



SILVES, 1189. THE CONQUEST

2018

10 TO 19 AUGUST

SILVES MEDIEVAL FAIR

ORGANISED BY

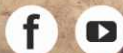
Silves
câmara municipal

MEDIA PARTNER

Suinformação



BACKED BY



WWW.CM-SILVES.PT

#FEIRAMEDIEVALSILVES

DAILY EVENTS

OPENING OF THE MEDIEVAL FAIR AND
PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS AND
SQUARES OF THE MEDINA
06:00 p.m.

READING OF THE EDICT
06:30 p.m.
Portas da Cidade

 JOUSTING CONTEST
08:00 p.m.
Praça Al-Mut'amid

 BESIEGED IN THE CASTLE:
FROM SIEGE TO SURRENDER
10h30 p.m.
Castle
Multimedia Theatre

 JOUSTING CONTEST
10:30 p.m.
Praça Al-Mut'amid

TICKETS AND PRICES

BESIEGED IN THE CASTLE:
FROM SIEGE TO SURRENDER
5.00 EURO
(INCLUDES ENTRY TO THE PERIMETER AREA)

JOUSTING CONTEST
5.00 EURO
(INCLUDES ENTRY TO THE PERIMETER AREA)

DAILY TICKET
JUST DAILY TICKET 2.00 EURO
DAILY TICKET WITH CUP 3.00 EURO
(CHILDREN UP TO A HEIGHT OF 1.30 METRES (4'3"))

GROUP TICKET
5 ADMISSIONS 8.00 EURO (NO CUP INCLUDED)

FREE PASS WRISTBAND
3.00 EURO (PRESALE UNTIL 09TH AUGUST)
4.00 EURO (DURING THE MEDIEVAL FAIR OF SILVES)

COSTUME HIRE
ADULT - 3.00 EURO | CHILD - 2.00 EURO

MEDIEVAL EXPERIENCE
ADULT - 60.00 EURO
CHILD (FROM 6 TO 10 YEARS) - 30.00 EURO

THE ROYAL TABLE
25.00 EURO

ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS

DANCE

Aliusvetus, Arakisati, Corvos do Conde,
Md5, Emad Selim, Lua de Fogo,
Oriental Ensemble e Danças Mouriscas

HISTORICAL RE-ENACTMENT

A Caravana Berbere, Artelier?, Cryseia,
Satori, Tent'art, Três Irmãos

JOUSTING CONTEST

Cryseia

MUSIC

Albalyna, Al Caravan, Al Folk, Alhambra,
Al Mediêvo, Eduardo Ramos Moçárabe,
Helena Madeira, Lôa Trovadoresca,
Percutunes, Recanto, Sons da Suévia

SET DESIGN

Cryseia

STREET ENTERTAINMENT

Companhia Inspirueta,
Saltimbanco da Charneca

- + We regret payments by cheque or ATM are not acceptable.
- + We cannot exchange or refund tickets, wristbands or cups.
- + If you need an invoice with taxpayer identification number please request it before you pay.
- + Please confirm your tickets before leaving the ticket service point.
- + Wristbands are valid only when attached on wrists. Use is personal and non-transferable.
- + We cannot exchange Xilbs (official currency of the Silves Medieval Fair) to Euros at the ticket service point. This service is provided at the Royal Exchange Office.
- + Change may be made in Xilbs.
- + Costumes can be hired at the Royal Wardrobe.
- + The Medieval Fair entertainment programme can be altered due to unforeseen reasons.
- + By purchasing a ticket or bracelet you accept all the conditions described above.

OPENING HOURS OF THE
15TH SILVES MEDIEVAL FAIR

Opening: 06:00 p.m.
Closing: 01:00 a.m.

SILVES, 1189. THE CONQUEST

In this edition of the Medieval Fair the theme will be the first capture of Silves by the Christians, which took place in 1189. This important episode of our history carries particular interest given that the siege of the city, which preceded the conquest and which lasted 45 days, was recounted in full in the form of a diary, by one of the crusaders, who himself took part. This circumstance allows us, with the distance that requires a critical sense and the careful reading of other sources that took a contradictory stance, to have a very complete notion of this event. The crusader, who did not sign the document, is known as the "Anonymous Crusader" and his writing, found in a library in the Italian city of Turin, was published for the first time in 1844 and is entitled "Account of the Naval Defeat, Feats and Successes of the Crusaders who departed from the Scheldt for the Holy Land in the Year 1189".

In 1189 the town was dominated by the Almohads, a Berber tribe organised out of Morocco, with the aim of unifying the somewhat fragmented Muslim Empire, after the unsuccessful reunification attempt by the Almoravids.

The city was being run by Abu Becre Ibn Wazir, who the crusaders referred to as Albainus. Apparently, this Ibn Wazir was the son of Mahomed Ibn Wazir, lord of Évora, who also ruled Beja, Silves and Badajoz. In an initial partisan phase of Ibn Qasi, who ruled the kingdom of Silves during the first half of the 12th century, he became his opponent and after his death in 1151, he was in command of the city until the Almoravids dethroned him in 1157. His son, also known as Abu Becre Ibn Wazir Al-Xelbi is one of the most important characters in the siege of 1189. A highly skilled warrior, a strong and persistent man, over a long period of time he heroically resists an army composed of more than seventy vessels and countless knights.

On the other side we have King Sancho I, the Christian king, who takes advantage of the passage of the Third Crusade of the East, headed by Frederick Barbarossa of Germany and Henry II of England, to attempt to conquer Silves, which would be the same as dominion of the whole Gharb.

The Christians passed the ditches and crossed the outer wall of the town edges, taking the lower part of the city on the first day but, the impregnability of the walls of the medina ensure lengthy resistance and, only the tearing down of the water access channel protection, thus ending water supply, provoked the surrender of the Muslims.

Ibn Wazir was spared and went into exile in Seville, before again making his mark during the dominion of Almohads, when he was one of the warriors in Yacub al-Mansur's army during the 1191 recapture of the city by the Muslims.

THE TAKING OF SILVES DAY AFTER DAY

10TH AUGUST | FRIDAY

THE DAY IS JULY 20TH OF THE YEAR 1189. FROM HIGH UP ON OUR CITADEL, WE SPY IN THE FAR DISTANCE, AT A PLACE FROM WHICH YOU CAN SURELY SEE THE SEA, MORE THAN THIRTY SHIPS. IT LOOKS LIKE THE THIRD CRUSADE, WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD WOULD BE HEADING TOWARDS THE HOLY LAND. THEY MUST BE PREPARING TO ATTACK US. THE CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO TRY TO TAKE THE CITY. MAY ALLAH HELP US!

11TH AUGUST | SATURDAY

THE RIVER ARADE IS NOT IN A GOOD STATE AND IN FRONT OF THE CITY IT HAS ALREADY BECOME SHALLOW; THE CRUSADERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET HERE IN THOSE BOATS OF SUCH DEEP DRAUGHT. BUT BEWARE, THEIR FORCES ARE ARRIVING BY LAND; IT SEEMS THAT THEY HAVE ALREADY CROSSED THE LOWER CITY'S WALLS. WE WILL NOT CAPITULATE; THEY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ENTER THE UPPER CITY BECAUSE OUR WALLS ARE POWERFUL AND IMPREGNABLE.

12TH AUGUST | SUNDAY

TODAY, DAWN BROKE CALMLY OVER SILVES; WE HAVE THE CHRISTIAN CAVALRY STATIONED IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE CITY BUT WE SEE A GREAT DEAL OF MOVEMENT IN THE RIVERSIDE AREA. IT SEEMS THAT THEY ARE USING SIEGE ENGINES AND THEY HAVE ALREADY TRIED TO UNDERMINE THE WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION YESTERDAY. LET'S HOPE THEY DO NOT DESTROY IT, BECAUSE WE WILL HAVE NO WATER.

13TH AUGUST | MONDAY

THE SUN IS ALREADY HIGH AND THE CHRISTIANS ARE YET TO STOP IN THEIR TOIL. THEY JUST REACHED OUR MUEZZIN, WHO, FROM THE TOP OF THE MINARET OF THE OUTER CITY MOSQUE, WAS RECITING THE CALL TO MIDDAY PRAYER. WHAT CRUELTY! THE PEOPLE CONTINUE THEIR DAILY ROUTINE BUT ARE VERY WORRIED. MOTHERS NO LONGER ALLOW THEIR CHILDREN TO GO TO THE MADRASA TO LEARN THEIR LETTERS AND THE KORAN.

14TH AUGUST | TUESDAY

THE CHRISTIANS NEVER STOP TORMENTING US AND TWICE THEY HAVE TRIED TO BREAK THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF THE WATER SUPPLY, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. WHEN THIS IS LOST WE WILL ALL DIE BECAUSE OUR CASTLE'S SMALL SPRING HAS ALMOST RUN DRY. FAMILIES STAY IN THEIR HOUSES, FRIGHTENED, WHILE GROCERIES ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO RUN OUT IN THE MARKETS. MAY ALLAH HELP US.

15TH AUGUST | WEDNESDAY

THE CHRISTIAN TROOPS HAVE SURROUNDED US FOR EIGHTEEN DAYS NOW; THERE IS FAMINE, AND THE WEAKEST AMONG US HAVE PERISHED. WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE THEM TO THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE AS THE CEMETERIES ARE OUTSIDE THE GATES. YESTERDAY, WHEN THE SUN HAD ALREADY SET, THEY MANAGED TO DESTROY THE WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION, AND SO NOW OUR MEDINA HAS NO WATER.

16TH AUGUST | THURSDAY

WE ARE DISCOURAGED; THE SIEGE ENGINES HAVE CAUSED MAJOR DAMAGE TO THE WALLS AND SOME MEMBERS OF THE ENEMY ARMY ARE TRYING TO CROSS IT, BUT WE ARE FIGHTING BACK WITH ALL OUR FORCES, TAKING ARMS TO REPEL THEM. WITH THE GRACE OF OUR GOD, WE WILL WIN. XILB IS STILL OUR XILB!

17TH AUGUST | FRIDAY

TODAY IS SEPTEMBER 3RD; THE DAY BEGAN WITH SUNNY SKIES BUT OUR HEARTS ARE GREY AND WITHOUT JOY. FEAR AND SICKNESS HAS SEIZED OUR PEOPLE. MANY OF US HAVE DIED, BECAUSE OUR PROVISIONS HAVE RUN OUT, AND ANY SURVIVORS ARE SICK AND SPIRITLESS. IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE OTHER THAN TO SURRENDER. WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN SOME BENEVOLENCE FROM KING SANCHE.

18TH AUGUST | SATURDAY

KING SANCHE IS BENEVOLENT AND HAS PROMISED THAT HE WOULD LEAVE US WITH OUR BELONGINGS BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE CRUSADERS DO NOT AGREE AND WANT TO PLUNDER THE ENTIRE CITY. KING SANCHE EVEN PROMISED TEN THOUSAND GOLD CRUZADOS, WHICH HE THEN RAISED TO TWENTY, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. THE CRUSADERS ARE MAKING US LEAVE THE CITY WITH NO MORE THAN THE CLOTHES ON OUR BACKS.

19TH AUGUST | SUNDAY

LET US LIVE IN OUR BELOVED XILB, EVEN UNDER THEIR CONTROL. WE LOVE OUR CITY, SURROUNDED BY FERTILE LAND AND FIELDS FULL OF LEAFY TREES, ITS WELL-STOCKED MARKETS, DYNAMIC PORT AND EASY ACCESS TO THE SEAS. SEAS IN WHICH PRODUCTS AND IDEAS CIRCULATE. LAND OF POETS, LAND OF CULTURE, LAND OF HARDWORKING MEN AND WOMEN, PROSPEROUS AND BEAUTIFUL LAND. THE SUN WILL CONTINUE TO SHINE ON THIS LAND, TODAY AND FOREVER, WHATEVER THE IDEOLOGY AND RELIGION.

MEDIEVAL FAIR MAP

