



## A different Algarve

**Head for the sun and enjoy an exciting day in a different sort of Algarve.**

Reserve yourself a room at the Pousada do Infante, in Sagres. After spending the night of your dreams on the cliff top, wake up to the view over the headland and the sea disappearing into the horizon.

At Lagos, make your way through the city's historic centre as you listen to the sound of amateur musicians and the various rhythms oozing out from the bars and allowing the party atmosphere to spill out into the street. Bring added excitement to your day with the bright and cheerful colours of the various crafted articles on display at the stalls in the street and then discover all the different shades of blue as you take a stroll along the front to observe the sea and watch the yachts sketching lines of foam into the mirror-like surface of the water.

At Lagos, the emphasis is definitely on the sea. For this reason, you should visit the small museum at the fortress, dedicated to the Portuguese Discoveries. Find out more about the great maritime adventure that gave "Worlds to the World" and about the historic role played in this great adventure by the city of Lagos itself. Dedicate a few minutes of your day to just taking in the scenery all around you, whether you're sitting on the terrace of the fortress, with its magnificent view of the bay and the marina, or strolling amidst the rock formations of the headland of Ponta da Piedade with its breathtaking views over the sea.

Next you should move on to Silves, the old capital of the Algarve's Moorish kingdom. Walking hand in hand with your loved one, you can join forces to conquer the beautiful red castle at the top of the hill. From its battlements, you can observe the majestic profile of Silves, which seems to rise up from the midst of an immense orange grove. The cathedral or perhaps the Arab cistern in the city's Archaeological Museum are also both waiting for your visit.

Make your way even further inland and drive up into the hills of the Serra de Monchique. Let yourself become immersed in the different greens of this place, which is a very different proposition from the better known areas of the Algarve. As you stroll through the streets of the spa town of Caldas de Monchique, let yourself be taken back in time to the days of the 1920s and seek out the Fonte dos Amores, the famous "Lovers' Fountain" inside the spa's cool, fresh park. It's now time to evoke some of the Moorish legends associated with these places and to complete this romantic day for two with a sweet declaration of love.



### Points of interest along the Itinerary

- Sagres
- Praia do Camilo
- Praia de Porto de Mós
- Silves
- Sé Catedral de Silves
- Castelo de Silves



## Points of interest along the Itinerary

### Sé Catedral de Silves

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### Castelo de Silves

Silves



## Suggestions

### The Infante's Algarve

Begin your own journey of discovery in Lagos, the operational base for Portugal's exploration of the African coast in the 15th century. It was here that Henry fitted out the caravels for the Discoveries. Gil Eanes also departed from Lagos to round Cape Bojador, at a time when everyone believed that the cape marked the end of the world.

Throughout the town you will find street names alluding to the Discoveries. The historic buildings and monuments include Europe's first slave market, at the Casa das Arcadas in Praça Infante D. Henrique, which is now a venue for the exhibition and sale of handicrafts.

Do not miss Sagres Fortress, which was the site of Henry's School of Seamanship, and a meeting place for astronomers, cartographers and seamen. It includes an impressive wind rose that is 43 metres in diameter.

About six kilometres further on is Cape St. Vincent, Europe's most south-westerly point, where the ancients thought the world ended. The lighthouse lens weighs four tonnes, and is one of the six heaviest in the world.

If you want to know more about the Portuguese Discoveries, drop in and visit the exhibition at Ponta da Bandeira Fort in Lagos. The fort also provides a fine sea view.

### Visit Lagos

During the Voyages of Discovery, Prince Henry the Navigator would restock his caravels here as they set out to prove the world did not end at Cabo Bojador. King Sebastião made it the capital of the Algarve, a position it maintained through to 1755. And it was from Lagos that king Sebastião set out to conquer North Africa, an expedition that was to prove historically disastrous for Portugal. From the Manueline window set into the Governor's Castle, he was to address his troops for the final time. In the Gil Eanes Square, the sculptor João Cutileiro managed to embody the wild dreams of this adolescent king.

In its churches, museums and bustling squares, Lagos reveals its ties with the sea. On either side of the centre stand two testimonies to very different times. There is the Ponta da Bandeira Fortress, built to impose respect among the corsairs that plagued the region and now home to a museum dedicated to the Discoveries. At the other extreme, there is the Marina, a meeting point with all the people and bars for a lively late afternoon drink.

The first slave market of Europe was held under the arcades of the Infante D. Henrique square. The site is now the place to be for the best in local handicrafts.

Amidst the abundant profusion of gold leaf carving and tiles of the church of Santo António, pick out the Lieutenant-general portrait following the "promotion" that king Pedro II bestowed upon himself.

Right by the city, enjoy the charm of these rock-enclosed beaches and the seafront restaurants with their menus featuring the pick of the sea's produce. A great suggestion for a great few days.

### Algarve stories

The Algarve is popular with tourists the world over. It is a region steeped in history with a rich cultural heritage. On your holiday, learn more about this famous Portuguese landscape.

Perhaps you also didn't know that the city of Lagos was attacked by Francis Drake, one of England's most famous corsairs, or that off Lagos Bay in 1693, France's Admiral Tourville sank an Anglo-Dutch convoy of 80 ships commanded by England's Admiral Rooke.



Did you know that the Algarve Ethnographic and Costume Museum in São Brás de Alportel includes a reconstruction of an old barber's shop? Such shops used to be a place that the richer classes met to gossip and discuss politics.

Discover how Algarve chimneys, with their clearly Moorish influence, only began to be produced 200 years after the Arabs were driven from the region. Learn the romantic Moorish stories centred on the African coast.

If you enjoy Algarve wine, discover how the grapes of the region saved the quality of northern wine in the 19th century. Grapes were taken to estates in the Douro region to be blended with what little northern varieties remained after a devastating blight of disease.

## Roman & Moorish Algarve

Traces of prehistoric human society are clearly visible in Portugal's southernmost region. Begin with a visit to the Neolithic remains of the 4000-year-old Pedra do Alagar dolmen in Ameixial (Loulé), and the Pedras Altas dolmen in Cachopo (Tavira).

The Romans left us with bridges, roads and villas. Discover the ruins of Boca do Rio in Budens, Cerro da Vila in Vilamoura, and the Milreu Roman Villa at Estói.

As well as Moorish castles, the signs of Arab influence are still to be seen in the region's traditional architecture. It's not hard to find small groups of houses with white walls and ornamented chimneys. The roof patios and terraces on many houses, perfect in summer, are a throwback to the Moors who reigned over the Algarve for around five centuries.

To all of this cultural heritage you can also add castles, churches and monuments built by Portuguese kings. For evidence of the golden age of the Portuguese Discoveries, be sure to visit Sagres Fortress and the town of Lagos.

If you want to know more about our culture and art, you'll always find a museum or information centre in towns or at historic monuments.

## Monchique spa

Located in a green valley of the Serra de Monchique hills, this spa is a paradisiacal refuge off the beaten track in the Algarve.

The waters of the Serra have been used since Roman times as a treatment for bodily and spiritual fatigue. The Romans called them the 'sacred waters'.

This is the Algarve with a difference - a peaceful and calm environment that will give you the rest you so cherish.

Make full use of the lush surroundings to explore the interior of the Algarve. With its traditional architecture and gardens full of fruit trees and hydrangeas, it is particularly worth a visit.

The nearby town of Silves, once the Moorish capital of the region is worth a visit for its fabulous castle of red sandstone.

## Vicentine Coast

Discover the mysteries of this unique part of the Algarve, beginning with the river and beach landscapes that characterise the Ribeira de Ceixe.

One by one, discover the beaches around Aljezur. At Monte Clérigo, on a beach between verdant cliffs, you'll find one of the best places in the area for enjoying grilled fish or seafood.

Walk up the steep hills of Aljezur to the 10th-Century Moorish castle, the last to be captured from the Moors in Portugal. From its ruins, enjoy the view over the town's white houses and the Serra de Monchique in the distance.



Lose yourself in the fields of brightly coloured flowers that decorate the narrow tracks leading to the beaches. In Vila do Bispo, make sure you visit the parish church, its walls lined with tiles from top to bottom.

Head on to the Cabo de São Vicente (Cape St. Vincent), the southwestern tip of Europe, and considered to be the “world’s end” in the Middle Ages. By the reign of Dom Manuel I, the headland already had a beacon kept lit all night by the Capuchin friars. With a range of 95 kilometres, the present-day lighthouse is one of the most powerful in Europe.

It was in Sagres that the epic maritime adventures of the Portuguese began under the command of Prince Henry the Navigator. Here you can enjoy a fantastic view over the Atlantic Ocean from the headland. At the Fortaleza do Infante, take a look at the immense wind compass (43 metres wide), and visit the Capela da Nossa Senhora da Graça.

## Useful contacts

### Pousada do Infante

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### Fortaleza de Sagres

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### Forte da Ponta da Bandeira

Cais da Solaria  
8600-645 Lagos  
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### Igreja de Santo António - Lagos

Rua General Alberto da Silveira  
8600-594 Lagos

### Igreja de Santa Maria - Lagos

Praça Infante D. Henrique  
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### Museu Municipal de Arqueologia de Silves

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