“Inside the Bronze Age”: Archaeology

2nd to 15th August and 16th to 29th August

Beja | Alentejo | Portugal
Beja with around 25,000 inhabitants is the capital of the “Baixo Alentejo” region, and the town where the Polytechnic Institute of Beja has its roots.

Beja and the regions’ history date back to the Roman times when it became the regional capital of Julius Caesar’s empire. Nowadays Caesar’s Pax Julia still reflects a peaceful atmosphere and tranquillity very difficult to find anywhere else.

The town’s streets, its historical centre are a silent sign and testimonial of the passed times.
About Beja City

In the town centre we can also see the "Praça da República" (Town Hall Square called the Republic Square), with the Charity House renaissance loggia and a line up of “Manuelino” style buildings.

We could say and talk much more about Beja’s wonderful past, but Beja is also modernity. A well equipped town with all that is necessary in a modern town – new green leisure areas and parks where its inhabitants can spend quality time.

Good sport and cultural equipments, as well as the commercial areas, good restaurants and sunny esplanades, a vivid night life thus giving its inhabitants the commodities and luxury of a contemporary society.

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The Polytechnic Institute of Beja (IPBeja) is situated in the Alentejo region and it is a Higher Education and Investigation Institution, integrating the sub system Polytechnic, which differs to the University in the aspect of valorisation of experimental education and the learning process through practical concepts in perfect synchrony with the principles of the Bologna process.

Nowadays, IPBeja has 2,500 students in a great variety of courses and different learning stages. Technological Specialization Courses (short cycle, level IV, 60 ECTS), Graduate courses (1st cycle); Post graduate courses, Masters degrees (2nd cycle) and other post graduate programmes focussed on the professional area.

At the initial stage, the IPBeja focussed on areas such as Engineering, Agrarian Sciences, Technology, Education and Teacher Training, and nowadays in order to face the new social reality IPBeja has embraced and widened its areas of influence to management, tourism, social sciences, arts and multimedia, sports and health.
The IPBeja works in close relation to the region where it has its roots, seeking to gain from the potentialities and genuine character of the Alentejo, its people and traditions, and the aspects which characterize its economical potential.

On the other hand, as an institution that promotes investigation and technical know how in a variety of fields, with the *IPBeja International Summer School* 2015, we will focus on courses with specific thematic interest but also on a global scale due to its content and universal validity and also due to the social and economical dynamism it encompasses in a variety of regions on the globe.

The modern resources of the IPBeja will be all available in the campus for all the courses’ sessions, plus course related visits to different places in the region so as to accomplish and explore the practical and experimental aspects.
Summer Programme

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We will go back 3000 years in time to participate in an archaeological adventure, recovering, from the past, objects that will acquire a new life and reveal ancient histories which will enable participants to go deeper and directly Inside the Bronze Age.

The project includes an archaeological field school. The variety of activities and team flexibility make this project suitable for both Beginners and Advanced in either Field or Bronze Age Archaeology.

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The Outeiro do Circo is a large fortified settlement from the Late Bronze Age (1250-850 BC) located in the district of Beja in the Alentejo plain. It occupies an elongated hill, with a maximum height of 276 m, bounded on the north and west by other small elevations.

The southern border is dominated by the plain. Surrounding terrains are made up of a fertile agricultural soils called "Black Clays", where numerous archaeological sites, dating from the II and the beginning of I millennium BC, where discovered.

The element that gives greater emphasis to this settlement is an impressive wall that borders it almost entirely.

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Setting an occupied area of about 17 hectares and making it one of the largest settlements of this period in the Iberian Peninsula.

The wall reveals a complex defensive system, with double walls, bastions and moats. The excavation works took place between 2008 and 2013 and led to the discovery of a wall section consisting of a top small wall, a system of ramps and platforms and an exterior retaining wall built on a disused ditch. Currently the archaeological work it`s being developed in the inside area of the settlement in order to achieve a better knowledge of the daily life aspects of the Outeiro do Circo`s inhabitants.

More Information: http://outeirodocirco.blogspot.pt

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Topics

- **“Inside History”**: The Fortified Settlement of *Outeiro do Circo*;

- **“Inside Research”**: Techniques and methods;

- **“Inside Excavation”**: Tools and Stratigraphic Interpretation;

- **“Inside Documents”**: Filled an Graphic Documentation ;

- **“Inside Artifacts”**: Recording, Illustration and Storage

**Programme Activities**

- Presentation
- *Outeiro do Circo* Excavation Project

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Programme Activities

Field training:
Archaeological research:
- Preliminary research (indoor stage);
- Field walking and site recording;
- Techniques and methods of preliminary archaeological research (aerial photo);

Excavation:
- Use of tools and working methods;
- Methodology and basic techniques of excavation;
- Stratigraphy and chronology.

Artifacts:
- Artefact recording and illustration;
- Storage of artifacts;

continue...
Programme Activities

Field training:
Field and graphic documentation:
- Field journal and locus sheets;
- Record cards and bag labels;
- Drawn record: section- and plan-drawing;
- Photographic records;

Workshops:
- Pottery modeling – Ana Osório;
- Topography – Luís Luz;

Lectures:
- Outeiro do Circo project presentation - Miguel Serra and Eduardo Porfírio;
- Geological Setting – Sofia Soares;
- Experimental Archaeology on pottery – Ana Osório;

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Coordination and Team

Sofia Soares
sofia.soares@ipbeja.pt

Miguel Serra
miguelserra@palimpsesto.pt

All the Team...

2nd to 15th August and 16th to 29th August
Coordination and Team

- Polytechnic Institute of Beja Teacher;
- Graduated in Geology by FCUP (University of Porto);
  - Master in Geo resources – Geo Techniques by IST (Technical University of Lisbon);
  - PhD in Geological Engineering by the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Lisboa (Science and Technology Faculty of the University of Lisbon);
  - Researcher of the Centro de Investigação Geobiotec (Geobiotec Investigation Centre) of the Universidade de Aveiro (Aveiro University);
  - Coordinator of the Soil Laboratory in the IPBeja.

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Coordination and Team

- Archeologist;
- Graduated in Archeology (University of Coimbra) and managing director of Palimpsesto Ltd (www.palimpsesto.pt);
- Researcher at the Centre of Archeological Studies of the Universities of Coimbra and Oporto;
- Coordinator for the Archeological excavations at Outeiro do Circo;
- Author of about 20 scientific articles about the Bronze Age.

All the Team...

2nd to 15th August and 16th to 29th August
Coordination and Team

Sofia Soares  
Miguel Serra  
Ana Osório  
Eduardo Porfírio  
Sofia Silva  
Luis Luz

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Project Partners

- Polytechnic Institute of Beja;
- University of Coimbra;
- Palimpsesto, Inc.;
- Beja Municipality;

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Practical Information

Application deadlines: 15 May 2015

Minimum length of stay for volunteers: 1 session (two weeks)

Minimum age: 18

Number of field school places available: Maximum 15

Language: English

Experience required: No

Special requirements: The project is not recommended for individuals with solar allergies or other special illnesses that might be exacerbated during the intensive outdoor activities. Average summer temperatures in the area are between 25°F-35°C or higher. All participants should bring clothes and cosmetics suitable for hot and sunny weather. Bear in mind that colder days are very rare but are not uncommon. All participants are expected to prepare for the dig by reading the Project handbook chapter about archaeological excavation techniques and methods (the Project handbook will be sent by e-mail to all registered students before the beginning of the project). Participants will use tools and equipment available at the site and are not expected to bring any additional equipment.

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Practical Information

Academic Credits (ECTS): One session: 3 ECTS / Two sessions: 6 ECTS

Admission fee: One session 750€ (851 USD) / Two sessions 1500€ (1702 USD)

The fee includes:
- Registration;
- Educational and fieldwork activities;
- Pick-up service – Lisbon/Faro Airports;
- Accommodation in IPBeja Students Residence;
- Two daily meals (lunch and dinner). Extra meals, beverages (other services and products are not included);
- Tools and materials;
- Lecture materials (Project Handbook);
- Field trip, excursions and museum entrance tickets;
- Attendance certificate;

Insurance:
The admission fee **does not** include health insurance. It’s necessary to arrange your own insurance before coming to Portugal. There is a hospital and several pharmacies around the campus.

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Practical Information

Accommodation (2 possibilities):
- IPBeja Students Residence (included in the fee);
- Local hotel or hostel (extra fee and booked directly by the participants)

Nearest air terminals:
Lisbon (180 km), Faro (150 km). Don’t forget checking the low cost flight options.

Contact Person:
- António Padeirinha (International Relations Office):
  summerschool@ipbeja.pt
- Miguel Serra (Palimpsesto):
  miguelserra@palimpsesto.pt

Application Form (pick to access)

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Summer Programme

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See you in Beja, Alentejo, Portugal

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