



ISBS
Proposed holidays
ALGARVE VACATION
July 2011

1. Algarve region

Portugal's southernmost coastline, where the sea is warm and calm

The Algarve has so much to offer. The sea is warm, the climate is wonderful and the holiday villages, hotels and luxury resorts are superb places to stay. And the small fishing villages - such as Santa Luzia, in Tavira - and the small port of Sagres are idyllic and peaceful.

The Algarve's beaches meanwhile are among the best in the world. And there is so much variety to choose from - hidden beaches, family beaches, beaches where the sea is calm and beaches that are ideal for water sports. Whichever one you go for, there is always fun in abundance.

And don't forget the golf! The Algarve has 30 golf courses and some are among the best in Europe. They will tempt amateurs and professionals alike.

In the Algarve people live their lives outdoors. So come and join them. Enjoy the atmosphere, the climate and the food on the terraces of one of our numerous cafés and restaurants.



2. Suggestion of Hotels for accommodation in the region

Hotel Baia Grande * * * *, Sesmarias, Albufeira

Situated in the Algarve's coastline, overlooking the sea, in Sesmarias, 800 mtrs away from the beach, 3 Km from the center of Albufeira. Close to the various entertainments such as Casinos, Shopping Centers, Nature Show Park, Water Parks, lovely sandy Beaches, Marinas and Night Live. Conceived as a luxury Four Star Resort, the Hotel Baia Grande offers spacious and elegant accommodations. A scenery with palm trees and birds of paradise awaits for you plus all the comfort you could ask for. The hotel has a total of 131 rooms, Designed for the optimum comfort of our Guests, with closet, coffee table, spacious bathrooms with marble countertops, bathtub/shower, hairdryer. They all feature amenities such as security safe, direct dial phone, minibar, individual air condition control and satellite television. The hotel offers Free parking, Car rental, Laundry Service, Room Service, Wake up Call, 24 hours Front Desk, Doctor (on call), Baby Sitter (on request), Currency exchange, Internet Access, Excursions. The Mermaid Dining Room with a lovely view to the ocean and outdoor pool serves buffet breakfasts, lunches and buffets every night. Or, just try the culinary talents of our executive Chef in the "A La Carte" Restaurant, orchestrated by the piano player. Enjoy the evening in the Piano Bar for a cocktail and conversation, with live music. A perfect atmosphere for a pleasant evening. Enjoy the outdoor swimming pool or the inside heated pool with Jacuzzi or pamper yourself with a sauna and a relaxing Massage.



Price and conditions:

- Price for accommodation in a double standard room: 86,5 Euros / room / night
- Price for double standard room, with sea/pool view: 93 Euros / room / night
- Includes:
 - Bed and Breakfast
 - Courtesy shuttle bus to the center of Albufeira and Galé beach
- No show charge: 2 nights

Hotel da Aldeia * * *, Areias de S. João, Albufeira

Situated in the tourism complex of Areias de S. João adjoining the Oura beach and 2 km from the well-known city of Albufeira, Hotel da Aldeia is built in the traditional local style with large terraces overlooking the gardens and two superb swimming pools surrounded by gardens, tennis court, mini golf and children's playground.

Hotel da Aldeia has 128 rooms and 5 suites, all with balcony, air conditioning, heating, Satellite Tv, direct phone and individual safe.

At the Hotel you will find the "Nações" restaurant with breakfast service and buffet dinner with international food. Another choice is the "Regiões" restaurant with typical Portuguese dishes and in the summer time we also have a Pool Side Snack-bar.

The Hotel da Aldeia provides: 2 magnificent swimming pools (adults and children), Tennis, Mini-golf, Children's Playground and Bar Cafe



Price and conditions:

- Price for accommodation in a double standard room, city view: 105 Euros / room / night
- Price for accommodation in a double standard room, with pool view: 125 Euros / room / night
- Includes Bed and Breakfast

- No show charge: 1 night

Ria Plaza Resort * * *, Almancil

Ria Plaza Resort is located in the Algarve, just 12 km from Faro Airport in an upmarket setting between Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago. It offers excellent accommodation, a restaurant specialising in Portuguese and international cuisine, a relaxing bar, swimming pool, health centre, tennis court and a free shuttle service to and from the beach, shops and local golf courses. All in all, the hotel offers excellent value for money, with friendly and professional staff making it an ideal beach or golfing holiday destination.



Price and conditions:

- Price for accommodation in a double standard room: 80 Euros / room / night
- Includes:
 - Bed and Breakfast
 - Courtesy shuttle bus to the beach and golf courses
- No show: Full charge
- Cancellation fee: Charge 1 night

3. Suggestion of visits in the region

Lagos, the fishing town

One of the few Algarve holiday resorts to maintain its identity as a real town and not just a tourist destination, Lagos is a fishing port and market town first and a holiday spot second. The ancient walls of Lagos remain after certain areas were restored. Lagos was a fishing village and its importance grew under the Arabs, which built several fortifications. It turned into an important naval center in the age of the Discoveries, in the 15th century; became the capital of the Algarve from 1576 to 1756 and was greatly damaged by the earthquake of 1755; thus its beautiful 18th and 19th century buildings. A fine new marina welcomes boats sailing in from the Atlantic.

The beaches around Lagos are some of the most beautiful of the Algarve, Lagos travel to the area's beaches provide visitors with some of the most beautiful shores in the Algarve region. The most highly regarded beach in Lagos is Ponta da Piedade, a huge rock formation hollowed out by the sea, which shelters the bay of the area with its rocks, caves and beautifully transparent waters.



Sagres, the southwestern most point in the European continent

Sagres or the Promontorium Sacrum evokes the memory of the Infante D. Henrique and the Portuguese discoveries. Dating back from the Roman conquest times, it was in the 15th century that Sagres achieved great importance. The southwestern most point in the European continent was already referred to in antiquity as the Promontorium Sacrum, encompassing the area from the Ponta da Piedade to the Cape of São Vicente and from the cape to the beach of Arrifana.

On Ponta de Sagres, a giant finger of rock pointing to the ocean, stand the buildings which evoke the past of a place that is part of the history of the world, remembering the Vila and the defensive fortress founded by Henry the Navigator. A buttressed fortress was built in the 15th century by the Infante D. Henrique. The presence of this fortress endowed Sagres with a unique role in the history of Portugal, integrating it within the imaginary universe of the Portuguese discoveries and conferring international recognition to the site. In addition to the spectacular panorama over the sea and the Cape of São Vicente it is still possible to recognize constructions such as the cistern tower, a windbreak wall, the former dwellings and a barracks and the old parish church of Nossa Senhora da Graça.



Carvoeiro

Carvoeiro is a lively fishing village which has become popular during recent years, but still retains its local charm. The fishing boats come and go and fresh fish and locally produced fruit and vegetables can be purchased from the market. There are lovely sandy beaches for swimming or lazing in the sun around Carvoeiro, and other beautiful unspoilt beaches are also closeby. There are ample shops of handcrafts and plenty of friendly bars.



Silves

Located on a hill in the Serra de Monchique chain, Silves owes its foundation and development to the Arade river. This was long an important means of communication attracting settlers as far back as the Iron Age, 3,000 years before Christ. The Arade also proved the point of entry for the Romans that came to exploit the copper reserves and trade other products such as olive oil, wine, dried fruits and salt. In the 5th century, the Visigoths arrived and would stay until the 8th century when the southern regions of Portugal fell under Muslim domination. It was then that Silves became truly prosperous. The Castle and the Almohade Storage Well bare witness to the city's level of development at that time. The area around the Well is now part of the Silves Museum of Archaeology. With Silves being attributed a bishopdom, a cathedral was built on the site of the mosque. The silting up of the river, rendering it non-navigable, and the bishopdom being transferred to Faro in the middle of the 16th century, was the beginning of a long, slow decline. Much destroyed in the 1755 earthquake would only be rebuilt during the industrial revolution of the 19th century with its development of the cork and dry fruit businesses. From that period date a series of houses belonging to the bourgeois who made their fortunes. The old cork factory was recently restored and transformed into a performance centre with regular events and a great deal of children's entertainment. The so-called English Factory has contributed to the city's revival and has swiftly turned into a centre for regional cultural development attracting large numbers of visitors.



Alte, the hidden historical and rural Algarve

Some consider Alte, which has existed since the period of the Roman occupation to be the village most typical of the Algarve. With their whitewashed houses, windows and facades edged with colourful borders, ornate chimneys and pervasive air of tranquillity, the streets of Alte's historic centre have retained much of their original charm. The area around the church is a delightful snapshot of the real Algarve.

Alte has its own celebrated poet, Candido Guerreiro (1871 - 1953). Some of his verse is displayed on painted tile panels at a popular picnicking spot by a leafy stream at the bottom of the village. Much older tiles, some of them made in Seville in the 16th century, adorn the chapels inside the nearby parish church, which has a fine Manueline portal.



Faro, one of the most important cities in Algarve

It was during the Roman period that this region developed and gained standing. It was then known as Civitas Ossobonensis, with its borders stretching to where modern Tavira lies, and included a number of towns with specific productive, rural and maritime functions. This historical past come from interpreting archaeological finds made in the city which can now be seen in the Infante D. Henrique (Prince Henry the Navigator) Archaeological Museum, and the Milreu Ruins to be found in the suburbs of Faro. In the 19th century, Faro was administratively reorganised, centralising regional powers and, along with its role in the regional economy, became one of the most important cities in the Algarve. The nobility and bourgeois contributed to this urban renovation building palace-like residences. The wealthier families built second homes on the outskirts. These include the impressive Palace of Estói. On the outskirts of the city, the sheer beauty of the Ria Formosa Natural Park ensures it is well worth a visit.



Albufeira

Albufeira is famed for its beaches, for the countless shades and tones of its rocks and cliffs. This is a place where people live to the rhythm of the great holiday destinations, sunbathing during the day and at sunset flocking to enjoy the restaurants, bars and discos that enliven the night-time hours. But just a few miles inland and everything changes. The green of the countryside is dotted with almond, fig, orange and pine trees and decorated chimneys stand out against the ochre of tiled roofs. Bucolic villages invite you to experience a way of life rooted in the tranquility of nature, to add another dimension to your holidays. Sports are also a good reason to come and stay in Albufeira. Tennis, golf, water sports and much more make the delights of the most demanding sportsmen.



Vilamoura, the main resort in Algarve

Vilamoura is ideally located, being a special place, a unique leisure and recreation resort community, with much to offer, such as: casino, bars, restaurants, boutiques, a marina, beach, luxury hotels and private villas. Away from the hectic pace and the stress of the modern world, all who visit are revitalised by the lifestyle, the convenience and the hospitality of this truly special place. The sports facilities of the town are excellent; they include lawn bowling, swimming, golf, riding, squash & shooting.

