

# Grândola

## VILA MORENA



GRÂNDOLA  
MUNICÍPIO

# GRÂNDOLA VILA MORENA

*GET READY FOR AN ADVENTURE, DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF THE REGION,  
EXPLORE THE DENSE GRÂNDOLA MOUNTAIN RANGE, ENJOY THE BEACHES OF ENDLESS  
GOLDEN SAND AND RELAX AT THE MODERN TOURIST RESORTS OR LOCAL TOURISM VENTURES  
LOCATED IN THE RURAL OUTSKIRTS AT YOUR SERVICE.  
COME AND EXPLORE THIS PARADISE LOCATED BETWEEN THE MOUNTAIN RANGE AND THE SEA!*

*Located on the coast of Alentejo,  
at the confluence of several  
regions, a place merging different  
knowledge and flavours can  
be discovered in the Grândola  
municipality, a new and singular  
tourism destination.*



Its 814 Km<sup>2</sup> face the Atlantic Ocean and border the municipalities of Alcácer do Sal, Ferreira do Alentejo and Santiago do Cacém. The seafront runs for 45 km, extending from the Tróia Peninsula down to Melides, opening the door to a vast number of leisure opportunities.

On the other hand, the presence of wide lowlands and mountainous areas holds a natural, landscape, environmental and archaeological value deserving a closer look.

Europa



Portugal



# HISTORY & HERITAGE

COME AND DISCOVER THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF GRÂNDOLA, WANDER THROUGH ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, MINING HERITAGE AND MONUMENTS EVOKING THE CARNATION REVOLUTION...



Ruínas Romanas de Tróia



Igreja de Santa Margarida da Serra



Monumento Megalítico da Pedra Branca

Start by investigating and exploring the archaeological and architectural heritage scattered around the region, the result of a presence from the various communities who left their legacy behind, century after century. Several archaeological sites testify the human occupation of this land, all the way back to the Mesolithic era.

Of Roman chronology you can visit the thermal baths, a necropolis, a fish salting complex, an early Christian basilica, the remains from a presumed *villa* and a dam. Older and significant constructions also exist at the region. In the parish of Melides we highlight the presence of the **Pedra Branca** megalithic monument, built at the end of the Neolithic period, and the **Cistas das Casas Velhas** necropolis, a group of individual graves from the Bronze universe of the Portuguese southwest.

From a more recent time, the ruins of **Igreja de Santa Marinha** [church] in Melides perform a curious temple dating back to the XVI<sup>th</sup> century. In Santa Margarida da Serra, the **Igreja de Santa Margarida da Serra** [church] can be visited and represents a shrine with a Mannerist style interior, probably from the XVI<sup>th</sup> century, while at the parish of Carvalhal, the **Ruínas Romanas de Tróia** (roman ruins), with a chronology ranging between the I<sup>st</sup>/VI<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, can also be visited. The ruins, located in a peninsula with the same name, were classified as a National Monument in 1910 and are currently included in the Portuguese indicative list to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

When going through the parish of Azinheira dos Barros e São Mamede do Sádão, the **Igreja Nossa Senhora da Conceição** [church], a XVI<sup>th</sup> century construction deserves a visit, alongside the **megalithic monuments of Lousal, Serôdios, Monte Branco and Pata do Cavalo**.



Mina do Lousal - corta exterior



Ermida Nª Srª da Penha de França



Tiragem de cortiça



Memorial ao 25 de abril



Centro Ciência Viva - Lousal



Mural ao 25 de abril



Casa Frayões Metello



Igreja Matriz de Grândola

There are several points of interest to explore in Grândola: the **Cerrado do Castelo** roman site located at the primary school premises, with a 1<sup>st</sup> and III<sup>rd</sup>/IV<sup>th</sup> centuries AD chronology; the **Igreja Matriz de Grândola** (parish church) originally built in the XV<sup>th</sup> century; the **Antigos Paços do Concelho** (Old Town Hall) erected in the XVIII<sup>th</sup> century, and the **Ermida da Nossa Senhora da Penha de França** (hermitage) located at the top of the Grândola Mountain range. If you ever find yourself at this place, do take advantage of the overwhelming views provided by this natural viewpoint over Grândola.

Grândola was part of the Military Order of Santiago and functioned as a commendatory abbot integrated into the Alcácer do Sal municipality. Its population was distributed around different centres; the distance from the municipality headquarters and the damages emerging thereof, in addition to a sufficient number of people living within the region led to the inhabitants requesting from king D. João III of Portugal the concession of the *Foral* status. It was granted on October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1544, a date still celebrated at the Municipal Day commemorations.

The XIX<sup>th</sup> and XX<sup>th</sup> centuries brought to Grândola development and progress, mainly through the creation of small units of cork processing, the

development of the railroad and the beginning of the mining industry at Canal Caveira and Lousal. Today, the mining operation stands as a milestone of the regional history. In 2001, the **Museu Mineiro do Lousal** (mining museum) opened to the public and represents as a space meant to preserve the memory of the hundreds of workers who excavated the mines. It is possible to visit the exploration sites and even the engines and machinery located at the Central Eléctrica (power plant). In 2010, Lousal witnessed the development of a new centre – **Centro Ciência Viva "Mina de Ciência"**, an interactive place for scientific and technological innovation, consisting of exhibition areas, a 3D equipment room, an interactive experiences' space, a cyber café, an auditorium and even a viewpoint terrace. Two spaces that should not be missed by those who love science, whether they are children or adults. Bring your kids and unravel some of the secrets from the mineral world! Travel to the centre of the Earth and become fascinate by the first ever gallery explored at the Lousal site. Flipped this book of stories marked in shale and ore featured at the **Galeria Waldemar** and get inspired.

An unforgettable event within the history of the town is connected to one of the most prominent and esteemed figures within the national musical scene and the overall democratic environment of

the Portuguese XX<sup>th</sup> century – Zeca Afonso! Everyone knows the verses "*Grândola, Vila Morena/ Terra da fraternidade/O povo é quem mais ordena/ Dentro de ti ó cidade...*" (*Grândola, Swarthy Town/ Land of fraternity/It is the people who lead/Inside of you, oh city*), a poem written by the musician and paying homage to the people of Grândola, who impressed the artist with their determination and fraternity when, for the first time in 1964, he came to Grândola to participate in the anniversary party of a local community event – **Sociedade Musical Fraternidade Operária Grandolense** – a key local hub in the fight against the fascism regime. The song, approved by the period censorship, was sung by Zeca Afonso at the *Primeiro Encontro da Canção Portuguesa* (the Portuguese Song First Encounter) event, organized by *Casa da Imprensa* at the Lisbon Coliseum on March 29<sup>th</sup> 1974, in an atmosphere of apotheosis and spontaneous manifestation of freedom and fraternity. Seven thousand people, arm in arm, sang "*Grândola, Vila Morena*" in unison. This was in fact one of the reasons behind the choice over the song to become the second password for the Armed Forces Movement to unleash the April Revolution, which has remained in history as the Carnation Revolution, thus establishing an inseparable link between Grândola and the ideals of freedom, democracy and solidarity that April returned to Portugal.

Highlighting the debt of gratitude that the people of Grândola have towards José Afonso, the **Escultura a José Afonso** (sculpture) signed by António Trindade should be noted. It was inaugurated as part of the April 25<sup>th</sup> commemorations 25 years later. In addition, there are other monuments evocative of this ephemeris around the town. The **Memorial ao 25 de Abril** authored by Bartolomeu dos Santos and the **Monumento à Liberdade** (freedom monument) by Jorge Vieira, were inaugurated at the same celebrations.

The XXI<sup>st</sup> century saw the creation of more spaces associated with the history of the municipality, as the **Museu do Arroz**, museum dedicated to the rice industry and performing, a reference product within the region, and the **Museu de Arte Sacra** (sacred art museum) under the authority of the Diocese of Beja and exhibiting important religious assets coming from churches around the Grândola region. The year 2018 marks the opening of the **Núcleo Museológico da Igreja de São Pedro e Reservas** (museum) and the **Casa Mostra dos Produtos Endógenos** (endogenous products show house), focused on preserving the identity and disseminating the history and the local products.

Come and visit the *Vila Morena*, the Land of Fraternity!

# LEISURE & RECREATION

VISIT UNIQUE PLACES, ANCIENT TRACKS THAT ARE SO CLOSE YET  
SO DISTANT FROM THE HECTIC WORLD...



*Abrigo Birdwatching*



*Eco-Parque Montinho da Ribeira*



*Pesca*

Located on the lowlands existing between the mountain range and the sea, Grândola is the ideal destination for those looking for a quiet holiday, however filled with excitement!

Here you will not have to choose over the mountain or the beach, and you will not step into a crowded coastline. On the horizon, the breath-taking landscapes of the Grândola Mountain range invite you for a pedestrian stroll, or for the more adventurous types, to engage in mountain biking activities, with the possibility of relaxing at the Montinho da Ribeira Eco-Park at the end.

In pre-established areas - Tourist Hunting Zones - you can hunt a variety of animals, from doves, partridges and thrushes to hares, rabbits and wild boars. Climb up to the mountainous highest point, located at around 326 meters up, and take in the richness of the landscape, contemplate the predominance of the cork oak – this is the place from where one of the best corkwood products in the world comes from. On your way, be sure to pay attention to the abundant fauna and flora living in pure communing with the nature around.

If you can't live far from the beach, this region's extensive coastline ensures you to discover great places and who knows, even indulge in a pleasant fishing practice, an exciting pedestrian stroll or perhaps a horse ride. Extending from the far end of the Tróia Peninsula down to the Melides Beach, this performs the widest beach stretch in the country and a third largest in the world.



*Praia do Carvalhal*

*Here, you will be able to find everything you need for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.*

Here, you will be able to find everything you need for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

Highly recommended is the participation in a small exploration route, one that follows the best beaches in the region: Melides, Aberta Nova, Galé, Pego, Carvalhal, Comporta, Atlântica, Bico das Lulas, Tróia Mar and Ponta do Adoxe. The beauty of the scenery justifies the circuit! The existing biodiversity welcomes the practice of bird watching, especially nearby areas around the Sado Estuary and the Melides Lagoon (where a modern bird observatory exists). The growing reputation and awareness over the environmental and tourism relevance for the region is wisely reflected upon the tourism investment across the Atlantic seafront, already asserting itself as a new tourist destination, offering exceptional conditions to impress the most demanding visitors in terms of hotels, restaurants, tennis and golf courses, a harbour, a conference and entertainment centres, in addition to a Casino.

The tourism development impacting upon the rural area has also taken on a special prominence within the municipality, currently presenting a wide variety of tourist units of excellent quality that are surrounded by stunning landscapes.

The local accommodation is in full expansion and now includes hundreds of units spread across the area.



Praia da Galé



Marina de Tróia



Casino de Tróia



Golf



Turismo no Espaço Rural

Serra de Grândola



# FOOD & WINE

DELIGHT YOUR SENSES WITH THE MISHMASH OF AROMAS AND FLAVOURS THAT ARE PART OF THE TRADITIONAL CUISINE IN THE COMPANY OF EXCELLENT WINES.



Alcomonias



Açorda de Tomate



Bolo das Rosas

The local cuisine is inherently influenced by both the coastal and inner Alentejo traditions, resulting in delicious contrasting dishes. On the one hand, the presence of fish and seafood products come from the close proximity of this land with the sea. We highlight the soups, pastas, *caldeiradas* (fish stews) and *ensopados* (broth) prepared with the famous eels.

Take full advantage of the extensive shoreline and visit the restaurants by the sea, experience a magnificent meal with a panoramic view over the ocean.

On the other hand, you will find traditional dishes of pure Alentejo gastronomy, starting with the typical sausages, going through the hunting dishes, wild boar, pork and lamb, and ending with the traditional *açordas* (bread stew). All seasoned with classical Alentejo aromatic herbs: coriander, oregano, mint, pennyroyal, rosemary and basil. Dishes are always complemented with delicious bread, fruity Alentejo olive oil, honey and the tempting traditional sweets at the end, as for example the famous *bolo das rosas* (roses cake) or the common *alcomonias* [local sweets].

A reference should be made towards the *cozido à portuguesa* (boiled dinner), as it performs one of the most traditional dishes within the national cuisine, and reaches its maximum expression at Canal Caveira site, best known for being the capital of *cozido*!

As a good dish should always be accompanied by good wine, here are a few suggestions: the nectar from Herdade da Comporta, Pinheiro da Cruz, Brejinho da Costa, Serenada, Pego da Moura and Herdade Canal Caveira.

Did we manage to capture your attention and senses? Then please choose one from our traditional taverns or, if you prefer, a more exquisite restaurant to enjoy our world of flavours and aromas.



Cozido do Canal Caveira



Produção de vinho – Enoturismo

Discover the traditional flavours of Alentejo, all seasoned by the Atlantic ocean and refined by modern wines from old castes or maybe by more recent vines introduced into the ancestral wine making expertise.

# HANDICRAFT & ETHNOGRAPHY

HANDICRAFT AND ETHNOGRAPHY MARK  
THE ALENTEJO IDENTITY OF THIS REGION.



Ferro forjado



Cortiça



Grupo Coral Vila Morena



Artesão

The behaviours and traditions of the people living in the Grândola municipality translate into a transversal culture, which is at the same time distinct in itself, as it includes geographical, economical and social specificities. This cultural diversity is visible around the everyday lives of the rural, mining and fishing communities.

This is the region where pottery, woollen blankets, pastoral art and the construction of thatched cottages (*cabanas em colmo*) mark the memory of the area inhabitants, being these cottages still very present in our days. To all these we can add a more recent legacy in the art of working the roots, like the *camarinha*, an endogenous plant from our coast, or some other plants located at the Grândola Mountain range, and not forgetting the traditional clothing, accessories and both felt and woollen bijouterie, in addition to other resin pieces. Ceramic painting, wrought iron (*ferro forjado*), cork works (*cortiça*), toys' manufacturing and wider woodwork and traditional pieces of cloth still have their maximum expression in the daily community life.

The *Cante* (singing), sung by the voices of the **Grupo Coral Vila Morena** and marked by the rural workers' traditional costumes and folklore, still highly present in places like Isaías and Valinho da Estrada, performs an identifying element within the local ethnography, as well as in both religious and pagan celebrations.

The **Frayões Metello** house located in Grândola exhibits a diverse collection of ethnographical pieces that should be explored. The collection draws us towards the traditions and the culture of the people in Grândola and, in some way, ends up embodying the memories of these communities. The objects are related with the traditional activities developed in both the rural and urban areas and report back to the first half of the XX<sup>th</sup> century. The recreation of an old primary school classroom setting and a medical care practice from the 1950s and belonging to Dr. Vítor Ribeiro da Rocha can be visited.



Cerâmica



Cabana em colmo



Cortiça

# EVENTS & FESTIVITIES

IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE THE CULTURE OF THE REGION, THE LOCAL CUISINE AND THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT INDUSTRY, WE LEAVE YOU WITH A SMALL ITINERARY FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT FAIRS, PARTIES AND EVENTS TAKING PLACE.



Comemorações do 25 de Abril



Rota das Tabernas



Ultra Maratona Atlântica



©Fábio Augusto | World Academy

The **Comemorações do 25 Abril** (April 25<sup>th</sup> Commemorations), of course, performs one of the major highlights within the regional cultural program in April. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, the **Corrida da Liberdade** (Freedom Race) initiates the great night of celebration of the Carnation Revolution. The Land of Fraternity "Provides freedom with additional strength!"

The **Festivities of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França** take place at the end of May and honour the protector of the people in Grândola. They include a procession and a religious a service, alongside the performance of several musical groups, *ranchos* (folklore groups) and *fanfarras* (fanfares).

Between May and June, explore the **Ar Puro – Feira de Caça, Pesca e Atividades ao Ar Livre** (Pure Air – Fair of Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Activities), where several hunting, fishing, sports and nature tourism initiatives are combined.

If you are interested in the local cuisine and traditions, here is a great suggestion: between June and July, make sure to have a presence at the **Rota das Tabernas** (Taverns Route) and take a trip around the world of Alentejo *petiscos* (kind of tapas), while listening to popular music, including fado and the typical *cante alentejano*, both part of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

The **Ultra Maratona Atlântica Melides – Tróia** (Ultra Atlantic Marathon) represents a self-sufficient adventure race that takes place in June, July or August, depending on the tide prediction. It invites audiences to see great names in the national and international athletics field go around 43 km of coastline between the Melides beach and the Tróia Peninsula – also a great opportunity

to enjoy the peaceful beaches in the region!

In the midsummer, the **Feira de Agosto** (August Fair) accounts for the largest fair in Alentejo and one of the widest trade fairs in the southern part of the country, a successful initiative with over 100,000 regular visitors. It animates the last weekend of the month with its vast offer of concerts, and includes a bars area and an exhibition space showcasing handicraft products and introducing local associations.

At the beginning of November, you can also watch or even participate in the **Ultra Trail Serra de Grândola** going through the rails and paths of steep climbs and sharp descents around the Grândola Mountain range.



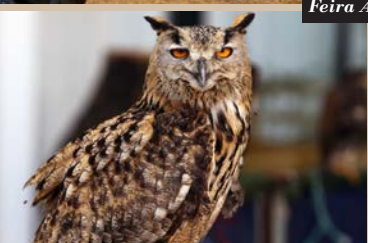
Feira de Agosto



Feira Ar Puro



Ultra Trail



Feira de Chocolate

Also in November and sweetening up your mouth, the **Feira de Chocolate** (Chocolate Fair) always showcases surprising chocolate sculptures alongside an immensity of chocolate brands, in addition to liquors. These are days to forget about diets and be immersed into the different types of chocolate in existence.

Adding to these events, many others take place in the region: the **Mês da Juventude** (Month of Youth) in March, the **Animação de Verão** (Summer Animation) in July, the beach animation – **Viva Mais a Nossa Praia** – during the bathing season, the regulars **Mostras Gastronómicas** (Gastronomic Shows), **Arte na Rua** (Street Art), the **Comemorações do Dia do Concelho** (Municipal Day Commemorations) on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the **Magusto, Natal em Grândola** (Christmas), sporting and religious events, among many others organized by the Parish Council and the Associative Movement. Also, bear in mind the monthly markets and other annual fairs, markets and flea markets taking place around the municipality.

There are also a wide variety of sports and cultural infrastructures offering permanent animation to the local communities and visitors alike. For the sporty types, the Park and the José Afonso Sports Complex include swimming pools

and multipurpose fields able to provide endless animation moments. In a more cultural approach, the Grândola Fraternity Workers Musical School, the Granadeiro Cinema Municipal Auditorium, the Grandolense Cine-Theatre and the Public Library stand as excellent alternatives.

With so much history, monuments and traditions to explore, endless beaches and dense hills to unveil, luxurious resorts ready to welcome you, an outstanding local cuisine to be experienced and lots of excitement to be had throughout year, **what is holding you back from visiting Grândola?**







Comemorações do Dia do Concelho

THE VILA MORENA IS WAITING  
AND WILL WELCOME YOU  
IN A WARM FRATERNITY!





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