



SILVES MEDIEVAL FAIR

9 TO 18 AUGUST 2019

XILB AND THE VIKINGS

ORGANISED BY

Silves
câmara municipal

MEDIA PARTNER

Suinformação

RUA
RÁDIO
UNIVERSITÁRIA
DO ALGARVE
102.7 FM

BACKED BY

TURISMO DE
PORTUGAL

Zoomarine
Oceans of Fun

DELTA
O CAFE DA SUA VIDA

AMENDOEIRA
GOLF RESORT

FIESA
Festival Internacional
de Escultura em Areia

eco
evento

Algar
valoriza pessoas e ambiente



WWW.CM-SILVES.PT
#FEIRAMEDIEVALSILVES

DAILY EVENTS

SILVES MEDIEVAL FAIR OPENING AND
PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS AND
SQUARES OF THE MEDINA
06.00 p.m.

PREDICTION BY THE MADINAT XILB VIZIER
06.30 p.m.
City Gates

WAR GAMES
BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND VIKINGS
8.00 p.m.
Praça Al-Mut'amid

CASTLE SHOW "THE VOYAGE"
10.30 p.m. Castle
Entertainment with Dance | Music | Fire

WAR GAMES
BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND VIKINGS
10.30 p.m.
Praça Al-Mut'amid

PROCESSION | SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT

AUGUST 09

07.00 p.m. Start in the castle
with words to Algazali from the city vizier

07.15 p.m. Words to Algazali from the Iman
next to the mosque and city gates

07.30 p.m. Farewell to Algazali Feast by the jetty

08.00 p.m. Algazali's departure
towards the lands of the Normans



AUGUST 18

07.00 p.m. Algazali's reception
on returning from the land of the Normans

07.30 p.m. Words to Algazali from the Iman
next to the mosque and city gates

08.00 p.m. Algazali's arrival at the citadel
and welcome reception by the city vizier

XILB AND THE VIKINGS

The year is 844, the location the beautiful city of Xilb, where a vessel, built in its shipbuilding yards by the most illustrious of masters using advanced seafaring techniques, is launched on the river. The care taken in its ornamentation clearly reveals the noble nature of its purpose. On this very day, the most skillful of the diplomats that al-Andalus has ever known will board it.

Everyone knows that the Majus (Vikings) can't keep away from our coastline and that the emir in Cordoba is worried. Just a few days ago, eighty powerful vessels approached the city of Lisbon, leaving the population in a state of panic. Further east, cities such as Seville and Cadiz have already been attacked and plundered, with the former remaining under the rule of the Normans for about a month, before being recaptured and the northerners repulsed. The instability felt and constant threat are becoming untenable to the extent that the king of the Normans has proposed peace, and our Abd al-Rahman II has sent out orders to negotiate such peace.

The man charged with such an important mission is Yahya b. Hakam al-Bakrī, poet and skilled diplomat, better known as Al-Gazali (the Gazelle), not only for his renowned comeliness, but also for his gifts of subtlety, daring, courage, perseverance, as well as his skill for clear and convincing rebuttal and the ease with which he can gain entrance and exit of any door. He is accompanied by Yahya b. Habib and, together, they are the bearers of a reply to the petition of the Norman king and a gift to reciprocate what had been given by that monarch.

Our city, as it has armouries that work with the finest wood, riches sourced from our mountain range, and a port of calm waters that take us out to the not-too-distant sea, has been chosen by the emir as Al-Gazali's departure point. The Norman emissary follows nearby in another vessel and, I follow behind them both, charged with writing an account of the mission.

With the sails of our boats hoisted and catching a good wind, we have soon passed Zawayya (Lagos?) and have the promontory in our sights. There we were surprised by a powerful storm that we got through with difficulty, albeit with damage to one of the boats, as the waves were as high as the surrounding mountains. With the danger passed we reached the first of the Norman islands, where we docked to repair the boat and rest after the fatigue caused by the storm. 300 miles separated us from the king's palace, which we reached without any trouble.

The palace is located on one of the many green islands inhabited by many pagans, so many that it is impossible to count them. There, the king commanded that luxurious rooms be prepared for us and organised a feast to welcome us. Two days later he sent for us and, our ambassador

informed them that we would not kneel before him or do anything that was not according to our customs. The king agreed, but he ordered the creation of an entrance that was so low that it forced the Andalusian ambassador to enter on his knees. The astute Al-Gazali entered sitting and once he had passed through he stood up, adopting a proud and determined poise and addressing the monarch the following words: "Peace be upon you, oh king, upon you and upon all your council, respectfully I greet you. I wish you long life and for your power to never leave you, here and for eternity, and that you remain under divine protection."

After his words had been translated the king exclaimed: "You are the wisest I have ever encountered among your people. I tried to humiliate you and you answered me with the soles of your shoes. If you were more than just an ambassador, I would hold it against you." Triumphant Al-Gazali gave him the letter from Abd al-Rahman, which was read, translated and much appreciated. Then the presents were handed over, which the Norman king appreciated in equal degree, thanking him for them before asking the Muslim ambassador to return to his rooms.

Nud, the king's wife, immediately took a shine to the diplomat, summoning him to her rooms and developing a great friendship with him, leading them to spend long days talking about the customs of their peoples and the beauty of the queen, who Al-Gazali extols in his beautiful poems. However, the frequent visits quickly arouse the curiosity of the people of the palace, causing those closest to him to advise prudence and to distance himself from her. Missing her companion's long, challenging and engaging conversations, Nud sends for him and asks why he has kept away from her. The poet does not hide the true reason, which makes her laugh and causes her to explain to him that jealousy does not exist in their customs, and that women are only with their husbands while they please them.

After two months in the Norman court, enjoying the company of the beautiful queen, Al-Gazali returns with peace won, passing first via Santiago de Compostela and the beautiful kingdom of Castile. Despite this, a decade and a half later the Vikings once again ravaged the Andalusian coast, but more than one hundred years had passed when they returned to the city of Silves, where, on our Arade River, they fought a hard battle that they could not win. The year was 966 and that was the last time the Vikings were seen in these parts.

AL-GAZALI'S DEPARTURE FROM THE PORT OF SILVES, ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO THE LAND OF THE NORMANS IN THE YEAR 844, REPRESENTS THE OLDEST WRITTEN SOURCE REFERRING TO WHAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED CITIES OF GHARB AL-ANDALUS.

MEDIEVAL FAIR MAP



VIKING ENCAMPMENT

AMBIENCE

Viking tents, wooden structure with thatched roofs
Viking tents, wooden structure with canvas roofs
Viking ship
Viking cart
Funeral pyre

EXPERIENCES

(in continuous operation)
Blacksmith
Weaving
Carpenter
Tanner
Net weaver

RE-ENACTMENTS

Wedding ritual
Sacrifices to the gods
Ritual of the blood eagle
Funeral ritual

TICKETS AND PRICES

CASTLE SHOW "THE VOYAGE"

5,00 EUROS (ONLY SHOW)
6,00 EUROS (INCLUDES ENTRY TO THE PERIMETER AREA)

WAR GAMES

5,00 EUROS (ONLY SHOW)
6,00 EUROS (INCLUDES ENTRY TO THE PERIMETER AREA)

DAILY TICKET

WITHOUT CUP 2,00 EUROS | WITH CUP 3,00 EUROS
(CHILDREN UP TO A HEIGHT OF 1.30 M (4' 3") OR UNDER 9 YEARS ON SALE ONLINE CAN ENTER THE FAIR FREE OF CHARGE - WITHOUT CUP)

GROUP TICKET

5 ADMISSIONS 8,00 EUROS (WITHOUT CUP)

FREE PASS WRISTBAND

4,00 EUROS (PRESALE UNTIL 08TH AUGUST)
5,00 EUROS (DURING THE MEDIEVAL FAIR OF SILVES)

COSTUME HIRE

ADULT 3,00 EUROS | CHILD 2,00 EUROS

MEDIEVAL EXPERIENCE

ADULT 60,00 EUROS
CHILD (UNDER 10 YEARS) - 30,00 EUROS

AT THE ROYAL TABLE (BANQUET)

ADULT 40,00 EUROS
CRIANÇA (FROM 6 TO 12 YEARS) - 15,00 EUROS
(INCLUDES ENTRY TO THE PERIMETER AREA)

ENTERTAINMENT GROUPS

ENCAMPMENT, DECORATION AND RE-ENACTMENT
Cryseia and The Glasgow Vikings

DANCE

Rast, Emad Selim, Arakisati, Aliusvetus, Md5,
Dragon Legacy, Grupo SPIRIT and Oriental Ensemble

SHOW THE VOYAGE

Anymamundy

WAR GAMES

Cryseia

MUSIC

Strella do dia, Cornalusa, Albaluna,
Sons da Suévia, Al Medievo, Eduardo Ramos
Moçárabe, Al-Folk, Al-Caravan, Alhambra, Recanto,
Helena Madeira and Percutunes

THEATRE AND STREET ENTERTAINMENT

Satori, Companhia Inspirueta, Ubisunt,
Pedro Charneca, Os Trampolineiros da Cerca
and Os Alfaqueques

INFORMATION

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ 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 16TH SILVES MEDIEVAL FAIR

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