Ordo Templum

Ordem dos Pobres Cavaleiros do Templo de Jerusalém

OPCTJ highlights

CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Templar Heritage
3. OPCTJ Vision, Mission, Values & Goals
4. The regional development model
5. Culture and Education
6. Other initiatives: events and knowledge transfer
    - Templar Festival
    - Templar Days
    - Templar Almourol
    - Templar Route
    - Museum of the Knights Templar
    - Study Centre
7. Collaborative networks
8. Social and humanitarian action
9. Partners / Support

1. Introduction

The Associação Ordem dos Pobres Cavaleiros do Templo de Jerusalém (Poor Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem Association), abbreviated to OPCTJ, is a non-profit association.

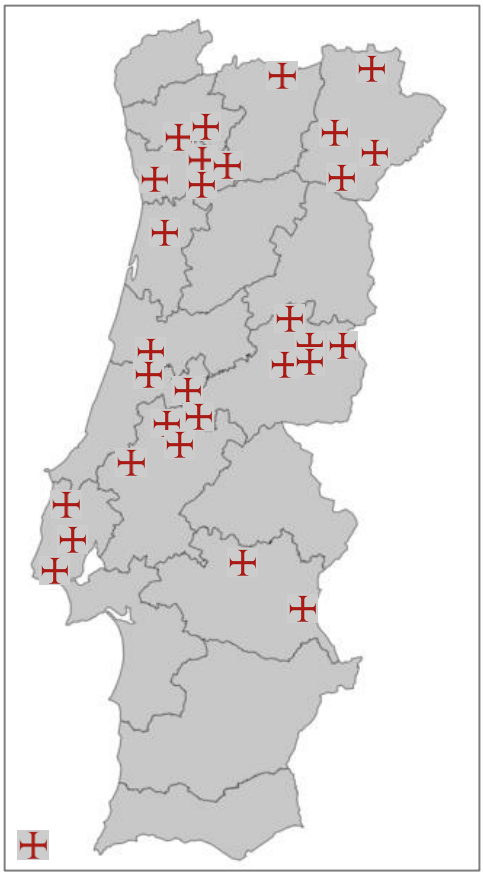
OPCTJ, was established in Tomar Portugal on 06 July 2020, founded on the principles of the medieval Knights Templar, an Order which has historical and cultural importance in Portugal. Since its foundation by 166 members, our membership has been increasing to 550+ members, enabling the establishment of 21 Commanderies in territories with Templar history. There are also a select number of 'Members of Honour', invited from the international community, who have been recognised for their contribution and support in the growth and development of OPCTJ.

The cross adopted and presented in the logo is based on the cross of the first King of Portugal, Afonso Henriques (1106, 1109 or 1111-1185), who fought with the crusaders from England and later with the Knights Templar in the Christian Reconquest, in the territory that would become the Portuguese Nation. The cross was used on his signature and nowadays it can be found on the back of Portuguese Euro coins, as a symbol of the foundation and identity of Portugal.

Public is most welcome to follow OPCTJ website: https://www.opctj.pt/
and the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/opctj

2. Templar Heritage

Mapa: TREF,



Portuguese Templar sites

OPCTJ Commanderies at Templar sites

Open to the public

Templar memory locations

1. São João Baptista (Tomar)
2. Idanhas (Idanha-a-Nova, Idanha-a-Velha, Monsanto, Penha Garcia, Castelo Branco, Castelo Novo)
3. Soure
4. Santo Estêvão de Pussos (Alvaiázere, Coimbra)
5. Santarém
6. Fonte Arcada (Penafiel)
7. Guimarães (Amares; Póvoa de Lanhoso; Pombeiro; Felgueiras; Barcelos; Vilarinho de Samardã)
8. Santa Maria de Sintra
9. N. Senhora da Serra do Pilar (Porto, Gaia)
10. Mogadouro – Penas Roias (Torre de Moncorvo)
11. Santo André - Mafra
12. Braga – FontArcada (Póvoa do Lanhoso)
13. Santa Maria da Feira
14. Monsaraz (Moura, Barrancos, Ourique e Arronches)
15. São Pedro (Macedo de Cavaleiros, Bragança, Vinhais)
16. Lourinhã
17. Dornes (Ferreira do Zêzere)
18. Pombal
19. Almourol (V.N. Barquinha)
20. Nossa Senhora do Monte (Funchal)
21. Évora

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

3. OPCTJ Vision, Mission, Values & Goals

Vision

To constitute a unifying and integrating centre for the territories with a Templar past.

To be a point of reference and a centre of knowledge in the Templar theme in Portugal and worldwide.

Mission

To promote cultural and training initiatives. To encourage humanitarian and solidarity actions in general. To support entities. To help population in situations of vulnerability.

Values

Our modern chivalry code is essentially based on:

Christian compassion, regardless of your creed or ethnic origin;

Spiritual evolution, preferring honor, truth, virtue and honesty and valuing loyalty;

To promote the respect and well-being of members and of all humanity (even if it requires self-sacrifice);

Directing our social, humanitarian and philanthropic work to all those affected by poverty, injustice, conflict and environmental disaster.

Goals

To be committed to the principles and preservation of Templar ideals that unite all OPCTJ members;

To maintain historical collections, museums, libraries and repositories of artistic works and objects of historical and cultural interest in the Order of the Temple, as well as to promote cultural actions;

To encourage and promote humanitarian actions and solidarity in general.

"**ASSOCIAÇÃO ORDEM DOS POBRES CAVALEIROS DO TEMPLO DE JEUSALÉM**", pessoa colectiva número **516.043.331**, com sede no Terreiro Dom Gualdim Pais, código postal 2300-422, na união de freguesias de São João Baptista e Santa Maria dos Olivais, do concelho de Tomar, com o objecto social: "**A preservação e a emulação dos ideais históricos da antiga cavalaria do Templo de Jerusalém, a preservação das suas tradições e do seu património, incluindo a instituição e a manutenção de acervos históricos, museus, bibliotecas e repositórios de trabalhos artísticos ou objectos de interesse histórico, a promoção e o patrocínio de actividades e de projectos que reforcem o espírito e a moral da humanidade de acordo com o primeiro grande princípio representado pelo mote Non nobis, Domine, non nobis sed nomini Tuo da gloriam, e o encorajamento e a promoção de ações humanitárias e de solidariedade em geral**", e que se regerá pelos artigos constantes do

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4. The regional development model

OPCTJ board of directors are dedicated to tourism and regional development following the governmental model. OPCTJ Commanderies are involved in local and regional humanitarian work projects.

Tangible and intangible cultural heritage has been an extremely important means of generating wealth in Portugal in recent years and a driving force for regional development, especially in rural areas. Local elements are vital in this process as they originate the differentiation factor and can lead to the creation of tourism products. At the same time, this model ensures the sustainability of territories and creates a legacy for future generations. It is also important to emphasize the need for community involvement in the development of territories, as residents are part of the product and representatives of the local culture. Additionally, the model must be combined with the residents' quality of life, in terms of: strengthening the local economic base; infrastructure; investment in services (financial, security, health, transport, etc.); and creating employment opportunities.

It is essential that local and regional entities, whether public, private or associative, assume a decisive role in the knowledge transfer, and in the planning and regional promotion of tourism activity, maximizing benefits. These entities, including OPCTJ, are investing in the diversification and differentiation of the offer as a source of local wealth, namely: culture; leisure; nature; festivals and fairs; gastronomy and wines. OPCTJ is such an entity. Therefore, this integrated regional development model is based on the "common benefit".

OPCTJ works with municipalities, universities, local associations, solidarity or social support institutions, and private entities.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

5. Culture and Education

✝ "Digital Transformation": Rotunda, Convent of Christ - Tomar

The Templar Castle and Convent of Christ complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983. The Rotunda is a Romanesque Templar style oratory from the 12th-13th century.

OPCTJ was one of the partners involved in the planning and implementation of this dynamic and immersive experience digital tour.

In a simple and uncomplicated way, it is possible to follow the digital revolution and explore one of the most emblematic national monuments, on a journey through the temple of the Templars in Portugal.

Virtual visit (PT | EN): https://mpembed.com/show/?m=fBGNBFFcNDc

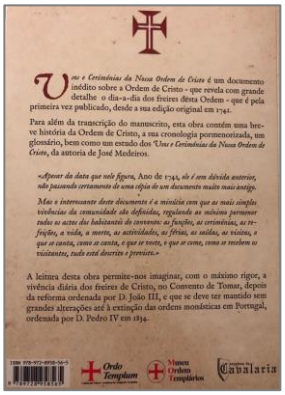
UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Book editions

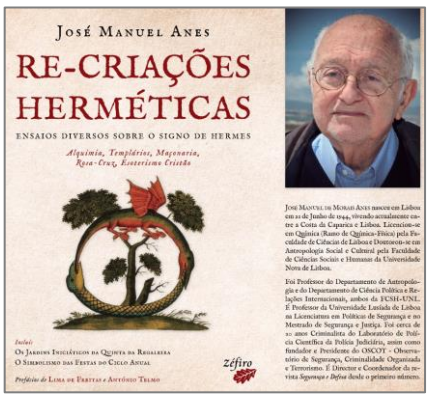
✠ Book launch

The copyright license agreement signed between the author José Medeiros and our organization allows OPCTJ to use intellectual property rights related to the book “Uses and Ceremonies of Our Order of Christ”.



✠ Book presentation

The author José Manuel Anes PhD, Knight Templar of the Association of Poor Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem – OPCTJ launched the book “Hermetic Re-Creations, Various Essays on the Sign of Hermes: Alchemy, Templars, Freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, Christian Esoterism”.
It is a reprint in a single volume of the two volumes of the former editions, which were long sold out.



✠ Book launch

The Templars of today: Neo-Templarism.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4 EDUCAÇÃO DE QUALIDADE

Book editions

✠ Book launch

Launch of the revised edition of the book "Orders of Chivalry, Monastic and Initiatic: Three paths to self-knowledge, in the Library of the National Palace of Mafra", published by the Municipality of Mafra, with the support of OPCTJ / MOT / Comenda de Mafra. This was followed by the opening of the exhibition "The Path through the Orders", curated by Professor José Medeiros, with the support of the Municipality of Mafra.

✠ Exhibition catalogue

"The Path through the Orders of Chivalry": The Orders of the Hospital, the Temple, Christ and the Teutonic.
The exhibition "The Path through the Orders of Chivalry" has opened.
Coordinated and curated by Professor José Medeiros. Supported by Vila Nova da Barquinha Municipality.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

CITCEM / FLUP, academy partnership

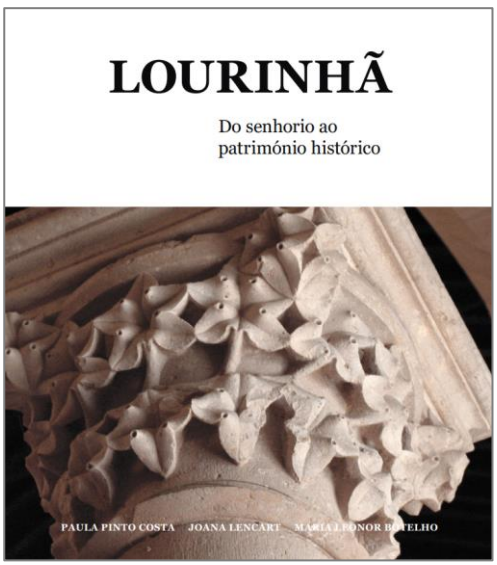
✠ Book launch

Launch of the 1st edition of the book "The Order of the Temple and the Order of Christ in the Work of Pedro Álvares Seco in the 16th Century", by Joana Lencart, Zéfiro edition, supported by the OPCTJ / MOT and the Municipality of Soure. Result of a research conducted within the scope of the Doctoral Program of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Center for Transdisciplinary Research «Culture, Space and Memory» (FLUP/CITCEM).

✠ Book launch

Launch and presentation of the book “Lourinhã: From landlord to historical heritage”. Authored by Paula Pinto Costa, Joana Lencart and Maria Leonor Botelho (Centre for Transdisciplinary Research on Culture, Space and Memory - CITCEM/FL-UP). Supported by OPCTJ/MOT and Lourinhã Municipality. Online edition Lourinhã Municipality.

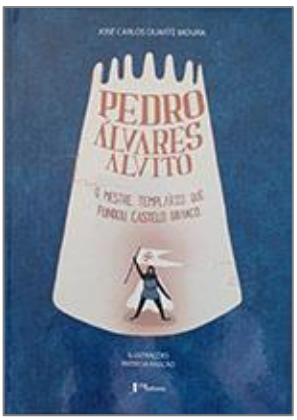
Link.



UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4 EDUCAÇÃO DE QUALIDADE

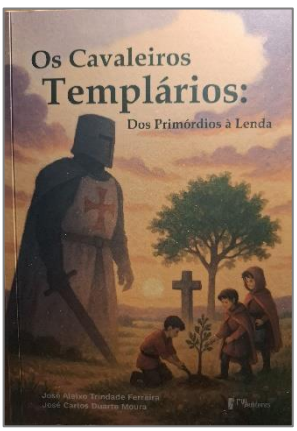
Children's and Young Adult Books



✠ Book presentation

Moura, J. C. D. (2022). *Pedro Álvares de Alvito: O Mestre Templário que fundou Castelo Branco*. Castelo Branco: RJV Editores.

Video.



✠ Book launch

Launch and presentation of the children's book 'The Knights Templar: From the beginnings to the legend.' Authored by José Carlos Moura and José Aleixo Ferreira (Commandery of Idanhas). Published by RVJ Editores, with support from Castelo Branco Municipality. Presentation by Seneschal OPCTJ Fernando Capela Miguel.

✠ Book presentation

Presentation of the children's book 'Gualdim's Dream', authored by Graça Mestre. 5th OPCTJ Convention, Coimbra.

✠ Book launch

Launch and presentation of the book 'The Chest of Light: The 13 Missions of Little Afonso'), from the 'The Little Templar' collection. Authored by Diamantino Ribeiro, OPCTJ Prior Centro-Norte. Supported by OPCTJ. XXI General Chapter OPCTJ Braga. Medieval Hall, University of Minho, Braga.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4 EDUCAÇÃO DE QUALIDADE

Publications:

✠ Publication (1)

"Historical-military heritage as a basis for economic and social development"

Património histórico-militar como base do desenvolvimento económico-social

Texto de opinião por Mafalda Nascimento, Secretária-Geral da Associação Ordem dos Pobres Cavaleiros do Templo de Jerusalém (OPCTJ)

Blog: Military Tourism
In: https://www.turismomilitar.pt/index.php?lang=pt&s=news&id=224

✠ Publication (2)

"The Templar heritage in Portugal: a journey through some of the heritage"

Journal: 'Travel in History' Journal, n.1, Military Tourism
In: https://www.turismomilitar.pt/data/revista-viagem-na-historia/1-junho-2021/viagem_na_historia_01_2021_spreads.pdf

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Webinars & Seminars

The culture, heritage and museology of the medieval Templar Order is explored through its historical-cultural context.

Invited speakers participated in the Seminar "Templar Axiology in the genesis of Portugal", held on November 14, at House of the Municipality of Tomar, in Lisbon.

OPCTJ held a course on the "Currents of Western Esotericism" and its initiations, which will be lectured by Professor José Manuel Anes. The proceeds of this event were donated to assist Ukranian refugees.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

6. Other initiatives: events and knowledge transfer

OPCTJ is working with regional municipalities; the Convent of Christ, Tomar (UNESCO 1983); Thomar Honoris Association; Portuguese Military Tourism Association; CITCEM - University of Oporto; and other higher education institutions, and various private entities.

We continue to develop local and regional projects including:

Templar Festival, Tomar

FESTA TEMPLÁRIA

Established in 2013, is now a popular tourist destination.
This one-week annual event includes a royal dinner in the refectory of the Convent of Christ and a recreation of the 1190 siege of the Templar Castle:
https://youtu.be/I94sfTu-ZIA

In Oct 12-13, 2019, a Templar Procession from the Convent of Christ to the Church of Santa Maria do Olival (pantheon of the Masters of the Order of the Temple) was organized for the international members of OSMTH:

https://www.facebook.com/municipiotomar/videos/1659509744174217

Templar Days

Established in 2020, cultural and historic events organised in Templar territories. Initiatives are held throughout the year in built Templar heritage.

DIAS TEMPLÁRIOS

Vídeos (ex: Tomar, 2021; Soure, 2022; Pombal, 2022, T. Moncorvo, 2023, Vinhais, 2024)

Appointment of Dias Templários: ADL - Local Development Association of Lourinhã Awards Gala, in recognition of "their significant contribution to promoting the municipality's historical, tourist, cultural and identity-related heritage".

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Almourol Templário

Marca registada para valorização do património do concelho de Vila Nova da Barquinha.

Templar Route Portugal

This route is focused on the territories whose fortresses played a decisive role in medieval times and will include services.

This national route will be integrated into the international route, which is being developed by the Municipality of Tomar and Inter-municipality Community of Tagus River, with the national authority Tourism of Portugal.

Museum of the Order of the Temple / Museu da Ordem dos Templários (MOT)

A protocol exists between the Municipality of Tomar and OPCTJ.

The Museum will constitute an aggregating centre for territories with Templar history, a reference centre, in Portugal and internationally, in the Templar context, a vehicle for promoting Templar culture and identity, through the study and dissemination by the community, nationally and internationally, of themes related to the Templars in general and especially with the history and heritage existing in Portugal.

Partnership: Municipality of Tomar & CITCEM - University of Oporto

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

Study Centre / Centro de Estudos (CE-OPCTJ)

Centro de Estudos OPCTJ

Research department of the Association of the Order of the Poor Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem - OPCTJ.
Under the terms of the OPCTJ statutes, it is geared towards preserving the traditions, customs and heritage of the ancient chivalry of the Order of the Temple, as well as maintaining historical collections, museums, libraries and repositories of artistic works or objects of historical interest.

Mission

The pursuit of scientific research activities in the Templar thematic area at the OPCTJ, as well as the dissemination of the research carried out, organizing and collaborating in projects of its own or resulting from agreements signed with other institutions.

Templar Notebooks OPCTJ, Vol. 1, launched.
ISBN: 978-989-33-8589-0

Publications & scientific meetings

OPCTJ EM CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL, MALTA

"DIAS TEMPLÁRIOS" NA CONFERÊNCIA INTERNACIONAL INVTUR 2024, UNIV. DE AVEIRO

TURISMO DE PORTUGAL escolas

DOURO SUPERIOR Associação de Desenvolvimento

adraces Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Raia Centro - Sul

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

8. Social and humanitarian actions

Social action (Some examples):

Support for the elderly
Physical exercise and social interaction.

Support for institutions
Support for beneficiaries, food goods, wheelchairs, etc.

Blood Donation
OPCTJ has regular blood donation drives.

Cancer screening
Support for the population.

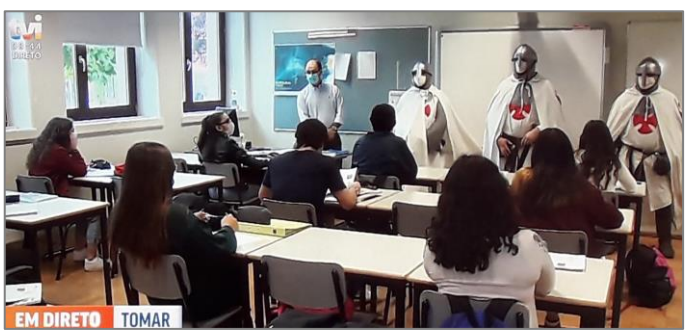
UN Sustainable Development Goals:

Support for families in need
In partnership with the Church of Santa Maria da Alcáçova, Santarém.

Ukrainian Aid
OPCTJ mobilized its members for the donation of goods for basic needs, to be delivered to the Ukrainian community in Portugal: SPILKA

Distribution of masks and alcohol gel
Donation to Municipalities for distribution during the pandemic.

Reopening of Schools 19.04.2021
OPCTJ helped to clarify and guide students and teachers according to the rules in force during the pandemic.



UN Sustainable Development Goals:

Civic Actions: Heritage

Built Heritage. Aqueduct of Pegões (16th Century)
Cooperation with Grupo dos Amigos do Aqueduto do Convento do Convento de Cristo (~aqueduct trust).
Tomar.

Natural Heritage. Geopark Terras de Cavaleiros, Geoparques Mundiais da UNESCO
Limpeza da praia do Azibo (~Knights' Lands Geopark).
Macedo de Cavaleiros.

UN Sustainable Development Goals:

9. Partners / Support

Municipalities TOMAR CIDADE TEMPLÁRIA **(headquarters)** MUNICÍPIO IDANHA-A-NOVA Barquinha município LOURINHÃ PEGADAS COM HISTÓRIA

Academy CITCEM CENTRO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO TRANSDISCIPLINAR CULTURA, ESPAÇO E MEMÓRIA U.PORTO FLUP FACULDADE DE LETRAS UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO govcopp universidade de aveiro ECIU university ipt Instituto Politécnico de Tomar ISG Business & Economics School Instituto Superior de Gestão isce Douro Instituto Superior de Ciências Educativas do Douro

Culture & History Re-enactments THOMAR HONORIS Outrem Associação de Defesa do Ambiente e do Património SINDICATO NACIONAL DE ACTIVIDADE TURÍSTICA, TRADUTORES E INTERPRETES Caminhos da História REPÚBLICA PORTUGUESA CULTURA MUSEUS E MONUMENTOS DE PORTUGAL CONVENTO DE CRISTO unesco Sítio do Património Mundial

Promotion NEXT SOLUTION turismo militar

Accommodation HOTEL DOS TEMPLÁRIOS THOMAR boutique hotel

UN Sustainable Development Goals: 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Non Nobis Domine, Non Nobis Sed Domini, Tuo da Gloriam