



ALGARVE'S "BARLAVENTO" REGION TOUR

The western region of the Algarve is known as "Barlavento" or windward side. The itinerary includes some of the region's most emblematic towns like Aljezur, Vila do Bispo, Sagres, Lagos, Lagoa, Portimão, Monchique and Silves. The latter was once the capital city of the "Kingdom of the Algarves". The itinerary can be customised and depending on the weather, can alternate between the mountains and the sea. The region's microclimates might offer sunny, warm or windy conditions. If the wind is favourable, we can walk on the beach. If the sea is calm and the temperature warm, we can tour the Benagil caves.

This tour includes the stops below. Kindly note these are our personal recommendations, however all our tours can be fully tailor-made to each client's requirements.

- **Silves**

In past centuries, Silves was the Moorish capital of the Algarve and one of the oldest cities in Portugal. As we stroll around town, we will discover the Cathedral and Moorish Castle.

- **Monchique**

The second highest peak in Monchique is Picota at 750m altitude. It is steeper than the Foia lookout at 900m, the highest in the region, where the geodetic mark and the lookout tower pinpoint our destination. Not to be missed are the waterfalls along the mountain range of Serra das Águas, at Barbelote and Penedo do Buraco.

- **Marmeleite**

Lunch at a local restaurant with traditional Portuguese dishes.

- **Aljezur**

This quaint town is part of the Southwest Coast Nature Reserve comprising beautiful beaches and landscapes. At the top, lie the ruins of the Moorish Castle of Aljezur from the 10th century, "Gharb Al Andaluz".

Ten minutes away from the town lies Amoreira Beach where the river meets the sea. Further ahead lies Arrifana Beach and the ruins of the old fortress from the 17th century, built to protect the west coast from pirates and corsairs.



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These are but a few of the beaches that can be visited during the drive to Vila do Bispo.

- **Sagres**

Visit to the fortress at Sagres, the lighthouse at Cape Saint Vincent and passing by the fortress and beach at Beliche as well as the beaches at Tonel, Baleeira and Martinhal.

On the way to Lagos, we will make a short stop at Luz Beach.

- **Lagos**

Lagos was once the capital of the Algarve for two centuries. During the Age of Discovery, many ships set sail from this port to explore new worlds with navigators like Gil Eanes. In 1755, the town was hit by an earthquake and Lagos relinquished its title to Faro.

Walk around the town to admire the emblematic monuments and houses, like the Slave Market building, the Church of Saint Mary, the statue of Prince Henry, the Bandeira Fort and the Portal of Saint Gonçalo, among others.

The tour can end at the place of departure with a brief stop at Carvoeiro.

There is the option to have dinner and sample the regional food, paired with a selection of wines; also a tasting of desserts and cheese, paired with liqueurs and the famous local brandy, "Medronho".



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