

# SERPA

awakens

in the Alentejo,  
one of the top  
10 destinations  
of Europe



# white walled city

## Interpret the Heritage of the Past

Those who arrive in Serpa stop and visit the **impressive fortification** that surrounds the urban area. A well maintained urban area, full of life, and classified as an area of public interest is found beyond the walls. Serpa, the white city.

In this area of public interest, you can visit the **imposing turrets**, the entryway to Beja, the impressive **aqueduct and noria** (16th century), built to supply the **Palácio dos Condes de Ficalho [palace of the counts of Ficalho]** (national monument), the **medieval castle** that stands at the highest point and protected communities, probably since the Islamic occupation.

The **walls** (national monument) with 65,000m<sup>2</sup> are also not to be missed, as well as the **clock tower** located near the **São Salvador church** and the **Town Hall square** of Islamic origin that was rebuilt in the 15th century and is perhaps the third oldest clock tower in the country. Discover the **millenarian olive trees** (classified as public interest), witnesses to other times in history, olive trees with twisted trunks that seem to go on forever.

## Delight Yourself with the Aromas and Flavours of the Land

The **ripened cheese** made from sheep's sour raw milk, with thistle infusion is an excellent traditional product that you must try. Of equal quality is the **wine** and the **olive oil** having won national and international awards.

**Traditional gastronomy** focuses on tasty and amazingly simple recipes made from local produce. The bread-based dishes seasoned with aromatic herbs such as **gazpacho, soups, breadcrumbs, stews** and **açordas** are not to be missed. Don't miss the opportunity to try the starters with cheeses and sausages and charcuterie, game dishes or delicious tarts made from cottage cheese for an end-of-meal treat.



# Serpa, a classified



## Find out About the Rich History

The most ancient testimonies point to the little-known origins of the Palaeolithic era, evidence arises primarily in the **Neolithic age** (V/IV Millennium BC), revealing communities of shepherds and farmers who settled in the area. The wealth of these lands (agricultural, mineral, hunting fishing) and the relevant waterway that have always linked territories, cultures and people - the river Guadiana - have been decisive to attract and settle communities. About **8 hundred archaeological sites** testify to this attractiveness, from prehistory to Medieval/Modern times. Serpa was successively inhabited by Romans and Islamic communities and continued to be disputed until the wars of restoration. The **museum centres and Museums (Archaeology, Ethnography, Clock, among others)** invite you to visit so that you can learn about the more or less recent history and the past of Serpa.



## Share Moments of Celebration

**Cante Alentejano** is a unique and collective musical expression from Alentejo and those who listen to it, hear about the soul of its people. It was recognised as a World Nature Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2014. Can be enjoyed in the local festivities, in open choral group rehearsals, and with luck, you can witness the spontaneous "cante" or songs while drinking a glass of wine in one of the many **taverns**.

**Festivities** of a religious, popular and cultural nature affect the life of this municipality and are times of celebration and commemoration among the people. The **Historical-Ethnographic procession** in the cities festivities (Easter), the **Meeting of Cultures** (June), the **Jordões de Pias** (Popular Saints) and the **Historical Fair** (August) are just a few examples.



# Live an authentic rural experience in Serpa

## Pulo do Lobo, a hidden gem

The most famous **waterfall in the Guadiana**. At 14m high, you can observe a landscape of rare beauty, where distinct geological eras are observed, a broader platform, carved in stone, on the old river bed and a large narrow corridor, 12 km long, called "**corredoira**". This hidden corner is the habitat of the fleeting **black stork**.

## Azenhas do Guadiana, ancient mills

Until the end of the forties, **Azenhas do Guadiana** milled the grain produced in the region, thus having been considered at the time the barn of Portugal. In the section that crosses the municipality you can learn about how they operated, experience **the extraordinary beauty of the locations** and enjoy nature in its pure state.

## Steppes, the most iconic landscape of Alentejo

Formed by patches of holm oaks or cork oaks aligned up in rolling plains. It is an idyllic landscape dominated by a great sense of **harmony between man, nature and landscape**. The well-preserved steppes feature a covered space bearing a potential for herbs, mushrooms and beekeeping. During the spring they form beautiful flower fields and provide shelter and food for an **enormous diversity of faunas species**, many of which are protected.



## Enjoy Idyllic Landscapes

## Parque Natural do Vale do Guadiana (Vale do Guadiana Natural Park)

The **Natural Park** extends over approximately 70,000ha, between the Pulo do Lobo and Ribeira do Vascão. Be amazed by the stunning natural beauty that crosses the wildest corners of the imposing valleys and beautiful slopes of Guadiana and its tributaries, with panoramic views of the plains not to be missed where the steppes with dryland crops or landscapes covered with cistus stand out. Considered a sanctuary of a huge diversity of wildlife, of high interest for conservation, as is the case of **the Iberian lynx** (*lynx pardinus*), the most threatened feline in the world that is now being reintroduced with great success.

## Discover the Houses Made From Earth

In the towns and villages there are houses, mills, ovens, and wells that were born on Earth... the Taipa is the traditional architecture of the South Mediterranean regions, a technique to compact clay and gravel with a tapping block, producing overlapping blocks to form the walls. In Serpa, as well as in Brinches, Pias, Vale de Vargo, Vales Mortos and Vila Verde Ficalho, you can discover them and participate in the lives of its people, by visiting churches and chapels, and learning about ancient tradition in several museums.

## Rest in the Scenic Shrines

Religious architecture has some wonderful experiences in the churches and chapels scattered around the municipality and some are associated with the knowledge of these beautiful buildings with the landscape contemplation and interpretation. The **Ermida de N.ª Sra. da Guadalupe** (Serpa) and the **Ermida da N.ª Sra. das Pazes** (Vila Verde de Ficalho) are ideal for those who like amazing views in atmospheres of peace.



# Serpa as a tourist destination

## An immersion in authentic rural life

More than a tourist destination, Serpa represents an authentic rural world that is felt through the pulsation of the villages and towns, through the opportunities of taking part in local community activities, through the moments of celebration and socialisation, through the manifestations and cultural events.

## A diversified offer

Family holidays, adapted to young people, getaways for two or quality senior tourism is more than enough reasons for a truly memorable experience in Serpa.

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## A different compass

Visitors feel and live a different pace of life as soon as they arrive. In Serpa, you can discover at your own pace and in your own time, all that this city has to offer: senses, emotions, tastes, sharing and sightseeing.

## An all year-round destination

With an enviable number of hours of sunshine per year (more than 3000) the light that brightens up Serpa enables you to enjoy all these outdoor possibilities in a pleasurable way.

Promoter



serpa terra forte  
município

Support



Cofinanced

