

The European Network of Village Tourism is a new product based on the identity of traditional villages, valuing and upgrading their heritage, in direct contact with their inhabitants and the environment that surrounds them.

Information about this is available on the Internet at www.euronet-village.com, a site where details about the regions, the villages and the range of available services can be found.

This Network offers you discovery tourism, a search for myth and for things of the imagination: the signs wait to be discovered in these ancestral regions.



Imaginary tour around Evoramonte



The pedestrian tour goes along some of the most significant places of the medieval village, making known the jewels of the military, civilian and religious patrimony of Evoramonte without forgetting the natural beauty of the landscape.

The tour starts outside the medieval wall in a place known as Alpedriches which is the first opportunity to see and enjoy the beautiful planure of Alentejo extending itself to where our eyes can catch and going up to the most visible entrance – the door of Freixo...half way to the “Cama da Moura” (moor’s bed rock).

It follows the parish church which is today known by “Nssa. Sr.^a da Conceição” (Our Holy Mother of Conception) but it was known by “Santa Maria” (Holy Mary) and afterwards the “Casa da Câmara” (County’s Town-Hall House).

Down a narrow way there is the “Capela da Misericórdia” (Mercy’s Chapel) with its nave full of monochromic glazed tiles.

When we get to the top of the hill we enter into the Tower/“Paço Ducal” (Duke’s Palace), the true *ex-libris* of the village and on the way out we could have the opportunity to get in touch with the medieval wall and with the patrol’s path, recently restored in its whole extension.

After a passage through the “Porta do Sol” (Sun’s Door), which is today’s main access to the village, we end at the “Casa da Convenção” (Convention’s House) where liberals and Miguel’s followers put an end to the Civil War in Portugal on the 26th of May in 1834.

1 EVORAMONTE AND THE ALMENDRES

The first evidence of human occupation in Evoramonte refers to the Superior Paleolithic. In the Neolithic Period the



“Antas” (dolmens) which are megalithic funerary monuments from about 5000 B.C.(Before Christ) and they are the main reference in this region.

Related with the final of the Bronze period, there are along the hill where Evoramonte is settled some signals of a fortress from this period which was included in an area between eight and ten ha.(hectares), what represents a superior area to the one occupied by the medieval wall.

Several authors also establish a strong relationship between this place and the most well-known megalithic areas of Évora’s region:

“...Evoramonte is the north limit of the moon’s rising (Full Moon) seen from the Almendres place...” and “...the “Serra d’Ossa” (ridge of mountains called Ossa) is one of the landscape’s passage which is very upsetting to the megalithic area of Valverde. And it is this way because of the celestial relationship it can empower. It is similar, on its peak, with the areas of “Portela de Magos” and “Vale de Maria do Meio” as it is compared in the rising sun of summer which transmutes Evoramonte into the Almendres to a lunar environment.”

2 THE ROCK “CAMA DA MOURA” (MOOR’S BED)

Here, walking to the Door of Freixo, the draft of this rock, as a bed, sug-



gests that someone really used it as a bed some time ago.

From the fancy world of the inhabitants of Evoramonte we can pick up the vision of a female Enchanted Moor who stayed here and lying down on this “bed”, south facing, she had been waiting for many centuries for her lover who will come and ransom her. After that they both will live happy together.

The moor, lying down on this rock, witnessed everything which happened as the most important events in the village during the last seven centuries.

3 THE DOOR OF FREIXO

It’s one of the entrances of the wall area. Its name comes from the ancient parish chief-village “Nssa Sr.^a



do Freixo” (Our Lady of Freixo), which was joined to the county of Evoramonte up to 1855.

There are two medieval semi-circled towers and two five hundredth round shelters (bastions) on each side of this ogival door. There is a marbled plate with the inscription of the date and with the name of the responsible of the foundation of this fortress.

4 CHURCH OF NSSª SRª DA CONCEIÇÃO (OUR LADY OF CONCEPTION)

This is the main church of the village which is located on the Rua de San-



ta Maria (St. Mary’s Street). This street was named from the original name of the church since the medieval time (13th century) when it was erected.

There are many interesting features inside it as the full covered coloured main altar on baroque paintings and the paintings on the Gospel and on the epistle, clearly influenced by the Renaissance.

It is marked by the large entrance porch of the main street-front outside.

5 “CASA DA CÂMARA” (HOUSE OF THE TOWN-HALL)

This is the building in which the county council meet before of the lost of municipal’s autonomy of Evoramonte in 1855.

The Tower of the Clock is erected from this building as the base of itself. It has a squared structure with a four-sided roof and an oblong plant. It has two bells of melted bronze which were used to call the people from the counties and to give the news whenever there were meetings inside.

The first floor was a prison for the condemned of the county’s limits.

6 MERCY’S CHAPEL

It was probably erected in 1516, when the Brotherhood of the Saint House of Mercy made its commitment.

It will have been re-erected after the earthquake of 1531.

Inside we can appreciate the nave filled in blue on white glazed tiles of the middle of the 18th century. They represent various subjects and they make known relevant stories of the Bible and acts of mercy which should be put on practice by the faithful.

7 TOWER / PALACE OF EVORAMONTE

The Tower/ Duke’s Palace is the *ex-libris* of Evoramonte. It would have been ordered by D. Jaime the first,



Duke of Bragança. It was possibly erected where the medieval donjon was built, which remained probably as a consequence of the earthquake of 1531.

It was raised up as a defensive structure or a house residence for hunting. Its strength and visibility in the middle of the Alentejo’s plain symbolizes the power of the Duke’s House which ordered it to be built.

The architects Diogo and Francisco Aruda were the authors.

8 MEDIEVAL WALL

The structures of the wall in Evoramonte had their origins in the 14th century(1306) and they circle all the medieval village. They are formed by stones and rocks of schist, granite and marble.

They have four doors (The Door of Freixo, The Sun’s Door, The Door of Saint Sebastian and The Door of Saint Braz). Besides they also have a small wicket located near the Public Cistern. The structure has four towers of the 14th century and five round bastions and its patrol’s walk which is conserved along a big area of its extension.

9 THE SUN’S DOOR

The Sun’s Door is also wrongly called the Door of the Village. Today it is the main access to the medieval village, too.

It has a gothic structure defended by two semi-circled towers and a round bastion on the East.



10 THE CONVENTION OF EVORAMONTE

This building is a house for living and it was built many years ago but its date of construction is unknown. It was property of Dr. Joaquim António Dias Saramago who was a doctor and administrator of the county of Evoramonte.

It was here that on the 26th May of 1834 was signed the Convention which has put an end to the unique Civil War of Portugal’s History for a period of more than 900 years. It became famous by the Convention of Evoramonte.