
The Algarve beaches

ABOUT



Photo: Turismo do Algarve

The Algarve beaches

From long, sandy beaches protected by golden cliffs to small bays nestled between rocks, the Algarve has beaches to suit all tastes. What they have in common is the offer of a perfect holiday in the sun.

What are the ingredients of this offer? A **mild climate**, with sunshine for about 300 days a year. A **clear sea**, almost always warm and calm. And **fine white sand**, an invitation to relax that can't be ignored – it's as simple as laying on a towel in the sun to get a tan to die for or building sandcastles by the sea with the children.

There are about 200 kilometres of beaches between the southwest coast near Aljezur and the eastern end close to Vila Real de Santo António, which differ widely among themselves. The majority have the high safety and quality conditions recognised by the **European blue flag** symbol, with amenities that promise fun and sports. Many beaches are of great beauty, offering idyllic settings for more **romantic** moments, and others are close to **nightlife** spots, sought after by those who must have some music and dance on their holidays. But there are also almost deserted beaches, where **nature** is preserved practically in a wild state.

There's a large number of **beaches accessible** to people with mobility problems and many even have facilities that allow everyone to enjoy bathing in the sea. And there are also beaches reserved for **naturists**, and others that are so little known that they have areas where naturism is tolerated.

The most **pristine** beaches are on the Costa Vicentina, in contrast to the central area, between Lagos and Faro, where you will find **cosmopolitan beaches**, as a result of the higher number of hotels and many high quality **resorts**. The Parque Natural da Ria Formosa natural park is a quiet reserve, an area of **calm waters** dotted with islands, water channels and lagoons, which marks the transition to the east, where the sea is warmer and more serene and the sand swathes are very extensive.

Almost all the beaches have restaurants and bars in which to relax and enjoy a refreshing drink when the sun is bearing down, taste the freshest fish in the region or sit to enjoy the sunset, with the sun dipping into the sea. The perfect finish to a day well-spent.

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Most of the beaches in the Algarve have lifeguards and flags indicating the state of the sea (green, yellow and red) and the quality of water and sand (Blue Flag).

- Many have concessions that offer bathing huts, beach mats and deckchairs for rent, and equipment for water sports, as well as terraces where you can enjoy a drink or even a meal.

- There are also beaches that have been awarded the "Accessible Beach" tag, offering access to people with reduced mobility, many of which are supplied with facilities that allow everyone to enjoy bathing in the sea.

Further information:

- www.visitalgarve.pt
- www.abae.pt (Blue flag)

GETTING HERE

By air:

Algarve International Airport at Faro <http://www.ana.pt/pt-PT/Aeroportos/Algarve/Faro/Paginas/HomeFaro.aspx>

By road:

- A22 - Via do Infante and EN125 - National Road that crosses the Algarve from west to east
- EN268 - National Road linking Aljezur to Sagres
- A2-Autoestrada do Sul - access for those coming from the north