

birdwatching guide to the algarve



birdwatching
algarve

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preface

Birdwatching in the Algarve

I would like to tell you a simple story about a tourism segment that has recently come to the fore in the Algarve: birdwatching. This is the practice of observing birds either with the naked eye or with the help of instruments that enhance your vision, such as binoculars or telescopes. The story begins in 2009, the year in which the Região de Turismo do Algarve (Algarve Tourism Board) decided to structure the region's offering in this niche market. The plan was to ensure bird admirers would benefit from the best possible conditions when they went out to observe the curious habits and plumage of these creatures.

Consequently, a study was carried out to identify the ideal sites in which to find the various species and what support infrastructures existed for birdwatchers. The findings of the study were divulged in 2012, in the publication "Birdwatching Guide". And it is precisely the newly re-edited edition of that guide which you are holding in your hands right now.

If you are new to birdwatching, you will be delighted to know that the guide will serve as a faithful field instrument on your ornithological outings. It will tell you, for example, where to find spoonbills, blacked-winged stilts, tawny owls or white-headed ducks, and when is the best time of year to see them, depending on whether they are resident, migratory or nesting species in the region. Conversely, if you are already a seasoned birdwatcher, I believe you will still be pleased with the guide. After all, it focuses specifically on the Algarve, a destination where you will discover the greatest variety of bird life in Portugal. Of the almost 10,000 species in the world, over 250 can regularly be found here over the course of the year.

Therefore, although birdwatching as a tourism product is still in its early days in the Algarve, as can be seen from the National Strategic Tourism Plan, we already have a great deal to offer those who cannot tear their eyes away from our beautiful feathered friends. Venture into the world of birds and take home unique memories of nature as seen through your own eyes and captured by the lens of your camera. You will soon discover that this is one of the best ways to spend your leisure time in the Algarve...

Desidério Silva

President of the Algarve Tourism Board

preface

Although the Algarve is well known to everyone as an unrivalled holiday destination, it is perhaps less well known than it deserves to be for the value of its birdlife and biodiversity. The great merit of this book is that it describes 10 important birdwatching areas and 32 excursions that will help the reader discover a different, arguably richer, Algarve.

In its variety of sandy coastlines, cliffs, mountains, wetlands and Mediterranean landscapes there occur many resident, wintering or migratory bird species that journey from north to south. Many of them are faced with threats that could compromise their existence and stability in the near future.

The Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA) has identified various sites in the region, designated as Important Bird Areas, based on scientific criteria demonstrating they are crucial to the conservation of species such as the purple swamphen, the flamingo, the Eurasian spoonbill, Bonelli's eagle or the black-winged stilt, to mention only some of the better known specimens. Some sites, such as the Ria Formosa, the Castro Marim wetlands or Sagres, are well known for large concentrations of birds during a period when they are at their most vulnerable.

If we are to succeed in preserving these values it is important to recognize them in a responsible and objective way. We therefore hope that this book will help its readers and users to explore the sites and itineraries it describes and to enjoy the wealth of nature that the Algarve has to offer. It is also an important way of protecting birds and nature, by recognizing, respecting, acting and demonstrating that they are real values worth protecting and conserving.

Luís Costa

Director of SPEA



Introduction

Birdwatching is enjoying rapid growth almost everywhere in the world, most especially in Europe. It has ceased to be a hobby largely confined to northern countries such as the United Kingdom – where it is estimated that there are over 2.4 million birdwatchers – to slowly take its place among the leisure, social and tourism activities of the more Mediterranean countries such as Spain, Italy and Portugal.

Various reasons are suggested for this growth, starting with rising interest among the general public in environmental issues, particularly biodiversity. There was not much talk in the past about nature conservation, fauna and flora, threatened species, nature photography or protected areas, and people were not interested in getting involved in such a wide and prolific range of activities involving contact with the natural world. ENGOS (environmental non-government organisations) have played a prominent role in this through a huge number of activities that have facilitated – and continue to facilitate – contact between the public and nature and woodland avifauna. In Portugal a key part has been played by LPN (League for the Protection of Nature), Quercus, SPEA (Portuguese



Wilson's Storm Petrel (Oceanites oceanicus)

Society for the Study of Birds) and in the Algarve, Almargem.

In addition, birdwatching has many advantages compared with other nature-related activities which help to explain its growing popularity: it is very easy to do, unlike watching mammals or fishes, for example; it can be done anywhere, even in cities; it is open to everyone (children, young people, senior citizens or people with limited mobility); it does not require much investment – depending on the birdwatcher's interest and motivation; it can be done all year round; it appeals to the collecting instinct because of the huge variety of bird species; and, simply, it offers effortless, close contact with nature and its various aspects.

Birdwatching is reflected in a wide range of enthusiasms and related activities which also help to explain the growing number of enthusiasts: the simple pleasure of observing birds in their natural habitats and their behaviour, colours and forms; nature photography in general and bird photography in particular (e.g. digiscoping); painting and illustration; scientific research; collecting and the constant search for new species; the pursuit of rarities (twitching), etc. Lastly, and no less importantly, we should not forget the growing need in modern societies – especially urban societies – for people to find an escape from their daily lives, with observation of and contact with nature among the solutions adopted by growing numbers of people.

So what is the reality behind birdwatching? Here are some facts and numbers:

- There are approximately 9865 bird species in the world according to IUCN, many of them endemic in certain parts of the globe;
- They are organised into 70 taxonomic orders (TAXA), including marine birds, raptors, passerines, ducks, etc;
- They are found in all ecosystems throughout the world from the North to

the South Pole, and in deserts, oceans and mountain ranges;

- Their plumages show every possible colouration, in all known colours;
 - They have many distinct forms, both in terms of overall shape and in different parts of the body (beaks, feet or wings);
 - They show behaviours that are unique in the animal kingdom, which gives them special interest: they perform remarkable migrations, they have varied and curious feeding habits, they build nests using different techniques and methods, they sing melodious songs, some species are easy, while others are very difficult to observe, and so on.
- Lastly, as a final introductory comment, here is a simple definition of what we understand by birdwatching, the observation of birds or ornithological tourism:

"A journey whose purpose is to engage in leisure activities involving ornithology, namely the detection, identification and observation of avifauna, with the objective of being in contact with nature to satisfy educational needs and/or achieve personal satisfaction".

It is these experiences that we hope this guide will stimulate.



Birdwatching in the Ria Formosa

About this guide

This Birdwatching Guide to the Algarve, published by the Algarve Tourism Board, is designed to be a simple, easy to use field guide for all who enjoy watching birds in their natural habitat. It is organised in such a way as to facilitate contact with the region's most interesting bird species and/or the largest number of them. It includes a range of useful information about how to reach birdwatching sites, the best times of year, tips about each site, etc. The guide suggests 32 excursions covering 9 main areas worth visiting, arranged from east to west. There is also a tenth chapter devoted to observing seabirds at sea, with no specific itineraries, merely

suggestions of places where to start specialist birdwatching boat trips. Each location is accompanied by a map and a description on how to get there, the most interesting species to be found there and various tips about the best way to visit. At the end there is a list of useful contacts for visitors, including telephone numbers of the emergency services and internet links with recommendations on accommodation, restaurants and specialist birdwatching companies. This is not a conventional field guide, but aims to be a helpful travel companion to the Algarve and a good pointer to unforgettable birdwatching experiences and to contact with nature.



How to use the guide

In practical terms, this guide can be used in two ways:

By type of landscape and habitat in the Algarve (e.g. estuaries, forests, etc.) or by bird species. This arrangement is designed to respond readily to the different reasons behind the proposed visit e.g. whether the birdwatcher is seeking a particular species or simply wishes to visit a site where there are large numbers of certain birds, for example aquatic birds. Ultimately, it aims to facilitate the selection of locations to be visited so as to help plan the journey.

For searches by habitat, Table 1 shows the main types of landscape in the

Algarve which influence the occurrence of different bird species and the names of the excursions and pages in the guide where they are described.

To use this guide to search for a particular species, you will find at the end a checklist of birds occurring in the Algarve, indicating the location where they can be observed and under what conditions. Additional information on phenology and abundance is provided for each bird. This is intended to help plan visits by those are coming specially to see a particular species in the Algarve and, at the same time, to stimulate many others through the huge variety that can be observed here.

Table 1 – Main landscapes or bird habitats in the Algarve, the excursions covering them and location in the guide.

| Landscape (habitat) | Excursion | Page |
|--|------------------------------|------|
| Mountain and cork oak forest | Serra de Monchique | 126 |
| | Barranco do Velho to Parizes | 134 |
| Mediterranean scrub forest | Sagres Peninsula | 118 |
| | Fonte da Benémola | 136 |
| | Rocha da Pena | 139 |
| Traditional farmland and grassland zones | Sagres Peninsula | 118 |
| | Lagoa dos Salgados | 100 |
| | Canical de Vilamoura | 94 |
| Rivers and riverside woodland | Alcoutim | 36 |
| | Fonte da Benémola | 136 |
| Wetlands, rias and estuaries | Castro Marim | 48 |
| | Ria Formosa | 62 |
| | Ria de Alvor | 112 |
| | Rio Arade | 110 |
| Saltpans | Cerro do Bufo | 50 |
| | Arraial Ferreira Neto | 64 |
| | Quatro Águas | 66 |
| | Santa Luzia | 68 |
| | Quinta do Ludo | 74 |
| | Ria de Alvor | 112 |
| Costal lagoons and reedbeds | Ludo | 74 |
| | Dunas Douradas | 88 |
| | Foz do Almarem | 90 |
| | Canical de Vilamoura | 94 |
| Coastal pine forest | Foz do Almarem | 90 |
| Rocky coastal cliffs | Sagres Peninsula | 118 |
| Marine zone | Península de Sagres | 148 |
| | Portimão | 148 |
| | Fuseta | 148 |

The Algarve

The Algarve region is situated in the extreme south of Portugal, bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south, and by Spain to the east. It is heavily influenced by the Mediterranean and North Africa, not just in terms of climate all the year round but also in terms of its landscape, agriculture, culture and biodiversity.

The region is divided geologically into three major areas: The Serra, the Barrocal and the Litoral (Coastal Strip). The Serra covers the whole of the northern part of the Algarve from east to west, and is characterised by mainly schist soils where cork oak forest, strawberry trees and cistus predominate. This is a mountainous, thinly populated region, arguably of very significant biodiversity value. The main mountain massifs in the Algarve are the Serra do Caldeirão and the Serra de Monchique. The latter has some special characteristics; in particular, it is the only area in the Algarve with granite (nepheline syenite) outcrops and where precipitation is higher. These aspects make for a different type of landscape, very lush, with dense stands of forest and a special flora which includes numerous monumental trees and unique species such as the Monchique oak and the common rhododendron.

South of the Serra lies the Barrocal, where the soil is mainly calcareous. This is the most important agricultural area, with extensive mixed rainfed orchards of almond, carob, fig and olive trees and numerous traditional smallholdings. The Algarve's famous oranges are also produced in this area. Rocky limestone outcrops are very common in this area, the most notable of which is Rocha da Pena at Salir (Loulé). The area has a very rich flora, with many hundreds of identified species including over 20 species of orchids, thyme and narcissi, among others. Lastly, to the south lies the Litoral, where the majority of tourists and resident population of the Algarve are concentrated. This sub-region includes the beaches, dunes, wetlands and main cities. The south and east Litoral are very different from one another. Between Albufeira and Vila Real de St. António, known as the Sotavento Algarvio, the coastline is sandy, with extensive dunes and beaches. The climate is warmer and milder. Between Albufeira and Lagos, the coastline is made up of low cliffs, broken by small coves with sandy beaches and some estuaries (Alvor and Arade). Between Vila do Bispo and Aljezur, the coastline becomes rocky with high, steep



Serra de Monchique

cliffs and is strongly influenced by the Atlantic Ocean. This area, called the Costa Vicentina, is very special, however, with several endemic botanical species and a varied woodland fauna. In terms of biodiversity, around 40% of the Algarve region is included in the

Natura 2000 European ecological network, both as a Special Protection Area for Birds and as a Special Area of Conservation. This network includes sites across the region with different biophysical characteristics, many of which also have other protection statuses, including the following:

| Protected Area | Name | Municipality |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Natural Park | Ria Formosa | Loulé, Faro, Olhão and Tavira |
| Natural Park | Costa Vicentina | Vila do Bispo and Aljezur |
| Nature Reserve | Castro Marim | Castro Marim and Vila Real St. António |
| Area of protected local landscape | Fonte da Benémola | Loulé |
| Area of protected local landscape | Rocha da Pena | Loulé |

10



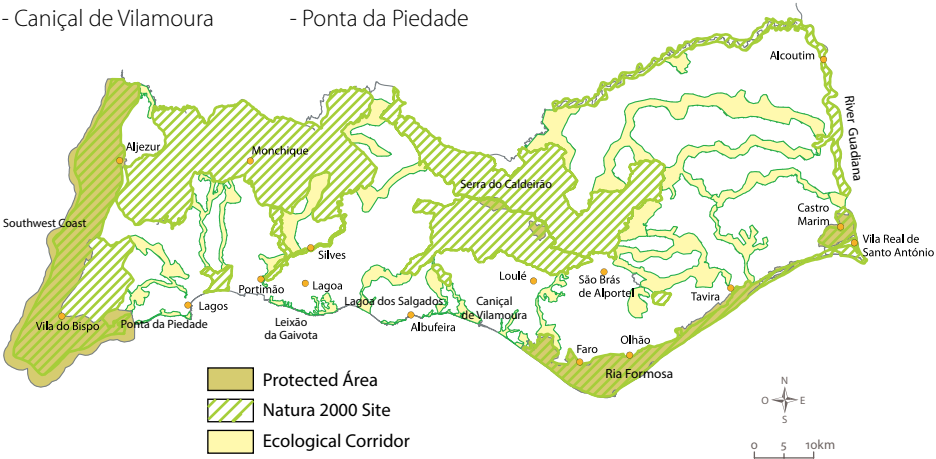
Serra do Caldeirão

The importance of these sites reflects the existence of a number of very special fauna and flora elements, including various endemic species. In addition to these sites, the Algarve also has a number of areas recognised internationally for their importance to birds, called IBAs (Important Bird Areas), a designation awarded by the worldwide organisation BirdLife International, which is represented in Portugal by SPEA (Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds). These overlap with some of the areas mentioned above, but also include others that are not protected. The list of IBAs in the Algarve includes:



Barril - Ria Formosa

- River Guadiana
- Lagoa dos Salgados
- Castro Marim
- Serra de Monchique
- Ria Formosa
- Southwest Coast
- Serra do Caldeirão
- Leixão da Gaivota
- Caniçal de Vilamoura
- Ponta da Piedade



Birdwatching in the Algarve

The Algarve is an increasingly popular destination for birdwatchers who come here on purpose to observe and photograph a large number of species. So what makes the Algarve such an attractive place for birdwatching? And why choose the Algarve rather than some other birdwatching destination? Here are some important factors:

- The Algarve has the richest avifauna in Portugal, with the regular presence of over 250 species of birds throughout the year;
- It is the region of mainland Portugal with the highest occurrence of rare birds from Africa, North America and northern Europe;
- It has a great diversity of landscapes, including estuaries, coastal lagoons, reedbeds, dense cork oak forests, mountains, beaches, the open sea, coastal cliffs, farmland, Mediterranean scrub forest, etc;
- Around 40% of the region is protected, including 2 Natural Parks, 1 Nature Reserve, 2 Classified Sites and numerous Natura 2000 sites;
- It has 10 Important Bird Areas (IBAs – SPEA / Birdlife International);
- It is a small region, making it easy to visit various of the important bird sites and to visit mountain and estuarine

habitats in the same day;

- It is only 1 hour from the Alentejo, making it possible to combine birdwatching excursions there to observe rare birds such as the Great Bustard, the Black-bellied Sandgrouse or the Spanish Imperial Eagle;
- It has a mild, pleasant climate, making it possible to make field visits all year round, even in winter;
- It has several specialist birdwatching companies with guides who speak several languages and know the region and the places where birds congregate well.

Apart from these, the Algarve also has:

- A rich and varied local cuisine with the Mediterranean influence predominating in many traditional dishes;
- An extensive and varied choice of accommodation throughout the region, including hotels, pousadas, cottages, resort hotels, etc;
- A wide choice of direct flights to Faro from several European cities.

Birds of the Algarve

The Algarve is the region of Portugal with the greatest recorded diversity of species. In total, 386 species have been observed – a number that increases every year – representing over 15 different taxonomic orders (e.g. divers, ducks, raptors, waders, passerines, etc.). The wide variety of landscapes in the region together with its geographical situation, particularly its proximity to North Africa, are among the factors that explain this great ornithological wealth as well as some of its peculiarities.

Over 250 species can be seen here every year, distributed in phenological terms between resident, breeding, wintering and migratory birds. The occurrence of 'rarities' is also recorded, albeit sporadically. These are birds that appear in very small numbers in any year after deviating from their normal migration routes – usually from North America, North Africa and northern Europe. The Algarve is also the region of Portugal where the largest number of annual sightings of rare birds occurs. In terms of sites, the Algarve is an outstanding birdwatching destination because:

It has two of the most important

wetlands in Portugal – the Ria Formosa and the Castro Marim Wetlands – the latter the first nature reserve established in Portugal (1975);

It contains the main migration corridor for raptors in Portugal – the Sagres Peninsula – through which several thousand individuals of more than 20 different species pass every year, including eagles, falcons and vultures; It contains internationally recognised sites such as the Ria de Alvor – the base for the work of the Associação Internacional A Rocha – or Lagoa dos Salgados which for several years has been a major focus for the work of SPEA and BirdLife International.



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)



Ludo - Ria Formosa

Breeding

The breeding bird community in the Algarve includes over 130 species, including passerines, raptors, herons and ducks, among others. A large proportion of these birds are migrants, arriving from Africa to breed here and returning there later to winter. This category includes numerous examples, some of them quite common, such as swallows, swifts, the Turtle Dove, the Cuckoo, the European Bee-eater, the Woodchat Shrike and many others. The dense cork oak forests of the Serra do Caldeirão and the Serra de Monchique are particularly interesting at this time of year as they host a large community of woodland birds, some of them uncommon such as the Western Orphean Warbler or the Iberian Chiffchaff, others frequently sighted such as the

Golden Oriole, and various raptors such as the Short-toed Eagle. The coastal wetlands are also important breeding grounds for many birds, particularly Audouin's Gull and the Ferruginous Duck, whose breeding populations in Portugal are confined to this region. The Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Collared Pratincole, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Little Tern are also significantly represented.

Winter

In winter large numbers of birds, especially waterfowl, congregate in coastal wetlands such as Castro Marim or the Ria Formosa. The latter in particular is home to over 20,000 birds during this season, putting it among the three most important wetlands in Portugal. These numbers are especially due to the high occurrence of ducks, such

as the Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveller and Eurasian Teal, and waders such as the Dunlin, Common Ringed Plover, Grey Plover and Common Redshank. Farmland, especially stubble fields and grasslands such as those surrounding Caniçal de Vilamoura and Lagoa dos Salgados and on the Sagres Peninsula, also host huge flocks of wintering birds such as the Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Golden Plover and Eurasian Skylark. Uncommon birds that winter in the Algarve include the Osprey, Black-shouldered Kite, Richard's Pipit, Ring Ouzel and Alpine Accentor.

Migrations

These times of year are especially interesting in the Algarve. Between September and November, the Sagres Peninsula becomes the main migration corridor for raptors in mainland Portugal, where every year all the species occurring in Portugal can be seen, as well as other, rarer species from eastern Europe or North Africa. This area is also a prime spot for observing seabirds on their way to their wintering grounds. More details about this area are given later in this guide. Wetlands are also areas where exceptional numbers of migratory birds are to be found. In particular, areas such

as the Ria Formosa and Castro Marim receive thousands of waders in both spring and autumn. Between March and April, Lagoa dos Salgados becomes one of the best places in Portugal to observe the Garganey which visits it in large numbers. Between late August and September this is also the best place in the Algarve to see the Wood Sandpiper.

Resident birds

Among the birds that are present in the Algarve all year round, several are unique to the Mediterranean basin and/or the Iberian Peninsula. An example is the Azure-winged Magpie which is very common in the Algarve but whose global distribution is limited to Portugal, Spain and East Asia. Other prominent examples include Bonelli's Eagle, the Purple Swamphen, the Lesser Short-toed Lark, the Thekla Lark, the Crag Martin and the Blue Rock-thrush, which also occur in southern Europe and the Mediterranean region. The Algarve is also home to a variety of passerines such as the Dartford Warbler, Sardinian Warbler, Crested Tit, Common Waxbill and Zitting Cisticola, which, although not rare in the Algarve, are uncommon in the north and are even absent in several European countries.



Booted Eagle (*Aquila pennata*)

Autumnal migration in Sagres

Due to its geographical position, Sagres is a very interesting place during the post-nuptial migration, especially between mid-August and November. In addition to the raptors that pass through here, Sagres is overflowed by large numbers of passerines and, offshore, of seabirds.

Raptors

Annually, over 4000 raptors from more than 20 species overfly the Sagres area during their southward migrations. These include eagles, falcons, vultures, kites, sparrowhawks and harriers. Among the most abundant are the Eurasian Griffon Vulture, Booted Eagle, Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Short-toed Eagle, which pass in numbers of the order of several hundreds and which in the case of the Eurasian Griffon Vulture can reach thousands. Besides these, there pass in smaller numbers – totalling several dozen – the Black Kite, the European Honey Buzzard, the Egyptian Vulture and Montagu's Harrier. The Black Stork also passes through here in similar numbers. Lastly, a mention of a number of other birds that occur in smaller quantities every year on this peninsula: the Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Black Vulture, Red Kite, Osprey, Black-

shouldered Kite, Eurasian Hobby and Eleanora's Falcon.

As in the majority of places where there are concentrations of migratory birds, there are often sightings of rare birds whose normal area of distribution does not include these sites. Sagres is no exception, and every year there are records of unusual and/or rare birds including the Lesser Spotted Eagle, which in recent years has been observed regularly in this area, Rueppell's Griffon Vulture which has also occurred frequently in recent years, always in company with flocks of Eurasian Griffon Vulture, and the rarer Red-footed Falcon.

Lastly, a mention of the occurrence of nocturnal raptors during the migration in this area. All the species occurring in Portugal have been recorded here, most notably, for its numbers, the Long-eared Owl.

Seabirds

Once again, geographical situation is the key factor that makes the Sagres Peninsula a superb place to observe seabirds. In addition to its extensive coastline, bordered on the west by the Atlantic, the fact that it is in the zone of passage to the African continent and at



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

the entrance to the Mediterranean means that it is easy to observe thousands of migrating birds, particularly the Northern Gannet, which passes through here in large numbers in excess of several thousand. Other birds worthy of mention include the Balearic Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Great Skua, Wilson's Storm Petrel, Cory's Shearwater and the Arctic Tern, among others. In total, more than 20 species can be observed here during this migratory period.

What birds should you watch in the Algarve?

There is no easy answer to this question because the attraction of each bird varies depending on the observer and the reason for observing it. However, there is a varied range of species that deserve to be highlighted because of their rarity, limited geographical distribution,

difficulty of observation or degree of threat they face. The birds described below are arguably those that match some of these criteria and are likely to capture the greatest interest among birdwatching enthusiasts and inspire one or more visits to the Algarve.

Cory's Shearwater

This attractive seabird frequents the Algarve coast for much of the year. After breeding – which takes place elsewhere in Portugal (e.g. the Berlengas islands, the Azores and Madeira) – the area of occurrence of this species widens and it can be seen off the whole of the Algarve coast. From July onwards, particularly between September and October, is when the largest numbers are to be seen due to the passage of migrating birds. The species can be watched from the land, on beaches or at Cape St. Vincent or Sagres, but boat trips are better because they enable very close observation.

Balearic Shearwater

Although this is one of the most endangered seabirds in the world, it is relatively easy to see off the Algarve coast. From July onwards, the passage of birds in post-reproductive dispersal can be seen at various places in the Algarve. However, it is between September and November that the largest numbers are to be seen and this is an ideal time for watching them, preferably on boat trips.

Little Bittern

Although this small heron is listed as a summer visitor in field guides, i.e. a migratory breeding bird, in fact it can be seen in the Algarve practically all year round. The best place to see it is at Lagoa de São Lourenço in the Ria Formosa, from the hide there. In spring and summer it also occurs in other coastal wetlands, such as at Foz da Almargem, Vilamoura and Lagoa dos Salgados. Observing it requires patience because it is a species

that hides inside thick reedbeds and is difficult to detect and observe much of the time.

Flamingo

This beautiful bird is one of the natural icons of the coastal wetlands of the Algarve and occurs in practically all of them from Castro Marim to the Ria de Alvor. It is present mainly in autumn and winter, but may be observed all year round since many non-breeding birds remain in the region. At Lagoa dos Salgados and Castro Marim there have recently been attempts at breeding, but without success. The flamingo is mainly observed in brackish wetlands, where it feeds on aquatic invertebrates such as the brine shrimp, but also in shallow lagoons such as Lagoa dos Salgados. Identification is unmistakable, with the adults pinker than the juveniles, which in the first couple of years are very white or even brown.

Purple Swampphen

In the late 1980s this bird was on the verge of extinction in Portugal. At that time, the Algarve – and Ludo (Ria Formosa) in particular – was only place in Portugal where the species maintained a small population. It was this that prompted the choice of this bird as the symbol of the Ria Formosa Natural Park. Today, the Purple Swampphen is present in various parts of the country, but the Algarve continues to be the main area of occurrence. The best sites for watching it are at Ludo and Lagoa de São Lourenço in the Ria Formosa, Caniçal de Vilamoura and Lagoa dos Salgados. The Purple Swampphen is resident in the Algarve and prefers fresh water coastal lagoons with abundant aquatic vegetation, especially bulrushes and reeds. It is easy to watch at the above sites and is unmistakable.

Red-crested Pochard

This attractive bird breeds regularly in the Algarve, occurring in this season mainly at two or three sites: Castro Marim, Ludo and Lagoa de São Lourenço. In winter it can be seen at other sites such as Foz da Almargem, but in smaller numbers. It is not a rare species but is uncommon in Portugal with a very localised distribution, the Algarve being one of the best places

to observe and photograph it. At the hide at Lagoa de São Lourenço in spring it is possible to get excellent sightings of this bird.

Ferruginous Duck

This is one of the rarest ducks in Portugal. The majority of sightings are in the Algarve, with Lagoa dos Salgados and Caniçal de Vilamoura the best places to see it. It is mainly a winter visitor, although it has been known to breed in more than one year in the lakes in the vicinity of Salgados. Identification requires some care, mainly due to cases of hybridism, which is quite common in this species. Several cases have been recorded in the Algarve, especially between this species and the Common Pochard.

Bonelli's Eagle

The Algarve is home to one of the most important populations of this raptor in Portugal, which continues to be endangered. The main sites of occurrence are the Serra de Monchique and Serra do Caldeirão, at both of which it can be observed with relative ease. This is a large, very shy eagle which has a particular habit in the Algarve: that of nesting in trees. Elsewhere in Portugal,

the species chooses cliffs. There is no right place to be sure of seeing it, but there are many good possibilities in places such as Barranco do Velho, Parizes and Rocha da Pena in the Sierra do Caldeirão, and the Picota area in Monchique.

Black-shouldered Kite

This raptor is mainly a winter visitor to the Algarve and can be seen in several coastal wetlands in the region. However, in recent years, a few pairs have established themselves in the region, breeding occasionally. The best time to see it is between October and early spring, in places like Caniçal de Vilamoura, Ludo and Castro Marim. During the autumnal migration it can also be seen in Sagres in very small numbers.

Booted Eagle

The Booted Eagle occurs in the Algarve mainly during the autumnal migration in September and October. The Sagres Peninsula is the best place to observe it in this period because of the hundreds of birds passing through there. However, a small population winters in the region, particularly in Ludo in the Ria Formosa, where can be found easily.



Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

Little Bustard

Although the Algarve is not the main area of occurrence of this steppe species in Portugal, there are two sites where it can be seen with relative ease: Castro Marim and the Sagres Peninsula. At both sites, the species inhabits and nests on the flat agricultural plains of cereal crops or stubble, and can usually be seen in groups of more than ten individuals. In the spring the unmistakable call of the males during the courtship display is a natural lure for anyone hoping to observe this bird. Special care should be taken when looking for it since it is a species with an unfavourable conservation status.

Collared Pratincole

This wader, of unusual appearance for this group of aquatic birds, occurs in the Algarve during the spring. It occurs in several wetlands in the region, particularly at Castro Marim and in the Ria Formosa. It likes flat places with little vegetation near bodies of water, including salt pans and lakes. At Castro Marim, one of the best places to see it is the Cerro do Bufo salt pans, where it nests regularly in the internal walls of the complex.

Audouin's Gull

This gull, which was very rare in Portugal until the late 1990s, is today relatively easy to find, especially in the Algarve. The region is home to the only breeding population in Portugal and plays host to many migratory individuals from Spain and other parts of the Mediterranean. The salt pan complexes are particularly used as resting places by this bird, especially those in Tavira, the Ria Formosa, and Cerro do Bufo in Castro Marim. These are the places where it is most abundant,

especially between spring and autumn. It can also be observed out at sea, in company with other gulls.

Red-necked Nightjar

This nightjar is common in the Algarve during spring and summer and can be seen at several sites. The coastal pine forests where it nests are very important to this species, particularly in the Ludo area, where it can be seen easily at dusk. Other sites include Lagoa dos Salgados, the Sagres Peninsula and Castro Marim, among others.

White-rumped Swift

This small swift was until recently a very rare bird in Portugal, only occurring very occasionally. However, it has been breeding regularly in recent years, especially in the Lower Guadiana area. In the Algarve it has been recorded in Alcoutim municipality. Observing it requires a good knowledge of the area, especially of the sites where the species may be nesting. A peculiarity of this bird is that it occupies the nests of the Red-rumped Swallow.

European Bee-eater

The European Bee-eater is very common in the Algarve and can be seen almost

everywhere in the region. The main colonies, however, are located in the agricultural areas and forests inland and on the coast, where it finds its preferred food: bees. It arrives in the region in March/April and returns to Africa in October. The Ludo area in the Ria Formosa, Foz da Almargem and Castro Marim are places where you can see this beautiful and colourful bird close up.

Thekla Lark

The Thekla Lark is resident in the Algarve, occurring mainly in inland areas and on the Vicentine Coast. The Sagres Peninsula, together with the Lower Guadiana, are perhaps the best places to see it. However, its identification requires great care because it is very similar to the Common Crested Lark with which it is easily confused.

Lesser Short-toed Lark

The only known population of this species in Portugal is located in Castro Marim. This is a bird perfectly adapted to saline areas, nesting in dry marshes beyond the reach of the tide. Seeing it is relatively certain because it tends to stay in the same place. However, its inconspicuous plumage with colours similar to the vegetation sometimes



Collared Pratincole (Glareola pratincola)

makes it difficult to detect. The Castro Marim Nature Reserve, in particular the area near the Reserve's headquarters, is one of the best places to observe it. Looking for it in this area needs to be undertaken with care due to the scarcity of the species in Portugal.

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin

This passerine with a long and showy tail arrives in the Algarve in late April or early May, nesting in river valleys and sometimes on farmland, including vineyards. In August it returns to Africa for the winter and is very difficult to see in that season. In the Algarve it can be found mainly along the tributaries of the River Guadiana, including the Ribeiras da Foupana, Odeleite or Vascão in Alcoutim municipality. There is, however, a small population pocket in the Paderne area near Albufeira, in an agricultural valley rich in vineyards. Although not a common bird, it can be found with relative ease in spring if you know the places it inhabits.

Western Orphean Warbler

This warbler occurs in the Algarve during the spring and part of the summer, migrating to Africa in the autumn. It is found only in mountainous areas rich in

cork oak forests, particularly in the Serra do Caldeirão. It is an uncommon bird and difficult to observe as it is widely dispersed in the region. During the breeding period, however, the melodious singing of the males makes it easier to detect. In early autumn it can be seen in other places, including Sagres, during its migration to Africa.

Spectacled Warbler

The Spectacled Warbler is an uncommon bird in Portugal found only in a few specific places. It is a summer visitor and can be seen from April onwards, migrating in the autumn to North Africa, where it spends the winter. The Algarve is possibly the part of Portugal where it is easiest to see this small bird. There are two main sites: one in Castro Marim and the other in Sagres. At the latter site, there are records of this bird as late as December, suggesting that it winters here, although in limited numbers.

Spanish Sparrow

This sparrow, while more common in the Alentejo, occurs in the Algarve in considerable numbers during the winter. Some pairs breed in this region, especially in areas adjacent to the River Guadiana and north of the Serra do Caldeirão. At



Red-billed Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax)

Castro Marim it can be seen in flocks from October onwards, particularly in the vicinity of the Cerro do Bufo salt pans. It can also be seen occasionally in wetlands such as Caniçal de Vilamoura, where it sometimes roosts with the House Sparrow.

Golden Oriole

This showy migrant is common in the Algarve during the breeding season. It can be observed in many different places, especially inland in agricultural areas, forests and river valleys. The Serra do Caldeirão, in particular at Fonte da Benémola, the Serra de Monchique and the Lower Guadiana are good places to find this species. It arrives in late April

and stays in the region until late August/ beginning of September, when it returns to Africa for the winter.

Red-billed Chough

This member of the crow family, typical of mountainous areas with rocky cliffs, has a very localised distribution in Portugal. The Algarve, in particular the Sagres area, is home to one of the main populations in Portugal and probably the easiest one to observe. The cereal fields in the Vale Santo area are the best place to find this bird which congregates there to feed, normally in flocks. Although it can be seen in groups of several dozen individuals, this species has endangered status in Portugal.

Exotic birds

As is the case almost everywhere in Europe, birds from other continents have established themselves in the Algarve as the result of accidental escapes or deliberate releases from captivity and are resident there. Several of these occur in the region, two of which can be seen relatively easily:

Black-headed Weaver

The male of this species is obvious to any observer because of its striking yellow colouring and black head that it displays during the breeding period. It occurs all year round in several wetlands in the region, especially where there are dense reedbeds as at Caniçal de Vilamoura. It can also be seen at Ludo and near the Lagoa de São Lourenço, in the Ria Formosa.

Common Waxbill

This exotic bird colonised Portugal many years ago and is now present almost everywhere in the country. It is normally found near water and may occur both in coastal wetlands and in inland river valleys. In the Algarve it can be easily seen all year round in places such as Caniçal de Vilamoura, Ludo, Lagoa de São Lourenço, Foz da Almargem, Castro Marim, the Lower Guadiana, etc.

Some regular rarities in the Algarve

Eleanora's Falcon

Eleanora's Falcon is a very rare visitor to Portugal but occurs regularly in the Algarve, especially in the Sagres area during the autumnal migration. Every year a number of individuals are sighted in migration, especially between September and October. This is perhaps the best place in Portugal to see it.

Red-knobbed Coot

Once present in many wetlands in Portugal, since the end of the 20th century this species has become very rare everywhere in the country. However, it is seen regularly in the Algarve, especially



Eurasian Dotterel (Charadrius morinellus)

in areas such as Ludo, Lagoa de São Lourenço and Lagoa dos Salgados. The difficulty in detecting it, especially when mingling with the Common Coot, is without doubt the main reason why there are not more frequent records.

Eurasian Dotterel

This member of the plover family migrates from northern Europe, where it breeds, to North Africa, where it winters. In the Algarve it has been a regular passage migrant for many years, mainly in the Sagres Peninsula. The flat fields of Vale Santo are the main area of occurrence of this steppe bird, which can be seen there every year between September and October in small numbers.

Slender-billed Gull

Very rare in the past, this gull is now relatively easy to see in the Algarve, especially in the Castro Marim and Ria Formosa areas. Its Mediterranean distribution makes these coastal areas the most important places in Portugal for watching it, with the Cerro do Bufo salt pans especially the place where it is found most readily. Although it can be seen almost all year round, the greatest number of sightings occur between spring and autumn.



Slender-billed Gull (Larus genei)

Richard's Pipit

This small bird migrates from far-off Siberia to winter in limited numbers in southeast Europe, especially Portugal and Spain. In the Algarve, this rarity is often recorded on the agricultural plains between Sagres and Cape St. Vincent, as well as on the banks of the Lagoa dos Salgados. Although it is primarily a passage migrant, there are records of it wintering in these areas, and the best time to observe it is between October and December.

Alpine Accentor

Although this is a bird typical of high altitude mountain regions, a small wintering population of Alpine Accentors regularly visits Sagres on Cape St. Vicente. It is a bold bird, enabling good observation. However, the usually strong wind in this area does not make close observation easy. It usually appears in late October and can sometimes be seen until March.

Tips and recommendations

Photographing birds in the Algarve

There are various sites and tours in the region that offer attractive possibilities to those interested in bird photography. As well as making it possible to come close to birds, some of these sites have good quality observation structures that provide shelter from the wind, stability and good lighting conditions. The most interesting are listed below:

Castro Marim

In Castro Marim Nature Reserve, along the main access road to the Reserve's headquarters, there are disused salt pans close to the road where waders are often found feeding, including the Black-winged Stilt, the Pied Avocet and the Black-tailed Godwit. It is possible to take good photographs here from a car.

Lagoa de São Lourenço (Ria Formosa)

This is probably the best place in the Algarve and one of the best in Portugal for bird photography enthusiasts. The hide here provides very close contact with waterfowl, some of them uncommon species such as the Little Bittern, Red-crested Pochard or Purple Swamphen.

The hide's orientation and construction ensure good quality photography, and offer stability and protection from wind and rain.

Ludo (Ria Formosa)

The place that allows the closest contact with birds is the mouth of the Ribeira de São Lourenço, which is home to large concentrations of ducks in winter. Hundreds of Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shovellers and Mallard, among other species, can be found here.

Lagoa dos Salgados

On the banks of this lagoon there is an area where birdwatchers congregate, from which it is possible to obtain close-up photographs of various species. It is one of the best places to photograph the Flamingo, the Eurasian Spoonbill, the Black-winged Stilt and various small waders.

Sagres

Monte da Cabranosa, near Vale Santo, is where the best observations can be obtained of the region's raptors, which often fly low over here during the autumnal migration.

Boat trips

This is not a site as such, rather an experience. Boat trips off the coast make it possible to observe seabirds of various species close up, in some cases only a few metres from the boat.

Where to look for rarities

Although it is not possible to predict the occurrence of rare birds, because this is the result of many factors – including weather conditions or the effort devoted to observation – there are some places in the Algarve that have a very good record for this and where some rarities from North America, northern Europe or North Africa occur every year. These sites are:

Cerro do Bufo Salt pans (Castro Marim)

There are frequent sightings here of the Slender-billed Gull and Andouin's Gull. Species such as the Red-necked Phalarope, Marsh Sandpiper and Long-tailed Duck have been recorded on more than one occasion.

Ria Formosa

The extensive Ria Formosa hosts thousands of birds every year and it is not surprising



Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

that some rarities regularly occur among these. There are various places where this has happened, including the Tavira salt pans, Ludo, Lagoa de São Lourenço and Faro Island.

Lagoa dos Salgados

This small lagoon has been much visited by rarities and unusual birds. It is even among the hotspots for rarities nationwide. Every year there are several sightings in this wetland, some of them repeats from past years. These include the American Golden Plover, White-headed Duck, Red-knobbed Coot and Little Swift, among others.

Sagres Peninsula

During the autumnal migration this is one of the areas most visited by ornithologists and where there is consequently a greater observation effort. This factor, coupled with the fact that this area is a strategic migration point for many birds, makes it unsurprising that rarities are sighted here every year. The places with the most sightings are: Lagoa do Martinhal, Porto de Sagres, Vale Santo and Monte da Cabranosa. The most recurrent species are: Rueppell's Griffon Vulture, the Lesser Spotted Eagle, Richard's Pipit and the Eurasian Dotterel, among others.



Other recommendations

- To take full advantage of the ornithological wealth of the region, it is advisable to use a specialist guide who knows the region and its avifauna well;
- Visits to saltmarshes should be timed to coincide with periods of high tide, because the abundance of birds in these areas is higher then;
- When hiring birdwatching guides, always choose firms that have official authorisation to visit protected areas;
- Always use existing roads and paths and in particular those recommended in this guide;
- Before starting a trip, obtain information on the weather forecast for that day;

- Always minimise any disturbance to local concentrations of birds, in particular at coastal lagoons and saltmarshes;
- Avoid visiting places where birds are nesting, particularly where there are vulnerable colonies or species;
- The best times of day for watching birds are early morning or late afternoon. Some species however, such as raptors, prefer the heat, and is therefore recommended to look for them at the hottest times of the day.

Important note

The Algarve is a very peaceful region and has a low rate of theft and robberies. However, as a precaution, you are

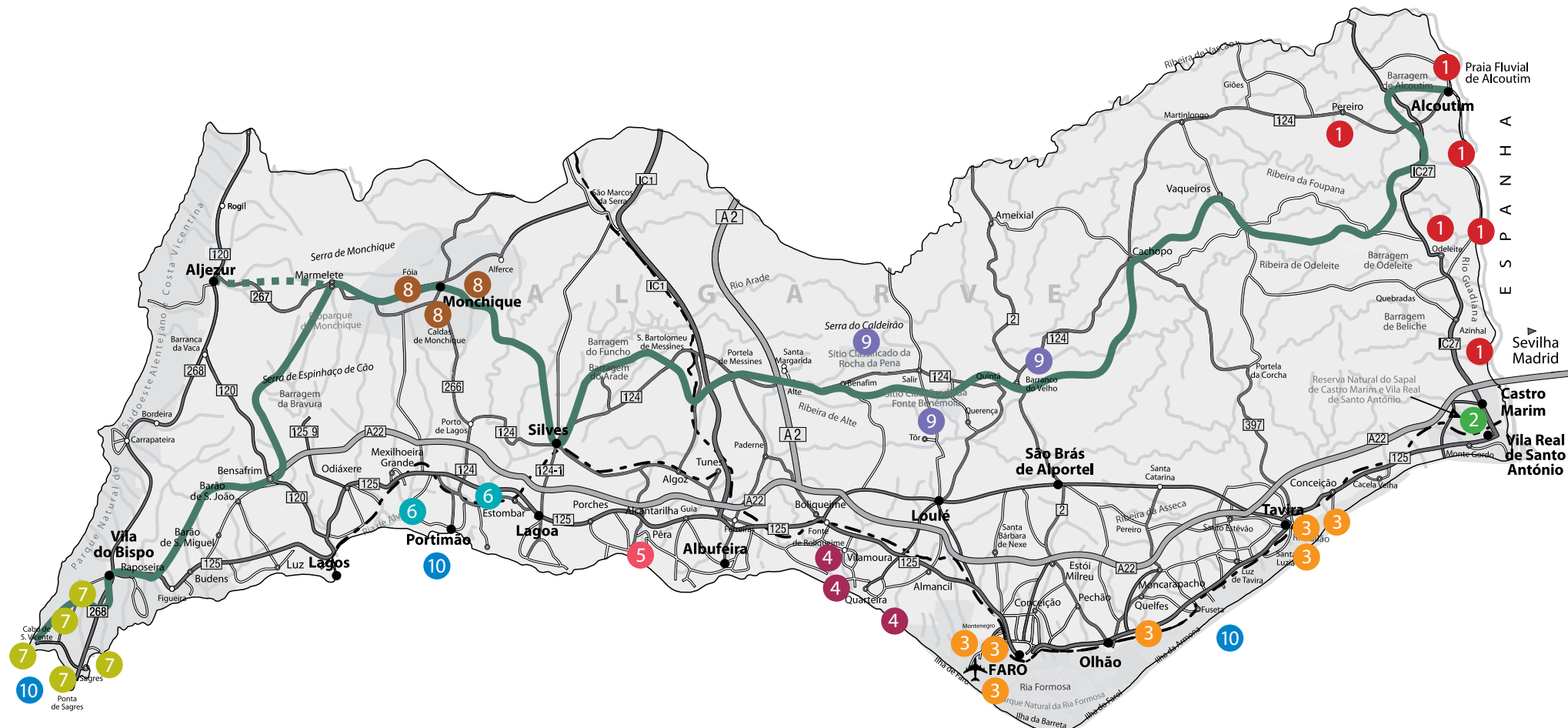
recommended to be careful when keeping optical equipment (binoculars, telescopes or cameras) in the car when visiting sites and avoid leaving them exposed to the sight of passers-by.

Useful information

- Geographical coordinates
The coordinates given with each itinerary are those of the WGS84 geographic system.
- Maps of the Algarve
To consult maps of the Algarve, we recommend visiting the Interactive Maps website
<http://geo.algarvedigital.pt/index.aspx>
- There are rail connections between Vila Real de St. António and Lagos, calling at Portimão, Albufeira, Faro, Olhão, Tavira, etc. For timetables and ticket prices, visit www.cp.pt

Those wishing to obtain more information about birds that occur in Portugal, particularly in the Algarve, including aspects related to their biology, conservation status, the places where they occur, etc., can do so from the following organisations:

- Nature Conservation and Biodiversity Institute
www.icnb.pt
- Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (the Portuguese partner of Birdlife International)
www.spea.pt
- Associação A Rocha
<http://www.arocha.pt/en/>
- Associação Almargem
www.almargem.org
- A particular mention here of the free information website "Aves de Portugal", which contains all the latest information about the occurrence of birds in Portugal.
www.avesdeportugal.info
- Lastly, there are various internet discussion and information exchange forums on birds in Portugal, notably the "Fórum Aves"
<http://aves.team-forum.net/> and the rarities forum (raridades@yahoogroups.com).
- National Emergency Number: 112



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3 Ria Formosa
Forte do Rato and Arraial Ferreira Neto
Sítio das 4 Águas
Santa Luzia
Quinta de Marim
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Faro island
Faro waterfront park
- 4** Coastal Lagoons
Lagoa das Dunas Douradas
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6 Arade Estuary and Ria de Alvor
Arade Estuary
Ria de Alvor

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Cape St. Vincent
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10 Algarve Coast Boat Trips
Fuseta
Portimão
Sagres





1. Lower Guadiana

1.

Lower Guadiana

Protection status

Natura 2000 Special Area of Conservation.

Excursion

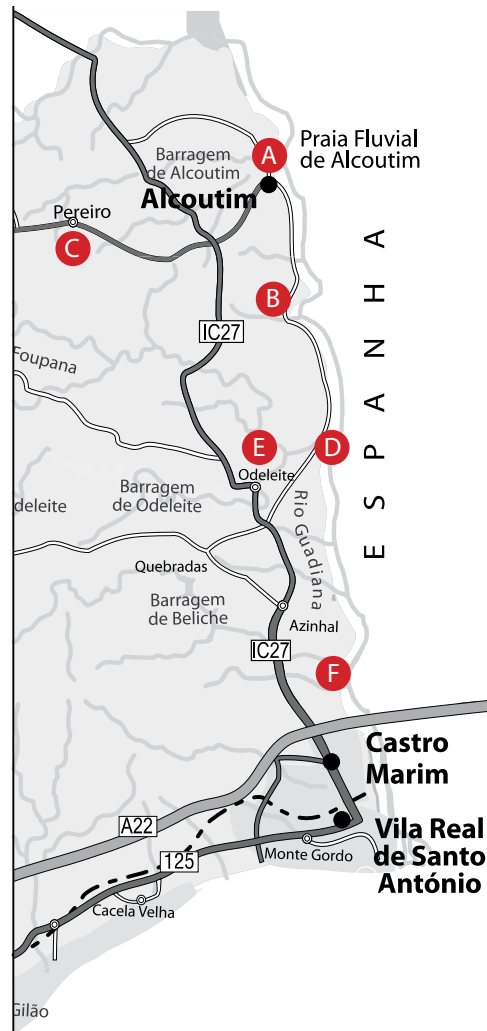
Alcoutim

A B C D E

Excursion

Sapal da Moita

F



Description

The Lower Guadiana lies between the mouth of the Ribeira do Vascão and the River Guadiana, crossing the municipalities of Alcoutim, Castro Marim and Vila Real de St. António. The excursion described here covers only the central and northern section of this region, focusing in particular on the areas surrounding the town of Alcoutim and the Odeleite, Foupana and Beliche rivers. The region is dominated by the beautiful valley of the River Guadiana, the slopes of which are clothed in holm oak woodland and dense Mediterranean scrub forest. The flatter banks of this river are cultivated, with mixed rainfed fruit orchards and traditional irrigated market gardens. At the confluence with its tributaries, in particular the Ribeira de Beliche, small wetlands consisting of marshland and lea meadows subject to tidal flooding form. Further inland, in areas away from the river, the climate is more arid and only certain species of flora can withstand the high summer temperatures, such as cistus, gorse, holm oaks and stands of umbrella pine. The more regularly flowing tributaries, such as the Foupana and Odeleite, have dense riverside woodland dominated by cane and oleanders, and also ash trees and willows.

Avifauna

Despite its natural aridity, this region hosts a varied and interesting range of bird species, including some that are very rare in the Algarve and even in Portugal. Its proximity to the Alentejo means that it is possible to find some typical steppe birds of that region, including the Little Bustard, the Kestrel and very occasionally, the Black-bellied Sandgrouse. The Lower Guadiana region is among the most important in Portugal for the Eurasian Eagle Owl and is regularly visited by large diurnal raptors such as the Golden Eagle. The Vasco, Foupana and Odeleite rivers host numerous migratory breeding birds such as the Little Ringed Plover, the Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin, the Melodious Warbler, the Red-rumped Swallow and the European Bee-eater. Special mention should be made of the White-rumped Swift, an extremely rare species in Europe, with only one known case of it nesting in the Algarve and few in Portugal. The region also hosts small pockets of the Spectacled Warbler, the Thekla Lark and the Rock Sparrow.



Black-eared Wheatear (Cercotrichas galactotes)

Excursion

Alcoutim

Code: AC 1

Coordinates: 7°28'16.19"W, 37°28'19.4"N

Municipality: Alcoutim

Description: very arid agricultural and forest area, mainly flat, with extensive areas of scrubland consisting of cistus, grassland, almond trees and umbrella pines. Various watercourses with rich riverside vegetation, particularly oleanders. Fertile agricultural valleys around the town of Alcoutim and on the banks of the Guadiana.

How to get there: Via do Infante (A 22) in the direction of Spain. Take the exit for Alcoutim and Castro Marim. Continue in the direction of Alcoutim on the EN 122.

Itinerary: various places of interest around the town of Alcoutim, including: the river beach, Ribeira do Cadaval, farmland and the valley of the River



White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*)

Guadiana. Visit to the pool at Pereiro, a small artificial reservoir situated at the entrance to this village. Follow the Guadiana downstream, taking in Álamo, Guerreiros do Rio and Foz de Odeleite. Riverside trail between Foz de Odeleite and Odeleite.

When to visit: spring.

Duration of visit: 3-4 hours.



Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)

Most interesting species

Season

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

spring and summer

White-rumped Swift (*Apus caffer*)

spring and summer

Thekla Lark (*Galerida theklae*)

all year round

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

spring and summer

Crag Martin (*Ptyonoprogne rupestris*)

spring and summer

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)

spring and summer

Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin (*Cercotrichas galactotes*)

spring and summer

Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe hispanica*)

spring and summer

Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

spring and summer

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

all year round

Rock Sparrow (*Petronia petronia*)

winter

Signs and other aids: signposted itineraries on foot and by car. No birdwatching structures.

Special features: the best place in the Algarve, and probably in Portugal, to observe the White-rumped Swift, which stays in this area until late summer. Rich variety of riparian birds, especially summer migrants. One of the places with the highest probability of observing the Western Olivaceous Warbler. Very

extensive area, only visitable by car. The excursion involves various itineraries and stops at several places.

Other places of interest nearby: Ribeira da Foupána, near the villages of Tenência and Soudes.

Notes: it is advisable to visit the pool at Pereiro early in the morning and the other places later. It is possible to follow the itinerary by boat along the River Guadiana.

Excursion

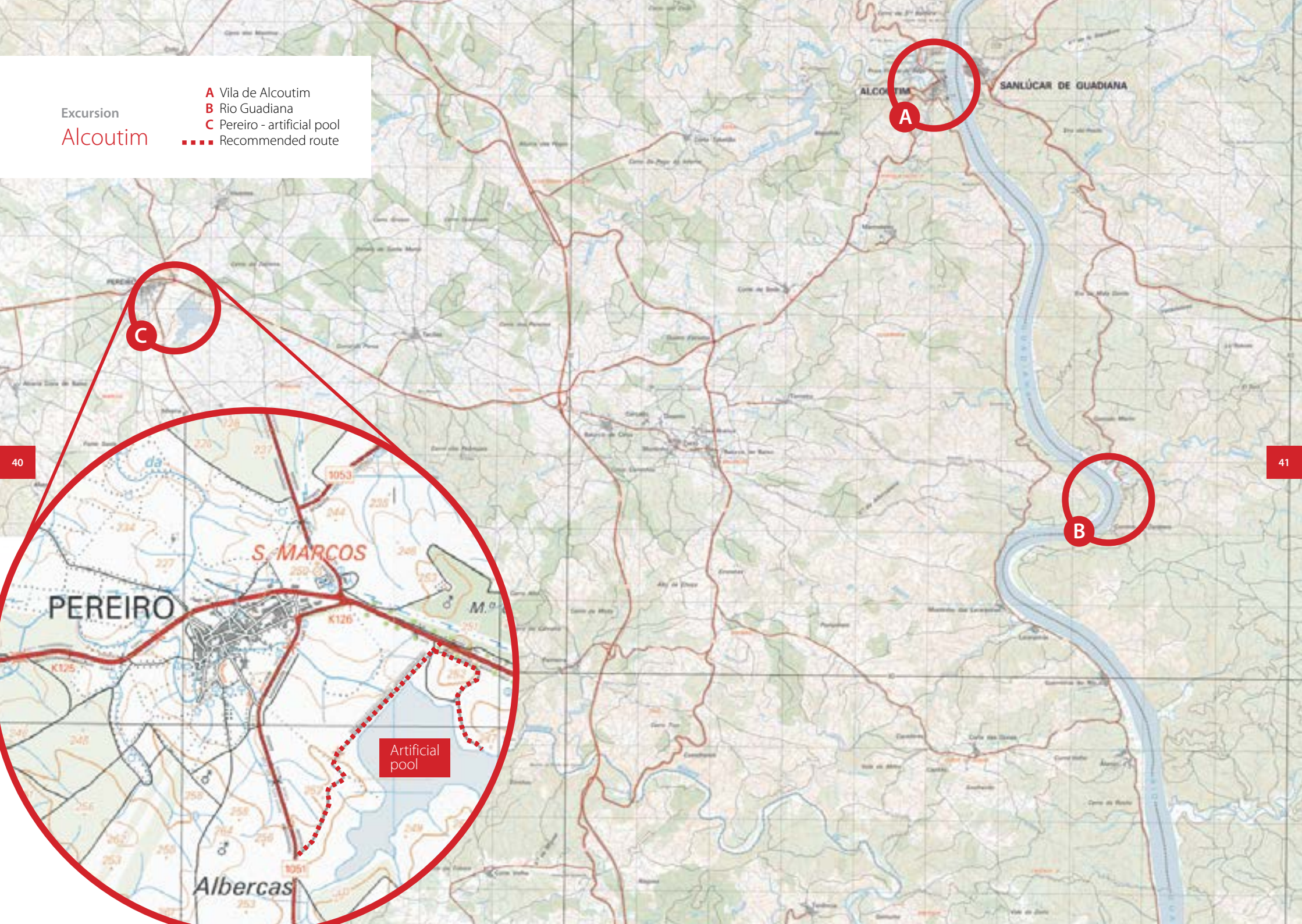
Alcoutim

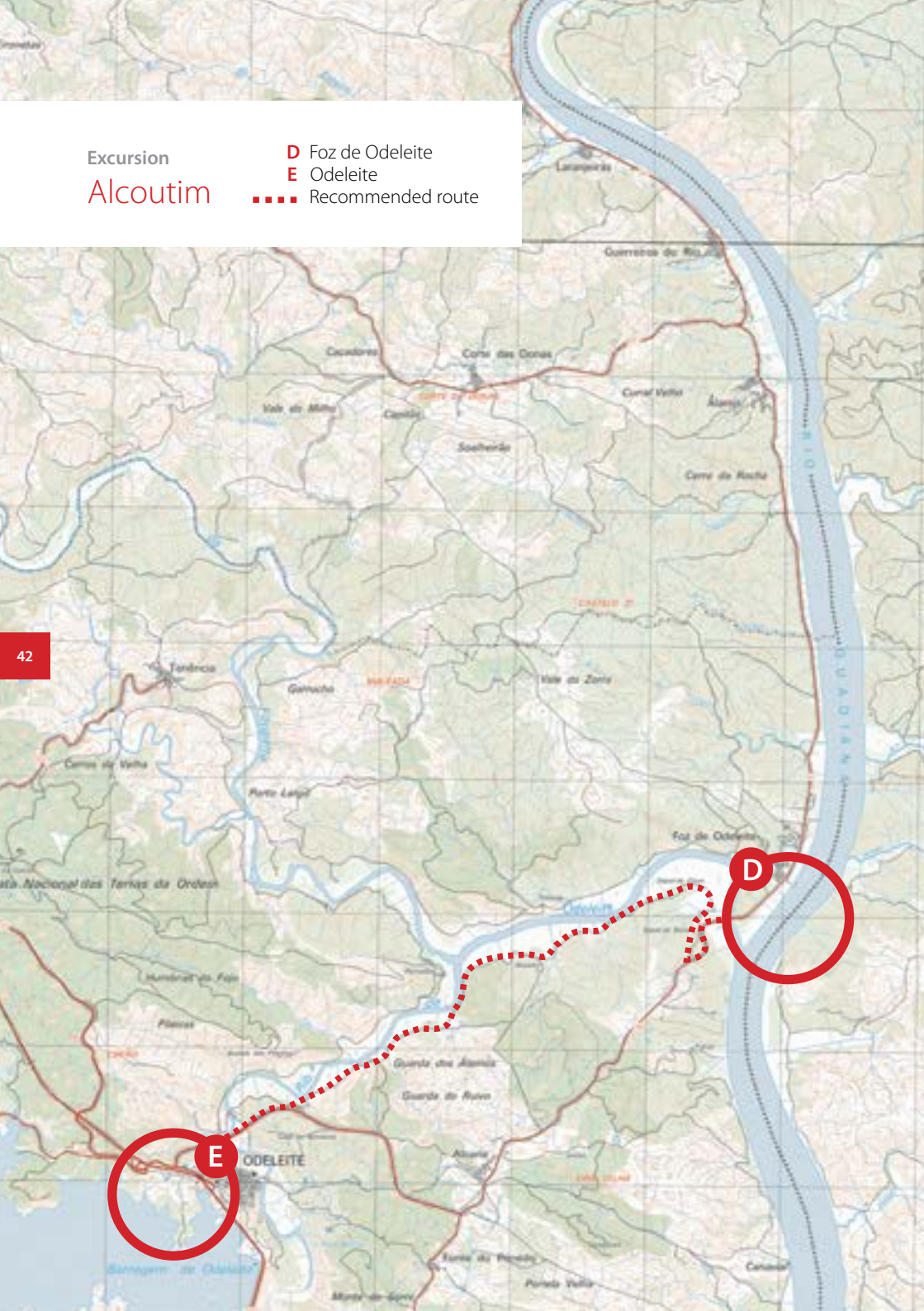
A Vila de Alcoutim

B Rio Guadiana

C Pereiro - artificial pool

..... Recommended route





Excursion

Sapal da Moita

Code: CM 1
Coordinates: 7°26'52.38"W, 37°15'50.6"N
Municipality: Castro Marim
Description: small wetland at the mouth of the Ribeira do Beliche, with an extensive area of marshland, canals and a main water drain connecting with the river Guadiana. The surrounding area is covered in holm oak forest and Mediterranean scrub.
How to get there: take the EN 122 and shortly after passing through Junqueira, turn right onto a beaten earth road which runs alongside a watercourse and arrives at the valley housing this area.
Itinerary: the end of the access road to the Sapal da Moita, there is a ruin. From there, it is recommended to walk until you reach the River Guadiana. Accessible



Sapal da Moita

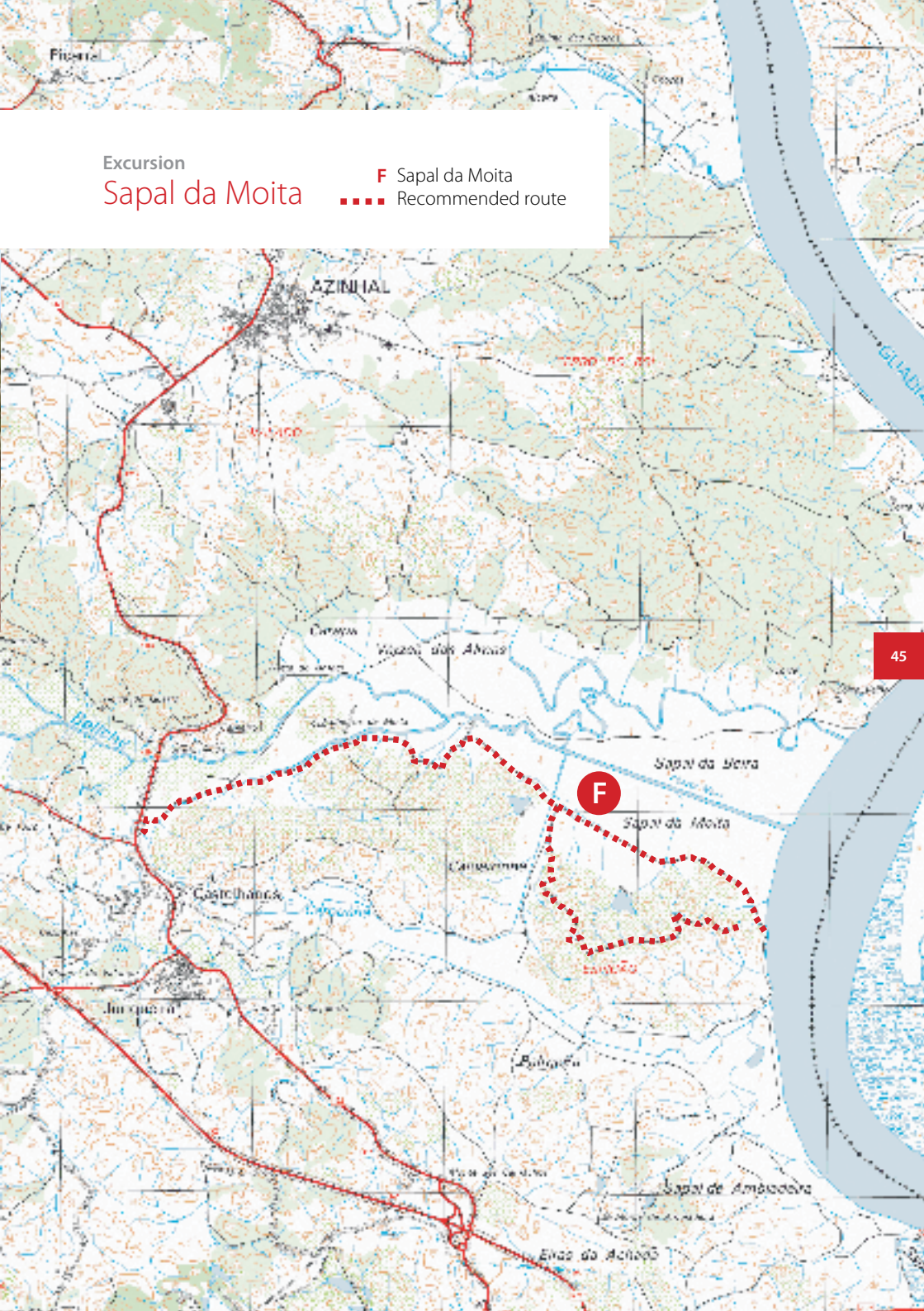
by car or bicycle.
When to visit: spring and autumn.
Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

Most interesting species

| Most interesting species | Season |
|--|-------------------|
| Montagu's Harrier (<i>Circus pygargus</i>) | spring and summer |
| Black-shouldered Kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>) | winter |
| Spectacled Warbler (<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>) | spring |
| Spanish Sparrow (<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>) | winter |

Signs and other aids: none
Special features: access may be difficult depending on the state of repair of the road.
Other places of interest nearby: River

Guadiana and Castro Marim salt pans.
Notes: it is recommended to visit in the morning. Avoid going to the site during or after rainy periods due to the poor condition of the road.



Excursion
Sapal da Moita

F Sapal da Moita
..... Recommended route



2. Castro Marim wetlands

Castro Marim wetlands

Protection status

Nature Reserve, Natura 2000 site (Special Protection Area for Birds and Special Area of Conservation), Ramsar Convention site and Important Bird Area (IBA – *BirdLife* International).

Excursion

Cerro do Bufo
saltpans

A B C

Excursion

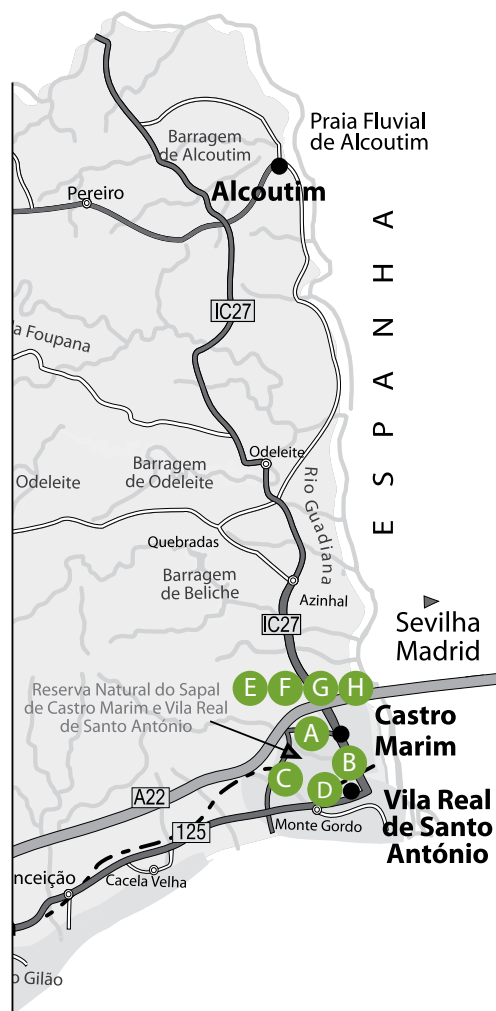
Barquinha
(Carrasqueira
creek)

D

Excursion

Sapal de Venta
Moinhos

E F G H



Castro Marim Wetlands

Description

The Castro Marim site is located in the valley of the River Guadiana near its mouth. It is an extensive, attractive estuarine wetland where thousands of waterfowl occur each year. The landscape is one of well conserved saltmarshes with numerous meandering tidal canals and creeks, in particular the biggest, the Carrasqueira creek. It is also enriched by numerous saltpans of two types, many of them still working: traditional and industrial. Both of these are an important habitat for avifauna and host thousands of specimens throughout the year. It is in the traditional saltpans, however, where the famous Castro Marim sea salt – fleur de sel – is made. This is a high quality product and the basis of a local industry which for generations has used this area in harmony with the environment. The higher ground beyond the reach of the tide is cultivated, mostly under grassland and rainfed arable crops interspersed with occasional patches of Mediterranean scrub forest. The biodiversity of this area is reflected in the presence of waterfowl including waders, herons, ducks, etc. However, there are other factors that make Castro Marim especially important, including its fish fauna, botany and archaeology.

Avifauna

Castro Marim is among the 10 most important wetlands for birds in Portugal and was the first Nature Reserve to be created (1975), with birds precisely in mind. Its wealth is reflected in the presence of more than 200 species during the year – some of them very rare and endangered – that breed, winter or simply rest or pass through here. The breeding community includes various waders such as the Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Eurasian Thick-Knee, together with some special cases in the Algarve such as the Little Bustard, Andouin's Gull, Spectacled Warbler and Lesser Short-toed Lark, the last of these found nowhere else in Portugal. In spring, this is the only site in the Algarve where it is possible to see the Great Spotted Cuckoo breeding and Montagu's Harrier. The largest concentrations of birds are to be seen, however, during migrations and in winter, especially in industrial saltpans such as at Cerro do Bufo. The Greater Flamingo, the Eurasian Spoonbill, the Black-tailed Godwit, the Black-necked Grebe and the Caspian Tern are just some examples. In an excursion around this area over 60 species can easily be seen in a single day and it is relatively easy to see some rarities such as the Slender-billed Gull.

Excursion

Cerro do Bufo saltpans



Common Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)

Code: CM 2

Coordinates: 7°27'48.81"O; 37°12'33.83"N

Municipality: Castro Marim

Description: saltpan complex occupying around 500 hectares – the largest in

Portugal – divided into numerous tanks of different dimensions and depths in which sea salt is produced. It is bounded on the south by the Carrasqueira creek, saltmarsh areas and arable farmland.

How to get there: from Castro Marim follow the EN 125-6 in the direction of a S. Bartolomeu or Fornalha. After 2.5 km, turn left onto a beaten earth road which leads to the Cerro do Bufo saltpans.

Itinerary: access to the interior of the saltworks is private and therefore restricted. However, there is a public road running along the north boundary of the saltworks from where it is possible to observe the hundreds of birds that regularly occur there. Can be travelled on foot or by bicycle. The itinerary starts at the main entrance to the saltworks and ends at the EN 122 highway.

When to visit: all year round.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.



Eurasian Thick-Knee (*Burhinus oedicnemus*)

Most interesting species

Season

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>) | autumn, winter and spring |
| Pied Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) | all year round |
| Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>) | all year round |
| Collared Pratincole (<i>Glareola pratincola</i>) | spring |
| Eurasian Thick-Knee (<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>) | all year round |
| Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | spring and summer |
| Audouin's Gull (<i>Larus audouinii</i>) | all year round |
| Slender-billed Gull (<i>Larus genei</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Spectacled Warbler (<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>) | spring |
| Spanish Sparrow (<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>) | winter |

Signs and other aids: under construction.

Special features: a place where large concentrations of birds occur, in particular herons, waders and gulls of various species. Regular occurrence of birds that are less common in the Algarve, including some rarities. One of the best places in the Algarve for observing the Slender-billed Gull, Eurasian Thick-Knee and Collared Pratincole.

Other places of interest nearby: Aroucas (marshy wetland adjoining Cerro do Bufo) for ducks and geese in winter, Carrasqueira creek, Castro Marim Saltpans.

Notes: entry to the interior of the saltworks is prohibited and only permitted for the owner and employees and Nature Reserve rangers. The best time to visit this place is in the afternoon because of the orientation of the sun and the light conditions.

Excursion

Barquinha (Carrasqueira creek)

Code: VA 1

Coordinates: 7°25'41.55" O, 37°11'56.51"N

Municipality: Castro Marim and Vila Real de St. António

Description: extensive tidal watercourse connected to the River Guadiana, surrounded by saltmarshes, saltpans, rainfed orchards and agricultural smallholdings. Bounded on the south by the city of Vila Real de St. António and on the west by the Cerro do Bufo saltpans. At low tide large areas of mudflats are exposed, in which live many invertebrates on which numerous waterfowl feed, especially waders.

How to get there: leave the A 22 for Castro Marim and continue on the EN 122 which links Castro Marim and Vila Real de St. António. This road crosses the site.

Itinerary: following the EN 122, immediately after crossing the bridge over the Carrasqueira creek, there is a beaten earth road on the right and another on the left. Both lead to places where you can stop and observe. From there you can walk along the watercourse for a short distance.

When to visit: autumn and winter.

Duration of visit: 1-2 hours.

Most interesting species

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Season

winter

Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

autumn, winter and spring

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

spring

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

all year round

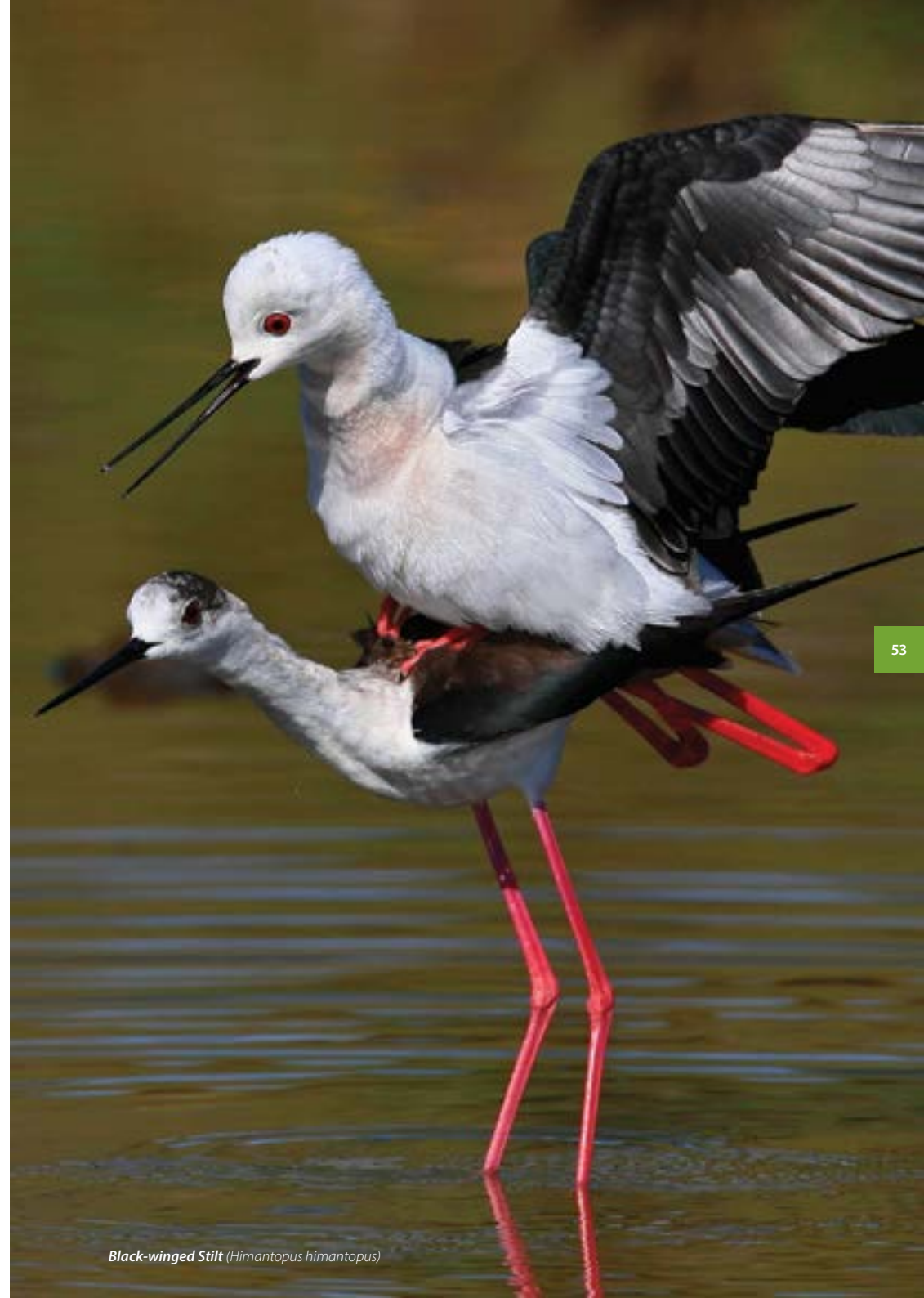
Signs and other aids: none

Special features: easy-to-reach area close to Vila Real de St. António. At low tide it is possible to observe various species of waders, gulls and herons. The extensive surrounding wetlands are the hunting territory of the Western Marsh Harrier and Montagu's Harrier, which can be easily

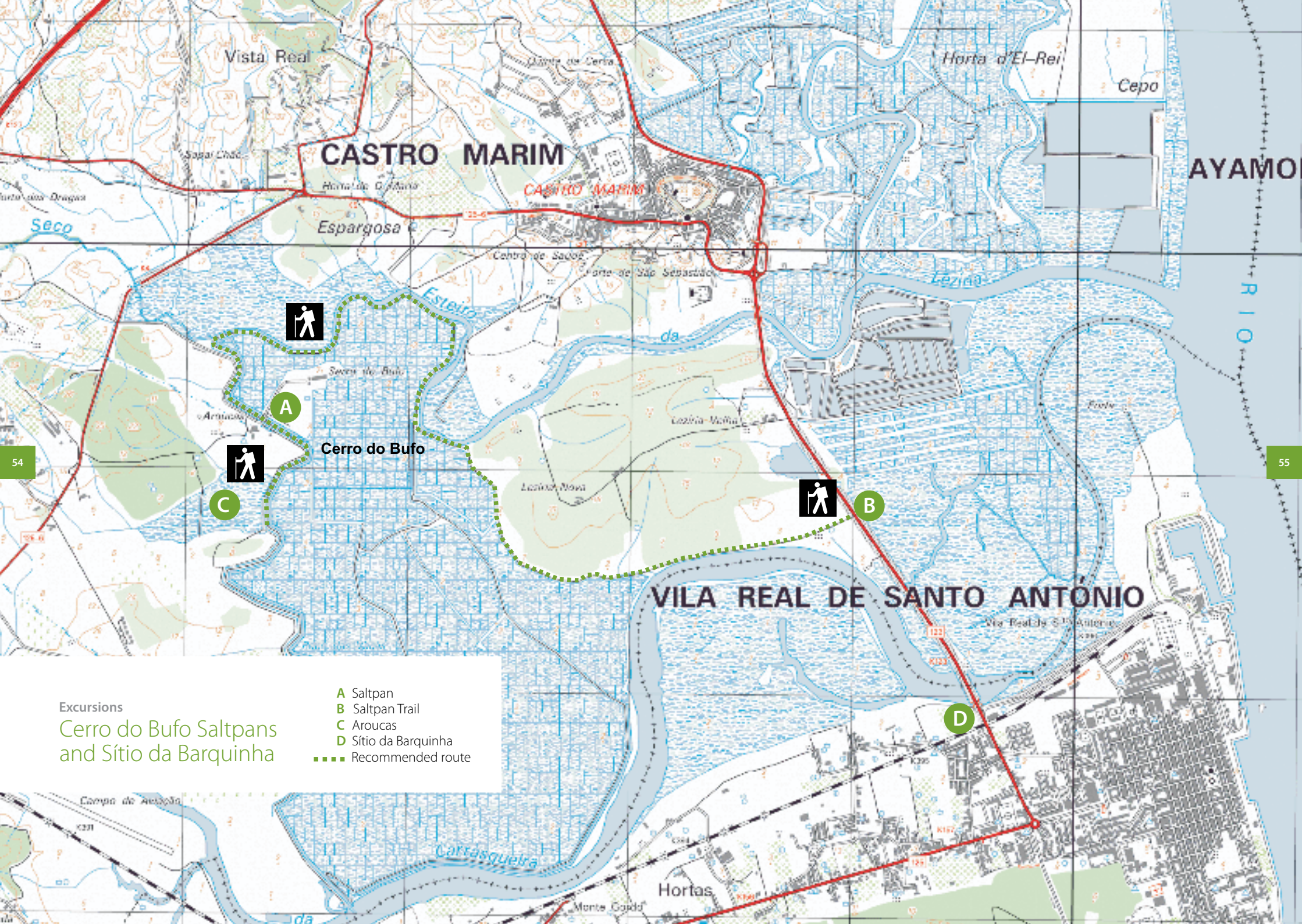
observed. Regular presence of many ducks and coots, sometimes including the Red-knobbed Coot.

Other places of interest nearby: River Guadiana, mole at the mouth of the Guadiana in Vila Real de St. António.

Notes: visit especially at low tide.



Black-winged Stilt (Himantopus himantopus)



Excursions

Cerro do Bufo Saltpans
and Sítio da Barquinha

- A Saltpan
- B Saltpan Trail
- C Aroucas
- D Sítio da Barquinha
- Recommended route

Excursion

Sapal de Venta Moinhos

Code: CM 3

Coordinates: 7°25'32.92"W,
37°13'51.62"N

Municipality: Castro Marim

Description: access to the headquarters of the Nature Reserve is via a quiet beaten earth road flanked by saltmarshes, small traditional salt pans – some abandoned – and cultivated fields. The buildings are situated alongside the Venta Moinhos saltmarsh which borders the River Guadiana. On the highest point of this flat area there is a former customs post which makes an excellent viewpoint over the whole of the area. Next to the headquarters buildings there are two freshwater lagoons, one of them with a birdwatching hide.

How to get there: follow the A 22 until

the Castro Marim exit. At the junction with the EN 122, turn left towards Alcoutim, Mértola and Beja. After 500 metres, turn right onto a beaten earth road which leads to the headquarters of the Nature Reserve. From there, continue on the main road until you come to the headquarters building.

Itinerary: the road leading to the headquarters of the Nature Reserve is interesting because it passes salt pans, saltmarshes, swampy areas and cultivated fields. Stops can be made in various places. The itinerary can be travelled on foot or by car. From the car park next to the buildings all the trails are pedestrian.

Worth visiting: Venta Moinhos customs post, viewpoint and birdwatching hide.

When to visit: all year round.

Most interesting species

Season

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>) | all year round |
| Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) | spring and summer |
| Red-crested Pochard (<i>Netta rufina</i>) | spring |
| Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) | winter |
| Little Bustard (<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>) | all year round |
| Red-legged Partridge (<i>Alectoris rufa</i>) | all year round |
| Spotted Redshank (<i>Tringa erythropus</i>) | autumn |
| Ruff (<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>) | autumn |
| Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Little Owl (<i>Athene noctua</i>) | all year round |
| Great Spotted Cuckoo (<i>Clamator glandarius</i>) | spring |
| Lesser Short-toed Lark (<i>Calandrella rufescens</i>) | all year round |
| Southern Grey Shrike (<i>Lanius meridionalis</i>) | all year round |

Special features: very easy access.

Possible to observe various bird species close up, including waders. Interesting itinerary for photography. Possibility of observing over 50 species. The best place in the Algarve to see the Great Spotted Cuckoo and the only place where the Lesser Short-toed Lark nests.

Signs and other aids: signposted trails, information panels. There is a birdwatching hide.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

Other places of interest nearby: Castro Marim wetlands, Sapal da Moita.

Notes: it is best to visit early in the



Rural landscape

morning. Use of the hide requires permission obtainable from the Nature Reserve headquarters on payment of a charge to help with upkeep of the hide.



Great Spotted Cuckoo (*Clamator glandarius*)

Excursion

Sapal de Venta Moinhos

- E Access road to Nature Reserve headquarters
- F Observation point over artificial lake
- G Viewpoint
- H Path to river
- Recommended route





3. Ria **Formosa**

Ria Formosa

Protection status

Natural Park, Natura 2000 site (Special Protection Area for Birds and Special Area of Conservation), Ramsar Convention site and Important Bird Area (IBA – BirdLife International).

Excursion

Forte do Rato and Arraial Ferreira Neto

A

Excursion

Sítio das 4 Águas

B

Excursion

Santa Luzia

C

Excursion

Quinta de Marim

D

Excursion

Ludo and Lagoa de S. Lourenço

E F G H

Excursion

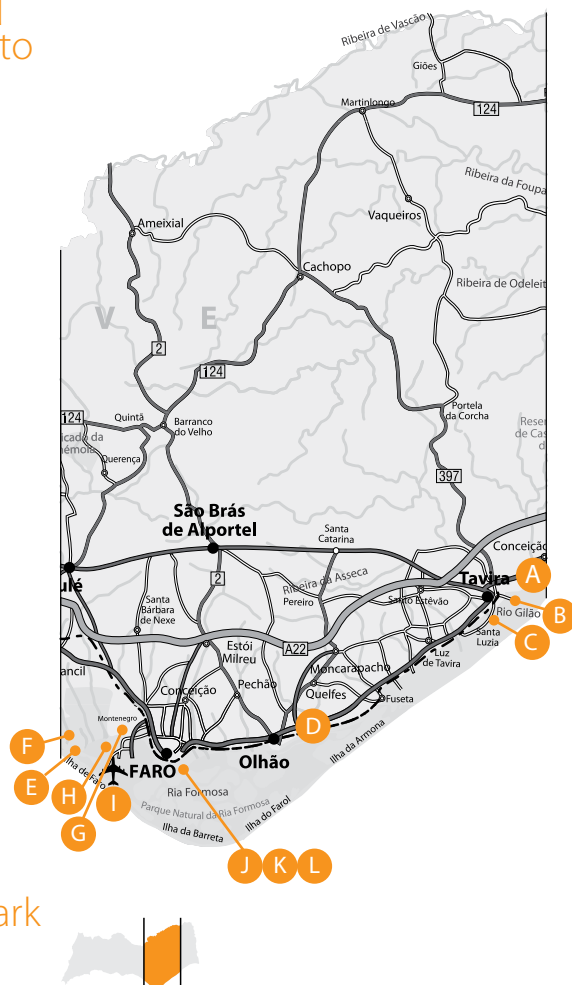
Faro Island

I

Excursion

Faro Waterfront Park

J K L



Description

The Ria Formosa is one of the most beautiful and important wetlands of Portugal, featuring an extensive string of sandy barrier islands parallel to the coast protecting the interior of the ria from the sea and creating environmental conditions similar to an estuary. This system extends for almost 60 km between Ancão beach and Cacela Velha, with a very special biodiversity in which birds are of particular importance. This results from the presence of numerous habitats, among which are reefs and sandbanks, saltmarshes and saltpans, various watercourses and fresh and brackish water lagoons, reedbeds, woodland and farmland. More than 300 bird species have been recorded here, some of them very rare and others recognised internationally as endangered, such as the Purple Swamphen – the symbol of the Natural Park – and Audouin's Gull. Apart from birds, other species make the Ria Formosa an outstanding site, including the Chameleon (*Chamaeleon chamaeleo*), the Otter (*Lutra lutra*), the Seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*) and among plants, the Alcar-do-algarve (*Tuberaria major* – a variety of rock rose), whose worldwide occurrence is practically limited to this site. Fishing and shellfish farming are some of the more common traditional human activities in the Ria Formosa, reflected in an excellent local cuisine much appreciated by all who live in or visit this region.



Fuseta sandspit

Avifauna

Every year more than 30,000 birds use the Ria Formosa during their migrations and in winter, making this wetland among the three most important wetlands in Portugal. Some species are of European importance because of their important breeding populations, including the Little Tern, the Pied Avocet and Audouin's Gull. The wide diversity of habitats here leads to the occurrence of a great number of species, one of the highest in Portugal, especially waterfowl, including waders and ducks in particular and, in lesser numbers, herons. The Ria Formosa is also noted for the highest numbers of wintering Eurasian Wigeon and breeding Red-crested Pochard in Portugal. On the land areas several species of woodland passerines occur, as well as various raptors.

Excursion

Forte do Rato and Arraial Ferreira Neto

Code: TV1

Coordinates: 7°37'15.25"W, 37°7'19.5"N

Municipality: Tavira

Description: an excursion in a sea salt production works with various working traditional and industrial saltpans. The surrounding landscape is one of saltmarshes and dunes bordering the Tavira channel, the main waterway of this city. At low tide in this arm of the Ria Formosa, extensive mudflats are exposed where hundreds of waders feed. To the north the area is occupied by rainfed farmland, mostly abandoned, including small vineyards. Here also is the former Forte do Rato fortress, an archaeological monument now in ruins.

How to get there: take the EN 125,

pass through Tavira, and at the second roundabout after crossing the bridge over the River Gilão, turn right and follow the signs for "Zona Comercial", "Hotel Albacora" or "Forte do Rato". When you reach the shopping centre, head towards the Hotel Albacora.

Itinerary: the road to Forte do Rato and Arraial Ferreira Neto runs through an area flanked by saltpans where it is possible to make good observations of waterfowl, especially waders. Near the ruins, there is a road leading to the beach and the Tavira channel that rewards a visit, especially at low tide.

When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.

Duration of visit: 1-2 hours.

Most interesting species

Season

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Kentish Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>) | all year round |
| Little Stint (<i>Calidris minuta</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | spring and summer |
| Slender-billed Gull (<i>Larus genei</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Bluethroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>) | winter |



Waders – Ria Formosa

Special features: easy to get to, itinerary can be travelled on foot or by car or bicycle. Very close to the city of Tavira. Possible to make close observation of groups of wading birds feeding in the saltpans, including Flamingos and Eurasian Spoonbills. Good place to photograph birds. One of the few places in the Algarve where the Magpie is found.

Signs and other aids: no signs. Information about the surrounding area

can be obtained at the hotel.

Other places of interest nearby: Santa Luzia saltpans, Sítio das 4 Águas.

Notes: visit in the afternoon to take advantage of the favourable orientation of the sun. Birds are at their most abundant in the saltpans at high tide. Conversely, the best time at the Tavira channel is at low tide. Following the itinerary by car makes it possible to get closer to the birds in the saltpans, making for good opportunities for photography.

Excursion

Sítio das 4 Águas

Code: TV2

Coordinates: 7°37'51.1"W, 37°7'3.36"N

Municipality: Tavira

Description: area adjoining the mouth of the River Gilão, bounded on the east by the Gilão and on the west by a complex of traditional salt pans, several of which are still working. To the south the area is bounded by the Tavira channel, the city's main waterway. The landscape is characterised by salt pans and the wide arms of the ria, where mudflats are exposed at low tide. Surrounding the salt pans there are shrubby windbreaks and hedges.

How to get there: enter Tavira and follow signs for the beach. On arriving at the river, follow the road to the beach and quay. Shortly afterwards, turn right for the salt pans.

Itinerary: on the right-hand side of the road to the quay there is a beaten earth road which is passable by car. This passes various salt pans and stands of Mediterranean scrub forest and runs alongside the river for several hundred metres.

When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.

Duration of visit: 1-2 hours.



Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

| Most interesting species | Season |
|--|-------------------|
| Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Pied Avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) | all year round |
| Black-winged Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>) | all year round |
| Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Audouin's Gull (<i>Larus audouinii</i>) | all year round |
| Mediterranean Gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Bluethroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>) | autumn and winter |

Signs and other aids: none

Special features: this is an area with good accessibility and quick and easy to visit. It is located near other places of interest for birdwatching, so it is easy to include them in an excursion in this area. Near the centre of Tavira, it is reachable on foot or by bicycle or car. Good observations of waders feeding in the channel of the Ria Formosa at low tide. Roosting area for gulls, several species of which can be observed here.

Other places of interest nearby: Forte do Rato and Arraial Ferreira Neto, Santa Luzia, Tavira Island.

Notes: from here it is possible to take the boat to Tavira Island. Although it is not a place with the same importance for birdwatching as others listed here, it can be quite interesting during the spring migration, however. Between March and April migratory passerines can be observed here such as the Pied Flycatcher, Spotted Flycatcher, Western Orphean Warbler and Whinchat which stay here a few days after the long sea crossing before continuing their northward journey.

Excursion

Santa Luzia

Code: TV3

Coordinates: 7°38'48.6"W, 37°6'13.99"N

Municipality: Tavira

Description: industrial saltpan complex consisting of numerous tanks, canals and drainage ditches. To the north it is surrounded by rainfed farmland and smallholdings, while to the west and east it is mainly bordered by marshland. It is the biggest saltworks in Tavira and one of the places where large concentrations of waterfowl occur.

How to get there: the best way is to take the road from Tavira to Santa Luzia, from which you can enter the saltpan complex at various points, in particular near Tavira Health Centre and further on, just before the village of Santa Luzia.

Itinerary: take the beaten earth road that leads to the main entrance of the saltworks and continue on it until you



Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

get there. Make various stops on the way. Visit the area near the Health Centre.

When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.

Duration of visit: 1 hour.

Signs and other aids: none.

Special features: Santa Luzia saltworks is private property and entry is prohibited.

It is only possible to visit some parts of the interior of this complex with the permission of the owner. It is also very close to Tavira and reachable by car or bicycle. There is a road that links the western area of the saltpan complex – closest to Santa Luzia – to the eastern part, but in winter it is not advisable to try it by car. It is one of the best places to observe Audouin's Gull which often perches on the interior walls of

the salt pans. It is the only place in the Algarve where the Western Reef Heron regularly occurs.

Other places of interest nearby:

waterfront at Santa Luzia, Barril beach, Pedras Del Rei and Fuseta Salt pans.

Notes: it is recommended to visit this place in late afternoon, in order to obtain the best light conditions during high tide. Observation of the Western Reef Heron should be done at low tide when the water channels are empty of water and it feeds there.

Most interesting species

Western Reef Heron (*Egretta gularis* x)

Season

winter

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*)

all year round

Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

all year round

Eurasian Thick-Knee (*Burhinus oedecnemus*)

spring

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

spring and autumn

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

spring and summer

Audouin's Gull (*Larus Audouin*)

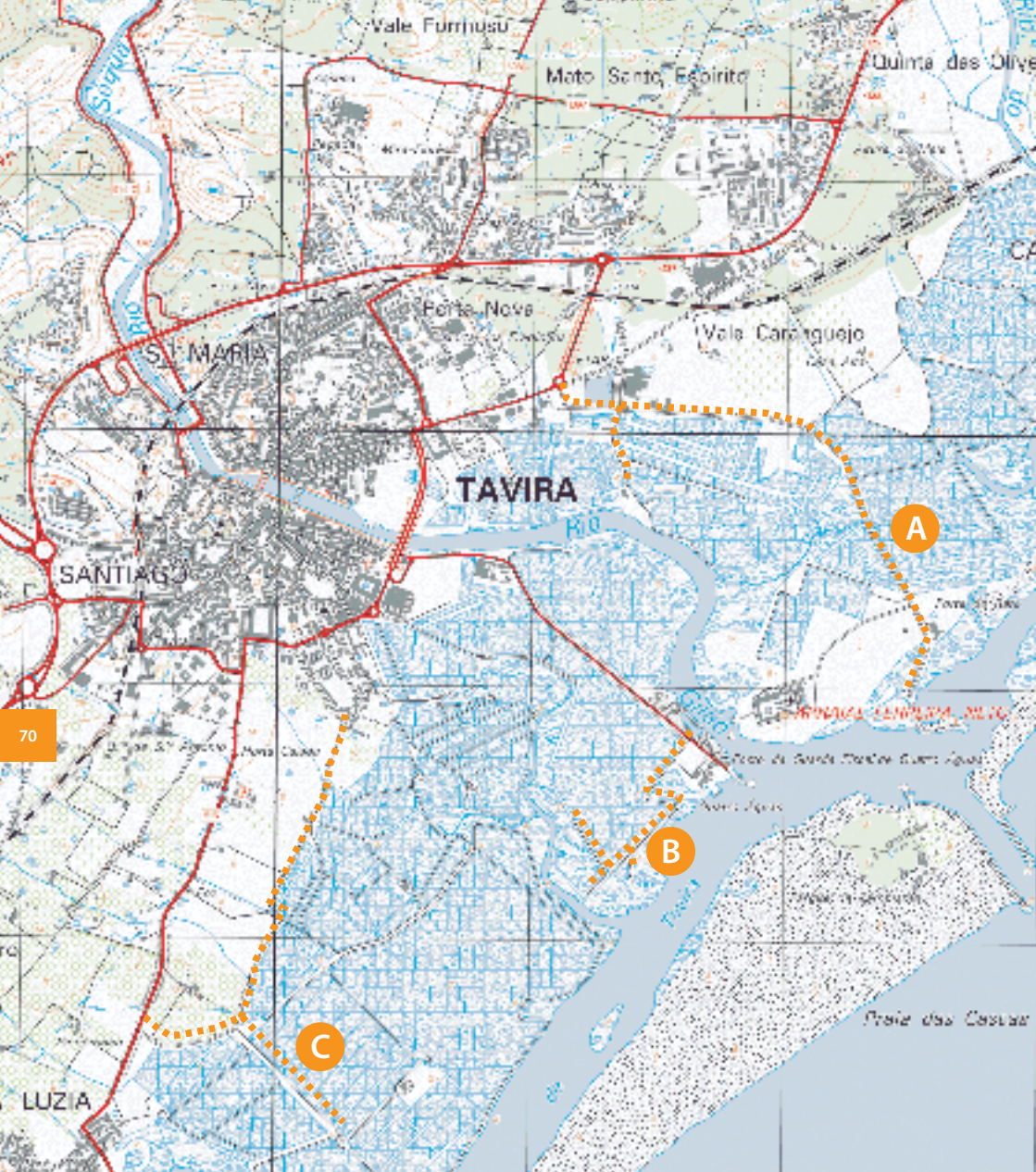
all year round

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis*)

winter



Salt pans at Tavira



Excursions

Forte do Rato,
Sítio das 4 Águas
and Santa Luzia

- A Arraial Ferreira Neto
- B Quatro Águas
- C Santa Luzia
- Recommended route

Excursion

Quinta de Marim

Code: OH1

Coordinates: 7°49'19.16"W, 37°1'58.59"N

Municipality: Olhão

Description: property managed by the Natural Park occupying around 40 hectares, with a varied range of habitats, including pine forest, saltmarsh, dense thickets of Mediterranean scrub forest, freshwater lagoons, salt pans, dunes, beaches and extensive mudflats. The headquarters of the protected area of Ria Formosa is situated here. Information can be obtained there about the local fauna

and flora and signposted trails start from there.

How to get there: take the EN 125 in the Olhão – Tavira direction. 2 km after Olhão, turn right at the sign for the Natural Park. The road crosses a railway line and at the end on the left is the entrance to this area (entrance fee payable).

Itinerary: follow the signposted trail from Quinta de Marim.

When to visit: all year round.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.



Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*)

Most interesting species

Season

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Little Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>) | spring |
| Purple Swamphen (<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>) | all year round |
| Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | all year round |
| Zitting Cisticola (<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>) | all year round |
| Sardinian Warbler (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>) | all year round |
| Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) | all year round |
| Azure-winged Magpie (<i>Cyanopica cooki</i>) | all year round |

Signs and other aids: there are information panels about the biodiversity of the area, including birds worth



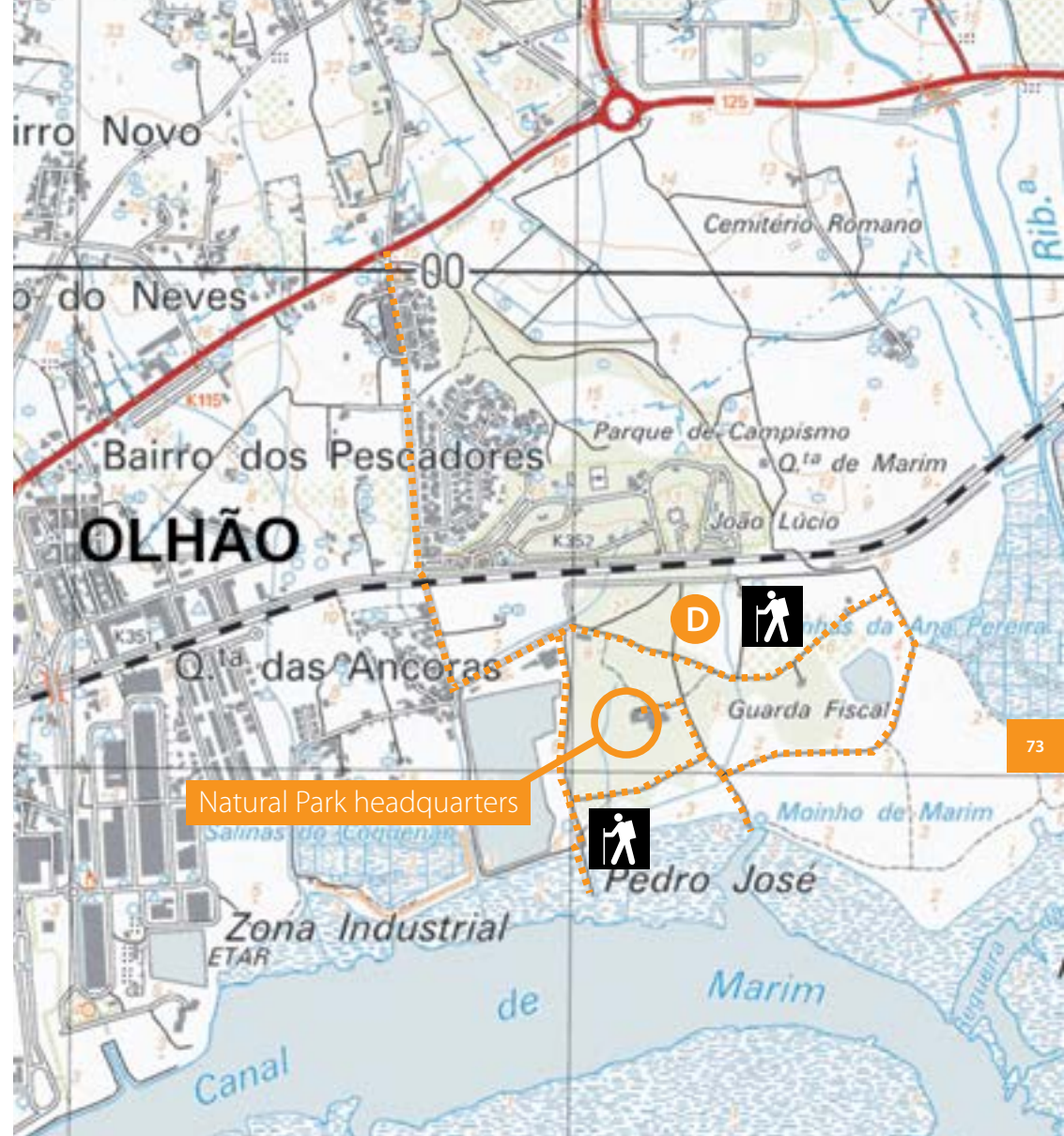
Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)

watching. The trail is signposted. There is a birdwatching hide by one of the lagoons.

Special features: easily reached area that can be visited on foot or by bicycle. Vehicles cannot enter the property and must park nearby. Very pleasant place for families, with shady areas and picnic parks. The site also offers overnight accommodation. Interesting place to observe waterfowl and woodland birds. At high tide, some disused saltpans host various species of waders.

Other places of interest nearby: Fuseta (saltpans).

Notes: visit early in the morning when there is more bird activity. At the park headquarters you can purchase a trail map as well as other information materials about the region's avifauna.



Excursion

Ludo and Lagoa de S. Lourenço

Code: LL1

Coordinates: 7°59'17.82"W 37°1'0.59"N

Municipality: Faro and Loulé

Description: Ludo is an extensive rural property with many bodies of water including freshwater and brackish lagoons, salt pans and salt marshes. To the north, farmland and forest, especially maritime and umbrella pines, predominate, as well as agricultural smallholdings, small stands of holm oak and Mediterranean scrub. The site is crossed by the Ribeira de São Lourenço

which is one of the most important parts of the entire ecosystem. Around this there are patches of reeds and bulrushes and riverine woodland, mainly tamarisks and poplars. To the east of Ludo is the Lagoa de São Lourenço, surrounded by a golf course. This is a lagoon rich in aquatic vegetation, especially bulrushes, rushes and reeds.

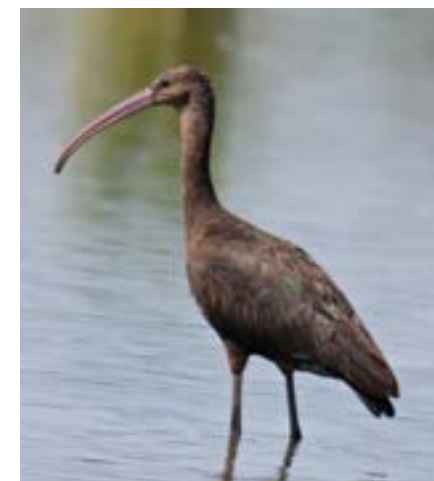
How to get there: on the road that leads to Faro Island, park the car before the bridge over the Ria Formosa. There is a road to the right leading to the interior of

Ludo and Lagoa de São Lourenço.

Itinerary: take the road that starts at the main road to Faro Island. At the end of a long straight stretch, there is a signposted road on the right that skirts the Lagoa de São Lourenço before entering Ludo. Further ahead you can rejoin the road back to your starting point.

When to visit: all year round.

Duration of visit: 4 or 5 hours.



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)



Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*)

| Most interesting species | Season |
|--|-------------------|
| Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) | all year round |
| Little Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>) | all year round |
| Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>) | winter |
| Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) | winter |
| Red-crested Pochard (<i>Netta rufina</i>) | all year round |
| Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) | all year round |
| Black-shouldered Kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>) | winter |
| Booted Eagle (<i>Aquila pennata</i>) | all year round |
| Black Kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>) | spring |
| Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) | winter |
| Purple Swampphen (<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>) | all year round |
| Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | spring and summer |
| Wryneck (<i>Jynx torquilla</i>) | spring |
| Red-necked Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>) | spring and summer |
| Black-headed Weaver (<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>) | all year round |
| Common Waxbill (<i>Estrilda astrild</i>) | all year round |



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Signs and other aids: the itinerary at Lagoa de São Lourenço is signposted and includes information panels. There is a good hide near the lagoon. There are no signs or other aids at Ludo.

Special features: place where a great variety of birds occurs. Over 200 species can be observed here during the year. Main wintering ground for ducks in the Algarve. One of the best places for bird photography in the Algarve (Lagoa de São Lourenço), in particular for the Purple Swampphen, Red-crested Pochard and Glossy Ibis, among others. Easily reached area that can be visited on foot or by

bicycle. Part of it can also be visited by car. Regular presence of raptors, including the Booted Eagle which winters here.

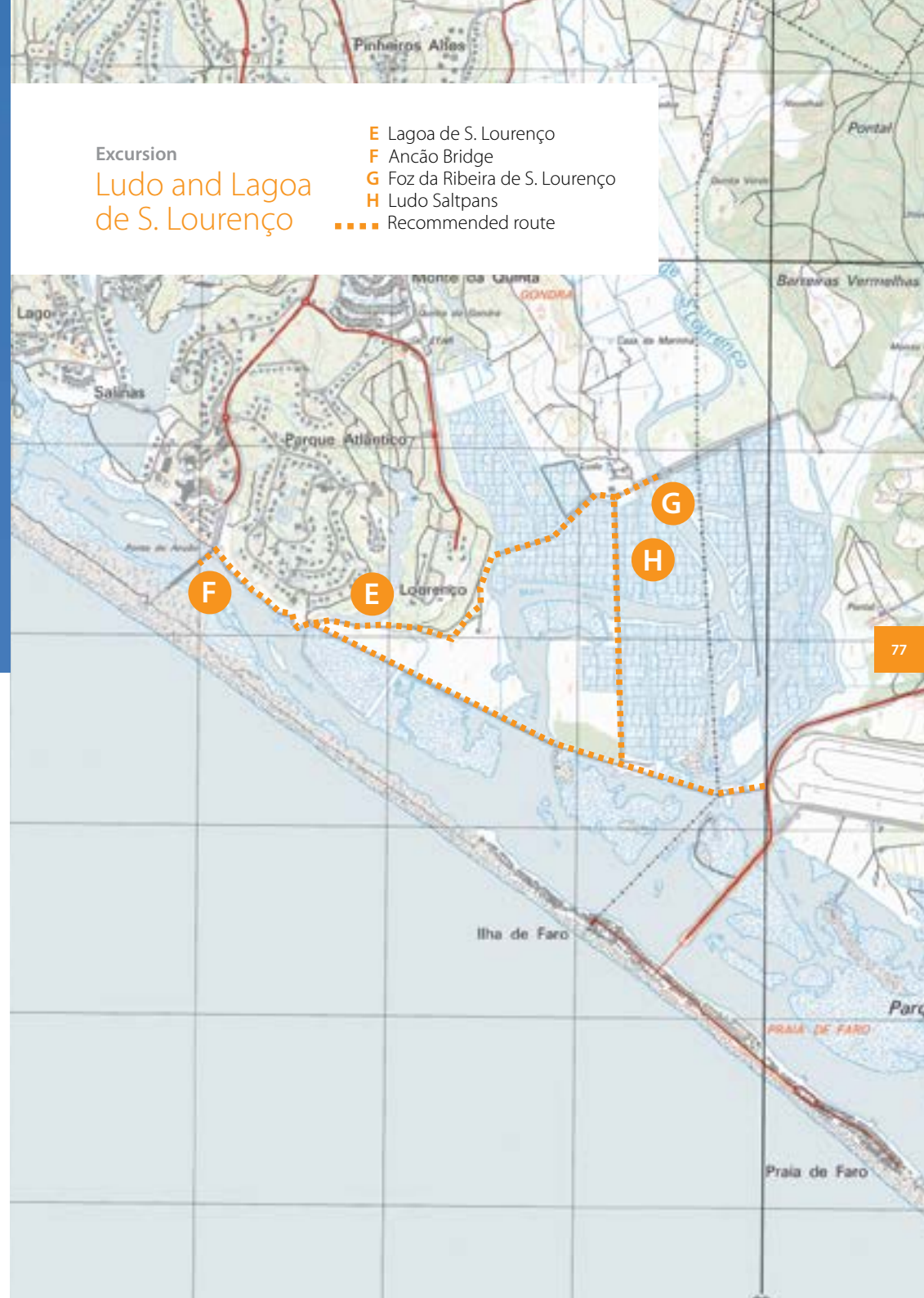
Other places of interest nearby: Montenegro salt pans and area adjacent to Faro Airport, Faro Waterfront Park.

Notes: a full visit to this site calls for time and a willingness to walk. It is advisable to visit the site early in the morning. The itineraries described above are detailed in other information materials, including the leaflet on the birds of Ludo produced by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds and Birdwatching Guide produced by Loulé Municipality.

Excursion

Ludo and Lagoa de S. Lourenço

- E** Lagoa de S. Lourenço
- F** Ancão Bridge
- G** Foz da Ribeira de S. Lourenço
- H** Ludo Salt pans
- Recommended route



Excursion

Faro Island

Code: FA1

Coordinates: 7°58'49.57"W, 36°59'55.44"N

Municipality: Faro

Description: extensive string of sandy barrier islands occupied by numerous buildings, bathing beaches, etc. It separates the estuarine system from the sea and is bounded on the north by a wide water channel and saltmarshes and on the south by beaches and the open sea.

How to get there: from Faro, follow the

signs for the airport. Before reaching the airport, follow the sign for Faro beach. Shortly after crossing the bridge to the island, turn left and take the paved road to the end.

Itinerary: after the end of the paved road, there is a wooden walkway which runs east, parallel to the estuarine zone. This is the suggested itinerary.

When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

Most interesting species

Season

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

winter

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

autumn and winter

Oystercatcher (*Haemantopus ostralegus*)

autumn and winter

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

autumn and winter

Audouin's Gull (*Larus audouinii*)

winter

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

winter

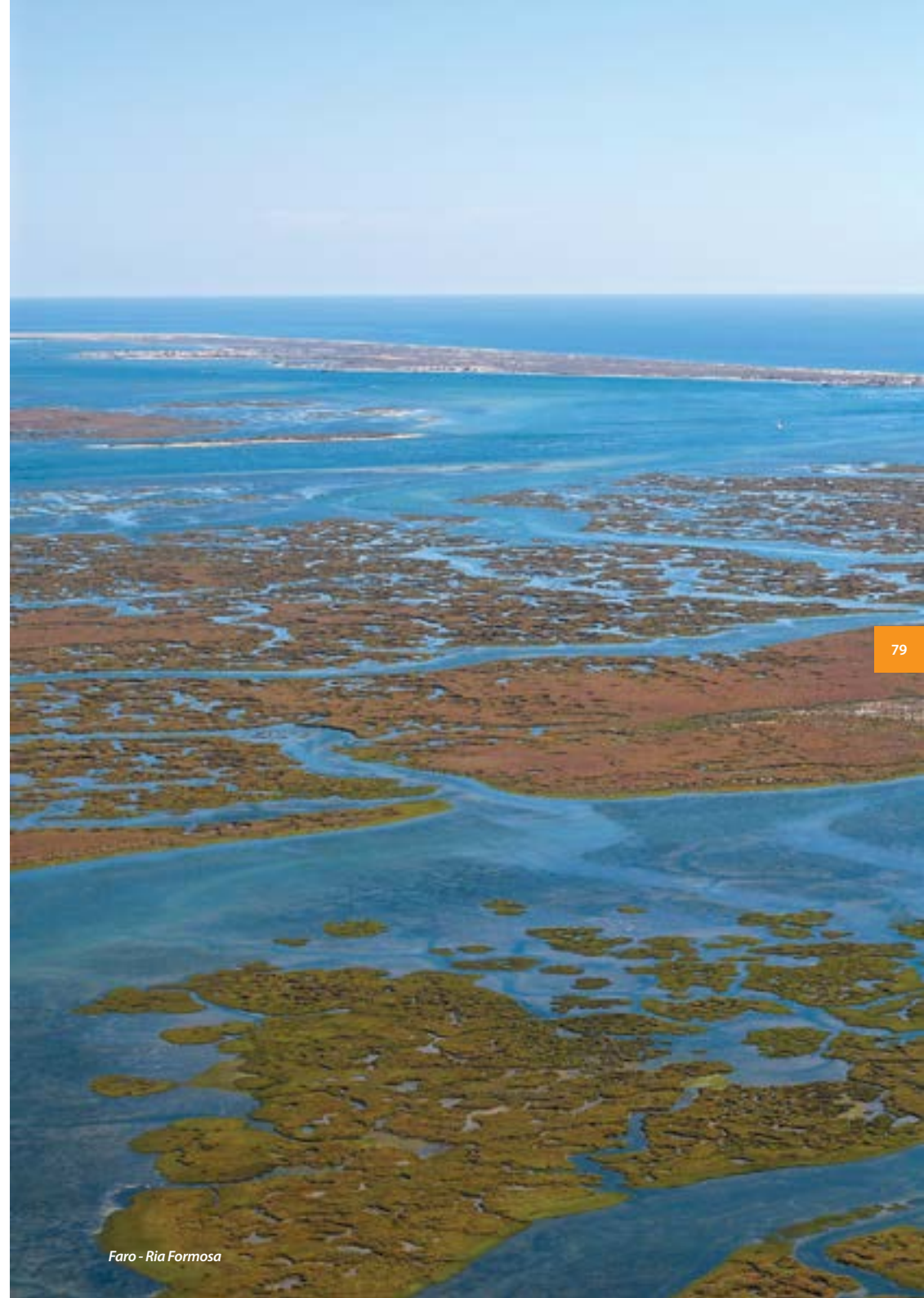
Signs and other aids: only a wooden walkway.

Special features: very interesting for observing various species of waders feeding in the estuary at low tide, including dunlins, plovers, sandpipers, oystercatchers, etc. Regular occurrence of other birds such as the Osprey, Audouin's Gull and the Caspian Tern, as well as some rarer species such as the Brent

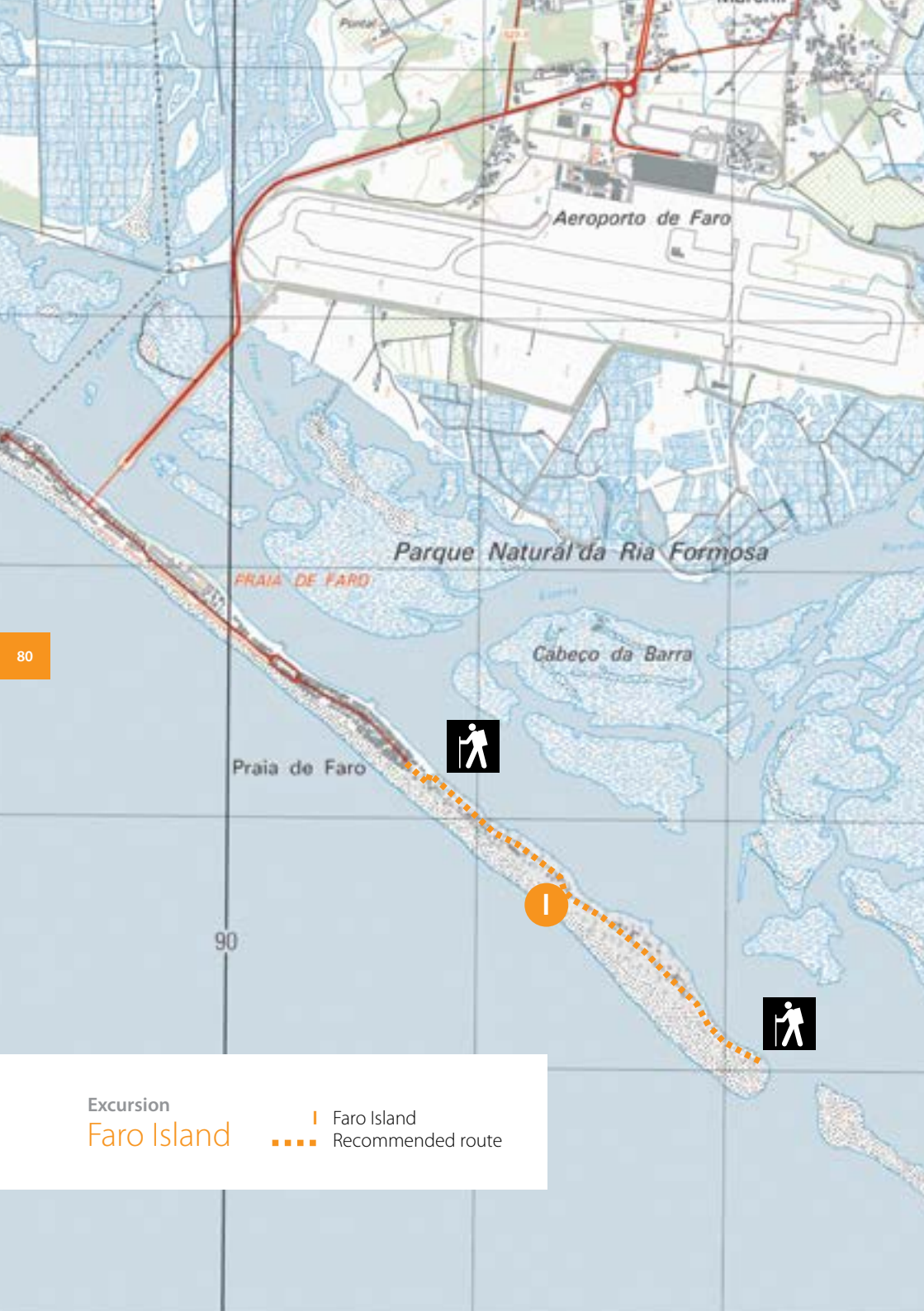
Goose and the Common Gull.

Other places of interest nearby: Ludo and Montenegro salt pans.

Notes: visit especially at low tide and preferably early in the morning, before the regular disturbance caused by humans in the area. Avoid the bathing season because of the large numbers of people.



Faro - Ria Formosa



Excursion

Faro Waterfront Park



Ria Formosa

Code: FA2
Coordinates: 7°56'49.72"W, 37°1'19.95"N
Municipality: Faro
Description: pedestrian trail along the city's waterfront, where this adjoins the Ria Formosa wetlands. Passes abandoned salt pans, saltmarsh areas, waterways and mudflats or mud banks exposed at low tide.
How to get there: from the centre of Faro near the harbour, or at the entrance to the city coming from the EN 125 from the northwest, near the municipal theatre.
Itinerary: the itinerary runs along the waterfront of the city of Faro, beginning near the municipal theatre and ending in the industrial zone. Passes behind the railway station and the Hotel Eva, by the harbour and the Old Town. Skirts the Neves Pires former saltworks southeast of Faro and enters the former industrial area and commercial wharf.
When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.
Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

| Most interesting species | Season |
|---|-------------------|
| Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>) | winter |
| Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) | winter |
| Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Common Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | spring |

Excursion
Faro Island
I Faro Island
Recommended route



Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Signs and other aids: the trail is marked with signposts and information panels about the local birdlife.

Special features: this is the only birdwatching trail in an urban area in the Algarve. Interesting for observing waders at low tide. Conversely, the salt pans are interesting at high tide, with birds such as the Flamingo and Black-winged Stilt, among others. In winter Faro is home to a peregrine falcon that hunts regularly in this area, so it is easy to observe. The

itinerary is easy to reach and can be done on foot or by bicycle. It passes several places of cultural interest including the municipal theatre and the historic centre of Faro.

Other places of interest nearby: Montenegro salt pans.

Notes: visit both at low tide and high tide. Late afternoon is recommended for a visit, when the light is more favourable for observation.



Excursion

Faro Waterfront Park

- J Waterfront Park
- K Commercial Docks
- L Atalaia
- Recommended route



4. Coastal **Lagoons**

Coastal Lagoons

Protection status

None. Caniçal de Vilamoura is classified as an Important Bird Area (IBA – BirdLife International).

Excursion

Lagoa das Dunas
Douradas

A

Excursion

Foz do Almargin

B

Excursion

Caniçal de
Vilamoura

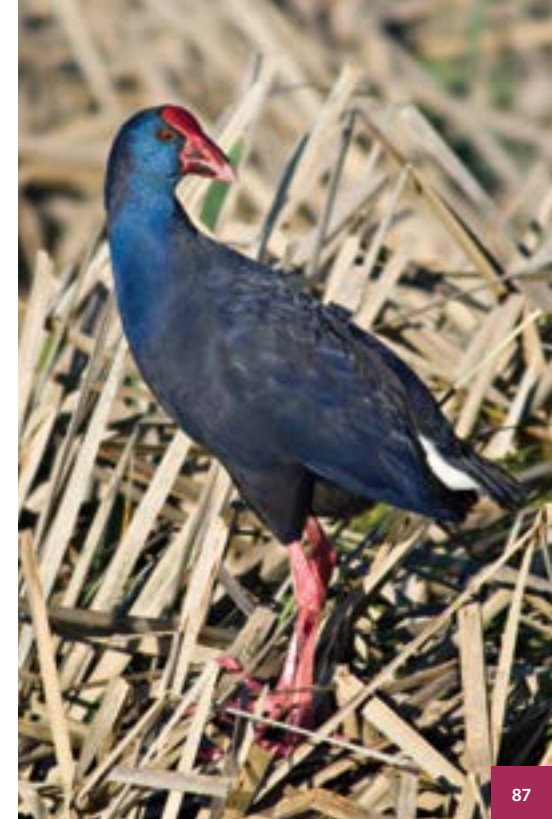
C

D



Description

Three small coastal wetlands formed at the mouths of small rivers and/or along their banks. With the exception of Caniçal de Vilamoura, the other sites feature a permanent lagoon separated from the sea by dune cordons which at Foz do Almargin is breached in places to admit the sea. All of them have abundant aquatic vegetation which is of particular importance at Vilamoura because of the extent of reedbeds. This is probably the largest continuous reedbed in the Algarve, and acts as an important refuge and nesting place for various species of birds. The area is also surrounded by arable fields and grassland that enrich the ecosystem. Foz do Almargin and Dunas Douradas, on the other hand, are surrounded by forests of maritime and umbrella pine, heavily altered by the development of tourist resorts, car parks and other infrastructures.



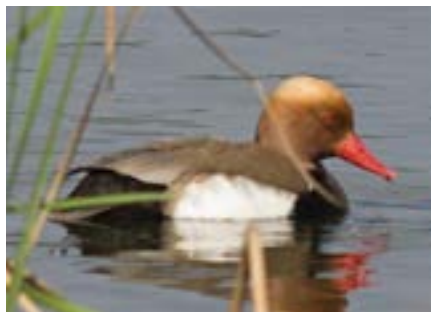
Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Avifauna

Despite their small size, these areas play an important role for numerous waterfowl, providing a chain of rest and refuge areas during their migrations. These are mainly used by ducks and herons and, in the case of Vilamoura, by other birds such as raptors and passerines. The extensive reedbed there is a valuable nesting habitat and refuge for thousands of migratory birds such as reed warblers, other warblers, wagtails, swallows, etc. It is also the breeding ground of the Western Marsh Harrier, Little Bittern and Purple Heron.

Excursion

Lagoa das Dunas Douradas



Red-crested Pochard (Netta rufina)

Code: LL2

Coordinates: 8°3'15.2"W, 37°2'37.81"N

Municipality: Loulé

Description: small permanent coastal lagoon bordered by dense aquatic vegetation, especially reeds, bulrushes and tamarisks. It is separated from the sea by a substantial dune cordon. The surrounding area is occupied by maritime pine and umbrella pine forest and a tourist resort.

How to get there: from Almancil, follow signs for Quinta do Lago. On reaching the Quinta do Lago road, continue towards Vale de Lobo and turn left at the sign for Vale do Garrão and Dunas Douradas until you reach this beach. At the end of the road, there is a car park next to the lagoon.

Itinerary: there is a well defined trail along the west bank of the lagoon which leads to an observation tower.

When to visit: all year round except July and August.

Duration of visit: 1 hour.



Little Bittern (Ixobrychus minutus)

Most interesting species

Season

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*)

spring

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

autumn

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

autumn

Common Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata*)

all year round

Azure-winged Magpie (*Cyanopica cooki*)

all year round

Signs and other aids: only a raised observation tower.

Special features: small lagoon, easily accessible by car and very easy to visit. Interesting place for photography, especially in the late afternoon. Regular occurrence of several species of waterfowl, including ducks, coots, herons, etc.

Other places of interest nearby: Lagoa de São Lourenço in Quinta do Lago and Foz do Almargem.

Notes: avoid the bathing season because of the large numbers of people and vehicles moving about.

Excursion

Foz do Almargem

Code: LL3

Coordinates: 8°4'55.16"W, 37°3'42.74"N

Municipality: Loulé

Description: coastal lagoon surrounded by pine woods on both banks and bordered by dense aquatic vegetation, especially reeds, rushes and tamarisks. To the south it is bordered by dunes and the beach which separate it from the sea. In winter the sea frequently breaks through the dune barrier.

How to get there: from Quarteira, follow signs to Vale de Lobo and Almancil. Immediately after leaving Quarteira, at Fonte Santa, turn right at the sign to Praia Loulé Velho and follow the road to the beach and the lagoon.



Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*)

Itinerary: walk along the banks of the lagoon.

When to visit: autumn and winter.

Duration of visit: 1-2 hours.

Most interesting species

Season

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

winter

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

winter

European Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*)

winter

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

winter

Common Waxbill (*Estrilda astrild*)

all year round

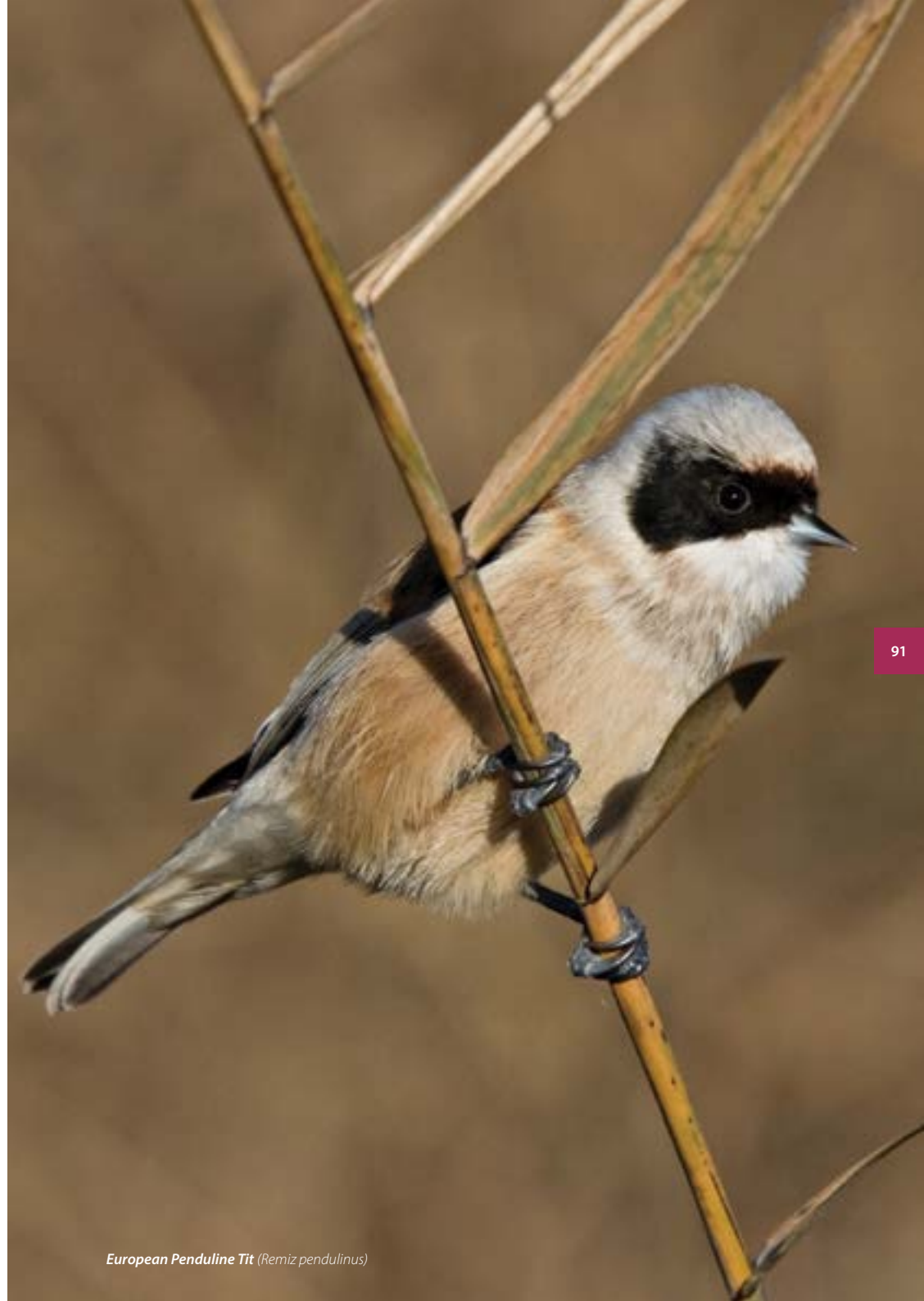
Signs and other aids: there are no signs or other aids for visitors.

Special features: interesting place to observe passerines close up, for example the European Penduline Tit, Common Waxbill and Zitting Cisticola. In winter, this lagoon is home to several species of ducks, including the Tufted Duck, this being one of the best places to observe it.

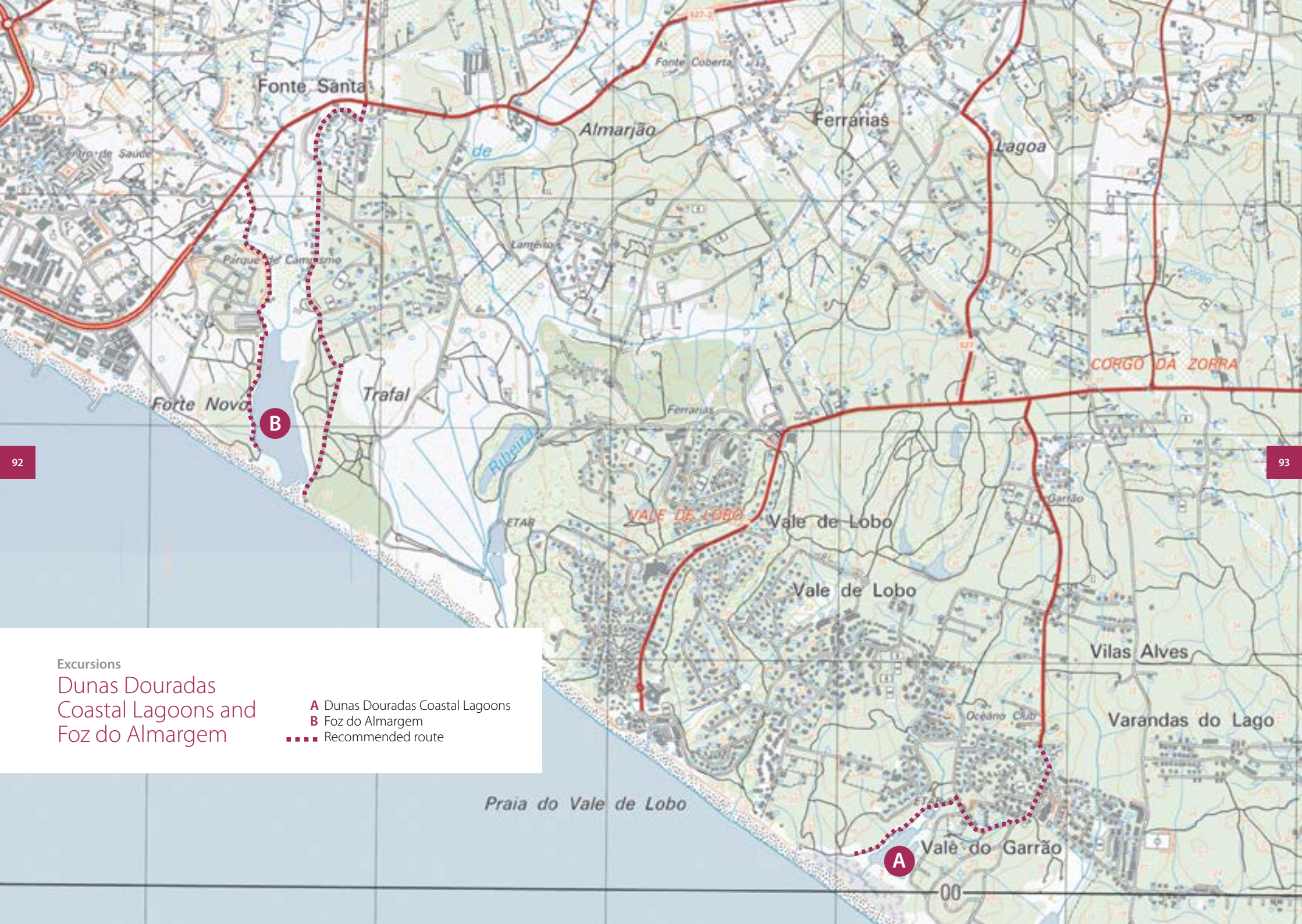
Other places of interest nearby: around 200 metres east of Foz do Almargem there is

a small wetland known as Trafal. It is a valley subject to flooding, with extensive areas of rushes and some patches of reeds. In winter various waterfowl species can be observed there.

Notes: it is recommended to visit early in the morning as this is a place much visited by people. Interesting place to visit after storms due to the likely arrival of seabirds in the lagoon such as the Common Scoter.



European Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*)



Excursions

Dunas Douradas
Coastal Lagoons and
Foz do Almagem

- A Dunas Douradas Coastal Lagoons
- B Foz do Almagem
- Recommended route

Caniçal de Vilamoura



Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Code: LL4

Coordinates: 8°8'39.62"W, 37°5'34.69"N

Municipality: Loulé

Description: extensive wetland covered in reeds and with several open lagoons, bounded on the south by cereal fields and rainfed orchards, and on the east by two artificial ponds of a sewage treatment plant. To the north it is bounded by golf courses.

How to get there: from Vilamoura take Avenida Vilamoura XXI in the direction of Albufeira. Turn left towards the Vilamoura sewage treatment plant.

Itinerary: there is a trail in Vilamoura Environmental Park that leads to two birdwatching hides. It is signposted.

When to visit: all year round except July and August.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

Most interesting species

Season

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

winter

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

spring

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

autumn

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

autumn

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

winter

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*)

autumn and winter

Purple Swamphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

all year round

European Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus*)

winter

Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*)

all year round



Black-headed Weaver (*Ploceus melanocephalus*)



Caniçal de Vilamoura

Signs and other aids: at Caniçal de Vilamoura there are two birdwatching hides and information panels on the trail.

Special features: one of the most important sites in the Algarve for migrating passerines, including reed warblers, warblers, swallows, etc, that rest and congregate here. Roosting Yellow Wagtails and Barn Swallows in autumn and Corn Buntings in winter.

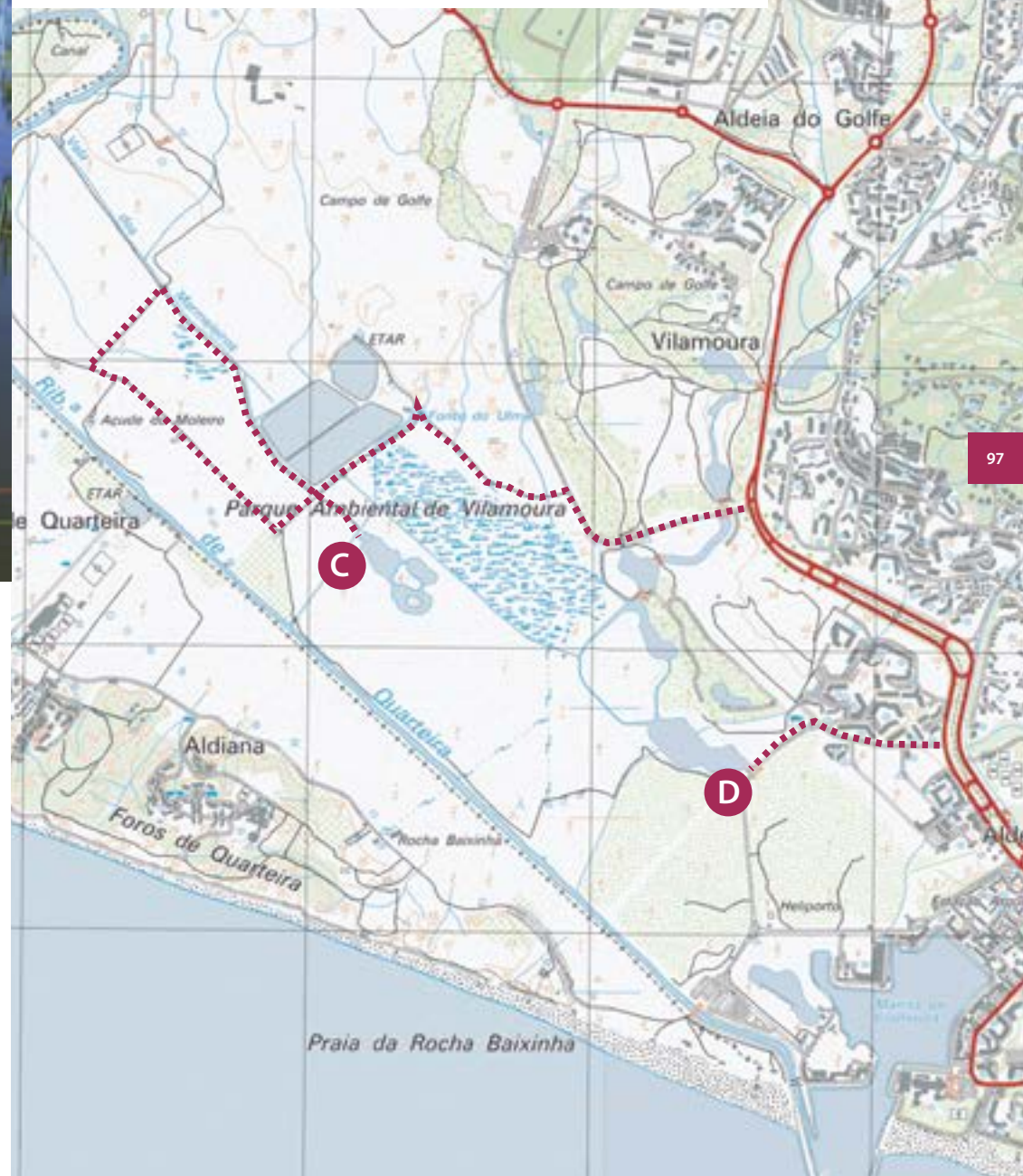
Hunting territory of various diurnal and nocturnal raptors, including the Black-shouldered Kite and Short-eared Owl in winter.

Notes: accessible by car. Because of its small size, it can be explored in detail on foot. Due to the orientation of the hides, it is recommended to visit in the afternoon in order to have favourable light.

Excursion

Caniçal de Vilamoura

C, D Caniçal de Vilamoura
..... Recommended route





5. Lagoa dos **Salgados**

Lagoa dos Salgados

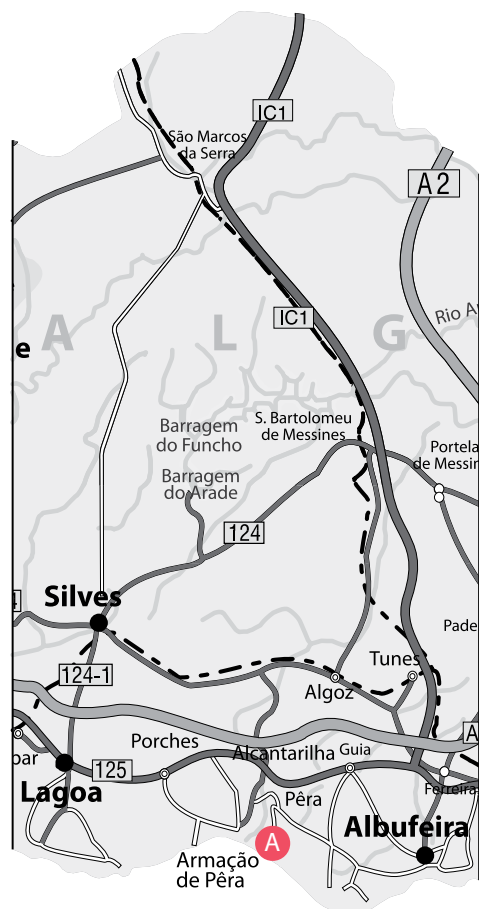
Protection status

None. Included in the national list of Important Bird Areas (IBA – BirdLife International).

Excursion

Lagoa dos Salgados

A



Description

Lagoa dos Salgados, also known as the Sapal de Pêra or Lagoa de Vale de Parra, is a typical coastal lagoon – a body of water bordered by aquatic vegetation and separated from the sea by an extensive, unbroken dune cordon. The main body of water is formed by the mouths of two small rivers – the Espiche and the Vale Rabelho – and is frequently invaded by the sea, especially in winter, through man-made breaches in the dune cordon when the water level rises too high. The area subject to flooding which surrounds the lagoon on its north and east sides is bordered by arable fields, mostly abandoned, grassland and a golf course to the east. The lagoon covers an area about 50 hectares and is relatively shallow, encouraging the presence of a wide variety of waterfowl, including ducks, herons, waders, etc. Almost the entire extent of the lagoon can be seen from a single observation point on the west bank where birdwatchers often gather. To the south, in the part adjacent to the dunes, there is a long, raised wooden walkway which runs along the whole of the south bank of the floodable area, and actually crosses the lagoon at the entrance to Salgados beach.

Avifauna

Included in the national list of Important Bird Areas, Lagoa dos Salgados is one of the most interesting places for birdwatching in the Algarve. Over 200 species have been recorded there, especially waterfowl. It is one of the few places in the region where the Ferruginous Duck can be seen regularly – and which has been confirmed as breeding here in the past – and the only one where the Greater Flamingo, a species that can be seen here almost all year round, has attempted to breed. There is a very rich breeding bird community which includes species such as the Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Little Tern and Little Bittern. During migration, numerous wading birds occur here, including the Ruff and the Wood Sandpiper, as well as various members of the heron family such as the Squacco Heron and the Eurasian Spoonbill. For ducks, Lagoa dos Salgados is the best place in the Algarve to observe the Garganey in spring. In winter there are often over 2000 birds here, especially ducks and waders such as the Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Golden Plover and many others. This is also one of the areas in Portugal where rarities – birds whose occurrence is not common in the country – are recorded with greater regularity. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper, the American Golden Plover and Richard's Pipit are just some of the specimens that have been recorded here. It is also a very good place for bird photography enthusiasts.



Excursion

Lagoa dos Salgados

Code: SL1

Coordinates: 37°06'N, 08°20'W

Municipality: Silves

Description: coastal lagoon separated from the sea by an extensive dune cordon, surrounded by abandoned arable fields, grassland and a golf course. Open body of water bordered by marsh vegetation such as reeds, rushes and tamarisks.

How to get there: from Pêra, follow signs for Praia Grande. On arriving there, you will find the wetland on your left. There is a car park near the entrance to the beach and a path leading to the wetland.

Itinerary: access to the lagoon is easy and there is a road at right angles to it on its western shore which is accessible by car, ending at a point where it is possible see the majority of the wetland and the bird life that occurs there. This is the place most used by birdwatchers. To the south, there is a walkway that begins at the Praia Grande car park and runs east to Salgados beach. This is accessible on foot or by bicycle and offers good views over the rest of the wetland and Lagoa dos Salgados.

When to visit: all year round.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

Most interesting species

Season

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

spring and summer

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

autumn and winter

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

autumn, winter and spring

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

autumn and winter

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)

spring

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

winter

Purple Swampphen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

all year round

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

autumn

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

autumn and winter

Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*)

autumn and winter

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

all year round

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)

spring and summer

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

autumn and winter

Alpine Swift (*Apus melba*)

spring and summer



Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

Signs and other aids: there are two information panels about the fauna and flora of the wetland and a viewpoint/hide overlooking it.

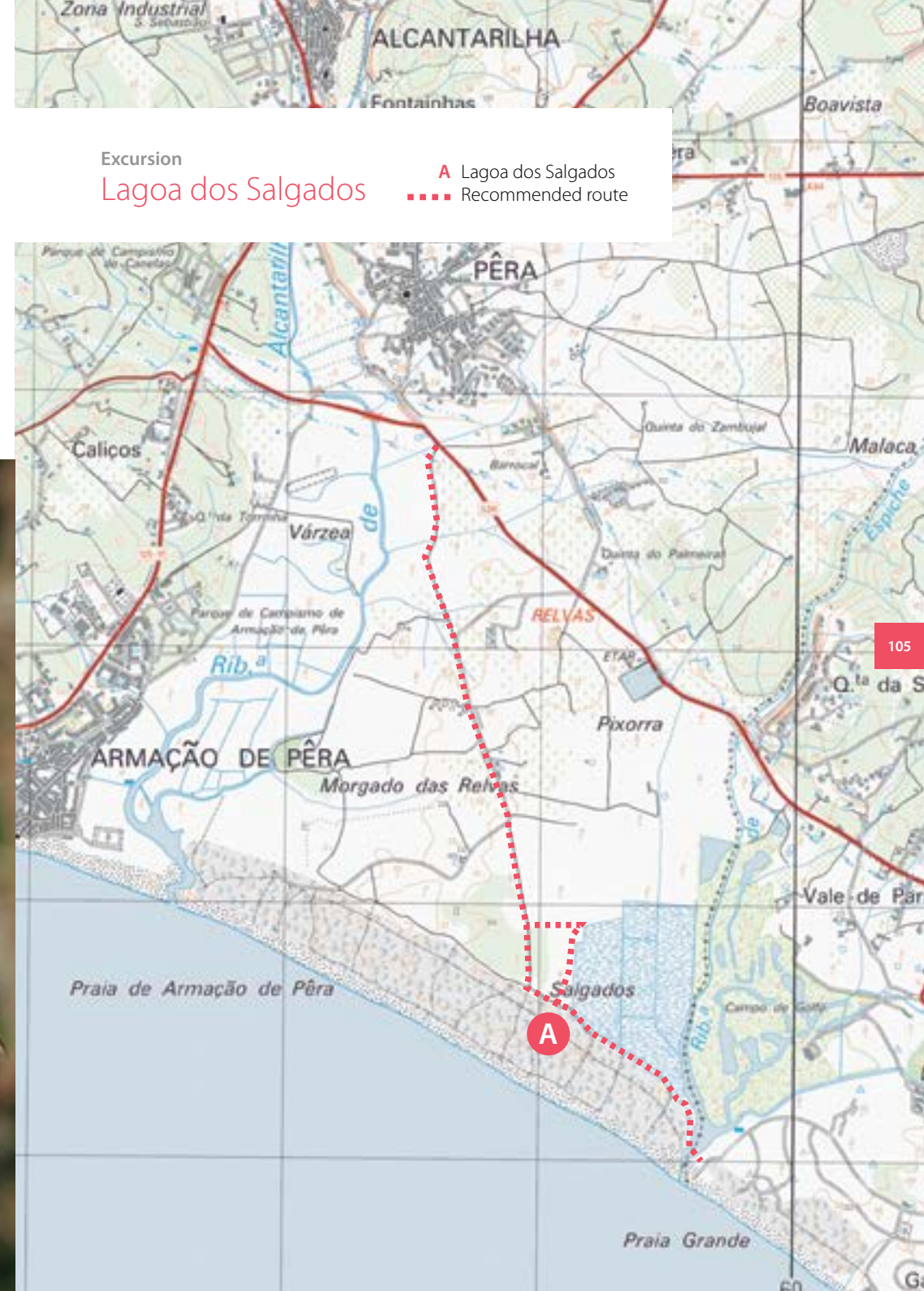
Special features: very easy to reach. Small wetland where tens of species of waterfowl can be observed from a single point. Regular occurrence of rarities, especially between August and November. In addition to the wetland itself, the surrounding farmland hosts many birds, in particular the Northern Lapwing and the Eurasian Golden Plover in winter.

Other places of interest nearby: 500 metres to the east of this lagoon there is another lagoon at the mouth of the Ribeira de Alcantarilha. Although it has many fewer birds, there are sometimes herons and waders on the surrounding saltmarsh. In Albufeira municipality, in the Paderne area, there is an extensive agricultural valley with vineyards and olive, almond and carob orchards and some artificial pools which are home to many birds including the Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin and the Black-shouldered Kite, among other species.

Notes: it is advisable to visit this lagoon in the afternoon, so as to have favourable sunlight for observation. This site is very pleasant in late afternoon. A good place to photograph birds, since the distances are very short. Only use the signposted trails.



Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)



Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)



6. **Arade** Estuary and Ria de **Alvor**

6.

Arade Estuary and Ria de Alvor

Protection status

Arade / Odelouca Special Area of Conservation and Ria de Alvor Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000).

Excursion

Arade Estuary

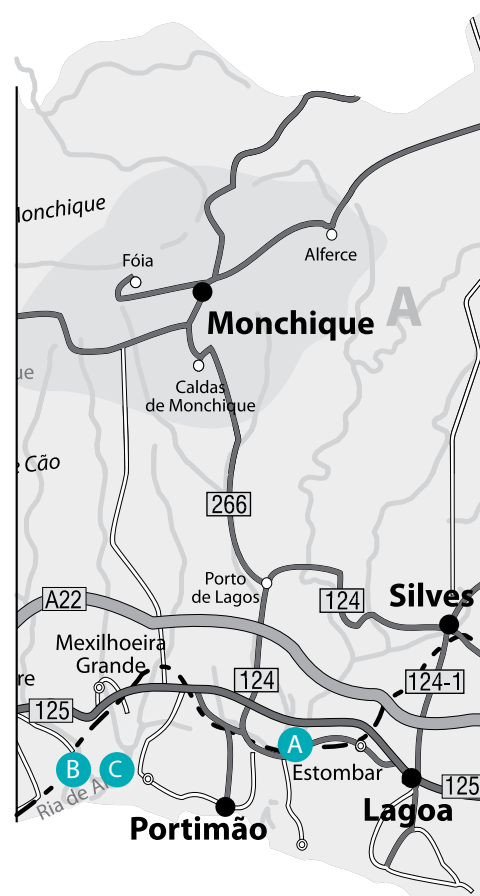
A

Excursion

Ria de Alvor

B

C



White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Description

The mouth of the Arade Estuary is located near Portimão, at the junction of the rivers Arade, Monchique and Odelouca. It is a system open to the sea with constant tidal movement and features numerous water channels and saltmarshes that are submerged at high tide and exposed at low tide to reveal extensive mud banks. The Ria de Alvor, between Portimão and Lagos, is another, smaller estuarine system but the most important in the western Algarve. It covers about 1700 hectares and has a great variety of landscapes, including extensive dune cordons, saltmarshes, salt pans, farmland, rainfed orchards and Mediterranean scrub forest. Its classification is due mainly from the presence of various species of flora and EU-classified priority habitats (under the Habitats Directive), but its wealth also includes numerous species of moths (over 500), 75 species of butterflies and over 100 species of fishes.

Avifauna

The birdlife at these two sites consists predominantly of waders. In the Ria de Alvor, however, due to the existence of different natural refuges such as disused salt pans, sandbanks and mudflats exposed at low tide, numerous rainfed orchards, active agricultural smallholdings, etc, the diversity is much more significant, with almost 300 species recorded in total. The birds that can be seen here include various waders such as the Dunlin, Kentish Plover, Grey Plover, etc.

Excursion

Arade Estuary

Code: LA1
Coordinates: 37°9'16,96"N 8°30'6,03"O
Municipality: Lagoa
Description: tidal estuarine zone with extensive bodies of water at high tide and saltmarshes and exposed mud banks at low tide.
How to get there: follow the EN 125 towards Lagoa - Portimão and before crossing the bridge over the River Arade, take the road to Mexilhoeira da Carregação and Ferragudo. At the first roundabout, turn right and continue along Rua das Marinhas. Continue on this road in a northerly direction until you arrive at the saltpans and then the estuary.
Itinerary: Rua das Marinhas leads to the saltpans and runs alongside them. You can see the various tanks that comprise

them from the road. At high tide they are a refuge for waterfowl. Continue on the same road. After passing over the EN 125, the road leads to a vast area of saltmarsh, with good views over the saltmarsh, water channels and mudflats.
When to visit: autumn and winter.
Duration of visit: 1-2 hours.

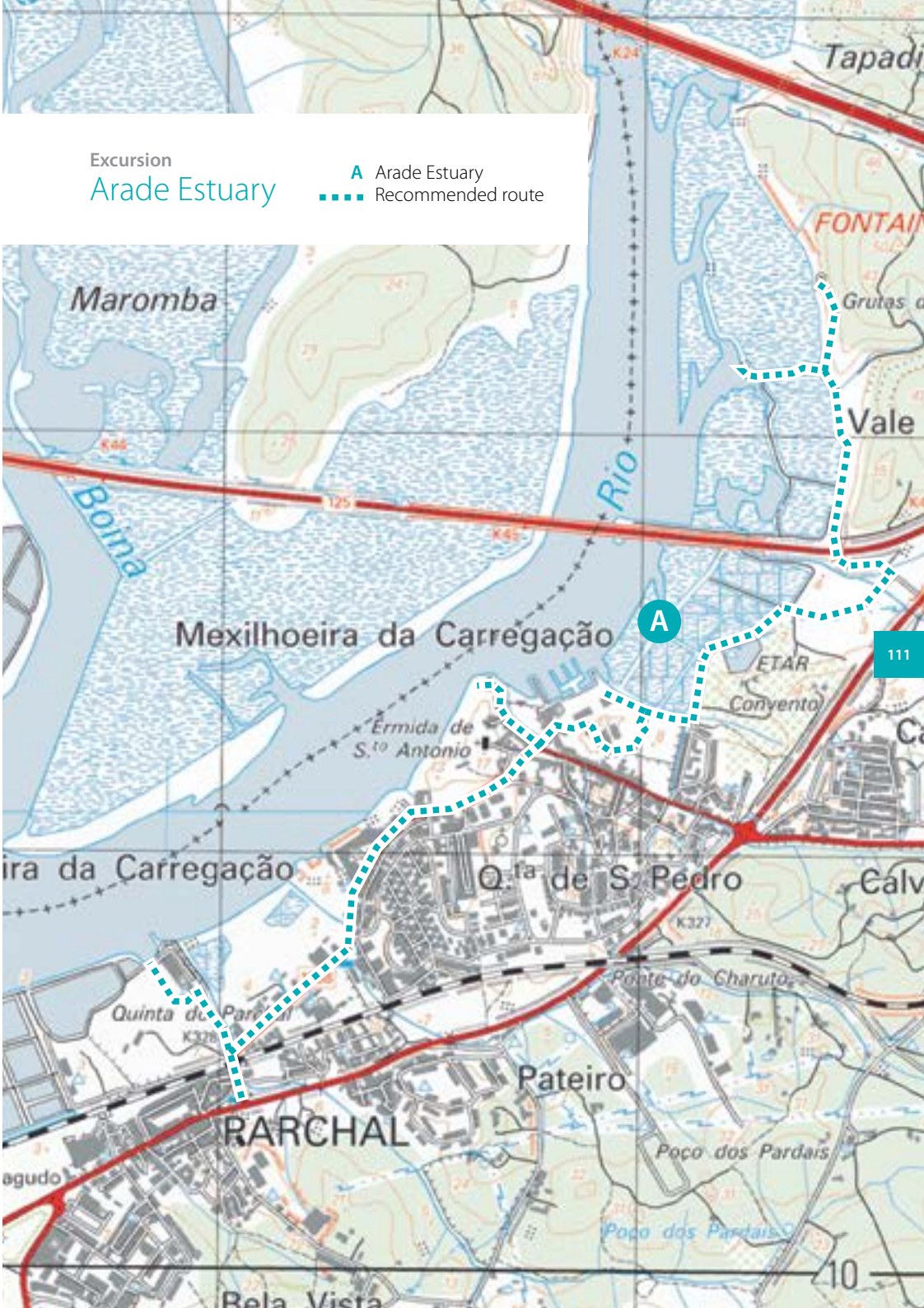


Arade Estuary

| Most interesting species | Season |
|--|-------------------|
| Eurasian Spoonbill (<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>) | spring |
| Greater Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Bluethroat (<i>Luscinia svecica</i>) | autumn and winter |

Signs and other aids: none
Special features: best visited early in the morning and at low tide. Difficult to find as there are no signs or direct road.
Other places of interest nearby:

Ferragudo marina/fishing port and the adjacent beach are two interesting places to observe concentrations of gulls, with frequent occurrence of the Greater Black-backed Gull and other rarer species.



Excursion

Ria de Alvor

Code: PT1

Coordinates: 37°7'56,48"N 8°36'42,69"O

Municipality: Portimão and Lagos

Description: small estuary, bounded on the south by dune cordons, with continuous mud banks and saltmarshes at low tide and small sandy islands at high tide. This estuary also features salt pans, saltmarshes and, to the north, rainfed orchards and dense Mediterranean scrub forest.

How to get there: take the Via do Infante (A 22) to Alvor and pass through the town to the beach. A trail starts there. Alternatively, after leaving the A 22 at Alvor, follow the EN 125 in the direction of Lagos. Immediately after the entrance road to Mexilhoeira Grande railway station, take the first road on the left. This leads to the west bank of the estuary and to areas deeper inside this wetland. It also leads to the Associação A Rocha centre for the study of birds at Cruzinha.

Itinerary: from Alvor beach, the itinerary is along a raised wooden walkway that runs right along the dune cordon to the west, almost to the sandbar. The whole of the estuary can be seen from the walkway. The itinerary north of the estuary begins at the car park at the end of the road and continues over the hillock bordering the former salt pans and then goes right round them.

When to visit: all year round except summer.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

Most interesting species

Season

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

winter

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

winter

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*)

spring

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

all year round

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

spring and summer

Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)

autumn and winter



Arade Estuary



Little Tern (Sterna albifrons)

Signs and other aids: there is just one information panel about the local biodiversity in the Ria de Alvor, sited on the road leading to the west bank of the estuary. To the south, next to the beach, there is a long raised walkway giving access along the dune cordon to observe an extensive southern part of the estuary.

Special features: the Ria de Alvor is a very interesting place to visit, especially at low tide when there are lots of waders feeding on the exposed mudflats. The surrounding farmland is also home to numerous birds, including finches, larks, etc. The Associação A Rocha and its centre for the study of birds are nearby.

Other places of interest nearby: immediately before entering Lagos on the EN 125 there is a road to the village of Sargaçal which leads to the Paúl de Lagos, an inland wetland adjacent to the Ribeira de Bensafim with areas subject to flooding, reedbeds and small saltmarshes. Interesting for waterfowl, especially during the autumn migration and in winter.

Notes: best visited early in the morning. It is advisable to book ahead if you wish to visit the Associação A Rocha centre for the study of birds.



Excursion
Ria de Alvor

B, C Ria de Alvor
..... Recommended route



7. Sagres
Peninsula

Sagres Peninsula

Protection status

Arade and Ria de Alvor Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000), Southwest Alentejo and Vicentine Coast Natural Park, Special Protection Area for Birds, Biogenetic Reserve.

Excursion

Sagres Peninsula

A

Excursion

Vale Santo

B

Excursion

Monte da Cabranosa

C

Excursion

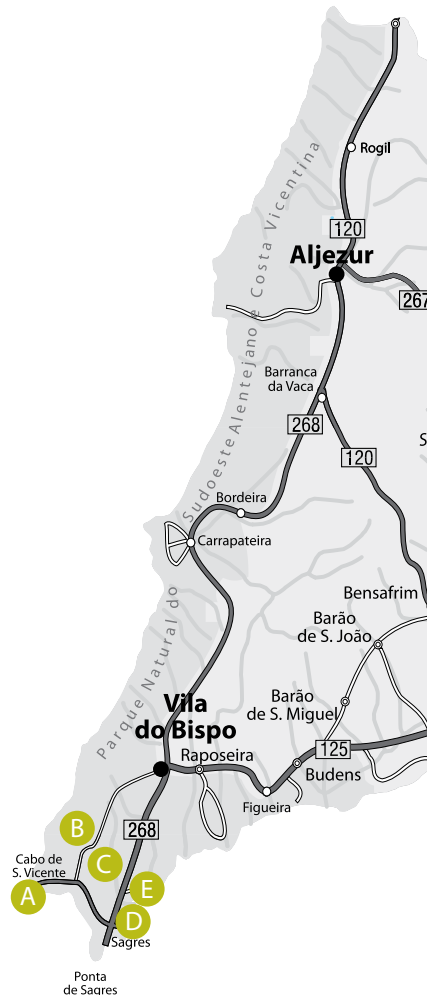
Porto da Baleeira

D

Excursion

Lagoa do Martinhal

E



Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Description

The most south-westerly area of Europe takes the form of a coastal plateau with high rocky cliffs and small sandy beaches, surrounded by cereal fields – many still worked – interspersed with stands of maritime pine and dense thickets of Mediterranean scrub. The Atlantic Ocean has a strong influence, with occasional adverse weather and constant salt spray in the wind, which often blows strongly in this area. At the mouths of the Martinhal and Budens rivers there are two small wetlands with saltmarsh vegetation and marsh vegetation, respectively. The flat landscape of Sagres and its surroundings, very different from the rest of the Algarve, has numerous natural and cultural riches, including a special flora which includes several regional endemic species, various geological features and historical and archaeological monuments and, most especially, a very interesting birdlife.

Avifauna

The variety of micro-landscapes making up the ecosystem of the Sagres region – including marine areas, forests, woodland, farmland and wetlands – gives rise to a rich community of birds with over 300 recorded species. Among these, raptors are especially prominent. Every year, during the postnuptial migration (between August and November), around 5000 individuals from more than 30 species pass through this area, making this peninsula the principal migration corridor in Portugal. The most abundant species are the Eurasian Griffon Vulture, Booted Eagle, Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Short-toed Eagle. Apart from them, many others are to be seen such as the European Honey Buzzard, Egyptian Vulture, Black Kite and Montagu's Harrier, as well as various national and international rarities such as the Spanish Imperial Eagle, Golden Eagle, Eurasian Black Vulture and Lesser Spotted Eagle, among others. In addition to raptors, Sagres is a very interesting place to observe seabirds (see Excursion 10) and steppe birds. This latter group includes the Little Bustard, Tawny Pipit, Greater Short-toed Lark and Thekla Lark. Sagres is also home to the only colony of the Red-billed Choughs south of the Serra d'Aire and Candeeiros. The rocky coastline also provides sightings of the Rock Pipit and the Purple Sandpiper.

Excursion

Sagres Peninsula

Code: VB1

Coordinates: 8°58'0.35"W, 37°2'56.16"N

Municipality: Vila do Bispo

Description: coastal plateau with rocky sea cliffs interspersed with small sandy beaches and surrounded by extensive cereal fields, stands of maritime pine and dense thickets of Mediterranean scrub. The area also features some coastal wetlands such as Lagoa do Martinhal, Lagoa de Budens and Boca do Rio. How to get there: take the Via do Infante

(A 22) to Lagos. From there, follow the EN 125 to Vila do Bispo and Sagres. From Sagres, short trips can be made by car to Cape St. Vincent and other nearby places.

Itinerary: in Sagres, visit the port of Baleeira, the adjacent beach and mole and Ponta da Atalaia. Continue to Cape St. Vincent. Visit Vale Santo and Monte da Cabranosa, Lagoa do Martinhal and Paúl de Budens.

When to visit: spring, autumn and winter.

Duration of visit: 1 day.

| Most interesting species | Season |
|---|---------------------------|
| European Shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>) | all year round |
| Black Stork (<i>Ciconia nigra</i>) | autumn |
| Eurasian Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) | autumn |
| Egyptian Vulture (<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>) | autumn |
| Booted Eagle (<i>Aquila pennata</i>) | autumn |
| Short-toed Eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>) | autumn |
| Spanish Imperial Eagle (<i>Aquila adalberti</i>) | autumn |
| Red Kite (<i>Milvus milvus</i>) | autumn |
| Black Kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>) | all year round |
| European Honey Buzzard (<i>Pernis apivorus</i>) | all year round |
| Eleanora's Falcon (<i>Falco eleonora</i>) | autumn |
| Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) | all year round |
| Little Bustard (<i>Tetrax tetrax</i>) | all year round |
| Eurasian Dotterel (<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>) | autumn |
| Alpine Swift (<i>Apus melba</i>) | summer and autumn |
| Alpine Accentor (<i>Prunella collaris</i>) | winter |
| Tawny Pipit (<i>Anthus campestris</i>) | spring, summer and autumn |
| Richard's Pipit (<i>Anthus richardi</i>) | winter |
| Spectacled Warbler (<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>) | spring, summer and autumn |
| Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) | all year round |
| Ring Ouzel (<i>Turdus torquatus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Blue Rock-thrush (<i>Monticola solitarius</i>) | all year round |
| Red-billed Chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) | all year round |



Eurasian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)



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Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*)

Signs and other aids: a number of signs and birdwatching equipment are shortly to be installed in this area.

Special features: the best area in the Algarve and mainland Portugal to observe raptors, especially during the autumn migration between September and November. Some 5000 birds pass through this area during that period. All the raptor species that occur in Portugal are seen annually in Sagres at this time of year, including several rarities. In autumn it is possible to see more than one hundred species in a single day. The area is very accessible.

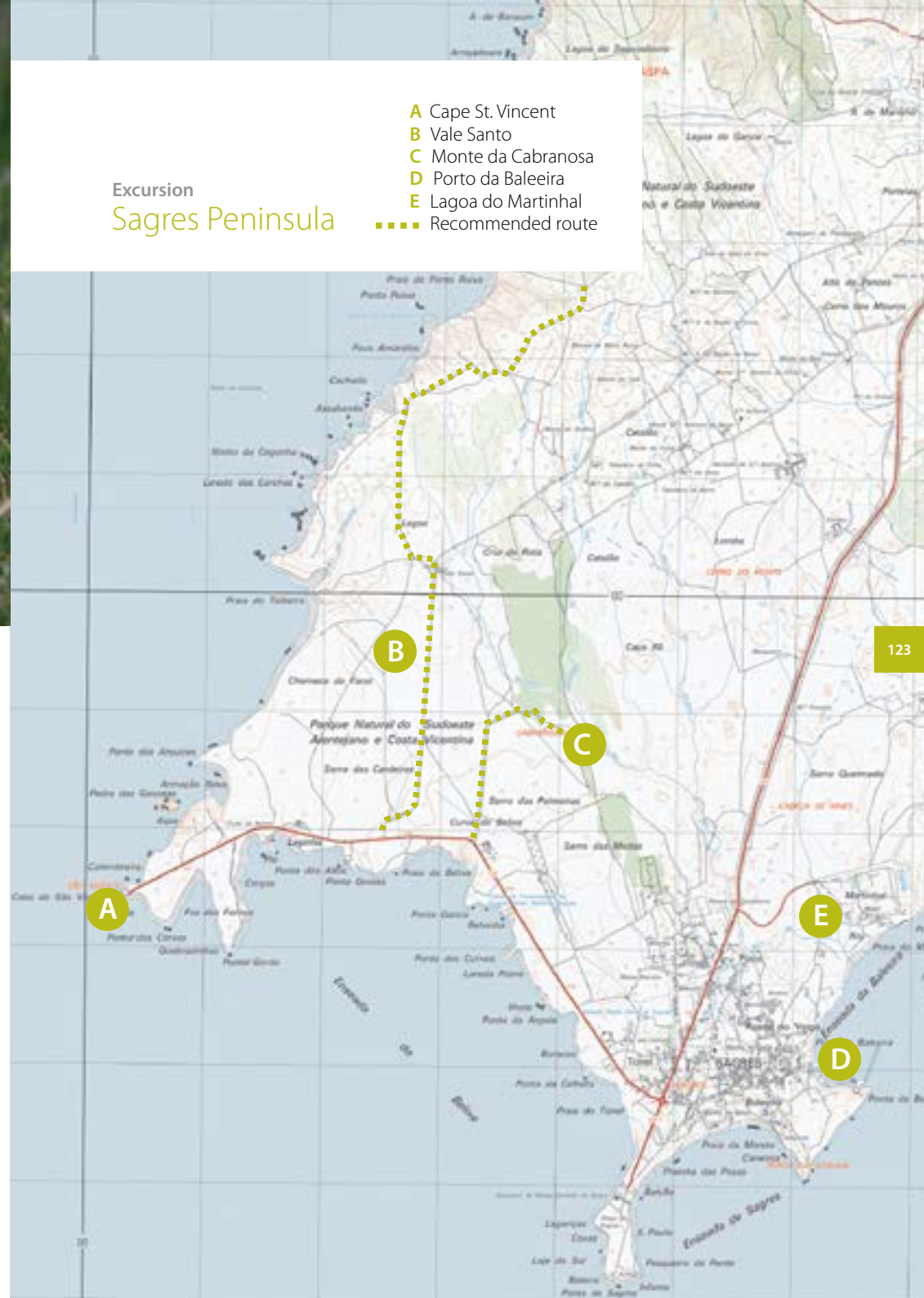
Other places of interest nearby:

west of Vila do Bispo, on the road to Castelejo beach, there is a dense pine forest – Vila do Bispo perimeter forest – with a signposted pedestrian trail and information boards. There is a small lagoon there that attracts many woodland passerines. East of Sagres, near Budens, there is a wetland near the coast called Boca do Rio or Paúl de Budens, with extensive reedbeds, water channels and grassland areas.

Notes: the suggested itinerary should be begun early in the morning, in particular if you wish to observe seabirds and waterfowl. There is usually a strong wind in this area.

Excursion Sagres Peninsula

- A Cape St. Vincent
- B Vale Santo
- C Monte da Cabranosa
- D Porto da Baleeira
- E Lagoa do Martinhal
- Recommended route



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8. Serra de
Monchique

Serra de Monchique

Protection status

Monchique Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area for Birds (Natura 2000).

Excursion

Fóia

A

Excursion

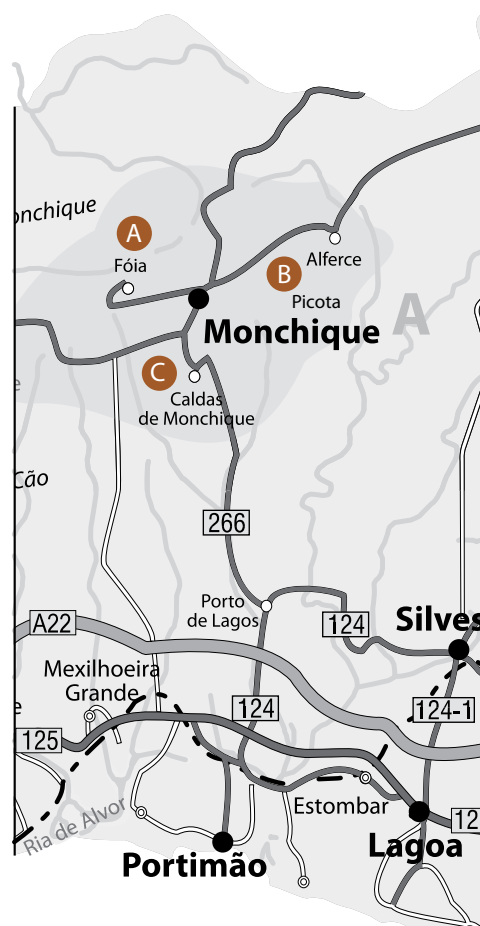
Picota

B

Excursion

Caldas de Monchique

C



Description

The Serra de Monchique is the highest point of the Algarve, rising to 905 metres. The micro-climate of this area, together with its unusual geology, make this mountain chain a very special place, leading to its inclusion in the European network of forest "hotspots". Cork oak and eucalyptus forest cover much of the region, interspersed with agricultural smallholdings around the villages. The relief is very tortuous, with numerous valleys and deep ravines flowing with watercourses lined by riverine woodland including ash, willow and alder. The presence of water in this mountainous area is a constant feature, resulting in very varied, lush, dense woodland consisting of oak, chestnut, tall strawberry trees, the rare European holly, rhododendrons, etc. Above approximately 800 metres, the vegetation is mostly shrubby, with numerous rocky outcrops. The natural wealth of this mountain area is reflected mainly in its flora and geology, but also in its fauna, especially large eagles such as Bonelli's Eagle.

Avifauna

The ornithological importance of the Serra de Monchique is reflected mainly in the recent occurrence of large eagles such as the Golden Eagle – which nested here until the mid-1990s and still is seen with some regularity in the autumn – and Bonelli's Eagle, whose population here is now among the most important in Portugal. In addition to these, Monchique also has important populations of the Short-toed Eagle and the Eurasian Eagle Owl. The dense woodland and rocky outcrops attract many other birds, particularly passerines such as the Cirl Bunting, Rock Bunting, Blue Rock-thrush, Iberian Chiffchaff, Dartford Warbler and Wryneck, among others. In the rocky crags at the summit of Fóia and Picota, the Alpine Accentor occurs regularly in winter and, during the migrations, the considerably rarer Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush.



Cork oak (*Quercus suber*)

Excursion

Serra de Monchique

Code: MC1

Coordinates: 8°35'32.73"W, 37°18'56.61"N

Municipality: Monchique

Description: mountainous area with many steep slopes, peaks and ravines, watercourses and dense riverine woodland. Cork oak and eucalyptus forest predominate. Rocky outcrops of nepheline syenite, a granite typical of Monchique, on the main peaks (Fóia and Picota).

How to get there: take the Via do Infante almost to Portimão and turn off at the sign for Portimão and Monchique. Continue in the direction of Monchique on the main road into the town.

Itinerary: Monchique, Fóia, Picota, Caldas de Monchique.

When to visit: spring and autumn.

Duration of visit: 3-4 hours.



Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*)



Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

Most interesting species

Season

Bonelli's Eagle (*Aquila fasciata*)

all year round

Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)

spring and autumn

Eurasian Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

autumn

Dartford Warbler (*Sylvia undata*)

all year round

Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*)

spring

Common Firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

winter

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)

winter

Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*)

all year round

Rock Bunting (*Emberiza cia*)

all year round

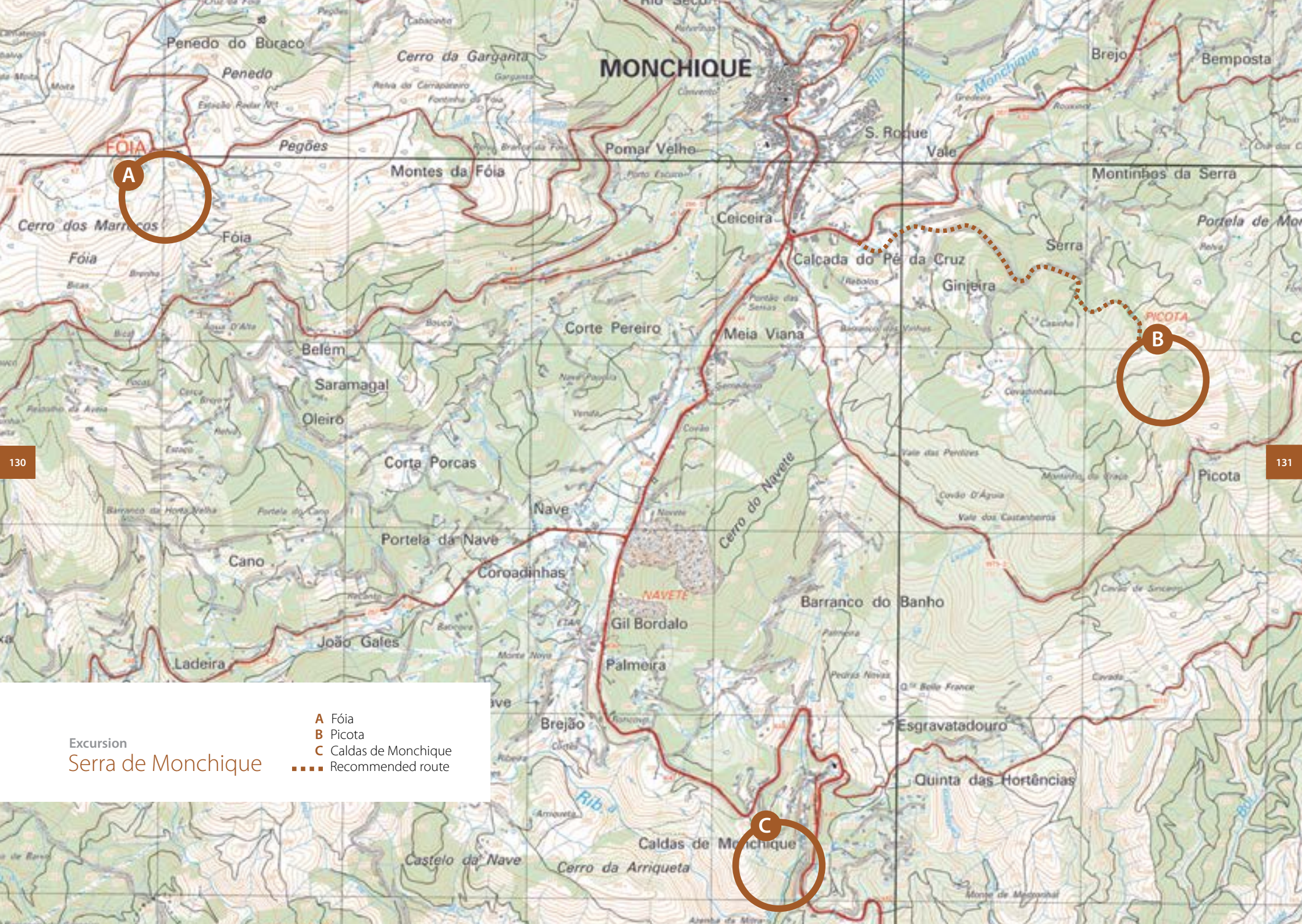
Signs and other aids: none

Special features: easily accessible area, although rather distant and involves driving over winding roads. Excellent views of the surrounding mountains can be had both from Fóia and Picota. Around Monchique there are dense cork oak forests very rich in woodland birds. On the rocky outcrops of Fóia some less common birds such as the Alpine

Accentor and the Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush appear regularly in autumn and winter.

Other places of interest nearby: Foz da Ribeira da Amoreira, at Aljezur, to observe waders and herons.

Notes: the weather can be unsettled or inclement, with much cloud and rain due to the altitude. Come prepared for this. Best visited early in the morning.



Excursion
Serra de Monchique

- A Fóia
- B Picota
- C Caldas de Monchique
- Recommended route



9. Serra do Caldeirão

Serra do Caldeirão

Protection status

Serra de Caldeirão Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area for Birds (Natura 2000).

Excursion

Fonte da Benémola

A

Excursion

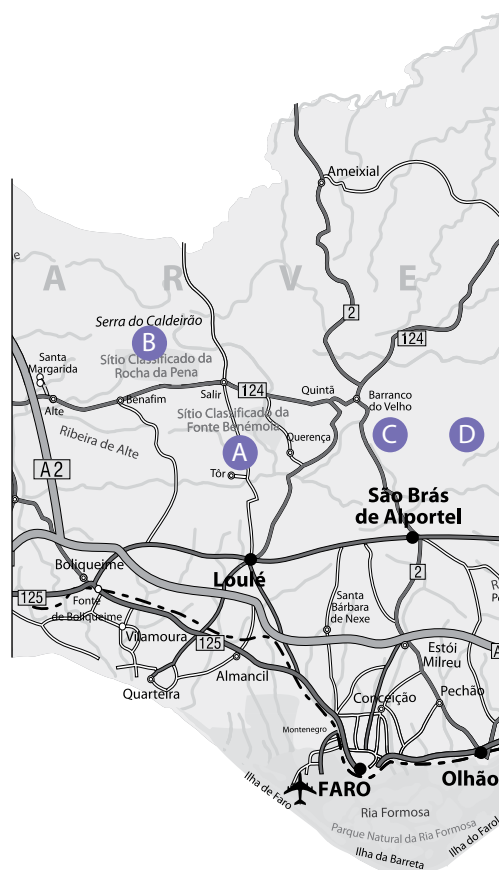
Rocha da Pena

B

Excursion

Barranco do Velho
to Parizes

C D



Description

The Caldeirão massif extends from the Algarve to the Lower Alentejo, covering a huge area. The relief consists of numerous gently rounded peaks and valleys in which rise some of the region's main rivers such as the Vascão, Odeleite and Algibre. The plant cover is mainly cistus and cork oak forest which, on the north-facing slopes – the shady side – is denser and richer due to the greater presence of shrubby vegetation consisting of strawberry trees, heather, Spanish lavender, etc. The human presence consists of various villages scattered across the mountains, surrounded by agricultural smallholdings which are still worked, as well as grazing land and beekeeping. However, it is the cork oak forest in particular that is of greatest value to this region. Apart from their important economic activity – cork production – the cork oak forests, formerly mixed with English oaks, form an extremely attractive landscape in which live many tens of species of woodland fauna including rare mammals such as the Iberian lynx and the wildcat, together with many birds.

Avifauna

The Serra do Caldeirão has a rich community of woodland birds, with over 150 species including various raptors such as Bonelli's Eagle, the Short-toed Eagle, the Northern Goshawk and the Eurasian Eagle Owl, as well as numerous passerines. These include in particular the Western Orphean Warbler, Moustached Grass-Warbler, Dartford Warbler, Wryneck, Common Redstart, Black-eared Wheatear, Golden Oriole and European Bee-eater, which nest at various sites in this massif. During migration and in winter the Eurasian Griffon Vulture is frequently seen in this area, generally in flocks – sometimes numbering hundreds of individuals – together with various wintering species such as the Eurasian Bullfinch, Dunnock and Ring Ouzel.



Barranco do Velho



Excursion

Fonte da Benémola

Code: LL5

Coordinates: 8°0'15.85"W, 37°11'55.65"N

Municipality: Loulé

Description: river valley at the boundary between the Barrocal and the Serra. Water is a permanent feature thanks to numerous springs and dams. Dense riverine vegetation, with luxuriant ash and willow trees, reedbeds and numerous agricultural smallholdings along the banks.

How to get there: from Loulé, follow the EN 2 towards Ameixial. Turn off to Querença, pass through the village and then follow signs for Fonte da Benémola Classified Site.

Itinerary: park at the entrance to this protected area. Follow the circular



Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*)

pedestrian trail, which is signposted. Stop at various places along the way.

When to visit: spring.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.



European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

Most interesting species

Season

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)

all year round

Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

spring and summer

Eurasian Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*)

all year round

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

all year round

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

spring and summer

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)

spring and summer

Iberian Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus ibericus*)

spring

Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*)

spring

Golden Oriole (*Oriolus oriolus*)

spring

Blue Rock-thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)

all year round

Crested Tit (*Parus cristatus*)

all year round

Signs and other aids: the pedestrian trail is signposted and there are information boards about the local fauna and flora.

Special features: a very attractive and easily accessible site, easy to tour on foot or by bicycle. Large presence of riverine and woodland birds. Possibility of observing all the species of woodpeckers occurring in Portugal. Frequent occurrence of the Eurasian Eagle Owl, sometimes detectable by its call.

Other places of interest nearby: Rocha da Pena.

Notes: it is advisable to visit early in the morning, when bird activity is at its greatest. A visit to this site requires some experience in observing and identifying birds and in particular their calls, as they are often not visible.

Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo daurica*)





Excursion

Rocha da Pena

Code: LL6
Coordinates: 8°6'5.95"W, 37°15'1.25"N
Municipality: Loulé
Description: rocky plateau lying between the Barrocal and the Serra do Caldeirão. Characterised by rock faces, high bare cliffs and dense Mediterranean scrub forest on the summits. To the south, the landscape is of rainfed orchards, especially carob trees, and to the north, cork oak forest, farmland and grassland.
How to get there: from Loulé, follow the EN 525 towards Salir. From there continue in the direction of Alte and after 4 km, turn right for Rocha da Pena.
Itinerary: at the base of this rocky massif there is a café, where a circular pedestrian



Blue Rock-thrush (*Monticola solitarius*)

trail begins. This crosses the whole of the plateau and allows good views of this site and the surrounding countryside.
When to visit: autumn and winter.
Duration of visit: 2 hours.

| Most interesting species | Season |
|--|-------------------|
| Bonelli's Eagle (<i>Aquila fasciata</i>) | all year round |
| Short-toed Eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>) | spring |
| Eurasian Griffon Vulture (<i>Gyps fulvus</i>) | autumn |
| Eurasian Eagle Owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>) | winter |
| Pallid Swift (<i>Apus pallidus</i>) | spring and summer |
| Blue Rock-thrush (<i>Monticola solitarius</i>) | all year round |
| Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) | all year round |

Signs and other aids: the pedestrian trail is signposted and there are information boards about the local fauna and flora.
Special features: elevated rocky area with excellent views over the Serra do Caldeirão. Interesting place to visit during the autumn migration due to the frequent passage of Eurasian Griffon

Vultures and other raptors such as the Short-toed Eagle and other birds such as the Alpine Swift.
Other places of interest nearby: Serra do Caldeirão
Notes: advisable to visit early in the morning, when bird activity is at its greatest.

Excursion
Rocha da Pena

■ B Rocha da Pena
■ Recommended route



Rocha da Pena

Excursion

Barranco do Velho to Parizes

Code: LL6 / SB1

Coordinates: 7°56'14.96"W, 37°14'13.02"N (Barranco do Velho) and 7°51'9.51"W, 37°14'51.91"N (Parizes)

Municipality: Loulé and S. Brás de Alportel

Description: mountainous area, with dense cork oak forests and shrubby vegetation consisting of strawberry trees, heather and cistus. The human presence is limited to small isolated villages in the mountains, where some subsistence agriculture is still practised.

How to get there: from Loulé, follow the EN 124 towards Ameixial. Continue in the

direction of Barranco do Velho and make a stop in this village. Afterwards, return to the EN 124 and continue towards S. Brás de Alportel. Shortly after the crossroads, turn left for the villages of Javali and Parizes.

Itinerary: village of Barranco do Velho: iron-rich spring, area around the church and viewpoint at the water tower. Village of Parizes: itinerary around the village, traditional smallholdings. Cabeça do Velho and Ameixerinhas viewpoints.

When to visit: spring and autumn.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.



Short-toed Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)

| Most interesting species | Season |
|--|-------------------|
| Bonelli's Eagle (<i>Aquila fasciata</i>) | all year round |
| Short-toed Eagle (<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>) | spring |
| Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>) | autumn |
| European Green Woodpecker (<i>Picus viridis</i>) | all year round |
| Blue Rock-thrush (<i>Monticola solitarius</i>) | all year round |
| Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>) | all year round |
| Subalpine Warbler (<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>) | all year round |
| Western Orphean Warbler (<i>Sylvia hortensis</i>) | spring |
| Common Redstart (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>) | spring |
| Black-eared Wheatear (<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>) | spring |
| Golden Oriole (<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>) | spring and summer |
| Rock Bunting (<i>Emberiza cia</i>) | all year round |

Signs and other aids: the pedestrian trails are signposted and there are information boards about the local fauna and flora.

Special features: very interesting place for observing migratory passerines during spring such as the Subalpine Warbler, the Common Redstart and the Black-eared Wheatear. Area of occurrence of Bonelli's Eagle, which is relatively easy to observe in this area. Around the villages it is very easy to see the Red-rumped Swallow and the Blue Rock-thrush nesting in old and abandoned buildings.

Other places of interest nearby: Ameixial and the Ribeira do Vascão.

Notes: advisable to visit early in the morning, when bird activity is at its greatest. Visiting this area requires a certain amount of walking in order to reach the different places.

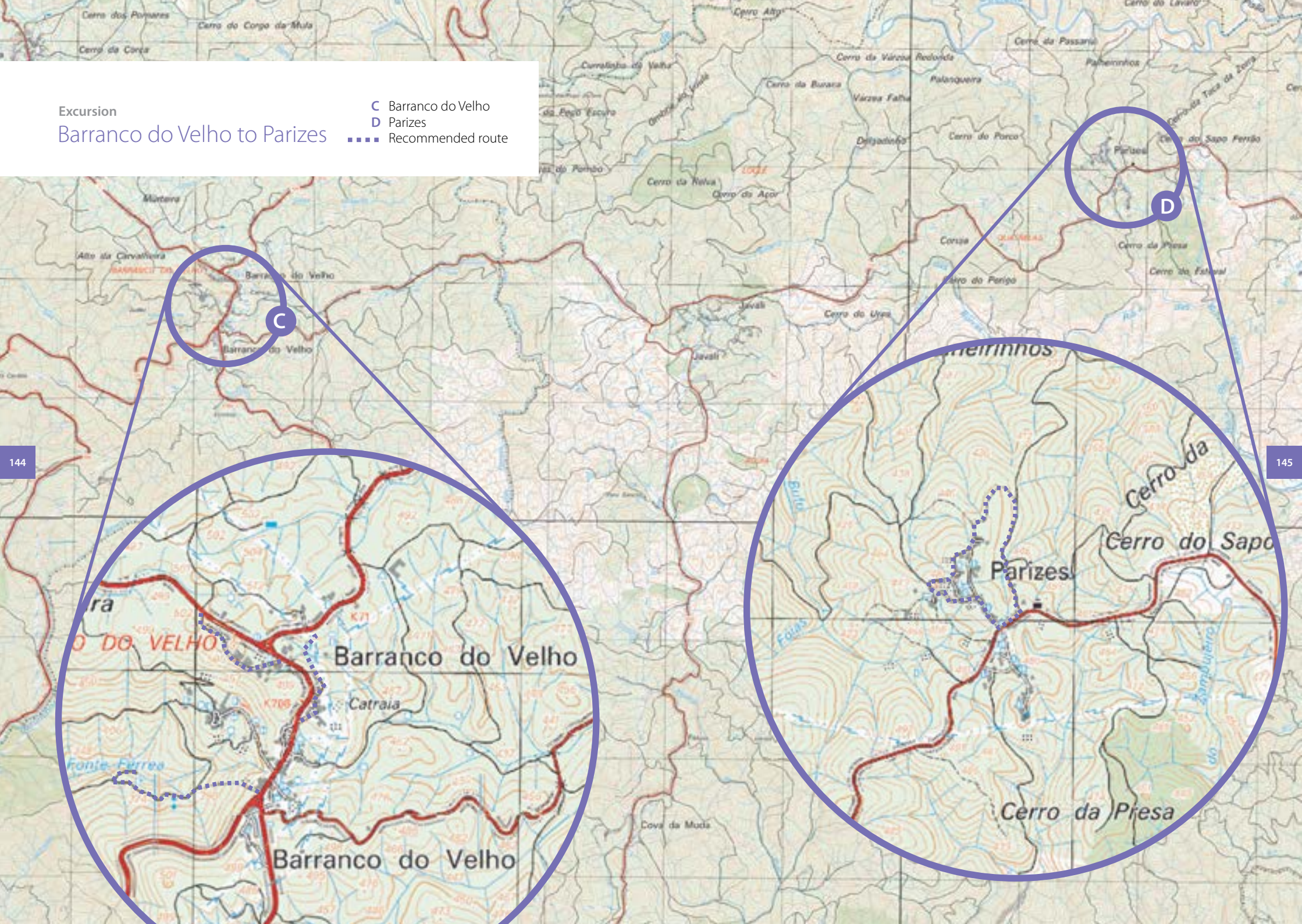
Excursion

Barranco do Velho to Parizes

C Barranco do Velho

D Parizes

Recommended route



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10. Algarve coast
Boat trips

10.

Algarve coast

Boat trips

Excursion

Fuseta

A

Excursion

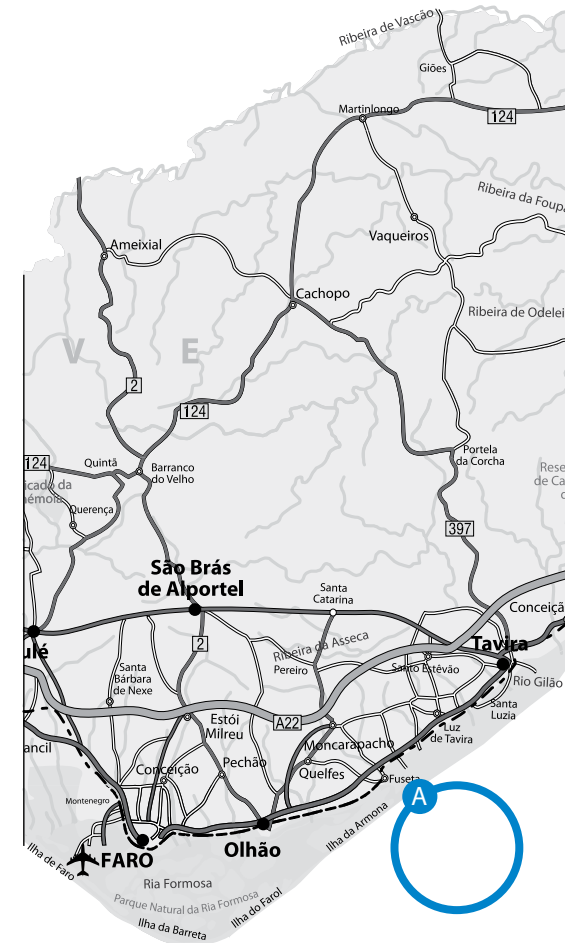
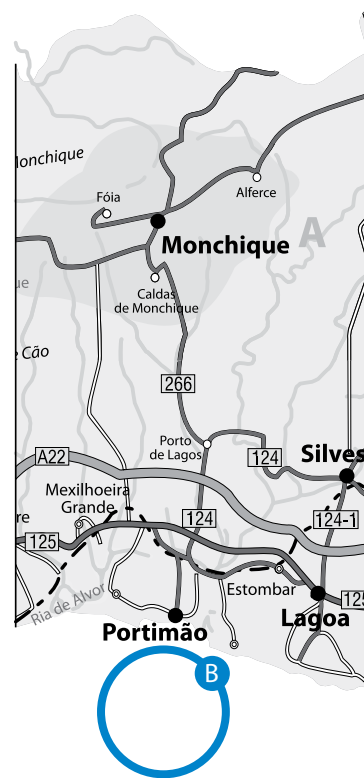
Portimão

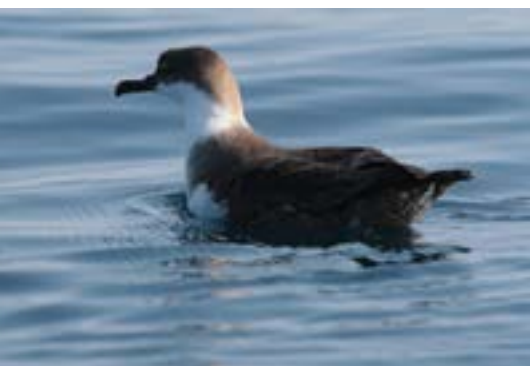
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Excursion

Sagres

C





Great Shearwater (Puffinus gravis)

Description

The Algarve coast and the inshore area constitute a remarkably varied landscape and seascape that encourage the presence of a great variety of fauna and flora. The sea bottom off the coast is a narrow, shallow continental shelf, interrupted by underwater morphological features – canyons or trenches – such as at Faro, Portimão and Cape St. Vincent, which attain depths of several hundred metres. On the slopes of these features and in particular at the edge of the continental shelf, the ocean currents stir up sediments and organic matter, attracting numerous animal species including seabirds and dolphins, which congregate there to feed.

Avifauna

The Algarve coast is visited by large numbers of seabirds during their migrations and in winter. During these periods, more than 20 species can be observed here, including some that are very rare and endangered, such as the Balearic Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Long-tailed Jaeger and Atlantic Puffin. Among the more common species, Cory's Shearwater and the Northern Gannet are those that pass here in larger numbers, the latter numbering thousands of individuals. These seabirds can be observed from the land, although with difficulty, or on specialised boat trips that enable very close contact. In feeding areas and around fishing boats at sea, the concentrations of these birds can be very large, making them an excellent attraction for those interested in observing and photographing them.

Boat trips

There are several places along the Algarve coast where, for natural or logistical reasons, observing seabirds is very interesting and fruitful. The existence of particular underwater formations or companies specialising in birdwatching boat trips are among these aspects. Although, in general, these species can be observed almost everywhere along the coast, we list below the most interesting places where specialised boat trips to observe and photograph these birds are more easily available.

Description: in these places, the presence of submarine canyons or artificial structures such as tuna traps off the Ria Formosa are reasons for the more abundant presence of seabirds. At Sagres, on the other hand, the proximity of the west coast is a reason for the greater presence of these birds, especially during their north-south post-nuptial migration, since it lies in their migration corridor.

When to visit: summer, autumn and winter.

Duration of visit: 2-5 hours (varies from place to place).

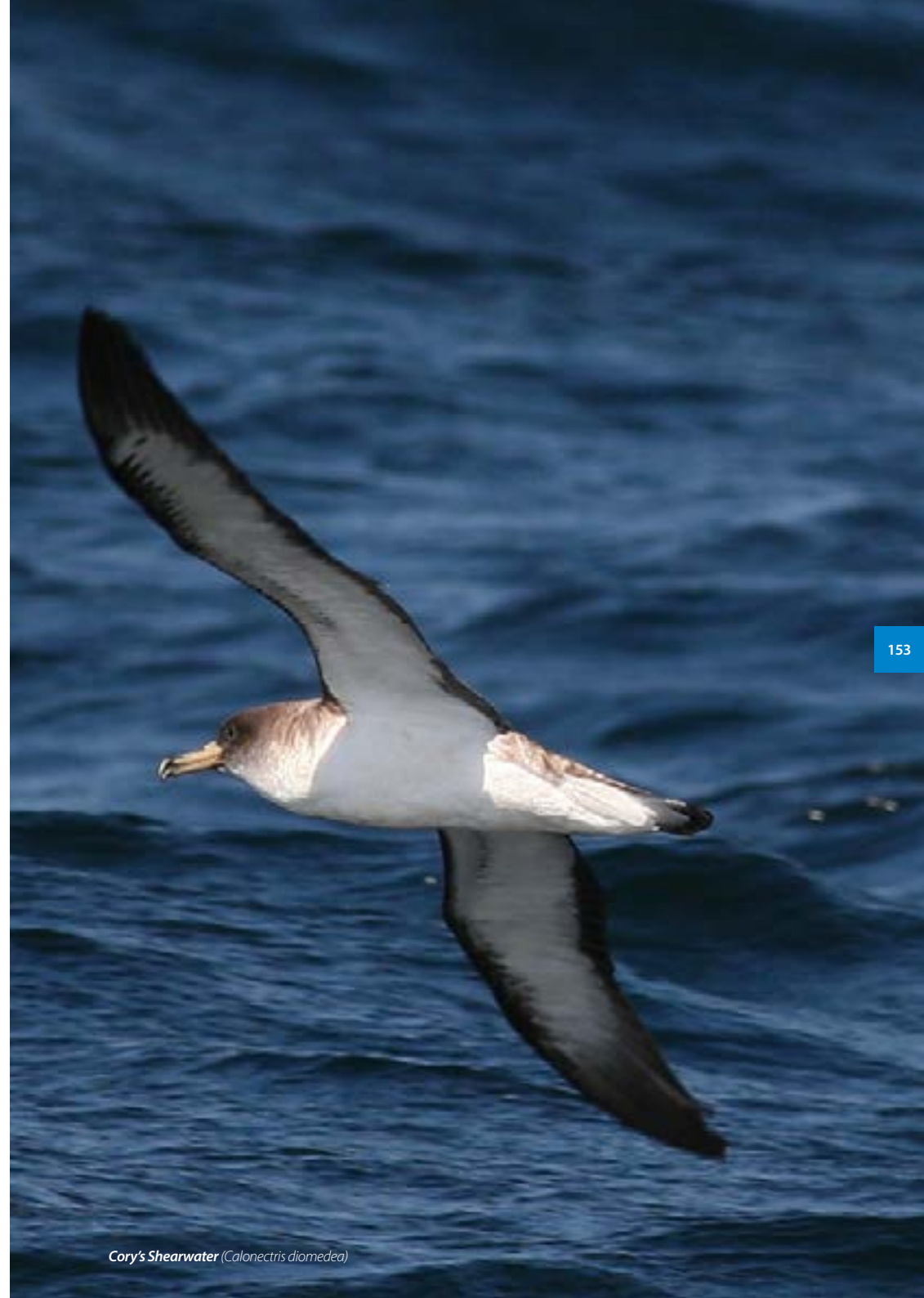


Observing and photographing seabirds



Balearic Shearwater (*Puffinus mauretanicus*)

| Most interesting species | Season |
|---|---------------------------|
| Great Shearwater (<i>Puffinus gravis</i>) | summer and autumn |
| Balearic Shearwater (<i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i>) | all year round |
| Sooty Shearwater (<i>Puffinus griseus</i>) | summer and autumn |
| Wilson's Storm Petrel (<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>) | summer and autumn |
| European Storm Petrel (<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>) | summer, autumn and winter |
| Leach's Storm Petrel (<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>) | winter |
| Pomarine Skua (<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>) | autumn |
| Long-tailed Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>) | autumn |
| Parasitic Jaeger (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>) | autumn and winter |
| Great Skua (<i>Stercorarius skua</i>) | spring, autumn and winter |
| Razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>) | winter |
| Atlantic Puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>) | winter |
| Audouin's Gull (<i>Larus audouinii</i>) | all year round |
| Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) | autumn |
| Arctic Tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>) | autumn |
| Grey Phalarope (<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>) | autumn |



Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*)

Special features: birdwatching boat trips are dependent on the degree of choppiness of the sea. However, they can be very fruitful as they allow observation very close to the boat. For this reason they are very interesting for bird photography enthusiasts. The best time of year for boat trips is in summer and autumn (June to November). In winter the choppiness of the sea makes boat trips difficult or impossible.

Notes: the presence of fishing boats at sea can result in huge numbers of seabirds around them, especially when the fish are being hauled in or gutted ready for boxing. Visits should be made early in the morning. After storms, these birds can be successfully observed from the land.



Observing seabirds



Systematic List of **Bird Species** occurring in the Algarve

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Systematic List of **Bird Species** occurring in the Algarve

Phenology (Phen):

Mig – Migratory
Res – Resident
Win – Wintering
Sum – Summer visitor (breeding and migratory)

Abundance (Abund.)

Rar – rarity (<5 records in the last 5 years)
R – Rare (< 5 records a year)
Com(-) – Uncommon
Com – Common
Com(+) – Very common

Location:

1. Lower Guadiana
2. Castro Marim
3. Ria Formosa
4. Coastal Lagoons
5. Lagoa dos Salgados
6. Arade and Alvor
7. Sagres
8. Serra de Monchique
9. Serra do Caldeirão
10. Algarve Marine Zone



Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*)

| Scientific Name | Portuguese Common Name | English Common Name | Phen | Abund | Location | ✓ |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|-------|-----------|---|
| <i>Prunella collaris</i> | Ferreirinha-alpina | Alpine Accentor | Win | R | 7 | |
| <i>Apus melba</i> | Andorinhão-real | Alpine Swift | Sum | Com | 5,6,7,9 | |
| <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> | Tarambola-americana | American Golden Plover | - | Rar | 5 | |
| <i>Sterna paradisaea</i> | Gaivina do ártico | Arctic Tern | Mig | R | 10 | |
| <i>Fratercula arctica</i> | Papagaio-do-mar | Atlantic Puffin | Mig | R | 7,1 | |
| <i>Larus audouinii</i> | Gaivota-de-Audouin | Audouin's Gull | Res | Com | 2,3,5 | |
| <i>Porzana pusilla</i> | Franga-d'água-pequena | Baillon's Crake | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Geronticus eremita (R)</i> | Íbis-pelado | Bald Ibis | - | Rar | | |
| <i>Puffinus mauretanicus</i> | Pardela Balear | Balearic Shearwater | Mig | | 10 | |
| <i>Tyto alba</i> | Coruja-das-torres | Barn Owl | Res | Com | 3,4,7 | |
| <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | Andorinha-das-chaminés | Barn Swallow | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | Fuselo | Bar-tailed Godwit | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,6 | |
| <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> | Abetouro | Bittern | - | Rar | 3,4 | |
| <i>Milvus migrans</i> | Milhafre-preto | Black Kite | Sum | Com | 3,7 | |
| <i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i> | Rabirruivo | Black Redstart | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | Cegonha-preta | Black Stork | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | Gaivina-preta | Black Tern | Mig | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | Toutinegra-de-barrete | Blackcap | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | Goraz | Black-capped Night-Heron | Mig | Com- | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Oenanthe hispanica</i> | Chasco-castanho | Black-eared Wheatear | Sum | Com | 1,8 | |
| <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | Gaivota-tridáctila | Black-legged Kittiwake | Win | R | 10 | |
| <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | Mergulhão-de-pescoço-preto | Black-necked Grebe | Win | Com- | 2,3,4 | |
| <i>Elanus caeruleus</i> | Peneireiro-cinzento | Black-shouldered Kite | Win | Com | 2,3,4,6,7 | |
| <i>Limosa limosa</i> | Maçarico-de-bico-direito | Black-tailed Godwit | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | Pernilongo | Black-winged Stilt | Res | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Monticola solitarius</i> | Melro-azul | Blue Rock-thrush | Res | Com | 1,7,8,9 | |
| <i>Parus caeruleus</i> | Chapim-azul | Blue Tit | Res | Com | 3,4,6,8,9 | |
| <i>Luscinia svecica</i> | Pisco-de-peito-azul | Bluethroat | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Larus philadelphia</i> | Gaivota de Bonaparte | Bonaparte's Gull | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Aquila fasciata</i> | Águia de Bonelli | Bonelli's Eagle | Res | Com- | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i> | Felosa-de-papo-branco | Bonelli's Warbler | Mig | Com- | 3,7,8,9 | |
| <i>Aquila pennata</i> | Águia-calçada | Booted Eagle | Mig | Com | 3,7 | |
| <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> | Tentilhão-montês | Brambling | Mig/Win | R | 6,7,9 | |
| <i>Branta bernicla</i> | Ganso-de-faces-pretas | Brent Goose | Win | R | 3 | |
| <i>Tryngites subruficollis</i> | Pilrito-canela | Buff-breasted Sandpiper | - | Rar | 4,7 | |
| <i>Corvus corone</i> | Gralha-preta | Carrión Crow | Res | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Sterna caspia</i> | Garajau-grande | Caspian Tern | Mig/Win | Com- | 2,3,5 | |
| <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | Carraceiro | Cattle Egret | Res | Com+ | all | |
| <i>Cettia cetti</i> | Rouxinol-bravo | Cetti's Warbler | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | Tentilhão | Chaffinch | Res | Com | 3,4,8,9 | |
| <i>Emberiza cirius</i> | Escrevedeira-de-garganta-preta | Cirl Bunting | Res | Com- | 8,9 | |
| <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | Rola-turca | Collared Dove | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Glareola pratincola</i> | Perdiz-do-mar | Collared Pratincole | Sum | Com | 2,3 | |
| <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | Guincho | Common Black-headed Gull | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |

✓ Species observed

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------|-----------|---|
| <i>Buteo buteo</i> | Águia-d'asa-redonda | Common Buzzard | Res | Com | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | Felosinha | Common Chiffchaff | Win | Com | all | |
| <i>Fulica atra</i> | Galeirão | Common Coot | Res | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Grus grus</i> | Grou | Common Crane | - | Rar | 5 | |
| <i>Galerida cristata</i> | Cotovia-de-poupa | Common Crested Lark | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | Perna-verde | Common Greenshank | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Uria aalge</i> | Airo | Common Guillemot | - | Rar | 10 | |
| <i>Larus canus</i> | Gavota-comum | Common Gull | Win | Com- | 3,6 | |
| <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | Peneireiro | Common Kestrel | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Mergus merganser</i> | Merganso-grande | Common Merganser | - | Rar | 6 | |
| <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | Galinha-d'água | Common Moorhen | Res | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | Rouxinol | Common Nightingale | Sum | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Aythya ferina</i> | Zarro-comum | Common Pochard | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5 | |
| <i>Corvus corax</i> | Corvo | Common Raven | Res | Com- | 7,8 | |
| <i>Tringa totanus</i> | Perna-vermelha | Common Redshank | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | Rabirruivo-de-testa-branca | Common Redstart | Sum | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | Borrelho-grande-de-coleira | Common Ringed Plover | Win | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | Maçarico-das-rochas | Common Sandpiper | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Melanitta nigra</i> | Negrola | Common Scoter | Win | Com | 10 | |
| <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | Pato-branco | Common Shelduck | Res | Com | 2,3 | |
| <i>Gallinago gallinago</i> | Narceja | Common Snipe | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | Cartaxo | Common Stonechat | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Apus apus</i> | Andorinhão-preto | Common Swift | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | Gavina | Common Tern | Mig | Com+ | 2,3,5 | |
| <i>Emberiza calandra</i> | Trigueirão | Corn Bunting | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Crex crex</i> | Codornizão | Corn Crane | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Calonectris diomedea</i> | Cagarra | Cory's Shearwater | Mig | Com | 10 | |
| <i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i> | Andorinha-das-rochas | Crag Martin | Res | Com | 1,5,7 | |
| <i>Cursorius cursor</i> | Corredor | Cream-coloured Courser | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Parus cristatus</i> | Chapim-de-poupa | Crested Tit | Res | Com | 4,8,9 | |
| <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | Cuco | Cuckoo | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Numenius arquata</i> | Maçarico-real | Curlew | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,6 | |
| <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Pilrito-de-bico-comprido | Curlew Sandpiper | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Sylvia undata</i> | Toutinegra-do-mato | Dartford Warbler | Res | Com | 1,7,8,9 | |
| <i>Calidris alpina</i> | Pilrito-de-peito-preto | Dunlin | Mig/Win | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Prunella modularis</i> | Ferreirinha | Dunnock | Win | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Neophron percnopterus</i> | Britango | Egyptian Vulture | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Falco eleonorae</i> | Falcão-de-rainha | Eleanor's Falcon | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Aegypius monachus</i> | Abutre-preto | Eurasian Black Vulture | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Turdus merula</i> | Melro | Eurasian Blackbird | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> | Dom-fafe | Eurasian Bullfinch | Win | Com- | 8,9 | |
| <i>Charadrius morinellus</i> | Borrelho-ruivo | Eurasian Dotterel | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Bubo bubo</i> | Bufo-real | Eurasian Eagle Owl | Res | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> | Tarambola-dourada | Eurasian Golden Plover | Win | Com | 2,3,5,6 | |

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| <i>Gyps fulvus</i> | Grifo | Eurasian Griffon Vulture | Mig | Com- | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | Ógea | Eurasian Hobby | Mig | Com- | 3,7 | |
| <i>Corvus monedula</i> | Gralha-de-nuca-cinzenta | Eurasian Jackdaw | Res | Com | 6,7 | |
| <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | Gaio | Eurasian Jay | Res | Com | 1,3,4,8,9 | |
| <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | Guarda-rios | Eurasian Kingfisher | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | Pintarroxo | Eurasian Linnet | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | Laverca | Eurasian Skylark | Win | Com | all | |
| <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | Colhereiro | Eurasian Spoonbill | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | Papa-ratos | Eurasian Squacco Heron | Mig | Com- | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Anas crecca</i> | Marrequinha | Eurasian Teal | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Burhinus oedipnemos</i> | Alcarvão | Eurasian Thick-knee | Res | Com | 2,3,7 | |
| <i>Anas penelope</i> | Piadeira | Eurasian Wigeon | Win | Com | 3 | |
| <i>Merops apiaster</i> | Abelharuco | European Bee-eater | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | Pintassilgo | European Goldfinch | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Carduelis chloris</i> | Verdilhão | European Greenfinch | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | Noitibó-cinzento | European Nightjar | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i> | Papa-moscas | European Pied Flycatcher | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | Rolieiro | European Roller | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Serinus serinus</i> | Milheirinha | European Serin | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i> | Galheta | European Shag | Res | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Carduelis spinus</i> | Lugre | European Siskin | Win | Com | all | |
| <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> | Alma-de-mestre | European Storm Petrel | Mig | | 10 | |
| <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | Zarro-castanho | Ferruginous Duck | Win/Mig | R | 4,5 | |
| <i>Turdus pilaris</i> | Tordo-zornal | Fieldfare | Win | Com- | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i> | Estrelinha-real | Firecrest | Win | Com | 3,8,9 | |
| <i>Anas strepera</i> | Frisada | Gadwall | Res | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Sylvia borin</i> | Toutinegra-das-figueiras | Garden Warbler | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Anas querquedula</i> | Marreco | Garganey | Mig | Com- | 3,5 | |
| <i>Larus hyperboreus</i> | Gaivotão-branco | Glaucous Gull | - | Rar | 6,7 | |
| <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> | Maçarico-preto | Glossy Ibis | Win | Com | 3,5 | |
| <i>Regulus regulus</i> | Estrelinha-de-poupa | Goldcrest | Win | R | 3,9 | |
| <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | Águia-real | Golden Eagle | Mig | R | 7,9 | |
| <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | Papa-figos | Golden Oriole | Sum | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Locustella naevia</i> | Cigarrinha-malhada | Grasshopper Warbler | Mig | Com- | 3,4 | |
| <i>Otis tarda</i> | Abetarda | Great Bustard | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | Corvo-marinho | Great Cormorant | Win | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | Mergulhão-de-crista | Great Crested Grebe | Res | Com | 2,3 | |
| <i>Egretta alba</i> | Garça-branca-grande | Great Egret | Win | R | 3 | |
| <i>Gavia immer</i> | Mobelha-grande | Great Northern Diver | - | Rar | 10 | |
| <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | Rouxinol-grande-dos-caniços | Great Reed Warbler | Sum | Com | 2,3 | |
| <i>Puffinus gravis</i> | Pardela-de-barrete | Great Shearwater | Mig | | 10 | |
| <i>Catharacta skua</i> | Alcaide | Great Skua | Mig/Win | Com | 10 | |
| <i>Clamator glandarius</i> | Cuco-rabilongo | Great Spotted Cuckoo | Sum | Com- | 2 | |
| <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> | Pica-pau-malhado | Great Spotted Woodpecker | Res | Com | 1,3,4,8,9 | |

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| <i>Parus major</i> | Chapim-real | Great Tit | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Larus marinus</i> | Gaivotão-real | Greater Black-backed Gull | Win | R | 3,6 | |
| <i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i> | Flamingo | Greater Flamingo | Win | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Aythya marila</i> | Zarro-bastardo | Greater Scaup | - | Rar | 4 | |
| <i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> | Calhandrinha | Greater Short-toed Lark | Sum | Com | 5,7 | |
| <i>Aquila clanga</i> | Águia-malhada | Greater Spotted Eagle | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Tringa ochropus</i> | Maçarico-bique-bique | Green Sandpiper | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | Garça-cinzenta | Grey Heron | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i> | Falaropo-de-bico-grosso | Grey Phalarope | - | Rar | 2,3,7 | |
| <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> | Tarambola-cinzenta | Grey Plover | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | Alvéola-cinzenta | Grey Wagtail | Res | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Anser anser</i> | Ganso-bravo | Greylag Goose | Win | Com- | 2 | |
| <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i> | Tagaz | Gull-billed Tern | Mig | R | 5 | |
| <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | Bico-grossudo | Hawfinch | Res | Com | 1,8 | |
| <i>Circus cyaneus</i> | Tartaranhão-cinzento | Hen Harrier | Win | Com- | 2,3 | |
| <i>Larus argentatus</i> | Gaivota-prateada | Herring Gull | Win | R | 3,6 | |
| <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | Bútio-vespeiro | Honey Buzzard | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Upupa epops</i> | Poupa | Hoopoe | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Podiceps auritus</i> | Mergulhão-de-pescoço-castanho | Horned-grebe | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Delichon urbica</i> | Andorinha-dos-beirais | House Martin | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Passer domesticus</i> | Pardal-dos-telhados | House Sparrow | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Phylloscopus ibericus</i> | Felosinha-ibérica | Iberian Chiffchaff | Sum | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Picus viridis sharpei</i> | Peto-verde | Iberian Green Woodpecker | Res | Com | 1,3,4,8,9 | |
| <i>Cyanopica cooki</i> | Charneco | Iberian Magpie | Res | Com | 1,3,4,8,9 | |
| <i>Larus glaucoideus</i> | Gaivota-branca | Iceland Gull | - | Rar | 6,7 | |
| <i>Hippolais icterina</i> | Felosa-icterina | Icterine Warbler | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> | Narceja-galega | Jack Snipe | Mig/Win | Com+ | 2,3,4 | |
| <i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i> | Borrelho-de-coleira-interrompida | Kentish Plover | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Calidris canutus</i> | Seixoeira | Knot | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,5,6 | |
| <i>Falco biarmicus</i> | Alfaneque | Lanner Falcon | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Larus fuscus</i> | Gaivota d'asa-escura | Lesser Black-backed Gull | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Phoenicopterus minor</i> | Flamingo-anão | Lesser Flamingo | - | Rar | 2 | |
| <i>Falco naumanni</i> | Francelho-das-torres | Lesser Kestrel | Mig | Com- | 1,7 | |
| <i>Calandrella rufescens</i> | Calhadrinha-das-marismas | Lesser Short-toed Lark | Res | Com- | 2 | |
| <i>Aquila pomarina</i> | Águia da Pomerânia | Lesser Spotted Eagle | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> | Pica-pau-malhado-pequeno | Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | Res | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Tringa flavipes</i> | Perna-amarela-pequeno | Lesser Yellowlegs | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | Garçote | Little Bittern | Sum | Com- | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Tetrax tetrax</i> | Sisão | Little Bustard | Res | Com- | 2,7 | |
| <i>Porzana parva</i> | Franga-d'água-bastarda | Little Crake | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Egretta garzetta</i> | Garça-branca | Little Egret | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | Mergulhão-pequeno | Little Grebe | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Larus minutus</i> | Gaivota-pequena | Little Gull | Mig/Win | Com- | 2,3,5,6 | |
| <i>Athene noctua</i> | Mocho-galego | Little Owl | Res | Com | 2,3,5,6,7 | |

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| <i>Charadrius dubius</i> | Borrelho-pequeno-de-coleira | Little Ringed Plover | Sum | Com | 1 | |
| <i>Calidris minuta</i> | Pilrito-pequeno | Little Stint | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Apus affinis</i> | Andorinhão-pequeno | Little Swift | - | Rar | 5 | |
| <i>Sterna albifrons</i> | Chilreta | Little Tern | Sum | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Asio otus</i> | Bufo-pequeno | Long-eared Owl | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Buteo rufinus</i> | Buteo-mourisco | Long-legged Buzzard | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Clangula hyemalis</i> | Pato-rabilongo | Long-tailed Duck | Rar | R | 2,3 | |
| <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> | Moleiro-rabilongo | Long-tailed Skua | Mig | R | 10 | |
| <i>Pica pica</i> | Pega-rabuda | Magpie | Res | Com- | 3 | |
| <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | Pato-real | Mallard | Res | Com+ | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> | Fura-bucho-do-Atlântico | Manx Shearwater | Mig | | 10 | |
| <i>Tringa stagnatilis</i> | Perna-verde-fino | Marsh Sandpiper | - | Rar | 2 | |
| <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | Petinha-dos-prados | Meadow Pipit | Win | Com | all | |
| <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> | Gaivota-de-cabeça-preta | Mediterranean Gull | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Hippolais polyglotta</i> | Felosa-poliglota | Melodious Warbler | Sum | Com | 1,3,8,9 | |
| <i>Falco columbarius</i> | Esmerilhão | Merlin | Mig | R | 3,7 | |
| <i>Turdus viscivorus</i> | Tordoveia | Mistle Thrush | Res | Com | 2,3,4,7 | |
| <i>Circus pygargus</i> | Águia-caçadeira | Montagu's Harrier | Sum | Com | 2 | |
| <i>Phoenicurus moussieri</i> | Rabirruivo-mourisco | Moussier's Redstart | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i> | Felosa-real | Moustached-Warbler | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Cygnus olor</i> | Cisne | Mute Swan | - | Rar | | |
| <i>Morus bassanus</i> | Alcatraz | Northern Gannet | Mig/Win | Com | 10 | |
| <i>Accipiter gentilis</i> | Açor | Northern Goshawk | Res | Com | 7,9 | |
| <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | Abibe | Northern Lapwing | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Anas acuta</i> | Arrabio | Northern Pintail | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5 | |
| <i>Anas clypeata</i> | Pato-trombeteiro | Northern Shoveller | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | Chasco-cinzento | Northern Wheatear | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Emberiza hortulana</i> | Sombria | Ortolan Bunting | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | Águia-pesqueira | Osprey | Win | Com | 2,3,6,7 | |
| <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | Ostraceiro | Oystercatcher | Win | Com | 3,6 | |
| <i>Circus macrourus</i> | Tartaranhão-pálido | Pallid Harrier | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Apus pallidus</i> | Andorinhão-pálido | Pallid Swift | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | Moleiro-pequeno | Parasitic Skua | Mig | Com- | 10 | |
| <i>Calidris melanotos</i> | Pilrito-de-colete | Pectoral Sandpiper | - | Rar | 3 | |
| <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | Falcão-peregrino | Peregrine | Res | Com | 5,7 | |
| <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | Alfaiate | Pied Avocet | Res | Com | 2,3,5 | |
| <i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i> | Moleiro do Ártico | Pomarine Skua | Mig | R | 10 | |
| <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | Garça-vermelha | Purple Heron | Sum | Com | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Calidris maritima</i> | Pilrito-escuro | Purple Sandpiper | Win | R | 3,7 | |
| <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> | Caimão | Purple Swamphen | Res | Com | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | Codorniz | Quail | Res | Com | 1,2,5,7 | |
| <i>Alca torda</i> | Torda-mergulheira | Razorbill | Win | Com | 7,10 | |
| <i>Milvus milvus</i> | Milhafre-real | Red Kite | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i> | Gralha-de-bico-vermelho | Red-billed Cough | Res | Com- | 7 | |

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| <i>Mergus serrator</i> | Merganso | Red-breasted Merganser | Win | R | 3,6 | |
| <i>Ficedula parva</i> | Papa-moscas-real | Red-brested Flycatcher | - | Rar | 6,7 | |
| <i>Netta rufina</i> | Pato-de-bico-vermelho | Red-crested Pochard | Res | Com | 2,3,4 | |
| <i>Falco vespertinus</i> | Falcão-de-patas-vermelhas | Red-footed Falcon | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Fulica cristata</i> | Galeirão-de-crista | Red-knobbed Coot | Win | R | 2,3 | |
| <i>Alectoris rufa</i> | Perdiz | Red-legged Partridge | Res | Com+ | 2,8,9 | |
| <i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i> | Noitibó-de-nuca-vermelha | Red-necked Nightjar | Sum | Com | 3,4,5,7 | |
| <i>Phalaropus lobatus</i> | Falaropo-de-bico-fino | Red-necked Phalarope | - | Rar | 2,3 | |
| <i>Hirundo daurica</i> | Andorinha-dáurica | Red-rumped Swallow | Sum | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Gavia stellata</i> | Mobelha-pequena | Red-throated Diver | - | Rar | 10 | |
| <i>Anthus cervinus</i> | Petinha-de-garganta ruiva | Red-throated Pipit | - | Rar | 2 | |
| <i>Turdus iliacus</i> | Tordo-de-asa-vermelha | Redwing | Win | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> | Escrevedeira-dos-caniços | Reed Bunting | Win | Com- | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | Rouxinol-dos-caniços | Reed Warbler | Sum | Com | 3,4,5 | |
| <i>Anthus richardi</i> | Petinha de Richard | Richard's Pipit | Win | Com- | 5,7 | |
| <i>Turdus torquatus</i> | Melro-de-colar | Ring Ouzel | Mig/Win | Com- | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Larus delawarensis</i> | Gaviota-de-bico-riscado | Ring-billed Gull | - | Rar | 3,5,6 | |
| <i>Aythya collaris</i> | Caturro | Ring-necked Duck | - | Rar | 4,5 | |
| <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | Pisco-de-peito-ruivo | Robin | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Emberiza cia</i> | Cia | Rock Bunting | Res | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Columba livia</i> | Pombo-das-rochas | Rock Dove | Res | Com | 7 | |
| <i>Anthus petrosus</i> | Petinha-das-rochas | Rock Pipit | Mig/Win | R | 7 | |
| <i>Petronia petronia</i> | Pardal-das-rochas | Rock Sparrow | Win | Com- | 1,2,8 | |
| <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> | Pato-de-rabo-alçado-americano | Ruddy Duck | - | Rar | 3,5 | |
| <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> | Pato-canela | Ruddy Shelduck | Win | R | 5,7 | |
| <i>Gyps rueppellii</i> | Grifo-pedrês | Rueppell's Griffon Vulture | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Philomachus pugnax</i> | Combattente | Ruff | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Monticola saxatilis</i> | Melro-das-rochas | Rufous-tailed Rock-thrush | Mig | R | 7,9 | |
| <i>Cercotrichas galactotes</i> | Rouxinol-do-mato | Rufous-tailed Scrub-Robin | Sum | Com- | 1 | |
| <i>Larus sabini</i> | Gaviota de Sabine | Sabine's Gull | Mig | R | 10 | |
| <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus (R)</i> | Íbis-sagrado | Sacred Ibis | - | Rar | 3,5 | |
| <i>Riparia riparia</i> | Andorinha-das-barreiras | Sand Martin | Sum | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Calidris alba</i> | Pilrito-das-praias | Sanderling | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i> | Garajau | Sandwich Tern | Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Sylvia melanocephala</i> | Toutinegra-dos-valados | Sardinian Warbler | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Locustella luscinioides</i> | Cigarrinha-ruiva | Savi's Warbler | Sum | R | 3 | |
| <i>Otus scops</i> | Mocho-d'orelhas | Scop's Owl | Res | Com | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | Felosa-dos-juncos | Sedge Warbler | Mig | Com | 2,3,4,5 | |
| <i>Asio flammeus</i> | Coruja-do-nabal | Short-eared Owl | Mig/Win | Com- | 5,7 | |
| <i>Circaetus gallicus</i> | Águia-cobreira | Short-toed Eagle | Sum | Com | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | Trepadeira | Short-toed Treecreeper | Res | Com | 3,4,6,8,9 | |
| <i>Larus genei</i> | Gaviota-de-bico-fino | Slender-billed Gull | Mig/Win | Com- | 2,3 | Vanellus |
| <i>gregarius</i> | Abibe-sociável | Sociable Lapwing | - | Rar | 3,5 | |
| <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | Tordo-pinto | Song Thrush | Win | Com | all | |

✓ Species observed

| Scientific Name | Portuguese Common Name | English Common Name | Phen | Abund | Location | ✓ |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|---------|-----------|---|
| <i>Puffinus griseus</i> | Pardela-preta | Sooty Shearwater | Mig | | 10 | |
| <i>Lanius meridionalis</i> | Picanço-real | Southern Grey Shrike | Win | Com | 1,2,3,7 | |
| <i>Aquila adalberti</i> | Águia-imperial | Spanish Imperial Eagle | Mig | R | 7 | |
| <i>Passer hispaniolensis</i> | Pardal-espanhol | Spanish Sparrow | Win | Com- | 1,2 | |
| <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | Gavião | Sparrowhawk | Res | Com | 7,8,9 | |
| <i>Sylvia conspicillata</i> | Toutinegra-tomilheira | Spectacled Warbler | Sum | Com- | 2,7 | |
| <i>Sturnus unicolor</i> | Estorninho-preto | Spotless Starling | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Porzana porzana</i> | Franga-d'água | Spotted Crane | Mig | R | 3,5 | |
| <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | Taralhão-cinzento | Spotted Flycatcher | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Tringa erythropus</i> | Perna-vermelha-bastardo | Spotted Redshank | Mig/Win | 2,3 | | |
| <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | Estorninho-malhado | Starling Win | Com- | 2,3,6,7 | | |
| <i>Columba oenas</i> | Seixa | Stock Dove | Mig | Com- | 7 | |
| <i>Sylvia cantillans</i> | Toutinegra-de-bigodes | Subalpine Warbler | Sum | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Melanitta perspicillata</i> | Pato-careto | Surf Scoter | - | Rar | 10 | |
| <i>Strix aluco</i> | Coruja-do-mato | Tawny Owl | Res | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Anthus campestris</i> | Petinha-dos-campos | Tawny Pipit | Sum | Com | 1,7 | |
| <i>Calidris temminckii</i> | Pilrito-de-temminck | Temminck's Stint | Mig/Win | Com- | 2,3 | |
| <i>Galerida theklae</i> | Cotovia-escura | Thekla Lark | Res | Com | 1,2,7,8,9 | |
| <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | Petinha-das-árvores | Tree Pipit | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Passer montanus</i> | Pardal-montês | Tree Sparrow | Res | Com- | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | Negrinha | Tufted Duck | Win | Com | 3,4 | |
| <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | Rola-do-mar | Turnstone | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | Rola-brava | Turtle Dove | Sum | Com | 1,7,8,9 | |
| <i>Anthus spinoletta</i> | Petinha-d'água | Water Pipit | Win | Com | 2,3 | |
| <i>Rallus aquaticus</i> | Frango-d'água | Water Rail | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | Águia-sapeira | Western Marsh Harrier | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Hippoboscus opaca</i> | Felosa-pálida | Western Olivaceous Warbler | - | Rar | 1,7 | |
| <i>Sylvia hortensis</i> | Toutinegra-real | Western Orphean Warbler | Sum | Com- | 8 | |
| <i>Numenius phaeopus</i> | Maçarico-galego | Whimbrel | Mig/Win | Com | 2,3,5,6 | |
| <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | Cartaxo-nortenho | Whinchat | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> | Gavina-dos-paus | Whiskered Tern | Mig | Com- | 5 | |
| <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | Cegonha-branca | White Stork | Res | Com+ | all | |
| <i>Motacilla alba</i> | Alvéola-branca | White Wagtail | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> | Pato-de-rabo-alçado | White-headed Duck | Mig/Win | R | 3,5 | |
| <i>Calidris fuscicollis</i> | Pilrito-de-urupígio-branco | White-rumped Sandpiper | Rar | R | 7 | |
| <i>Apus caffer</i> | Andorinhão-cafre | White-rumped Swift | Sum | Com- | 1 | |
| <i>Sylvia communis</i> | Papa-amoras | Whitethroat | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Montifringilla nivalis</i> | Pardal-alpino | White-winged Snowfinch | - | Rar | 7 | |
| <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | Gavina-d'asa-branca | White-winged Tern | - | Rar | 3,5 | |
| <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | Felosinha-musical | Willow Warbler | Mig | Com | all | |
| <i>Oceanites oceanicus</i> | Casquilho | Wilson's Storm Petrel | Mig | | 10 | |
| <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | Carriça | Winter Wren | Res | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Tringa glareola</i> | Maçarico-bastardo | Wood Sandpiper | Mig | Com- | 3,5 | |
| <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> | Felosa-assobiadeira | Wood Warbler | - | Rar | 7 | |

✓ Species observed

| Scientific Name | Portuguese Common Name | English Common Name | Phen | Abund | Location | ✓ |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|-----------|---|
| <i>Lanius senator</i> | Picanço-barreteiro | Woodchat Shrike | Sum | Com | all | |
| <i>Scolopax rusticola</i> | Galinholá | Woodcock | Win | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Lullula arborea</i> | Cotovia-dos-bosques | Woodlark | Res | Com | 1,2,7,8,9 | |
| <i>Columba palumbus</i> | Pombo-torçaz | Woodpigeon | Res | Com | 1,8,9 | |
| <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | Torçicolo | Wryneck | Sum | Com | 8,9 | |
| <i>Motacilla flava</i> | Alvéola-amarela | Yellow Wagtail | Sum | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i> | Felosa-listada | Yellow-browed Warbler | - | Rar | 7,8 | |
| <i>Larus michahellis</i> | Gaivota-de-patas-amarelas | Yellow-legged Gull | Res | Com | 2,3,4,5,6 | |
| <i>Cisticola juncidis</i> | Fuinha-dos-juncos | Zitting Cisticola | Res | Com | all | |
| Exotic species | | | | | | |
| <i>Estrilda astrild</i> | Bico-de-lacre | Common Waxbill | Res | Com | all | |
| <i>Ploceus melanoccephalus</i> | Tecelão | Black-headed Weaver | Res | Com | 3,4 | |

✓ Species observed

Information source: Aves de Portugal (<http://www.avesdeportugal.info/index.html>)

glossary

Habitat – the physical space and its environmental characteristics that a particular animal or plant species requires to live.

Hide – a raised wooden structure like a cabin designed for watching birds.

Natura 2000 – European network of sites classified under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the main objective of which is to ensure the long-term conservation of plant and animal species and their habitats. It includes two types of sites: Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

Passerines – group of small birds, commonly known as perching birds or songbirds, including sparrows, finches, tits, thrushes, etc.

Rock-dwelling birds – species that use rocky sites for nesting, including cliffs, coastal cliffs and other rocky outcrops.

Waders – aquatic birds of the order *Charadriiformes*, whose way of life is dependent on the existence of areas with mudflats such as estuaries, coastal lagoons, rias or salt pans. They have slender beaks of varying shape and length, allowing them to feed on small animals buried in the mud. Waders include plovers, sandpipers and dunlins, among others.

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