



Comenius Project

“Let`s Share Our Culture”

Historic Monuments of the Municipality of Alcoutim



Work made by 7ºB



Ministério da
Educação

DIRECÇÃO REGIONAL DE EDUCAÇÃO DO ALGARVE

AGRUPAMENTO DE ESCOLAS DO CONCELHO DE ALCOUTIM

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Municipality of Alcoutim

Alcoutim, historic old square of the village, also known as Alcoutim and the Romans called Alcoutinium and the Arabs called Alcatião, is located on the right bank of the Guadiana river.





History of the Municipality of Alcoutim

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Menhirs and dolmens bear witness to human presence in the late Neolithic and early Chalcolithic (ca. 4000 BC), within the megalith culture that covered the entire Portuguese territory.

They do, however, the deposits of copper, iron and manganese that attract men from 2500 BC until the time of Roman occupation, leading to the excavation of several mines and the smelting of local ores, which were transported down to the Guadiana River and the Mediterranean, after, the vast expanse of the empire.

Human occupation was maintained during the Visigoth and Muslim domain (Saudação V-XIII), often in the same locations, giving rise, after the Christian recon quest, to some of the settlements of the county of Alcoutim.

The foundation of Alcoutim is presumably linked to the fact that it is located at the place where they feel the tides of the Guadiana, which forced the boats taking part in the traffic of metals and other products to wait for hours the conditions for down-river. Fact that required, necessarily, the existence of support structures and defence.



Conquered in the reign of King Sancho II, in 1240, the town of Alcoutim was repopulated by King Dinis, who in 1304 granted him a charter and, given its strategic position in relation to the neighbouring kingdom of Castile, made his donation to the Military Order of Santiago.

During the war, in the century XIV Portugal and Castile, was celebrated in the middle of the river, opposite Alcoutim, a peace treaty between the kings D. Ferdinand I and D. Henry.

Following centuries of quiet, interrupted only by the War of Restoration (1640/1668) and in the first half of the century. The struggles between liberals and defenders of absolute monarchy, which highlights the fearless guerrilla Shake, who had concealed their forces in the mountains of Alcoutim and other counties.

The drop in mining, agriculture made difficult by poor soils, distance from the coast and the loss of importance of the Guadiana River as a means of transport and its county Alcoutim led to a long period of economic stagnation, gradually changed in recent decades.

Rural and remote Alcoutim is a vast county situated relatively close to Spain - only 40 miles away by the river Guadiana - has an area of 576.57 km² and 3,770 inhabitants. It is the least populated county in the Algarve. It is subdivided into five parishes: Alcoutim, Pereiro, Giões, Martinlongo and Vaqueiros, which



consist entirely of 106 settlements, called “mountains”. One of the most recent aspects of interest in Alcoutim is the fact that the starting point for the Via Algarviana. A pedestrian route, across the Algarve to the Leeward Windward, covering an area of 244 km and ending at Cape St. Vincent in Sagres.

Monuments of the Municipality of Alcoutim

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Alcoutim Castle

Alcoutim being a border town, the castle was built for defensive purposes, in the fourteenth century and has changed in the seventeenth century, when it was introduced artillery.

The walls are wide, offering excellent and varied points viewpoints over the surrounding areas.

On one hand, the green hills, speckled with white flowers of roses, so typical of the Algarve Mountains, on the other hand, the flow of the river, a refreshing landscape marked by a blazing sun



Matriz Church of Alcoutim

The primitive Church of the Savior of Alcoutim is a nave and was built in the first half of the century. XIV. At the end of the century XV and XVI, principles more specifically in 1538, because it was in bad condition, the alcoutenejos asked alms to the Master of the Order of St. James to build up another, closer to the river Guadiana and a patron who gave THE SAVIOR. Work began shortly thereafter and was completed in 1554.



As one of the best examples of the first Renaissance in the Algarve and the only manifestation of architectural renaissance of the county is likely that its author is André Pilarte, master of the Algarve best workshop that adopted the standards "in Roman".





Chapel of Santo António

The Chapel of St. Anthony, also known as the Chapel of St. Anthony.

Located in the Lower Town, near the Guadiana River, it is unknown if the date of its foundation, but has the flat elevations, with a gable roof and a pumpkin cot gives you seniority. The altar is a painting of masonry and marble and is the patron Saint Anthony.

Documentation of the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries was not indicated as a church and a chapel. Believed to have been the chapel of the Counts of Alcoutim but coincidence or not, the title of Earl of Alcoutim was granted June 13, the day of St. Anthony and Chapel is located just opposite the former residence condal.

In 2008, came to house the Museum of Sacred Art Center.





Parishes in the Municipality of Alcoutim

Parishes in the Municipality of Alcoutim



Pereiro

Roman archaeological findings prove the antiquity of their settlement. Many of the houses still maintain the typical architecture of the Algarve hills.



Matriz Church

Modest- looking church, with its origin in the century. XVI.
The interior keeps a core of interesting painted altarpieces,
deserving highlight the altarpiece of souls, the only example of



Mannerism, the altarpiece right side of the rococo style and some powerful images.



Museum Centre of Pereiro

Located in Fonte- Zambujo, this core gives us to know the most secret life of local communities through the oral culture and different manifestations of play, or not, whether magical, sacred or profane.

Giões

Region inhabited since ancient times, spreading a mild elevation, the architecture shows the influence of their homes near the Alentejo. Archaeological remains from the Roman and Muslim have been found in some surrounding areas.



Matriz Church

Building on the XVI Century. Renaissance portal of great simplicity. Aisled nave with Doric columns capitals. Chancel with neoclassical altarpiece carved in the ceiling with paintings of the century XVIII. Century altarpieces XVI in the side chapels. The valuable imaginary noteworthy Our Lady of the Rosary, Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Peter the Apostle and St. Dominic and Our Lady of the Relics, from ancient shrines.

Near Giões are the ruins of the old chapel of St. Dominic, of medieval origin. At the village of Clarines, is worth visiting the Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira, the late Middle Ages, linked with the tradition of the apparition of the Virgin on an olive tree that, therefore, would have curative properties.



Museum Centre of Giões

Located in Farelós, this museum has the theme "Weaving and Use" and tries to illustrate the technique of weaving of wool and / or linen, which was one of the most important craft activities of the county of Alcoutim.

Martinlongo

It is unknown if its foundation, although it was already inhabited during the Roman occupation. It expanded rapidly in centuries XVI and XVIII, and outgrew the village of Alcoutim. The development of this domain is not unrelated to the presence of a wool industry and the fact that many of its inhabitants



dedicated themselves to the lucrative profession of mule driver. Since that time there was a small community of African origin.



Matriz Church

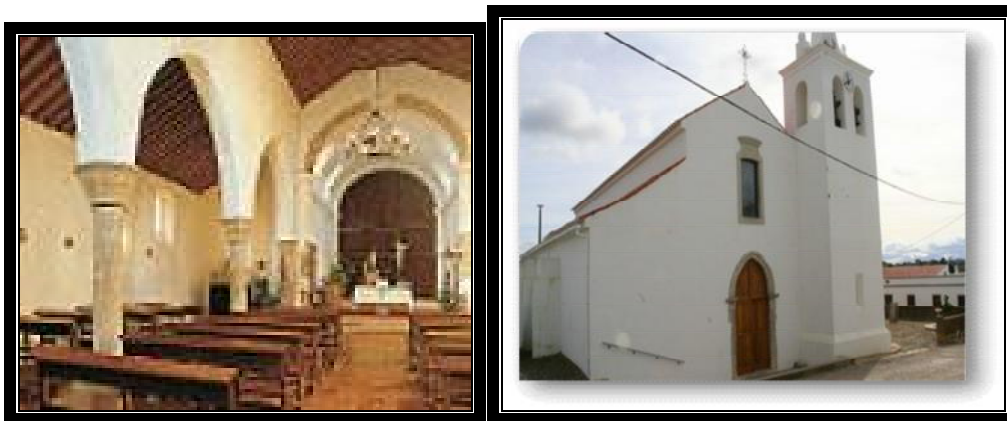
It originated in ancient mosque in which the minaret, now turned into a bell tower. They are also probably the Muslims cylindrical buttresses. Gothic doors simple. Aisled nave, separated by pointed arches. Columns with capitals inverted truncated-pyramidal, the Byzantine influence, rare in Portugal.

The main altar and side altars with panels in the Renaissance style, rebuilt in the century. XVII. Interesting set of images, with emphasis on Our Lady of Conception (XVIII). On the walls, pictures of painted decoration in the century. XVI. A curious capital with gargoyles serves as a baptismal font.



Valuable church treasures, vestments consisting of centuries. XVI to XVIII and objects in silver.

Between cultural values Martinlongo, there are the chapels of the Holy Spirit and St. Sebastian, with its origin in the century XVI, and the chapel of Santa Justa, about five kilometers from martinlongo.



Museum Centre of Martinlongo

Situated in the town of Barred and with the theme "Mirror of Us," this center aims to gather some information about the county of Alcoutim. The cartography, land surveying, iconography and objects (almost) contemporary lead us to the agrarian structure and forms of social organization that characterize the county.

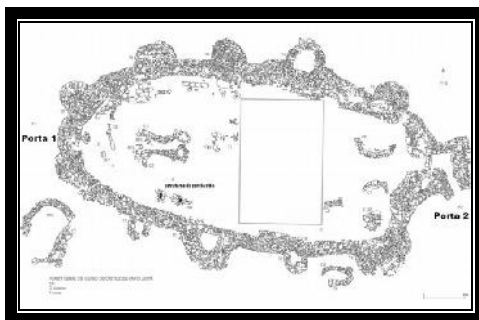


Santa Justa

Santa Justa Castle

Village of the Chalcolithic period (3000 BC) walled structure with circular towers, traces of circular houses inside and outside the walls. Archaeological excavations have revealed an intense economic activity associated with copper, as well as weaving and milling of cereals.

On top of the surrounding hills there are cemeteries of the Iron Age (800 BC) with quadrangular burial chambers formed by slabs of slate. Nearby lie the mines of Santa Justa, operated out of the village.





Museum Centre of Santa Justa

Situated in the Santa Justa and is entitled "Primary School". In this nucleus, the visitor can enjoy a classroom of 50/60 years of the XX century, with all elements and materials used then, without questioning the methods used at the time.



Vaqueiros

Roman archaeological remains prove the presence of people in the parish.

Some streets still keep the testimonies picturesque folk architecture, which seamlessly fits into the small white church.



Matriz Church

Elegant ensemble with origins in the century XVI, remodeled in the century XVIII, where prevails the Rococo style, and in architectural terms the most significant example of the county. In the bell tower, stands out the cover with a pinwheel-shaped cock. Altar has a piece with the paintings and souls on board (XVI). Interesting set of religious imagery.

Next, in the town of Alcaria - Queimada, the Chapel of S. Benedict dating century XVII.



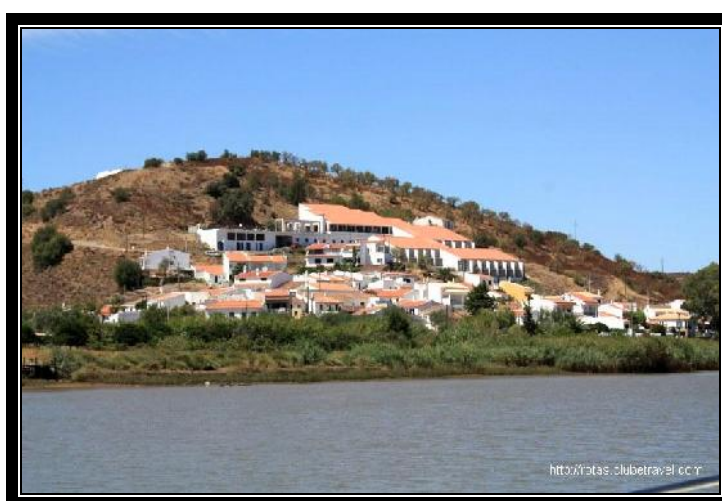


Museum Centre of Vaqueiros

This museum which is located in the village of Vaqueiros has the theme "Life in the Field". Here, we try to give clues about the rural organization, showing visitors what life is like for people living in the countryside.

Guerreiros do Rio

In this village is installed the Museum of Rio. It divulges the Guadiana and its history, the old fishing gear used, the lives of fishermen and the inhabitants of the surrounding hills.



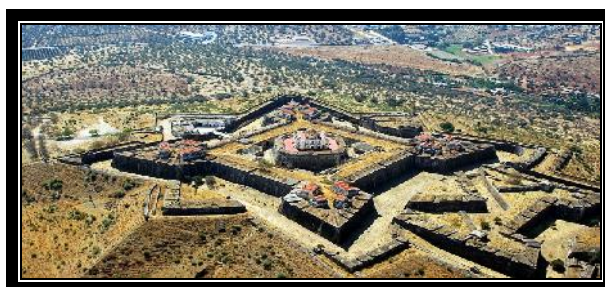


Montinho das Laranjeiras

Excavations show that the ruins of Montinho das Laranjeiras include three distinct areas, the pars fructuaria ", the" ecclesia "and" buyut "respectively from the Roman, Visigoth and Islamic, having been occupied since the sixth century first century BC to XIII AD. Mosaicos found at the site are in the National Archaeological Museum.

Dam and Roman villa

The presence of the Romans is attested by a number of buildings and tombs belonging to a wealthy "villa" and the thick walls of the dam that interrupted the course of the stream Furnace (a stretch about 40 feet long and six buttresses). This site was found one of the largest statues of Apollo in the country, currently exhibited in the National Archaeological Museum.





Cortes Pereiras Mines

Along with antimony mines are wells, some already stuffed, the mining of copper, which probably date from around 1500 BC. On top of nearby hills, the necropolis of quadrangular burial chambers from the Bronze Age (2000 BC), containing the respective urn and pieces of bone. A monument inscription of the second half of the century II attests to the presence of the Romans.



Menhir of Lavajo

Neolithic megalithic monument, built probably about five thousand and five hundred years. This stele, carved in a block of greywacke, with elliptical section, is the largest menhir



greywacke known today in Portugal and the most important South Peninsula.

Presents a rich and varied decoration with circles and other elements



Megalithic tomb

It lies about 30 yards south of menhir. Are observed only three props, defining a space with trapezoidal.





"THOLOS" da Eira dos Palheiros

Funerary monument Chalcolithic (2500 BC) covered by a false dome and built from a circular chamber with a corridor orthostatic dug in the ground and covered with slabs of slate.

Laborato and Aroeira Mines

The mining Aroeira was probably started in the Bronze Age (1500 BC) - there, nearby cemeteries of this period and the early Iron Age - and continued until the sixth century, during the II Roman occupation. Mine Laborato has only two wells.

Cova dos Mouros Mine

Explored up to 30 feet deep. Nearby are the remains of Chalcolithic settlements, necropolis of the Bronze Age and Iron, testimonies of the Roman presence.

Currently, there is installed a theme park with a unique pedestrian itinerary, where the ancient copper mines and prehistoric reconstructions ranging from the Chalcolithic period (2500 BC) to the Roman period, reconstitution of a castle from the Copper Age.



Curral da Castelhana Tapir

Construction is quite regular with seven pillars in the chamber and six in the hall, which dates from the transition 4th to 3rd millennium or the early centuries of this.

Relic Castle

Ruins of a fortress of Muslim origin (VIII - XI Century), of square plan with massive towers, occupying two hilltops overlooking the Vascão river.

