

# Local Holidays and Important Dates



# Important Dates



# 1st January – New Year

The New Year is always an important date. On New Year's Eve people get together to celebrate the coming of the New Year. When the clock ticks midnight people drink champagne and eat twelve raisins (each one representing a wish for the New Year). People usually wear a blue panty or shorts for good luck – In Portugal it is believed that wearing blue underwear will bring fortune.



# Carnival

Carnival is a traditional celebration that has happened since ancient times. In Portugal we have a great tradition in Marches. One of the best known Carnivals in Portugal is Torres Vedras Carnival, because it preserves its own traditions without copying other countries. The holiday is not always on the same day because it depends on Easter Day. It occurs forty seven days before Easter.

Carnival in Torres Vedras



# Easter

Easter is also known as the Sunday of Resurrection. It is a religious holiday, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus which occurred three days after his crucifixion. In Portugal we have several customs: to spend time at home with family, to kiss the cross of Jesus, to eat the famous Folar de Páscoa. It's also a special time for godmothers and godchildren.

the Cross of Jesus to  
bless people's homes



# Local Holidays



# Senhor de Matosinhos

Senhor de Matosinhos or Lord of Matosinhos is a religious celebration and it is known for its big street market with a lot of stands and many amusements. People go to the street market in a kind of pilgrimage. It takes place during the months of May and June, lasting almost three weeks. This year, 2017, it takes place between 26th May and 11th June and the holiday is on 6th June.

