



F A M A L I C Ã O

TOURIST
ANIMATION AND
EVENTS

FAMALICÃO A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE

Os santos populares
São santos religiosos
Cada ano que passa
Ficam mais famosos

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS TO MAKE A VISIT WORTHY AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR, WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT YOU WILL FIND HERE MULTIPLE INTERESTING INITIATIVES THAT WILL GET YOU COMPLETELY DELIGHTED.

Vila Nova de Famalicão features a set of remarkable events and cultural infrastructures, stepping up to the cultural city title, largely recognized. There are several reasons to make a visit worthy at any time of the year, with the certainty that you will find here multiple interesting initiatives that will get you completely delighted. There are several events that take place throughout the year: exhibitions, concerts, shows, cinema, music, theatre, dance, conferences, among many others that creates a complete, diversified and unmissable structured cultural calendar every month. Among the events we stress the Carnival, a spontaneous celebration, which takes place in the streets of the city, and it attracts thousands of people to such revelry and relaxing atmosphere. The regional gastronomy takes to the stage in the Dias à Mesa Programme. Within its multiple formats, we are invited to taste the traditional

flavours with quality and refinement. The Christmas, a time of magic, dreams and affections expression, is celebrated with great liveliness in the city. The entertainment activities and the traditional retailing in the city centre mix many generations all together, from different places, in a joyful living. There are also popular festivities, in the city centre and respective parishes, that represent a part of the city's cultural identity. Many of these festivities are living traditions, but above all renewed ones. They are a great way of getting to know the locals, their habits and their traditions. The Festas Antoninas (Saint Anthony Festivities), in June, are the highlight of the popular festivities. It is a strong cultural heritage, from the tradition to the contemporaneity, inviting you to share in a relaxed and spontaneous environment.

CARNIVAL

THE CARNIVAL IN FAMILICÃO IS A NATIONAL REFERENCE. WE USE TO SAY THAT IT IS THE MOST EXPECTED NIGHT OF THE YEAR. THE PARTY HAPPENS IN THE STREETS, IN A CONTAGIOUS ATMOSPHERE, FULL OF JOY.



With its origins in the traditional Portuguese *Entrudo* (marks the 'entrance' in the Lent period that ends in Easter), the Carnival of Famalicão is a spontaneous celebration. It happens during the night from Monday to Tuesday, involving thousands of people celebrating on the streets in the city centre, in a great celebration which is already known as the best Carnival in the country.

The entertainment programme includes the usual masks and costumes contest and a renewed programme, in an almost two-decade party tradition with no fixed time nor place to happen, where the fun is taken for granted, in a surprisingly spontaneous and revelry environment. We use to say that it is the most expected night of the year. The party happens in the streets, in a contagious atmosphere, full of joy. The complete programme includes other activities, which ensures the celebration for several days. During this period, the *Dias à Mesa* Programme offers us the traditional *Cozido à Portuguesa* (Portuguese Stew), in the participating restaurants.

THE 'DIAS À MESA' TAKES PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, ON SPECIFIC DATES. IT IS AN INVITATION TO TASTE THE GOOD REGIONAL CUISINE, IN A PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE FINEST WINES.



'DIAS À MESA' TRADITIONAL FLAVOURS



The richness and diversity of the typical gastronomy of the Minho region is also reflected in the gastronomy of the local territory. All over the year, there are several activities programmed to magnify the good regional cuisine, in a perfect combination between the local and seasonal products. The knowledge and flavours of Vila Nova de Famalicão are here highlighted, in a partnership with the restaurants and the local industry, attracting those who enjoy good regional cuisine, in its various formats.

The emphasis in utilising local and season products is the highlighted feature for these initiatives, in a sustainable cooking basis, especially designed for the enthusiasts of unique gastronomic experiences. The 'Dias à Mesa' takes place throughout the year, on specific dates. It is an invitation to taste the good regional cuisine, in a perfect harmony with the finest wines, very well linked with an attractive and mobilizing calendar of activities. The contemporary vibrant gastronomy panorama is here!





'FESTA DE MAIO FLORES & TROCAS' (MAY FESTIVITIES – FLOWERS AND BARTER)

THE 'FESTA DE MAIO' (MAY FESTIVITIES) HAPPEN(S) IN THE BEGINNING OF MAY, IN A TRIBUTE TO THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING TIME AND THE SPLENDOR OF THIS SEASON.



The 'Festa de Maio – Flores & Trocas', in the beginning of May, is an event that recreates two secular traditions of this territory of Vila Nova de Famalicão: The *Flower Festival* and the *Trades Fair*. During the festivities you can find cattle exhibitions, flower sales, typical products market and popular taverns, combined with cultural activities and street shows that bring entertainment to the festivities. The peak takes place in the battle of flowers, which runs through the streets of the city centre, in a tribute to the arrival of spring and the splendour of this season. During these days, the Dias à Mesa invites for tasting a delicious dish meal of pork meat, called *rojões*, in the participating restaurants, in a symbolic representation of the cold days farewell.



FESTAS ANTONINAS

(ST. ANTHONY FESTIVITIES)



THE 'FESTAS ANTONINAS' TAKES PLACE DURING A WHOLE WEEK, CULMINATING IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 12 WITH THE POPULAR MARCHES AND IN THE JUNE 13, THE DAY OF SAINT ANTHONY.



Saint Anthony, with much reverence in Vila Nova de Famalicão, is considered to be the true Patron of the city, giving his name to the '*Festas Antoninas*'. Being one of the most famous traditions of Vila Nova de Famalicão, the '*Festas Antoninas*' brings together thousands of people in the city through various motivations, whether religious, cultural, or simply for leisure. The highest point of this celebration is the Popular Marches, but the festivities extend themselves throughout the streets of the city centre and surroundings, in the *Holy Matchmaker's* honour. There are several street vendors scattered throughout the city, as well as several carousels and street food, together with by the traditional '*manjerico*' (a kind of basil bush) scent.



HANDCRAFT FAIR



THE HANDCRAFT FAIR TAKES PLACE EVERY YEAR BY THE END OF AUGUST AND LASTING FOR THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF SEPTEMBER, APPROXIMATELY.



One of the largest handcrafts and gastronomy fairs of the country takes place in Vila Nova de Famalicão in the early days of September. The unquestionable value of the handcrafts, as well as the valorisation of the gastronomy as a touristic product, these are features that make people from all over the country respond to their curiosity and come to the fair for around 30 years, moved by the will to witness the way many products are handmade, and the will to taste the most genuine local flavours. The Handcraft and Gastronomy Fair annually presents an attractive touristic and cultural calendar, including music, craft, gastronomy and lots of amusement quality time.



FEIRA DE SÃO MIGUEL

(ST. MICHAEL FAIR)



THE 'FEIRA DE SÃO MIGUEL' TAKES PLACE IN A CONTEMPORARY ENVIRONMENT BY THE END OF SEPTEMBER, IN A RECREATION OF AGRICULTURE-RELATED POPULAR TRADITIONS.



The 'Feira Grande de São Miguel' goes back to 1205, when the Charter Act was awarded by the King *D. Sancho I*. In this charter, the "Settler" King (D. Sancho I, o *Povoador*) ordered that there should be a trade fair taking place here. This trade fair played a very important role in the development of the territory since the beginning, as a trade area, recreating some of the biggest traditions of the territory, with its origins in farming. Nowadays, the 'Feira Grande', as it is commonly known, happens by the end of September, with splendour and joy, recreating popular traditions related to agriculture, in a contemporary environment of fellowship and social interaction.

During these days, the *Dias à Mesa* invites for a vegetarian experience, in the participating restaurants, within a sustainable gastronomy context, by using especially endogenous products.



"MAY IT BE OF KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THOSE PRESENT NOW AND IN THE FUTURE THAT I, SANCHO, KING OF PORTUGAL BY GOD'S GRACE, ALONG WITH MY SONS AND DAUGHTERS, AWARD A CHARTER ACT TO THOSE WHO POPULATE THESE ROYAL LANDS OF MINE OF VILA NOVA (DE FAMILICÃO)"

Charter act by D. Sancho I, 1205

FROM THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER TO THE THREE WISE MAN DAY (IN THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY) THERE IS LOTS OF ENTERTAINMENT AND MAGIC IN THE STREETS OF THE CITY CENTRE.



CHRISTMAS

THE CHRISTMAS, CLOSING THE YEAR, REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT MARK IN THE EVENTS CALENDAR, AND TURNS FAMILICÃO INTO A HIGHLY APPEALING DESTINATION.



The Magic of Christmas time breaks into the city centre streets, right after the final days of November, in a greeting atmosphere to all those who come around to live the Christmas season in an urban environment that suggests magic, social gathering and confraternization.

In Vila Nova de Famalicão, it's possible to live Christmas at its fullest. A series of fun and joyful initiatives with local products and traditional trades create a harmonious atmosphere during the best time of the year, as it is known. The Christmas Local Market, the contemporary Circus, the Ice Rink, the Christmas lights, the multimedia Christmas Show, the Carousel, and the social interaction and fellowship atmosphere as the sharing attitude we live within the streets of the city, are the active ingredients for a memorable experience for all the family.





SPORTS EVENTS



Throughout the year, Vila Nova de Famalicão hosts countless, truly spectacular and eclectic sporting events that attract thousands of people to the city, whether to participate or simply to vibrate with the performances of the athletes. These are competitive events but, in their overwhelming majority, open to the participation of the community. The true celebration of sports happens in many different ways over the year in Vila Nova de Famalicão. Set the schedule on your calendar and be a part of it!

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, VILA NOVA DE FAMILIÇÃO HOSTS MULTIPLE AND VARIOUS SPORTS EVENTS WHICH ATTRACT BOTH ATHLETES AND VISITORS THAT ENJOY VIBRATING WITH THE ENERGY CREATED BY SPORTS.

Some events you can't miss:
 Famalicão Duathlon (5km running + 20km BTT cycling + 2,5km running), in March
 24h BTT, in July.
 Rally of Famalicão, in July.
 Running competition Famalicão-Joane (12km), in September.
 Half-Marathon of Famalicão, in November
 Famalicão Dança (International Dancing Competition), in November.
 S. Silvestre Run (10km), in December 23.





Vigo-VN Famalicão
A3 121 km / 1h22 min

Braga-VN Famalicão
N14 20 km / 24 min

Porto-VN Famalicão
A3 41 km / 33 min

Lisboa-VN Famalicão
A3 343 km / 3h50 min



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