



INTRODUCTION TO ÓBIDOS

The Municipality of Óbidos is located in the centre of the Western Coastal Region of Portugal, about 80 kilometres north of Lisbon.

Óbidos is a small municipality with 140 km² (square kilometres) and has approximately 10,000 inhabitants. Mainly rural, the Municipality of Óbidos is one of the oldest in the whole Western Region of Portugal.

With an agriculture-based economy, fruit growing is the main financial support of the population of this municipality. Nevertheless, throughout the years, tourism has been affirming itself as an important economic alternative. The tourist activity has a great projection and also greatly contributes to sustainable development.



The main tourist areas of the Municipality are the Lagoon of Óbidos and, in a special way, the historic town.

Concerning the Lagoon, it is the largest natural lagoon in Portugal and is basically known for its environmental value. Numerous species have found in this lagoon their natural habitat, (fishes and birds), and its coast is greatly planted with trees. Its natural beauty constitutes a great tourist attraction.



Nevertheless, the most important tourist attraction of the municipality is the Town of Óbidos.

From Roman origin (1st century a.d.), it is related to the fortification constructed around that time - (Oppidum was the Latin name that identified important military fortifications, later with linguistic alterations: Óbidos)

From that time, we find very close to Óbidos, the ruins of the Roman City Eburobritium.

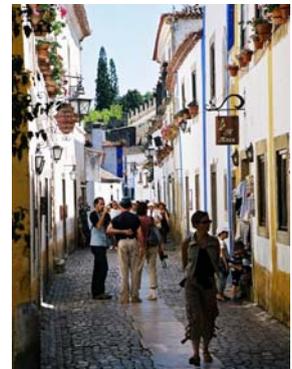
With the Islamic occupation, Óbidos, due to its geographical location, became an important town whose castle walls were edified on top of a slope and overlooked an extensive lagoon system.

Later, in the 12th century, the first King of Portugal took the castle from the moors.

Throughout centuries, the importance of Óbidos was stressed due to the fact that the kings gave their wives the castle as a wedding present, having some of them spent much of their time in this town.

In the second quarter of the 20th century, the tourism activity was developed- the walls were restored, the houses and monuments were renovated and its medieval environment enhanced.

The care provided by its inhabitants and the autarchy in what concerns maintenance and conservation of the urban area make this town one of the greatest tourist attractions in the country.



Leisure activities related with the environment, bird watching, pedestrian walks, photo safaris, nature sports activities (for example golf), boat rides in little fishing boats are examples that of some of the tourist activities.

WHERE IS ÓBIDOS?

Óbidos is located about 80 km north of Lisbon and just a short drive from Caldas da Rainha and Peniche.



CULTURE AND HERITAGE

While visiting Óbidos, be sure to visit the following museums:

Municipal Museum

This Museum presents a permanent exhibition of the Municipal Museum of Óbidos with about one hundred works of art dating from the 14th to the 18th centuries.

Parish Museum

The Church of Saint John the Baptist, located near the Town Gate was recently restored with the support of the Town Hall. It is one of the most symbolic structures and a very important reference of the edified heritage in Óbidos. In 1309, the Holy Queen Isabel commissioned its construction and dedicated it to Saint Vincent. Its function was to provide religious assistance to the victims of leprosy during the middle Ages.

At this moment this museum presents an exhibition on the Holy Trinity. Open everyday, except Mondays.



Nova Ogiva Gallery

The Nova Ogiva Gallery is a Contemporary Art extension of the Network of Museums and Galleries, constituting a high quality artistic expression.



Pelourinho House Gallery

Open in 2004, exhibitions of cultural relevance are organised in this gallery, mainly related to Contemporary Art. One of the main aims of this gallery is to promote and stimulate new talented artists, who are making a name for themselves in the national artistic panorama.

This space is an alternative to the Manor House of Saint Mary's Square, which now houses the permanent collection of the Municipal Museum.

HOW DO I GET TO ÓBIDOS?

By car - The distance from Lisbon to Óbidos is about 80 km. When leaving Lisbon take the A8 Motorway directly to Óbidos. It will take from 40/50 minutes.

Note: Be aware that you will pay a toll fee when taking this motorway.

By Bus - The average price for a bus ticket is around €6,00. Please consult the following website for specific details concerning bus schedules: www.rodotejo.pt/pesquisa_servicos.php

By Train - If you would like to come by train there are a few stops in Óbidos. Ticket will cost around €5, 00. For more information, please consult the website www.cp.pt.

By Taxi - You may catch a taxi anywhere in Lisbon to come to Óbidos. You will have many taxis waiting at the airport and a trip will cost you approximately €80,00. While in Óbidos, you will find a taxi square next to the Town's Main Gate.

Where will I stay?

Please visit www.en-cm-obidos.pt to find a list of hotels in Óbidos and in its municipality.

Where will I eat?

Please visit www.en-cm-obidos.pt to find a list of restaurants in Óbidos and in its municipality.

What can I see and do?

Please visit www.en-cm-obidos.pt to find a complete range of services that will ensure a pleasant stay.

When arriving, please visit our Tourist Office (located next to the Parking lot) in order to get tourist information about this medieval town.

Ask about the new audio guide service, as well as the events that are taking place in Óbidos and surrounding areas.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or doubts, please do not hesitate to ask. The Tourist Office will conveniently answer all your questions at turismo@cm-obidos.pt or by telephone: 00 351 262 959 231.

You can also contact directly the ICORIA 2007 staff by the e-mail 6icoria@escs.ipl.pt.