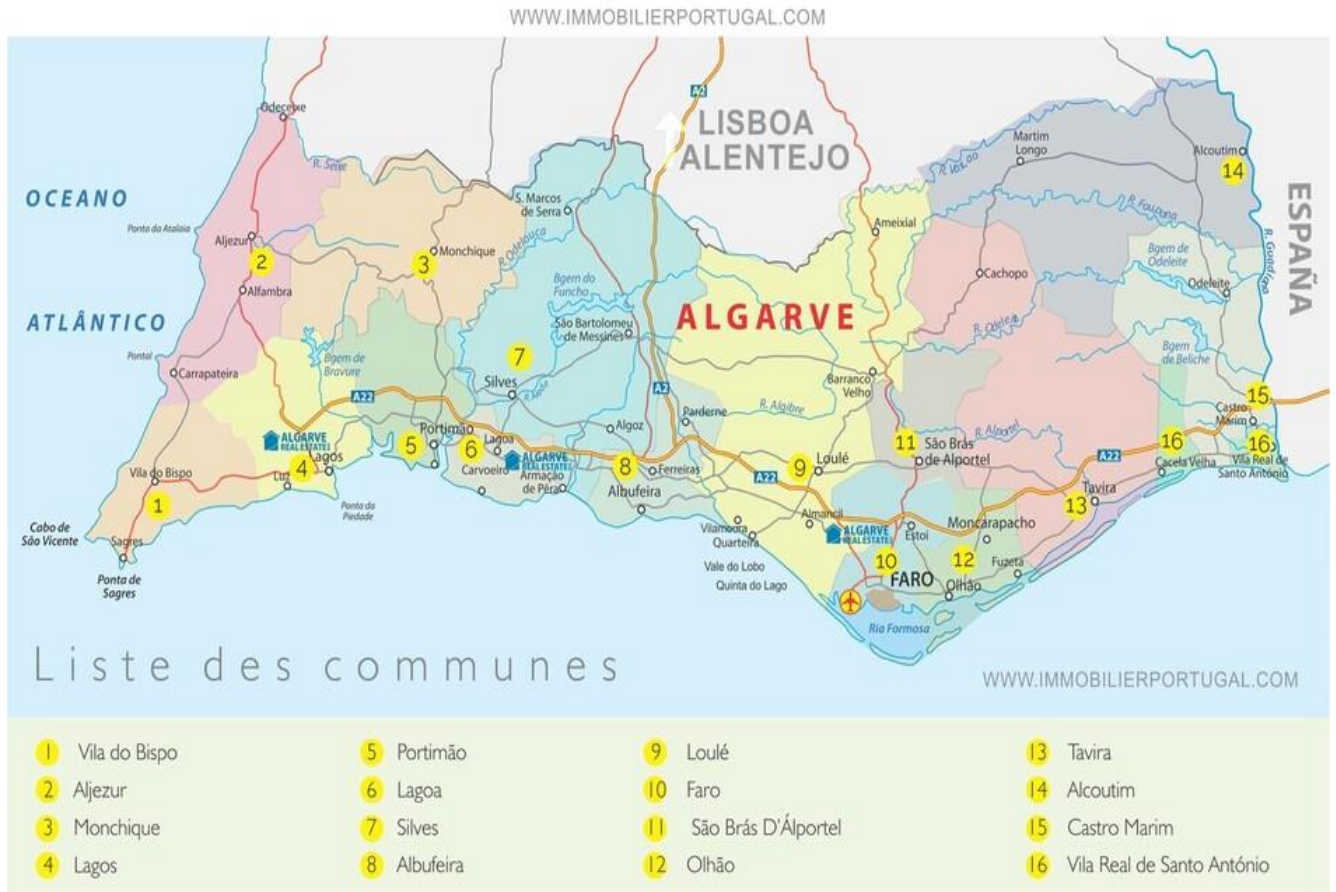


Visits and walks in the Algarve

CARTE DES MUNICIPALITÉS DE L'ALGARVE, PORTUGAL



From Faro to Spain:

Faro:

It is a historic town located on the east coast of the Algarve. Here are some things to do in Faro:

- Old Town Tour: You can stroll through the cobbled streets and admire the historic buildings. The old town is surrounded by ramparts and you can visit the entrance gates;
- Visit the cathedral: Faro Cathedral is a historic building that dates back to the 13th century. It houses religious works of art;
- Visit the Archaeological Museum: The Faro Archaeological Museum houses a collection of objects dating back to Roman times. You can see mosaics and sculptures;
- Visit the Maritime Museum: The Maritime Museum of Faro houses a collection of objects related to the maritime history of the region. You can see models of boats and navigation instruments;
- Boat trip in the Ria Formosa: you can take a boat ride in the Ria Formosa and admire the natural landscapes. The Ria Formosa is a protected nature reserve;

Old Faro: The old town of Faro is the historical and tourist center of Faro 25 kms from Moncarapacho.



A visit to Faro that has its roots in the eighth century BC. period of the Phoenician occupation of the western Mediterranean, Ossónoba, ancient name by which it was known at the time, it was a place known for trade. Also dominated by the Romans, Byzantines, Visigoths and Moors, the city was not conquered by the

Portuguese until 1239 with D. Afonso III. Due to its privileged geographical location and safe haven, Faro became a prosperous city during the Portuguese discoveries.



Historic Centre of Faro

NEAR FARO:

Walk on the **São Lourenço** Environmental Trail near Faro

About twenty minutes drive from Faro or [Loulé](#) in **Algarve**, there is a path that I invite you to explore on foot during your stay in the region. To situate a little, we are at the heart of the **Ria Formosa Natural Park**, a huge protected area of 18,000 hectares that should surprise you in more ways than one. If you are a naturalist at heart, this destination is for you.

You can start the walk on the environmental trail of São Lourenço at the foot of the parking lot of the beach of **Quinta do Lago (on GPS: praia quinta do lago)**. The trail winds between San Lorenzo Golf and the peaceful freshwater lagoon. The great beauty of this portion of the natural park lies in the fact that the landscape evolves with the tides. Dunes, marshes, foreshores, tiny islets, freshwater lagoons are inhabited by dozens of species of birds. A bird observatory is available on this route.

At low tide, the small fiddler crabs are usually out. A very nice show for children (watch the tides so you don't miss them!). Walking this sublime 3 km trail out of season, a few minutes

before sunset, is really a must. Now that I live year-round in the Algarve, I will be able to enjoy this concentrate of beauty at different times of the day.

A wooden walkway built over the lagoon leads to the beautiful public sandy beach, Praia da Quinta do Lago. Out of season, we only meet a few walkers and their dog, a few families. I prefer not to imagine what the crowds look like in the middle of summer... If you walk on this beach to the east, towards Faro, you will arrive on the beach of Faro Island without even noticing it since it is in the extension of this tongue of sand called here barrier island. If you go west, you will discover "The Shack" it is a meeting place by the lake where you can enjoy drinks in the afternoon and food in a relaxed summer atmosphere.

*The Shack is where you can relax in the company of wellness food, friends and live music.
NB: no reservation, first-come-serve policy.*



The

São Lourenço trail seen from the wooden walkway over the lagoon



The SHACK:



How to get there?

By car from Faro, take the N125. At the town of Almancil, follow the direction of the resort Quinta do Lago, then Praia da **Quinta do Lago**. You can leave your car in the beach car park (free of season). The environmental **trail of São Lourenço**, or *trilho São Lourenço* in Portuguese, on the other hand there is no specific signage on the road that leads to the place.

Ludo:

Ludo is part of the Ria Formosa Nature Reserve and consists of dirt roads and lagoons. The path faces the dunes of Praia de Faro and Praia da Quinta do Lago. This fantastic route crosses salt pans and golf courses and offers a beautiful path filled with vegetation that flourishes within the dunes of the beaches. The shortest trail is about 4 km long. However, there are several routes that allow you to cover a total length of 8 km. It is also a great place to observe the different species of birds that gather there every year.

This is a great [hike for bird watching](#) that also gives you the opportunity to explore the Ludo and Quinta do Lago areas.



Hiking bird watching.

Estoi:

Roman ruins: The ruins of the Villa Romana de Milreu in Estoi 10 kms from Moncarapacho. **A museum houses remains of great archaeological value.**



Estoi Garden and its palacio de Estoi: unique in the Algarve, it is a private Rococo style palace



Olhão:

Capital city of the Ria Formosa.... 12 kms from Moncarapacho. The most important fishing port in the Algarve. Here are some things to do in Olhão:

- Visit the fish market: the Olhão fish market is one of the largest in Portugal. You can buy fresh seafood there;
- Visit the salt marshes: Olhão is known for its salt marshes. You can visit the salt marshes and learn about salt production;
- Visit of the Matriz Church: the Matriz Church of Olhão is a historic building that dates from the 17th century;
- Walk through the historic center: you can walk through the cobbled streets and admire the historic buildings.
- Walk along the Ria Formosa is very pleasant and you can enjoy a wonderful view of the Ria Formosa and the marinha.
- Olhão is also known for its street art. You can take a guided tour of the city to discover the street artwork.



The market



Marinha

Moncarapacho:

Moncarapacho is an ancient civil parish and an idyllic little village located in the middle of the countryside ... Moncarapacho produces some of the best olive oils in the world. There is a small vegetable and fish market.



There is also **Le Cerro de Sao Miguel** ... The departure is from Moncarapacho towards the antenna of Sao Miguel ... A magnificent view of the whole region (about 90 kms of coast) and also the mountainous hinterland, easily accessible by car and the ascent on foot is feasible in a good hour ... Many trails and mountain bike trails climb to the summit at 400m altitude (To get there, just find the small road that starts from the one that connects Moncarapacho to the A22 motorway).

Le Cerro de Sao Miguel



View of Cerro de Sao Miguel



Cerro de São Miguel is 411 meters long and is about 4 km northwest of Moncarapacho.

It is undoubtedly the place that offers one of the most beautiful panoramas of the Algarve, covering the south, the coast from Albufeira to Spain and, to the north, the alcantilado da Serra do Caldeirão.

This Cerro has always been a very important viewpoint for sailors since ancient times - the Greeks called it The Holy Mountain or Mount Zephyr (god of the west wind, who brought them home...).

Parish Museum (Moncarapacho):



The Parish Museum and the Chapel of Santo Cristo are nearby.

Surprised by the collection of interesting pieces of archaeology (prehistory, classical period and Arab occupation), ethnography, a valuable collection of religious images of the eighteenth century. A clock built by the famous English watchmaker John Harrison (he created the first clock that solves the problem of calculating longitude in ocean navigation), of which there are only four copies in the world.

In Moncarapcho, discover also Monterosa: (Monterosa Olive Oil Farm) There is one of the best oils in the world Guided tours can be arranged. The oils are delicious! You can walk around the estate.

Monterosa



In Moncarapacho: OCTANT Vila Monte. 5-star hotel where it is sometimes possible to walk in this area



Vila Monte

Fuseta and its beaches:

It is a fishing village It is known for its sandy beach and small fishing port. The village lives from fishing, salt marshes and tourism. There are about 2000 inhabitants in Fuseta all year round, not counting storks and flamingos among other quasi-permanent residents. The

authenticity and friendliness of this lively city all year round, summer and winter, has seduced many tourists.

Fuseta Beach is a sandy beach that directly overlooks the ocean. It can be reached by water taxi or ferry. There is also a beautiful little beach on the lagoon.

A second beach along the Ria Formosa allows you to enjoy calmer water for different sports (kayaking, padel, etc.)

Fuseta is also known for its many cheap and good quality fish restaurants. The species offered are: Dourada, Robalo (sea bass or wolf), sardinha, Saint Pierre, salmon and of course choccos (cuttlefish) and polvos (octopus), one of the specialties of the region.

PRAIA DA FUZETA (MONCARAPACHO)

Praia da Fuzeta is located on the Ilha de Fuseta which separates the Ria Formosa Natural Park from the Atlantic Ocean. This beautiful island enjoys a sea of enviable quality. Sometimes the sea has beautiful waves, which makes it ideal for water sports like surfing.

From Praia da Fuseta it is possible to reach the ilha d'Armona on foot.

Praia de Fuzeta is separated from the coast by the Ria Formosa which gives it a unique blend of flora for nature lovers.

In addition, Fuzeta enjoys a sandy beach along the Ria Formosa in addition to the beach of Praia da Fuseta. The Ria Formosa allows you to practice water sports (kayaking, paddle, sky surfing etc.)

Praia da Fuzeta has another advantage: when it is low tide, you can cross the Ria Formosa on foot and walk for several hundred meters to reach the sea, which amuses children who can harvest, among other things, wonderful shells.

Good to know: The tide schedules in Fuzeta to walk in the Ria Formosa via the site:

(www.captainemaree.com) It is interesting to go to Arroiteia (4 Km from CASA PARAISO) to start on the Ria Formosa at low tide ...

Praia Fuseta



Fuseta Beach. Photo from [Blog Turismo do Algarve](#).

Barril à Santa Luzia beach (10 km from Moncarapcho)

From Casa Paraiso merge onto the N125, direction Tavira

This trail, about 3km, allows you to reach the ocean by crossing the Ria Formosa Nature Reserve. You can also discover the anchor cemetery. It is a beautiful walk that can be done partly by small train that runs along the path.



Path of Praia do Barril . Photo of [Guia da Cidade](#).

Tavira (15 km from Moncarapacho):

The most authentic little white town in the Algarve and Portugal. Small town super nice to stroll and have a good time on a terrace ... Calm and tranquility at the rendezvous. See also Tavira Castle... Visit Tavira with its traditional white houses of Portugal, narrow and charming streets and its 4th century Roman bridge and its many churches.



The gauche, Tavira (photo © Dmitry Tonkonog). A droite, Vila Real de Santo António.



The Roman bridge

Cachopo: A valley of hills between Monacrapcho and Tavira to do by car (From Tavira, after the bridge turn left towards Cachopo and then it is a walk to do by car 40 kms in the valley of CACHOPO ... The most beautiful period to do this walk is at the end of April – May – June, after it is too hot and nature is too dry)



Cachopo is a charming little village in the department of Tavira, it is located in a beautiful valley to discover by car.

Cachopo maintains its rural tradition, producing some of the typical products of the Algarve, such as honey, cork, wool and cheese.

The discovery of this region allows you to admire beautiful landscapes as well as small rural villages characterized by popular architecture with one-storey houses and schist walls painted white. The highlights of Cachopo are the mother church of Santo Estevão dated 1535; the "Casas Circulares" (round houses) or "Palheiros" (barns), prehistoric stone houses that were used by farmers; rural windmills; the interesting "Fonte Férea" which was once the place of choice of the rich of the Algarve for its medicinal waters and is today a place of leisure, with a nice snack park.

Also quite interesting is the nucleus of the Cachopo Museum, specialized in the ethnology of the region, aimed at preserving the traditions and works of the Caldeirão mountain.

There are several possible pedestrian tours offering amazing landscapes, allowing to know the "other" Algarve, near the Alentejo region, far away and different from the tourist Algarve of golden beaches and crystal clear waters, but filled with tradition, heritage and amazing panoramas waiting to be discovered.

Cascade du Pego do Inferno (Santo Estevão) :

10,7Km from Moncarapcho

Adresse : Pego do Inferno, Estrada EN514-2, Tavira, Continental Portugal 8800



An idyllic landscape in the Algarve, right in the middle of the waterfalls of Moinhos da Rocha. A path leads to a small lake with green water nicknamed "Pego do Inferno", literally "the pool of hell". The latter is watered by a waterfall, which we hear before seeing it.

Cacelha velha:

Magnificent views of the entire Algarve coast and the Ria Formosa ... The trip is worth the candle! A must see!



Praia verde:

A beautiful little corner of the beach with its beautiful promenade on the wooden walkways, its panoramic restaurant ... Super nice!



Monte Gordo is the only very touristic seaside resort (buildings) in the Eastern Algarve. It is known for its sandy beach and restaurants.

Castro Marim: is known for its castle, traditional architecture and fishing port. At the end of August each year, a medieval festival is organized by the municipality and takes place around the castle. It lasts four days and offers street entertainment, theatrical and musical performances and banquets. The next edition will take place from 23 to 27 August 2023.

Vila Real de Santo António, border town where you will see the Guadiana River separating Portugal from Spain.

For the most fervent ... The great road of the Guadiana. The Grand Guadiana route begins in Vila Real de Santo António and climbs the banks of the Guadiana River for 65 kilometers towards **Alcoutim**. The spectacular panoramic views will take you to beaches, mountains and valleys on one of the most romantic trails in the country. Along the way, you can explore the charming villages that exist on the Portuguese border and where time seems to have stopped.



Alcoutim. Photo of [Visit Portugal](#).

From Faro to the West:

Loulé: was a large Moorish city and the remains of this North African heritage are visible in the city (see explanations on the site detours of the Algarve World: 5 good reasons to visit Loulé) 30 kms from Moncarapacho.



A few minutes north of Loulé, several sleepy villages are worth a visit, for example Querença, Salir and Alte. The first is a white village organized around its church. Nearby: the classified natural site of Fonte de Benémola, ideal for relaxing. In the village of Alte, there is a pretty waterfall named Queda do Vigário (possibility to picnic on site provided you take your garbage). Loulé has a few sandy beaches frequented mostly by locals.

Vilamoura: is a modern and sophisticated holiday destination located on a beautiful beach. Vilamoura was built in the 1980s as an elite golf centre and today has five outstanding golf courses.



The marina ... Port of pleasure

Almancil:

Church of São Lourenço

The Church of São Lourenço (St. Lawrence) in Almancil is considered one of the greatest artistic treasures of the Algarve. Built in the first half of the 18th century, it is a single-nave church with a choir covered with a beautiful dome. Extraordinary examples of Portuguese azulejos (traditional blue and white tiles) cover the walls and ceilings. Eight tile panels, designed by Policarpo de Oliveira Bernardes, describe different phases of São Lourenço's life. The gilded baroque altarpiece, with the image of the saint, is said to have been made by the greatest sculptor and sculptor of the Algarve, Manuel Martinez.



Albufeira



The shopping streets for tourists, nightclubs, restaurants ... Holiday atmosphere

The trail of the 7 suspended valleys in the Algarve

Presentation of a tourist (the apprentice traveler) with some small adaptations:

A must in the Algarve: The hike of the 7 suspended valleys

*What for? Because the **trail runs along the coast on the side of cliffs** and the walk offers magnificent panoramas along the way! Breathtaking!*

Access to the starting point of the hike :

In Lagoa, by the Praia de Vale Centeanes or Praia da Marinha (access by the N125 or A22) where you can leave from the Algar Seco car park so you will have a longer walk and you will not miss anything of the beautiful landscapes!

Distance: 11.4 km A-R, less than 6 km one way



There are also many beaches where you can stop! Because under the sun of the Algarve to take a break by taking a dip in the water is rather not bad!

Some information about this itinerary

Carvoeiro and the Trail of the Seven Suspended Valleys

East of Albufeira, we have an appointment with a stretch of coastline of dazzling beauty! Discover a trail with spectacular views of the golden cliffs; The secret coves and the ocean. The village of Carvoeiro is less authentic than in the past, tourism obliges, but it remains pleasant with its small restaurants, cafes and ice cream parlors.



This route is about **11.5 kilometers round trip**. It starts in Carvoeiro and ends at Praia da **Marinha**.

But be careful **it's not a loop!**

The trail is marked. You will also find throughout the walk this kind of sign to help you find your way:

This trail normally starts at the beach of "**Vale Centeanes**" which is located a few kilometers after the village of Carvoeiro.

However, it is better to start from **ALGAR SECO** which is very beautiful and is located a little before Vale Centeanes. NB: The part between Algar Seco and Vale Centeanes is less passable.

NB: Another solution is to start the walk of **Praia Marinha**, which allows you to quickly discover beautiful landscapes without having to do the whole walk... (Obviously, there's nothing like enjoying the totality...)

Carvoeiro:



A great site where erosion (and little Portuguese hands) have worked miracles!





Here you will find a wooden footbridge that runs along the coast and will take you to this famous beach of "Vale Centeanes" where the route normally begins.

The route will end six kilometers later, at Praia **da Marinha** ... A well-known pearl in the Algarve!

The itinerary in photos

Here are some pictures to make your mouth water! And for the rest ... Well go there and admire the place by yourself it's magical!









Bonus of the ride

In this hike we also find on the way **one of the pearls of the Algarve**, which everyone must have seen in photo at least once in his life:

The famous cave of Benagil! Well, however, you will see it from above because from this trail you do not have access to its beach. But agencies organize boat tours to access it.



Small parenthesis : if you have half an hour in front of you, drive east to discover the other treasure of the area, the very old chapel of Nossa Senhora da Rocha, in Porches. According to historians, in the fifteenth century it was inside the walls of a fortress.

Walk in Alvor and Silves

The fishing village of Alvor, very close to the large seaside resort of Portimão, exudes tranquility and authenticity. Set on the edge of an inland lagoon shaped by the currents, the village has several cafes and restaurants open seasonally. Do not miss the marked trail "Ao sabor da maré", with a length of about 5 km. The route, which is attached to the local long-distance hiking trail, Via Algarviana, crosses wild landscapes of marshes, dunes and lagoons (see route below). Superb easy ride! I invite you to reread [this article dedicated to Alvor](#).



Alvor hiking trail

Before reaching the city of Lagos, it is possible to go up the Arade River aboard a traditional boat (Barca Arade) to visit Silves and its medieval castle of which here is a small overview. I recommend the crossing, but it is possible to get to Silves by road of course.



Lagos to Sagres

To the west of Alvor, you have an appointment with the charming seaside resort of Lagos, renowned for its beaches and secret coves, its old town, boat rides to admire the caves and marine fauna. Just like Tavira, Lagos is lively all year round.

Quite to the west, the "end of the world" atmosphere that characterizes the **tip of Sagres!** and **Cabo São Vicente** (the westernmost point of Europe)! To see at least once!

On the way back there is **the city of Portimao** and the city of Silves **(with its castle and ramparts)** to see also



Du côté de Lagos Cabo São Vicente, près de Sagres

Silves



The castle fortress and the ramparts

Portimao



The beach

Lagos



Sagres

The far west of Europe! Cape St. Vincent - Sagres



This cape is the most southwestern point of Portugal. About six kilometres from the village of Sagres, the cape is a landmark for a ship travelling to or from the [Mediterranean](#). The cliffs rise almost vertically from the Atlantic to a height of 75 meters. The cape is a site of exuberant marine life and a high concentration of cliff-nesting birds, such as the rare [Bonelli's eagle](#), peregrine falcons, kites, [rock thrushes](#), [rock pigeons](#), storks [and](#) herons.

Main article: [Lighthouse of Cabo de São Vicente](#)

The current lighthouse is 24 meters (79 feet) high and was built on the ruins of a 16th-century Franciscan convent in 1846. ^[3] The statues [of St. Vincent](#) and St. [Francis Xavier](#) had been moved to the church of Nossa Senhora da Graça on [Sagres Point](#) 3 kilometers (1.9 mi) away. ^[3] This lighthouse, which guards one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, is one of the most powerful in Europe (the most powerful being the [Creach Lighthouse](#) on the

French island of Ouessant, off the coast of [Brittany](#)); its two 1,000 W lamps can be seen up to 60 kilometers (37 mi) away. ^[3]



Odeceixe and the west coast

The west coast of the **Algarve** Reserve of very nice surprises: hiking trails, wild beaches, surf spots, etc. To see: the village of [Odeceixe](#)



Alte Village & the Algarve hinterland

Hiking **in the Algarve countryside (6H)** is the walk to do if you want to know the Algarve in a richer and more traditional way. You will smell the local herbs and feel the traditional side of this amazing place. Hikes are usually around Alte and Monchique

The beautiful village of Alte is entrenched in dense orchards that protect it from the scorching heat of summer. Orchards stretch across the Algarve, forming dazzling circuits worth exploring. The [hike in the Algarve hinterland](#) lasts about 6 hours and includes lunch and pickup at most hotels in the area. This is certainly the ideal tour for those looking to get to know the Algarve countryside.



The village of Alte. Photo of [Região Sul](#).

Serra de Monchique

The Serra de Monchique (Monchique Mountain) rises above the sea and hides some of the most beautiful trails in the Algarve. With different flora and fauna than the coast and magnificent freshwater waterfalls, you will find a magical walk during which you can discover some of the best kept secrets of the region. The Monchique hike [is 11 kilometers long and is done in three hours, it includes a visit to the village of Monchique, which has a church dating back to the 11th century, a typical Portuguese market and street.](#)



Serra de Monchique

Promenade of Alvor

This promenade was inaugurated in the summer of 2016, it connects the beach of Três Irmãos to Ria de Alvor, in the municipality of Portimão, on 6 kilometers. The wooden walkway is one meter above the ground and crosses the sand dunes of the beaches in the area. This route allows easy access to the beaches, also offering spectacular views of the Algarve coast. We recommend walking along the Alvor promenade in autumn or spring, to avoid winter precipitation and summer heat.



Rota Vicentina

The Rota Vicentina is one of the biggest hikes on this list, and one of the most beautiful. Rota Vicentina is 340 km from Cabo de São Vicente to Santiago do Cacém, in the Alentejo, along the west coast of Portugal. You can choose to hike the trail for several days and camp along the way, but if you don't want to walk all week, you can still hike parts of the trail in the morning or late afternoon. The Rota Vicentina crosses paradisiacal beaches practically unknown to man, which presents virgin sand and a sumptuous sea.

It is precisely because the Costa Vicentina is one of the richest natural sites in Portugal that several tours aim to make known the wonders of its trails. One of the most beautiful walks is ["hiking on the west coast"](#).

During this 4-5 hour tour, a guide will take you to the most amazing natural and historical sites. The guide will also provide explanations about the nature and wildlife you will see along the route. The trip includes a picnic and is suitable for people of all ages. This walk can be done at any time of the year.



Hiking on the west coast.

Via Algarviana

Via Algarviana connects Cabo de São Vicente to Alcoutim through cliffs, beaches and mountains. The Via Algarviana shows you the Algarve over 300 kilometers. Divided into 14 trails, each starting and ending in a village, Via Algarviana offers incredible hikes filled with the scents of the countryside and sea breezes that break away from the beaches. As on the Rota Vicentina, you do not need to walk on all the trails, you can choose certain circuits and walk only a few hours enjoying stunning views of the ocean and mountains.

Promenade de Salgados

In the county of Silves is the beautiful lagoon of Salgados, a place of perfect symbiosis between nature and man. The promenade crosses of Salgados have been built along this magical place, giving you the opportunity to see flamingos (as well as one hundred and fifty other species of birds) and enjoy the soothing calm of its paradisiacal blue waters, always setting against the backdrop of the dunes of Praia Salgados. The route is a total of 5.5 km (round trip) and takes about two hours.



Salgados Promenade . Photo by [Algarve Portal](#).

Way of Ponta da Piedade

Ponta da Piedade is one of the most beautiful areas of Lagos due to its wind-eroded rock formations and translucent waters. Covering about 5 kilometers in total (round trip), this trail will show you the light and color show that takes place there, as well as its mysterious caves and natural tunnels. Stroll along the vertiginous cliffs of this trail and let yourself be seduced by the breathtaking views.



Ponta Piedade to Lagos. Photo by [Lagos Portugal Guide](#).

See the link for details: [The best walking and hiking trails in the Algarve \(algarvefun.com\)](http://algarvefun.com)

Watch on YouTube:

Fuseta presentation

<https://youtu.be/YrT5ebE-hVg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pys5Y2XcXIM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fy-xHTyvcJs>

Algarve, Portugal Best of 2020 for a nomadic digital family

<https://youtu.be/NvinCq1jo28>

ALGARVE - The incredible south coast of Portugal

<https://youtu.be/yQizVkXZNrE>

the coasts and wild beaches of the Algarve in slideshow

<https://youtu.be/HsSSg0GD6Ng>

THE BEST PLACES TO VISIT IN THE ALGARVE - PORTUGAL

<https://youtu.be/d7eZm5oFcFY>

I'm taking you to the Algarve, Portugal

<https://youtu.be/vKU6qknUht8>

CACELA VELHA PT ALGARVE PORTUGAL

<https://youtu.be/RjiwUR6PpZ0>

Wolf Valley

https://youtu.be/_vUTnwFxTO0