



FESTIVALS AND PILGRIMAGES NORTHERN PORTUGAL

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TURISMO DO PORTO E NORTE DE PORTUGAL

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A tourist destination with a rich and varied offer, where ancient traditions remain alive and are revived

Festivals and pilgrimages are a constant practice in the North of Portugal. A region with centuries of history, where ancient traditions remain alive and are revived in a territory dotted with churches, sanctuaries, convents, chapels and monasteries, places where people come to fiercely worship throughout the year.

In the villages, towns and cities in the North, customs and traditions never end. All the experiences are blended with the rituals of the pilgrimages to the Virgin, the patroness saints, or with the June festivals in honour of the popular saints, a period in which its inhabitants - working people of a thousand trades - dedicate body and soul to their festivals and pilgrimages.

Women decorate the altars, put their best quilts on the windows for the procession, receive family members from afar and prepare their best meals to make sure no mouth goes unfed during these days. Men wear their best suits, attend Mass, carry heavy wooden platforms, put on a firework display announcing the feast, and always choose the best wine to accompany the good food. Here, traditions remain intact. The centuries-old festivals that shine to the rhythm of traditional folklore also exhibit in the public squares tools and handicrafts, closely linked to the people's daily life and labour needs. Religiosity and the pagan celebration retain their splendour, year after year, thanks to the spirit of its people that bring it all together in merriment, where there is no shortage of marches and parades; singing groups and music bands; sporting events, contests and auctions.

Worship as well as popular celebrations attract not only fervent pilgrims seeking miracles and fulfilling promises, but also tourists moved by the echo of traditions, curious about the cultural and heritage sites in the North of Portugal, to where thousands flock. Visit our temples, learn about the antiquity of its origins, walk around the surrounding landscapes, marvel at the colourful illuminations, share our joy, taste the homemade delicacies, enjoy our traditional

dances and fill your heart with the friendliness and human warmth with which the North will always welcome you...

Come along and do join us at the festivals!

MELCHIOR MOREIRA

President of the Regional Tourism Board of Porto and Northern Portugal



Legend

- World Heritage
- Cruise Terminal
- Airport
- Aerodrome
- UNESCO Creative Cities Network
- Protected Areas



ALFÂNDEGA DA FÉ **FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA** **SENHORA DE FÁTIMA** **(OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA)**

last Sunday of May

Cerejais village is located on a plateau overlooking the Sabor river, where an impressive landscape of scattered settlements can be seen in the horizon.

Here, you will find the Sanctuary of Cerejais, which attracts a large number of believers throughout the year and who come here to fulfil their promises or just for religious devotion on the last Sunday of May.

Location: Santuário (Sanctuary) do Imaculado Coração de Maria, in Cerejais
GPS: 41°17'41.73"N 6°55'25.41"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF MÁRTIR **S. SEBASTIÃO** **(THE MARTYR ST. SEBASTIAN)**

2nd weekend of August

In August, in Alfândega da Fé, the Martyr St. Sebastian Festival is celebrated, so as to demonstrate the deep popular belief and the apotheosis of the sacred. In parallel, the profane programme provides colour, music, joy and plenty of reasons for entertainment to its inhabitants as well as to visiting tourists, who experience, year after year, the folk traditions, habits and customs.



Location: Largo S. Sebastião
GPS: 41°20'27.32"N 6°57'41.07"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA **SENHORA DAS NEVES** **(OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS)**

3rd weekend of August

Sambade is the most populous village of the municipality. A beautiful village, proud of its church, built in the late 18th century in the middle of a churchyard with leafy trees and pleasant stone benches that invite you to rest and breathe the fresh mountain air.

The festival takes place on the third Sunday of August (the main day) and lasts four days.

It starts on Friday and ends on the following Monday.

Although its origin is obscure, this festival is characterized by a strong tradition and undoubtedly one of the largest festivals in the region, thus attracting a large number of pilgrims.

Location: Rua da Igreja - Sambade
GPS: 41°24'47.47"N 6°58'27.41"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SANTO **ANTÃO DA BARCA**

1st weekend of September

A festival held annually in honour of Santo Antão da Barca, located in the parish of Parada, in Alfândega da Fé. This Sanctuary was relocated due to the construction of the Baixo Sabor dam. The site where the old sanctuary was located will be submerged by the waters of the reservoir.

The Chapel of Santo Antão, a building from the 18th century, was moved to the new location through a heritage preservation process, unique in the country. Built on top of a hill, on the site known as Rebentão, about a kilometre away from its previous location, the future sanctuary replicates the same relationship with the water and the same spatial orientation, although at a higher altitude. The new sanctuary comprises the old chapel and buildings built from scratch, such as an inn, a restaurant & bar, a museum and an administrative space.

Location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Santo Antão da Barca (St. Anthony of Barca)
GPS: 41°15'55.50"N 6°53'23.80"W

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Tourism Office
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ALIJO **VILAR DE MAÇADA FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHOR JESUS DA CAPELINHA (THE LORD JESUS OF CAPELINHA)**

2nd weekend of July

Vilar de Maçada festival takes place in July and is dedicated to the Lord Jesus of Capelinha. It is usually a lively festival, especially with regard to music, and therefore calls the attention of many young people that attend it for pure joy.

location: Vilar de Maçada
GPS: N 41.268259 O -7.466583

SANFINS DO DOURO FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA PIEIDADE (OUR LADY OF PITY)

2nd weekend of August

Sanfins do Douro festival is very famous and known for its strong religious nature, where Our Lady of Pity is strongly worshipped. Such worship can also be seen throughout the year in the sanctuary. At the festival, Our Lady of Pity is carried in procession to the Main Church.

The large and heavy wooden platform on which the patron saint is set is auctioned off between the group of the “young” and the group of the “old”. The group with the highest bid will have the privilege of carrying the wooden platform along the streets of the village on the day of the Gala Procession dedicated to Our Lady of Pity.

The usually large proceeds from this auction go to the sanctuary. The festival lasts for five days, with beautiful pyrotechnic shows and musical entertainment.

location: Sanfins do Douro
GPS: N 41.277548 O -7.458858

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SANTA MARIA MAIOR (ST. MARY MAJOR) OF ALIJÓ

from August 13 to 16

It is a very important festivity for Alijó, dedicated to St. Mary Major, the patron saint of this town. It takes place in August and lasts for four days. It is packed with religious, cultural and ethnographic activities where entertainment lasts until the wee hours of the morning.

location: Alijó
GPS: N 41.266710 O -7.445812

PEGARINHOS FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS AFLITOS (OUR LADY OF THE AFFLICTED)

last weekend of August

It is a festival strongly dedicated to the village’s patron saint, Our Lady of the Afflicted. The Gala Procession is an authentic biblical recreation made with the dedication of its people, who take their momentary role as actors, dressed in period clothing, very seriously, arousing the curiosity of thousands of outsiders. At night, you can expect plenty of entertainment until the morning.

location: Pegarinhos
GPS: N 41.279741 O -7.456626

contact
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AMARANTE FESTIVALS OF JUNE - FESTIVAL OF SÃO GONÇALO

1st weekend of June

Every year, São Gonçalo attracts thousands of pilgrims to the city for the traditional Festivals of June, in honour of the patron saint. The religious and the profane go “hand in hand” at these festivals,

which offer a varied programme for three days. The festival’s highlights take place as usual on Friday, with a contest of bumble bees at the São Gonçalo Square; on Saturday, with fireworks and on Sunday, with the Procession in honour of São Gonçalo.

location: Urban centre
GPS: 41°16’08”N 8°04’43”W

contact
City Council of Amarante
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e-mail: geral@cm-amarante.pt
www.cm-amarante.pt

AMARES EASTER - PROCESSION CROSSING THE HOMEM RIVER

Monday after Easter

This is one of the highest solemnities of Easter in the parish of Fiscal, in Amares. The Crossing of the Homem river by a procession makes this village very proud, and attracts thousands to the banks of the river. The enthusiasm settles very early in the morning: the procession has to cross the river by boat, so that people can kiss the cross at their homes. The stewards with the cross, the pastor and the musical band travel by boat and there also is also another boat to carry the pyrotechnist.

location: Rua S. Bento das Pedras
GPS: N 41.658217 O -8.402638

PILGRIMAGE TO NOSSA SENHORA DA ABADIA (OUR LADY OF THE ABBEY)

last Sunday of May

The Pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Abadia is a tradition that has been upheld since 1978. Since then, on the last Sunday of May, hundreds of faithful climb the hill towards the sanctuary. Departing from Largo de Bouro, this pilgrimage of the Archpriesthood of Amares, counts with the presence of a few parishes from Terras de Bouro and Vieira do Minho. Along the way, you can admire a breathtaking landscape, green as far as the eye can see. Minutes before arriving at the sanctuary, the pilgrims get to the first of eight chapels of the Way of the Cross, consecrated to Our Lady. Each one represents the steps of the life of Christ and the Virgin. The Sanctuary of the Abbey, whose history is closely linked to the history of the Monastery of Santa Maria do Bouro, is surrounded by "barracks", arcade buildings that gave shelter to the pilgrims who spent days and nights there. Everything about this sanctuary is an invitation to reflect and take a rest. The whisper of the waters coming from the stream, the fountains and the soothing landscape, are just an example of the attractions of the area.

location: Nossa Senhora da Abadia - Santa Maria de Bouro
GPS: N 41.403149 O -8.152848



FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SANTO ANTÓNIO (ST. ANTHONY)

June 13

The festival in honour of St. Anthony takes place over several days, with main emphasis on the day of St. Anthony, June 13. Religious events, popular parades, folklore, popular music, traditional Portuguese musical band and sporting activities, among others, are usually the main proposals of the programme.

location: Praça do Comércio - Ferreiros
GPS: N 41.627785 O -8.366015

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ABADIA (OUR LADY OF THE ABBEY)

August 15

This festival attracts thousands of people to the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora da Abadia. Due to its landscape, devotees and visitors, in addition to the religious and profane part of the festival, can enjoy a paradisiacal environment, where only the whisper of water and the chirping of the small birds break the silence that characterizes this space.

location: Nossa Senhora da Abadia - Santa Maria de Bouro
GPS: N 41.403 149 O -8.152848

contact

City Council of Amares

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www.cm-amares.pt

ARCOS DE VALDEVEZ FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO CASTELO (OUR LADY OF THE CASTLE)

40 days after Easter

Occupying a headland to the west of the town, which was the original location of a mediaeval castle, the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora do Castelo houses one of the most ancient and important cults of the municipality, which moves hundreds of people. During these days, visitors can also go to Arcos de Valdevez to admire the floral rugs that decorate the main streets in town.

The festival is currently held in May or June, on Ascension Sunday, that is, 40 days after Easter. The main day of the Festival is Sunday, when the image of Our Lady returns to the chapel, located in Monte do Castelo. Days before it had left this chapel and taken to the Church of Vila Fonche and from there to the Main Church. After returning, it will stay in the chapel for yet another year.

location: Monte do Castelo - Church of Vila Fonche and Main Church of Arcos de Valdevez
GPS: 41°50'51"N 8°26'59"W



FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LAPA (OUR LADY OF LAPA)

from August 6 to 10

In 1758, in Arcos de Valdevez, the cult of Our Lady of Lapa was initiated, which triggered the construction of a religious temple in Her honour, completed in 1767; the first public demonstrations of celebration happened during this period and continued until the mid-20th century. Recovered in 2009, the festival was integrated in the municipality's celebrations, held on the second weekend of August, returning to the people of Arcos one of its most symbolic and important religious festivities.

location: Church of Lapa (Igreja da Lapa) e
Historical Area of Arcos de Valdevez
GPS: 41°50'45.20"N 8°25'08.79"W

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FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA PENEDA (OUR LADY OF PENEDA)

from 1 to 8 September

In ancient times, the pilgrimage was held in August. Nowadays, the Festival

of Nossa Senhora da Peneda takes place from 1 to 8 September. From August 31 to September 8, after 5 pm, a rosary is sung, while going through all the chapels of the staircase of the sanctuary. On September 6, the people sing and dance to the sound of concertinas all night, until 7 am. It is considered one of the most popular festivals in Portugal, with the presence of Galician and Portuguese pilgrims.

The festival is based on a natural and architectural space of universal beauty, with a magnificent large rocky outcrop, a waterfall and astonishing scenic natural surroundings. The beautiful temple, dating from the 18th-19th centuries, and its staircase with twenty thematic chapels, form as a whole an unparalleled feature, within the privileged space of the only Portuguese National Park: the Peneda-Gerês Park.

location: Gavieira - Peneda
GPS: 41°58'25"N 8°13'24"W

contact
Confraria de Nossa Senhora da Peneda
tel.:+351 251 460 040

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA PORTA

from 20 to 21 September

In the primitive façade of the Church of Mercy, there once was a niche with

the image in stone of Our Lady of Mercy, which the people called Nossa Senhora da Porta. The construction works performed in 1733 allowed the construction of an altar on the porch, so it was possible to celebrate mass. Every year, at the beginning of September, a novena was prayed in honour of Our Lady of Porta, consecrating the day 7 in Her Honour, the day in which the church opened the “oratory” dedicated to Her at night to celebrate mass. The devotion that the population of the municipality had for this image was translated in the huge amount of wax, clothes, cereals, animals and pieces in gold offered as payment for promises. However, in the late 19th century, the Holy House of Misericórdia was forced to stop having the feast due to budgetary restrictions. In 2010, the fraternity took over the tradition by arranging, on the third weekend of September, a popular festival that attempts to recreate the cheerful and spontaneous atmosphere of the ancient festivals of the Alto Minho.

location: Largo da Igreja da Misericórdia de Arcos de Valdevez
GPS: 41°50'42"N 8°25'8"W

contact
Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Arcos de Valdevez
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ARMAMAR FESTIVAL OF SÃO GREGÓRIO (ST. GREGORY)

March 12

This festival is celebrated on March 12, in Santa Cruz, next to the chapel of the saint. In ancient times, the saint was revered in a special way by the workers of the Douro farms, since after this date they were entitled to snacking, which were then removed on the day of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, on September 8. It also had a very busy fair, with handicrafts (tinware) and desserts (the “falachas”) and where essential products and tools for agriculture were sold. The spinning tops used by kids to have fun and engage in playful banter were also sold there. Currently, the festival is celebrated on August 20 (although it does not happen every year). The fair still takes place on March 12, but its importance has since then decreased.

location: Santa Cruz
GPS: N 41.062498 O -7.693304

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA PIEDADE (OUR LADY OF PITY)

May 31

This popular Festival in Honour of Our Lady of Pity used to take place on the last Sunday of May. On Trinity Sunday, at the parish of Tôes, along with the

parish of Armamar, people travelled in procession to the sanctuary. Essentially religious, it has lost its profane traditions. However, the festival maintains ancient rituals. People take the image from the sanctuary and then carry it in procession by the three parishes (S. Martinho, Gogim and Lumiães) and return to the starting point.

location: São Martinho das Chãs
GPS: N 41.079987 O -7.660979

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS DORES (OUR LADY OF PAIN) AND SANTIAGO FAIR

May 31

The festival was originally held on the first Sunday of September, in 1860. The fair was made famous by market products related to agriculture and cattle raising. In 1938, the City Council, then presided by Father Fausto Guedes, was forced to change the day of the fair to Saturday, yielding to the pressure from the clergy that did not approve of the fair on Sunday. The change gave rise to large protests by the people of the parish and the entire Municipality. The Portuguese Legion even had to intervene to ensure public order. Everything was alright at the end. The day of the fair was changed to Tuesday, but after a while it started to



take place on Sundays, as still happens. The religious festival, for its part, lost a lot of its splendour and nowadays it consists of simple liturgical celebrations on the day of the saint, September 15.

location: Santiago
GPS: N 41.076890 O -7.694408

FESTIVAL OF SÃO DOMINGOS (ST. DOMINIC)

from August 3 to 5

Fontelo organizes one of the leading and most popular festival of the municipality. It happens every year, on August 3, 4 and 5.

The tradition dates back to the Middle Ages.

Over the centuries, the festival won such importance that the City Council of Lamego was "obliged" to take part in it, along with the vicars of the Cathedral, the clerics, the Franciscans from the Convent of St. Francis and a

lot of city people and its surroundings. It was customary to distribute a dinner at the end of the ceremony to the procession's participants. The Franca Fair takes place on August 3 and marks the beginning of the festival.

location: Fontelo
GPS: N 41.121395 O -7.745095

contact
City Council of Armamar
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AROUCA PROCESSION OF THE FOGARÉUS

Holy Wednesday

Recreating the last steps of Christ towards the Calvary, the traditional Procession of the Fogaréus runs through the streets of the village, to the sound of the Musical Band of Arouca and illuminated by the candlelight of the faithful.

The procession stops at the Calvary, where you can hear the prayers and see the wooden platforms that recreate the most significant moments of the Passion of Christ, from its delivery to path taken with the cross over His shoulder and finally, His Crucifixion.

A genuine manifestation of faith and tradition.





location: Rua do Calvário
GPS: N 40.932392 O -8.247611

FESTIVAL OF RAINHA SANTA MAFALDA (OUR LADY QUEEN MAFALDA)

May 2

The story of Arouca cannot be dissociated from the strong presence of Our Lady Queen Mafalda (Rainha Santa Mafalda). The 2nd of May is the most important date to Arouca according to the Gregorian calendar. It is a municipal holiday, and on this day the example of the life and legacy of Rainha Santa Mafalda, patroness of Arouca, is conjured.

The image of Rainha Santa Mafalda, whose body is kept in a grave of ebony and silver, can be seen in the Church of the Monastery of Arouca and is still present in the town's coat of arms. A long procession that takes place in the streets embodies this faith, bringing thousands of people to Arouca. The 'little angels' and the beautiful wooden platforms, accompanied by the Band of Arouca's music, parade through the streets, which have windows adorned with noble quilts and from where many faithful throw flowers to during the passage of the Blessed Sacrament.

location: Terreiro de Santa Mafalda
GPS: N 40.928541 O -8.246908

contact
Real Irmandade Rainha Santa Mafalda
tel.:+351 256 943 321
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FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LAJE (OUR LADY OF LAJE)

May 3

Located on the plateau of Freita Mountain, the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Laje attracts many pilgrims, not only from the municipality of Arouca, but mostly inhabitants from the slopes of Freita Mountain. The devotion to this Lady dates back to the late 16th century, early 17th century, at a time when many of the chapels that we can see at the top of the hills were built, and were once occupied by pre-Roman settlements and mediaeval castles. The 3rd of May, the day after the festival in honour of Rainha Santa Mafalda, 20 crosses, each of which represents a parish of the Municipality, go in a procession that travels along the path of the stone Crosses, in a manifestation of faith that attracts pilgrims of Arouca, but also from the municipalities of São Pedro do Sul, Vale de Cambra and Sever do Vouga.

location: Merujal - Urrô
GPS: N 40.876833 O -8.303362

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA MÓ (OUR LADY OF MÓ)

September 7

The chapel of Nossa Senhora da Mó (Our Lady of Mó), with a privileged view over the Arouca Valley, stands on top of a mountain.

The cult of Mary, under the title of Nossa Senhora da Mó (Our Lady of Mó), dates back to immemorial times. The first reference to the miracle that it is said saved a Moor of perishing inside a wooden box, which had a grinding wheel in stone on top of it, dates from the early 2th century. Since those ancient times, a festival is celebrated in honour of Nossa Senhora da Mó, always on September 7, at night and with the traditional "bacalhoadas". On the 8th, the religious ceremonies take place along with the presence of a musical band, with children launching kites and with time devoted to socializing. In short, these are days when the people of Arouca will easily reconnect, especially those that have been away for a long time, in a pleasant location.

location: Monte da Senhora da Mó
GPS: N 40.932766 O -8.226276

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www.cm-arouca.pt

BAIÃO **FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA** **SENHORA DO MARTÍRIO (OUR** **LADY OF MARTYRDOM)**

40 days after Easter

The festival begins on the evening of 15 with a Candlelight Procession, followed by the traditional “night out”, with musical entertainment, fireworks, activities at the amusement park and where there is no shortage of the traditional sweets.

The animation programme remains over the weekend, highlighting the Solemn Mass at 11:00 a.m and the procession at 5:30 pm, on May 17.

location: Rua Nossa Senhora do Martírio - Santa Cruz do Douro
GPS: N 41.106503 O -8.007617

contact
Parish of Santa Cruz do Douro and São Tomé de Covelas
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www.santacruzododouro.freguesias.pt
www.cm-baiao.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA **DE AO PÉ DA CRUZ**

2nd Sunday of July

The festival in honour of Nossa Senhora de ao Pé da Cruz has one of its high points on Saturday night, animated by two musical sets,

complemented by the activities of the amusement park and the tents where one can buy toys, drinks, snacks and desserts.

At midnight, there are fireworks. On Sunday, religious ceremonies are held such as the procession in the evening, which starts at the Chapel of Nossa Senhora de ao Pé da Cruz, heads towards the Main Church of Ancede and returns to the starting point. The animation remains throughout the entire event.

location: Rua Nossa Senhora de ao Pé Da Cruz - Ancede
GPS: N 41.129979 O -8.014285

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Parish of Ancede and Ribadouro
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www.cm-baiao.pt

FESTIVAL OF SANTA MARINHA

July 18

The highlight of the Festival of Santa Marinha is the Patroness Saint's day (Saturday) with the performance of the Musical Band of Casa do Povo de Santa Marinha, which is followed by the largest procession that takes place in the municipality of Baião, formed by more than 10 wooden platforms composed by multiple images of Saint Marinha and Saints from various places in the parish.

Several knights (National Republican Guards or residents) open this procession. The festivities are held during the weekend, starting with fireworks at midnight on Friday and Saturday. There is no shortage of various musical ensembles. The traditional games, such as the sack race, the race of clay pots and the cod game, which can only be “redeemed” if you can climb a greasy pine.

location: Rua Escola 185 - Santa Marinha do Zêzere
GPS: N 41.130471 O -8.057923

contact
Parish Council of Santa Marinha do Zêzere
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www.cm-baiao.pt

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S FESTIVAL **(FESTA DE SÃO BARTOLOMEU)**

August 24

The municipal festival in honour of St. Bartholomew marks the highlight of the summer animation at the Municipality of Baião, highlighting the procession in honour of St. Bartholomew, which is held annually on August 24, a municipal holiday. The programme of the festival is always varied and based in the traditions of the municipality of Baião, with the Cattle Fair, which annually brings together hundreds of

specimens of the Arouquesa breed, bull-fighting spectacle, and the Handicraft Fair, in addition to the religious ceremonies on August 24. The drum groups from the municipality are in charge of the festival's animation, roaming across the town's main streets. The carriage rides and a set of musical shows performed by musicians of Baião are also another festival's highlight, along with a guest artist of national importance.

location: Rua Engenheiro Adelino Amaro da Costa - Campelo
GPS: N 41.16499 O -8.027268

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BARCELOS **ENDOENÇAS**

Holy Friday

The celebration of the Endoenças is a religious manifestation that links the Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Barcelos to the Lent celebrations. It is a procession of great symbolism and religious intensity, which attracts thousands of people from all over the northern region to the streets of Barcelos. It is the celebration of devotion, with both colour and tradition.

location: Campo da República
GPS: 41°31'58.23"N 8°37'8.68"W

contact
Santa Casa da Misericórdia of Barcelos
tel.: +351 253 802 270
e-mail: geral@misericordiabarcelos.pt
www.scmb.maisbarcelos.pt

FESTIVAL DAS CRUZES (FESTIVAL OF THE CROSSES)

from May 1 to 3

The Festival das Cruzes is the first great festival of the Minho region. It is also the picture of the authentic Minho region in its most original ethnographic and religious traditions. During these days, residents wear their best suits to welcome their folk dance groups, special lightings, the Zé-Pereiras, the music bands, as well as the carpets of natural flower petals and the decorative arcades. Also, there is a unique battle of flowers (May 1), a major procession of the Invention of the Holy Cross (May 3) and the grandiose fireworks sessions that illuminate the edges of the river and sprinkle of joy and colour the historic centre of this city. The festival takes place from April 25 to May 3, with a particular emphasis on the period from May 1 to 3.

location: Barcelos
GPS: 41°31'58.23"N 8°37'8.68"W

contact
City Council of Barcelos
tel.: +351 253 809 600
e-mail: geral@cm-barcelos.pt
www.cm-barcelos.pt

PILGRIMAGE TO NOSSA SENHORA DA FRANQUEIRA (OUR LADY OF FRANQUEIRA)

2nd Sunday of August

The pilgrimage to Our Lady of Franqueira is one of the most reputable Marian pilgrimages in the region, located in one of the most beautiful and panoramic hills of the Minho region, the Franqueira Hill. The Archpriest of Barcelos is the entity responsible for this pilgrimage, which attracts thousands of people every year to Barcelos. The pilgrimage begins at the Main Church of Barcelos, at about 8 a.m, heading towards the top of the hill. Then, at 10.30 a.m, an outdoor mass takes place, followed by other ceremonies and social events, in this emblematic space known as the Sacred Hill of the People of Barcelos.

location: Franqueira, Pereira
GPS : N 41.494676 O -8.644813

contact
City Council of Barcelos
tel.: +351 253 809 600
e-mail: geral@cm-barcelos.pt
www.cm-barcelos.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SANTA JUSTA

Last weekend of August

Always held on the last weekend of August, the festival in honour of Santa Justa represents one of the largest and most important festivals of the large municipality of Barcelos, not only for its religious aspect, but mainly for the famous "Procession of Vases", a unique tradition in our country. Young women wear traditional costumes and go in procession with towering floral vases on their heads to the parish cemetery, where the vases will be placed. It is a singular tradition of great ethno-religious symbolism.

location: Negreiros
GPS: N 41.430138 O -8.617916

contact
City Council of Barcelos
tel.: +351 253 809 600
e-mail: geral@cm-barcelos.pt
www.cm-barcelos.pt

BOTICAS ST. SEBASTIAN'S FESTIVAL (S. SEBASTIÃO)

January 20

Every year, on January 20, one of the most important community oriented festivals takes place: the "Mezinha de S. Sebastião". Popular memory states that during the French invasion, the

people of Vila Grande asked the image of St. Sebastian for protection, when soldiers were spotted near the villages of Couto de Dornelas, knowing that they would steal and loot everything to their passage. However, the troops did not stop, and the people, grateful, fulfilled the promise made to the Saint to celebrate the festival in His honour. Every year, the population organizes a community meal, for which the stewards are responsible (initially, the nine largest farmers from the village, on a system of rotation, were the ones in charge). These stewards, with the help of family and friends prepare the meals, which can take days and include bread, meat and rice. On the 20th, after mass, they go in procession with the Saint to the "Casa do Santo" - built especially for this purpose- where the priest blesses the food. On the main street, wooden benches (table) are placed and covered with linen tablecloths and everyone is invited. Each person must bring a plate, cutlery and drink to go with it.

location: Rua Principal, Vila Grande - Dornelas
GPS: 41°40'50"N 7°43'15"W

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SANCTUARY OF SENHOR DO MONTE (OUR LORD OF THE HILL)

last Sunday of July

Located in Facho Mountain, this is one of the largest sanctuaries of the

municipality. Legend has it that it was formerly only a path for mule drivers who stop to rest and usually put a penny in a niche, asking for divine protection against thieves. Until the day of the Lord of the Hill's appearance, where you can still see the footprints in the rocks. The people built Him a little chapel and the cult has grown to such an extent that the handouts have enabled the construction of a church, whose stones were transported on ox carts by local farmers. It is considered the protector of animals and once a year, on a Saturday, people still follow the ritual to take the cattle to take three laps around the sanctuary. On Sunday, the sanctuary is filled with pilgrims to watch the religious celebration and the majestic procession that takes place around the sanctuary, accompanied by various musical bands. Then, everyone eat their snacks, watch the musical group performance and walk around the place where vendors exhibit their products.

location: Sanctuary (Sanctuary) of Senhor do Monte - Pinho
GPS: 41°39'43"N 7°37'60"W

FESTIVAL OF SÃO SALVADOR DO MUNDO

2nd Sunday of August

It is one of the most peculiar festivals throughout the region since it celebrates the connection between

people and animals. In fact, the festival of the Divine Saviour of the World, as it is nicknamed by the oldest, is characterized for being a religious celebration involving parishioners and all their cattle. On the day of the festival, the people of the village, near and far, take up the cattle to fulfil a promise, making it take nine laps around the Chapel, sometimes carrying bags of grain, rye or corn, tied to the head, as a thank you for the protection provided. Then, the animals are blessed by the priest and remain in their hundreds, scattered and close to the chapel until the end of the ceremony. It is an ancestral ceremony, but with a deep religious trait, intact up to the present day.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) do Divino Salvador do Mundo - S. Salvador de Viveiro
GPS: 41°40'59"N 7°46'00"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LIVRAÇÃO (OUR LADY OF DELIVERANCE)

3rd weekend of August

The festival in honour of Nossa Senhora da Livração and associated fairs, quickly became a place of "pilgrimage" in the region, bringing many people to Boticas. This festival has achieved one of its highest points in 1936, celebrating the centenary of the creation of the Municipality.

Thousands participated in an extensive parade of dozens of floats. Over the years, the festivals continued to maintain its importance, as thousands of people, year after year, commemorate this festival and integrate the long procession along the streets in town. Another ceremony associated with these festivals is the placement of the St. Christopher in the river, with the infant Jesus in one of His shoulders and the boatman rod in his hand. This gigantic image is the last known example in Portugal of the performance of this Saint, which was banned from the religious scene by motion of the Counter-Reformation.

location: Rua 5 de Outubro, Largo da Igreja
GPS: 41°41'18"N 7°39'53"W

contact
City Council of Boticas
tel.: +351 276 410 200
e-mail: turismo@cm-boticas.pt
www.cm-boticas.pt

BRAGA FESTIVAL OF S. VICENTE (ST. VINCENT)

from January 21 to 22

In honour of St. Vincent, this festival celebrates the patron saint of the parish, bearing the same name. The traditional festival in honour of St. Vincent contains traditions such as the

Fire of Saint Vincent (January 21, by 9.30 p.m.), the Pilgrimage of the Boys (January 22), the traditional Moletinhos of St. Vincent, the Sweets of the Lord and the reading about the future of the agricultural year. The excitement of the celebrations manifests itself on the night before, in the churchyard of the Church of St. Vincent, where a large and powerful bonfire attracts hundreds of people of Braga and outsiders to the event.

location: Igreja (Church) of St. Vincent
GPS: N 41.556114 O -8.421207

contact
Igreja (Church) of St. Vincent
tel.: +351 253 277 354
e-mail: jotapcalves@gmail.com

FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

from June 13 to 24

The St. John is the largest festival in the municipality. The first references date back to the year 1489, and at the time it was also not possible to determine when this festivity first started. The programme is rich and varied with a lot of popular music, artistic illuminations, multiple fireworks sessions and a series of cultural events, sports and religious activities. It is celebrated with plastic hammers, leek, the smell of basil, jumping the bonfire and traditional dancing.

A popular and religious festival, which has the indispensable presence of folk dancing groups, folk music bands, groups of “gigantones” (giants) and “cabeçudos” (big heads), drums, “Zés Pereiras”, theatre, traditional games, concerts and the large celebration on the night of June 23.

location: Historical Centre
GPS: N 41.541975 O -8.418793

contact
Comissão de festas de S. João
www.saojoaoabraga.pt

FESTIVAL OF SANTA MARTA DA FALPERRA

from July 28 to 29

Falperra festival in honour of St. Marta and St. Mary Magdalene is celebrated by the Church on July 29. It is the second largest festival of Braga, one of the oldest of the Minho region, attracting thousands of visitors. The programme of this Festival brings together the sacred, the traditional and the profane. Apart from devotion and the payment of promises, there is dancing, a fair, picnics and rockets.

location: Falperra
GPS: N 41.518946 O -8.391599

contact
Irmandade de Santa Maria Madalena da Falperra
tel.:+351 253 683 330



BRAGANÇA FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA RIBEIRA (OUR LADY OF RIBEIRA)

last Sunday of May

The fame of miracles attributed to the image of the Blessed Virgin, found by a shepherdess, was confirmed by amazing cures that led to an immense devotion to this site. Legend has it that this temple was small and humble when Queen Saint Isabel passed through it on her way to Trancoso, to marry King D. Dinis.

It was brought to her attention by the fact that so many people were there, making her want to worship the image too and be placed under Her protection.

The devotion endures, as well as the chapel which attracts a lot of devotees every year, to venerate the image of Our Lady of Ribeira.

location: Quintanilha
GPS: N 41.734125 O -6.576349

contact
Parish Council of Quintanilha
tel.:+351 273 939 417/916 788 195
e-mail: freg.quintanilha@sapo.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS GRAÇAS (OUR LADY OF GRACE)

from August 12 to 22

The festival in honour of Our Lady of Grace, patron saint of the city of Bragança, takes place from August 11 to 22. The programme includes a series of musical performances and celebrations held at the Bragança Castle, with the Festival of History and a pyromusical display. The religious programme, dedicated to the patron saint of the city, has its high point with the mass in the Cathedral, followed by the great Solemn Procession through the streets of the city.

location: Bragança
GPS: N 41.80671 O -6.754933

contact
Comissão Fabriqueira – Paço Episcopal de Bragança
tel.:+351 273 300 360



FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SERRA (OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN)

from August 30 to September 8

Legend has it that Our Lady would have appeared to a shepherdess, a deaf-mute girl, which every day kept her herd in Nogueira Mountain, and Our Lady asked her to tell the inhabitants of the village to build a church at the highest point of the mountain, in Her memory. Our Lady would have performed a miracle by making the girl speak again, and the place where the church should be built was marked with snow, on a sunny day of August.

This festival attracts thousands of devotees between August 30 and September 8, which is also associated with the traditional cuisine and a playful environment.

location: Rebordãos
GPS: N 41.717793 O -6.854928

contact
Parish Council of Rebordãos
tel.:+351 273 979 339/934 855 119

WINTER FESTIVALS

from December 25 to January 6

The most characteristic festivals in the municipality of Bragança are those that take place at the winter solstice, when the big bonfires are made in the

various villages and people go the streets with masks on. From Christmas time, until the day of the Three Wise Men Day, various rituals with masks emerge, in which these strange beings “are on the loose”. The origin of the masked characters is bound to the cult of the ancestors, the fertility of the fields, the fertility of men and of animals, the maintenance of civic, moral law and order. The thematic festival of the masks in the municipality of Bragança is essentially associated with the following ceremonies: Festa dos Rapazes, Varge and Aveleda – December 25 and 26; Santo Estêvão, Rebordãos, Parada de Infanções, Grijó de Parada – December 26; Festa dos Reis, Salsas – from January 1 to 6 ; Rebordainhos – January 6; Baçal – January 5 and 6.

location: Varge, Aveleda, Rebordãos, Parada de Infanções, Grijó de Parada, Salsas, Rebordainhos, Baçal
GPS

Varge: N 41.871082 O -6.681018
Aveleda: N 41.891039 O -6.695979
Rebordãos: N 41.740111 O -6.827172
Parada de Infanções: N 41.680897 O -6.690289
Grijó de Parada: N 41.715529 O -6.687571
Salsas: N 41.637364 O -6.815903
Rebordainhos: N 41.668442 O -6.860506
Baçal: N 41.852537 O -6.722268

Contact
City Council of Bragança
tel.:+351 273 304 200
www.cm-braganca.pt

**CABECEIRAS DE BASTO
FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF
S. SEBASTIÃO (ST. SEBASTIAN)**

January 20

The Festival of Papas, in honour of St. Sebastian, represents one of the most authentic and traditional cultural manifestations of Cabeceiras de Basto.

It is held on January 20, one year at the Parish of Gondíães and the next year in the Parish of Samão. The Papas in honour of St. Sebastian is a meal prepared since ancestral times, where flour and pork meat are cooked in the same water. This is a highly appreciated meal in this festival.

Location: Gondíães and Samão
GPS: 41°34'03.29"N 7°51'56.7"W

**FESTIVAL OF S. BARTOLOMEU DE
CAVEZ (ST. BARTHOLOMEW OF
CAVEZ)**

August 23 and 24

The Festival of St. Bartholomew of Cavez is a very ancient celebration and of great importance for its residents and visitors. Every year, from August 23 to 24, thousands of people come here to get hit with the Saint over the head and drink the water from the spring located along the river. There is also a cultural, recreational and religious programme, aimed at different age groups.



Location: Vila de Cavez - Ponte
GPS: 41°30'59.1"N 7°53'24.08"W

**FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA
SENHORA DOS REMÉDIOS
(OUR LADY OF REMEDIES)**

1st weekend of September

The Festival of Our Lady of Remedies stands out for its processions, both the candles' procession and its grand procession, which always takes place on the last day of the festival. It attracts thousands of visitors that can also enjoy a Portuguese music programme.

Location: Vila de Arco de Baúlhe
GPS: 41°29'09.3"N 7°57'41.2"W

**FESTAS DE S. MIGUEL (ST.
MICHAEL'S FESTIVALS)**

20 to 30 September

The Festivals in honour of St. Michael are marked by the habits and customs of the town of Refojos, in keeping with the tradition of horse races, livestock fair, bull fighting, folklore, Ethnographic Parade where various parishes participate, with concertinas, fireworks, musical entertainment and, finally, mass and procession on September 29 (municipal holiday).

Location: Vila de Cabeceiras de Basto
GPS: 41°30'48.6"N 7°59'35.4"W

contact

Tourism Office of Cabeceiras de Basto
tel.:+351 253 669 100/253 669 070
e-mail: pturismo@cabeceirasdebasto.pt
www.cabeceirasdebasto.pt

**CAMINHA
FESTA DE SÃO BENTO
(ST. BENEDICT'S FESTIVAL)**

from July 10 to 13

Between July 10 and 13, the parish of Seixas celebrates the festival in honour of St. Benedict. This popular festival with a long tradition, attracts thousands of visitors that come to the parish to participate in the religious worship – namely to deliver carnations and other alms to St. Benedict. Also, visitors can enjoy the animation offered by the festival: music bands, brass bands, Zés Pereiras and drums, firework shows and other performances. From the religious programme, we highlight the solemn mass held on the morning of day 11, followed by a procession and the traditional sermon, in the river beach and the "Blessing of the Boats".

Location: Largo e Capela de S. Bento - Seixas
GPS: 41°53'45.86"N 8° 49'6.71"W

contact

Confraria de S. Bento de Seixas
tel.:+351 968 022 369
e-mail: saobentoseixas@gmail.com
www.saobentoseixas.com

FESTIVALS IN HONOUR OF SANTA RITA DE CÁSSIA (ST. RITA OF CASCIA)

2nd weekend of August

On the second weekend of August, the festivals in honour of St. Rita of Cascia are held in Caminha. This popular festivity dates back to the year 1844, attracting thousands of people. The religious programme includes the sermons and the majestic procession consisting of dozens of wooden platforms and characters, always accompanied by a fanfare or music band. The cultural programme is also diverse and rich. There are many concerts and firework shows. One of the highlights of the Festival is the monumental serenade of fireworks on the banks of the Coura river, which takes place on the last night of the festivities.

location: Historical Centre of Vila de Caminha
GPS: 41°52'34.25"N 8° 50'18.12"W

contact

Parish of Caminha

tel.:+351 258 921 413

e-mail: paroquia.caminha@sapo.pt

www.paroquiadecaminha.com

FESTIVAL OF SÃO JOÃO D'ARGA (ST. JOHN D'ARGA)

from August 28 to 29

The Festival of St. John d'Arga is one of the most typical one from the



festive calendar of Alto Minho. It preserves the tradition of having pilgrims walk to São João d'Arga. After climbing the hill, the pilgrims fulfil the promise of taking three laps around the Chapel and deliver two alms: one to the Saint... and the other to the devil.

On the night of 28 to 29 there is a big celebration, with constant animation. To warm up the throats and the body - because the village stands at an altitude of about 800 metres - the pilgrims have to their disposal local specialities: bread, chouriço (typical smoked sausage), goat, wine and the "chiripiti", a mixture of honey and brandy, produced in the mountains. Faith and legends aside, the festival is very well known for the concertina players and the "cantigas ao desafio" (singing challenges) that last until dawn.

location: Monastery (Mosteiro) of S. João D'Arga
GPS: 41°50'17.60"N 8°43'55.99"W

contact
Festival commission of S. João D'Arga
tel.:+351 258 921 912

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA BONANÇA

2nd weekend of September

The festival in honour of Nossa Senhora da Bonança is the most

popular among the fishing community in the municipality of Caminha, since 1883. The centre of the festival is an old place named Lagarteira, next to the Fort. It has all the typical ingredients: Philharmonic bands, musical performances, dance, folklore, the Ethnographic procession, religious processions, fireworks, good food and good wine.

The highlight of the Festival is the majestic procession where naval vessels "dress" their best party attires and head to the Ínsua Fort to collect the image of Our Lady of Ínsua.

location: Praça da República and Campo do Castelo
GPS: 41°48'48.54"N 8°51'43.20"W

contact
Parish of Vila Praia de Âncora
www.paroquiavpancora.blogspot.com

CARRAZEDA DE ANSIÃES FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION)

1st weekend of August

The feasts in honour of Our Lady of the Assumption are held on the first weekend of August, Sunday and Monday, in Vilarinho da Castanheira. This festival is one of the largest festivals in the municipality of Carrazeda de Ansiães and its highest point is the Grand Procession in



honour of Our Lady of the Assumption, whose numerous wooden platforms are decorated with different satin colours.

On Sunday, the procession leaves from the Church of St. Mary Magdalene toward the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Assumption, where the lively festivities take place during the night. On the morning of the following day, the procession is held once more, returning the wooden platforms to the Main Church.

location: Vilarinho da Castanheira
GPS: 41°12'13.13"N 7°12'48.22"W

FESTIVAL OF CARRAZEDA last weekend of August

The festival of Carrazeda de Ansiães is held on the last weekend of August and constitutes the main festival of the municipality. The festival includes a very diverse activities' programme: music concerts, exhibitions, lectures,

actions of promotion and sale of regional products, with particular reference to apples, wine and olive oil. The Ethnographic Procession stands out and takes place during the Saturday afternoon, with the representation of all the parishes of the municipality. On Sunday afternoon, the grand Solemn Procession takes place, where all the patron saints of the Municipality participate in their wooden platforms richly decorated with flowers.

location: Praça do Município
GPS: 41°14'31.19"N 7°18'20.31"W

FESTIVAL OF SANTA EUFÉMIA (ST. EUPHEMIA)

from 15 to 16 September

The festival in honour of St. Euphemia of Lavandeira takes place on September 15 and 16, close to the cycle of summer parties in the municipality of Carrazeda de Ansiães. On day 15, it is usual to have thousands of foreigners heading to the village of Lavandeira to taste the homemade roasted pork on the spit, known locally as "marrã". Tables and grills are placed all over the village and the smell of roast invades all alleys and streets in town. The 16th is dedicated to the religious ceremonies, when locals pay their promises to the Fraternity of St. Euphemia.



The afternoon is the highlight of the day with the Eucharist followed by a solemn Procession in honour of the miraculous St. Euphemia.

location: Lavandeira
GPS: 41°11'42.17"N 7°18'12.21"W

contact
City Council of Carrazeda de Ansiães
tel.: +351 278 610 200
e-mail: cica@cmca.pt
www.cm-carrazedadeansiaes.pt

CASTELO DE PAIVA
FESTA DE SANTO ADRIÃO (ST. ADRIAN'S FESTIVAL)
Sunday following Ascension Thursday

This festival is held in one of the most beautiful places of the municipality, the St. Adrian Hill, in the parish of Real. The religious ceremonies start on the Main Church of the parish with the celebration of a mass, followed by a procession towards the mountain, with the wooden platforms to be taken on the backs of devotees as payment for promises. At the top of the mountain, a mass is held in the chapel in honour of St. Adrian. In the end, people can enjoy the beauty of the site, share their snacks in the picnic tables and dance.

location: Monte de Santo Adrião - Real
GPS: N 40.584825 O -8.145640

FESTA DE SÃO JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

from June 23 and 24

Through the lands of Paiva, the tradition of celebrating the popular Saints is kept alive, being St. John the one that deserves more prominence, thus justifying the municipal holiday on June 24.

Colourful and lively parades mark the night of the 23rd, whose animation lasts until dawn, with a beautiful session of fireworks at midnight and the performance of famous Portuguese musical bands. On the 24th (municipal holiday) the traditional grilled sardines that are offered to the population by Municipality stand out, accompanied by the "Vinho Verde de Paiva" (wine).

location: Largo do Conde - Sobrado
GPS: N 41.040845 O -8.271861

ROMARIA DE SÃO DOMINGOS (FESTIVAL OF ST. DOMINIC)

August 4

This festival - one of the largest of the municipality - is held in one of the most emblematic sites: the São Domingos Hill. Thousands of pilgrims from various parts of the country flock to the site, covering long distances on foot to fulfil their promises. Religious ceremonies begin in the

Chapel of Nossa Senhora das Amoras, in Oliveira do Arda, followed by a procession up the mountain towards the Chapel of St. Dominic, where a Mass is held in honour of the saint. The procession is accompanied by a brass band and the wooden platforms are carried by the devotees as fulfilment of their promises.

location: São Domingos-Raiva
GPS: N 41.016667 O -8.350000

FESTIVAL OF SANTA EUFÉMIA (ST. EUPHEMIA)

from 14 to 16 September

From age-old traditions, the festival of St. Euphemia already appears referenced as a place of great devotion in the parish survey of 1758. Thousands of pilgrims travel great distances on foot to fulfil their promises and worship the saint of their devotion.

This festival is also known for its local cuisine: St. Euphemia-style steaks and bean stew, both drizzled with the famous "Vinho Verde" (wine) of the region. The festival includes a cattle contest on the 14th. The religious part of the festival is held on the saint's day, the 16th, with a Mass and a procession in honour of St. Euphemia.

location: Touriz - São Pedro do Paraíso
GPS: N 41.016192 O -8.297810

contact
City Council of Castelo de Paiva
tel.:+351 255 689 500
e-mail: geral@cm-castelo-paiva.pt
www.cm-castelo-paiva.pt

CELORICO DE BASTO PILGRIMAGE AND FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO VISO (OUR LADY OF VISO)

Pilgrimage - 1st Sunday of June
Festival - 2nd Sunday of September

This festival includes the archpriestal, and therefore every parish in the municipality is present. The largest festival of Celorico de Basto, in honour of Our Lady of Viso, draws thousands of pilgrims to the precinct of the religious ceremonies as its main highlight.

location: Caçarilhe
GPS: N 41.411920 N -8.086353

MUNICIPALITY'S FESTIVALS IN HONOUR OF S. TIAGO (ST. JAMES)

from July 25 to 26

The Municipality's Festivals take place in the weekend of July 25 and feature a series of cultural activities, with emphasis on the Ethnographic Parade, involving associations, organisations and communities of the municipality. During these days, great musical concerts with national groups are

held. In this context, the festivities promote folklore and drum "despiques" (improvisation).

location: Praça Cardeal D. António Ribeiro and
Praça Albino Alves Pereira
GPS: N 41.388080 O -8.000083

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DE OLIVEIRA (OUR LADY OF THE OLIVE TREE)

2nd weekend of August

The Festival in Honour of Nossa Senhora de Oliveira is mainly characterized by the Folk Dance Group's Festival. The festival has fireworks and a grand religious procession with unique characteristics that takes place along the streets of Gandarela.

location: Gandarela
GPS: N 41.45864 O -8.032872

S. BARTOLOMEU DO REGO (ST. BARTHOLOMEW OF REGO)

August 24

The Festival in honour of St. Bartholomew is characterised by the well-known event called "lavoura dos cães", a kind of carnival parade drawing thousands of people to the parish of Rego. The religious procession in honour of St. Bartholomew takes place before the "lavoura dos cães".

location: Rego
GPS: N 41.423019 O -8.086353

contact
City Council of Celorico de Basto
tel.:+351 255 320 300
e-mail: geral@mun-celoricodebasto.pt
www.mun-celoricodebasto.pt

CHAVES FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS BROTAS

from April 11 to 13

The festivities in honour of this patron saint are an ancient tradition. Soon after Easter, the population of Chaves pays tribute to this saint in an authentic manifestation and devotion of faith at S. Neutel Fort, with a wide recreational and religious programme, with particular emphasis on the two Masses in honour of the patron saint, one on Sunday and the other on Monday, the saint's day. Senhora das Brotas (Our Lady of Springs) is the first festival of the year in the city of Chaves.

location: Forte de S. Neutel
GPS: 41°45'01.73"N 7°28'03.29"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS GRAÇAS (OUR LADY OF GRACES)

20 September

The festivities in honour of Our Lady of Graces were recovered in 2005, after

an interval of five decades, and take place in the Public Garden of Chaves, on the third Sunday of September. The festivities are organized by the municipality of Chaves, Chaves Viva Association, and the Parish Churches of Santa Maria Major and Santa Maria Madalena, with the support of the parishes of the municipality of Chaves. The programme begins with an outdoor Mass in the Public Garden, followed by the traditional and crowded procession along the streets of the historical centre of Chaves, with the patron saints of the parishes of the municipality, accompanied by the sound of six brass bands, and ending in Camões Square. The event ends with the brass bands playing together the March of Chaves, whose lyrics refer to the festivities.

location: Public Garden of Chaves and streets
of the Historical Centre
GPS: 41°44'14.24"N 7°28'01.34"W

contact
City Council of Chaves
tel.:+351 276 340 500
e-mail: municipio@chaves.pt
www.chaves.pt

CINFÃES FESTIVAL OF THE SENHOR DOS ENFERMOS

from May 24 and 25

The interest in the events and the belief in a cure for the sick of those

that flock to this site started a long time ago, and therefore this festival now draws people from all corners. It is now one of the most important and most crowded festivities of Beira Douro. However, the history behind the Sanctuary of Nosso Senhor dos Enfermos does not only belong to the past, but it still persists today and will continue forever. The spirit that enthused the first founding elements now lives in the dynamism of the board members that currently continue the work. A dynamism of which they are proud, and which makes them feel useful to the municipality and to the cause they serve.

location: Largo da Igreja, Macieira - Fornos
GPS: N 41.020791 O -8.205551

FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

from June 20 to 24

The Festivals of the Municipality of Cinfães, in honour of St. John, are one of the unavoidable landmarks of the city's life, which count with an increasing number of believers and proud revellers. From June 20 to 24, thousands of people celebrate the Popular Saints' Festivals in Cinfães. The municipality has a varied and audacious entertainment programme, providing plenty of joy with the village appropriately dressed and the streets filled with colours and aromas.



location: Largo da Feira
GPS: N 41.071905 O -8.086987

ROMARIA DE S. PEDRO (ST. PETER'S FESTIVAL)

June 29

In an extensive desert and inhospitable plateau, dotted with gorses and ferns, emerges the Sanctuary of S. Pedro do Campo. Next to the chapel, there are ancient stones and tomb-like monuments of prehistoric cults and societies that transport this space into the sacred reason of the festival. There are few records of the chapel, but it is known that in the early 17th century there were already mediaeval roads and trade. It is therefore one of the largest cultural celebrations; a festival that includes a fair, tradition and faith.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) of S. Pedro do Campo
GPS: N 41.008386 O -8.085399

contact
City Council of Cinfães
tel.:+351 255 560 560
e-mail: turismo@cm-cinfaes.pt;
geral@cm-cinfaes.pt / www.cm-cinfaes.pt

ESPINHO FESTA DE S. PEDRO (ST. PETER'S FESTIVAL)

June 29

Over the past few years, St. Peter's Festival has been considered as one of the great festivals of the municipality. The "Rusgas a S. Pedro Parade" and Re-enactment of the Xávega Art (traditional Portuguese Fishing Technique), where a yoke of oxen is used, and the Majestic Procession that runs through the main arteries of the city (the chapel being the starting point) are the highlights of this festival that brings many people to Espinho. The profane component of this event - dedicated once again to life at sea - includes folk music and eating and drinking.

location: Parish of Espinho
GPS: 41°00'00.9"N 8°38'43.9"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO MAR (OUR LADY OF THE SEA)

1st weekend of August

The great festival in honour of Our Lady of the Sea, patron saint of the fishermen, is a celebration of great faith and tradition. Every year the tradition continues with a programme full of entertainment and music. On the first day, the traditional "Fisherman's Parade" takes place. Along the streets, men proudly dressed as fishermen and women flashing their aprons remember and honour the profession of those that risk their lives to support their families.



Year after year, thousands of people come to admire the magnificent work of the people of the sea.

location: Bairro piscatório (Fishing Quarter)
GPS: 40°59'47.1"N 8°38'34.1"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA AJUDA (OUR LADY OF HELP)

3rd Sunday of September

Nossa Senhora da Ajuda (Our Lady of Help) is the patron saint of the city and protector of life at sea. The cult of Our Lady of Help that includes the celebration of the High Mass and the respectful Procession are followed by a folk festival, culminating in a great pyromusical show. Every year, thousands of people attend the Majestic Procession. One of the most emotional moments is the Blessing of the Sea. The preparation of the Flower Carpet

of Our Lady of Help by several volunteers at night is noteworthy. On the last day, the weekly fair closes the festivities with the traditional "Onion Fair", which are exposed in braids - an ancestral practice.

location: Parish of Espinho
GPS: 41°00'27.2"N 8°38'37.5"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS ALTOS-CÉUS AND S. MAMEDE

3rd weekend of August

For many years now, the traditional festivals "Festas dos Rojões" (fried pork meat festival) and "Festa dos Tremoços" (lupin beans festival) have been a reference in the folk festival panorama of the municipality of Espinho and beyond. Once, in a time where there were no refrigerators yet, the meat was preserved in salt or through a smoking process, and the pig slaughter took place from October onwards, when the weather was cooler. At the time of the festival, farmers would kill the pigs, so that there was plenty of food. At the weekend following the religious festival, people socialize, eat lupin beans, savour a good red wine to the sound of music and with plenty of entertainment.

location: Lugar dos Altos-Céus - Parish of Anta
GPS: 41°00'03.0"N 8°36'24.1"W

contact
City Council of Espinho
tel.: +351 227 335 800
e-mail: geral@cm-espinho.pt
www.cm-espinho.pt

ESPOSENDE FESTA DE SÃO JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

June 24

The St. John's Festival in Esposende is an exuberant and magnificent display where, as tradition dictates, paper hot air balloons are released into the sky, bonfires are lit up, around which people dance and sing, arches richly decorated are raised, and popular parades are organized that cheerfully move along the main arteries of the localities. The St. John's Festival means popular merrymaking, joy and exuberance, which should not go without the traditional sardines, cornbread and red Vinho Verde (wine) that quenches the thirsty mouths of such festive people.

location: City of Esposende
GPS: 41°32'3.87"N 8°46'59.42"W

ROMARIA DA SENHORA DO LAGO (FESTIVAL OF THE LADY OF THE LAKE)

1st Sunday of August and the previous Saturday

The name Barca do Lago ("Boat of the Lake") is due to the fact that, at least

from the 17th century onwards until the end of the 19th century, it served as a crossing location for people, cars, animals and pilgrims between the two banks of the Cávado river. Many pilgrims of the municipality of Esposende flock to the Chapel of Our Lady of the Lake every year - some coming from the city and others from Vila de Fão - arriving in decorated boats so they can later join the river procession that takes place on Sunday. The image of Our Lady of the Lake is transported on a boat along the river, and then transported to the churchyard opposite the local chapel, where a preacher delivers the sermon.

location: Barca do Lago - Gemeses
GPS: 41°31'1.36"N 8°44'38.09"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE E DA SOLEDADE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH AND SOLITUDE)

August 15

The city festivities have an average duration of ten days, including the Festival in honour of Nossa Senhora da Saúde e da Soledade (Our Lady of Good Health and Solitude). The City's Day is celebrated on August 19. Normally, the festivities end on this day with a grand procession and the participation of the Voluntary Firemen of Esposende.



On August 15, Our Lady of Good Health and Solitude is honoured with a majestic diurnal procession. There is also an evening folk festival, fireworks, games, entertainment and musical groups that complete this very lively and special day.

location: City of Esposende
GPS: 41°31'54.83"N 8°46'30.27"W

FESTIVAL OF SÃO BARTOLOMEU DO MAR (ST. BARTHOLOMEW OF THE SEA)

August 24

The age-old festival of São Bartolomeu do Mar (St. Bartholomew of the Sea) is one of the busiest in northern Portugal. The "Linen Fair", today without the vigour and considerable economic dimension of olden times, is carried out only on August 24. In this festival, the rituals regarding the offering of a black chicken to the Saint by children and the Holy Bath happen every year. The Holy bath in the Atlantic is a symbol of purification and regeneration to a new life. In the afternoon, the Procession to the Sea takes place with a sermon and the blessing of the sea.

location: União de Freguesias de Mar e Belinho
GPS: 41°34'25.52"N 8°47'26.56"W

contact
City Council of Esposende
tel.: +351 253 960 100

e-mail: turismo@cm-esposende.pt
www.visitesposende.com
www.cm-esposende.pt

FAFE **MUNICIPALITY'S FESTIVALS**

2nd weekend of July

The Festivals in honour of Our Lady of Antime (Nossa Senhora de Antime) and Our Lady of Sorrows (Nossa Senhora das Dores) derive from a known legend. According to legend, the image of the Virgin appeared on S. Jorge Hill, a disputed site by two parishes, Fafe and Antime. After lengthy discussions, the people decided that the image of Our Lady of Antime would stay in the Church of Antime throughout the year, but on the day of the festival, the men of Antime would take it to the parish's borders. Then, the people from Fafe would take the image to their town, where they would celebrate until sunset, at which time the image of Our Lady would return to its habitual residence.

Today, the procession begins after the Eucharist. Ten men in white surplice and barefoot take the heavy wooden platform with the image of Our Lady of Mercy, holding Her Son on Her lap, for a three-hour walk. Next to the Bridge of S. José, on the border between the parishes, the encounter between the image of Our Lady of Antime and the image of Our Lady of



Sorrows takes place. Face to face, they bow, which symbolises the welcoming action of Fafe towards its guest, the parish of Antime. Our Lady belongs to Fafe during this time, even if for just a few hours. The procession continues, stops at the Town Hall, goes through the Main Church and ends at the New Church of S. José. It remains there until 18.00, after which it returns to Antime. In the evening, after the promises are fulfilled, the image returns to its usual place for the rest of the year.

location: city centre
GPS: 41°27'05.91"N 8°10'15.18"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS NEVES (OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS)

Friday before the last Saturday of August

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of the Snows (Nossa Senhora das Neves) is one of the most symbolic and important festivals of the municipality of Fafe. Every year on the last Friday of August, many devotees head towards Lagoa to pray, to fulfil their promises and put the image of Our Lady of the Snows on their head. This gesture works as an exorcism or, in common parlance, to "take out the devil", believing that thus they are free from all evil.

location: Lagoa
GPS: 41°30'58.70"N 8°05'22.46"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS GRAÇAS (OUR LADY OF GRACES)

last Sunday of August

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of Graces (Nossa Senhora das Graças) takes place on the last weekend of August, and on the previous weekend an auction is held to raise funds for the festival, called the Weekend Raffle. The weekend of the festival begins on Friday with a candlelight procession, which leaves the Parish Church of Travassós and heads towards the Chapel of Our Lady of Graces.

On Sunday, the festival's main day, at 10:00 am, the High Mass of the festival is celebrated. In the afternoon, at 5:00 pm, a procession around the Chapel of Our Lady of Graces takes place.

location: Travassós
GPS: 41°29'29.65"N 8°11'27.77"W

contact
City Council of Fafe
tel.: +351 253 700 400
e-mail: geral@cm-fafe.pt
www.cm-fafe.pt

FELGUEIRAS **MUNICIPALITY'S FESTIVALS – SÃO PEDRO (ST. PETER)**

June 29

St. Peter is the popular and patron saint of the municipality of Felgueiras and its people have become accustomed to

celebrate it with great fanfare. Every year, several thousand visitors attend this festival - the largest festival of Felgueiras. The City Council of Felgueiras organizes the St. Peter's Festival, taking into account the importance of traditional festivities and the fact that St. Peter's Day is a Municipal Holiday.

The programme includes the Flower Parade, the solemn Procession, the St. Peter's Parade, the "tasquinhas" (a sort of pubs), the Crafts Fair and Economic Activities, the painting contest "Pinta", various musical performances, street entertainment, pyromusical spectacle and folklore.

location: city of Felgueiras - Santa Quitéria
GPS: 41°21'57"N 8°11'52"W

contact
Tourist Shop
tel.:+351 255 925 468
e-mail: lojadeturismo@cm-felgueiras.pt
www.cm-felgueiras.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS VITÓRIAS (OUR LADY OF VICTORIES)

1st Monday of September

This is a popular and religious festival that takes place in the city of Lixa, on the first Monday of September, with a great involvement of the young population.

location: City of Lixa
GPS: 41°31'86.2"N 8°14'13.8"W

contact
União das Freguesia de Vila Cova da Lixa e Borba de Godim
e-mail: vilacovadalixa@sapo.pt
tel.:+351 255 494 983

FREIXO DE ESPADA À CINTA SETE PASSOS (SEVEN STEPS)

It takes place every Friday from Carnival to Easter. This is a pagan procession representing the commendation of souls, of mediaeval origin, and which has survived to the present day. It takes place on the seven Fridays from Carnival to Easter (Lent), from midnight onwards with the total absence of electricity on the streets.

location: main streets in town
GPS: N 41.092118 O -6.805310

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS MONTES ERMOS

3rd weekend of August

The Festival in honour of Nossa Senhora dos Montes Eremos, the town's main festival held in August, emerges at the end of the 17th century and beginning of the 18th century. The religious ceremony begins on a Thursday, the day on which Our Lady is brought down from the hill to be taken



to the Main Church. In the meantime, a candlelight procession takes place along the streets of Freixo, before proceeding to the festival's grand Sunday procession. The festivities conclude on Monday when Our Lady returns to the hill.

location: Jardim Municipal – Praça Jorge Alvares
GPS: N 41.088194 O -6.810123

contact
City Council of Freixo de Espada à Cinta
tel.:+351 279 653 016
e-mail: geral@cm-freixoepadacinta.pt
www.cm-freixoepadacinta.pt

GONDOMAR FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. BRÁS (ST. BLAISE) February 3

On February 3, the Festival in honour of St. Blaise (S. Brás) takes place. It is tradition that on the day of the



procession the streets surrounding the church are covered with carpets of geometrical flowers presenting cheerful and vivid colours. Along the path of the procession, the residents adorn their balconies with quilts.

location: Igreja Paroquial de Baguim do Monte (parish church) - Baguim do Monte
GPS: N 41.188343 O -8.539081

contact
Parish of Baguim do Monte (Coração de Maria)
tel.:+351 224 897 461
e-mail: paroquiabaguim@gmail.com

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. BENTO DAS PÊRAS (ST. BENEDICT) weekend before July 11 until the following weekend

On July 11, Rio Tinto celebrates the Festival in honour of St. Benedict, popularly known as "S. Bento das Pêras", culminating in the procession, and attracting thousands of devotees, who make the journey carrying



carnations. St. Benedict is considered the advocate of impossible causes.

location: Main Church of Rio Tinto – Largo do Mosteiro / GPS: N 41.17786 O -8.1559227

contact
Parish of Rio Tinto
tel.:+351 224 890 287
e-mail: geral@paroquiariotinto.pt
www.paroquiariotinto.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO ROSÁRIO (OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY)

Saturday before the 1st Sunday and until the 2nd Sunday of October

This festival, also known as the “Walnut Festival”, attracts thousands of pilgrims from the most diverse areas of the country to Gondomar. The procession always takes place on Monday following the first Sunday in October (municipal holiday). The programme of festivities also includes cultural and recreational initiatives, varied shows, a gastronomic festival and traditional “despiques” (improvisation) of music bands from the municipality. The festival also includes many stalls with wares and articles of every kind, and food and drinks - nuts, sweet wine and twist bread - which the community highly enjoys.

location: Igreja Paroquial (parish church) of Gondomar

GPS: N 41.135645 O -8.533104

contact
Confraria de S. Cosme e S. Damião e Nossa Senhora do Rosário
tel.:+351 224 834 308
e-mail: paroquia@saocosme.com
www.saocosme.com

GUIMARÃES FESTIVAL OF THE CROSSES OF SERZEDELO

1st weekend of May

Amongst the various religious manifestations of the parish, one of the most symbolic and important festivities is the Festival of the Crosses. The festival pays homage to the Glorious Cross of Christ's Resurrection on the first Sunday after May 3. The Festival of the Crosses is of medieval inspiration. In this religious event, whose designation reveals the nature of the cult, the spotlight falls on sixteen crosses exquisitely decorated and belonging to an equal number of families that cherish them with pride and dedication. The festival's programme is varied, whether in religious or in recreational terms.

location: Church of Serzedelo
GPS: 41°24'8.87"N 8°22'4.84"W

contact
Festival Organizer: António Pereira Fernandes
tel.:+351 915 759 524

THE GREAT FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. TORCATO

1st weekend of July

The Great Festival in Honour of St. Torquatus allows everyone to experience one of the largest festivals of Minho. Here one can feel the strongest popular traditions within a great rural area and a way of life that is close to ancient rural customs. The cult of St. Torquatus dates back to ancient times. However, the Great Festival might have begun in 1852 when the unsullied body of St. Torquatus was transferred from the old church to the new temple. The festival is divided between religious ceremonies of devotion to the saint and popular demonstrations of joy, dominated by the genuine folklore of Minho.

location: Mosteiro de S. Torcato
GPS: 41°28'54.65"N 8°15'30.54"W

contact
Irmandade de São Torcato
tel.:+351 253 551 150

“GUALTERIANA” AND CITY FESTIVITIES

1st weekend of August

The “Gualteriana” (in honour of St. Gualter) and the City Festivities are combined in a huge demonstration of folk festivity. These festivals take place at the first weekend of August.

Four days of celebration and joy where secular traditions are mixed with the experience of a modern city. In addition to the traditional religious events, the programme includes masses and processions, a bullfight in a mobile enclosure, erected every year for the event, horse races, parades and permanent entertainment for each day, culminating with daily firework sessions.

location: City Centre of Guimarães, several places
GPS: 41°26'32.05"N 8°17'29.88"W

contact
A Oficina – Centro Cultural Vila Flor
tel.: +351 253 424 700/916 329 333
e-mail: geral@ccvf.pt
www.ccvf.pt

FESTAS NICOLINAS (FESTIVITIES IN HONOUR OF ST. NICHOLAS) from 29 November to 6 December

These Festivities have their origin in the religious devotion to St. Nicholas. This cult reached Guimarães through the pilgrims who would come to the city as well as the pilgrims heading towards/coming from Santiago de Compostela. The celebrations in honour of St. Nicholas were originally religious. However, with the passage of time, profane celebrations have been included in these festivities.



This cult was later borrowed by the students who established a chapel in honour of St. Nicholas, hosting therein their Brotherhood.

location: city centre, several places
GPS: 41°26'26.67"N 8°17'23.31"W

contact
AAELG - Velhos Nicolinos Assoc.
Torre dos Almadas
tel.: +351 933 242 677
e-mail: velhosnicolinos@gmail.com
www.nicolinos.pt

LAMEGO **FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS REMÉDIOS (OUR LADY OF REMEDIES)** from August 20 to September 9

It originates from a temple, erected in 1361, on the same location as the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies (Nossa Senhora dos Remédios). In 1551, the then Bishop of Lamego



erected the first chapel in honour of Our Lady of Remedies, where now the Court of the Kings (the square on the stairway) is located. In 1750, due to its degradation, the Brotherhood ordered its demolition and built a magnificent Sanctuary and a stairway with 618 steps, connecting it to the city. This work was only inaugurated in 1778. The festivities grew over the years and become one of the greatest in the country. Today, the programme includes exhibitions, concerts, parades, processions, fairs, cultural and sporting events. It is worth highlighting the 6, 7 and 8 September, the days in which the Luminous March (at night), the Battle of Flowers (afternoon) and the

Majestic Procession of Triumph take place. In the afternoon of September 8 - municipal holiday - thousands of people attend this unique procession, admiring the wooden platforms bearing sacred images pulled by a bedecked yoke of oxen, the only one in Portugal and probably in the world, with express permission of the Holy See.

location: city of Lamego
GPS: 41°05'30.60"N 7°48'58.92"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS MENINOS (OUR LADY OF THE CHILDREN)

from 18 to 21 September

Festival in honour of Our Lady of the Children (Nossa Senhora dos Meninos). In Lamego, Our Lady of the Children is the most precious jewel of the residents of the neighbourhood of Ponte. Their zeal for the saint is so great that they would not allow, in any circumstance, anyone to remove the saint from the chapel. Besides the curious 16th century sculpture, one can appreciate the temple built by order of Bishop Manoel de Noronha, between 1551 and 1569. The altarpiece is a beautiful piece from the first phase of the national Baroque. It is worth mentioning the chancel's ceiling where, in twenty-five pictures,



the Life of the Virgin is depicted, citing the Old Testament and the tradition written in so-called Apocryphal Gospels. Some works in jacaranda wood from Brazil are still preserved - once very common in our churches (18th century). The 17th and 18th-century style tiles on the walls are also worth of mention. The roof of the body of the small chapel describes the Life of Christ in over fifty panels.

location: Bairro da Ponte
GPS: 41°05'33.11"N 7°48'07.71"W

contact
Diocese of Lamego
tel.:+351 254 612 147

e-mail: info@diocese-lamego.pt
www.diocese-lamego.pt
City Council of Lamego
tel.:+351 254 609 600
e-mail: municipiolamego@outlook.pt
www.cm-lamego.pt

LOUSADA FESTA DE SANTA ÁGUEDA (ST. AGATHA'S FESTIVAL)

February 5

It is on February 5 that nature lovers head towards Sousela and lay their linen tablecloths with the tastiest snacks. This festival is notable for the typical carnival due to its location: the bottom of a valley from where a stream meanders. The Virgin St. Agatha of Sicily and St. Christopher are worshipped here as patron saints of breast milk and lack of appetite, respectively. The site has a remarkable influx of pilgrims from distant lands to fulfil their promises. It is adorned by adjacent hills, dotted with pristine linen tablecloths gracefully laid down, with outsiders enjoying their packed meals accompanied with the delicious "Vinho Verde" (wine) of the region.

location: Chapel (Capela) of Santa Águeda
- Sousela
GPS: 41°18'38.67"N 8°18'45.23"W



GREAT MUNICIPAL FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHOR DOS AFLITOS (OUR LORD OF THE AFFLICTED)

from 24 to 28 july

Every year on the last weekend of July, the town of Lousada is filled with joy and excitement with the Great Municipal Festival in honour of Our Lord of the Afflicted (Senhor dos Aflitos). The programme that attracts thousands of visitors every day includes drums, "gigantones" (giants) and "cabeçudos" (big heads), an Arts Fair and Livestock Contest, a High Mass and the Majestic Procession, fanfare and music bands and artists, cycling events and a Luminous March. On each evening there is fireworks and the traditional "Vaca de Fogo" (Fire Cow), a rough inauguration of a courageous bovine animal that launches "bichas-de-rabear" (wriggling fireworks) on the public, which results in hilarious scenes, so appreciated by the people. On Sunday evening, the Senhor dos Aflitos Hill is illuminated by thousands of candle bowls, providing a unique spectacle.

location: Avenida Senhor dos Aflitos - Silveiras
GPS: 41°16'38.25"N 8°16'56.93"W

FESTIVAL OF SANTO OVÍDIO (ST. OVIDIUS)

August 9

In the parish of Aveleda, there was a fairly wealthy family that owned a

large farm and a manor house. Within this house there was a chapel where Sunday Mass would take place, and St. Ovidius was their patron saint. On neighbouring lands, on August 9, a festival in honour of the saint would be held, preceded by a large cattle fair. Today, the festival and fair take place in Lugar do Mourinho, as the saint was transferred to the chapel built therein.

location: Chapel (Capela) of St. Ovidius
GPS: 41°16'46.62"N 8°15'10.21"W

contact
City Council of Lousada
tel.: +351 255 820 500
e-mail: cm-lousada@cm-lousada.pt
www.cm-lousada.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA APARECIDA (OUR LADY APARECIDA)

from August 13 to 15

Centennial festival that takes place in the parish of Torno, Senhora Aparecida village, on August 13, 14 and 15 in honour of Our Lady Aparecida. It is a festival of religious traditions that includes the important procession, which always takes place in the evening of the 14th, displaying the largest wooden platform in the country (recorded in the Guinness World Records), carried by over ninety men in a grand manifestation of faith and devotion.

location: Sanctuary (Santuário) of Our Lady
Aparecida - Torno
GPS: 41°17'26.12"N 8°12'35.74"W

contact
Sanctuary (Santuário) of Our Lady Aparecida
tel.:+351 255 911 106

MACEDO DE CAVALEIROS
FESTA DE S. PEDRO
(ST. PETER'S FESTIVAL)
last week of June

St. Peter is the patron saint of Macedo de Cavaleiros, celebrated on June 29 (municipal holiday) with Mass and a procession in His honour. Celebrated in hot weather and, in the past, in a time of abundant reaping. During these festivals, the St. Peter's Fair is also of great importance, dating back to the 40s, when bands of reapers from all corners of the country, would head towards Macedo de Cavaleiros - the municipality of the Sickie as it was also known - in order to offer their services following a bidding process which was greatly disputed among the local farmers. Every night, the festival provides a great variety of shows and entertainment.

location: Parque Municipal de Exposições
(Municipal Exhibition Park)
GPS: 41°32'10.38"N 6°57'53.67"W



ST. AMBROSE'S FESTIVAL (SANTO AMBRÓSIO)
4th Sunday of August

St. Ambrose was one of the four Doctors of the Catholic Church (the other three being St. Augustine, St. Jerome and St. Gregory the Great). He was elected Bishop of Milan and only thereafter was he baptised. He is a very revered saint. In fact, one of the greatest religious festivals takes place in the Sanctuary of St. Ambrose, in the parish of Vale da Porca, on the plateau of Redondelo, traditionally on the last Sunday of August, gathering thousands of people. In prehistoric times, before Christianity, people would already flock to this site, as demonstrated by one Tumulus near the enclosure. It is a religious festival that attracts many illustrious pilgrims, such as the Bishop or the Duke of Bragança. It consists of the Novena in honour of St. Ambrose, in the Main Church of Vale da Porca, as well as the procession

that leads the wooden platform with St. Ambrose towards the plateau of Redondelo. The outdoor mass is celebrated in the sanctuary and promises are fulfilled. The devotees then enjoy the festival with food and the sound of musical performances.

location: Parish of Vale da Porca
GPS: 41°31'39.80"N 6°52'40.64"W

contact
City Council of Macedo de Cavaleiros
tel.:+351 278 420 420
e-mail: turismo@cm-macedodecavaleiros.pt
www.cm-macedodecavaleiros.pt

MAIA
FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)
2nd Sunday after Easter

Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Saúde) is the first of the great festivities in the city of Maia. It is said that the devotion to Our Lady of Good Health is a tradition in many places in Portugal since the 16th century, but others date it back to a time after 1646, when King D. João IV - in the euphoria of the Restoration War - crowned "Our Lady" in Vila Viçosa. Although there is no certainty, the truth is that this tradition still endures today, and every year after Easter a festival in honour of Our Lady of Good Health is held in Gueifães, Maia.



location: Largo da Igreja - Gueifães
GPS: 41°13'3.66"N 8°36'11.79"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA HORA (OUR LADY OF THE HOUR)

3rd Sunday of May

One tradition that remains, year after year, in the festivities in honour of Our Lady of the Hour (Nossa Senhora da Hora), is the parade of "Canastras Floridas" (large flower baskets). This originated in the mid-18th century and it was once fulfilled by all the parishes of the municipality of Maia, extending to the present day, but only in the parish of Nogueira and Silva Escura, which is the

only one that continues to shape this art of decorating the baskets with flowers. Every place of the parish participates with a basket, whose theme is chosen by the restricted group that makes it.

location: Monte Nossa Senhora da Hora - Nogueira and Silva Escura
GPS: 41°14'8.03"N 8°35'9.75"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO BOM DESPACHO

week prior to the 2nd Sunday of July until the following Monday

The Municipality's Festivals of Maia in Honour of Our Lady of Bom Despacho are a tradition in the city of Maia, dating back to the mid-18th century, with an account dating from 1733. It is an expression of faith associated with cultural, sporting and recreational events that have the ability to build and solidify a community that is supposed to be united and guided by values conducive to the common good.

location: Av. Visconde Barreiros and Largo da Igreja
GPS: 41°13'58.04"N 8°37'31.56"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA GUADALUPE (OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)

1st Sunday of September

The festivals in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of all diseases,

are one of the most visited in the county as well as one of the oldest. These festivals are held for more than 300 years.

location: Lugar do Paço - Águas Santas
GPS: 41°12'19.26"N 8°35'4.15"W

contact
City Council of Maia
tel.:+351 229 408 643
e-mail: cultura@cm-maia.pt
cultura.maiaidigital.pt

MARCO DE CANAVESES ENDOENÇAS (MAUNDY THURSDAY PROCESSION)

Holy Week (Thursday and Friday)

Celebration of the Holy Week. The Maundy Thursday Procession (Endoenças) is held for more than 300 years, connecting the two river banks of the final section of the Tâmega river, on the confluence with the Douro river, between Torrão (Marco de Canaveses) and Entre-os-Rios (Penafiel) - a route that includes the Duarte Pacheco Bridge. Before the inauguration of this infrastructure in 1941, the procession crossed the Tâmega river in typical "rabelo" boats illuminated with candles, followed by the sermon of Maundy Thursday and the Stations of the Cross in the Chapel of S. Sebastião. Programme of processions: Thursday: 20:30 Mass of the Lord's Supper in the

Parish Church of Torrão; 21:30 Procession of Our Lord of Steps (Senhor dos Passos) from the Parish Church of Torrão to Entre-os-Rios; Friday: 15:00 Procession (Our Lord's Burial) from the Chapel of S. Sebastião to the Parish Church of Torrão and Celebration of the Lord's Passion with the celebration of the Word of God.

location: Rua Padre Augusto Carlos Fidalgo - Torrão
GPS: 41°04'58.3"N 8°17'21.4"W

contact
Parish Council of Alpendorada, Várzea and Torrão
tel.:+351 255 619 189
e-mail: jfalpendorada@sapo.pt
Parish of Santa Clara do Torrão
tel.:+351 255 614 221
e-mail: paroquiadotorrao.mcm@gmail.com

FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

June 24

The St. John's Festival of Alpendorada is a religious celebration with a strong secular nature as it includes Popular Parades on the night of the festival - the highlight of the celebrations. Tradition is fulfilled on the night of St. John's Festival, on the streets of Alpendorada and Matos with the presence of thousands of people. The Popular Parades provide a parade full



of colour, joy and music that livens up the party. An unforgettable evening as the Popular Parades in Alpendorada are already a reference in the St. John's celebrations of the municipality of Marco de Canaveses, for the beauty and quality of the displayed costumes and choreographies.

The parade is held on the night of June 23 to 24. The celebrations also have a gastronomic and musical component. The Parish Council is responsible for the general organisation of the event and counts on the support of the City Council of Marco de Canaveses.

location: Av. Futebol Clube de Alpendorada - Alpendorada and Matos
GPS: 41°05'17.6"N 8°14'57.1"W

contact
Parish Council of Alpendorada, Várzea and Torrão
tel.: +351 255 619 189
e-mail: jfalpendorada@sapo.pt

MARCO FESTIVALS

2nd and 3rd weekend of July

The Marco Festivals are the main cultural event of the municipality and take place every year in July, combining a set of cultural, religious, social, wine and gastronomic activities. For ten days, the City Council promotes a set of planned activities that create opportunities of leisure and entertainment, within an intergenerational perspective and for all tastes. The promotion and dissemination of the municipality's potential, based on local roots and fulfilled through the Handicrafts Fair and Food Fair, Social Fair and Wine Fair, has been a solid investment, thus boosting the heritage, natural landscapes, the hospitality and friendliness of the people of Marco de Canaveses.

location: Municipal Garden
GPS: 41°11'06.10"N 8°08'52.63"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO CASTELINHO (OUR LADY OF CASTELINHO)

September 8

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of Nativity of Castelinho is one of the major religious events of Marco de Canaveses. Every year, thousands of people attend the festival and its processions. The

Candlelight Procession (on the 7th) opens the festival in honour of Our Lady, which takes the image of Our Lady from the Sanctuary to the Parish Church of Avedassadas. On the 8th, with the presence of the Stations of the Cross and a significant number of parishes of Marco de Canaveses, the morning procession takes the image of Our Lady back to the Sanctuary of Castelinho. At 17:00, the Procession of Promises to Our Lady takes place, around Penedo do Clamor (outcrop). It is an ancient pilgrimage, especially undertaken by pregnant women and mothers accompanied by their children to fulfil their promises and offerings.

location: Rua Nossa Senhora da Natividade
GPS: 41°09'23.02"N 8°10'16.05"W

contact
City Council of Marco de Canaveses
tel.: +351 255 538 800
e-mail: turismo@cm-marco-canaveses.pt
www.cm-marco-canaveses.pt
Sanctuary (Santuário) of Our Lady of Castelinho (Nossa Senhora do Castelinho)
e-mail: irmandade@senhoradocastelinho.pt
www.senhoradocastelinho.pt

MATOSINHOS FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHOR DE MATOSINHOS (OUR LORD OF MATOSINHOS)

51 days after Easter, beginning 2 weeks earlier

It is a high point amongst the festivals of the municipality and the north of Portugal, extending throughout almost three weeks of religious festivities and recreational, cultural and sporting activities. Thousands of lamps light up the festival space and the Church of Bom Jesus de Matosinhos, whose altars are artistically decorated with beautiful flowers. The temple (the work of Nasoni) holds sermons and Masses for festivals and solemn ceremonies, and it is here that the grand Procession of the Lord of Padrão (Good Jesus of Matosinhos) starts. Music bands enliven the streets and traditional bandstands; crafts are displayed, legends and traditions are evoked; the Inventory of the Architectural and Religious Heritage of Matosinhos is displayed, and fish and seafood recipe collections are disclosed.

Amongst the "Fogo de Bonecos" event (a set of pyrotechnic devices that move small figures representing the traditional occupations of the region) on Tuesday afternoon and the fantastic fireworks on Saturday night, there is also table football, merry-go-rounds and dodgem cars, "farturas" (strips of fried dough), grilled sardines and "caldo verde" (typical soup) or - another reason to attend the festival - traditional ceramics that can be purchased at the stalls in the Tableware Fair.

location: Main streets of Matosinhos
GPS: 41°10'59.1"N 8°40'59.4"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF MARTIR S. SEBASTIÃO (MARTYR ST. SEBASTIAN)

2nd weekend of July

The Festival in honour of St. Sebastian is a festival of the fishermen of Matosinhos. A majestic procession leaves the Main Church towards DocaPesca (fish market). Fishermen express all their devotion towards their patron saint and request a plentiful and safe sea. They dress their children in angels, carry the wooden platform with the image of St. Sebastian and adorn their boats so they and the sea can be blessed. On Sunday morning they attend a High Mass at the Church of Bom Jesus de Matosinhos. The religious festival does not end without a variety show and folklore groups, followed by a singular firework spectacle.

Location: Fish Market of Matosinhos
GPS: N 41.183781 O -8.695921

contact
City Council of Matosinhos
tel.: +351 229 390 900
e-mail: mail@cm-matosinhos.pt
www.cm-matosinhos.pt

MELGAÇO FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ASCENSÃO (OUR LADY OF ASCENSION) AND NOSSA SENHORA DA ORADA (OUR LADY OF ORATORY)

40 days after Easter, on a Thursday



The Municipal holiday of Melgaço is devoted to Our Lady of Ascension and celebrated, on the day before, with popular musical entertainment. As the celebration coincides with that of Our Lady of Oratory, on that day a Mass is celebrated in the Convent of Carvalhiças, followed by the figurative procession towards the Chapel of Senhora da Orada.

Location: Vila de Melgaço
GPS: 42°06'46"N 8°15'33"W

CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL

Sunday after the Corpus Christi's day

This celebration takes place in the Convent of Carvalhiças with a Mass followed by the procession of Corpus Christi through the main streets in town, adorned with colourful carpets of flowers.

location: Town streets
GPS: 42°06'46"N 8°15'33"W

MARCHAS DE SÃO JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S PARADES)

Saturday following St. John's Day

To celebrate St. John's Day, Melgaço offers locals and visitors the Popular and Night Parades of St. John - with several themes and performed by the schools and associations of the municipality.

The parade that runs through the streets in town takes place between Calçada and Hermenegildo Solheiro Square, where each participating group presents their chosen theme, along with their elaborate costumes and choreography.

location: Largo Hermenegildo Solheiro
GPS: 42°06'46"N 8°15'33"W

ST. BENEDICT'S FESTIVAL (SÃO BENTO)

July 11

Mass celebration in the Convent of Fiães, followed by a festive picnic traditionally held in the surroundings of the Convent of S. Bento (St. Benedict).

location: Parish of Fiães
GPS: 42°06'14.62"N 8°12'40.19"W

contact
City Council of Melgaço
tel.: +351 251 410 100
e-mail: geral@cm-melgaco.pt
www.cm-melgaco.pt

MESÃO FRIO ST. ANDREW'S FESTIVAL (SANTO ANDRÉ)

from 30 November to 8 December

From 30 November to 8 December, Mesão Frio honours St. Andrew, which attracts thousands of visitors every year. It is a famous festival throughout the region and

a symbol of the municipality. In this event, we can attend the horse and donkey races, see the cattle for sale and enjoy music and folklore groups, handicraft exhibitions, local cuisine and traditional products that entertain the town and the entire municipality during the first week of December. During these nine days of celebration, take the time to taste the traditional pork dish "marrã", the delight of visitors and one of the town's main attraction.

location: Avenida Conselheiro José Maria Alpoim
GPS: N 41.158721 O -7.891852

contact
City Council of Mesão Frio
tel.: +351 254 890 100/933 901 018
e-mail: turismo@cm-mesaofrio.pt
www.cm-mesaofrio.pt

MIRANDA DO DOURO FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ (OUR LADY OF THE CANDLES)

last weekend of April

On the last Sunday of April, the festival in honour of Our Lady of the Candles (Senhora da Luz) is celebrated in Constantim, Miranda do Douro. A religious celebration associated with commerce as it includes an international trade fair. An Outdoor Mass is celebrated, followed by a

procession around the chapel - the highlight of the festivities. This is one of the many festivals that take place in the municipality of Miranda do Douro. What makes it singular is the fact that it takes place at the border with Spain, acquiring thus an international nature.

location: Sanctuary (Santuário) of Nossa Senhora da Luz
GPS: N 41.633022 O -6.254970

FESTIVAL OF THE HOLY TRINITY (SANTÍSSIMA TRINDADE)

May 31

It is a religious festival where, after the Eucharist, the most highlight moments take place. The youth, especially boys, walk through the villages in groups holding large branches of trees, and then revolve around the chapel, shouting hurrahs. Often, these groups would clash with each other. In the early 20th century, there were major disputes, since the disagreements that would arise over the years were postponed for the Festival of the Holy Trinity.

location: Santuário da Santíssima Trindade
(Sanctuary of the Holy Trinity)
GPS: N 41.422377 O -6.409058

FESTIVAL OF SANTA BÁRBARA (ST. BARBARA)

3rd weekend of August

It is a religious festival, and the Eucharist takes place in the Cathedral of Miranda do Douro, followed by a majestic procession. At night, the folk festival takes place, followed by a firework spectacle.

location: Miranda do Douro
GPS: N 41.493.583 O -6.273684

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO NASO (OUR LADY OF NASO)

from 6 to 8 September

The Festival of Our Lady of Naso gathers thousands of people every year from all the villages of the Mirandese Plateau, considered one of the main celebrations of the region. In past times, the fact that it was regarded as a privileged moment for all to gather, a great fair was held that lasted several days. In fact, September 6 was reserved for the buying and selling of donkeys (a tradition that still remains to the present day). On the 7th and 8th, the general trade fair takes place, and on the 8th the Outdoor Mass in honour of Our Lady of Naso is celebrated.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa Senhora do Naso
GPS: N 41.588229 O -6.353858

contact
City Council of Miranda do Douro
tel.: +351 273 430 020
e-mail: geral@cm-mdouro.pt
www.cm-mdouro.pt

MIRANDELA

BOYS' FESTIVAL OF VALE DE SALGUEIRO IN HONOUR OF ST. STEPHEN (SANTO ESTÊVÃO)

Three Kings Day

On the Boys' Festival, in honour of St. Stephen, there is the figure of a King bearing a borrowed golden crown. During the festival, children are allowed to smoke while roaming the streets. The king runs through the village with a group of bagpipers and distributes lupins and wine in calabashes, receiving in return a donation for the festival. In the square people dance the "murinheira" (traditional dance) to the sound of bagpipes and drums. The festival ends with the celebration of Mass and the crown is placed on another villager.

location: Vale de Salgueiro
GPS: 41°35'18.46"N 7°14'06.28"W

contact
Parish Council of Vale de Salgueiro
tel.: +351 913 676 264/964 457 481

CITY FESTIVITIES AND FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO AMPARO (OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP)

from July 25 until the 1st Sunday of August

The City Festivities and the Festival of Our Lady of Perpetual Help have a religious and popular nature. The



Procession in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is the most important event for the devotees of the patron saint. Entertainment includes several musical performances, the Luminous March, the drums' night and culminates in a firework spectacle. The history of this festival dates back to 20 July 1794, when the "Juíz de Fora" (magistrate appointed from outside the municipality by the King of Portugal), António Pinto Ribeiro de Castro, ordered the organization of a festival in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa Senhora do Amparo
GPS: 41°29'02.06"N 7°11'13.85"W

contact
Confraria de Nossa Senhora do Amparo
tel.: +351 278 248 126

FESTIVAL OF SANTO ESTÊVÃO (ST. STEPHEN) AND THE "CARETOS"

25 and 26 December

On the 25th the events "Deitar os Jogos à Praça", "Roubar dos Burros" and "A Fogueira" take place, while on the 26th the "A passagem da Ciganada" or "As Madamas" are held. Boys dress as girls and girls dress as boys, and the "Bênção do Pão" and "Correr a Mourisca" take place, representing the struggle between Christians and Moors.

location: Torre de Dona Chama
GPS: 41°39'22.31"N 7°07'33.88"W

contact
Parish Council of Torre de D. Chama
tel.: +351 278 312 131

MOGADOURO FESTA DE SANTA ANA (ST. ANNE'S FESTIVAL)

1st weekend of July

Religious ceremony of invocation to St. Anne, Mary's mother. The 26th of July is dedicated to St. Anne and St. Joachim, parents of Mary. The festival in Mogadouro is celebrated on the first Sunday of July. The Small Chapel of Santa Ana is a place of pilgrimage at least once a year, and it is considered, within its more pagan nature, the "festival of the unmarried".

location: Rua Santa Ana
GPS: 41°20'13.00"N 6°43'25.57"W

contact
Comissão de Festas da Santa Ana
tel.: +351 279 340 100
e-mail: geral@mogadouro.pt
www.mogadouro.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO CAMINHO (OUR LADY OF THE WAY)

last weekend of August

A plan of the Small Chapel of Our Lady of the Way (Nosse Senhora do Caminho) already existed in 1762 and, at the time, it was located outside the town cluster, providing pilgrims with a vast space for the festival and where a market would take place. The festival in honour of Our Lady of the Way includes a very old pilgrimage. The cultural dynamics of Mogadouro in the second half of the 19th century would promote the establishment of the Brotherhood of Our Lady of the Way.

location: Avenida Nossa Senhora do Caminho
GPS: 41°20'32.70"N 6°42'41.66"W

contact
Comissão de Festas de Nossa Senhora do Caminho
www.senhoradocaminho.com

AZINHOSO FESTIVAL

1st weekend of September

The Azinhoso Festival was instituted by King D. Dinis during his visit to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Carrasco (Nossa Senhora do Carrasco) or Our Lady of Azinhoso (Nossa Senhora do Azinhoso). It was the year 1287 when, according to legend, the acclaimed royal visit bestowed this honour on the peaceful population of the parish of Azinhoso.

location: Azinhoso
GPS: 41°23'5.19"N 6°41'7.65"W



contact
Parish Council of Azinhoso
tel.:+351 279 342 221

MOIMENTA DA BEIRA FESTIVAL OF S. TORCATO (ST. TORQUATUS)

4th Sunday after Easter

The Festival of St. Torquatus is the largest and the most famous festival in the municipality. Every year, thousands of pilgrims attend this festival due to its tradition. The devotees say their prayers and make their requests, and it is tradition to place the Saint's hat (a three-cornered hat) on the head of the devotees that kneel next to the altar of the sacred image. Through the hat, St. Torquatus answers their prayers and the people believe that the gesture is "miraculous". As a way to express their gratitude, the pilgrims make the pilgrimage around the church, the chapel and inside it.

location: Sanctuary (Santuário) of S. Torcato
- Cabaços
GPS: 41°1'32.79"N 7°34'23.00"W

FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

from June 6 to 24

Popular festival with a varied programme, which includes

exhibitions, music, concerts, crafts, among other activities. On the 24th, there is a majestic and sublime procession in honour of the patron saint, with flower-covered wooden platforms and hundreds of biblical figures. These are taken through the procession's path, step by step, from the Main Church to the streets and narrow streets in town and returning once more to the Main Church, more than two hours later. Parades march along the main street in town, always to the rhythm of fanfare and the music bands. People enjoy this colourful, cheerful, lively and representative parade of the local ways and customs.

location: Moimenta da Beira
GPS: 40°58'50.1"N 7°36'50.0"W

contact
City Council of Moimenta da Beira
tel.: +351 254 520 070
e-mail: geral@cm-moimenta.pt
www.cm-moimenta.pt

MONÇÃO **FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA** **SENHORA DA CABEÇA (OUR LADY** **OF THE HEAD)**

from Easter Sunday to Tuesday

The pilgrimage of Our Lady of the Head (Nossa Senhora da Cabeça) takes place every year on Tuesday after Easter. This is a festival with



plenty of entertainment and many Spanish and Portuguese pilgrims, who will brighten their spirits in this charming village, two kilometres away from town, after getting tired of the adoration of Easter. After fulfilling their promises, the pilgrims will settle here and there, in the magnificent oak grove that surrounds the chapel and savour the delicious packed meals. The Pilgrimage of Our Lady of the Head is one of the largest and most popular festivals in the municipality.

location: Lugar de Bouças - Cortes
GPS: N 42.068997 O -8.52188

contact
Festival Commission
tel.: +351 938 843 857

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA **DA ROSA (OUR LADY OF THE** **ROSES)**

2nd Sunday of May

The Festival of Our Lady of the Roses (Senhora da Rosa) is one of the festivities most cherished by the community of Monção. The Youth Commission is responsible for the festival's programme. On Saturday night, starting at 9:30 pm, the Solemn Mass is celebrated at the Church of Mercy (Igreja da Misericórdia), followed by the Candlelight Procession through the main arteries of town, with the image of Our Lady of Roses being transported by young people.

At midnight, the locals begin to decorate the streets of the historical centre. The officials of the municipality, with the help of various elements of a Galician association of Pontareas, "decorate" Camões Square.

location: Praça Deu-La-Deu
GPS: N 42.078627 O -8.481692

CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL - **COCA'S FEAST**

weekend after the Corpus Christi holiday

Every year, Monção celebrates the Corpus Christi Festival - the "Coca's Feast".

All the Crosses and Banners of the parishes that compose the archpriesthood of Monção participate in the procession, with the respective Brotherhoods. After the usual route, the procession returns to the Main

Church and the people head towards Souto, where the tournament between good and evil will take place. The people gather around while the knight St. George, who represents Good, and the dragon known as Coca, which represents Evil, take positions. The tournament will last until the active participants are tired or the skill of St. George prevails, which is translated in the blows inflicted upon the Coca.

location: Praça Deu-La-Deu and Souto
GPS: N 42.078627 O -8.481692;
N 42.076346 O -8.478464

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA DORES (OUR LADY OF SORROWS)

3rd weekend of August

The Festival of the Virgin of Sorrows, one of the most authentic and genuine festivals of the Alto Minho, takes place between August 15 and 19, with five days of worshipping the image of Our Lady and various moments of entertainment, with a strong traditional, ethnographic and festive component.

The highlights of the festival, which gather thousands of people in the streets and balconies of the historical centre, are the Solemn Procession in honour of the Virgin of Sorrows on Sunday, around 6:00 pm, and the Solemn Procession in honour of the



Emigrant, on Monday, around 11:00 am. The mutual greeting and farewell of the bands, after the Sunday procession, is also noteworthy.

location: Praça Deu-La-Deu
GPS: N 42.078305 O -8.481237

contact
City Council of Monção
tel.: +351 251 649 013
e-mail: dec@cm-moncao.pt
www.cm-moncao.pt

MONDIM DE BASTO NIGHT OF THE PILGRIMS OF SANTIAGO

night of July 24 to 25

The night of July 24 was chosen by the City Council to set the Night of the Pilgrims of Santiago, in an attempt to recover the ancestral festival. Nowadays, it is one of the main events of the festival of the municipality of Mondim de Basto.



You only need to see them to understand it: beautiful young girls with their gold earrings and picnic baskets on their heads, the men wearing vests, with horse chains and a three-cornered hat with the stamp of Santiago. Folly, music and a throng of people accompany the picnic baskets along the street, with genuine delicacies and Basto's vinho verde (wine). There are popular dances until the wee hours of the morning.

location: Historical Centre - Municipal Garden
GPS: 41°24'40.17"N 7°57'12.02"W

contact
City Council of Basto
tel.: +351 255 389 300
e-mail: geral@cm-mondimdebasto.pt
www.município.mondimdebasto.pt

PILGRIMAGE OF SANTIAGO July 25

The pilgrimage of Santiago, an ancient tradition, marks Mondim de Basto and the top of Our Lady of Grace (Nossa Senhora da Graça) as the epicentre of the entire region. The payment of annual promises continues to be the great motivation of the pilgrims. They arrive at night on foot, excited by the music and the bucolic singing of the women of Basto. At dawn, they climb the sacred hill to attend the religious and profane celebrations. Through ancient routes and roads, they

return home, singing, dancing and partying along the way. Its existence is probably related to the old routes of the pilgrims who also went on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

location: Senhora da Graça - Mondim de Basto
GPS: 41°24'59.01"N 7°54'56.35"W

contact
Senhora da Graça
tel.: +351 255 381 404
e-mail: geral@senhoradagraca.pt
www.senhoradagraca.pt

MONTALEGRE **FESTIVAL OF SENHOR DA PIEDADE** **(OUR LORD OF PITY)** 1st weekend of August

The festival of Our Lord of Pity (Senhora da Piedade) takes place every year on the first Sunday of August. It begins with a procession, which starts in the town centre and ends in the chapel with the name of the patron saint. According to tradition, on this day, all the families of Montalegre have lunch in the fields surrounding the chapel: these are known as the "barrosãs snacks", a good reason for a cordial and large fraternization. In the middle of the afternoon, the always awaited "arrival of the oxen" takes place and at night, there is a feast with the firework show. Due to the fact that it is considered the municipality's festival, the Lord of Pity's

festivity lasts for several days, with a programme filled with recreational shows and ethnographic and cultural events.

location: Montalegre
GPS: 41°49'22.55"N 7°48'26.81"W

SENHORA DO PRANTO (OUR LADY OF TEARS) August 15

The festival in honour of Our Lady of Tears (Senhora do Pranto) is celebrated on August 15, the day in which "the Lady" is carried during a long and flowery procession. Salto has always been a land of Marian traditions and worship, as the documents referring to the parish attest. Believers from all over the parish visit Santa Maria de Salto, as well as pilgrims from the neighbouring municipalities of Minho and Boticas. According to oral tradition, due to the anticlerical reforms of the beginnings of the Republic the village became known only as Salto. Nowadays, is still known as (town of) Salto.

location: Parish of Salto
GPS: 41°38'21.29"N 7°56'43.43"W

contact
City Council of Montalegre
tel.: +351 276 510 200
e-mail: município@cm-montalegre.pt
www.cm-montalegre.pt



MURÇA **8 MAY FESTIVAL - MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY** from May 8 to 10

The Charter that was granted to this land of Murça in 1224 by King D. Sancho II is celebrated on this date. The religious celebrations include a Mass in the Main Church. As for the festival's great cultural activity, the performances of folklore groups, concertinas and traditional songs are noteworthy. The groups of Portuguese popular music, which cannot be forgotten, animate the nights of this town.

location: Parish of Murça
GPS: 41°40'81"N 7°45'37"W

VILA DE MURÇA FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS AFLITOS (OUR LADY OF THE AFFLICTED) AND S. DOMINGOS (ST. DOMINIC) 2nd weekend of July

It is the largest festival of the municipality of Murça, held in honour of Our Lady of the Afflicted and St. Dominic. The majestic procession in which dozens of wooden platforms are carried on shoulders up to S. Domingos Hill is the highlight of the celebrations. For two days, people from all over the region come to Murça to celebrate the memory of this people, in a mixture between the religious, traditional and pagan traditions.

location: Parish of Murça
GPS: 41°40'81"N 7°45'37"W

contact
City Council of Murça
tel.:+351 250 510 120
e-mail: gap@cm-murca.pt
www.cm-murca.pt

OLIVEIRA DE AZEMÉIS FESTA DE SÃO BRAZ (ST. BLAISE FESTIVAL)

February 2 and 3

The St. Blaise Festival, which has been taken place for decades, brings many foreigners who enjoy the festival and the cuisine to the parish of UL. Dedicated to the patron of those suffering from throat ailments, the festival takes place in the middle of winter in order to promote the traditions of the land and the art of hospitality. The Mill Thematic Park, a

"living museum" of the structures used to make the bread and for the milling of cereals is located nearby. In addition to being a pleasant place and appealing for tourists, the park is also considered a didactic and knowledge space.

location: Largo da Igreja - UL
GPS: N 40.81343 O -8.531102

contact
União das Freguesias de Oliveira de Azeméis,
Santiago de Riba-UL
Macinhata da Seixa, Madail and UL
tel.:+351 256 674 181
e-mail: geral@ufoaz.pt

EASTER FESTIVAL

Monday after Easter

The Easter Festival, also known as "Saltar o Rêgo", is a centuries-old tradition that attracts thousands of people. From horse races to the performance of the Music Band of Loureiro, to the numerous taverns and street vendors, the range of entertainment options is varied. The origin of this pilgrimage remains obscure, but it is thought to have begun with a simple joke: a donkey jumping over a furrow with water, and which later turned into a race of horses with rounds, as it still happens nowadays.

location: Largo da Alumieira - Loureiro
GPS: N 40.812136 O -8.532277



contact
Parish of Loureiro
tel.:+351 256 692 000
e-mail: junta.freg.loureiro@sapo.pt
www.junta-freg-loureiro.com

LA SALETTE FESTIVALS

1st Sunday until the 2nd Monday of August

The festival begins with a large Candlelight Procession, with the image of Our Lady of La Salette (unique), being taken from the Chapel of La Salette to the Main Church. It ends with the "Procession of Triumph", which brings together the Brotherhoods from all the parishes from the Vicar-General of Oliveira de Azeméis, transporting the image along the reverse route, back to the chapel. During the week there is a varied programme of activities.

location: Parque de La Salette
GPS: N 40.842.755 O -8.465.501

contact
Comissão de Festas de N.ª S.ª de La Salette
tel.: +351 256 688 082
e-mail: geral@lasalette.pt
www.lasalette.pt

SANTA LUZIA'S FESTIVAL

December 13

At the Festival in honour of St. Luzia, a large number of pilgrims and foreigners visit Cucujães, and the place and chapel with the same name. Patron Saint of those with sight problems, this festival begins with the procession where the Cachujanense Philharmonic Band is present. One of the highlights of this festival is the typical "jeropiga" (alcoholic drink), which can be bought at a small fair where the cuisine is also present, with smoked meats, sweet twist bread and other traditional sweets.

location: Santa Luzia - Cucujães
GPS: N 40.873103 O -8.511143

contact
Parish Council of Cucujães
tel.: +351 256 890 210
e-mail: jfcucujaes@gmail.com

PAÇOS DE FERREIRA FESTA DE S. BRÁS (ST. BLAISE FESTIVAL)

February 3



The festivities in honour of St. Blaise lead hundreds of people to this area of Frazão, which bears the same name. During the celebration days, it is possible to see many people, from young people to the elderly, who still remember the grandeur of the festival of other times. The festival lasts two days. The 2nd of February is the day of Our Lady of the Lanterns while February 3th is the day of St. Blaise. As in all popular and religious events, there are certain traditions that characterize them. St. Blaise is no exception and, although it is virtually no longer practised, the tradition of throwing confetti at everyone, similar to those seen during Carnival, still endures. A few dozens of years ago, the streets where the festival used to take place were expected to get completely covered with these confetti.

location: City Centre of Freamunde



CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL

from June 5 to 7

The Corpus Christi Festival and the festival of the city of Paços de Ferreira attracts numerous visitors to the municipality to watch the procession.

location: city centre of Freamunde

SEBASTIANAS

2nd weekend of July

In Portugal, the Sebastianas are the festivities of the city of Freamunde and are celebrated in honour of St. Sebastian (São Sebastião). It is an annual festival that always takes place on the second weekend of July. This festival, with over 115 years of history, kept increasing its importance and size. Initially, the Festival in honour of St. Sebastian had only a religious element, but over the years the festival evolved and became the Sebastianas that we now know. Nowadays, the Sebastianas are a mixture between a sacred and profane festival, with a strong cultural and entertainment component, without ever losing its popular roots. Over the last few years, it has increasingly received larger groups of visitors, thus becoming a tourist attraction with more than 120 thousand visitors.

location: City centre of Freamunde

SANTA LUZIA'S FESTIVAL

December 13

The Festival of St. Luzia takes place at the same time as the Capon Fair (December 13, in Freamunde). It is a festival that attracts many visitors looking for the famous Capon of Freamunde, considered one of the unique delicacies of Portugal. The capon received the attention of several authors, such as Gil Vicente, D. Francisco Manuel de Melo, Camilo Castelo Branco and Eça de Queirós, who mentioned it in their works as "Manjar dos Reis" (the Food of Kings). It is cooked Freamunde-style and it collects famous admirers, being the 13th day of the famous Capon Festival.

As the popular Portuguese proverb says: "From the capon, take the leg and from chicken, the breast", the writer Camilo Castelo Branco, author of *Amor de Perdição* [Doomed Love (1862)], advised people to dress it with old brandy and take it to table when the skin was perfectly crisp. Try it... you will not regret it.

location: City centre of Freamunde

contact

City Council of Paços de Ferreira
tel.: +351 255 860 700
e-mail: ciac@cm-pacosdeferreira.pt
www.cm-pacosdeferreira.pt

PAREDES

CITY OF REBORDOSA AND S. MIGUEL FESTIVAL

1st Sunday of July

Festival with a religious element, a Mass, a Solemn Procession and three processions of its three chapels. The festival also has a recreational aspect. Its highlights are the Choirs' Meeting, the Folklore Festival, the popular music shows and the firework display.

location: Alameda do Salvador
GPS: N 41.222247 O -8.411417

contact

Parish Council of Lordelo
tel.: +351 224 443 714
e-mail: jlordelo-prd@sapo.pt
www.cm-paredes.pt

CITY OF PAREDES FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF THE DIVINE SAVIOUR

July 17 to 20

Festival with a religious and recreational including a fire display. The city and municipality's Festivals in honour of the Divine Saviour (Divino Salvador) have a vast cultural and religious programme. The Solemn Mass and the majestic Procession in honour of the Divine Saviour are part of the religious programme. The cultural programme includes entertainment and folklore groups, as well as a parade of floats and schools

of samba known as "Marchas Luminosas" (Luminous Marches).

location: City Park of Paredes
GPS: N 41.209078 O -8.325009

contact

City Council of Paredes
tel.: +351 255 788 975
e-mail: fernando.salvador@cm-paredes.pt
www.cm-paredes.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF THE PATRON SALVADOR DE LORDELO

last Sunday of July

These are the largest festivals of the parish, with the celebration of a Solemn Mass and a procession. As for the entertainment, groups of popular artists, folklore groups and music bands take part in the festival. At the end, there is a firework show.

location: Praça da Comunidade
GPS: N 41.222185 O -8.411419

contact

Parish Council of Rebordosa
tel.: +351 224 155 303 / www.jf-rebordosa.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS CHÃOS (OUR LADY OF CHÃOS)

from September 7 to 8

This is an ancient festival. The cult of Our Lady of Chãos (Nossa Senhora dos Chãos)

began with a rural tradition. It is said that at a certain time of the year the farmers would go to the temple of the saint and asked for fertility for their lands and good harvests. This church was built in the 18th century. The people say that "Our Lady of Chãos, takes the food and offers the evenings" (the saying refers to the period when the days start getting shorter and the nights longer). The festival is known for the grand auction held on August 15 and the traditional sale of the "Casca de Carvalho" melons. In the past, a fair with chickens and natural products of the land also took place, but eventually disappeared. As for the religious aspect, the festival begins on August 30 with novenas and sermons and ends on September 7. On that day, at night, there is a Portuguese music show. On the 8th, the Festival Mass is celebrated with all the priests of this parish present. In the afternoon, there is a procession in honour of the patron saint. Afterwards, there is a feast at night with the participation of music bands. At the end, a firework display is held, together with the "vacas de fogo" (fire cows).

location: Largo da Senhora dos Chãos
GPS: N 41.227057 O -8.313316

contact

Parish Council of Paredes
tel.: +351 255 781 220
e-mail: bitaraes@freguesiadeparedes.pt
www.cm-paredes.pt



PAREDES DE COURA FESTIVAL OF S. BENTO DA PORTA ABERTA (ST. BENEDICT OF THE OPEN DOOR)

2nd weekend of July

Legend has it that, after the completion of the Chapel of S. Benedict, the saint was placed on the altar and the next day the chapel's door was found open. The door was closed once again, but it always reappeared open.

The Fraternity then decided to remove the wooden door and replace it with a lacy iron door, so the saint could look outside, hence the designation of St. Benedict of the Open Door. It is one of the festivals of the municipality of Paredes de Coura with the highest number of believers. The miraculous powers attributed to this saint who "removes" people's blackheads and warts attract the people from Paredes de Coura and from the neighbouring municipalities.

location: S. Bento - Cossourado
GPS: 41°55'55,21"N 8°37'43,15"W

contact
S. Bento
tel.: +351 253 390 180
e-mail: info@sbento.pt
www.sbento.pt/festas.php



FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO LIVRAMENTO (OUR LADY OF LIVRAMENTO)

last weekend of July

For many years, for the people of Paredes de Coura and the bordering municipalities, Our Lady of Livramento (Nossa Senhora do Livramento Festival) was the favourite place for the payment of promises or for "saving" young men from having to enlist in the military service or going Overseas. Nowadays, the saint is called upon to "deliver" people from the most varied evils.

location: Outeiro - Formariz
GPS: 41°55'28,26"N 8°35'10,61"W

FESTIVALS OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN HONOUR OF SANTO ANTÓNIO (ST. ANTHONY) AND NOSSA SENHORA DAS DORES (OUR LADY OF SORROWS)

weekend before or after August 10

In this municipality, during the weekend that precedes or comes after August 10 (Day of the Municipality), the Festivals of the municipality are held in honour of St. Anthony and Our Lady of Sorrows, where the religious and the profane merge into a unique entertainment event.

The procession, the highlight of the religious festivities, attracts believers and the feast, with its dancing music groups brings joy to the surroundings. People dance until fatigue tells them is time to rest.

The concertinas can be heard everywhere, and here and there are "cantares ao desafio" (singing challenges) and the rumbling and the glow of the fireworks, illuminating the sky.

location: Paredes de Coura
GPS: 41°55'28,29"N 8°35'10,61"W

contact
City Council of Paredes de Coura
tel.: +351 251 780 100
e-mail: contacto@cm-paredes-coura.pt
www.cm-paredes-coura.pt

PENAFIEL ENDOENÇAS FESTIVAL

Holy Thursday before Easter

The Endoenças Festival is an unusual festival, which takes place in Entre-os-Rios, on Holy Thursday. This Holy Week ceremony, which was

held practically everywhere in Europe, has a unique landscape, since the night procession of the Encounter (Encontro) must cross the Tâmega river, near the mouth of the Douro, which until the middle of the 20th century was only made by boat.

Location: Parish of Eja
GPS: N 41.051453 O -8.172853

CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL

July 4 to 7

Among the famous festivals and pilgrimages of Penafiel, the Corpus Christi Festival is still celebrated in the old fashion way (since the 16th century), in the streets, the day before “Cavalhada”, the “Serpe” and the Handicraft Feast, which with the “Estado de S. Jorge” and the “Boi Bento” will take part in the solemn procession.

Since the end of the 19th century, the Parade of the little Lamb is a parade of ornamented animals, one for each group of elementary school students, who festively offer it to their teacher as a celebration of the end of the school year, a memory of the payment made by the parents from other times, before teaching was made public. The Parade also goes through the city the day before.

Location: Penafiel
GPS: 41°12'24.610"N 8°17'0.924"W



ST. MARTIN'S FESTIVAL (S. MARTINHO)

10 to 20 November

The annual Festival and Fair of St. Martin (S. Martinho) in November is a cheerful time to visit Penafiel. All the streets are crowded with people and filled with vendors, selling the most varied goods.

It was the perfect time to buy what the household needed for the entire year, to sell surpluses, to pay the rural employees, to negotiate animals (cattle and horses) and, above all, to taste the new wine.

Location: Penafiel
GPS: 41°12'24.610"N 8°17'0.924"W

contact
City Council of Penafiel
tel.: +351 255 710 700
www.cm-penafiel.pt

PENEDONO PILGRIMAGE TO NOSSA SENHORA DA CABEÇA (OUR LADY OF THE HEAD)

last weekend of March

The Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Head takes place in the chapel bearing the same name. Thousands of pilgrims come here, essentially searching for the cure for what torments their heads. It has Eucharistic celebrations, processions during the day and

candlelight processions, a fair and much entertainment. The Festival of the Cattle on Sunday afternoon is one of the highlights of this festival. Shepherds take their herds, usually dressed in "colourful wool fringes", and go round the chapel asking for luck for their flocks and abundance of agricultural products.

location: Capela da Senhora da Cabeça
GPS: N 40.917706 O -7.382778

contact
City Council of Penedono
tel.: +351 254 508 174
e-mail: turismo@cm-penedono.pt
www.cm-penedono.pt

FESTA DE S. PEDRO (ST. PETER'S FESTIVAL)

June 29

Municipal Holiday. It is on this day that all the parishes of the municipality meet for the Ethnographic Parade. The day starts very early with the annual fair, followed by the Eucharist and the Procession. However, one of the highlights is, without a doubt, the Ethnographic Parade, where all the participants of the municipality, parish councils and associations take part in the parade. In the parade, each one tries to portray a tradition, histories and stories, or something that characterizes them. People celebrate



along the streets of the village, in a mixture of challenge and, at the same time, conviviality.

location: Rua Eiras de S. Pedro
GPS: N 40.986563 O -7.396566

ROMARIA DE SANTA EUFÉMIA (ST. EUPHEMIA'S FESTIVAL)

September 15 to 16

This is a great festival, where people from Beira and Douro come to fulfil their promises, shop at the annual fair and savour the famous "marrã" meat in the Festival of St. Euphemia. The first chapel dedicated to St. Euphemia (Santa Eufémia) in Penedono was built at the beginning of the 16th century and its cult quickly spread. In 1758, it was already a place visited by large numbers of people and one of the greatest devotions in the area. Nowadays, the Sanctuary of St. Euphemia is prepared to welcome thousands of pilgrims and tourists throughout the year.

location: Estrada de Santa Eufémia
GPS: N 40.999789 O -7.407672

contact
Santuário de Santa Eufémia
tel.: +351 254 505 093
e-mail: santaefemiapenedono@gmail.com
www.santaefemiapenedono.com

PESO DA RÉGUA FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO SOCORRO (OUR LADY OF HELP)

from August 1 to 16

It is in August that the Festivals in honour of Our Lady of Help - Douro Festival - take place. The festivities begin with the Francesinhas Festival in the first week of August, which gathers in the same event cuisine and music; the highlight of Socorro Festival is on the night of August 14 in the upper part of the city, where thousands of people gather in a merrymaking spirit; the Procession of Triumph distinguishes itself as the highlight of the festivities and the River Feast rivals with the country's best feasts.

location: Peso da Régua
GPS: N 41.1622785 O -7.791860

ASCENSION FESTIVAL

Ascension Thursday and the following weekend

The Festival of the Ascension takes place forty days after Easter Sunday on the Ascension Thursday and celebrates the Ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven after His Resurrection. In Godim, the religious festival merges with the popular traditions, being celebrated with the performances of folklore groups, with

"desgarradas" (impromptu songs), dancing and singing and a fair of traditional products in which the cheese is king. For this reason, this festival is also known as the Cheese Festival.

location: Godim
GPS: 41°10'16.83"N 7°48'11.79"W

contact
City Council of Peso da Régua
tel.:+351 254 320 230
e-mail: cmregua@cmpr.pt
www.cm-pesoregua.pt

PONTE DA BARCA FESTA DE SANTA RITA (ST. RITA'S FESTIVAL)

40 days after Easter

The Festival in honour of St. Rita takes place 40 days after Easter, in an 18th century sanctuary built in Her honour. This is one of the most important festivities in the municipality.

location: Santa Rita - Vila Nova de Muía
GPS: N 41.800424 O -8.392422

contact
Town Council of Ponte da Barca
tel.:+351 258 480 180
e-mail: geral@cmpb.pt
www.cmpb.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA PAZ (OUR LADY OF PEACE)

May 24

Religious festival in honour of the apparitions of Our Lady that occurred in Barral, in Vila Chã S. João, in 1917.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa
Senhora da Paz - Barral
GPS: N 41.797084 O -8.343865

contact:
Confraria de Nossa Senhora da Paz
tel.:+351 936 507 663/912 577 800
e-mail: mailconfrariasenhoradapaz@hotmail.com

ROMARIA DE S. BARTOLOMEU (ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S FESTIVAL)

August 19 to 24

Considered by many as the most genuine festival of the Alto Minho, St. Bartholomew (S. Bartolomeu) is one of the most important calling cards of Ponte da Barca. For six days, the town passionately embraces the most genuine traditions, ways and customs of this region. The cuisine, the folklore, the small taverns, the handicrafts, the Linen Fair, among many other events, gain space and importance during the festival. However, the great event of the festival happens on the night of the 23rd with the parade and the "Rusgas" performances in the streets, which attract the crowds and prolong

the merrymaking throughout night. The groups that gather around each other are the protagonists of the night, which is dedicated to popular dances and songs. Along with the concertinas, the drums, the "cavaquinhos" (ukeleles) and other traditional instruments, the "rusgas" come together, parading in the streets and forming circles of music players, with dancing and impromptu singing till dawn.

location: Ponte da Barca
GPS: 41°48'27.33"N 8°25'0.65"W

contact
Town Council of Ponte da Barca
tel.:+351 258 480 180
e-mail: geral@cmpb.pt / www.cmpb.pt

PONTE DE LIMA FESTIVAL OF SENHOR DO SOCORRO (OUR LORD OF HELP)

1st weekend of July

The Sanctuary of Our Lord of Help (Senhor do Socorro) was built in 1773. It has one single nave, a main chapel with a skylight and a Rococo façade with two towers. It has an imposing staircase flanked by a wall filled with biblical figures and angels. The traditional festival takes place on the first weekend of July, bringing together pilgrims and foreigners who come together to enjoy the festival: the drums announcing the festival, the music bands, the folklore



groups, the popular entertainment during the Saturday feast and the majestic procession on Sunday.

location: Avenida de Nosso Senhor do Socorro
- Labruja
GPS: 41°50'30,330"N 8°35'36,642"W

FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA BOA MORTE (OUR LADY OF THE GOOD DEATH)

last weekend of July

These are days of celebration, enjoyed by those who usually do not miss the chance to attend the various moments of the festival's programme. Here people ask for help in death, but life is also celebrated, with music, dancing and firework rockets. The Cattle Fair takes place on Saturday morning. In the afternoon, you can watch the performances of the music bands, and at night, there are popular dances and a firework show. The procession on Sunday is the highlight of this festival.

Location: Rua do Santuário da Senhora da Boa Morte - Correlhã
GPS: 41°44'16,320"N 8°36'9,408"W

FESTIVAL OF SENHOR DA SAÚDE (OUR LORD OF GOOD HEALTH)

1st weekend of August

The Festival of Our Lord of Good Health (Senhor da Saúde) is characterized by its popular religious nature and it is intended for people who wish to fulfil their promises. These devotees only entrust their health to God. This is the belief of those who seek the help of Our Lord of Good Health in Sá.

Location: Rua da Igreja - Sá
GPS: 41°46'26,846"N 8°37'13,474"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS DORES (OUR LADY OF SORROWS)

2nd weekend of September

On the second weekend of September, Ponte de Lima is decorated to welcome its greatest festival: the "Feiras Novas" (New Fairs). The festival has been held since 1826, by regal deed of King D. Pedro IV. Celebrated in honour of Our Lady of Sorrows (Senhora das Dores), the "Feiras Novas" festival offers the people of Ponte de Lima and the thousands of outsiders who visit it three days of joy.

In addition to music, folklore and firework shows, there is also space for livestock contests, races of "garranos" (small horses), the Ethnographic Parade, the Historical Parade, music bands, "gigantones" (giants) and "cabeçudos" (big heads), groups of drums and the procession that ends the cycle of festivals of the Alto Minho region. However, it is the people with their joy and spontaneity, their way of doing things and enjoying the festival, the "rusgas" performances and the "cantares ao desafio" (singing challenges), the folklore in any corner of town, that transforms the "Feiras Novas" into a unique single moment and into the festival that is considered the "largest live congress of popular culture in Portugal".

Location: Largo de Camões
GPS: 41°46'6,772"N 8°35'3,394"W

contact

City Council of Ponte de Lima
tel.: +351 258 900 400
e-mail: geral@cm-pontedelima.pt
www.cm-pontedelima.pt

PORTO FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

the entire month of June

The Festival of St. John (S. João) in Porto is already one of the most important landmarks in the city's life, and visitors and tourists are invited to take part in the activities happening all over the



city. The tradition of St. John's Festival in Porto was renewed and nowadays, it is passionately celebrated for six weeks, from May 24 to June 29. This is a festival made of many other feasts, congregating more than 200 events of great diversity and reaching its highlight on the night of June 23th to the 24th, in what many call the longest night of the year.

location: all over the city
GPS: N 41.140108 O -8.609554

contact
Porto Lazer
tel.:+351 226 199 860
e-mail: geral@portolazer.pt
www.portolazer.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)

last week of July until August 15

During this festival, in Arca de Água Garden and Campo Lindo Square, visitors can find carousels, food and drink, handicrafts, pottery, crockery and leather goods, among other items. There are daily concerts, so the entertainment never ends. The majestic procession takes place on afternoon of August 15 and the firework display takes place on August 14 and 15 at night.

location: Praça Nove de Abril and Largo do

Campo Lindo - Paranhos
GPS: N 41.171903 O -8.611972

contact
Parish Council of Paranhos
tel.:+351 225 020 046
e-mail: geral@jfparanhos.pt
www.jfparanhos-porto.pt

FESTAS DE SÃO BARTOLOMEU (ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S FESTIVAL)

August 24 or on the closest Sunday

Every year, at the end of August, celebrations are held in Foz do Douro in honour of St. Bartholomew (São Bartolomeu). The highlight of this festival is the typical parade with people wearing paper garments and following the ritual of bathing in the sea in the so-called holy bath.

location: Jardim do Passeio Alegre, Rua do Passeio Alegre
GPS: N 41.148365 O -8.671196

contact
União das Freguesias de Aldoar, Foz do Douro, Nevogilde
tel.:+351 226 180 513
e-mail: geral@uf-aldoarfoznevogilde.pt
www.jf-fozdodouro.pt

PÓVOA DE LANHOSO
ST. JOSEPH'S FESTIVAL (S. JOSÉ)
- MUNICIPAL FESTIVAL
from March 14 to 22



The Festival of St. Joseph (S. José) takes place in the municipal holiday, on March 19. This is one of the oldest festivals in Minho. Along with the religious nature of its celebrations, this festival also has a strong economic dimension that is brought to town by the merchants and an ever present sociocultural animation.

location: Praça Eng.º Armando Rodrigues
GPS: N 41.575754 O -8.269477

contact
City Council of Póvoa de Lanhoso
tel.:+351 253 639 700
e-mail: turismo@mun-planhoso.pt
www.mun-planhoso.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DE PORTO D'AVE (OUR LADY OF PORTO D' AVE)

Festival of Steaks and Melons
week before the 1st Sunday of September

From the previous week until the first Sunday of September of each year, one of the largest festivals in the region of Minho takes place in Porto d'Ave. Known as the "Festival of Steaks and Melons", this is also the Festival of Our Lady of Porto d'Ave, which has a religious nature and is held in the monumental Baroque Marian sanctuary.

location: Rua do Santuário
GPS: N 41.557416 O -8.222985

contact
Real Confraria de Nossa Senhora do Porto de Ave
tel.:+351 967 023 200
e-mail: geral@confraria-portodave.com
www.confraria-portodave.pt

PÓVOA DO VARZIM **PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)**

last weekend of May

The Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Boa Saúde) is the most emblematic religious celebration of the municipality of Póvoa de Varzim, which takes place on the last Sunday of May. Thousands of believers travel the seven kilometres that separate the Main Church in Póvoa de Varzim from the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health, in Laúndos, where a mass is held.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa Senhora da Saúde
GPS: 41°26'03,597"N 8°43'10,796"W

contact
Confraria Nossa Senhora da Saúde
tel.:+351 252 607 116

FESTAS DE S. PEDRO (ST. PETER'S FESTIVAL)

from June 25 to July 5

The Festival of St. Peter (S. Pedro) corresponds to a week of incredible animation, in which Póvoa itself takes to the streets. Streets decorated, "rusgas" performances, thrones, the bright clothes of the young girls, popular music, bonfires, sardines and the joy of the people of Póvoa transforms the city. On the night of the 28th until dawn, thousands of people have a good time while roaming the streets. On the 29th, many others scatter along the street to see the procession and on that same night, watch the "rusgas" performances, a unique moment of colour and beauty.

location: Póvoa de Varzim Streets - Bairro Norte, Bairro da Matriz, Bairro Sul, Bairro de Regufe, Bairro de Belém and Bairro da Mariadeira
GPS: 41°22'47,727"N 8°45'42,856"W

contact
City Council of Póvoa de Varzim
tel.:+351 252 298 500



e-mail: grpc@cm-pvarzim.pt
www.cm-pvarzim.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION)

August 15

On August 15, the Virgin is venerated in a grand event. One of the traditional ways of accomplishing this is to place on top of the masts of fishermen's boats their wives, daughters or fiancée's best scarf, as a tribute to the Lady who will bless them. Nowadays, the ritual is still performed, although the fishing class is highly reduced due to emigration. The highlight of the festival corresponds to the procession that finds its peak when, in front of the fishing port, the wooden platforms are placed facing the sea and thousands of fireworks are launched from decorated boats.

location: Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Lapa - near the fishing port
GPS: 41°22'25,71"N 8°45'39,90"W

contact
Parish of Lapa
tel.:+351 252 624 200

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS DORES (OUR LADY OF SORROWS)

from September 14 to 22

The Procession of Our Lady of Sorrows (Nossa Senhora das Dores) takes place on the third Sunday of September.

Every year, thousands of penitents of all ages and social categories, join the religious procession, mostly barefoot and with real size candles in hand or representative of the part of the body that they would wish to see cured. In this secular festival, in addition to the traditional festivities and the grand procession, one of its highlights is the typical and very crowded Crockery Fair (second and third week of September).

location: in the vicinity of the Church of Nossa Senhora das Dores
GPS: 41°22'51,900"N 8°45'24,867"W

contact
Confraria Nossa Senhora das Dores
tel.:+351 252 683 720

RESENDE FESTIVAL OF SANTA MARIA DE CÁRQUERE (ST. MARY OF CÁRQUERE)

4th Sunday of May

On the fourth Sunday of May, all roads lead to Cárcquere. A date already referenced in the 18th century, the devotion to Our Lady of Cárcquere is deeply rooted in the surrounding parishes since the Middle Ages. A procession is held with all the banners



of the parishes of the municipality, during which the Litany of All Saints is sang, praying for divine protection for the fields and crops, followed by an outdoor Mass.

location: Monastery - Cárquere
GPS: N 41.51428 O -7.572884

contact
Parish Economic Commission of the Parish
Church of Cárquere
tel.:+351 254 877 362

FESTIVAL OF SANTA MARIA DE BARRÔ (ST. MARY OF BARRÔ)

August 14 and 15

The festival usually starts on August 14 and lasts until the 15th. The solemn procession, on the afternoon of the 15th, stands out due to the great number of little angels and wooden platforms that join the procession, as well as the original wooden platform of Our Lady of Good Journey (Senhora da Boa Viagem). Every year people fetch this stone image from its small niche on the rocks of the left bank of the Douro river, with no shortage of necessary strength, ropes and stairs. According to tradition, the old skippers and the remaining sailors would bring the image in a boat built by themselves as a gesture of gratitude for the miraculous divine protection they received during the dangerous work on board the "rabelo" boats.

location: Rua de Santa Maria de Barrô - Barrô
GPS: N 41.129094 O -7.88262

contact
Comissão Fabriqueira da Igreja Paroquial de Santa Maria de Barrô
tel.:+351 966 314 238

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA GUIA (OUR LADY OF GUIDANCE)

second-to-last Sunday of August

The Feast of Our Lady of Guidance (Senhora da Guia) takes place on the second-to-last Sunday of August. It is also known as the Emigrant Festival, due to the great devotion of the emigrants to Our Lady of Guidance.

location: Lugar da Senhora da Guia - S. João de Fontoura
GPS: N 41.114926 O -7.921314

contact
Comissão Fabriqueira da Igreja Paroquial de S. João de Fontoura
tel.:+351 965 343 122
e-mail: manuelestesalves@sapo.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSO SENHOR DO CALVÁRIO (OUR LORD OF CALVARY)

last Sunday of August

The origin of this festival is quite old. It is thought to have begun in the 19th century, at the time of the extension



of the old Chapel of Our Lord of Calvary (Nosso Senhor do Calvário). The festival usually takes place on the last Sunday in August.

location: Largo da Feira – S. Martinho de Mouros
GPS: N 41.106001 O -7.895843

contact
Irmandade S. Francisco Xavier
tel.:+351 254 939 082

RIBEIRA DE PENA FESTIVAL OF SÃO PEDRO DE CERVA

from June 27 to 30

The Festival of St. Peter (São Pedro) is celebrated on June 29, but the festivity begins two days before. It is one of the main festivals of the municipality and, at this time of year, it is part of its festive calendar. The festival's programme is varied and includes the typical aspects of a

traditional Portuguese festivity, namely, groups of drums, music bands, a mass and solemn procession, folklore groups and the typical firework show. The festival is very cheerful, with nights filled with merrymaking.

location: Praça de Cerva
GPS: 41°28'25.29"N 7°50'49.75"W

contact
Festival Commission
tel.:+351 963 875 937

FESTIVAL OF THE DIVINO SALVADOR (DIVINE SAVIOUR) AND NOSSA SENHORA DAS ANGÚSTIAS (OUR LADY OF ANGUISH)

1st weekend of August

The festival of the Divine Saviour (Divino Salvador) and Our Lady of Anguish (Nossa Senhora das Angústias) is always accompanied by a mass, an auction, rockets, a firework display and plenty of entertainment with live music. The beautiful Main Church of the Divine Saviour, with the first consecration in 1793, houses the Divine Saviour and the Lady of Anguish. This magnificent monument is the place where, on August 18, 1841, Camilo Castelo Branco, at the time only 16 years old, was married for the first time. The girl was only 14 years old and was named Joaquina Pereira de França.



location: Praça do Município
GPS: 41°31'10.25"N 7°47'38.75"W

contact
Comissão de Festas
tel.:+351 968 112 854

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DE FÁTIMA (OUR LADY OF FATIMA)

from August 12 to 15

In honour of Our Lady of Fatima, who is venerated in a religious and profane festival on August 12, 13 and 14, the Balteiro Festival continues to attract many devotees and pilgrims that come looking for the traditional musical entertainment, such as the Balteiro Folklore group, musical groups and the Procession of Our Lady of Fatima. In addition, you can shop at the traditional and monthly "Feira dos 13" (Fair of the 13th).

location: Balteiro
GPS: 41°32'16.51"N 7°47'9.69"W

contact
Comissão de Festas
tel.:+351 963 691 594

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA GUIA (OUR LADY OF GUIDANCE)

from August 13 to 16

Consecrated patron saint of the municipality in 1952, Our Lady of

Guidance (Nossa Senhora da Guia) pertains to the devotion of the people of Trás-os-Montes and Minho, who every August 15 watch the procession and fulfil their promises around the chapel. The three days of the festival are accompanied with live music. Thousands of devotees and their beautiful wooden platforms take part in the procession, which goes from the Church of Santa Marinha to the chapel. The location of the chapel, on the slopes of Alvão, overlooking the Tâmega Valley, gives it a wonderful natural viewpoint. Camilo Castelo Branco may have attended the Festival of Our Lady of Guidance as well, which was as a source of inspiration to write the sixth of "Twelve Happy Marriages".

location: Fonte de Mouro - Santa Marinha
GPS: 41°31'58.81"N 7°46'1.37"W

contact
Comissão de Festas
tel.:+351 259 494 362

SABROSA FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHOR JESUS DE STA. MARINHA (THE LORD JESUS OF STA. MARINHA)

last weekend of May

The Festival in honour of the Lord Jesus of Santa Marinha is famous for being the first festival of the municipality of Sabrosa and, according to tradition, anyone who wants to be a

good pilgrim during the year cannot miss the Festival of the Lord Jesus.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) do Senhor Jesus de Santa / Marinha - Provesende
GPS: 41°13'43.1"N 7°34'24.38"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)

from August 7 to 10

The festival takes place between the 7th and 10th of August and its main day is the 9th, in which there is a Mass and a Solemn Procession in honour of Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Saúde), whose image is carried on a wooden platform with approximately sixteen meters in height.

location: Santuário de Nossa Senhora da Saúde
GPS: 41°31'41.67"N 7°59'19.44"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA AZINHEIRA (OUR LADY OF AZINHEIRA)

from August 14 to 16

The festival takes place on August 15 in São Martinho de Anta, the birthplace of the Portuguese writer Miguel Torga, who often in his books nicknamed Our Lady of Azinheira as Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Senhora do Amparo).

location: Santuário de Nossa Senhora da Azinheira - São Martinho de Anta
GPS: 41°28'08.33"N 7°61'72.22"W



FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHORA DO ROSÁRIO (OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY) AND SANTA BÁRBARA (ST. BARBARA)

from September 7 to 9

The Festival of St. Barbara and Our Lady of the Rosary (Senhora do Rosário) takes place on September 8 (municipal holiday). The Solemn Procession is noteworthy. It attracts thousands of people, mainly due to the image of Our Lord of Steps on the wooden platform. The platform, weighing approximately 950 kilos, is the most imposing and expressive one. It is carried on shoulders by the young people of the village along four kilometres.

location: Main Church of Sabrosa
GPS: 41°15'55.5"N 7°34'32.0"W

contact
Tourism Office
tel.: +351 259 939 575
e-mail: turismo@cm-sabrosa.pt
www.sabrosa.pt

SANTA MARIA DA FEIRA FESTIVAL OF THE FOGACEIRAS IN HONOUR OF THE MARTYR ST. SEBASTIAN (S. SEBASTIÃO)

January 20

The Festival of the Fogaceiras is celebrated on the municipal holiday, in fulfilment of a promise, which began

in 1505 and was made by the people to the Martyr St. Sebastian in order to end the pestilence that raged through these lands. In exchange for protection, the people promised the saint an offering of a sweet corn cake of wheat bread called “Fogaça”. The Festival of the Fogaceiras survived to this day due to the celebration of the Solemn Mass, preceded by the Blessing of the “Fogaças”, the Procession and the Civic Parade, which the “Fogaceiras” join - “impuberal children”, with white clothing and footwear, who carry the promised “fogaças” on their heads. In addition to the religious programme, the festival features a vast and diversified entertainment programme, which includes the participation of the population.

The Fogaça Fair’s Sample Showcase, in the castle, is noteworthy. It is promoted by the Fogaça Fair Producers Group with the purpose of raising the producers’ awareness concerning the importance of maintaining the original production process and the revenue, in compliance with current safety standards.

location: Main Church of Santa Maria da Feira
GPS: N 40.924457 O -8.541959

HOLY WEEK FESTIVITIES

week before Easter

The Holy Week in Santa Maria da Feira is more than just a religious event.



Over the years, it has become a social and cultural event. The celebration of the Holy Week involves the population of the city and the municipality and, above all, brings to Santa Maria da Feira visitors who come to explore the city, the municipality and the best of what this place has to offer.

location: Historical Centre of Santa Maria da Feira
GPS: N 40.552609 O -8.323042

contact
City Council of Santa Maria da Feira
tel.:+351 256 370 800
e-mail: santamariadafeira@cm-feira.pt
www.cm-feira.pt

SANTA MARIA DE PENAGUIÃO PROCESSION OF THE PENITENTS – ENCOUNTER

Sunday of Lazarus

This procession recreates the journey of Christ to the Calvary in an attempt to evoke the biblical narrative of the

Passion and the Encounter of Jesus with His Mother in the Way of the Cross. The procession leaves with the wooden platform of St. Mary, from the Marian Church, accompanied by the priest, the acolytes, the scouts and the faithful. It climbs the Church’s street until it reaches Cerrado Square. At the same time, the wooden platform with Our Lord of Steps leaves the chapel and, finally, the encounter between St. Mary and Her Son, Jesus, in Cerrado Square, occurs. After a short prayer, the procession heads towards the Main Church (where there are two altars - St. Mary and Jesus). Here, the final prayer is offered, and the Procession of the Encounter ends.

location: Sobrado - Sanhoane
GPS: N 41.230153 O -7.801474

FESTA DE S. PEDRO (ST. PETER’S FESTIVAL)

June 29

St. Peter (S. Pedro) is a popular saint. This day is also known as St. Peter’s Day and St. Paul’s Day. The date is celebrated in the month of the popular saints - June, and the tradition says that the people must celebrate the date by decorating the streets with several colours and basil. Popular dances and marches are organized in the streets, where there is always music. As for the cuisine, the grilled sardines, the pepper, the cornbread,

the “caldo verde” (typical soup) and the wine are the key elements of the festival.

location: Sobrado - Sanhoane
GPS: 41°11'55,09"N 7°31'55,20"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO VISO (OUR LADY OF VISO)

1st weekend of August and 1st weekend of September

The famous sanctuary is located in the parish of Fontes, but the festival belongs to the entire municipality and other neighbouring areas. It is the religious and profane festival “par excellence” of the people of Penaguião since ancient times. The festival has two distinct parts and out of step: one, on the first weekend of August (the festival dedicated to emigrants) with religious ceremonies, a music band, popular dances and a folklore festival; another, on the first weekend of September, also has a leisure aspect for those who do not have vacations and work the land and the vineyard all year long.

location: Lugar do Viso
GPS: N 41.228174 O -7.829327

contact
City Council of Santa Marta de Penaguião
tel.:+351 254 810 130
e-mail: geral@cm-smpenaguiiao.pt
www.cm-smpenaguiiao.pt



SANTO TIRSO FESTIVAL OF S. JOÃO DO CARVALHINHO

June 24 or the following weekend (according to the calendar)

A popular festival that takes place next to the Chapel of Monte de S. João do Carvalhinho, a wooded place, where you can enjoy a beautiful landscape. The festivity includes illuminations, fireworks and typical music groups. The religious element integrates a procession that leaves the Parish Church and heads toward the previously mentioned chapel.

location: Monte de S. João do Carvalhinho - Burgães
GPS: 41°20'29.9"N 8°26'49.9"W

contact
União de Freguesias de Santo Tirso, Couto
(Sta. Cristina and S. Miguel)
tel.:+351 252 860 970

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. BENTO (ST. BENEDICT)

June 11 and previous or following days (according to the calendar)

It is the main festival of the municipality of Santo Tirso, where the sacred and the profane are intertwined. It brings to the city thousands of devotees who make their pilgrimage to the Main Church, to fulfil their promises, offering eggs, salt and

carnations for this purpose. The 11th of July is St. Benedict's (S. Bento) day and a municipal holiday. Several solemn Masses are celebrated. The festival's profane side includes a significantly diversified programme, where the concerts are noteworthy, as well as the groups of drums, sports activities, ethnographic exhibitions and several firework displays. In the fairgrounds, there is a typical feast with all the characteristics typical of the region of Minho, wine tastings and snacks, handicrafts and entertainment.

location: Praça 25 Abril
GPS: 41°20'29.9"N 8°28'24.2"W

contact
Tourism Office of Santo Tirso
tel.:+351 252 830 411
e-mail: turismo@cm-stirso.pt
festasdesaobento@cm-stirso.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION)

August 15

This is a religious festival that attracts hundreds of pilgrims. People meet at the Old Chapel and, afterwards, a procession heads toward the Monastery of Our Lady of the Assumption (Nossa Senhora da Assunção), where the Solemn Mass is celebrated. At the end, there is an

exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, acts of adoration, a procession and a farewell blessing. The traditional open-air lunch with large packed meals takes place in the monastery's surrounding area, in the leafy "forest and living room".

location: R. Padre Miguel Miranda - Monte Córdova
GPS: 41°20'29.9"N 8°26'49.9"W

contact
Fraternity of Our Lady of the Assumption
tel.:+351 252 898 257
Parish of Monte Córdova
tel.:+351 252 898 145

SÃO JOÃO DA MADEIRA FESTIVAL OF THE PARK IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS MILAGRES (OUR LADY OF MIRACLES)

last Sunday of May

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Miracles (Nossa Senhora dos Milagres), a monument from the Neo-Romanesque period, set in a leafy park, was inaugurated in 1938 and exhibits in its interior an imposing crucified Christ in marble. The park, built with the donations of the population of S. João da Madeira, welcomes the Festival of Our Lady of Miracles in May. One of the festival's most important moments is the procession in Her honour.

location: Parque de Nossa Senhora dos Milagres
GPS: N 40.88809 O -8.48685

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. TIAGO (ST. JAMES)
last 2 weeks of June

It is the largest festival in the city, in honour of its patron saint. For a week, Avenida da Liberdade is closed to motorised traffic at night and is opened for the countless vendors and carousels, culminating in the usual firework display.

location: S. João da Madeira
GPS: N 40.896446 O -8.487217

contact
City Council of S. João da Madeira
tel.:+351 256 200 200
www.cm-sjm.pt

**SÃO JOÃO DA PESQUEIRA
FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S
FESTIVAL)**
from June 23 and 24

In order to revive the traditions of the “Joaninas Festival” in the municipality and in honour of the town’s patron saint, the municipality of S. João da Pesqueira (sometimes in partnership with local institutions) organizes several activities, namely the Popular Marches Competition, the Ethnographic Fair, and invites visitors

to go to the small taverns, where they can taste the typical grilled sardines during these festivities and enjoy all the entertainment.

location: Streets of Vila de S. João da Pesqueira
GPS: 41°08'49,11"N 5°24'23,17"W

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO MONTE (OUR LADY OF THE HILL)
1 September

The Festival of Our Lady of the Hill (Senhora do Monte) is an annual and popular festival with the characteristics of a festivity that attracts visitors to the municipality to watch shows, such as horse races and bullfighting, among other remarkable events. The main events are: Franca Fair, Horse Race, Bull Race and Tractor Gymkhana.

location: Streets of vila de S. João da Pesqueira
GPS: 41°08'49,11"N 5°24'23,17"W

contact
City Council of São João da Pesqueira
tel.:+351 254 489 999
e-mail: turismo@sjpesqueira.pt

**SERNANCELHE
FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)**
15 days after Easter, on a Sunday

In Fonte Arcada, the festival of Our Lady of Good Health takes place fifteen days after Easter and is preceded by the Preached Novena. The celebration became famous due to its procession, in which the ox carts transported the wooden platforms from the church to the chapel. At the same time, the sanctuary enclosure hosts a fair, just as in the time of the mediaeval fair, although today it has been adapted to modern times.

location: Nossa Senhora da Saúde
GPS: 40°57'49.49"N 7°31'11.42"W

contact
Parish Council of Fonte Arcada
tel.:+351 254 597 390
e-mail: j.ffarcada@gmail.com

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DE AO PÉ DA CRUZ (OUR LADY OF AO PÉ DA CRUZ)
May 3

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of Ao Pé da Cruz (Nossa Senhora de Ao Pé da Cruz), in Sernancelhe, takes place on the first Sunday of May. The day of the patron saint, celebrated on May 3, is also a municipal holiday. The celebrations, such as the mass, the popular and friendly get-together and entertainment take place in Santa Cruz Hill. The skydiving jumps in the festival’s grounds are already part of the festival’s tradition.

location: Nossa Senhora de Ao Pé da Cruz Monte de Santa Cruz
GPS: 40°53'20.06"N 7°29'23.35"W

contact
City Council of Sernancelhe
tel.:+351 254 598 300
e-mail: geral@cm-sernancelhe.pt
www.cm-sernancelhe.pt

PILGRIMAGE TO NOSSA SENHORA DA LAPA (OUR LADY OF LAPA)
June 10, August 15 and 2nd Sunday of September

There are two important moments during the pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lapa: June 10 and August 15. These pilgrimages are preceded by novenas, which work as a sort of open retreat and are very popular. Thousands of people visit that Marian shrine, moved by faith in the image of the saint, found by the shepherdess Joana under a cave. There is also a pilgrimage on the second Sunday of September, with a long-standing tradition. Considering the three pilgrimages, the August pilgrimage is definitely the largest.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa Senhora da Lapa
GPS: 40°52'12.53"N 7°34'30.56"W

contact
Santuário da Lapa
tel.:+351 232 688 993
e-mail: secretaria@santuariodalapa.pt
www.santuariodalapa.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS NECESSIDADES (OUR LADY OF NECESSITIES)

August 15

The festival in honour of Our Lady of Necessities (Nossa Senhora das Necessidades) takes place in Vila da Ponte. On the hill overlooking the village, one of the most amazing viewpoints in the entire municipality, hundreds of people gather to thank the blessings bestowed by their patron saint. The procession leaves the Main Church, covering approximately two kilometres until it reaches the chapel. The music band performance is indispensable, as well as the songs that echo along the slope of Monte da Senhora das Necessidades.

location: Nossa Senhora das Necessidades - Vila da Ponte
GPS: 40°54'46.63"N 7°31'22.73"W

contact
Parish Council of Vila da Ponte
tel.: +351 969 822 265
e-mail: jfvdp@portugalmail.com

TABUAÇO FESTA DE S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

from June 18 to 29

Local festival that gathers all the parishes in the Luminous March, which takes place in the night of June 23. On

June 24 (municipal holiday), St. John the Baptist's day is celebrated with a solemn Mass and a sermon, followed by a procession accompanied by a music band that goes through the town's main streets. These are decorated with the patron saints' wooden platforms from all the parishes of the municipality. Children dressed as biblical figures also take part in the procession. During all of the festival's days, the locals and visitors can enjoy the "tasquinhas" (small taverns), which have snacks and wines of the region and where there is no shortage of grilled sardines. You can also visit the handicraft fair. In the evening you can watch or dance to the sound of the performances of dancing groups until the wee hours of the morning.

location: Tabuaço
GPS: N 41.116898 O -7.565643

contact
tel.: +351 254 780 000
www.cm-tabuaco.pt

FESTIVAL OF SANTA MARIA DO SABROSO AND SANTA BARBARA

from August 14 to 17

It begins with a salvo of mortars and the accompanying of the *Priora* by the music band until it reaches the Main Church. The procession leaves the Main Church and heads toward the Church

of Santa Maria do Sabroso followed by a band. Afterwards, a Solemn Mass and a sermon are celebrated. In the afternoon, you can enjoy the performance of the traditional music groups. At night, people can watch the performance of a dancing group, and afterwards a firework display, marking the end of the festival.

location: Barcos
GPS: N 41.122517 O -7.598046

contact
Comissão de Festas de Barcos
tel.: +351 934 134 494

SANTA EUFÉMIA'S FESTIVAL (ST. EUPHEMIA)

September 14 to 16

A Solemn Mass is celebrated with a sermon in the Main Church, followed by a procession through the main streets of the parish, adorned with a few saints' wooden platforms, in which St. Euphemia's platform stands out. These platforms are carried on shoulders by the locals, accompanied by a music band. During the afternoon, there are performances by traditional music groups and the performance of a dance group in the evening. The festival ends with a firework show.

location: Pinheiros
GPS: N 41.102978 O -7.611051



contact
Comissão de Festas de Pinheiros
tel.:+351 937 584 838

ST. LUZIA'S FESTIVAL

December 13

On this day, a Mass is celebrated with a sermon in the Chapel of St. Luzia, followed by a procession that goes around the grounds with the Saint's wooden platform.

An auction of hunting catches is held at the end. During the afternoon, there will be performances by traditional music groups. The fair is held by street vendors and it is tradition to drink "jeropiga" (alcoholic drink) with grilled meat.

location: Sendim
GPS: N 41.053291 O -7.553644

contact
Comissão de Festas de Sendim
tel.:+351 960 383 051

TAROUCA S. PEDRO'S FESTIVAL (ST. PETER)

Last week of July

The Festival in honour of St. Peter (S. Pedro) is celebrated at the end of June (on the 29th), patron of the parish of Tarouca and of the municipality's seat. Religious ceremonies, music, fireworks



and plenty of entertainment animate this event that takes place in the municipality every year.

location: Civic Centre of the city of Tarouca
GPS: 41°1'6.57"N 7°46'34.68"W

FESTIVAL OF SANTA HELENA DA CRUZ

2nd week of July

For nine days, Santa Helena Mountain welcomes the people during the traditional *novenas*. The highlight of the festivities takes place on the second Sunday of July, with the Eucharist usually presided over by the Bishop of Lamego, followed by the Blessing of the Fields and the Farewell Procession. The traditional Annual Fair is also held on the day of the festival.

The singularity of the celebrations in honour of Santa Helena da Cruz attracts hundreds of visitors annually to the summit of the Mountain, and there is even the tradition of staying overnight in the vicinity of the sanctuary during the days of the festival.

location: Serra de Santa Helena
GPS: 41°0'5.96"N 7°47'40.69"W

ST. MICHAEL'S FESTIVAL (S. MIGUEL)

last week of September

The festival of the municipality in honour of St. Michael (S. Miguel) takes place at the end of September. The event animates and stimulates the municipality. The festival includes an extremely diversified programme, from the traditional Annual Fair on St. Michael's Day (September 29th) to the Parade (with a different theme every year), shows and plenty of entertainment.

location: Civic Centre of the city of Tarouca
GPS: 41°1'6.57"N 7°46'34.68"W

contact
City Council of Tarouca
tel.:+351 254 677 420
e-mail: camara@cm-tarouca.pt
www.cm-tarouca.pt

TERRAS DE BOURO FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO LIVRAMENTO (OUR LADY OF LIVRAMENTO)

1st Sunday of July

The parish of Vilar, in the municipality of Terras de Bouro, celebrates the festival of Our Lady of Livramento (Nossa Senhora do Livramento) on the first Sunday of July.

From the festivals, we can highlight various religious events, namely the Candlelight Procession at the beginning of the night and the procession with the wooden platform of Our Lady of Livramento heading

towards the sanctuary, with a stop near the Calvary of Our Lord of the Afflicted (Senhor dos Aflitos). The eucharist and sermon are celebrated after the procession. Similarly, the musical groups and the firework show highlight these festivities. The Chapel of Our Lady of Livramento, built between the 17th and 18th centuries, is a small sanctuary that, peculiarly, has a box of mortars - a small artillery piece - of dry powder, which is used to announce the festivities to the neighbouring peoples.

location: Parish of Vilar
GPS: 41°43'38.06"N 8°16'56.88"W

MUNICIPAL FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. BRÁS (ST. BLAISE)

from August 6 to 10

The municipality of Terras de Bouro promotes, as it is tradition, from August 6 to 10, another edition of the Municipal Festival in honour of St. Blaise (S. Brás). The parades in the streets and the traditional street entertainment are noteworthy, as well as the parades of the folklore groups that take part in the Municipal Folklore Festival, the "circles" made by groups of concertina's players that animate the streets, the philharmonic bands, the popular music singers, the

"Corrida de Cavalos de Passo Travado" (a specific type of horse race), the Fair Franca, the futsal games of the final round of the Futsal Tournament, the important religious ceremonies and the firework shows - all these events come together and sum up a lively and varied festive programme.

Place: Praça do Município
GPS: 41°43'8.72"N 8°18'29.55"W

contact
City Council of Terras de Bouro
tel.:+351 253 350 010
e-mail: geral@cm-terrasdebouro.pt
www.cm-terrasdebouro.pt

FESTIVAL OF S. BENTO DA PORTA ABERTA (ST. BENEDICT OF THE OPEN DOOR)

from August 10 to 15

This is a typical festival representative of the popular and traditional culture of the people, with a religious aspect based in the fulfilment of promises to the S. Benedict (S. Bento), a Solemn Mass, a sermon and the Majestic Procession, with wooden platforms with natural flowers and participants. As a form of entertainment, people can watch the performances of the music bands and the various groups of concertinas. On the nights of August

12 and 13, the famous firework show takes place.

location: Rua 1, São Bento
GPS: 41°41'23.2"N 8°12'14.2"W
contact
S. Bento da Porta Aberta
e-mail: geral@sbento.pt
www.sbento.pt

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SANTA EUFÉMIA (ST. EUPHEMIA)

3rd weekend of August

On the third weekend of August, the town of Gerês celebrates the Festival in honour of St. Euphemia (Santa Eufémia), thus honouring the patron saint of the parish. The festivities hope to show the traditions that characterize the culture and the importance that the religious events have at a local level. For three days, the musical component, the religious events and the promotion of local products are always present and complete a lively and varied festive programme.

location: Vila do Gerês
GPS: 41°43'45.44"N 8°9'42.12"W

contact
Gerês
tel.:+351 253 391 313
e-mail: vivergeres@gmail.com
www.geres.pt

TORRE DE MONCORVO ST. JOSEPH'S DAY (S. JOSÉ)

March 19

The celebration of the municipal holiday, dated March 19, was proposed in 1980, as it is St. Joseph's (S. José) Day and a festive day in the area. However, it was only in 1981 that the first commission was created to promote the first festivals of this holiday, which has been held until the present day. The festive programme is very diversified, from parades in the streets, followed by Flying the National Flag and the municipal event in the Town Hall, with the participation of the Choir and the Cavaquinhos Group from the Sabor Artes Municipal School; the 788 Scout Group; the Volunteer Fire Department of Moncorvo and the National Republican Guard, the Procession and the Solemn Mass in honour of St. Joseph, a tribute to the retired employees of the municipality and the performance of the philharmonic bands and music groups.

location: Historical Centre of Vila de Torre de Moncorvo
GPS: N 41.17403 0-7.05235

contact
City Council of Torre de Moncorvo
tel.:+351 279 200 220
e-mail: geral@torredemoncorvo.pt
www.torredemoncorvo.pt

**TOWN AND MUNICIPALITY'S
FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA
SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO (OUR
LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION)**

from August 12 to 15

One of the earliest known references about the Festival of Our Lady of the Assumption in Torre de Moncorvo appears in a Provision of 1695 - "so that on the day of Our Lady of the Assumption the Council holds a Feast in the Church...". From 1695 to 1973, the festivals in honour of Our Lady of the Assumption (Nossa Senhora da Assunção) have been held in this town. After an interruption period of thirteen years, the festivities were resumed in 1986 and are still celebrated today. The festive programme is extremely diversified, with firework shows, philharmonic bands' parades and dancing to the rhythm of musical groups. On the 15th, the religious element dominates the festivities, with a Solemn Mass and a Procession in honour of the patron saint Our Lady of the Assumption.

location: Historical Centre of Vila de Torre de Moncorvo
GPS: N 41.17403 O -7.05225

contact
Comissão de Festas em Honra de Nossa Senhora da Assunção
tel.:+351 963 121 466



**FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA
DO AMPARO DE FELGAR (OUR
LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP OF
FELGAR)**

second-to-last weekend of August

The festival takes place in the parish of Felgar. According to tradition, Commander Pires, while in open sea and in the midst of a storm, promised to build a chapel in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help if She helped him. So it was, and every year, on the second-to-last Sunday of August, the great festival in honour of the Lady of Perpetual Help (Senhora do Amparo) is held in the beautiful and airy sanctuary. The festival's programme is filled with music and entertainment, in which the grand procession stands out.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa Senhora do Amparo - Felgar
GPS: N 41.21261 O -6.95964

contact
Mordomia de Nossa Senhora do Amparo
tel.:+351 967 251 131
e-mail: senhora.do.amparo.felgar@gmail.com

**ST. MARTIN'S FESTIVAL
(S. MARTINHO)**

the nearest Saturday of November 11

The festival takes place in the parish of Maçores. In the morning, the religious element dominates the

festivities, with a Eucharistic celebration and procession, in which the wooden platform with the image of the noble saint stands out. During the festive day, groups of men make a large "magusto" (a feast where chestnuts are roasted) in the community threshing floors. After the chestnuts are roasted and bagged, a wine boiler is filled, and they travel the village to distribute the "bilhós" (shelled roasted chestnuts) and the wine that is drunk using the boiler as the ritual dictates, accompanied by the bagpiper and lately, also by the accordion. The men take several walks around town, singing songs related to this festival.

location: Maçores
GPS: N 41.12635 O -7.00579

contact
Comissão de Festas em honra de S. Martinho
tel.:+351 963 121 466

**TROFA
PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF ST.
GONÇALO (SÃO GONÇALO)**

second-to-last Sunday of January

The Pilgrimage in honour of St. Gonçalo is held on the second-to-last Sunday of January in Covelas. Thousands of pilgrims make this pilgrimage - many of whom are organized in groups, travelling on foot, by horse and by bicycle - driven by the

sacred and profane festivities held around the image of the saint and the chapel. During the liturgical celebrations, the pilgrims - who are fond of traditional cuisine - fraternize around the packed meals they brought from home or bought in the local taverns, which include the well-known "papas de sarrabulho" (a pulp made of pig's blood and giblets) and the fried pork meat, among other dishes, accompanied by "vinho palhete novo" (a type of wine).

location: Rua Central, Covelas
GPS: 41°17'52.65"N 8°32'6.96"W

contact
Parish House of Covelas
tel.:+351 229 827 047

FESTIVAL OF THE DIVINO ESPÍRITO SANTO (DIVINE HOLY SPIRIT)

7th week after Easter

The Festival of the Divine Holy Spirit (Divino Espírito Santo) takes place in the seventh week after Easter, in two different parishes: S. Martinho de Bougado and S. Mamede do Coronado.

location: S. Martinho de Bougado: Rua Dom Pedro V, – Parque Nossa Senhora das Dores and Dr Lima Carneiro
S. Mamede do Coronado: Rua do Espírito Santo
GPS: S. Martinho: 41°20'11.61"N 8°33'37.24"W
S. Mamede: 41°16'10.5"N 8°34'27.2"W



contact
Parish House of S. Martinho de Bougado
tel.:+351 252 412 883
www.nsdoestrofa.com
Parish House of S. Mamede do Coronado
tel.:+351 229 827 900

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS DORES (OUR LADY OF SORROWS)

August 16

Considered one of the largest pilgrimages in northern Portugal, the festival in honour of Our Lady of Sorrows (Nossa Senhora das Dores) is held annually in August (third Sunday). The traditional and centuries-old procession, unique for the grandeur of its wooden platforms, attracts thousands of visitors to Trofa. It also includes a seed fair and the festivities last several days, preceded by a cultural week. The festival has almost 250 years of history and is organized

every year by a commission of volunteers, who come from the various villages that are part of the parish of São Martinho de Bougado.

location: S. Martinho de Bougado
GPS: 41°20'11.61"N 8°33'37.24"W

contact
Parish House of S. Martinho de Bougado
tel.:+351 252 412 883
www.nsdoestrofa.com

ST. EUPHEMIA'S FESTIVAL

3rd Sunday of September

The festival of St. Euphemia (Santa Eufémia) is held annually on the third Sunday of September in Alvarelhos. Every year, the devotion to the Saint leads thousands of people to Santa Eufémia Hill, in particular, people from the fishing communities of northern Portugal, especially from Espinho, Matosinhos, Vila do Conde and Póvoa de Varzim.

The cultural programme of the festivities includes the "rusgas" performances in honour of the saint, the Melon, Garlic and Onions Fair, the Concertina Festival, the "Cantares ao Desafio" (singing challenges) and the philharmonic bands' competition.

location: Av. Santa Eufémia, Monte Grande
Santa Eufémia - Alvarelhos
GPS: 41°18'38.67"N 8°37'44.90"W

contact
Parish House of Alvarelhos
tel.:+351 229 827 047

VALE DE CAMBRA FESTA DE SANTO ANTÓNIO (ST. ANTHONY'S FESTIVAL)

June 12

The people of Vale de Cambra have always celebrated St. Anthony's Day, the patron saint of Vale de Cambra. In addition to the religious ceremonies, the mass and the procession, there is a varied number of activities and entertainment events that actually transform the urban centre for a few days.

location: Praça Comendador Álvaro Pinho Costa Leite
GPS: 40°50'58.15"N 8°23'40.02"W

contact
City Council of Vale de Cambra
tel.:+351 256 420 510
e-mail: geral@cm-valedecambra.pt
www.cm-valedecambra.pt

FESTIVAL OF S. PEDRO DE CASTELÕES

June 29

The highlight of the Festival of St. Peter (S. Pedro), in the town of São Pedro de Castelões, is on June 29, marked mainly by the religious ceremonies.

Throughout the festivities, you can also enjoy the local cuisine, of which stands out: the farmer's style fried pork meat, "papas de sarrabulho" (a pulp made of pig's blood and giblets), "caldo verde" (typical soup) and also the famous "vinhos verdes" (wine) of the region.

location: Praça de S. Pedro, S. P. Castelões
GPS: 40°49'42.85"N 8°23'52.80"W

contact
Parish Council of S. Pedro de Castelões
tel.:+351 256 463 043

PILGRIMAGE IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)

August 15

Located on the top of Arestal Mountain, in Lugar de Gestoso, stands the 18th century chapel in honour of Our Lady of Good Health, which was rebuilt in 1782. Every year, the Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Saúde) is held here, from August 14 to 15. This sanctuary was sighted in the Atlantic by the fishermen who, on stormy nights, would ask Our Lady of Good Health for help. During the festival's days, the fisherman would make the pilgrimage to thank Our Lady for Her protection.

location: Parque Nossa Senhora da Saúde - Gestoso, S. Pedro de Castelões
GPS: 40°48'4.59"N 8°22'56.68"W



contact
Irmandade Nossa Senhora da Saúde
tel.:+351 256 462 072

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA NATIVIDADE (OUR LADY OF NATIVITY)

September 8

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of Nativity (Nossa Senhora da Natividade) is celebrated in Vila de Macieira de Cambra. These celebrations bring together the religious and the pagan festivities in a festival in honour of their patron saint.

location: Praça da República - Macieira de Cambra
GPS: 40°51'22.72"N 8°22'38.14"W

contact
Parish Council of Macieira de Cambra
tel.:+351 256 463 66

VALENÇA FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA CABEÇA (OUR LADY OF THE HEAD)

Easter Monday and Tuesday

Traditional Galician-Portuguese festival, in which the "Lanço da Cruz" ceremony, held in the waters of the Minho river on Easter Monday, is noteworthy.

location: Cristêlo - Covo
GPS: 42°01'31.13"N 8°39'23.41"W

FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DO FARO (OUR LADY OF FARO)

August 15

The Pilgrimage starts in the Church of Santo Estevão (inside the wall) and heads toward the Chapel of Our Lady of Faro (Senhora do Faro), a route of approximately eight kilometres. The religious ceremonies take place after the pilgrimage reaches the chapel. Afterwards, people will spend the day together in the park where they have lunch, savouring the traditional packed meals. During the afternoon, people can enjoy musical performances.

location: Monte do Faro
GPS: 42°01'07.57"N 8°35'47.17"W

WINTER FESTIVALS

1st week of September

Popular pilgrimage with a penitential procession, which covers a distance of nearly six kilometres.

location: Cerdal
GPS: 41°58' 38.73"N 8°35'31.28"W

contact
City Council of Valença
tel.:+351 251 809 500
e-mail: geral@cm-valenca.pt
www.cm-valenca.pt

VALONGO

SENHOR DOS PASSOS (OUR LORD OF STEPS)

4th Sunday of Lent

Every year, on the fourth weekend of Lent, the traditional and impressive Festivities of the Holy Stages of the Passion of Christ take place along the streets of the oldest part of the city of Valongo. The Procession of Our Lady of Solitude (Senhora da Soledade) is held on Saturday night, at 9:30 pm. The Majestic Procession of Our Lord of Steps takes place on Sunday afternoon, at 4:00 pm. One of the highlights of the ritual is the Encounter between Jesus and Mary, near the Padrão Cross (National Monument). The tercentenary processions, with high religious significance, began in 1710, in Valongo. The Confraria de Senhor dos Passos was the driving force of these events. When the weather conditions do not allow it, the ceremonies are postponed until the next weekend.

location: Historical and central area of Valongo
GPS: 41°11'21.75"N 8° 29'50.58"W

contact
Senhor dos Passos
e-mail: senhordospassosvalongo@gmail.com
www.procissoes-santos-passos-valongo.blogspot.pt

ST. RITA'S FESTIVAL

2nd Sunday of June

Every year, the Festival of St. Rita takes place on the second Sunday in June, in the

Church of Our Lady of Bom Despacho (Senhora do Bom Despacho), also known as the Church of St. Rita, annexed to the former Convent of Formiga, in the city of Ermesinde. The festival is very popular and attracts pilgrims and walkers from the entire region. The procession in honour of St. Rita, defender of the impossible causes, accompanied by little angels and wooden platforms with other images, takes place in the temple's neighbouring churchyard. Along with the religious ceremonies, there are entertainment events and a large number of vendors and shopkeepers who, from Friday to Monday, offer visitors a wide range of products.

location: Avenida Eng.º Duarte Pacheco
Ermesinde
GPS: 41°12'21.73"N 8°32'31.06"W

contact
Parish of Ermesinde (S. Lourenço)
Church of St. Rita
tel.:+351 229 773 694
Parish Council of Ermesinde
tel.:+351 229 737 973

THE BUGIADA AND MOURISCADA OF S. JOÃO DE SOBRADO

June 24

Every year, on St. John's (S. João) day, an unusual tradition is celebrated once again. This tradition is known as "Bugiadas" and "Mouriscadas" and for



one day, from early in the morning until late in the afternoon, it marvels the visitors with rituals, dances, rattling noises, humour, colour and joy. A "battle" takes place between the "Bugios" and the "Mourisqueiros", with several hundred extras that are also involved in this celebration, which has put forward a candidacy to integrate the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In addition to the rituals of St. John's Day, the festivities in honour of the saint take place over several days, with a lot of fun, night outs and shows, and always with plenty of fireworks.

location: Largo do Passal - Sobrado
GPS: 41°12'35.02"N 8°27'41.67"W

contact
Casa do Bugio; Parish Council of Campo and Sobrado - (Sbd)
tel.:+351 224 111 223
www.saojoaosobrado.wordpress.com
www.candidaturadabugiadaemouriscada.com

Parish of Sobrado (Sto. André)
tel.:+351 224 111 234

SENHORA DO AMPARO (OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP)

last Sunday of July

Traditionally, the Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Senhora do Amparo) is held on the last Sunday of July. On Saturday night of the previous week, during a candlelight procession, the image of Our Lady is moved to the Main Church. In the morning of the day of the festival, the image returns to its sanctuary once more, accompanied by several wooden platforms in a Majestic Procession. In the afternoon, people can enjoy a show, in which the performances of the local folklore group and music bands stand out. An elegant flowery carpet, about two kilometres long, laid between the Main Church and the sanctuary, characterizes this festival, becoming one of its calling cards and revealing the devotion and dedication of the people of Alfena.

location: Rua Nossa Senhora do Amparo
Alfena
GPS: 41°14'44.87"N 8°30'46.38"W

contact
Parish of Alfena (S. Vicente)
tel.:+351 229 670 062



VALPAÇOS FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)

1st Sunday of September

The festival in honour of Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Saúde) is the synonym of diversified entertainment during the week that precedes the first Sunday of September. Among the many musical and sports shows, the highlight of these festivities is the majestic procession on Saturday, starting at the Main Church, going through the main arteries of the city and ending at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de Nossa Senhora da Saúde

GPS: N 41.613433 O -7.300445

contact

City Council of Valpaços

tel.:+351 278 710 130

e-mail: gap@valpacos.pt

www.valpacos.pt

VIANA DO CASTELO FESTIVAL OF ROSES IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DO ROSÁRIO (OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY)

2nd weekend of May

Traditionally, the Festivals of Viana do Castelo begin in May, with this Festival in Vila Franca, which is always held on

the weekend of the second Sunday of May. The festival's highlight is the Flowery Baskets Parade. The baskets are made with stems, leaves, buds and petals of natural flowers and the "mordomas" (women dressed in traditional costumes) carry them on their heads and offer them to Our Lady of the Rosary (Nossa Senhora do Rosário). The traditional Folklore Festival, which takes place during this festival, has welcomed national and international groups and takes part in the Festival of Roses, displaying an immense diversity of costumes, ways and customs. The presence of national and international philharmonic bands is also a common aspect of the festival. In Vila Franca, there is no shortage of vendors, confectioners and the famous taverns of food and drinks. There is also entertainment for all ages, among many other attractions that make the Festival of Roses the highlight of this parish.

location: Vila Franca do Lima

GPS: N 41.682424 O -8.738285

contact

Parish Council of Vila Franca

tel.:+351 258 332 008

e-mail: jfvilafranca@gmail.com

www.jf-vilafranca.com



SANTA CRUZ FESTIVAL-FLOWERY WOODEN PLATFORMS OF ALVARÃES

40 days after Easter

The Santa Cruz Festival-Flowery Wooden Platforms of Alvarães is one of the most poetic manifestations of faith, culture and folk art of Viana do Castelo, included in the flower cycle of Viana, which is a true glimpse of the colour and perfume of wild flowers. Every year, the embroidery of this popular art inspires the people of Alvarães to create eleven admirable wooden platforms, covered with flower petals that are glued one by one and fourteen equally embroidered crosses. It is difficult to describe the polychromy of colours, the ingenuity and art of the flowery platforms, the majestic procession and the magic of the feast, which dazzles thousands of visitors that amplify the village's ego.

location: Alvarães
GPS: N 41.633856 O -8.740103

contact
Parish Council of Alvarães
tel.:+351 258 777 483
e-mail: viladealvaraes@sapo.pt
www.alvaraes.pt
Festival Commission of Santa Cruz
e-mail: festadascruzes2014@gmail.com

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DAS NEVES (OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS)

August 5

This festival takes place in Largo das Neves, a place shared by three parishes: Barroselas, Vila de Punhe and Mujães - the highlight of this festival is the famous Medieval Play of Floripes. This is a medieval play, from popular tradition, which stages a battle between Christians and Turks and represents one of the oldest examples of popular theatre. It is held on August 5, in Neves.

location: Largo das Neves - Barroselas, Vila de Punhe and Mujães
GPS: N 41.652954 O -8.720466

contact
Parish Council of Mujães
tel.:+351 258 971 799
e-mail: junta.mujaes@sapo.pt
www.jf-mujaes.com

PILGRIMAGE OF NOSSA SENHORA D'AGONIA (OUR LADY OF AGONY)

August 20 and the nearest weekend

The Pilgrimage of Our Lady of Agony (Nossa Senhora d'Agonia) is interwoven with the history of the Church of Agony, built in 1674, in honour of the patron saint of fishermen. At the time, a chapel was built as an invocation to the Good Jesus of the Holy Sepulchre of the Calvary and, a little further above, another chapel was built, in honour to Our Lady of the Conception (Nossa Senhora da Conceição).

Nowadays, the name of the saint is associated with the queen of the pilgrimages and the many traditions of Portugal's largest popular festival: the Pilgrimage in honour of Our Lady of Agony, created in 1772, from the devotion of sea men that came from Galicia and the entire Portuguese coast for the religious and pagan celebrations, which are still held every year on the municipal holiday. The highlights of the festival's programme are the "Desfile da Mordomia" (a traditional parade), the Solemn Procession, the Ethnographic Parade, the Costume Festival, the "Vamos para a Serenata" (Let's Serenade) Parade, the performances of folklore groups, the flowery carpets in the streets of Ribeira, the Procession to the Sea and the firework shows. *VianaFestas*, with the support of the City Council, is responsible for the programme's organization.

location: City of Viana do Castelo
GPS: N 41.692899 O -8.837928

contact
VianaFestas and City Council of Viana do Castelo
tel.:+351 258 809 394
e-mail: vianafestas@vianafestas.com
www.vianafestas.com

VIEIRA DO MINHO FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA FÉ (OUR LADY OF FAITH)

1st Sunday of June

Located in the parish of Cantelães and in the heart of the mountain, the Chapel of Our Lady of Faith (Nossa Senhora da Fé) was built in 1759 after the appearance of the saint's image on Santa Cecília Hill. The grounds of the chapel include two bandstands, a fountain, and also a great cross that can be seen from Vieira do Minho. Every year, on the first Sunday of June, the Chapel welcomes a pilgrimage of the archpriesthood of Vieira do Minho. Next to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Faith, there is a niche built on the trunk of a tree that houses the image of Our Lady. "In the past, a promise used to be made and it involved a living person taking two laps around the sanctuary, lying in an urn, while the philharmonic band and some contracted mourners accompanied the devotee in this macabre funeral procession." This type of promise was abolished a few years ago. In the chapel, there were some coffins to rent for this type of promise and were only recently removed.

location: Parish of Cantelães
GPS: N 41.657533 O -8.130650

FESTIVAL OF SENHORA D'ORADA (OUR LADY OF ORADA)

3rd Sunday of June

Located at the foot of Cabreira Mountain, which provides natural surroundings of great beauty, Our Lady of Orada (Senhora da Orada) is part of the parish of Pinheiro, about seven kilometres from Vieira do Minho. Next to the chapel, we can find a stone staircase, the Archbishopal Fountain, the Fraternity House, a bandstand, a stage, a cross and on top of the hill a Calvary, which has a lake in the middle and in the background, a crucifix of large proportions. Inside the chapel, we can also find two side altars dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Guadalupe and, in the background, a retablo that dates from the 17th century. The festival in honour of Our Lady of Orada has been held on the third Sunday of June since 1840.

location: Parish of Pinheiro
GPS: N 41.624340 O -8.102481

FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA LAPA (OUR LADY OF LAPA)

2nd Sunday of July

The Chapel of Our Lady of Lapa (Senhora da Lapa), located in

Penamourinho Hill, in the parish of Soutelo, was built in 1694, under the orders of João Gonçalves and his wife Margarida da Silva. This chapel stands out for its originality, since it was built inside a rocky outcrop. The entrance door that dates from 1898 is also noteworthy, as well as the several inscriptions engraved on the ceiling and the framed picture with the history of the sanctuary written by Father José Maria Machado in 1851. In the immediate vicinity of the sanctuary, there is a bandstand, several fountains, the facilities that support the annual pilgrimage (second Sunday of July) and a viewpoint.

location: Parish of Soutelo
GPS: N 41.603813 O -8.195469

FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE CONCEPTION)

August 15

Our Lady of the Conception (Senhora da Conceição) is the patron saint of the municipality of Vieira do Minho. Although the official date of this celebration for the Catholic Church is December 8, in Vieira, and given the numerous festivals that take place during the summer due to the presence of emigrants, people also take the opportunity to celebrate the festival in honour of Our Lady of the Conception. The wooden platforms are decorated and transported by the devotees of the saints; for example, the wooden platform of St.



Christopher (São Cristóvão) is carried by the taxi drivers.

location: Vieira do Minho
GPS: N 41.629417 O -8.138806

contact
Town Council of Vieira do Minho
tel.:+351 253 649 270
e-mail: geral@cm-vminho.pt
www.cm-vminho.pt

VILA DO CONDE FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA GUIA (OUR LADY OF GUIDANCE)

week before February 2

Our Lady of Guidance (Senhora da Guia) is the patron saint of seafarers and fishermen. The Festival of Our Lady of Guidance, made only of celebrations with a strong religious element, attracts devotees from all over the country to the city, especially from fishing areas. These devotees follow the procession that includes several wooden platforms and many extras. Due to its importance, it is considered one of the biggest moments of the religious calendar.

location: Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Guia and other locations
GPS: 41°20'20.56"N 8°44'58.42"W

contact
Juiz da Confraria de Nossa Senhora da Guia
tel.:+351 911 167 574

FESTA DE SÃO JOÃO (ST. JOHN'S FESTIVAL)

week before June 24

The festival's programme celebrates St. John (São João), the patron saint, whose image is venerated in the Main Church, dating from the 16th century. In this festival, the religious cult is mixed with acts of profane nature, in a feast deeply rooted in popular tradition and with multiseccular connections to the Convent of Santa Clara. The highlights of the programme are the Procession, a traditional Trip to the Beach and St. John's Grand Night, with the performances of the folklore groups of lacemakers from the hill and square, and a dazzling firework show.

location: Main Church of Vila do Conde and other locations

GPS: 41°21'14.17"N 8°44'33.61"W

contact

Comissão de Festas de S. João and City Council of Vila do Conde
tel.:+351 252 248 400
e-mail: geral@cm-viladoconde.pt
www.cm-viladoconde.pt

FESTIVAL OF SÃO BENTO DE VAIRÃO (ST. BENEDICT OF VAIRÃO)

3rd Sunday of July

St. Benedict (São Bento) was born in Nursia, present Italian territory, in

March of 480, and grew up in a wealthy Christian family. He was sent to Rome to finish his studies, where he felt disappointed by the degradation of the moral values of the city. He left the city and went to a mountain near the city of Rome, where he spent three years in a cave as a hermit, reflecting. After that period, he founded the Benedictine Order or the Order of St. Benedict, whose motto is: *Pray and Work*. He died in March 547 after a life dedicated to God and to helping others. Several miracles were attributed to this saint. Brother of Saint Scholastica, St. Benedict is the patron saint of the parish and Monastery of Vairão and is the object of great devotion by the fishing community.

location: Igreja do Mosteiro de São Salvador and other locations

GPS: 41°19'58.25"N 8°40'12.02"W

contact

União de Juntas de Freguesia de Forno and Vairão
tel.:+351 965 090 781

FESTIVAL OF SENHOR DOS NAVEGANTES (OUR LORD OF NAVIGATORS)

1st week of August

The devotion to Our Lord of Navigators (Senhor dos Navegantes) is an old tradition of the fishing community of



Caxinas. The procession - which takes place on the Sunday closest to August 6 - and the Solemn Mass are the highlights of the religious programme.

location: Igreja de Nosso Senhor dos Navegantes and other locations

GPS: 41°21'50.58"N 8°45'34.77"W

contact

Parish Centre of Caxinas
tel.:+351 252 612 425

VILA FLOR HOLY WEEK FESTIVITIES

week before Easter

Every year, in Vila Flor, the Holy House of Mercy and the Parish Economic Commission, with the support of the City Council of Vila Flor, celebrate the traditional Holy Week. The Palm Sunday Procession, the Procession of

the Burial of the Lord and the Procession of the Resurrection, are part of the programme and are usually accompanied by Easter Sacred Music concerts, a live Way of the Cross and other ceremonies that are reminiscent of the Paschal Season, which attracts a considerable number of visitors year after year.

location: Vila Flor

GPS: 41°18'24.78"N 7°09'07.73"W

contact

Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Vila Flor
tel.:+351 278 518 070
e-mail: scm-vila.flor@mail.telepac.pt
www.misericordiavilalor.com

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO CASTANHEIRO (OUR LADY OF CASTANHEIRO)

August 8 and 9

This a religious and popular festival that is held in the sanctuary, which includes a late Romanesque church that used to accommodate the pilgrims on the Way of St. James. Its interior is decorated with a few tombs embedded in the wall, in the form of chapels, and an 18th century image of St. Mary of Castanheiro (Nossa Senhora do Castanheiro). Next to this temple, there is an extremely old chestnut tree with a burr on the trunk. According to the elders, Our Lady used to appear in the tree's burr.

location: Valtorno
GPS: 41°15'05.67"N 7°12'32.94"W

contact
Comissão de Festas de Valtorno
Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/valtorno

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION)

from August 13 to 15

This is the largest and one of the most important Marian sanctuaries of Trás-os-Montes, where a festival is held every year. This festival is the largest one in the region and its highlight is the majestic procession that takes place on August 15. The procession is accompanied by music bands, several hundred barefoot pilgrims, thousands of visitors, about a hundred biblical figures and 11 wooden platforms. The platform of Our Lady is the largest one and is carried by approximately fifty people, going through Vilas Boas village and heading toward the sanctuary, covering a distance of two kilometres.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) Nossa Senhora da Assunção
GPS: 41°20'55.26"N 7°10'51.96"W

contact
Festival Organization
tel.: +351 916 993 621/919 980 949
Santuário Nossa Senhora da Assunção
tel.: +351 278 512 595

e-mail: geral@santuاريو-assuncao.pt
www.santuاريو-assuncao.pt

TOWN FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SÃO BARTOLOMEU (ST. BARTHOLOMEW)

August 22 to 24

Every year, the town festivals are the meeting point of many hundreds of emigrants, returning home to their families. On the 24th, a municipal holiday, the procession takes to the street, accompanied by the local music band and an immensity of people that insist on following the image of St. Bartholomew through the main streets of Vila Flor. The TerraFlor - Regional Products and Flavours Fair is part of the festival. This fair promotes the products, producers, brands and potentialities of the region and the municipality of Vila Flor.

location: Vila Flor
GPS: 41°18'24.78"N 7°09'07.73"W

contact
Comissão de festas de São Bartolomeu
tel.: +351 278 510 100

VILA NOVA DE CERVEIRA FESTIVAL OF S. JOÃO DE CAMPOS

from June 20 to 24

For four days, the parish of Campos celebrates the festival in honour of its

patron saint, Saint John the Baptist. In addition to the religious ceremonies, one of the highlights of the festival is reserved for Saturday night - the grand Popular Marches. After a lot of work, the people that are part of the various local structures and places of the parish, dress up and, to the sound of music, parade with colourful arches before those present, who applaud them. The religious side of the festival can be seen on Sunday afternoon, with the celebration of a Mass and the majestic Procession. The remaining days are marked by the typical festivities of Minho.

location: Largo de S. João - Campos
GPS: N 41.979729 O -8.701862

MUNICIPAL FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. SEBASTIÃO (ST. SEBASTIAN)

1st weekend of August

Vila Nova de Cerveira honours St. Sebastian with religious and recreational events. The Municipal Festival Commission, with the support of the City Council, invests on a programme that highlights the tradition of Alto-Minho and Vila Nova de Cerveira. The first day is marked by the Ethnographic Parade, where the best of what is done and exists in the so-called "Arts Town" is presented by its parishes and associations.

Residents, emigrants and tourists occupy the streets of the historical centre to relive this parade. On Saturday, the festival embraces its musical side, with concerts by the invited music bands and the performances of the municipality's groups of drums. On the last day, Sunday, the religious side of the festival stands out, with the Solemn Mass and the Majestic Procession in honour of St. Sebastian, at 5:00 pm. Each of the three days ends with concerts by musical groups and orchestras, as well as firework shows, on Saturday at the Pier of the Minho river and on Sunday, at Feira Square.

location: Terreiro - Praça da Liberdade
GPS: N 41.940487 O -8.743930

FESTA DE S. ROQUE (ST. ROCH'S FESTIVAL)

2nd weekend of August

The Festival in honour of St. Roch is a festivity with a very strong religious element, where the devotion to the saint stands out. In addition to the religious ceremonies, there are other events, with a popular and festive nature, where there is no shortage of the typical festivities of Minho.

location: Largo de S. Roque
GPS: N 41.936815 O -8.742828

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA AJUDA (OUR LADY OF HELP)

1st weekend of September

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of Help (Nossa Senhora da Ajuda) takes place in Vila Nova de Cerveira on the weekend close to September 8th. The adoration of the image of Our Lady, with wavy blond hair, is secular and dates back to the construction of the chapel (1650) with the same name. This is a festival with a strong religious symbolism that includes the entire community of Vila Nova de Cerveira, who proudly nicknamed the saint “Our Vain Lady” due to Her beauty. The religious festival is linked to the municipality’s ethnography, especially the “Husking of Minho” (Desfolhada), which takes place in the yard in front of the chapel and attracts many visitors.

location: Terreiro – Praça da Liberdade
GPS: N 41.940487 O -8.743930

contact
Town Council of Vila Nova de Cerveira
tel.:+351 251 708 020
e-mail: gap@cm-vncerveira.pt
www.cm-vncerveira.pt

VILA NOVA DE FAMALICÃO HOLY WEEK FESTIVITIES

week before Easter

The Holy Week is one of the main religious festivities in the region,



which celebrates the Passion, the Death and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a period of profound inner reflection for the faithful. The religious programme includes the Way of the Cross and the Ecce Homo Procession, which are noteworthy.

location: city streets
GPS: 41°24'21.31"N 8°31'06.21"W

ANTONINAS FESTIVAL

June 13, and for a week

The Antoninas Festival in honour of the Matchmaker Saint mobilizes the entire municipality and attracts thousands of tourists to the city. People experience the deepest popular traditions, with the discovery and the reunion of ancestral customs, feelings and flavours. Throughout the streets, the aroma of basil mixes with that of the grilled sardines and pork fillet. People eat “caldo verde” (typical soup) and drink

“vinho tinto do pipo” (a type of red wine). The festival lasts all night and, a bit throughout the city, there is music, dancing and popular festivities. The boys buy a basil plant to offer their girlfriends with an original popular four-line verse, which sometimes is also naughty and humorous. The festival takes place in the street and everyone is invited. Some of the other traditional moments include the Popular “Rusgas” performances, the Bonfires and the “Cascatas de Santo António” (representations of religious or secular scenes), which are followed by the religious ceremonies, in which the distribution of St. Anthony’s Bread stands out. The Popular Marches are one of the highlights of the festival.

location: city streets
GPS: 41°24'21.31"N 8°31'06.21"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SÃO MIGUEL (ST. MICHAEL)

September 29

The Festival in honour of St. Michael (São Miguel) or the Harvest Festival is one of the oldest traditions of the municipality. Established in 1205, around the time of the attribution of a Charter to Vila Nova by King D. Sancho I, this festival is closely linked to the origins of the municipality. The typical festivity of Minho, the “Husking of Minho”

(Desfolhada) and the Bullock Fights are just some of the events that portray the cultural identity of Vila Nova de Famalicão and allow everyone that participates in this celebration to remember and experience the richest and most important traditions of the region.

location: city centre, Praça D. Maria II Square and Campo da Feira

contact
Tourism Office
tel.:+351 252 312 564
e-mail:
famalicaoturismo@vilanovadefamalicao.org
City Council of Vila Nova de Famalicão
tel.:+351 252 320 900
e-mail:
camaramunicipal@vilanovadefamalicao.org

VILA NOVA DE FOZ CÔA HOLY WEEK FESTIVITIES

from the Palm Sunday until the Holy Friday

Taking into account the devotion of the people of Vila Nova de Foz Côa to their patron saint, Our Lady of Tears (Nossa Senhora do Pranto), the traditional ceremonies of the Holy Week display the religiosity of the people of Vila Nova de Foz Côa. The solemn processions of the Holy Week create very vivid moments and portray the mysteries of the redemption of the Saviour. The Procession of Our Lord of Steps (Senhor dos Passos) is the highlight of

the festivities. It is experienced by the people of Vila Nova de Foz Côa and by numerous visitors of other regions that come to Foz Côa to witness the Song of Veronica and other significant moments of the Holy Week.

location: Praça do Município
GPS: N 41.083468 O -7.136006

contact
Parish of Vila Nova de Foz Côa
tel.:+351 279 762 326
e-mail: jornalofozcoense@sapo.pt
info@paroquiafozcoa.com

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO CAMPO (OUR LADY OF THE FIELDS)

8 days after Easter - Low Sunday

The festival in honour of Our Lady of the Fields (Nossa Senhora do Campo) is already an unavoidable landmark of the festivities of the municipality, thus attracting a very significant number of visitors from the different regional origins. It is an impressive manifestation of religious devotion, in which the emotional aspect is evident in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Fields.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) Nossa Senhora do Campo - Almendra
GPS: N 41.000170 O -7.054021

contact
Parish Council of Almendra
tel.:+351 279 713 362



contact
Parish of Vila Nova de Foz Côa
tel.:+351 279 762 326
e-mail: jornalofozcoense@sapo.pt
info@paroquiafozcoa.com

VILA NOVA DE GAIA FESTIVAL OF ST. GONÇALO AND ST. CHRISTOPHER (S. CRISTÓVÃO)

1st Sunday after January 10

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA VEIGA (OUR LADY OF VEIGA)

from 1st to the 2nd Sunday of August

Next to Meão Valley, the boundary of Vila Nova de Foz Côa, in front of Pocinho Station and with the Douro river at its feet, stands the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Veiga (Nossa Senhora da Veiga), invoked by the entire population of Vila Nova de Foz Côa and the neighbouring municipalities. Nowadays, at a regional level, the Festival of Our Lady of Veiga attracts many people, as well as the emigrants from Vila Nova de Foz Côa that are spread across the four corners of the world, due to the thousands of benefits and graces that are Our Lady of Veiga has bestowed upon Her devotees. It is crucial to participate in the Festival of Our Lady of Veiga in order to understand the beliefs, desires and the ups and downs of the lives of the people of Vila Nova de Foz Côa.

location: Praça do Município
GPS: N 41.083468 O -7.136006

The Festival of St. Gonçalo is the first festival of the year and takes place on the first Sunday after January 10. It includes three groups of "festeiros" (merrymakers), one from the parish of Santa Marinha and two from Lugar da Rasa, of the parish of Mafamude. Both parade through the streets of the city with the figures and heads of St. Gonçalo and St. Christopher, attracting thousands of pilgrims that follow them during the parade, singing and crying out, while they continue towards the Church of Mafamude, where they meet with the two local groups. From early in the morning, the Seafarers of the Douro river and the New and Old Commissions of Rasa, cross the streets of the city, carrying both the patron saints, St. Christopher, protector of the boatmen of the river and patron saint of Mafamude, St. Gonçalo, protector of the men of the sea and of diseases and St. Roch, patron saint of the naval carpenters and protector against the pests. Since the 17th century to this day, this festival is still celebrated. The festival

reaches its climax, loaded with a certain erotic symbolism and fantasy concerning the costumes and the incorporation of ritual elements, when the people say: "And here comes St. Gonçalo ", and answer it: "And he is ours!". "And he is ours!"

location: Parish of Mafamude e Santa Marinha
GPS:
Mafamude: 41°07'32.0"N 8°36'09.2"W
Seafarers of the Douro River: 41°08'15.0"N 8°36'52.2"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHOR DA PEDRA (OUR LORD OF THE ROCK)

weekend after the Corpus Christi holiday

The Chapel of Our Lord of the Rock (Senhor da Pedra) is located on a cliff bathed by the sea, on Miramar beach. Its architectural design and construction, based on a hexagonal central plan, may be traced back to the 17th century, although documentary evidence points to the 18th century. Inside the chapel we can find three Rococo-style polychrome gilded altarpieces and a wooden pulpit. The image of Our Lord of the Rock, a Crucified Christ, is noteworthy. The popular cult of Our Lord of the Rock is celebrated through the festival that takes place on the Sunday of the Holy Trinity and it is considered one of the largest and most charismatic

festivals in the municipality. Nonetheless, throughout the year, many people visit the site. The beach and Alameda do Senhor da Pedra are additional reasons for a visit and to enjoy moments of leisure.

location: Alameda do Senhor da Pedra -
Gulpilhares
GPS: 41°04'11.95"N 8°39'15.11"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. PEDRO DA AFURADA (ST. PETER)

from June 20 to 30

Every year, the fishermen, people of great devotion, honour the saint with great fanfare. In addition to the religious ceremonies, there is no shortage of the traditional grilled sardines, with the typical cornbread of Avintes and the firework show. This festival reaches its climax when the procession departs. The wooden platforms carry actual size images of the saints and are followed by their believers who are duly dressed in the traditional clothing of the fishing people. The blessing of the boats takes place when the procession passes in front of the Douro river, accompanied by the sound of sirens and mortars.

location: Fishing Centre of Afurada - Afurada
GPS: 41°08'34.09"N 8°38'52.61"W



FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH)

from August 12 to 15

The Festival in honour of Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Saúde) takes place in Murado Hill, in a natural environment, on August 12, 13, 14 and 15, attracting thousands of visitors who wish to fulfil their promises and pray.

Next to the chapel, located at the top of this hill, an altar is built under an awning and it is here that two outdoor Masses are usually held, one at 9:00 am and the other, the festival's mass, at 11:00 am. These are followed by a long procession, with an endless line of believers, brightened by philharmonic groups.

Thousands of pilgrims, who alternate between carrying the long candles and the wooden platforms, descend and round the cross and climb the steep slope once again.

In addition to the entertainment events, there is no shortage of traditional roasted sardines, cod roasted on the grill, "caldo verde" (typical soup) with the typical cornbread, "rulotes de farturas" (caravans that sell strips of fried dough), sweets and fruit. During the day, people can enjoy the performances of various music groups. The fireworks display starts at midnight.

The famous Horse Race takes place the following day, as well as the

“argolinhas” and the parade, while at night, people can once again enjoy the performances of music groups. This festival is considered one of the largest religious festivals in Gaia and in northern Portugal.

location: Carvalhos - Pedroso
GPS: 41°03'36.8676"N 8°34'37.2612"W

contact
Tourism Office of Beira-rio
tel.:+351 223 773 088
e-mail: turismo.vngaia@cm-gaia.pt
www.cm-gaia.pt

VILA POUCA DE AGUIAR **FESTIVAL OF VILA POUCA DE** **AGUIAR AND THE MUNICIPALITY** July 31, August 1 and 2

This is a popular and religious event, attended by numerous residents and emigrants. The entertainment includes philharmonic bands, brass bands and bass drum performances, along with large-scale outdoor shows in the centre of the municipality's headquarters. The Sunday procession, dedicated to the patron saint of the municipality and the patron saints of the parishes, is the highlight of the celebrations, a moment of great solemnity and popular religiosity.

location: Rua Dr. António Gil
GPS: 41°29'57.82"N 7°38'46.20"W

contact
Town Council of Vila Pouca de Aguiar
tel.:+351 259 419 100
e-mail: geral@cm-vpaguiar.pt
www.cm-vpaguiar.pt

VILA REAL **CITY FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF** **SANTO ANTÓNIO (ST. ANTHONY)** from June 6 to 13

The celebrations in honour of St. Anthony (Santo António), the patron saint of Vila Real, are one of the highlights of the Festivals of Vila Real, in which the city gains special colour, movement and joy. From the Maronês Cattle Fair and the National Maronês Cattle Competition, to St. Anthony Fair, including a wide range of cultural and sports events, the life and animation that fills Vila Real in these days of celebration serves as an excuse for its people to enjoy the warm weather and the clear harmony that its city gains.

location: Rua de Trás-os-Muros - Vila Velha
GPS: N 41.292874 O -7.745909

CITY FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF **S. JOÃO (ST. JOHN)** June 23

The Festival of St. John (S. João) takes place in the historical centre of Vila Real. All the decorations in the

streets are reminiscent of the festivals of popular saints. Numerous people visit the festival to taste the grilled sardines and the pork fillets, served by several restaurants, which place long tables on the streets. The festival continues throughout the night with plenty of musical entertainment.

location: Rua Central, Largo da Capela Nova
GPS: N 41.178224 O -7.446878

CITY FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF **ST. PETER (S. PEDRO)** from June 28 and 29

The St. Peter (S. Pedro) Fair closes the cycle of festivals held throughout the month of June in Vila Real. It is in Central Street, right in front of Capela Nova, that tradition gains weight, with an important Crafts Fair (earthenware of Bisalhães and linens of Agarez and Mondrões) being held here. To crown the festival's night, an old tradition typical of Vila-Real is being revived: the Pipkin game, in which groups of people spread through the historical centre form circles and throw the pipkin randomly, from hand to hand. Whoever drops and breaks the pipkin will have to pay for (or according to tradition "to steal") another pipkin!

location: Rua Central, Largo da Capela Nova
GPS: N 41.178224 O -7.446878

contact
City Council of Vila Real
tel.:+351 259 308 100
e-mail: animatur@cm-vilareal.pt
www.cm-vila-real.pt

FESTIVAL OF SENHORA DA PENA **(OUR LADY OF PENA)** 2nd Sunday of September

Every year, in September, the parish of Mouçós is the stage of a unique religious manifestation. The festivities in honour of Our Lady of Pena (Senhora da Pena) gather thousands of people who long to watch the procession known by its monumental wooden platforms: they reach 23 meters high (taller than the church itself), weigh tons and are carried for about a hundred men. The end of the procession is marked by the traditional "Dance of the Platforms" around the church, in which despite their size and weight each one is carried while jumping up and down along the churchyard. At night, it is time to enjoy a feast and a firework show. Every year, the festival is organized by a different community in the parish. It is important to note that the wooden platform of Our Lady of Pena is already included in the Guinness Book of Records.

location: Senhora da Pena - Mouçós
GPS: N 41.316350 O -7.673172

contact
City Council of Vila Real
tel.:+351 259 308 100 / www.cm-vilareal.pt

VILA VERDE
FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO
BOM DESPACHO (OUR LADY OF
BOM DESPACHO)

last weekend of May

The first mass celebrated in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Bom Despacho (Senhora do Bom Despacho) took place in 1644. One of the characteristics of this sanctuary is that the high altar is made of two large rocks, a sort of natural shelter that gives it a very peculiar aspect. These festivities are held every year in honour of the Virgin. The procession goes through the main streets of the parish until it reaches the sanctuary, culminating with an outdoor mass. The locals lay the carpet of flowers previously throughout the entire route of procession, which together with the best quilts that the families have, and which are displayed at the windows, bring colour and joy to the event and demonstrate the respect and devotion to the Virgin.

location: Parish of Cervães
GPS: 41°35'57.47"N 8°32'00.02"W

contact
Parish of Cervães
tel.:+351 253 925 448 / 253 924 166 /
253 925 345
e-mail: geral@jf-cervaes.pt

FESTIVAL OF SANTO ANTÓNIO DE
MIXÕES DA SERRA

June 6, 7 and 13

The Sanctuary of St. Anthony of Mixões da Serra is located in the parish of Valdreu, in Vila Verde. The main religious celebrations take place on June 13th. However, the most important day is the Sunday immediately preceding that day. The square in front of the sanctuary is filled with thousands of people and animals that will participate in the ceremony known as Blessing of the Animals.

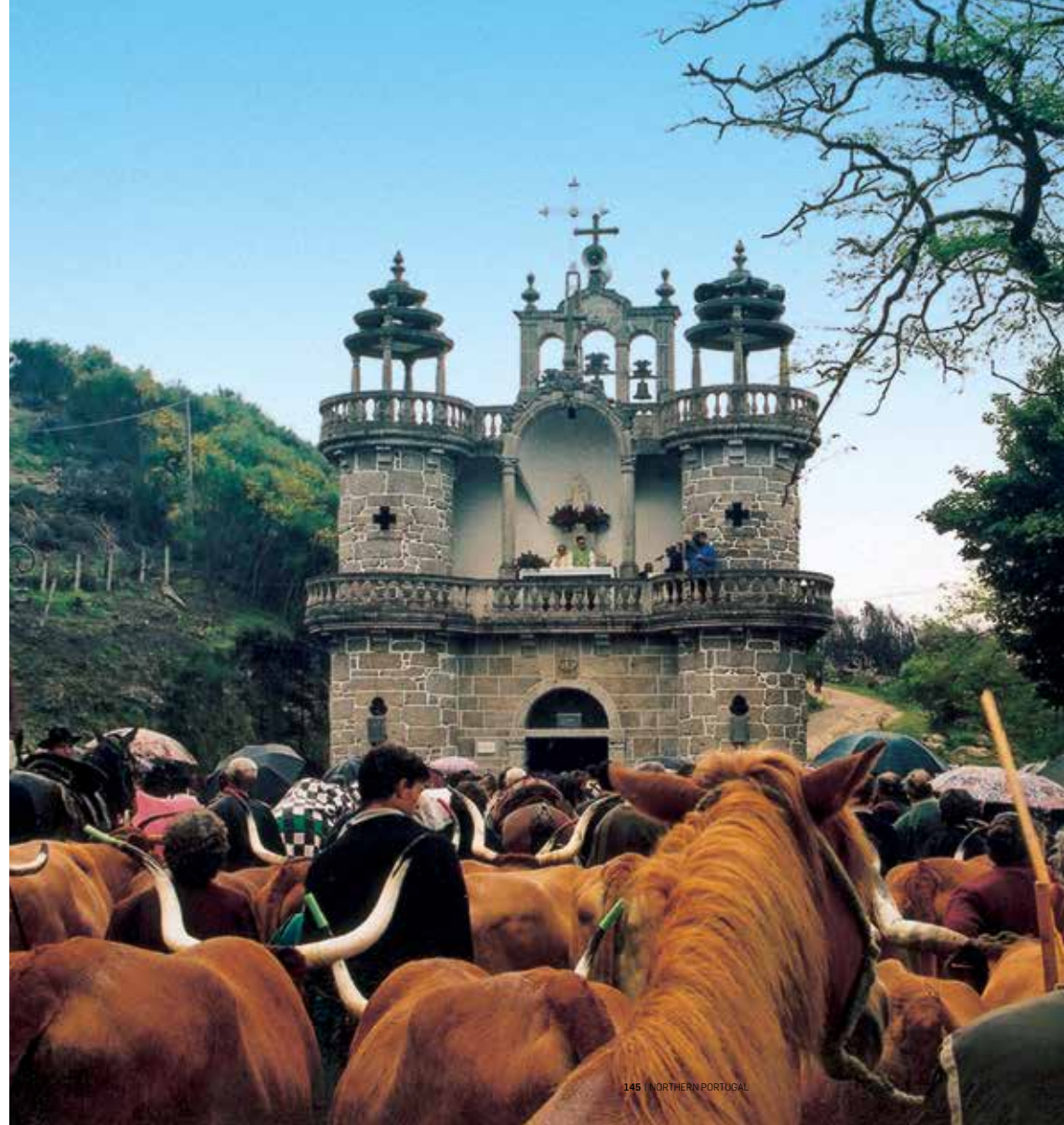
location: Mixões da Serra
GPS: 41°45'32.60"N 8°19'23.97"W

contact
Parish Council of Valdreu
tel.:+351 967 263 992 / 253 351 151
e-mail: juntafreguesiavaldreu@gmail.com

MUNICIPAL FESTIVAL OF
ST. ANTHONY (SANTO ANTÓNIO)

from June 10 to 14

From June 10 to 14, Vila Verde will host one of the most famous festivals of Minho, the Municipal Festivals in honour of St. Anthony. For five days, countless events will offer its visitors unforgettable moments: the "rusgas" performances, the bonfires, the "cantares ao desafio" (singing challenges) and the dazzling



firework shows. The folklore festivals, the marches, the Horse Races, the music shows and the Ethnographic Parade are noteworthy. The parishes and associations take part in the Ethnographic Parade, displaying the authenticity of the culture and traditions of the municipality. The gastronomic area will be another attraction for those who visit Vila Verde.

location: Centre of Vila Verde
GPS: 41°38'56.89"N 8°26'8.09"W

contact
Town Council of Vila Verde
tel.:+351 253 310 500
e-mail: geral@cm-vilaverde.pt
www.cm-vilaverde.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DO ALÍVIO (OUR LADY OF RELIEF) 13 to 20 September

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Relief (Nossa Senhora do Alívio) is an important centre of pilgrimage. However, the most important days are the second and third Sundays of September, when the festival takes place. The procession on the third Sunday is noteworthy and its highlight includes the moment it leaves the centre of Vila Verde and Soutelo, next to the Cross of the Four Evangelists, and heads toward the sanctuary, where believers attend the Mass and fulfil their promises inside and around the sanctuary.

location: Parish of Soutelo
GPS: 41°37'35.62"N 8°26'02.94"W

contact
Parish of Soutelo
tel.:+351 253 251 444
e-mail: jfsoutelo@megamail.pt

VIMIOSO **FESTIVAL OF S. LOURENÇO AND THE DAY OF THE MUNICIPALITY** August 10

The Festival in honour of St. Lawrence (S. Lourenço) is also the day of the municipality. During this day, the farmers of the municipality meet in order to sell their animals (Mirandesa cattle breed). The Municipality organizes Bullfights and the Competition of the Bovine Cattle of the Mirandesa Breed. At night, there is a musical show with a Portuguese artist.

location: Municipal Park
GPS: 41°34'59.97"N 6°31'50.92"W

PILGRIMAGE AND FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF S. BARTOLOMEU (ST. BARTHOLOMEW) August 24

Due to its fame across borders, the Festival of St. Bartholomew (S. Bartolomeu), which takes place every year on August 24, is the best-known festival in the region.

Numerous people visit the sanctuary located in the immediate vicinity of this area, coming from all over the district and other places (there are even many emigrants who travel exclusively for the religious ceremonies) in order to honour the saint.

location: Santuário (Sanctuary) de S. Bartolomeu
GPS: 41°39'40.15"N 6°37'43.55"W

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF SENHORA DAS GRAÇAS (OUR LADY OF GRACE) Last weekend of August

The summer festival, in honour of Our Lady of Grace (Nossa Senhora das Graças), is a manifestation of faith and local patriotism, preserving an ancient ritual that the church itself cannot modify: during the procession, the wooden platform of the revered Saint stops in all the houses that have made promises or are just devoted in order to attach the bills offered to the ribbons of the platform.

location: Main Church of Carção
GPS: 41°35'35.00"N 6°35'00.35"W

contact
Town Council of Vimioso
tel.:+351 273 518 120
e-mail: gi.cmv@cm-vimioso.pt
www.cm-vimioso.pt

VINHAI **FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO (OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION)** August 15

Celebration of the Marian devotion. This is the grand festival of Vinhais. Every year, a mass and procession are held here since this saint is the town's patron saint. Due to the fact that the festival takes place in August, it brings together the emigrants from the region.

location: Vila de Vinhais
GPS: N 41.822429 O -7.049844

contact
Town Council of Vinhais
tel.:+351 273 770 300
e-mail: geral@cm-vinhais.pt
www.cm-vinhais.pt

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA SAÚDE (OUR LADY OF GOOD HEALTH) last weekend of August

Celebration of the Marian devotion. An annual Mass and procession take place in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Good Health (Nossa Senhora da Saúde) in Vale de Janeiro, preceded by nine days of novenas. During this period, countless devotees visit this sanctuary in order to fulfil their promises.

The chapel is located on a hill next to Vale de Janeiro village, a natural viewpoint with a magnificent view over a vast area.

location: Vale de Janeiro
GPS: N 41.775573 O -7.087496

contact
UF Curopos and Vale de Janeiro
tel.:+351 273 679 153

FESTIVAL OF ST. ANTHONY (SANTO ANTÓNIO)

1st weekend of September

The Festival of St. Anthony of Vinhais takes place on the first Sunday of September and is attended by countless devotees that come from all over the municipality and the neighbouring municipalities, wishing to fulfil their promises there.

The Chapel of St. Anthony is located in a natural viewpoint that offers visitors a magnificent view over the town and the Rio Tuela valley.

location: Vinhais
GPS: N 41.829119 O -6.992808

contact
Parish Council of Vinhais
tel.:+351 273 772 695

FESTIVAL OF NOSSA SENHORA DOS REMÉDIOS (OUR LADY OF REMEDIES)

September 8

An annual Mass and procession takes place in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies (Nossa Senhora dos Remédios) in Tuizelo, preceded by novenas, celebrations that countless pilgrims and devotees attend in order to fulfil their promises. This festivity in honour of the Marian devotion is celebrated in a magnificent sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin of Remedies.

location: Tuizelo
GPS: N 41.895035 O -7.053323

contact
Presidente da Junta de Freguesia de Tuizelo
tel.:+351 934 272 001

VIZELA HOLY WEEK FESTIVITIES

week before Easter

Group of religious festivities held in the parishes of S. João and S. Miguel, in the city of Vizela. The religious ceremonies take place throughout the week, including the "Procissão dos Entrevados" (Procession of the Paralytic), which is a public procession followed by many people through the streets. This public manifestation of faith to the Blessed Sacrament visits every sick person, with the crowd



singing and praying and the music band enriching this moment of contemplation and praying with appropriate melodies. Another relevant procession is the Procession of the Burial of the Lord. Due to the ostentation of the religious procession and biblical evocation, where innumerable children parade as "little angels", it attracts thousands of believers to the city.

location: City Centre - União das Freguesias de Caldas de Vizela (S. Miguel and S. João)
GPS: N 41.223313 O -8.183198

contact
Parish of S. Miguel
tel.:+351 253 587 526
e-mail: jmarques.60@hotmail.com
paroquiasmiguel@sapo.pt

FESTIVAL OF S. BENTO DAS PERAS (ST. BENEDICT OF PERAS)

July 11 and the following weekend

The Festival in honour of St. Benedict of Peras, or "little St. Benedict" ("S. Bentinho") as it is affectionately known, takes place on July 11. The great pilgrimage takes place on the following Sunday. The image of the saint is taken to the Church of S. Miguel the night before and remains there for a year. The same ritual is repeated when the image is taken to the Church of Tagilde. The image leaves the churches on Sunday in pilgrimage to the top of the mountain, joining thousands of pilgrims, who make their pilgrimage on foot, praying and singing, or simply walking quietly and carrying red or white carnations in their mouths. It is also very common to see mothers carrying their children and thanking St. Benedict for the graces they were granted. A Mass is celebrated at the end of the walk. On Friday and Saturday nights, there is some musical entertainment, allowing families a moment to get together, enjoying traditional picnics and playing traditional games.

location: Rua Monte de S. Bento
GPS: N 41.230574 O -8.171681

contact
Confraria de S. Bento
tel.:+351 965 756 214
e-mail: confrariassbento1@sapo.pt
www.saobento-vizela.blogspot.pt

CITY AND MUNICIPAL FESTIVAL OF VIZELA

1st two weeks of August

This festival takes place in August and began in a very simple way, in 1953. In 1956, it was celebrated with more vigour, creating a remarkable tradition in Vizela and bringing numerous visitors to the city. This festival, which has a clear cultural element, is the manifestation of the pleasure and good humour of the people from Vizela. Their willingness make it the biggest tourist attraction of the region. Nowadays, the "Vizela of Old Times" Parade is considered the most important attraction of the entire festive calendar. It is held on the night of the last day of the festival and portrays the golden age of thermal spas. This parade includes hundreds of extras, majorettes, samba schools, music bands and various floats. Every day, there are plenty of activities and entertainment offered by the locals and those who wish to join them. Don't miss the opportunity to visit the municipality of Vizela and enjoy this festival.

location: city centre - União das Freguesias de Caldas de Vizela (S. Miguel and S. João)
GPS: N 41.226180 O -8.184970

contact

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www.chaves.pt

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