



ALGARVE'S "SOTAVENTO" REGION TOUR

The eastern region of the Algarve is known as "Sotavento" or leeward side. The Algarve has a rich biodiversity, geology, culture and climate. This is where the famous coastal lagoon called Ria Formosa lies, with its islands, extensive sandy beaches, shallower and warmer waters, salt pans, bird watching, bike and pedestrian trails and paths, it's an invitation to enjoy nature and all the calm it exudes.

This itinerary with its simplicity and unique characteristics will be more customised to the client's preferences because as we will see it comprises many leisure activities such as walking or bike riding between Quinta do Lago and Faro Island, panoramic boat rides to the islands of Faro and Olhão, boat rides on the Ria Formosa and the Guadiana River.

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.

- **São Brás de Alportel**

Our first stop will be at São Brás de Alportel, a quiet and quaint village, home to the booming cork industry. Standing out in the historical centre are the Old Square, the main church and Saint Sebastian Square. This village also features the largest cork factory in the Algarve.

- **Faro**

Next we head to Faro, the capital city of the Algarve. First on the list of sights is the marina, followed by the Manuel Bivar garden and then we head to the historical centre to visit the Village Arch, the Cathedral, King Afonso III Square and the Resting Arch.

- **Olhão**

We head to Olhão, a fishing village with a very interesting history, from its lakes and squares to the historical town centre. We will visit the town market, one of the most beautiful buildings in Olhão, located by the marina. This is where we find the best fish and seafood in the Algarve.

- **Santa Luzia**

Typical Algarvian fish lunch



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- **Tavira**

As we arrive in Tavira, one of Algarve's most beautiful cities, we will stroll along the historical town centre and visit the well preserved castle and beautiful garden. The roman bridge is located downtown. It boasts great architectural beauty and the river changes its name after crossing the bridge. We are now within reach of the bandstand garden, the oldest public garden in Tavira, located between the Republic Square and the Ribeira Market.

- **Cacela Velha**

Our journey continues to Cacela Velha, with some of the most magnificent beaches in the leeward region. The town is built on a hilltop and quite windy.

- **Vila Real Santo António**

We arrive in the Algarve's eastern most village to delight in its beauty and simplicity. The Old Church is located in Marquês de Pombal Square.

- **Castro Marim**

We head on to Castro Marim, a border town with an incredible history and its strategically positioned castle. We will also visit the Sapal Nature Reserve and take pleasure in all the beauty of its fauna and flora.

Traditional afternoon snack.

- **Alcoutim**

Our journey ends in Alcoutim, a small village of the Algarve hinterland, far from the coast, located between the Caldeirão Mountain range and the Guadiana River. A village with a rich history of archaeological monuments like the Alcoutim Castle, the Old Castle, the Roman Village, the Chapel of Our Lady and the Roman water dam. Here we can stroll and enjoy all there is to offer.

*** Optional dinner in Barranco do Velho**



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