

Obidos

Leiria District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Óbidos is a small walled town on a hill in the West region of Portugal. It is about one hour from Lisbon. The white houses, flowers and narrow cobbled streets sit inside medieval walls and below a castle. For centuries the town was a gift to Portuguese queens, and it is still called the Town of the Queens.

Today Óbidos is also a town of books and festivals. It has several bookshops, one inside a church, and UNESCO named it a Creative City of Literature in 2015. It suits a half-day or an overnight stay, ideally combined with the coast and nearby towns. Stay overnight to see it after the day visitors leave.

When to visit

Spring and early autumn are pleasant, with mild days and fewer crowds. Summer is warm and dry and the busiest season. Winter is mild but often wet, and the streets are quiet.

The main events fall in three seasons. The International Chocolate Festival is usually held in March. The Medieval Market fills the town for about ten days each July, with a ticket needed to enter. From late November to early January, Óbidos Vila Natal turns the town into a Christmas village.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 17° Feels like 10°	10° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 17° Feels like 11°	10° / 7°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20° Feels like 12°	11° / 8°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 21° Feels like 14°	13° / 10°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	14° / 12°	Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 25°	16° / 14°	
July	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	17° / 16°	20 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 27°	18° / 16°	21 sunny days · Humid air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	17° / 15°	Humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	16° / 13°	12 rainy days
November	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 20° Feels like 14°	13° / 10°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 17° Feels like 11°	11° / 7°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Castelo de Óbidos was fortified by the Moors and taken by *King Afonso Henriques* in 1148. It is now a pousada, a historic hotel. The best views come from walking along the town walls, which are up to 13 m high in places.
- B Town Gate is the main entrance to the old town. A short tiled passage leads through the wall to the main street.
- C Igreja (Matriz) de Santa Maria stands on the main square. *Afonso V* married here in 1441. It is the town's parish church.
- D Livraria de São Tiago is a former church that is now a bookshop. It is a good example of the town's literary identity.
- E Aqueduto da Usseira is a long 16th-century stone aqueduct south of the old town. It carried water to the town and is a pleasant short walk.



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What to experience

- Drink ginjinha, the local sour-cherry liqueur, in a small edible chocolate cup. Many shops in the old town sell it.
- Browse the town's bookshops. Fólio, the international literary festival, is held each October.
- Visit during the Medieval Market in July. Costumed performers and shows fill the streets.
- Walk the top of the town walls at sunset for views over the roofs and countryside.
- Visit in March for the Chocolate Festival, with chocolate-themed events across the town.
- See Óbidos Vila Natal from late November to early January, with lights and a themed Christmas village.

Day trips

The towns and beaches of the West region are close. Most are about 15 to 45 minutes by car.

- Caldas da Rainha: about 15 minutes by car. A spa town known for its ceramics. See the Museu da Cerâmica.
- Lagoa de Óbidos and Foz do Arelho: about 20 minutes by car. A large coastal lagoon with beaches and water sports.
- A Alcobaça: about 25 minutes by car. Home to a large medieval monastery that is a World Heritage site.
- B Peniche: about 30 minutes by car. A fishing town with surf beaches and boats to the Berlengas islands in summer.
- C Nazaré: about 40 minutes by car. A beach town known for very large winter waves.
- D Lisbon: about 1 hour by bus or car.



Where to explore

Óbidos works well as a base for the Silver Coast and the West.

- For the coast: Peniche and Nazaré
- For monasteries and abbeys: Alcobaça and Batalha
- For the capital: Lisbon

Getting there

- By air: Lisbon Airport (LIS) is the gateway, about 80 km south. Take a taxi or rental car for about one hour. Or take the metro into Lisbon and continue by bus.
- By bus: Direct coaches run from Lisbon, from the Sete Rios and Campo Grande terminals. The trip takes about 1 to 1.25 hours. Booking online in advance is usually cheaper. The stop is just outside the walls, a few minutes on foot from the Porta da Vila.
- By train: Óbidos has a station on a slow regional line, but there is no direct train from Lisbon. The trip takes over two hours with changes, so the bus is faster. The station is at the foot of the hill, about 10 minutes uphill from the old town. Check times on the CP Comboios de Portugal site.

Getting around

- On foot: The old town is small and closed to most traffic. Cobbles are steep and uneven, so wear sturdy shoes. The tourist office is at Rua da Porta da Vila, open daily 9:30 to 13:00 and 14:00 to 17:30.
- Local buses: OBI municipal buses connect the town with nearby villages and the lagoon area. Check lines and timetables on the Óbidos municipality transport page.
- Tickets: Event tickets, such as the Medieval Market, are sold online. Most sights inside the old town can be seen on foot at no cost.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is small and car-free. Streets are cobbled and steep in places.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Steep cobbled streets inside the walls make cycling hard. Roads outside are better.

Driving

- Is a car worth it?: No for Óbidos itself, which is walkable. A car is useful for the lagoon, beaches and nearby towns.
- Parking: Cars are not allowed in the historic centre. Use the car parks outside the walls, mainly south of the old town, and walk in.
- Access: Lisbon is about 80 km away on the A8 toll motorway, around 50 minutes without traffic. Rental cars usually have a toll transponder.

Food & drink

Try ginjinha, the cherry liqueur known here as *ginja d'Óbidos*. It is often served in a small chocolate cup. Chocolate is a local theme year-round.

For meals, look along Rua Direita, the main street, and the side lanes. Choose by the menu on the door and book ahead on festival weekends.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Caldo Verde
A simple, comforting soup of shredded kale, potato, and slices of chourico sausage.

Francesinha
A hearty Porto specialty: a meat-stuffed sandwich covered in melted cheese and a spiced tomato-beer sauce.

DINNER

Bacalhau
Salt cod, Portugal's national dish, said to be prepared in hundreds of different ways across the country.

Sardinhas Assadas
Charcoal-grilled sardines, especially popular in summer street festivals and along the coast.

Arroz de Marisco
A rich, soupy seafood rice, similar to paella but wetter, packed with shellfish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Pastel de Nata
A small custard tart in flaky pastry, best eaten warm with cinnamon and sugar.

DRINKS

Vinho Verde
A young, light, slightly sparkling white wine from northern Portugal, meant to be drunk within a year of harvest.

Port Wine · Vinho do Porto
A fortified wine from the Douro Valley, aged in cellars around Porto, ranging from sweet ruby to complex aged tawny styles.

Ginjinha · Ginãa
A sweet liqueur made from sour cherries, traditionally served in a small cup, sometimes with a cherry at the bottom.

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Safety & health

Óbidos is very safe for visitors. Watch for pickpockets in busy summer and festival crowds.

Cobbles are slippery when wet. The tops of the walls are narrow and in places high, so take care, especially with children.

History

Muslim forces fortified the hilltop in the 8th century. *King Afonso Henriques* took Castelo de Óbidos from the Moors in 1148. The town celebrates this on 11 January.

In 1282 *King Dinis* gave the town to his new wife, Queen Isabel, as a wedding gift. After that, many Portuguese queens kept Óbidos as part of their property, which earned it the name Town of the Queens. This lasted until 1834.

In 1441 *Afonso V* married at Igreja (Matriz) de Santa Maria. The 1755 earthquake damaged the walls and churches. The painter *Josefa de Óbidos* lived in the town in the 1600s.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



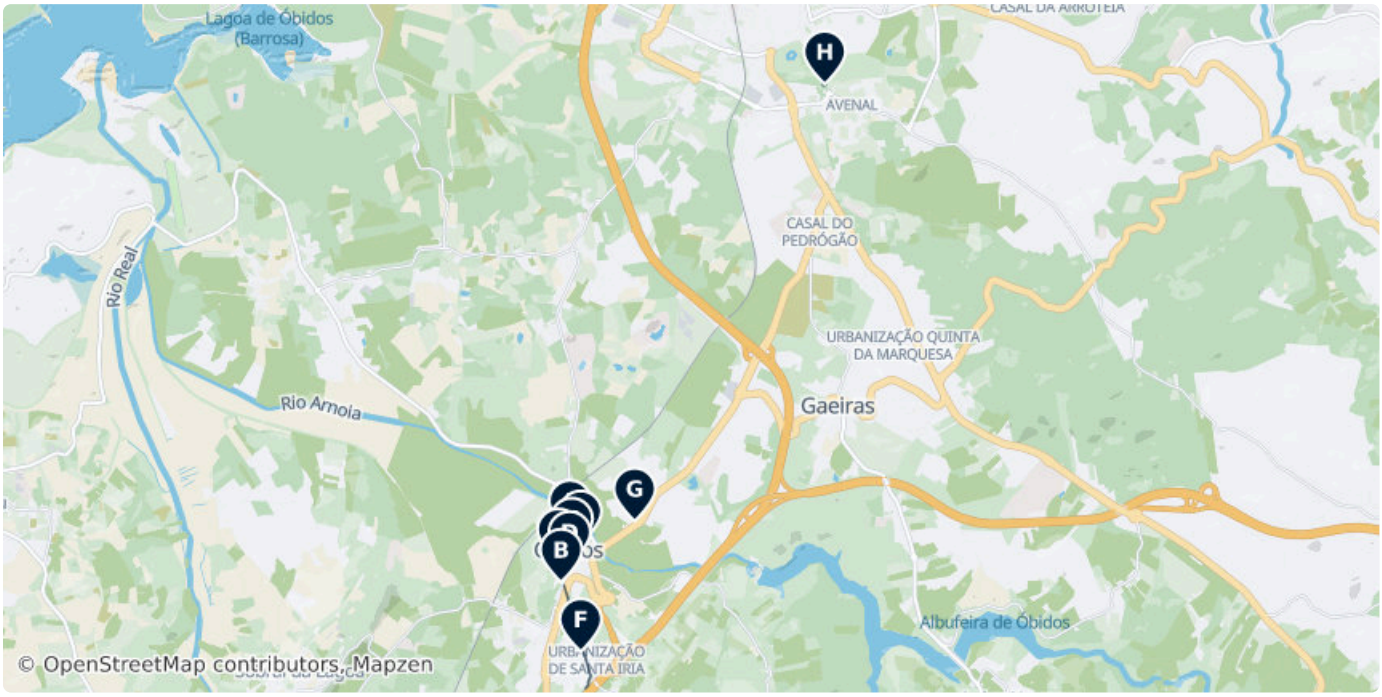
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Obidos: The Unmissable Essentials

This collection highlights the architectural heritage of Óbidos, a medieval town enclosed by 12th-century fortifications. It features the well-preserved Castle of Óbidos and the main Town Gate, known for its intricate 18th-century tilework. The list includes significant religious sites like the Renaissance-style St. Mary's Church and the unique hexagonal Santuário do Senhor Jesus da Pedra. Visitors can also explore the 16th-century Usseira Aqueduct, which spans three kilometers, and the Museum of Ceramics, which documents the region's traditional pottery traditions.





A Castle of Óbidos

The Castle of Óbidos is a well-preserved medieval castle located in the civil parish of Santa Maria, São Pedro e Sobral da Lagoa, in the...

(Unnamed Road), Óbidos 2510, Portugal
(39.36340, -9.15698)



B Town Gate

The main entrance to the town, featuring a balcony and an interior chapel decorated with 18th-century blue and white tiles depicting scenes from the Passion of Christ.

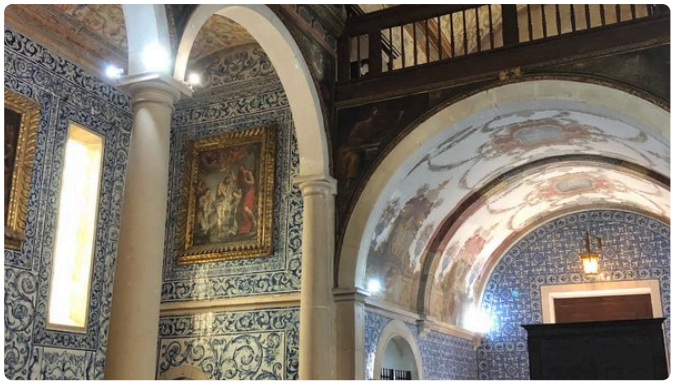
2 Rua Josefa de Óbidos, Óbidos 2510077, Portugal
(39.35947, -9.15789)



C St. Mary's Church

This Renaissance-era church houses a collection of 17th-century hand-painted tiles and notable artworks by the Baroque painter Josefa de Óbidos.

10 Praça de Santa Maria, Óbidos 2510002, Portugal (39.36197, -9.15679)



D St. Peter's Church

Originally built in the 14th century and reconstructed after the 1755 earthquake, this church features a gilded baroque altarpiece and is the burial site of Josefa de Óbidos.

3 Rua do Padre António de Almeida, Óbidos 2510039, Portugal (39.36088, -9.15700)

E Miradouro Jogo da Bola

A central viewpoint offering panoramic vistas of the medieval town's white-washed houses, terracotta roofs, and the surrounding countryside.

3 Rua de Dom Antão Moniz, Óbidos 2510037, Portugal (39.36110, -9.15819)



F Óbidos Aqueduct

The Óbidos Aqueduct is a 16th-century aqueduct that spans the Portuguese municipality of Óbidos.

Pinhal, 2510-081 Óbidos, Portugal (39.35386, -9.15585)



G Santuário do Senhor Jesus da Pedra

An 18th-century Baroque sanctuary located outside the town walls, distinguished by its unique hexagonal floor plan and unfinished bell towers.

EN 8, 2510-102 Óbidos, Portugal (39.36439, -9.15022)



H Museum of Ceramics

An interesting exhibition on the traditional Portuguese crafted ceramics and their history. Stop by if you are in the area.

Rua Doutor Ilídio Amado, 2500 Caldas da Rainha (39.39960, -9.13040)

+351 262 840 280

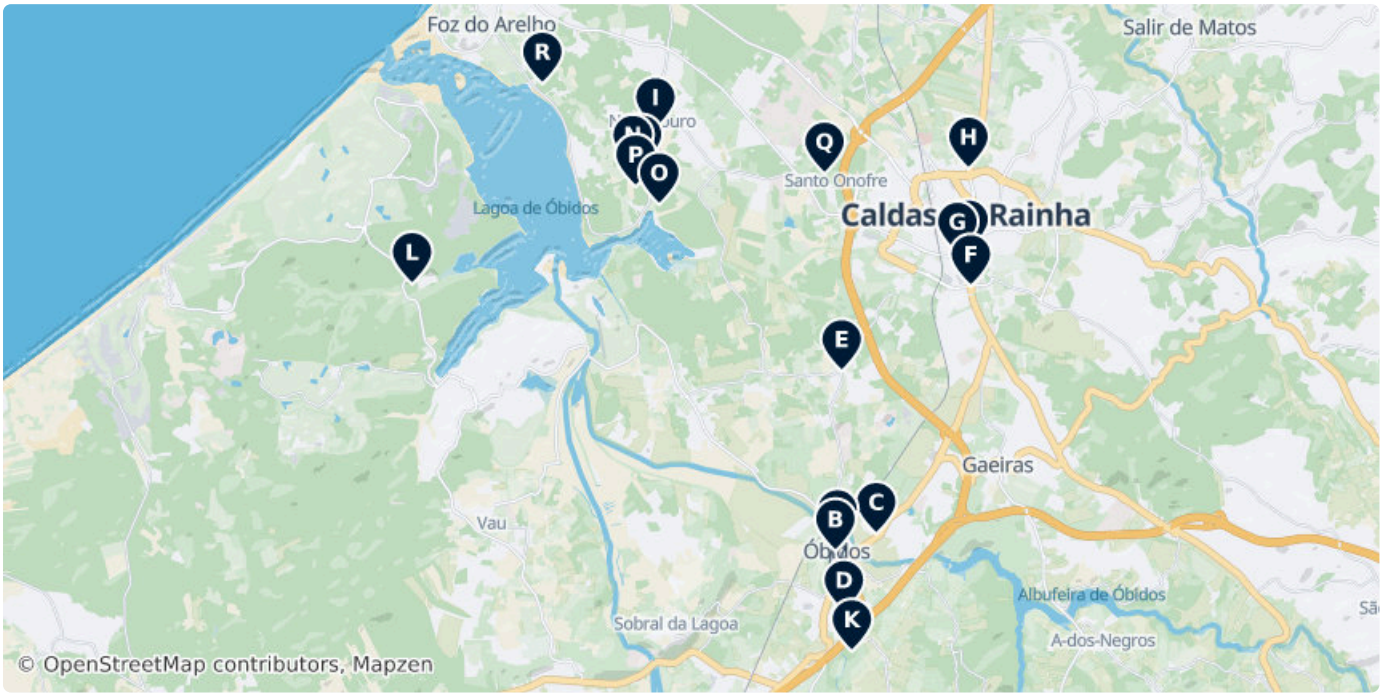
I Baloiço de Óbidos

A wooden panoramic swing located on a hill, providing elevated views of the Óbidos castle and the medieval town walls.

(39.36254, -9.15586)

Historical Heritage Sites

This collection highlights the architectural history of Óbidos and its rural surroundings. It features the well-preserved medieval castle and the 16th-century Usseira Aqueduct, alongside the Baroque Santuário do Senhor Jesus da Pedra, notable for its hexagonal design. The list also includes civic monuments like the statue of Queen Leonor and various community bandstands. Scattered throughout are numerous ruins of traditional stone houses, offering insight into the region's historical domestic architecture and rural heritage.





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B Castle of Óbidos

The Castle of Óbidos is a well-preserved medieval castle located in the civil parish of Santa Maria, São Pedro e Sobral da Lagoa, in the...

113 Rua Direita, Óbidos 2510001, Portugal
(39.36207, -9.15735)



C Santuário do Senhor Jesus da Pedra

An 18th-century Baroque sanctuary featuring a unique hexagonal floor plan and an unfinished exterior, located just outside the town walls.

EN 8, 2510-102 Óbidos, Portugal (39.36439, -9.15022)



D Óbidos Aqueduct

The Óbidos Aqueduct is a 16th-century aqueduct that spans the Portuguese municipality of Óbidos.

Pinhal, 2510-081 Óbidos, Portugal (39.35386, -9.15585)

E Coreto

Traditional Portuguese bandstand used for community events and musical performances.

(39.38632, -9.15626)

F Monumento ao Emigrante

Commemorative sculpture dedicated to the history of Portuguese emigration.

(39.39778, -9.13371)

G Rainha Dona Leonor

Statue of the 15th-century Queen Consort of Portugal, who founded the nearby thermal hospital in Caldas da Rainha.

Largo Conde de Fontalva, 2500-184 Caldas da Rainha, Portugal (39.40216, -9.13604)

H Fonte

Traditional stone water fountain.

(39.41362, -9.13414)

I Coreto

Traditional Portuguese bandstand.

2 Rua do Poço da Bomba, Nadadouro 2500576, Portugal (39.41894, -9.18874)

J Coreto

Traditional Portuguese bandstand.

(39.40245, -9.13410)

K Casas em Ruinas

Remnants of traditional stone dwellings.

(39.34856, -9.15446)

L Ruinas

Historical stone ruins.

(39.39808, -9.23123)

M Casas Velhas

Remnants of old traditional houses.

(39.41391, -9.19111)

N Casas Abandonadas

Abandoned traditional stone structures.

(39.41387, -9.19271)

O Casas em Ruinas

Remnants of traditional stone dwellings.

(39.40878, -9.18807)

P Casas em Ruinas

Remnants of traditional stone dwellings.

(39.41122, -9.19223)

Q Casas em Ruinas

Remnants of traditional stone dwellings.

(39.41296, -9.15925)

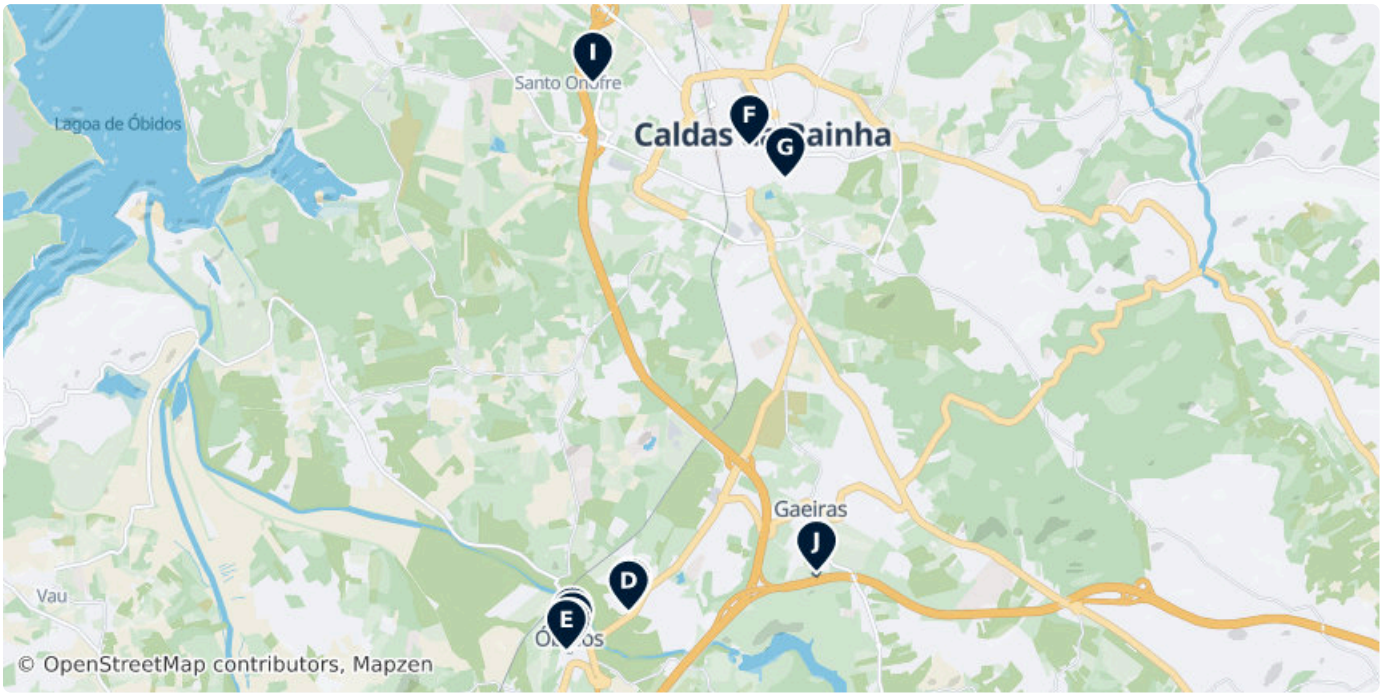
R Casa em Ruinas

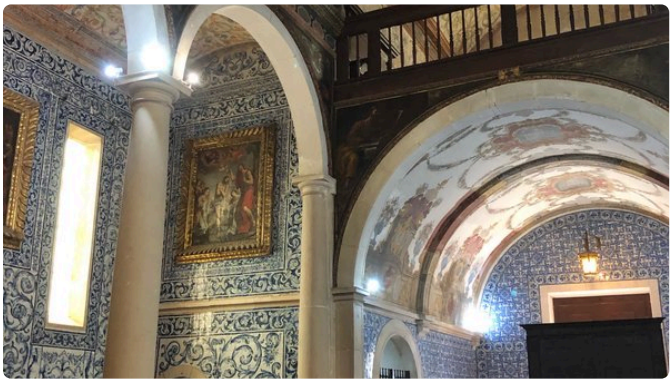
Remnants of a traditional stone dwelling.

(39.42507, -9.20850)

Religious Heritage Sites

This collection explores the diverse religious architecture of the Óbidos and Caldas da Rainha region, ranging from 14th-century Gothic chapels to 18th-century Baroque sanctuaries. Key highlights include the royal wedding site of St. Mary's Church, famous for its 17th-century tiles, and the unique hexagonal Santuário do Senhor Jesus da Pedra. The list also encompasses the National Monument of Nossa Senhora do Pópulo and significant local parish cemeteries.





A St. Peter's Church

Rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake, this church contains a gilded wood altarpiece and the tomb of the 17th-century painter Josefa de Óbidos.

3 Rua do Padre António de Almeida, Óbidos 2510039, Portugal (39.36088, -9.15700)



B St. Mary's Church

The town's main church, known for hosting the 1444 royal wedding of King Afonso V. It features walls lined with 17th-century azulejos and paintings by Josefa de Óbidos.

10 Praça de Santa Maria, Óbidos 2510002, Portugal (39.36197, -9.15679)

C Almhouse Church

Founded by Queen Leonor, this church features a Manueline portal and an interior decorated with 17th-century blue and white tiles.

8 Praça de Santa Maria, Óbidos 2510002, Portugal (39.36157, -9.15672)



D Santuário do Senhor Jesus da Pedra

An 18th-century Baroque sanctuary notable for its rare hexagonal floor plan. It was built to house a venerated stone crucifix.

EN 8, 2510-102 Óbidos, Portugal (39.36439, -9.15022)

E St. Martin's Chapel

A 14th-century Gothic funerary chapel. It is one of the few medieval buildings in Óbidos to survive the 1755 earthquake.

40 Rua Direita, Óbidos 2510001, Portugal (39.36087, -9.15743)



F Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Conceição

Parish church located in Caldas da Rainha.

Hemiciclo João Paulo II, 2500-212 Caldas da Rainha, Portugal (39.40627, -9.13614)



G Igreja de Nossa Senhora do Pópulo

Igreja de Nossa Senhora do Pópulo is a church in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal. It is classified as a National Monument.

5 Rua Rodrigo Berquó, Caldas da Rainha 2500, Portugal (39.40336, -9.13196)



H Senhor Jesus da Pedra

Chapel dedicated to the Senhor Jesus da Pedra.

Largo do Santuario, Santa Maria 2510102, Portugal (39.36460, -9.14995)

I Cemitério Municipal de Santo Onofre

Municipal Christian cemetery.

(39.41190, -9.15436)

cm-caldas-rainha.pt

J Cemitério de Gaeiras

Local Christian cemetery in Gaeiras.

Autoestrada Caldas da Rainha-Santarém, 2510, Portugal (39.36795, -9.12833)

DATA SOURCES

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