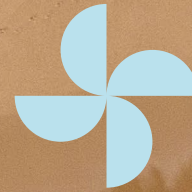
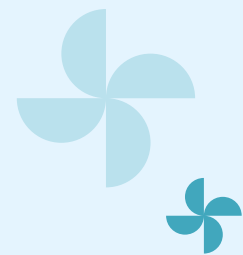


NAUTICAL ALGARVE



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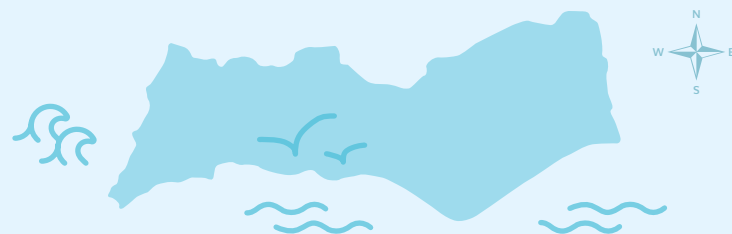
SAILING IN THE ALGARVE



The Algarve's borders are defined by water.

The Seixe, Odelouca and Vascão streams determine the region's northern boundaries; to the east, the River Guadiana delimits the border with Spain; to the west, the luminous southern sun sets amid mists of the wild and cold ocean; to the south, the Atlantic waters soften and become warm, cradled by the proximity of the Mediterranean, sheltered from the northern winds and swells.

Portugal boasts two hundred kilometres of coastline, countless mirrors of fresh and saltwater reservoirs and coastal lagoons, and swirling rivers and streams. It is a paradise for lovers of all types of nautical adventures, who will find Portugal offers experiences tailored to each one's individual needs.



Ria Formosa

Crystal clear waters provide the opportunity to surf the perfect wave, dive into underwater landscapes populated by gardens of Alcyonacea and sunken treasures, or sail upriver to explore the region's ancient capitals.



NATURE IN THE ALGARVE

In the Algarve people enjoy an outdoor lifestyle all year round. The Algarve's mountain ranges protect the region from the harshness of the northern weather; the ocean cools the atmosphere and the sky is the brightest shade of blue... In mainland Portugal's southernmost region, summers are long, winters are mild, the Mediterranean countryside is always green, and the waters, fresh or salty, are warm and light.

The south coast is a playground for smooth sailing, whereas adrenaline is guaranteed on the southwest stretch of coastline thanks to its more tempestuous waters and dramatic physiognomy. The Algarve's vast coves shape some of the finest regatta courses in the world, while the underwater landscape varies between rocky reefs that are hotspots of colour and biodiversity and sandy plains where sunken ships rest.



Ria Formosa

AN ALGARVE FOR ALL

Those arriving by sea will find quays and marinas with excellent infrastructure and services, where they can dock safely and comfortably. For those arriving by land, more than 40 accessible beaches and nautical activity companies await them, ready to welcome people with reduced mobility. Portugal is part of the Tur4all accessible tourism platform (www.tur4all.pt) and the Algarve offers a network of transport, sports and hotel facilities adapted to people with reduced mobility and other specific needs, which asserts the region as a destination that is accessible to all.



Vilamoura Beach

SERVICES TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

You will take to the Algarve like a duck to water. First-rate infrastructure - nautical stations, marinas, ports and recreational docks - and superior services for crews and vessels - mooring, technical assistance, maintenance and vessel repairs, and representation of nautical goods - make the region a nautical destination of excellence.



Olhão Pleasure Harbour

NAUTICAL STATIONS

The strong connection between the Algarve and the sea, with its 200km of coastline, makes the region an excellent destination for those who want to engage in nautical, sports or leisure activities. These activities and all related services are run by certified Nautical Stations, which serve as hubs, making the entire selection more accessible to visitors, all of whom will enjoy a comprehensive and diversified experience.



River Guadiana



River Guadiana - Alcoutim

Faro Nautical Station

Located in the Algarve's capital city, this is the perfect starting point to explore and experience the Ria Formosa in all its natural and cultural richness. This nautical station combines Faro's wide range of tourist and nautical activities with support services that include over 40 partners in hotels, restaurants and nautical activities, such as sailing on sailing boats or yachts, and nature activities such as tours along the canals and meanders of the lagoon, visits to the barrier islands or water bird- and cetacean-watching. And the main advantage of being in the middle of a protected area is the Ria Formosa Nature Park's incredible aquatic biodiversity.



Vilamoura Nautical Station

Vilamoura Marina is the largest and oldest Portuguese marina. It has scooped various national and international awards and is certified for its environmental performance.

One of Europe's biggest tourist developments is set around the marina, boasting a remarkable and diversified offer of accommodation, restaurants and services that combine nature, culture, sport and leisure, contributing to the unique atmosphere that is enjoyed here by the thousands of loyal visitors it attracts year after year.



Portimão Nautical Station

Framed by golden cliffs backing the wide Arade estuary, Portimão is the Algarve's maritime capital. The city is renowned for its port infrastructures, most notably its cruise port, the recreational ports on the River Arade - the Bartolomeu Dias pier and the São Francisco dock - and the multi-award-winning Portimão Marina.

This station offers a set of support services for recreational boating that includes shipyards and ship repair, facilities and tourist services. The range of nautical activities on offer is vast and diversified and includes coastal walks, cave trips, whale watching, sport fishing, diving, sailing, windsurfing, water skiing, kitesurfing and boating up the River Arade to Silves, among others, which can be combined with cultural programmes.



MARINAS



Sea enthusiasts are demanding when it comes to spending a few hours on dry land. Nautical tourism means that rest and entertainment are as finely balanced as the vessel itself. The marinas and pleasure harbours all along the Algarve complement the region's natural, geographical and climatic conditions with unrivalled leisure facilities and comfort. If you're finding it hard to choose a safe harbour to stop in, then the decision to weigh anchor will be harder still.



Albufeira Marina

Albufeira Marina is the most central marina in the Algarve and also the most sheltered in the country. Perfectly accommodated in the Baleeira cove, it has moorings for all types of recreational boats and is distinguished by its personalised and professional service and the sophistication of the services available.

Distinguished with five Golden Anchors by The Yacht Harbour Association (TYHA), this marina is part of a high-quality tourist complex, where green spaces and contact with nature are prized. Among the services available besides the nautical club – the Albufeira Marina Yacht club – are the pier of honour, a 70-ton travel lift for vessels with a beam of up to 6.7 metres, a 6-ton crane, eight repair boxes operated by accredited entities and four workshops for major repairs. Numerous maritime tour operators are based at the marina, from where they operate excursions along the winding coastline or to sport fishing grounds located off the coast.



Lagos Marina

Strategically located in the Bay of Lagos, one of the widest in Europe and an internationally-renowned regatta venue, Lagos Marina was awarded the Euromarina Anchor Award, five Golden Anchors from the prestigious TYHA and five Blue Star Marina stars, awarded by the International Marine Certification Institute (IMCI). Support services such as the Sailing Academy, parking for 500 vehicles, charging points for electric vehicles, and shopping and dining areas are coupled with the commitment to ensure comfortable and safe facilities and quality customer service.



Its natural surroundings are also impressive

There's the vast sandy Meia-Praia beach, the crystalline waters of the Ria de Alvor, and the latticed golden cliffs of Ponta da Piedade that unfold into caves, secret beaches and rock formations. Everything in Lagos is conducive to great adventures, especially seafaring ones.





Portimão Marina

Portimão Marina is the only Portuguese marina awarded the Jack Nichols Award, a distinction it adds to its five Golden Anchors from TYHA. It is also a favourite destination for mega-yachts up to 50 metres, the venue of choice for numerous international elite competition events and the official training base for professional teams from around the world.

Located in the safest harbour in the country, at the mouth of the River Arade, the marina occupies an area of over 20 hectares, framed by the forts of Santa Catarina and São João do Arade and by a luxury condominium with an exclusive beach and ocean pool. With a wide entrance, spacious manoeuvring areas and deep water, it is possible to enter and exit the marina at any tide, sheltered from prevailing winds.

Portimão Marina's hub of shipyards, located on the River Arade's right bank, provides all the necessary support. With the capacity to haul vessels up to 300 tons and catamarans up to nine metres in breadth, the shipyard offers a wide range of specialised services.



Vilamoura Marina

Vilamoura Marina occupies a privileged spot on the Portuguese and international recreational boating scenes and is one of the Algarve's main tourism and sports hubs.

Cementing its importance are the 12 consecutive awards for Best Marina in Portugal, as well as the award for Best International Marina awarded by TYHA in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021, which perfectly summarises what its visitors believe: Vilamoura Marina is the best of the best marinas in the world. In the vicinity of the marina are high-end shops, exhibition centres, bars, restaurants and cafés, some with outdoor seating, which ensure entertainment 365 days a year and are Vilamoura's calling card.

Known for the numerous internationally-renowned sailing events it hosts, the marina is also very popular with lovers of deep sea fishing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, parasailing and diving. Various coastal cruises and boat trips depart from Vilamoura, as just west of the piers are the stunning Praia da Falésia beach and the outline of the cliffs of the western Algarve.

Offering a wide variety of services, including a sailing school, Vilamoura Marina has one of the best-equipped shipyards in the country, including gantry cranes for vessels up to 60 tons, towing service and an onshore parking area for 200 vessels.





DOCKS AND PLEASURE HARBOURS

In addition to its marinas, the Algarve boasts a further 10 infrastructures providing support for nautical tourism, including over 3,000 mooring posts. Hoist the sails, cast off in a southerly direction and tie up in the pleasure harbours of Portimão, Olhão and Vila Real de Santo António; or, alternatively, choose the recreational docks in Portimão and Faro or the Bartolomeu Dias Quay in Portimão.



Faro Recreational Dock

Located in the heart of the Ria Formosa, Faro recreational dock accommodates motorboats up to seven metres in length and guarantees services such as transfers to anchorages in the adjacent channels, fuel supply, crane, boat maintenance, and towing and water assistance. The Faro Ginásio Clube Naval concessionaire offers a wide range of water-based activities, which can be combined with cultural events and nature experiences.



Olhão Pleasure Harbour

Olhão Pleasure Harbour combines the Ria Formosa's scenic natural beauty, the buzz of the picturesque riverside and the surrounding modern commercial amenities, where outdoor seating areas and terraces overlook the estuary. Olhão's differentiated offer of maritime-tourism activities includes memorable walks along the estuary's meanders and transport to the barrier islands.

With sailable conditions practically all year round, it is an excellent setting-off point, both for casting off and for venturing ashore and discovering the unique architecture of the Cubist city, its traditions, enthralling stories and gastronomy.



Tavira Pleasure Harbour

Well positioned in Quatro Águas, between the River Gilão, the sea, and the Ria Formosa's canals, this small port welcomes recreational and maritime-tourism boats that provide transport to the beaches as well as trips along the Ria's meanders.



Guadiana Pleasure Harbour

Located in the heart of this border town, the Guadiana Pleasure Harbour sits at the river-mouth, in the centre of Vila Real de Santo António, a Pombaline city par excellence. It is just a few minutes away from the city's sports complex and the extensive golden sands of Monte Gordo Bay, surrounded by the dense pine forests and tourist facilities of Altura and Monte Gordo, the latter being famous for its casino.



Other facilities: Vilamoura Sailing

The Olympic sailing village, strategically located in Vilamoura Marina, Vilamoura Sailing is attracting more and more teams and national squads from all over the world. Vilamoura Sailing is one of Europe's leading training centres thanks to the superior quality of its services and facilities and its proximity to Faro's Gago Coutinho Airport. Additionally, the mild climate that accommodates sailing even in the depths of winter, allows for more than 300 days a year of effective training at sea in the different categories.





UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

If your idea of leisure includes water sports, such as surfing or canoeing, or other water-based activities, the Algarve is right up your street. From the extreme adrenaline rushes of surfing, kitesurfing and powerboating to the peace and quiet of yachting or canoeing, the region invites you to enjoy nautical experiences all year round.



Canoeing

Gliding, slicing through the water, in complete peace and quiet. Whether on reservoirs, estuaries, coastal lagoons or on the open sea, the Algarve has the perfect backdrops for practising one of the most relaxing water sports. It is home to several canoeing schools; Portimão and Lagoa are preferred destinations for some of the stages of the National Sea Canoeing Championship and international leisure and competition events, such as the emblematic International Ascent of the Rio Arade in Canoeing.



Surfing and Bodyboarding

The diverse geography of the Algarve coast means that, with the swell, it is always possible to find a beach with ideal conditions to catch the perfect wave!

The top spots are to be found in the west, where you will experience the undiluted pleasure of surfing the Vicentine Coast's inspiring and majestic landscapes, on beaches like Tonel and Arrifana that receive groundswells and wind swells throughout the year, or on Amado beach, which has hosted national and international circuits. The Cordoama, Ponta Ruiva and Beliche beaches, and around Cape Saint Vincent, Zavial and Burgau, are famous spots known to surfers from all over the world.

When conditions are favourable,

beaches along the south coast such as Luz, Meia-Praia, Rocha, Galé and Ilha de Tavira, among others, add to what the Algarve has to offer lovers of these types of sport, who can also learn from the best instructors in the region at the many surfing and bodyboarding schools.



Arrifana beach

Deep Sea Sport Fishing

Off Sagres, stable atmospheric conditions combine with the confluence of the north and south Atlantic and Mediterranean currents, fostering a great diversity and abundance of fish species. Albufeira has hosted world championships in anchor fishing, big game trolling and national kayak fishing championships. The Tavira Offshore Classic attracts international teams for big game sports fishing, with an emphasis on pelagic species such as marlin and tuna.

Days filled with pure adrenaline can be enjoyed through various types of deep-sea sport fishing available from the marinas and recreational ports throughout the region, which offer excellent conditions as well as a range of maritime-tourism operators manned by experienced skippers and fishermen and fitted with the latest equipment.



Sailing

Let the region's breezes and currents carry you into the pleasurable world of sailing along the Algarve's sinewy stretch of coast, which regularly hosts major events in the sport, namely the various classes of the World and European Sailing Championships.

Many spots are attracting a growing number of sailors, including the vast Lagos Bay, widely considered one of the best regatta venues in the world, or the charismatic Vilamoura Sailing, and not forgetting the adapted sailing category, which has an ever-growing following and sees champions trained at Portimão marina.

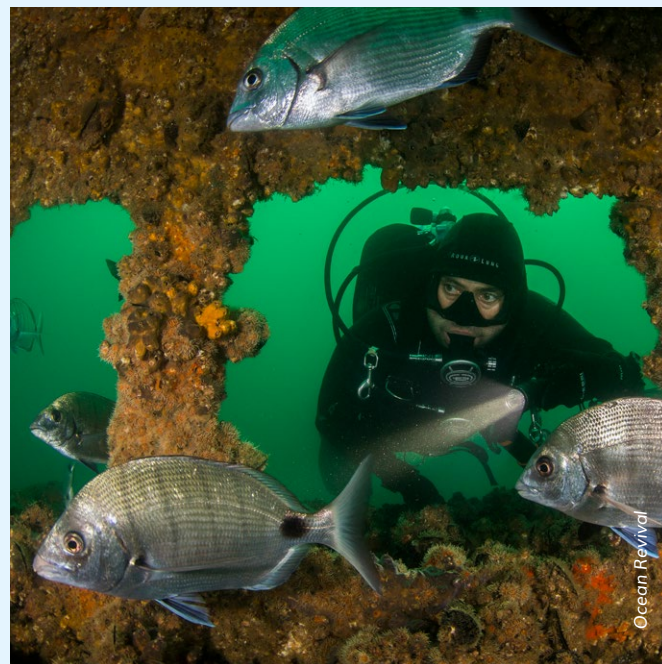


Discover a wonderful underwater world

Immerse yourself in the amazing underwater world of the Algarve, on a journey through fantastic caves and colourful rock gardens housing Alcyonacea, corals, sponges and anemones, teeming with groupers, bream, rays, gobies, octopus, or the tiny and fluorescent nudibranchs.

The sandy bottoms beckon you to explore them, providing fabulous expeditions to sunken ships that recount stories of adventures and battles; you can find them off Sagres, up to Boca do Rio and Ponta da Piedade, or off Faro and the mouth of the Guadiana. Two miles from Portimão is the fantastic Ocean Revival project, an underwater world comprising four purposely-sunk warships that once belonged to the Portuguese Navy; an irresistible temptation for lovers of shipwreck diving, where you can also explore a unique artificial reef teeming with biodiversity.

There are more than fifty dive sites along the Algarve coast, among them natural reefs, artificial reefs and wrecks, where you benefit from the warm waters and the mild climate.



Ocean Revival



Jardim do Vau



Sagres



CRUISES - PORTIMÃO CRUISE TERMINAL

Those who arrive in the Algarve onboard a cruise ship will disembark in Portimão, in the heart of the River Arade. A unique structure in the Algarve, the 430-metre berth at the Portimão Cruise Terminal has the capacity to accommodate cruise ships up to 230 metres in length and with a maximum draft of eight metres.



SAILING IS A MUST IN THE ALGARVE

Stretching roughly 200 kilometres, the Algarve's coastline is surprising, challenging, invigorating and calming. The diverse physiognomy of this coast favours a multiplicity of sea-based activities, such as surfing, diving, sports fishing, sailing, aqua-biking and waterskiing, among many others, offering as much or as little excitement as you like.

While the Algarve provides excellent conditions for all types of water activities – naturally perfect conditions for sailing and powerboat regatta courses, dive sites that never disappoint and beaches with waves for all preferences – it is equally as generous in its facilities for lovers of these sports, thanks to the region's many nautical infrastructures, in the shape of marinas, ports and benchmark nautical stations.

Make sure you also venture along the border between land and sea, or even inland: explore the mirrored waters of the great southern rivers, the Arade and Guadiana, and the Formosa and Alvor estuaries, which are ideal for navigating at whatever pace you like. There are many nautical clubs that cater to canoeing, stand-up paddle, windsurfing and jet-skiing, among other sports.

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GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PAGINATION:

NEWINGS Design Agency

TEXTS:

Darquefalar, Lda. and Ana Paula Gaspar

TRANSLATION:

Inpokulis

PHOTOGRAPHY:

DNA Films, Portimão Municipal Council
(page 16, right), João Diniz - Lusopeche
(page 18), RTA Archive, Hélio Ramos,
David Santos.

PRINTING:

-

PRINT RUN:

-

DISTRIBUTION:

Free

LEGAL DEPOSIT:

-

1ST EDITION

2022

Project:



Promoter:



Co-funders:



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