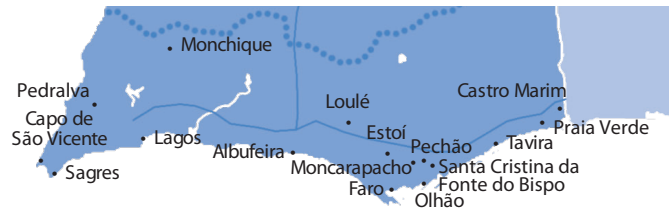




# Algarve

Think of the Algarve... mile upon mile of golden sand interrupted only by craggy outcrops of rock. But the Algarve, although well known as one of the sunniest areas of Europe, is much more than just a beach lover's paradise.

For five centuries this was the land of the Moors and their intriguing legacy is evident in local architecture, music and language. The region's character is strongly influenced by the sea and, perhaps surprisingly, almost every coastal village still devotes itself mainly to fishing.



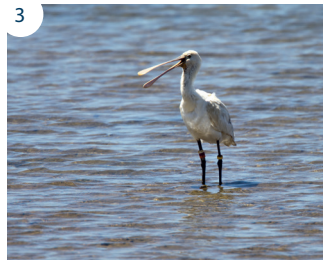
1 Almond Blossom

Almond blossom colours the countryside in white and pink throughout Jan-Feb. An 11km Almond path in Castro Marim has been developed to provide visitors access to this beautiful scene.



2 Ponte da Piedade

The cliffs, caves and grottoes of Ponte da Piedade (2km from Lagos) - one of the most photographed spots on the coastline, are best explored by boat.



3 Ria Formosa Nature Park

The Ria Formosa is a unique lagoon system with a beautiful sandy beach. This wetland area also provides an invaluable habitat for birdlife including flamingos, buzzards, spoonbills and kingfishers.



4 Sagres

Intrinsically linked to the Portuguese explorers who pushed forward the frontiers of the known world, the town of Sagres, its maritime history, picturesque harbour and coves are a delight to discover.

# Western Algarve

There is more to the Algarve than sun and sea. Activities offered include dolphin watching, fishing, jeep safaris, hiking, diving, surfing and paddle boarding – all arranged locally in Pedralva.

## Aldeia da Pedralva, Pedralva

Located on the southwest coast of the Algarve in the unspoiled region of Costa Vicentina is Pedralva, the forgotten village of the Algarve. This once thriving agricultural village was mostly abandoned in the 1980's leaving a pile of destitute buildings. In 2006, António Ferreira and his partners purchased 30 ruins and began to gradually rebuild the village with the aim of providing an authentic holiday experience. In 2010 the project was complete and 24 traditional houses opened their doors to welcome guests, each comfortably furnished and well-equipped.

**Accommodation:** 24 village houses including one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units.

- Airport: 120km Faro
- Village houses
- Self Catering
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural village location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£768 per person\***



## Quinta Bonita, Lagos

Located on the outskirts of Lagos, the Quinta Bonita was once a private retreat for family and friends. Today it has been transformed into a charming boutique hotel managed by Fraser and Chantelle, who extend a warm welcome and homely stay for all guests. Each bedroom within the hotel is named after a local beach and individually decorated and tastefully adorned. The property offers views towards the Algarve coast whilst the mature, well maintained garden is a perfect place in which to relax and pass the day.

**Accommodation:** 8 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, a master suite and a two-bedroom cottage.

- Airport: 90km Faro
- Boutique hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Light lunches available
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£1,052 per person\***

## Memmo Baleeira Hotel, Sagres

The Memmo Baleeira Hotel is surrounded by the Costa Vicentina Natural Park, sandy beaches and a captivating landscape on the southwest coast of Portugal. Overlooking the attractive fishing harbour of Porto da Baleeira in Sagres, this modern hotel has a distinctive quality and is ideal for a relaxing short break or for an active holiday – walking trails, bicycle hire, water sports, horse-riding, surfing, bird-watching and boat excursions are all available and payable locally.

**Accommodation:** 144 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, one bedroom suites, duplex suites and two bedroom suites.

- Airport: 119km Faro
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Coastal location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pools
- Spa

Guide price from **£807 per person\***



\*Guide prices based on 2-sharing leading room type for 7 nights, flights from London to Faro (other airports on request) and car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

# Eastern Algarve

To the east of Faro are towns and villages that are reminders of the quiet charm that once characterised the whole of the Algarve, and the Natural Park of Ria Formosa, a haven for bird and fish life.

## Praia Verde Boutique Hotel, Praia Verde

Sister hotel to Vila Monte and a member of Design Hotels, the Praia Verde re-opened in 2016 after extensive renovation. Slate lines the exterior and blends perfectly with the surrounding forest. The interiors are light and contemporary and there is a feeling of space. The hotel is 800 metres from the fabulous Praia Verde beach which stretches for 40km along the unspoilt coastline of the Algarve right up to the Spanish border. The beach can never be crowded as it is enormous and from mid September to April the beach is empty.

**Accommodation:** 65 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and suites.

- Airport: 58km Faro
- 4-star boutique hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Sea front location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£1,055 per person\***



## Pousada Convento de Tavira, Tavira

This former 16th century convent stands on Castle Hill in Tavira, the site of what was once the Jewish quarter. Many of the original architectural features have been retained and beautifully blended with the modern interior. The Renaissance cloister, the façade facing the main square and the central staircase, all in baroque style are a few of these highlighted features. Bathed by the Gilão river, Tavira stands alongside the Ria Formosa, 40km from Faro and 160km from Seville. There is a beautiful sandy beach which is often quite deserted.

**Accommodation:** 36 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and suites.

- Airport: 40km Faro
- Historic Pousada
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Coastal location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£953 per person\***

## Vila Monte Resort, Moncarapacho

The Vila Monte is a country resort hotel, set within 9 hectares of land and located between Faro and Tavira. A blend of Moorish and Mediterranean influences has created a beautiful rural retreat offering the perfect balance between nature and the sea. Fabulous countryside and distant sea views can be seen from the terraces of the Laranjal and the haute cuisine restaurant. The bedrooms are located in three separate, themed buildings within the lush Mediterranean gardens, each one within 200 metres of the other.

**Accommodation:** 55 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms, junior suites and superior suites.

- Airport: 25km Faro
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pools

Guide price from **£1,285 per person\***



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# Rural Algarve

Inland are great rivers, lush valleys and age old remains from the Neolithic, Phoenician and Roman periods. Here, you will also find regional delicacies chouriça (smoked sausage), bran bread and 'filhós' fried pastries.

## Pousada Palácio de Estoí, Estoí

The famous Palácio de Estoí was originally built in the 19th century as the ancestral home of the Viscount of Estoí, José Francisco da Silva. The romantic taste of the first owner, a descendant of one of the most distinguished families of the Algarve, inspired him to build a neo-baroque and neo-rococo styled country house surrounded by beautiful gardens. Today, this former home has been converted in to a luxury Pousada providing high quality guest accommodation just a short drive from Faro.

**Accommodation:** 63 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and suites.

- Airport: 10km Faro
- Historic Design
- Bed & Breakfast
- Coastal location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pools
- Spa

Guide price from **£698 per person\***



## The White House, Pechão

This secluded, rural B&B is located on a hill in the small village of Pechão, east of Faro, near the city of Olhão. The property itself is set in a whitewashed building surrounded by pretty gardens, fruit orchards and fabulous vistas. The elegant rooms are located on two floors and have either garden or courtyard views. This is very much a laid back and quiet property from which guests can explore the coast and rural landscapes of the Algarve.

**Accommodation:** 5 air-conditioned, themed rooms including superior or luxury rooms and a balcony suite.

- Airport: 13km Faro (15-minutes' drive)
- Small B&B
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Swimming pool
- Village location

Guide price from **£769 per person\***

## Quinta do Marco, Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo

This is an enormous, family run, 45 acre estate with 11,000 orange trees, not to mention the carob, olive, avocado, fig and pomegranate trees. Nature is all around you and the hotel is focused on its relationship with the surrounding environment. The views are wonderful - panoramic to the distant sea and to the mountains with both the coastal town of Olhão and Tavira de Luz visible from the Quinta. Tavira itself is a 15 minute drive. We consider this property to have the best views of any of our Algarve hotels.

**Accommodation:** 24 air-conditioned, spacious rooms including standard rooms, triple rooms and family rooms.

- Airport: 40km Faro
- Rural hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£768 per person\***



\*Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type for 7 nights, flights from London to Faro (other airports on request) and car hire. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.



\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Faro (other airports on request)
- 7-days car hire
- 3-nights Pousada de Sagres, Sagres BB - See website
- 4-nights Pousada Convento de Tavira, Tavira BB - Page 42

**Departures**  
Daily

**Duration**  
7 nights

**Guide price from**  
£852 per person\*



# The real Algarve

## Sagres – Silves – Loulé – Tavira

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

The majority of visitors to the Algarve head to the coast and choose to overlook the beautiful natural diversity of the region, leaving an untouched interior and a wealth of charming fishing villages largely unexplored. Our suggested itinerary below is not set and can be amended to suit individual requirements.

**Day One:** On arrival at Faro airport, collect your hire car and drive to Sagres (119km).

**Day Two:** Day at leisure in Sagres. It was here that Prince Henry the Navigator assembled mariners, astronomers, ship-builders and cartographers to build ships that spurred Portugal into an age of exploration.

**Day Three:** Day at leisure. Discover the Rota Vicentina walking trail, or visit Cabo de São Vicente, the south western most point in Portugal. Two distinct walking trails make up the Rota Vicentina – The Historical Way and The Fisherman’s Trail – which stretches from Cabo de São Vicente in the south to Santiago do Cacém in the north (Alentejo). The Historical Way follows

rural tracks through towns and villages, whereas The Fisherman’s Trail hugs the coastline following trails used by local residents to reach beaches and secluded fishing locations.

**Day Four:** Drive east to Tavira (141km) with a stop en route at Silves, an important settlement for the Moors until 1189 when Portuguese Christian forces, aided by thousands of English, German and Flemish crusaders captured the town on their way to the Holy Land. Today, Silves is the centre of citrus fruit and cork production in the region.

**Day Five:** Day at leisure. Like most towns in the Algarve, Tavira has seen its share of modern development but despite this it has managed to hold onto the charm of yesteryear. Of particular interest is the 11th century Castelo de Tavira, built on the site of a Phoenician fortress; the 13th century Igreja de Santa Maria do Castelo, the burial place of seven Christian knights of the Order of St. James; the 16th century Igreja da Misericórdia with its magnificent interior of blue and white azulejos.

**Days Six & Seven:** Days at leisure. Enjoy a day trip to the Ria Formosa Natural Park (18,400 hectares) with its vast expanse of golden sandy beaches and lagoon landscape. It is also a protected breeding ground for many sea birds. The next day, drive west to the town of Loulé with its Moorish bell tower and castle. Loulé has gained a reputation for its handicrafts and these are on sale at the weekly market (Saturday).

**Day Eight:** After breakfast, drive to Faro airport for your return flight home.



# The hidden Algarve

## Lagos – Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo

Itinerary: 9 days / 8 nights

Hidden in the Algarve, away from the larger resorts, you will find two of our favourite rural properties. This itinerary takes you to the authentic Algarve, combining both the west and the east, allowing you to immerse yourself in culture, history and unspoiled landscapes on both sides of this popular region of Portugal.

**Day One:** On arrival at Faro airport collect your hire car and self-drive to the Quinta Bonita in the western Algarve (c.1 hour 15 minutes). Located on the outskirts of Lagos, the Quinta Bonita, with its well maintained private gardens and orchard, provides a homely stay for its guests and is ideally situated to explore western Algarve.

**Day Two:** Spend the day at the beach - Praia do Porto de Mós, the second largest beach in the region of Lagos, is easily reached from the hotel (c.10 minutes drive). Unprotected from the mighty Atlantic Ocean, with its backdrop of steep cliffs and golden sand, Porto de Mós beach tends to be less crowded than other beaches nearby and is popular with surfers.

**Day Three:** Day at leisure. Head west to the small seaside town of Luz, also known as Luz de Lagos, originally a fishing village, today its star attraction is its sandy beach – Praia da Luz. Sagres is also within easy reach and worthy of a visit, as is Cabo de São Vicente, the most westerly point of mainland Europe.

**Day Four:** Day at leisure. Head to the wooded mountain range of Serra de Monchique, north of Lagos. Highlights include the tranquil and picturesque mountain town of Monchique with its historic centre, the spa town of Caldas de Monchique and Foia, from where there are tracks for walkers and spectacular views.

**Day Five:** After breakfast, drive to Quinta do Marco in Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo (c.1 hour). Enjoying a rural and tranquil location in the Algarve Mountains, the Quinta do Marco is set within 18 hectares of land and located between Faro and Tavira in eastern Algarve.

**Day Six:** Day at leisure. Nearby Tavira, with its cobbled streets, historic centre, roman bridge, churches and hilltop castle ruins, is easily explored on foot. Retaining a timeless look, the town is charming and attractive, filled with shops, restaurants and cafés.

**Day Seven:** Day at leisure. Spend the day enjoying the views and serenity that surround the Quinta do Marco. Scattered around the estate you will find benches and the odd hammock – perfect for some relaxation or reading time.

**Day Eight:** Day at leisure. Visit the capital of the Algarve, Faro which has much to offer including nearby beaches, shops, restaurants, a marina from where boat trips on the Ria Formosa depart, museums, churches, parks, plazas, nightlife and a historic old town.

**Day Nine:** After breakfast, drive to Faro airport (c.40 minutes / 33km) for your return flight to the UK.



\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Faro (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire
- 4-nights Quinta Bonita, Lagos BB - Page 41
- 4-nights Quinta do Marco, Santa Catarina da Fonte do Bispo BB - Page 43

### Departures

Daily (Mar-Oct)

### Duration

8 nights

### Guide price from

£764 per person\*





Carrapateira beach, Algarve



Serra da Estrela National Park

\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London to Faro, returning from Porto (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire Group A
- 2-nights Pousada de Sagres, Sagres BB - See website
- 3-nights Pousada Convento de Beja, Beja BB - Page 34
- 2-nights Pousada de Viseu, Viseu BB - See website

**Departures**  
Daily

**Duration**  
7 nights

**Guide price from**  
£659 per person based on 2-sharing\*

# Explore Portugal - From the Algarve to the Central Region

## Sagres – Beja – Viseu

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

Portugal is a fascinating and very enjoyable country to tour. The roads, on the whole, are quiet and the scenery varied and beautiful. On our 7 night Pousada fly-drive you will experience this diversity for yourself; travelling from the golden shores of the Algarve and across the Alentejo plains to the undulating hills of the north. En route there is the opportunity to explore historic cities, sample the local gastronomy and to immerse yourself in the unspoiled landscape.

**Day One:** The drive will take you along the Algarve coast to the south western tip of the Algarve and the cliff-top, 51 room Pousada de Sagres. The area around the hotel is wild and windswept with many beautiful Atlantic beaches. The Pousada has a very good restaurant, particularly noted for its seafood cuisine. It is within walking distance of the fishing

town of Sagres and from the Pousada there are impressive views over the fortress of Sagres and the Atlantic beyond.

**Day Two:** Enjoy a leisurely day in Sagres or take a drive to Capo de São Vicente, one of the most westernmost points of Europe, to the historic town of Loule or into the hills of Monchique.

This area of the western Algarve has an abundance of marked walking trails, including the Rota Vicentina. One marked trail connects 'The Cape' to Vila do Bispo, following historic fisherman trails - a wonderful way to discover the unspoiled and dramatic Atlantic coast.

**Days Three, Four & Five:** From Sagres it is a 199km (1hr 20 mins) drive to Beja. At 277 metres above sea level the city commands a strategic position over the vast plains of the lower Alentejo. Already inhabited in Celtic times, Beja, with a current

population of 40,000, has been the scene of attack and counterattack as armies, both Christian and Arab waged war to and fro across the region. It is a very interesting city to explore.

Spend time wandering the narrow streets and, one day, drive south to the hilltop town of Mertola (53 km) on the banks of the Guadiana River, topped by a medieval castle and near the Spanish border.

**Days Six & Seven:** From Beja it is a long drive (425km 4 hrs 10 mins) across the Alentejo plains to Viseu, the main city of the central region of Portugal. It is little known but vibrant and has a very beautiful old quarter in the city centre. Viseu is one of the unknown gems of Portugal. The city is of Celtic origin and is the centre of the wine industry in the central region of Portugal.

**Day Eight:** Drive from Viseu to Porto Airport (139km, 1 hr 25 mins) for your return flight to the UK.