*Motrinós*

Religious festival with cultural component. Mass, procession, bazaar, concerts and dances, organized by Centro de Recreio Popular of Motrinós.



### FESTIVITIES OF OUR LADY OF ORADA

LAST WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER

38.469026, -7.381622

*Outeiro*

Religious festival with cultural component. Mass, procession, bazaar, concerts and dances.

## OCTOBER

### OCTOBER MONTH OF MUSIC

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

*different locations*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

### WINGS & BIKES

MID OCTOBER

38.359720, -7.464213

*Campinho*

Organized by AeroClube Além Tejo (see note).



### WINGS & BIKES

This annual event organized by AeroClube Além Tejo promises moments of pure adrenaline, excitement and conviviality to the flight and two-wheel enthusiasts. Rich in adventures, the Wings & Bikes event offers flight baptisms and activities related to aeromodelling, paramotor, ultralight aviation workshops and lectures, as well as the test drive of 2 wheels and motorcycles. On land, the festivities are complemented by exhibitions of regional cuisine, good mood and plenty of nightlife.





## OCTOBER MONTH OF MUSIC

Reguengos de Monsaraz is a County with a strong musical tradition that has ensured the transmission and dissemination of the cultural value of philharmonic orchestras, music schools, polyphonic choirs, Alentejo choral groups and bands.

Every year, in October, as part of the celebrations of the World Music Day, the event "October, Month of Music" is held.

Throughout the month there are initiatives associated with music in its various

forms and expressions such as concerts, dance performances and workshops.

These shows are held at the several existing theatres in the County and outdoors.

# NOVEMBER

## ST. MARTIN

NOVEMBER 11

Traditional celebrations throughout several villages in the County, organized by the respective associations.

## ATV RIDE ROTA DO VINHO (WINE ROUTE)

MID NOVEMBER

Organized by the Moto-tourism Section of Sociedade Artística Reguenguense, passing through several points of cultural interest in the County.

## MTB RIDE ROTA DA ÁGUA (WATER ROUTE)

MID NOVEMBER

*São Marcos do Campo*

Organized by Associação Rota da Água.





## DECEMBER

### FESTIVITIES IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8 DE DEZEMBRO

38.463502, -7.398753

*Barrada*

Religious festival with cultural component. Organized by the Social Center of Barrada.

### CANTE AO MENINO (LULLABY FOR THE BABY)

EVERY WEEKEND OF DECEMBER

38.443198, -7.380586

*Monsaraz*

Organized by the Cultural and Sports Group of the Parish of Monsaraz - Choir Group.

### CHRISTMAS IN REGUENGOS

THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

38.424390, -7.534843

*Praça da Liberdade, Reguengos de Monsaraz*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).

### LIFE-SIZED NATIVITY SCENE

DURING THE WHOLE MONTH UNTIL THE EPIPHANY DAY

38.443198, -7.380586

*Monsaraz*

Organized by the City Council of Reguengos de Monsaraz (see note).



### CHRISTMAS IN REGUENGOS

Initiative organized by the City Council, aiming to celebrate the Christmas festivities in the town of Reguengos de Monsaraz.

It starts on the first weekend of December with the arrival of Santa Claus to Praça da Liberdade, where the Home of Santa Claus is located and where children can go on free cart rides accompanied by elves, and where they can also take free pictures with Santa Claus.

Also integrated in this initiative is the exhibition of nativity scenes and Christmas trees produced by children in schools and kindergartens of the County, which are exhibited in the Municipal Library during this season.





## NATIVITY SCENE IN THE STREETS OF MONSARAZ

From December 1st to January 6th, the streets of the Medieval Village of Monsaraz become a Nativity Scene with over 40 life-sized figures, representing various biblical scenes associated with the Christmas season, such as the birth of Christ.

The Nativity Scene is located in Largo do Castelo, where a hut welcomes Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus, as well as all the other traditional figures, such as the Wise Men, the castle guards, the almocreve (Middle Ages donkey driver), the laundress, among others.

These figures by Teresa Martins are made from large iron structures and mesh covered with cloths of raw colour, waterproofed and treated for this purpose. The faces and hands of the pieces are made in ceramics.



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Translated by Daniel Pestana







# **Reguengos** de **Monsaraz**

Évora . Elvas . Alentejo . Portugal

## EUROPEAN WINE CITY 2015



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