

## SOCIAL VISIT



**09:15 – Departure from Beja (BejaParqueHotel)**

**09:30 – Regional Museum of Beja/Castle of Beja**



The **Regional Museum of Beja** is settled in the old Convent of Our Lady of the Conception, founded at 1459 by the infants D. Fernando and D. Brites, D. Manuel I's parents. Among the Museum's rich collection, which covers a wide period - since prehistory until our present days, for its historic and artistic value we highlight the Archaeology, Painting, Tile, Ceramics, Jewellery, Sculpture, Metrology and Hardware collections.

In the program we propose, a visit to the Church, Chapter House and Cloister will be possible; Fernando Nunes Ribeiro's archeology collection, with the collections of Southwest's Bronze, from the Iron Age and the Roman Era being the main feature; the vast asset of Tile Art dominion, originally from demolished churches and convents in Beja by the end of the XIX century and the Paintings Collection, which gathers an important set of works produced in Portugal between the XV and XVII century.

We also propose to share the story of Soror Mariana Alcoforado, a religious woman from the Order of Saint Clare, from Beja's Convent of the Conception. The love letters are her sublime non-matched passion, that remains at time and has aroused interest all over the world. The Museum still conserves the great barred window, better known as Mértola's Window, from the Mértola's or Mariana's Gates, a true Convent, Museum and City's ex-libris, from where the religious woman has seen so many times her charmed one passing by, who's look in a faithful day made her feel the first effects of her unfortunate passion.

You can ascend to the robust Keep of the **Castle Of Beja**, built in gothic style, which is considered one of the finest examples of the Middle Age military architecture in Portugal. Rising forty meters high (the largest in the country), it has three chambers inside. With angular counters over the machicolations, jointed by railings kept by pyramidal battlements, torn by ogival doors and

twin windows, in horseshoe arch form. The chambers are richly decorated, presenting ceilings with ogival cross vaults. The city's Tourism Post is located inside the Castle.

## 11:00 – Beja Airport



Visit to the **Beja Airport**, located in the Air Base nº 11, 12 km from the city of Beja. This Airport is found 170 km south from Lisbon and 100 km north from Algarve, the two main destinations from the national touristic flow. Located in a 60 to 80 km radius from Beja you can find, at west, the industrial complex of Sines with the deep and extensive waters Port, and also the Alentejo Coast beaches. To east there is the Spanish boarder. Also near there's the Alqueva Dam, the biggest artificial lake in Europe (250 km<sup>2</sup>), creating a huge potential for agricultural, touristic and sports development of this Alentejo's region. It will be possible to visit its main infrastructures and listen to an explanation about its conception, usage and future prospects.

## 11:45 – Vila Galé Clube de Campo

Visit to the **Vila Galé Clube de Campo Rural Hotel**, just 25 km from Beja, which represents a new concept of holidays in the Alentejo. At the Clube de Campo Hotel all the details where planned to achieve a full integration in the rural landscape.

Inaugurated in September 2001, the Clube de Campo Rural Hotel disposes of 78 rooms and 3 Junior Suits, outdoor swimming pool for adults and children, Health Club with jacuzzi, heated indoor swimming pool, treatment and massage. It provides also access to various animation activities, mini golf, tours by walk, moto 4 or by bicycle, nautic sports (pedalo and boats), plate shooting and a "garraiada" in the ring.

Visit to the **«Casa de Sta Vitória» Wine Cellar**, projected according to a modern, technological and extremely functional concept, carefully conceived and equipped in order to produce high quality wine and to receive visitors in the best conditions. It will be possible to visit the

various Chambers that compose the Wine Cellar, among them, the Exposition Chamber, located on top of the Wine Cellar, where you can observe it and watch a film that explains the most important steps of the production, and also, the Tasting Chamber, turning to west, made for you to taste the wines and to, simultaneously, enjoy the Alentejo plain's sunset.

Finally, you can relish on the region of Beja and Low Alentejo's typical gastronomy, having lunch in the **Pavilhão da Caça Restaurant**, tasting the spices and drinking the prized wines of Casa de Santa Vitória.



**14:30 – Return to Beja (BejaParqueHotel)**