

DESTINATIONS

SPAIN & PORTUGAL | OBIDOS

Snapshot

OBIDOS, PORTUGAL

This medieval town reveals Portugal at its most authentic, writes **Natalie Marsh**

we love...

Saint Mary's Church

Located in the town's main square, this church is said to date back around 900 years, though the building that stands there today is from the 16th century. The inside of the church is covered in Portugal's signature *azulejo* blue and white tiles from the 1600s, while the rest of its decor is well-preserved and ornate.



getting there...

Air, road or rail

Obidos is in the Centro region of Portugal, about an hour's drive from Lisbon. If your customers don't have a hire car, there's an express bus service from Lisbon. Although slower, visitors can also take a direct train from Lisbon's Santa Apolónia station to Obidos station, which is just a short walk outside the town walls.

PICTURES: Sunvil; Shutterstock

make time for...

Ginjinha

Visitors to the town should definitely make time to taste this famous liquor, usually served in an edible chocolate cup. It's made from infusing morello cherries with other ingredients, and there are several spots in Obidos where you can sample it and buy some to take home. Try Bar Ibn Errik Rex, a quaint and friendly place, home to some of the best ginjinha in town.



where to stay...

The Literary Man

Obidos is well known for its literary scene, being home to lots of quirky bookshops and an annual international literary festival. The Literary Man hotel is a bookworm's dream, with more than 45,000 titles lining the walls all over the property. Rooms at The Literary Man start from €95 a night based on two sharing in September/October. theliteraryman.pt



book it...

Pousada Castelo de Obidos

Sunvil offers a three-night stay in October, with accommodation at the Pousada Castelo de Obidos, from £989 per person, based on two sharing. The price is on a bed-and-breakfast basis and includes flights and car hire. sunvil.co.uk



star attraction...

The town walls

Encompassing Obidos, these walls were built between the eighth and 11th centuries but were restored in the 1700s, and provide great views of the town and the beautiful surrounding scenery. Visitors should take care when passing others on the walls, as there are no handrails and they can be up to 13 metres high. There are many places in the town to climb up to them, and they make for a wonderful way to see Obidos from above.

