

# Knights, Castles and Flavors at Medieval Festivals in Portugal



# Portugal Rekindles the Middle Ages: A Journey Through Time and Tradition

Medieval fairs in Portugal are vibrant celebrations that honor centuries-old traditions, revitalizing the cultural identity of each region.

Between ancient walls and imposing castles, these historical recreations blend authenticity and charm, providing immersive sensory experiences.

Rustic cuisine, live performances, and genuine crafts converge to attract a new type of traveler: the luxury cultural tourist.

Here, prestige lies not in ostentation, but in the rare experience of a living heritage, where history, beauty, and exclusivity meet with elegance and soul.



## Medieval Market of Óbidos

It takes place next to the castle and walls of Óbidos, recreating the medieval atmosphere in the historic stones of the town. Gastronomy tents are set up with roast meats, rustic breads, wine, and beer in lively taverns. There is entertainment with minstrels, medieval music, artisans, live animals (ponies, falcons, snakes), and theatrical and musical performances. A sensory immersion that evokes traditions through the flavors, sounds, and medieval scenery of the "citadel of queens."

01

### Castle of Óbidos





## Templar Festival of Tomar

It takes place in the historic center of Tomar, between the square, the Templar Castle, and the Convent of Christ. It includes recreations, camping, seminars, guided tours, escape rooms, and street entertainment. Gastronomic highlights include the "People's Dinner" in the forest and the "Royal Dinner" in the convent, with dishes inspired by medieval flavors.

Solemn moments include torchlight nighttime processions, archery tournaments, and tributes to the founder, Gualdim Pais.

02



Castle of Tomar





## Silves Medieval Fair

It takes place next to the castle of Silves, an imposing fortification dating back to the Arab era, creating an authentic medieval setting. It includes jousting, jugglers, snake charmers, and medieval dances.

The cuisine features regional dishes served in traditional ceramics, without the use of plastic cups or plates, and the aromas of spices and roast meat fill the air.

03

Castle of Silves





## People's Festivals in Aquae Flaviae

It transforms the historic center and Roman walls of Chaves into a fair with a Roman and medieval atmosphere. It features gladiatorial battles, dances, traditional games, and a food market with regional snacks. It recreates scenes from ancient life with music, circuses, traditional food fairs, and a nostalgic spectacle centered on the city's original name, Aquae Flaviae.

04

Castle of Chaves





## Castro Marim Medieval Fair

The festival takes place in the castle and the town streets, with hundreds of performers, jesters, contortionists, jugglers, medieval musicians, and snake charmers. Entertainment includes theater, music, and pantomimes. The cuisine includes carob-based dishes typical of the region, along with other medieval delicacies.

05



Castle of Castro Marim





## Medieval Festival of Vila da Feira

Get ready to immerse yourself in the entire city, including the castle, with approximately 33 hectares of medieval recreations. With over a thousand extras, there are taverns, large-scale shows, and themed markets. The menus offer historical dishes carefully researched to revive the flavors of the medieval era.

06

Castle of Vila da Feira





## Palmela Medieval Fair

Palmela's castle and walls are transformed into a vibrant medieval market with parades through the historic center, food stalls, and a stage for jousting and demonstrations. Visitors enjoy wine, traditional snacks, and remarkable shows that bring the walls to life.

07

Castle of Palmela





## Medieval Aljubarrota

Just outside the municipality of Alcobaça, this fair celebrates the historic Battle of Aljubarrota, offering an open-air space with a medieval theme, tournaments, fortune-tellers, and historical reenactments. Typical cuisine and street entertainment transport visitors back to the 14th century in a dynamic and educational environment.

08



Aljubarrota





# Islamic Festival of Mértola

The small town of Mértola, with a strong Islamic heritage, relives its past from the 8th to 13th centuries. The festival takes over the historic area, with spice markets, Arabic dances, traditional crafts, couscous and tea for all tastes.

09

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Castle of Mértola





## Castelo Mendo Medieval Fair

In a historic village with a castle, this fair creates a vibrant village with music, medieval taverns, artisans, knights, and nobles. The intimate setting gives visitors the feeling of a feudal village, full of activities and ancient flavors.

10

Castle of Mendo





# The Charm of Portugal Between History, Flavors, and Emotions

UNIVERSE transports travelers on enchanting itineraries that combine medieval fairs, imposing castles, centuries-old walls, Gothic churches, and preserved villages, revealing the historical soul of Portugal.

Each itinerary is an invitation to the romance of time, where traditional cuisine meets the sophistication of excellent wines, and luxurious hospitality is rooted in the authenticity of the people.

Between past and present, each journey is a sensory immersion in places of timeless beauty, designed for those seeking exclusivity, culture, and true emotion.





# Calendar of Medieval Fairs in 2025

## Óbidos Medieval Market

It takes place annually in July, lasting approximately two weeks.  
In 2025, it took place from July 17th to 27th.

## Templar Festival — Tomar

It takes place annually in July.  
In 2025, it took place from July 10th to 13th (remembering Gualdim Pais).

## Silves Medieval Fair (Algarve)

It takes place annually in the first half of August.  
In 2025, it took place from August 8th to 16th.

## Aquae Flaviae — Chaves

It usually takes place on the third weekend of August.  
In 2025, it took place from August 21st to 24th.

## Castro Marim Medieval Days

It takes place annually in the last week of August.  
In 2025, it took place from August 27th to 31st.

## Medieval Journey in the Land of Santa Maria — Santa Maria da Feira

It takes place between the end of July and the first week of August for 11–12 days.  
In 2025, it took place from July 30th to August 10th.

## Palmela Medieval Fair

An annual event in September.  
In 2025, it took place from September 26th to 28th (Castle and Historic Center).

## Aljubarrota Medieval Fair — Alcobaça

Held annually in mid-August, commemorating the Battle of Aljubarrota (August 14, 1385). In 2025, it took place from August 14th to 17th.

## Islamic Festival — Mértola

Held biennially (every two years), usually in May.  
The 13th edition took place from May 22nd to 25th, 2025.

## Castelo Mendo Medieval Fair — Beira Interior

Usually in April.  
In 2025, it took place on April 26th and 27th.





UNIVERSE's Exclusive Route through the Heart of Portugal



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