
Beaches

Algarve

Olhão

Praia da Ilha da Armona

Address: Ria Formosa - Olhão

Characteristics and Services:

Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 21-22 °C; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; EEC Blue Flag; Showers; Small craft hire;

Activities:

Diving; Windsurfing; Sailing;

Accessible by ferry service from Olhão in an approximate 15 minute crossing, the Ilha da Armona island is part of the cordon of small islets separating the Ria Formosa estuary from the sea. Falling within the Natural Park, this island is on the extreme west of a long sandbank that runs kilometres in an eastwards direction as far as Tavira.

A true paradise free of both cars and stress, Armona has a campsite and provides facilities for a diverse range of sports such as windsurfing, sailing and canoeing.

The island is also home to a small fishing community that now includes restaurants serving the very best in fish and shellfish, cooked to the highest standards of the traditional regional gastronomy.

Azores

Ilha Terceira

Praia Grande

Address: Praia da Vitória - Ilha Terceira

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 21; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; EEC Blue Flag; Sunshade rental; Showers;

Activities:

Diving; Windsurfing; Sailing;

Accessibility:

Accessible beach;

Situated on the bay of the city of Praia da Vitória, Praia Grande has the longest stretch of sand on the Island of Terceira. Despite its central location, it is easy to find peaceful areas, not too crowded, in this large bathing area equipped with a good support infrastructure.

Lisboa Region

Cascais

Praia da Conceição

Address: Cascais

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 17-19 °C; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; Sunshade rental; Showers;

Activities:

Diving; Windsurfing; Sailing;

Accessibility:

Accessible beach;

Located next to the Nossa Senhora da Conceição Chapel after which it is named, Conceição Beach does not extend very far although a low tide it links up with the Duquesa Beach.

With good access by stairway or ramp leading up to the promenade, this beach always has its own particular atmosphere guaranteed by the range of restaurants, bars and terraces here.

Praia da Duquesa

Address: Cascais

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 17-19 °C; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; Sunshade rental; Showers; Small craft hire;

Activities:

Diving; Windsurfing; Sailing;

With access from the centre of Cascais, Duquesa Beach owes its name to the small Palace of the Dukes of Palmela located to the west.

The beach is easily reached from the promenade where there are a series of restaurants, bars and terraces.

Madeira

Ilha de Porto Santo

Praia de Porto Santo

Address: Ilha de Porto Santo

Characteristics and Services:

Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 22; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; EEC Blue Flag; Sunshade rental; Small craft hire;

Activities:

Diving; Windsurfing; Sailing;

Accessibility:

Accessible beach;

On the south coast of the island of Porto Santo, 40 kilometres to the north-east of Madeira, is the only sandy beach in the whole of the archipelago, stretching uninterruptedly over a distance of 9 kilometres. Its soft, fine golden sand has made **Porto Santo** famous, particularly because of the therapeutic properties that it is known to have in the treatment of orthopaedic and circulatory problems. To complete this ideal setting for a holiday by the beach, the island's climate is dry and stable with lots of sunshine all year round, whilst the sea's warm, clear and peaceful water issues a tempting invitation to all those who enjoy a lengthy swim, making this the perfect place for a variety of water sports.

The Porto Santo Beach has several designations along its nine kilometres, including **Penedo, Cabeço da Ponta, Calheta, Fontinha, Pedras Pretas or Ribeiro Salgado**, offering conditions that allow everyone to enjoy the benefits of its waters and sands. Some of the concession areas were awarded a Blue Flag in recognition of their quality, and the accessibility for people with reduced mobility was not forgotten either, as proven by the "Accessible Beach" award in certain zones. The areas that boast these awards are:

Blue Flag 2019 - Fontinha; Cabeço da Ponta; Ribeiro Salgado; Calheta

Accessible Beach 2018 - Fontinha

Porto and the North

Esposende

Praia da Apúlia

Address: Apúlia - Esposende

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 15-17 °C; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; EEC Blue Flag; Sunshade rental; Showers; Small craft hire;

Activities:

Surfing; Diving; Windsurfing; Bodyboard; Sailing;

Accessibility:

Accessible beach;

Part of the Litoral de Esposende Protected Landscape, Apúlia Beach covers a large expanse of sand surrounded by dunes that serve to protect the Beach from stronger winds. The dunes are also home to former windmills that have now been converted into holiday homes.

A popular summer destination, the beach has every kind of service and facility and even comes with a specialist health recommendation given its richness in iodine. The abundance of seaweed is one of its greatest characteristics and resulted in one of the defining landmarks of Portugal's northern coastline - the "Sargaceiro da Apúlia", known thus due its purpose of collecting sargaço (the local name for seaweed), which was then used as fertiliser on surrounding fields.

Praia Suave Mar

Address: Esposende

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 15-17 °C; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; EEC Blue Flag; Sunshade rental; Showers; Small craft hire;

Activities:

Surfing; Diving; Windsurfing; Bodyboard; Sailing;

Surrounded by dunes and pines, Suave-Mar Beach is to be found next to the mouth of the Cávado river and within the Litoral de Esposende Protected Landscape.

Also known as Esposende Beach given the direct access from the town of that name, Suave-Mar Beach is a local favourite and particularly among surfers throughout the year with the windsurfers experiencing good conditions throughout the summer.

Praia de Ofir

Address: Ofir - Esposende

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Bar; Average seawater temperature in summer (°C): 15-17 °C; Restaurant; Security or Surveillance; EEC Blue Flag; Sunshade rental; Showers; Small craft hire;

Activities:

Surfing; Diving; Windsurfing; Bodyboard; Sailing;

To the south of the Cávado river mouth and part of the Litoral de Esposende Protected Landscape, Ofir Beach, surrounded by dunes and pine trees, covers one of the most beautiful stretches of the northern Portuguese coastline. One natural phenomena is the rocks emerging out of the sea at low tide and which form shapes known locally as the horses of Fão.

Throughout summer, there is always something going on. During the day, bathers tend to take to the waters in the central section of the beach while surfers head for the bigger waves breaking just south. The action continues well into the night at the various restaurants, bars and discos that surround the Beach.