



VIV' ALCO CHETE

THE HIDDEN GEM AT LISBON'S DOORSTEP



TOUR GUIDE

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ALCOCHETE: A MUNICIPALITY WITH HISTORY



Human occupation in the municipality dates back to the Palaeolithic period, as evidenced by various archaeological sites in the area. The site of Conceição, occupied 28,000 years ago (Palaeolithic Middle) is one of the main prehistoric sites, located under the Vasco da Gama Bridge service station.

During the exploration of this site associated with the archaeological excavation, around 8,500 lithic artefacts were collected, proving the existence of abundant material and the intense use of this area as a 'manufacturing area', namely large quantities of 'cores', as well as pebble carving by-products.

In the parish of Samouco, traces of human occupation in the Neolithic period have been identified, dating from between 5,000 and 4,500 years ago, namely stone tools and ceramic fragments, which confirm the presence of gatherer communities and the first farmers who also explored these lands, leaving traces of their presence in what is now Quinta da Praia 7,000 years ago.

Roman occupation extended along the right bank of the Ribeira das Enguias, in various pottery production units. Of these, Porto dos Cacos stands out, located in the Herdade de Rio Frio, with continuous production between the 1st and 5th centuries AD, with special emphasis on the production of amphorae.

Amphorae were ceramic containers used to pack and transport fish preparations, namely preserves and sauces, which reached the entire Roman Empire in this way.

Excavations carried out in the 1980s uncovered ovens, an enigmatic row of amphorae and a necropolis area, which indicates constant settlement in the area. This site also attests to Visigothic occupation.

Arab occupation has yet to be proven archaeologically in the municipality, although the toponym 'Alcochete', which seems to derive from an Arabic expression meaning 'the oven', has already fuelled this idea in various bibliographies.

After the Reconquista, Alcochete became part of the area known by the Order of Santiago as Riba Tejo. In this vast region, bordered on the east by the River Enguias and on the west by the River Coia, the existence of several riverside settlements was identified as early as the 13th century, whose main activities were salt making and wine production.

Santa Maria de Sabonha, parish seat of the places in the eastern part of the former municipality of Ribatejo, was one of the seats of this municipality, where the church with the same name was built, and where in the 16th century the recollect friars of São Francisco founded a convent, of which only the façade exists, in the current parish of São Francisco.

In the 15th century, thanks to the good air and abundance of game, Alcochete was the court's favourite resting place, often visited by King João I to rest. Infante D. Fernando chose it for his residence and it was here that, on 31 May 1469, his son D. Manuel was born, the one who would become the fortunate king of Portugal.

Still under the protection of Infante D. João, 10th Master of the Order of Santiago (1418-1442), Alcochete acquired autonomy and privileges that led it to the category of town. In the Book of Councils of Alcochete and Aldeia Galega of 1421-22, Alcochete is mentioned as a town.



On 17 January 1515, King Manuel granted his homeland a charter, an important document, an emancipatory milestone in the life of the then young municipality of Alcochete.

The Discoveries also marked the local economy and society - large quantities of timber left Alcochete for Lisbon, and new products and people arrived here.

The 16th century period is clearly visible in the municipality in monuments such as the Mother Church, the Chapel of Our Lady of Life, the Convent of the Recollects of the Order of St Francis, already mentioned, and of which only the portico remains, and also in the altarpiece of the Misericórdia Church and on the Misericórdia flag.



In the 16th and 17th centuries, the municipality underwent significant economic development due to the growing production of salt and an increase in population.

Documentation from the time mentions the existence of 180 inhabitants in the town in the 16th century, registering 360 dwellings and 1902 inhabitants at the beginning of the 17th century.

In the 18th century Alcochete continued to supply Lisbon. Countless boats sailed up the Tagus towards the capital, laden with salt, firewood and coal.

In the 19th century, the municipality's history was marked by the loss and Restoration of the municipality's autonomy, which generated great popular movements. The period of municipal dependence on Aldeia Galega from October 1895 onwards generated a feeling of anguish among the population, which led to a very strong awareness of municipal identity.

On 15 January 1898, a decree was published in the *Diário do Governo* restoring 51 municipalities, among them the municipality of Alcochete.

Also noteworthy is the philanthropic contribution made by the 3rd Baron of Samora Correia, who donated significant assets to the local Misericórdia, namely a mansion that was to become an asylum for the elderly, an institution that is still in operation.

As far as agricultural activity is concerned, the municipality was the target of pioneering experiments in agricultural development, promoted by Jácome Ratton in the 18th century, and by José Maria dos Santos in the 19th century.





Other previously prominent activities, such as fishing, river navigation and salt farming, fell into decline, and the municipality of Alcochete found itself cut off from the main communication routes with the advent of rail-road transport, which was to replace river transport for transporting products and supplying the Lisbon market.

The municipality remained predominantly rural until the middle of the 20th century, when the cod drying industry began to flourish, providing locally the largest drying centre in Portugal, favoured by the climate and the ease with which cod ships could be unloaded.

The industrialisation process began with the installation of the Firestone tyre factory in 1958, which was followed by the installation of other cork and aluminium processing units.

With the construction of the Vasco da Gama Bridge, the municipality of Alcochete was once again the target of investment, resuming the

economic development that had slowed down with the closure of the aforementioned industrial units, and gaining a new centrality in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area.

Alcochete is currently a municipality united around its identity, and in the affirmation of its historical origins, its traditions of bullfighting nature, where the *forcado*, the *campino* and the *salineiro* are prominent figures, both in the unrivalled Festas do Barrete Verde and Salinas, and in the religious festivities related to the cult of São João Baptista, Nossa Senhora da Vida, Nossa Senhora do Carmo and Nossa Senhora da Atalaia.

Alcochete presents itself to the visitor as a modern municipality where it is possible to come into direct contact with history, in every monument, in every manor house or building, and in the streets where the daily life of the people reveals a very distinctive desire to be and to welcome.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a coastal town at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The water in the foreground is dark blue with some white foam from small waves. On the right side, there is a row of white buildings with red roofs, some with balconies. A stone wall or pier runs along the water's edge. A large, bold, red number '1' is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially covering the water and the sky.

CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

History, Identity, Curiosities





Sítio da Conceição

Middle Palaeolithic archaeological site, located under the service areas of the Vasco Bridge da Gama. It occupies a small terrace, at the time bathed by the River Tagus. The archaeological work carried out during the Environmental Impact Studies of the same bridge allowed to date the site to 28,000 years ago.

The remains identified are characterised by objects resulting from the carving of quartz pebbles, an abundant raw material in the region. Quartz cores, chips from chiselling (many of which have been used as cutlery or scrapers) and the characteristic levallois chips dominate.

Quinta da Praia

Facing the marshy terrain of the Salinas of Samouco, on a small gentle terrace and sandy, the only Neolithic site in the municipality was identified during the preparation of the respective Archaeological Map. Its contribution could enrich the characterisation of a period that is still poorly represented in the region.

From the surface prospecting work, we collected elements of a lithic industry based on flint and quartzite, characterised by debitage cores, scrapers, back flakes, sickle-shaped composite elements and residual squarrels from the carving process. The rare ceramic fragments have poor quality pastes, one of them with incised plastic decoration. Future excavations will certainly bring new information about this site.

Porto dos Cacos

Site located on the right bank of the Ribeira das Enguias, whose archaeological excavations have identified a pottery centre especially dedicated to the manufacture of amphorae.

Three kilns were identified (with continuous production between the 1st and 5th centuries AD), a row of amphorae and a necropolis area. Despite the abandonment of the activity, the necropolis probably functioned until the 8th century. The residential area has yet to be identified.

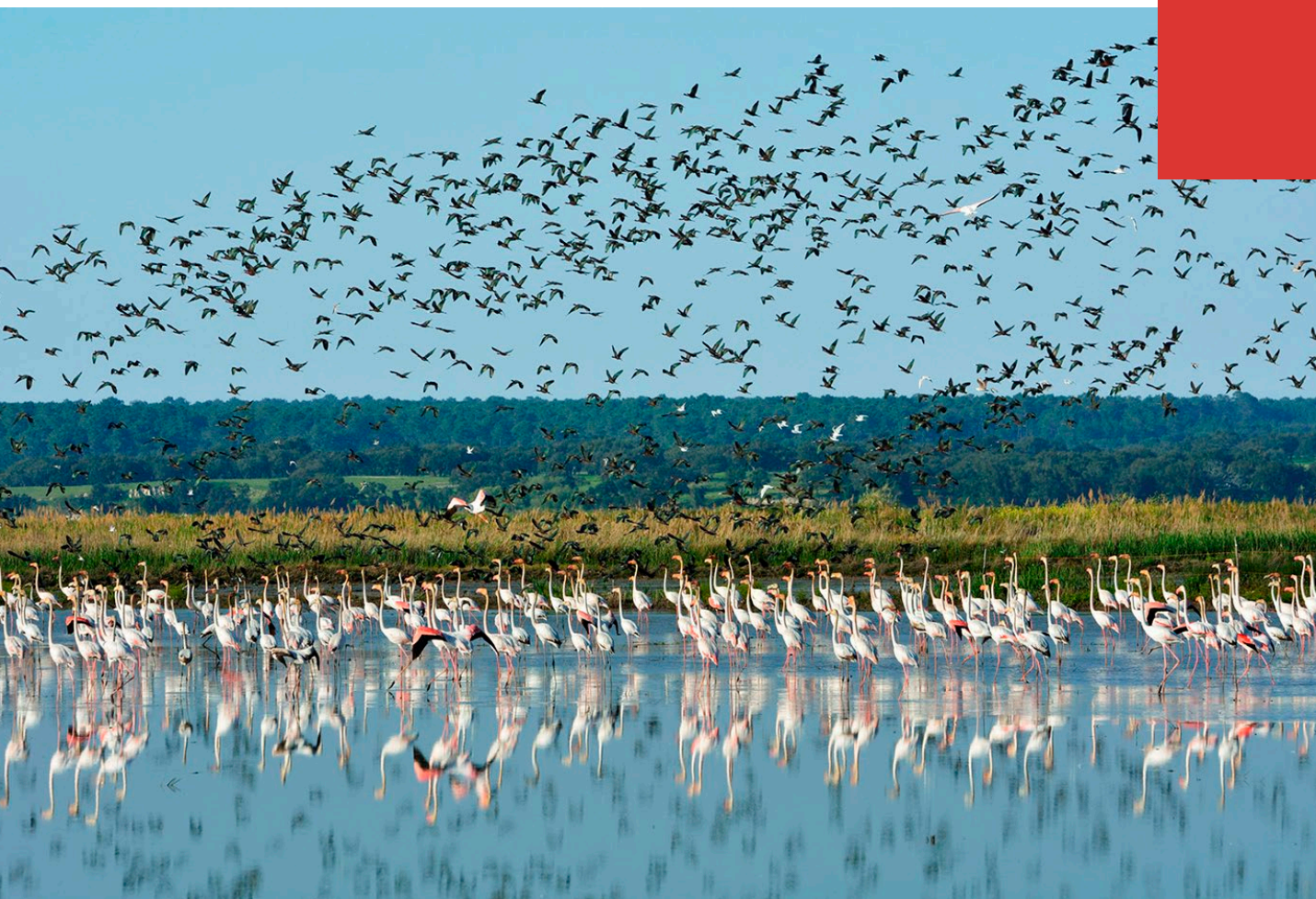
The Porto dos Cacos Roman Pottery, located at Herdade de Rio Frio, in the parish and municipality of Alcochete, is classified as a Site of Public Interest (SIP) by Order no. 591/2011, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, no. 121, of 27 June.

Igreja de Santa Maria de Sabonha

A 13th-century temple, restored in the 16th century with the adjoining construction of a Franciscan convent, gaining the new name of Nossa Senhora do Socorro, sold at public auction and destroyed after the extinction of the religious orders at 1834, its location having been lost.

Recent archaeological interventions have identified the remains of the foundations of this structure, as well as the necropolis that was associated with it, and a set of sacred art images (São Brás, Santo Antão and Menino Jesus), in polychrome limestone, dating from the end of the 14th century, on display at the Municipal Museum's Sacred Art Centre.





Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve

The municipality of Alcochete encompasses the most important wetland in the country and one of the most important in Europe, classified as a Nature Reserve, a status it was given due to the diversity of migratory birds that choose the estuary as their winter habitat.

During migration periods, the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve is home to more than

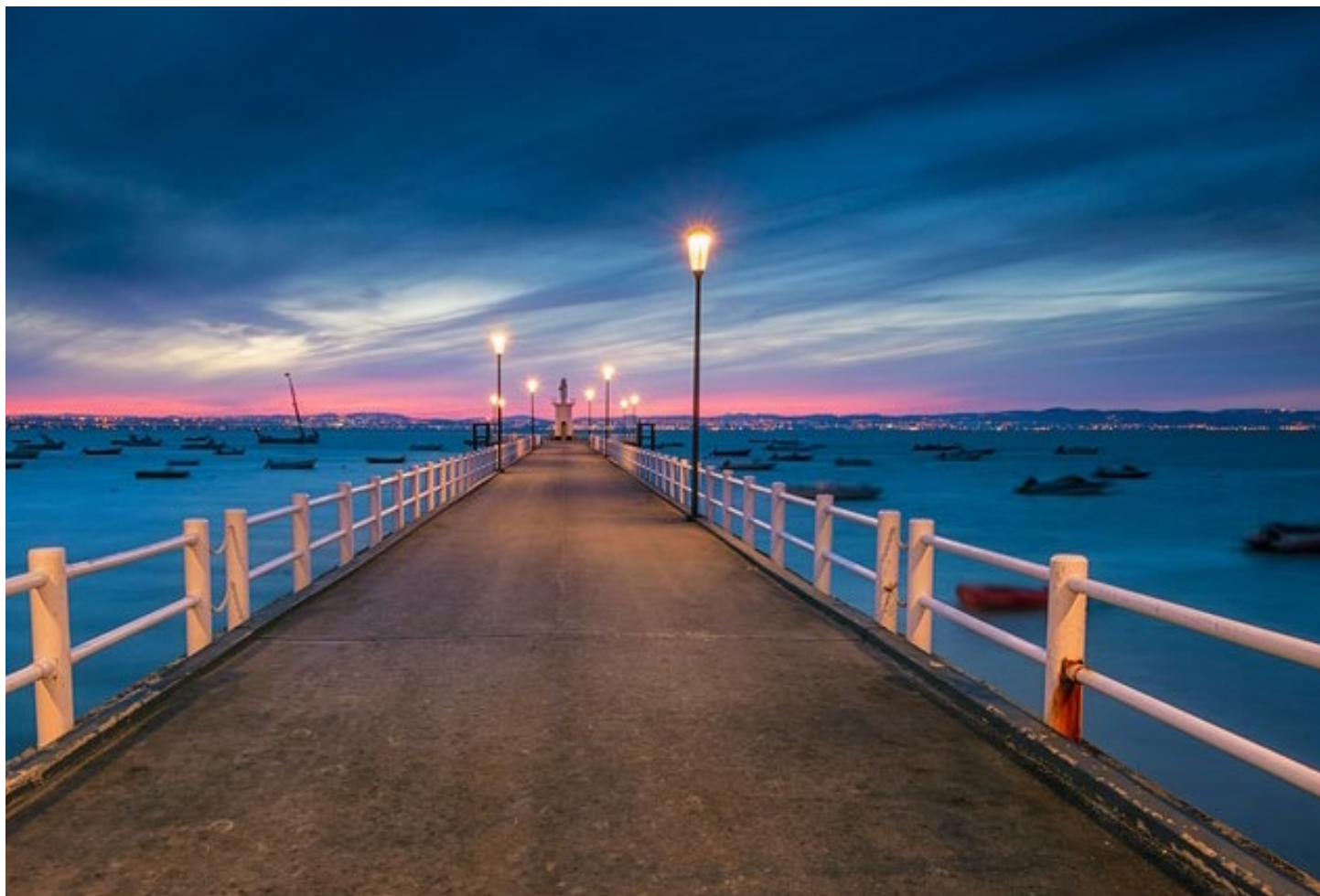
120,000 birds, including around 75% of the entire population of *Recurvirostra avoseta* (tailor) wintering in Europe, as well as internationally important concentrations of other species of water birds.

Also noteworthy is the community of flamingos that beautify and add colour to this place all year round.

In addition to the biological value of the estuary, which is rich in living beings, the Tagus Estuary is of historical and identity importance, as it relates to the traditional activities of the municipality, taking the example of salt production, already considered one of the municipality's major economic activities.

Stretching as far as Vila Franca de Xira, the Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve also includes an area of marshland, where bulls and horses are bred for bullfighting.

Rich in diversity, the Nature Reserve is an area that is waiting to be explored, whether by bike, by car, on a walking tour or by Kayak in the Alcochet'Aventura programme.



WHERE TO SLEEP

Hotels and Accommodation

2







Name **Upon Vila Alcochete Hotel**

Category 4 star hotel

Room types
Standard
Standard river view
Superior river view
Family
Suite
Suite Deluxe

Main services
Breakfast
Bar
Heated pool
Gym
Car park
24-hour reception
Meeting room
Pet friendly
Laundry service

Average prices 90€ to 180€

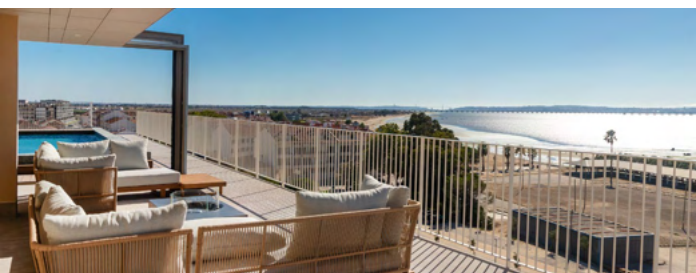
Address/location Av. Dom Manuel I 465, 2890-014 Alcochete

Telephone +351 210 733 790

Email stay@uponvila.com

Website www.stayupon.com/upon-vila

WHERE TO SLEEP





Name

Praia do Sal Resort

Category

4 star hotel

Room types

Standard studio
Standard studio with view
Standard 1 bedroom flat
1 bedroom flat river view
Standard two bedroom flat
Two bedroom flat with river view
Two bedroom flat with pool view
Three bedroom flat with a view

Main services

Breakfast
Restaurant
Bar
Heated pool
Gym
Car park
24-hour reception
SPA (massages, treatments, sauna, Turkish bath)
Two swimming pools - indoor and outdoor
Pet friendly
Laundry service

Average prices

120€ to 250€

Address/location

Passeio das Caravelas 88, 2890-166 Alcochete

Telephone

+351 212 343 165

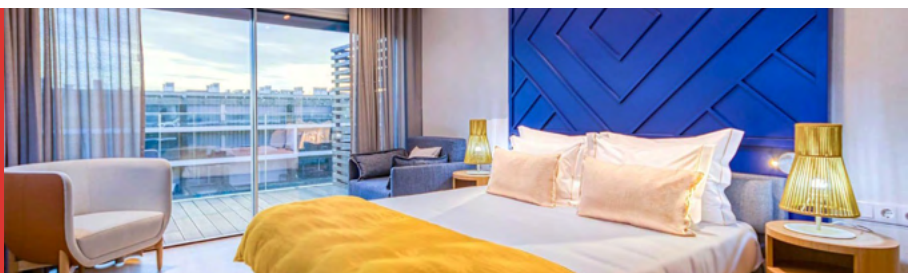
Email

frontoffice@praiadosal.com

Website

www.stayupon.com/praiado-sal

WHERE TO SLEEP





Name

Jardim das Copas

Category

Local accommodation

Room types

Studio Arcos
Studio Páteo
Studio Déco
Suíte Bispos
Suíte Rainha
Suíte Déco
Suíte Kings
Suíte Belas Vistas
Suíte Cupidos

Main services

Outdoor swimming pool
Car Park
Laundry service

Average prices

100€ to 180€

Address/location

R. João de Deus 22, 2890-079 Alcochete

Telephone

+351 930 609 404

Email

jardimdecopas.alcochete@gmail.com

Website

www.jardimdecopas.com

WHERE TO SLEEP





Name

Quinta Praia das Fontes

Category

4 star hotel

Room types

Double room
Superior double room
Suite Villa
Apartament

Main services

Breakfast
Bar
Tennis court
Paddle court
Games room
Swimming pool
Pedagogical farm
Event rooms
Car park

Average prices

100€ to 180€

Address/location

Largo do Marquês de Soydos, 2890-032 Alcochete

Telephone

+351 212 340 191

Email

mail@quintapraiafontes.com.pt

Website

www.quintapraiafontes.com.pt

WHERE TO SLEEP



WHERE TO EAT

Restaurants and Bars

3





Restaurants and Bars in Alcochete



Restaurante Alfoz

Type of cuisine: Traditional Portuguese, Seafood and Fresh Fish

Speciality: Seafood

Average price: 20-40€

Alarm-clock

Wed – Sat: 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Sun: 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Closed: Monday and Tuesday

location Av. Dom Manuel I, 2890-014 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 212 340 668

envelope reservas@restaurantealfoz.pt

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/QJhq-5gfm5GQLeHeA8

Don Peixe

Type of cuisine: Seafood, Grilled fish

Speciality: Monkfish Rice, Baked Cuttlefish, Fried Cuttlefish, Fish Noodles

Average price: 15-25€

Alarm-clock

Tue – Sat: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Sun: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Closed: Monday

location Largo António dos Santos Jorge, 6, 2890-022 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 212 340 896

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/T9ZH4A6M4FY52qXS6

Restaurant A Taverna

Type of cuisine: Portuguese

Speciality: Monkfish rice with prawns; Polvo à Lagareiro; Bacalhau à Braga

Average price: 15€

Alarm-clock

Mon: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Tue – Wed: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Thu – Sat: 12:00 PM – 2:30 PM and 7:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Sun: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

location Largo de S. João 11, 2890-028 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 917 983 046

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/Jn5kR-mkfXncfbvNN7



WHERE TO EAT

Pateo Alcochetano

Type of cuisine: grilled meats

Speciality: Naco na Pedra, Bife à Casa

Average price: 18€

Alarm-clock

9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM

location Av. D. Manuel I 31, 2890-014 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 932 166 731

envelope pateoalcochetano.restaurante@gmail.com

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/9GD-FKHceF3Zz8Z4p8





Omaggio

Type of cuisine: Authentic Italian Cuisine

Speciality: handmade pasta and fresh ingredients.

Average price: 20€

Alarm-clock

Lunch: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Light meals: 3:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Dinner: 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM

location Passeio das Caravelas, 86, 2890-166

Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 210 515 800

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/2Yhsw9YCrWPLReyc6

Tasca do Vítor

Type of cuisine: Traditional portuguese

Speciality: Fried cuttlefish, eels, “caldeirada”

Average price: 10-20€

Alarm-clock

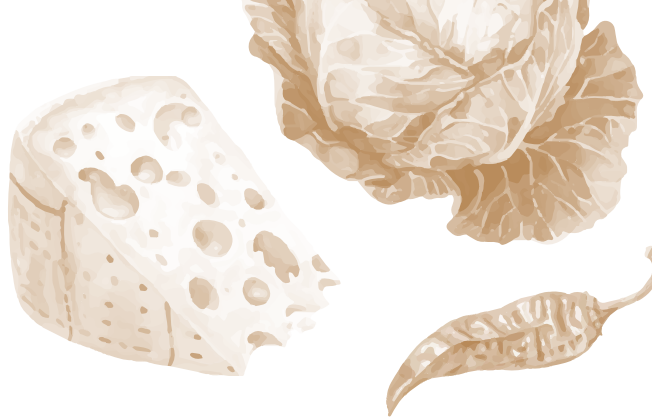
Tue: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Thu – Mon: 12:30 PM–3:00 PM and 7:30 PM–10:00 PM

Closed: Wednesday

location Rua da Quebrada, 10, 2890-180 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 212 340 912



CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/6JPNy-JHEEah8V5pV6

Barrete Verde

Type of cuisine: Traditional Portuguese

Speciality: Cod with cream, Pataniscas cod with bean rice, sea bream fillets

Average price: 15€

Alarm-clock

Wed – Mon: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Fri – Sat: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM and 8:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Closed: Tuesday

location Rua José André dos Santos, 26, 2890-082

Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 212 340 154

envelope joaorosa58@hotmail.com

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/h9LG6nCj-v6brZVGQ6



Al'Sal

Type of cuisine: tapas and snacks

Speciality: tapas and various snacks

Average price: 15-25€

Alarm-clock

Mon – Thu: 7:30 PM – 11:30 PM

Fri and Sun: 12:30 PM-3:30 PM and 7:30 PM-11:30 PM

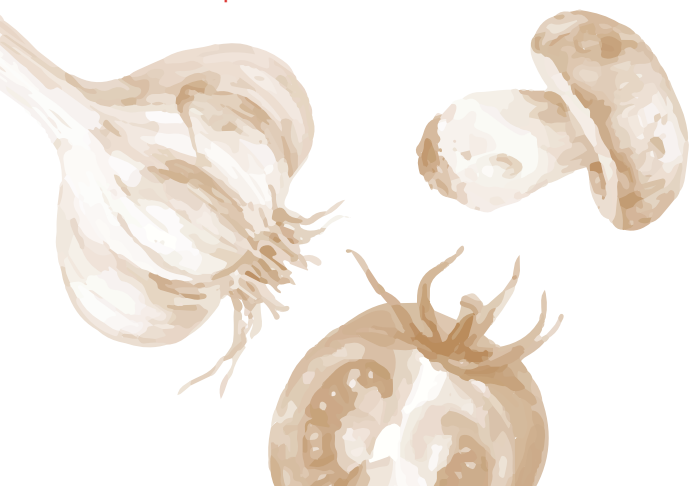
Sat: 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

location Largo Barão de Samora Correia, 12, 2890-049

Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 914 570 614

Circle-phone +351 962 837 457



CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/941gg-dKMc9Hbcovj8

O Marítimo

Type of cuisine: Traditional portuguese

Speciality: Grilled fish

Average price: 10€-15€

Alarm-clock

Tue – Sun: 12:00 PM-3:00 PM and 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

Closed: Monday

location Rua Comendador Estêvão Oliveira, 21, 2890-044 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 212 342 625

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/



oNp2EwXVAh1Jnenh8

Joana Come a Tapa

Type of cuisine: Tapas and Snacks

Speciality: Spicy Garlic Prawns, Black Pork Cheeks Stewed in Wine Red

Average price: 15-25€

Alarm-clock

Thu – Sun: 12:30 PM-4:00 PM and 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

Closed: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

location Rua Comendador Estêvão de Oliveira, 6,

2890-044 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 925 876 858

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/1GKYRGw77gr5ZX87A

Solar do Peixe

Type of cuisine: Traditional portuguese

Speciality: Grilled fish

Average price: 17,50€

Alarm-clock

Thu – Tue: 12:30 PM-3:00 PM and 7:30 PM-10:30 PM

Closed: Wednesday

location Largo da Misericórdia, 10, 2890-032 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 212 342 398

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/Wvqu-XtUXqHwu9vVJ6

Kimoo

Type of cuisine: Cocktails and snacks

Speciality: Snacks

Average price: 15-20€

Alarm-clock

Mon – Sun: 10:30 AM to 10:30 PM



location 2890-510 Alcochete

Circle-phone +351 938 338 571

CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/tS-P98hvt1xDCgsnx8

O Arrastão

Type of cuisine: fish and seafood

Speciality: fresh grilled fish

Average price: 20-30€

Alarm-clock

Tue – Sun: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM, 7:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Closed: Monday and Sunday evenings
location Praia dos Moinhos, 2890-510 Alcochete
Circle-phone +351 212 342 151
Circle-phone +351 968 666 441
envelope oarrastao17@gmail.com
CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/V2chEhZWGVkoN9BW6

Terraço da Vila

Type of cuisine: Cocktails and Snacks
Speciality: signature cocktails
Average price: 10-20€



Alarm-clock
Fri – Sat: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
Sun: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
Closed: Monday to Thursday
location Av. Dom Manuel I, 465, 2890-014 Alcochete
Circle-phone +351 210 733 790
CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/Qkiw-siURmuFX2e2Z6

Oficina Caffè

Type of cuisine: Cocktails and Snacks



Speciality: signature cocktails
Average price: 5-10€
Alarm-clock
Mon – Sun: 3:00 PM – 2:00 AM
location Av. Dom Manuel I 599, 2890-014 Alcochete
Circle-phone +351 212 343 019
CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/miQ14U-biapt47R7R8



Alcach

Type of cuisine: Cocktails and Snacks
Speciality: signature cocktails
Average price: 5-15€
Alarm-clock
Tue – Fri: 2:30 PM – 2:00 AM
Sat: 2:00 PM – 2:00 AM
Sun: 12:00 PM – 2:00 AM
Mon: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
location Largo Barão de Samora Correia 43, 2890-032 Alcochete
Circle-phone +351 919 309 031
CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/s2Ld8juE-5puV2o38A

Al'Kawa

Type of cuisine: Japanese food, sushi
Speciality: Signature sushi
Average price: 15-45€
Alarm-clock
Sun – Thu: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM, 7:00 PM – 10:30 PM
Fri – Sat: 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM, 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM
location Av. Dom Manuel I Nº4, 2890-014 Alcochete
Circle-phone +351 212 342 120
CIRCLE-LOCATION-ARROW maps.app.goo.gl/it6SYzk4u8Aw7Tea7



A vibrant kite festival scene. In the foreground, a large black and yellow striped kite is flying. To its right, a red and white fish-shaped kite is visible. In the background, a white tower with a brown roof stands on a sandy beach. A person with a backpack is seen from behind, looking up at the kites. The sky is blue with some clouds. A yellow banner with a repeating pattern of icons (crowns, hearts, sailboats, etc.) is overlaid on the top right. A large red number '4' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

FESTIVITIES

Annual Events and Celebrations

4



Festivals and pilgrimages



Círio dos Marítimos de Alcochete

Devotion to Nossa Senhora da Atalaia has kept a tradition alive in Alcochete for over five centuries. Based on the seafaring roots of the people who for years found their livelihood in the Tagus, this festival has been kept alive by the seafarers or boatmen, who through oral tradition, have kept it alive until the present day.

Nowadays, the Festa do Círio dos Marítimos, or Festa da Páscoa, as it is also known, mobilises a lot of people, both in its organisation, and in the number of devotees, who during the end of Easter week actively take part in the very specific rituals that it includes.

The festivities begin on Holy Saturday, and continue for three more days in a sequence of unique moments of devotion and conviviality, which every year bring together hundreds of people, in what is Alcochete's oldest festival.

The start of the festivities is marked by the music of the 'Chininá', bagpipe players and caixa who walk the streets of the town on Saturday of Easter, announcing to everyone that another Círio dos Marítimos de Alcochete has taken place.

On the afternoon of Easter Sunday, the first procession of the Círio takes place, which, in addition to the local people, attracts many outsiders to the riverside town. This parade of unmarried and married women, mounted on donkeys, runs through the main streets of the town on the following Monday and Tuesday

However, the highlight of the festival, so eagerly awaited by the local people, takes place on Monday, with Mass in the Church of Nossa Senhora da Atalaia, followed by the Procession in the churchyard of the Church of Atalaia and the auction of flags and fogaças, in the same place.

During the auction, more than 200 flags with the figure of Nossa Senhora da Atalaia emblazoned on them are up for grabs, but the highlight goes to the Guião, the piece that fetches the highest value.



Barrete Verde and Salinas Festivities

The Barrete Verde and Salinas Festival is the most vibrant expression of Alcochete's identity. With unique charm and deep roots in the village's history, these celebrations are held annually on the second weekend of August, attracting thousands of visitors. These are days filled with faith, festivity, bullfighting culture, and spontaneous camaraderie in a unique setting along the Tagus River.

The festival is organized by the Aposento do Barrete Verde, with the support of the Alcochete Town Council, in a joint effort to preserve and revitalize traditions passed down through generations. The first official edition dates back to 1941, an initiative of José André dos Santos, a key figure in the cultural life of the village. Since then, the festival has become a true symbol of Alcochete.

The festivities pay tribute to three central figures in the local identity: the Campino (cattle herder), the Forcado (bullfighter), and the Salineiro (salt worker). These are honored through symbolic ceremonies that celebrate their roles in Alcochete's history and collective memory.

The religious aspect is equally significant. The highlight is the Land and River Procession in honor of Our Lady of Life, whose image is carried on decorated boats along the Tagus and later through the streets of the village. This solemn moment reflects the faith of a people historically sustained and inspired by the river.

Key moments include traditional bull runs through the streets, arena bullfights, fado and flamenco performances, cultural exhibitions, and sports activities. One of the most lively highlights is the Sardine Roast Night, where thousands follow the Charanga band through the streets, dancing joyfully into the early hours in a festive spirit that spans generations.

Another iconic element is the presence of the Meninas do Barrete Verde (Girls of the Green Cap), who actively participate in all events and proudly represent the village's youth and community spirit.

More than just a festival, the Barrete Verde and Salinas Festival is a living tribute to Alcochete's riverside soul — a meeting point between past and present, where tradition remains vibrant, wrapped in emotion, color, music, and devotion.

Dates: Usually held in August.

Location: Vila de Alcochete.

Organisation: Aposento do Barrete Verde de Alcochete.

Samouco Popular Festivities

In honour of Nossa Senhora do Carmo, the Samouco Popular Festivities are held every year, marked by a very strong religious component. The Samouco Popular Festivities begin in the second fortnight of July and are a benchmark in the region, bringing together hundreds of visitors attracted by the diverse range of musical shows

that are part of the programme. Popular Portuguese music, fado, folklore and, of course, the concert by the Banda da Sociedade Filarmónica Progresso e Labor Samouquense are some of the reasons for interest in the musical chapter.

The Night of the Grilled Sardine is lived with great intensity, and it is with much excitement and joy that locals celebrate this night until dawn. In a land of aficionados, the traditional bull runs could not be missing from the Popular Festivities of Samouco, events that are experienced with great emotion. The Procession in Honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel holds a prominent place in the celebrations, reflecting the deep religious devotion and faith of the people of Samouco. Between musical performances, exhibitions, sports and children's activities, Samouco experiences



unforgettable moments during this time of year—moments that only come to an end with the traditional fireworks show that gathers hundreds at the Riverside Beach.

Peasant Fraternisation Parties

As The São Francisco Farmers' Fellowship Festival is a vibrant tribute to the rural origins of the parish, preserving the customs, knowledge, and traditions that have shaped the local identity. Held at the beginning of summer, these



celebrations bring together generations in moments of joy, devotion, and community spirit.

Organized since 2003 by the Association of the Traditional Farmers' Fellowship Festival of São Francisco, the event traces its origins to the former festivities in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception of the Fields (Nossa Senhora da Conceição dos Matos), patroness of the farmers. The first edition took place in 1973.

Folklore plays a central role, particularly through the Folklore Festival hosted by the local group “Os Camponeses” of São Francisco, which welcomes invited folk groups from various regions of Portugal. Gastronomy is also a highlight, especially during the lively Sardine Roast Night, where local flavors take center stage.

The program also features bull runs, musical performances, craft workshops, and exhibitions that evoke the spirit of rural life.

Dates: Usually held in September.

Location: Alcochete.

Information: Alcochete Town Hall

Telephone: 212 348 600

E-mail: geral@cm-alcochete.pt | Web: cm-alcochete.pt

Feast of Saint John the Baptist

The Festivities in Honour of Saint John the Baptist are one of Alcochete's most significant religious and popular celebrations, paying tribute to the town's patron saint in an atmosphere that blends faith, tradition, and community spirit.

Held annually in June, during the Popular Saints season and around the municipal holiday on June 24th, these festivities fill the streets with colour, devotion, and joy. The programme includes solemn masses, the traditional Procession in Honour of Saint John the Baptist, and the symbolic blessing of the boats along the River Tagus.

On the night of June 23rd, small bonfires are lit in several squares across the town, but the most anticipated moment takes place in Largo de São João, where the parish priest blesses the main bonfire. It is customary to burn leeks, rosemary, and rockrose, while the crackling of firecrackers echoes through the streets.

Beyond its religious core, the celebration also features street festivals, traditional dances, food stalls, and folk music—making these festivities a true moment of collective celebration, where Alcochete proudly expresses its identity, hospitality, and devotion.

Dates: They usually take place in June, coinciding with São João (24 June).



Alcochete White Night

Alcochete's White Night is one of the most eagerly awaited events of the year, transforming the town's historic centre into a magical scene of light, colour and animation. Since 2018, this annual celebration has established itself as a moment of encounter and celebration, where residents and visitors dress in white and immerse themselves in a vibrant night, full of surprises and good energy.

The streets and squares take on a new life with a special decoration and surrounding lighting, creating a unique atmosphere that invites you to celebrate. Live music, artistic performances, street shows and a contagious atmosphere make this night a landmark in Alcochete's cultural calendar.



In addition to the entertainment, White Night is also an opportunity to discover the local shops and enjoy the town's excellent gastronomy, with restaurants and terraces joining in the festivities and offering memorable dining experiences.

More than just an event, White Night is a true celebration of the spirit of Alcochete, where tradition and modernity meet, providing an unforgettable evening on the banks of the Tagus.

Location: Alcochete's old town centre

Equipment required: It is traditional for participants to wear white clothes, in keeping with the theme of the event.

Timetables and Prices: The White Night usually takes place at the end of July. Admission is free.

Contacts: Alcochete Town Hall

Tel: +351 212 348 600 | **E-mail:** geral@cm-alcochete.pt |

Web: www.cm-alcochete.pt

Organised by the Alcochete School Group, the fair stands out for the accuracy of its historical recreations, actively involving not only the school community, but also the local population, who enthusiastically participate in this return to the roots of the past. Between handicraft stalls, demonstrations of traditional crafts, street theatre and Renaissance music, visitors have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the daily life of the 16th century, experiencing up close the customs and traditions that marked this golden era in Portuguese history.

Description and Experience: It begins with an imposing royal procession, which recreates the triumphal entry of King Manuel I into the town, in a spectacle full of colour, elegance and symbolism historical. From then on, the atmosphere of is transformed into an authentic journey back to the 16th century, with a varied programme that involves visitors in an unforgettable experience.

Throughout the event, the public can watch theatre performances depicting episodes from the period, be dazzled by renaissance dances to the sound of traditional music and witness demonstrations of ancestral crafts, where artisans show off techniques that once sustained the local economy. The streets are full of life with craft stalls and typical gastronomy, where the flavours and aromas of the past invite you to discover them.

The participants, dressed in 16th century costume, give body and soul to this re-enactment, providing an immersive and educational experience, where history ceases to be just a account and becomes something tangible and experienced at every detail.



16th century festival

The Alcochete 16th Century Fair is an annual event that transports visitors to the splendour of the 16th century, recreating the atmosphere of the time of King Manuel I in detail and authenticity. More than just a celebration, this fair is a real journey back in time, where history comes to life through period costumes, carefully recreated scenarios and a programme full of entertainment and culture.

Location: The event takes place on the premises of the D. Manuel I School in Alcochete.

Opening times and prices: The fair starts at 9.30am with the procession of the royal entry. Admission is free.

Contact: For more information, you can contact:

Agrupamento de Escolas de Alcochete

Telephone: 212 348 490

E-mail: geral@aealcochete.edu.pt | Web: aealcochete.edu.pt

Alcochete Town Hall

Telephone: 212 348 600

E-mail: geral@cm-alcochete.pt | Web: cm-alcochete.pt

Annual events

Restoration of the Municipality

*“Povo, acorda p’rá glória
Da nossa mãe e terra amada
Leu e escreveu a vitória
Alcochete restaurada”.*

Luís Cebola's verses, which embody the Hino da Restauração, recall a unique day in the history of the Municipality of Alcochete, the 15th of January 1898, and evoke a feeling of belonging that endures to this day in the local community.

After three years of municipal dependency, on this day the municipality of Alcochete (re)conquered its administrative and political independence, a historic episode that left deep marks on the identity of a people that has never stopped claiming its identity and independence as territory and as a community.

As such, in January, the Restoration of the Municipality is remembered and praised with a cultural programme, in a close collaboration between the Town Hall, the Impartial Society 15 of January 1898 (the date it was created - find out more at) and the local population.

Every year, and as tradition dictates, on the evening of 15th January, local mayors, representatives of the associative movement and musicians from the Banda da Sociedade Imparcial take to the streets to jointly exalt the importance of this date in local history, with a route through the main streets of the town of Alcochete and the presentation of greetings and compliments to the local authorities and communities. Throughout the night, the Hymn of the Restoration (music by João Baptista Nunes Júnior) echoes through the streets of the town, in an analogy to the celebrations and euphoria experienced by the population on 15th January 1898.

At a time when the past is remembered and celebrated, and because history is also built in the present, the Town Hall is holding the Solemn Session of the Restoration of the Municipality, during which it honours people, individuals and groups, who continue to strive for the affirmation and enhancement of the Municipality.

The tribute is made official with the award of the Municipal Medals, which are categorised as the D. Manuel I Medal, the Restoration Medal and the Good Services Medal.

25 de Abril

25th April and 1st May celebrations

In April and May, the Town Hall, in close partnership with the Municipal Assembly, the Parish Councils and the municipality's associative movement, is promoting a wide-ranging programme to mark 25 April 1974, a historic date for the country.

Freedom, democracy and all the values and achievements of April are celebrated by promoting a series of cultural and sporting initiatives that invite the population to actively participate in the commemoration of a date and to remember all the men and women who fought, gave body and voice to the April Revolution and restored national dignity to the country.

As part of these commemorations, the Municipal Assembly is marking the passing of this emblematic date by holding a solemn session, with the participation of representatives from the various political parties represented on this municipal body.

And because commemorating April is also about exalting participation and active citizenship, the municipality's associations and organisations are playing an important role in these celebrations with tournaments, children's mornings, sports activities, exhibitions, musical shows and more.

Alcochete International Kite Festival (FIPA)



The International Kite Festival (FIPA) is one of the most colorful and enchanting events in Alcochete, turning the skies above Praia dos Moinhos into a vibrant display of color, creativity, and movement. Held at the end of June or beginning of July, the festival attracts thousands of visitors and participants from around the world, drawn by the region's excellent conditions for wind sports.

Giant, acrobatic, synchronized, or traditional, the kites fill the horizon with shapes and colors, creating a magical atmosphere by the banks of the River Tagus. FIPA welcomes teams from countries such as Portugal, Spain, France, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Turkey, England, China, Malaysia, and Singapore, making it a true meeting point of cultures. Notable guests have included renowned figures such as Stafford Wallace, an expert in Indian fighting kites, and Peter Lynn, the New Zealand-er famous for building the world's largest kite.

Beyond the aerial show, the festival offers workshops, demonstrations, and river activities such as kitesurfing, paddleboarding, and canoeing, along with plenty of social moments. Leading up to FIPA is the Alcochete Schools' Kite Festival (FEPA), aimed at schoolchildren and involving around a thousand kids each year in kite-building and hands-on exploration.

More than just a recreational event, FIPA is a celebration of freedom, imagination, and the bond between humanity, nature, and the wind.

Dates: FIPA is traditionally held during the summer.

Location: The festival takes place on the Tagus river beach .

Activities: In addition to kite-flying demonstrations, FIPA includes workshops, competitions and other related activities, offering entertainment for all ages.

Additional Information: Alcochete Town Hall

Telephone: 212 348 600

E-mail: geral@cm-alcochete.pt | Web: cm-alcochete.pt

Julho + Quente Street Arts Festival

In the second half of July, the Town Hall heats up the summer nights in Alcochete with irresistible cultural proposals that reach the public through the Street Arts Festival 'Julho + Quente'.

Theatre performances, dance, circus arts, poetry and string puppets are some of the proposals that invade the streets and squares of the Old Town and transform the town's spaces into real stages where creativity and artistic expression take on a unique dimension.

Bold and innovative proposals, which mix scenic objects with multimedia resources and other visual components, have been part of the cultural proposals of this Festival, which has seen an increase in audience loyalty every year. Kids and adults fill the squares and streets and allow themselves to be involved and infected, whether by the comical posture of a clown, the sounds of an acoustic band or an avant-garde theatre show.

With performances for all tastes and ages, and completely free of charge, "Julho + Quente" has been a strong commitment from the City Council since 2008, contributing to the democratisation of access to culture, the formation of new audiences and the dynamisation of public spaces.

Ending the month with the White Night, which takes place on the last Saturday in July.

Bullfighting

Bullfighting is an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Municipal Interest.

Throughout the history of the municipality of Alcochete bullfighting is present in the oldest and most popular traditions in such an exacerbated way that it cannot be dissociated from the being and feeling of Alcochete. The Festa Brava, in its



most diverse manifestations, is fully recognised as an integral part of the local cultural identity, and is documented as early as the second half of the 15th century, during the reign of King João II.

The 'afficcion' of the people of Alcochete is reflected in the way they exalt the true essence that gives shape and colour to the Festa Brava, as well as the figures that personify the bullfighting identity.

Riders, campinos and forcados are part of the collective memory of this people, who see in the bravery of the Aposento do Barrete Verde Amateur Forcados Group and the Alcochete Amateur Forcados Group that, in various squares around the country and abroad, show all their courage and respect for this art.

The passion and culture of bullfighting are also passed on to all those who visit Alcochete at festive times, namely at the Barrete Verde and Salinas Festivals, the Samouco Popular Festivals and the São Francisco Peasant Fraternisation Festivals

These were the fundamental reasons for the dec-



laration of Bullfighting as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Municipal Interest, which was unanimously approved by the City Council on 9 May 2012 and by the Municipal Assembly on 29 June, also unanimously

This declaration was drawn up in accordance with the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted at the 32nd Unesco General Conference, and in line with other Portuguese municipalities that are part of the Section of Municipalities with Bullfighting Activities.

The declaration of bullfighting as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Municipal Interest reflects the importance of bullfighting in the municipality, both in terms of identity but also culturally and socially, which is also based on an important historical component.

Alcochete is also associated with breeding and refining bullfighting breeds. An example is the stud farm of Comendador Estêvão António de Oliveira in the 19th century, and today with the creation of the Samuel Lupi and Rio Frio stud farms, developed by engineer José Samuel Lupi.

The performances of Alcochete's two forcados groups (Forcados do Aposento do Barrete Verde and Forcados Amadores de Alcochete) ensure the continuity of a tradition with almost 200 years - the art of catching bulls.





ACTIVITIES

Nature, Cultural and Nautical Activities

5





Birdwatching

Alcochete stands out as a favoured destination for birdwatching and is particularly well known for its impressive flamingo migrations. The best time to witness this natural spectacle is between November and March, when these elegant birds find refuge in the Tagus Estuary, forming a dazzling backdrop in shades of pink over the calm waters.

Visitors can enjoy moments of serenity and contemplation, immersed in the beauty of the surrounding landscape, while observing not only the flamingos, but also a variety of other species that make this ecosystem their habitat. With the aid of binoculars and an attentive eye, it is possible to appreciate the behaviour of these birds in full harmony with nature, making this a truly unique experience for lovers of wildlife and nature photography.

Location: Tagus Estuary Natural Park (Salinas do Samouco and Hortas site)

Equipment Required: Binoculars, comfortable clothing and suitable for the weather, notebook or bird guide for records.

Opening times and prices: Entry to the park is free and it is accessible all year round. We recommend visiting during low tides and in the early hours of the morning or late afternoon, when the birds are most active.

Contacts: For more information, contact the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) on +351 213 507 900 or e-mail sede@icnf.pt.

Location: Estr. das Hortas, Alcochete



Walks and rides

Alcochete has a network of trails and walking routes that offer an immersive experience in the region's natural wealth. These paths wind through landscapes of unrivalled beauty, inviting visitors to explore the native fauna and flora in an authentic way, in a sensory discovery marked by direct contact with the environment.

Along the way, you can see the diversity of species that inhabit this protected area up close, from the majestic birds that fly over the skies of the Tagus Estuary to the typical vegetation that paints the landscape in vibrant colours throughout the seasons. The trails lead hikers to strategic points where breathtaking panoramas open up over the estuary's water mirror, the extensive salt marshes and the undulating willows.

The contrast between the serenity of the waters, the vastness of the horizons and the richness of the ecosystem invites contemplation and communion with nature. Each route thus becomes a unique and revitalising experience, where time seems to slow down and the connection to the land is strengthened at every step.

Location: Various trails in the Natural Park of the Tejo Estuary and around Alcochete

Equipment required: Comfortable footwear, clothing suitable for the weather, water and sun cream.

Opening times and prices: The trails are accessible throughout the year and have no associated cost. We recommend checking for weather conditions before the walk.

Contacts: For further information, you can contact Alcochete Tourist Office on +351 212 348 655 or e-mail turismo@cm-alcochete.pt.

Visit to the Historic Centre

Alcochete's historic centre is a real invitation to travel back in time, where the charm of the cobble streets blends harmoniously with the traditional architecture. Its old-style houses, many of them decorated with wrought iron balconies and covered in typical tiles, tell stories of other times and reflect the unique identity of this picturesque riverside town.



At the heart of the town, Praça da República is a nerve centre where everyday life takes place in a cosy atmosphere, between lively terraces and buildings of great historical value. Among the most notable landmarks are the Church of St John the Baptist and the Church of Our Lady of Life, true testimonies to the region's artistic and religious wealth. Their interiors, full of carved details and sacred paintings, invite you to contemplate and discover a centuries-old legacy.

Strolling through the streets of the centre of Alcochete is much more than a simple walk; it's an authentic immersion in the soul of the town, where every corner reveals a piece of its history and every nook and cranny holds the echo of traditions that have been kept alive for centuries.

Equipment required: Comfortable shoes and a camera to record the moments.

Opening hours and prices: The historic centre is accessible at any time. Some churches may have specific visiting hours; we recommend checking in advance.

Contacts: For more information, you can contact the Alcochete Tourist Office on +351 212 348 655 or e-mail turismo@cm-alcochete.pt.



Visit to the Salinas of Samouco

With a long and deep-rooted tradition in salt production, Alcochete still preserves the salt industry today, keeping alive ancestral techniques that have moulded the local identity and economy over the centuries. The Salinas of Samouco, located in a landscape of rare beauty next to the Tagus Estuary, offer visitors the chance to get to know this valuable heritage up close, where artisanal know-how combines with the region's natural wealth.

As you walk through this unique setting, you can see the sparkling water mirrors where the salt is formed, in a process guided by tradition and the rigour of the salt makers. As well as producing salt, the salt pans play a fundamental role in preserving biodiversity, serving as a habitat for various species of birds, such as elegant flamingos and white herons, which find refuge here throughout the year.

More than a vestige of the past, the Salinas of Samouco are a living testimony to the relationship between man and nature, offering an enriching experience that combines culture, history and environmental conservation in an environment of pure tranquillity.

Location: Salinas de Samouco, near Alcochete.

Equipment required: Comfortable shoes, hat and sunscreen.

Times and Prices: Visits are generally guided and require prior booking. We recommend contacting them directly for information on times and prices.

Children (up to 5 years old): Free; Young people (6 - 17 years old): €3; Adults (18 - 64 years old): €4; Seniors (+ 64 years old): €2.5

Contacts: To book visits, you can contact the Salinas of Samouco Foundation on +351 218 949 397 or email geral@salinasdosamouco.pt.

Address: Complexo das Salinas do Samouco, 2890-532 Alcochete

Boat trip

– Bote Leão

The Bote Leão is a traditional boat from Tejo, a true symbol of the region's river identity, preserved and maintained by the Alcochete Municipal Council. Between the months of May and October, including August, this iconic boat offers river trips that provide a unique experience, allowing you to explore the serene beauty of the Tagus Estuary and appreciate Alcochete's surrounding landscape from a new perspective.

On board the Bote Leão, visitors are transported on a journey through time, reliving the historical importance of these vessels in navigation and local trade. As they glide gently through the calm waters of the estuary, they have the opportunity to contemplate the shores adorned with salt pans, salt marshes and extensive natural areas that serve as a habitat for a rich biodiversity, including countless species of birds.

More than just a trip, sailing on the Bote Leão is to immerse yourself in the maritime tradition of the Tagus, in a perfect combination of heritage, nature and leisure. Whether for a moment of contemplation at sunset or an enriching cultural experience, this trip becomes an unforgettable memory, where Alcochete reveals all its riverside essence.

Location: The tours start in Alcochete's riverside area and embark at the local pier.

Equipment required: We recommend wearing comfortable clothing, a hat, sun cream and, if necessary, a bottle of water.

Timetables and prices: The tours take place between May and October, including the month of August. Participation in the scheduled tours is subject to the purchase of a ticket at the Alcochete Tourist Office. Tickets can be booked at least 15 days before the date of the tour. Bookings can be made via the following email address: posto.turismo@cm-alcochete.pt. Boarding takes place 15 minutes before the start time of the tour.

Contact: E-mail: posto.turismo@cm-alcochete.pt
Tel: +351 212 348 655 | Web: www.cm-alcochete.pt



Water sports

Praia dos Moinhos, in Alcochete, is a favoured destination for lovers of water sports, offering ideal conditions for paddle surfing, windsurfing and kayaking. With serene waters and favourable winds, this stretch of the Tagus Estuary attracts both beginners and experienced practitioners, providing a sporting experience in perfect harmony with nature.

Paddling gently on the calm waters, gliding along in the wind or braving the currents are just some of the experiences that this idyllic setting offers. In addition to the sports aspect, the natural surroundings of the beach make every moment even more special, with breathtaking views of Lisbon in the distance and the elegant flight of migratory birds completing the serene atmosphere.

Whether it's for a relaxing stand-up paddle session at sunset, a dynamic windsurfing lesson or a kayak adventure along the hidden corners of the coast, Praia dos Moinhos is a true paradise for those looking for adrenaline, leisure and direct contact with the unique beauty of the estuary.

Location: Praia dos Moinhos, Alcochete.

Equipment required: Specific equipment for each sport (can be hired on site), swimsuit, towel and sun cream.

Contacts: For more information, you can contact Clube Náutico de Alcochete on +351 212 341 814 or e-mail geral@clubenauticoalcochete.pt.

Quinta da Horta riding arena

It offers introductory riding lessons, providing a safe and enjoyable introduction to the equestrian world.

Address: The Quinta da Horta riding arena is located at Rua das Hortas, nº 83, Atalaia, Alcochete

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Saturday: 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

Sunday and Monday: Closed

For more information: 911 086 298

Horse riding – Pátio do Tejo

In Alcochete, an excellent option for horse riding is Pátio do Tejo, which offers unique experiences along the banks of the River Tagus. The rides take place on Rosário beach, providing a perfect combination of the tranquillity of the natural environment and the thrill of horse riding.

Duration: Approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Additional Information: Minimum age: 12 years. Maximum weight: 120kg.

Recommendations: It is advisable to wear comfortable clothing; avoid flip-flops, dresses and skirts.

Address: Quinta Ponte Caia, Rua 1º de Maio, 2860 Gaio-Rosário. GPS coordinates: 38.676422, -9.003771.

Contact: Telephone: +351 926 559 665

E-mail: info@patiodotejo.com





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