

LIST OF SUGGESTED  
PLACES TO VIST IN  
LISBON AND ALGARVE

PRESENTED BY

X marks the \_\_\_\_\_

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Following our messages on Instagram here are lists of great places to visit in Lisbon and Algarve. We have scanned the internet for the best activities for you and we have lined out things that could be seen in a 3 to 7 day trip to any of these places. We are currently working on various other plans for places around Europe so if you would like more from us do not hesitate to email us. We haven't laid out a daily itinerary in the hope that you can arrange your days from this list dependent on the weather and length of travel time for each activity.

## **Lisbon**

### **Torre de Belém**

If you don't know where to start off your list of things to see in Lisbon, then this is a great suggestion. A trip to the capital should take in the Torre de Belém, a UNESCO world heritage site and one of Portugal's most famous monuments. The Gothic tower was built to guard the entrance to the harbour and has some fine examples of Portuguese stonework dating from the 1500s.

#### **Departure Point:**

Jardim Afonso de Albuquerque

#### **Departure Time:**

Morning schedule: 10am

Afternoon schedule: 3pm

Hotel pickups commence approximately 30 - 60 minutes prior to this time

#### **Duration:**

3 hours (approx.)

#### **Return Details:**

The tour ends at the Tower of Belém monument

For more information and to book click here: <http://attractions-pt.timeout.com/en/20543/tours/Lisbon/Belem-Small-Group-Walking-Tour-in-Lisbon/d538-14060P3>

### A Brasileira

*It's fancy, a meeting point for friends to have a coffee before a performance or theatre in the places nearby. It has a terrace, so you can sit outside listening the musicians that pass by Chiado.*

*It has more than 100 years old and it's a milestone, since it was once the choice of Fernando Pessoa, the greatest Portuguese poet. Back in the days, it was a meeting point for writers, artists and journalists. The inside is decorated by old carved wood and burnished metal décor. If you need to use the toilet, keep the receipt.*

Address: A Brasileira, Rua Garret, 120-122, Lisbon

Contact: 351 213 469 541

Opening times: Mo-Su: 08:00-02:00

### Shore Tour of Lisbon - The Essence of the City

*Discover the wonders of Lisbon on this customizable, 3-hour private tour. Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world, and the oldest in Western Europe, predating other modern European capitals. Learn about its extensive history and more, with the help of your guide. Visit must-see attraction like the Alfama neighbourhood, Belém Tower, and many more.*

#### Highlights

- Choice of several departures throughout the day
- Excellent value for money
- Flexibility to customize your itinerary to your own preferences
- Step back in time on a history tour
- Free port pickup and drop-off included
- Informative, friendly and professional guide

*Your private Lisbon tour begins after your guide picks you up from your central hotel/cruise terminal. Strap in to your air-conditioned vehicle, and enjoy the sights beyond the window as you receive hear about Lisbon's rich history and culture.*

*Visit the Alfama district, Lisbon's oldest neighbourhood, where Saint Anthony's*

Church is - more well known as Saint Anthony of Padua throughout the Catholic world, at our capital he is obviously, Saint Anthony of Lisbon; as well as the dramatic Lisbon Cathedral (Se de Lisboa). From the viewpoints of Miradouro da Graça or Portas do Sol, admire the impressive views of the mouth of the Tagus River.

Panoramic driver through Rossio Square and the downtown area - all destroyed with the 1755 earthquake and rebuilt afterwards – you will then enter the city's main avenue towards the sightseeing point of Top of the Park for some great photos!.

Continuing the tour toward the area of Belém, we will still be passing under the 18 century Aqueduct, the Portuguese Golden Gate and arrive at the Age of Discoveries area of the city. Visit the Jerónimos' Monastery as well as some free time for sampling a custard tart - famous North to South of the country, the tarts at this factory have a secret !!

Continuing the tour you will be passing the Tower of Belém, Monument to the Age of Discoveries and start to return to your cruise ship - along the way, the renovated riverfronts as well as one of Europe's most beautiful squares - Commerce Square.

Departure Point:

Lisbon cruise port dock or centrally locate accommodation

Departure Time:

Your preferred departure time

Times are subject to change due to local traffic conditions.

Duration:

3 hours (approx.)

For more information and to book click here: <http://attractions-pt.timeout.com/en/20543/tours/Lisbon/Shore-Tour-of-Lisbon-The-Essence-of-the-City/d538-18520P13>

Monumental Lisbon Private Tour

Discover the best of Lisbon on this monumental private full-day tour. Customize your itinerary of the tour to suit your curiosity. Explore the wonders of Portugal's

capital, including the Church of Saint António, the Cathedral of Lisbon, the Tower of Belém, and Terreiro do Paço. Walk its charming neighbourhoods and learn about its history and culture.

Enjoy a typical lunch, taste the custard tarts, take a ride on the cable cars at Parque das Nações or even - visit the Oceanarium.

### Highlights

- Excellent value for money
- Flexibility to customize your itinerary to your own preferences
- Multiple departure times and locations available
- Small group ensures personal service
- All taxes, fuel surcharges and service fees included

Your private Lisbon tour begins after your guide picks you up from your central hotel/cruise terminal. Strap in to your air-conditioned vehicle, and enjoy the sights beyond the window as you receive hear about Lisbon's rich history and culture.

### Departure Point:

Lisabon hotels/AirBnB

### Departure Time:

Flexible- full-day tours usually begin between 8 and 9am

### Duration:

6 hours (approx.)

For more information or to book click here: <http://attractions-pt.timeout.com/en/20543/tours/Lisbon/Monumental-Lisbon-Private-Tour/d538-18520P7>

### Miradouro da Graca

The official name for this viewpoint is Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen, a well-known poet that spent many of her days admiring Lisbon and writing poems from this spot. In her honour, you can find a bust and a plaque with one of her poems; however, you should learn Portuguese in order to read it.

Situated on the hill of Santo André, with a view that can reach the old neighbourhoods like Mouraria, Alfama, Downtown and the Castle and also the

river and 25th April Bridge. Have a drink in the esplanade facing Lisbon's roofs and try to identify churches, monuments and whatever you can distinguish. If you don't want to climb neither catch the crowded 28 trams, catch bus 712 (Marquês de Pombal) or 726 and leave at Sapadores and then walk a bit.

Address: Miradouro da Graça, Largo da Graça, Lisbon

### FOOD TOUR & COOKING CLASS : Portugal in a fork

The hotel pick-up (or if elsewhere this could be discussed with the host) at 9.30am heading then to a local market at Benfica neighbourhood where you'll get to see how a Lisboner shops in a traditional market. You'll be introduced to the multiplicity of fresh products (meat, fish, bread, vegetables, spices) and how they got prepared in the Portuguese way.

After this the group will buy all the food needed head to the cooking location to start the cooking class, including the introduction to Portuguese Gastronomy and regional cuisine, basic ingredients in a Portuguese kitchen, traditional appetizers and main dishes and Portuguese sweets. The cooking class is prepared to be an incremental moment that is saying that by the end of the cooking class our lunch will be ready!

After lunch and you head to Senhora do Monte viewpoint, an astonishing place with a 180° view over the city of Lisbon to pick its most beautiful landscape.

At 3pm (approx) it will be time for a lovely farewell and to head back to your hotel (or if elsewhere this could be discussed with the host)

To book or to find out more click here:

<https://www.vizeat.com/events/18695?c=EUR>

### Igreja de São Vicente de Fora

Portugal's first king, Afonso Henriques, laid the foundation stone for the first church of St Vincent 'Outside' - that is, beyond the then city walls - hardly a month after taking Lisbon from the Moors in 1147. He was fulfilling a vow to construct Christian houses of worship on the sites where Portuguese soldiers and northern European crusaders lay buried. In 1580, Portugal's then ruler King Philip II of Spain decided to start from scratch and brought in his own architect, Juan Herrera (builder of the Escorial). With Italian architect Filippo Terzi, Herrera designed a new church in Italian mannerist style. It was inaugurated in 1629, but was severely damaged in the 1755 earthquake, when the main dome and roof collapsed on a

crowd of worshippers. The big draw are the cloisters, richly decorated with early 18th-century tile panels, some illustrating La Fontaine fables. Inside there's the royal pantheon of the Braganza family, the last dynasty to rule Portugal. The figure of a weeping woman kneels before the twin tombs of Dom Carlos I and Crown Prince Luís Filipe, shot by assassins in 1908.

Address: Igreja de São Vicente de Fora, Lg de São Vicente, Lisbon, 1100-572

Opening hours: Church 8am-1pm, 2.30-5pm Tue-Sat; 8am-noon Sun

Price: Church free. Cloisters €4; €2 reductions; free under-13s

### Gulbenkian

Music Season with Gulbenkian Orchestra and Choir, permanent exhibitions of the collections of Calouste Gulbenkian Museum and Modern Art Centre. Also temporary exhibitions, symposia and conferences. The immense garden of lush greenery is fresh and inviting, pieces of sculpture spread between paths and lawns.

The main building houses the headquarters of the Foundation and part of the art collection (ancient Egypt, Eastern art, European painting and jewellery). The Modern Art Centre has paintings from Portuguese artists like Almada Negreiros and Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso. Check if there is a performance in the outdoor amphitheatre.

In a sunny day take a blanket or beach towel and lay down near the lake with a book and the ducks' company

Address: Gulbenkian, Avenida de Berna 45, Lisbon

Contact: +351217823000 [www.gulbenkian.pt/](http://www.gulbenkian.pt/)

### Secret Food Tours Lisbon

When you book a food tour with our group, you will get the chance to taste traditional ginjinha, some of the country's famous pastries and best ham and cheeses. A food tour in Mouraria would be incomplete without sampling some "petiscos" (Portuguese tapas). During your epicurean outing, our guides will entertain you with stories about the area, along with a rich understanding of the city's food and top tips about the best places to visit for the rest of your vacation. Daytime or evening, when you come on our food tours in Lisbon, you will get to

enjoy some of best Portuguese food and wine, guaranteed to get your taste buds tingling. To start, your local Portuguese guide will take you to a nice "Garrafeira" to enjoy a delicious Porto wine. Next, we will show you where to eat the best "Bifana" in town. Our Bifana will be served with a fresh "Imperial" (portuguese local beer) The visit will continue in the heart of Mouraria district where you will enjoy the stunning view over the city and all the beautiful old tiles Let's not forget to try some sardines and have a "Ginjinha" (portuguese local liqueur) The tour also take you to a visit of a shop where you will buy delicious Portuguese cured meat and the best selection of cheeses! Next, we will show you one of the best hidden gems in Lisbon, an old palace where you will taste some traditional handmade "Petiscos" The tour can't end without you tasting the famous and hand-made traditional Portuguese pastry "Pastel de Nata" Oh, and of course there's our delicious Secret Dish too!

For more information or to book click here:

<https://www.vizeat.com/events/18789?c=EUR>

### Museu Calouste Gulbenkian

It's difficult to know where to start in this, one of Europe's leading fine arts museums, with exhibits dating from 2000 BC to the early 20th century. From the ancient world come Egyptian scarabs, Greco-Roman jewellery and a giant ninth century BC Assyrian bas-relief in alabaster of a warrior.

Perhaps the two outstanding rooms are those containing Islamic and Oriental art: carpets, robes, tapestries, tiles and glassware, mainly from 16th- and 17th-century Persia, Turkey, Syria and India; and porcelain, jade, paintings and lacquered boxes from China and Japan. The section on European art displays medieval manuscripts, and ivory and wood diptychs. Further on are Italian Renaissance majolica ware and tapestries, and a selection of 18th-century French furniture and silverware. Among the painters represented are Domenico Ghirlandaio, Rubens, Hals and Rembrandt, Gainsborough, Manet and Corot. Save time for the final room and its breath-taking glass and metal art nouveau jewellery by René Lalique.

Audio-guides are available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese to help you get the most from the experience. There are also excellent temporary exhibitions, with pieces lent by institutions around the world. Downstairs is an art library (which often hosts midday classical recitals on Sundays), an excellent café and a small gift shop. There's a larger bookshop in the lobby of the main building. Don't miss the Centro de Arte Moderna at the southern end of the park.

Address: Museu Calouste Gulbenkian, Av de Berna, 45, Lisbon, 1067-001

Contact: <https://gulbenkian.pt/museu/museu.asp?lang=en> 351217823000

Opening Times: Museum 10am-6pm Tue-Sun (last entry 5.30pm)

Price: €5 (€15 with Centro de Arte Moderna and all exhibitions); €2.50 reductions; free under-13s & all Sun

### Lisbon street art tour

Lisbon features an impressive display of Portuguese and international street art. It's on its way to becoming the urban art capital of Europe, with artists from far and wide gracing the back passages and river docks with their unsung masterpieces. Previously, it was full of boring all-white buildings, but these days you'll find bursts of colour in almost every corner of the city.

Street art has been a big part of the local culture for a while. There was a tradition of all-white buildings until the 18th century, but after the 1755 earthquake, coloured tiles were incorporated into the walls and pavements of the city. Early graffiti was perhaps the poor man's equivalent. Following the democratic revolution of 1974, this self-expression increased.

The artworks you'll see on this tour are mostly a result of the Crono Project – a scheme that gives artists the opportunity to transform neglected buildings into true urban galleries.

Big-name street artists including Dolk, Blu, Aryz, Os Gêmeos, M. Chat, Remed and many more also regularly visit Lisbon.

For more information or to book click here:

[https://www.likealocalguide.com/lisbon/tours/lisbon-street-art-tour?utm\\_campaign=marketplace\\_click&utm\\_medium=category\\_page\\_1ad&utm\\_source=lisbon&utm\\_content=sights](https://www.likealocalguide.com/lisbon/tours/lisbon-street-art-tour?utm_campaign=marketplace_click&utm_medium=category_page_1ad&utm_source=lisbon&utm_content=sights)

### Time Out Market Lisboa

Have you ever heard of curated burgers? Curated nigiri? Curated pizzas, sandwiches or even curated cod? Probably not. After all, Time Out Market is the

*first market in the world where everything has been chosen, tasted and tested (with four or five stars, and not one star less) by an independent panel of city experts: Time Out's own journalists and critics. More than 40 spaces with the leading representatives in all the food categories that help make Lisbon what it is - and tastes - all together under one roof. Find out everything you need to taste - and what Time Out had to say about it.*

*A concept created from scratch in 2014 by the team at Time Out Portugal, with only the best ideas and business projects in Lisbon - according to the editorial team - which can stay in the market from one week to three years. If it's good, it goes in the magazine, if it's great, it goes into the market.*

*On the one hand, 24 restaurants some of them from very well-known Portuguese chefs, 8 bars, a dozen shops and a high-end music venue called Rive Rouge, all with the very best in Lisbon (the best steak, the best hamburger, the best sushi and the best live performances, amongst others); on the other hand, home to some of the city's best known (and longest-running) market vendors of meat, fish, fruit and flowers.*

*For more information click here: <https://www.timeout.com/lisbon/things-to-do/time-out-market-lisboa>*

## **Algarve**

### **Dolphins & Caves Discovery Cruise**

*Get aboard a sleek modern catamaran and explore the waters off the coast of Algarve. Over the course of 3 hours, watch for majestic dolphins as your guide shows you some of the best of that Algarve's coastline has to offer—from monumental cliffs to its wonderful wildlife.*

*Head from Albufeira to the Alfanzina Lighthouse and gaze at the stunning white sandy beaches, breath-taking rock formations along the way. As the boat heads to deeper waters, search for dolphins in their natural habitat. See common and bottlenose dolphins frolicking in the surf, and if you're lucky, witness more of Algarve's bountiful marine life, like the shy boto or the majestic orca.*

*Take to the blue waters of the Atlantic, just off the coast of Algarve, on a search for dolphins. As you cruise, look out for these jovial mammals surfacing alongside*

*your boat and flashing you a warm smile. Along the way, explore the area's stunning rock formations and beaches.*

For more information click here: <https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/dolphins-caves-discovery-cruise.a273127.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### *Lagos & Sagres Half-Day Tour*

*Explore the charming historical town of Lagos and the picturesque fishing village of Sagres in this half-day tour from the Algarve. Discover museums, chapels, and beautiful coastal scenery as your guide tells you all about the history of these fascinating towns.*

*Head towards the Western Algarve and pass by long stretches of beautiful white sandy beaches until you reach the stunning waterfront scenery that defines the coastal village of Lagos. Lagos is not only popular for its tourist-friendly beaches, bars, and restaurants, but it was also a centre of the country's historic Age of Discovery.*

*See the statue of Henry the Navigator, who left Lagos in 1415 to mark the start of Portuguese maritime discovery, and listen as your guide explains how the village used to be a centre for the European slave trade. Visit the Antonine Museum within the 18th-century Church of St. Anthony and uncover its historical local relics that date back to Roman times.*

*Next, it's time to head west for a stop at Ponta da Piedade to admire the magnificent rock towers rising from the ocean. Continue to the fishing village of Sagres, explore its town center, and don't miss its enchanting harbor for a perfect postcard photo. Finish your tour with a stopover at Cape St. Vincent, Europe's southwestern most point.*

For more information click here:

<https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/lagos-sagres-half-day-tour.a184685.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Coastal Cruise to the Insonia Caves

Take a scenic cruise along the Algarve coast and enjoy the views as you head toward Carvoeiro Beach. Admire the beauty of some of Portugal's finest beaches, and then see the Insonia caves and intriguing rock formations as you glide by the charming towns that dot the coastline.

Board your boat at Albufeira and set sail for the Atlantic Ocean, and prepare yourself for a relaxing cruise along the Algarve coast. Sit back and feel the Portuguese breeze against your skin as you admire the shoreline views.

See sandy beaches, weave through the mysterious Insonia caves, and be captivated by the imposing rock developments. Also, don't forget to keep your eye out for the dolphins that leap through these waters.

For more information click here:

<https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/coastal-cruise-to-the-insonia-caves.a184690.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Jet Ski Experience

Experience the thrill and adventure of jet skiing along the coast of Algarve. Speed through the Atlantic waters, breaking through the waves and pass by the stunning landscape white sandy beaches and picturesque caves.

After a safety briefing and instruction, set off on an exciting 30-minute ride to explore Algarve's waterfront in style. Whether you choose to drive alone or with someone else, this activity is sure to be memorable, giving you the chance to ride past the region's most beautiful beaches and caves.

Each jet ski can hold up to 2 people, so you can choose to drive alone or with a partner, taking turns jumping waves and charging through the water as you leave Albufeira behind you.

For more information click here:

<https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/jet-ski-experience.a273839.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Jet Boat Ride

*Experience the thrills of an exciting jet boat ride around the Algarve coast. Admire the scenery and stunning white sandy beaches, and visit Algarve's famous water caves to complete your experience.*

*Start your adventure from the Albufeira Marina, where you are welcomed and briefed by a friendly staff member. Hop aboard your boat and get ready for a high-speed ride with adrenaline-pumping power breaks. Hold on tight as your captain performs daring 360-degree spins and heart-racing twists and turns.*

*As your captain manoeuvres the boat with expertise, take in the glorious scenery around you and gaze at the stunning beaches and rock formations of the coastline. At the end of your experience, visit Algarve's famous water caves to see a true wonder of nature.*

*For more information click here: <https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/jet-boat-ride.a273835.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>*

### Algarve Coast & Caves Small-Group Kayak Excursion

*Join this incredible journey and discover hidden gems along Albufeira's coastline—like magnificent marine caves, limestone cliffs, and breath-taking secluded beaches. Venture in your kayak atop the glittering ocean at your own pace as you explore these natural wonders.*

*Step aboard a catamaran and sail toward a vantage point where you can continue by kayak. Follow your guide as you row by Sao Rafael and Arrifes beaches, 2 of the most beautiful in the Algarve. Pause for a swim or continue practicing your kayak skills in the blue water.*

*Next, head to some magnificent caves. Gaze at incredible rock formations and hear as your guide explains a little of the geology behind what you see. Enjoy the opportunity to get up close to these caverns, only possible by kayak or swimming. Gaze at limestone cliffs on the way and keep an eye out for sea birds.*

*End your experience with a relaxing catamaran journey back to shore, where you can enjoy the sun on deck during a calm sail.*

For more information click here: <https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/algarve-coast-caves-small-group-kayak-excursion.a273137.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Captain Hook Cruise on the Leaozinho Pirate Ship

*Calling all landlubbers! Embark on a stunning cruise around the beautiful Algarve coastline in a striking old sail boat. Enjoy relaxing on the deck of this historic ship, admire the ever-changing scenery of secluded white sandy beaches, and cool off in the alluring waters.*

*From the pretty seaside town of Albufeira, leave the marina behind in the grand sail boat, Leaozinho, (Portuguese for "little lion"). The billowing white sails, wooden masts, and traditional rigging conjure images of old pirate ships as you imagine setting out with your crew in search of treasure and adventure.*

*Admire stretches of magnificent beaches intersected with dramatic rock formations as you sit back and gaze at the coastal landscape from your comfortable position on deck. Consider grabbing a refreshment from the well-stocked on-board Pirate Bar, or take advantage of a break in the sailing during which you can dive into the sea to cool off. Before the wind dies down, set a course for a return to the marina, and grab a few final snapshots of the swollen sails, pushing your stunning craft through the dark blue waters of the Atlantic.*

For more information click here: <https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/captain-hook-cruise-on-the-leaozinho-pirate-ship.a273799.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Full-Day Pirate Ship Cruise with Barbecue

*Enjoy a relaxing cruise along beautiful beaches, renowned caves, and rock formations of the Algarve coast. Pause for lunch and swimming time at an isolated beach and keep an eye out for curious dolphins jumping alongside the boat.*

*Hop aboard an iconic pirate ship and get comfortable as your captain welcomes you for a day to remember. Cruise through the blue waters of the Atlantic. Pass by the picturesque fisherman's village of Armação de Pêra and admire the remarkable chapel Senhora da Rocha.*

*Sit back, relax, and enjoy the warm sun of the Algarve as you look out to spot different species of dolphins swimming together beside the boat. Continue touring*

the coast as you admire many stunning white-sand beaches, impressive rock formations, and of course, the famous Algarve caves from your boat.

Reach an isolated beach where you set anchor and enjoy some swimming and sunbathing. After building up an appetite savor some delicious Portuguese barbecue on the beach before returning to Albufeira Marina.

For more information click here: <https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/full-day-pirate-ship-cruise-with-barbecue.a273815.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Lagos Boat Trip with Lunch

Take a relaxing cruise along Portugal's shoreline and enjoy views of white sandy beaches and small fishing villages along the coast. See the intriguing caves and rock formations at Ponta da Piedade and get the chance to explore the historic sights and beach areas of Lagos.

Depart Lagos port and set sail along the western coast of Portugal. Sit back, relax, and soak up the rays, as your crew take care of the sailing. Cruise by Ponta de Piedade, home to a scenic landscape of rock formations, intriguing caves, and sea arches that have formed over thousands of years.

Take a refreshing dip in the clear blue waters of the Atlantic before eating lunch on the boat. Enjoy servings of grilled chicken, fresh salad and bread with a glass of wine or water as you head back to Lagos.

Upon your return to Lagos, you have free time to explore the coastal city. Stroll along the waterfront to find a variety of beaches, from long sandy shores to private hidden coves. See the historic walls that circle the city, walk through vibrant squares, and visit historical sites such as Capela dos Ossos, or Chapel of Bones.

For more information click here: <https://www.expedia.com/things-to-do/lagos-boat-trip-with-lunch.a184719.activity-details?rfr=TG.LP.MostPopular.Activity>

### Visit Silves

Silves lies inland, surrounded by valleys of orange groves and dominated by a red sandstone castle that stands proudly against the skyline. The centre of culture during the Moorish occupation of the Algarve, Silves was home to poets and orators until the Knights of Santiago took the city in 1242. Visit the castle and its Cistern of the Enchanted Moorish Girl (Castelo de Silves: open daily; 282 445 624). The lovely cathedral, nearby, dates from the 13th century (Largo da Sé: open daily except

public holidays). There is also an archaeological museum (Rua das Portas de Loulé: open Tue-Sun; 282 444832).

### Walk along the Via Algarviana

This 186-mile walking route runs from Alcoutim, near the Spanish border, right across the interior of the Algarve to Cape St Vincent in the far west. It is well marked, and along the way are signs indicating distances to the nearest settlement and points of interest. The route takes you well off the beaten track and is particularly scenic in springtime when the fields are covered by wild flowers.

More information: <http://viaalgarviana.org>

Contact: Project Via Algarviana: Head Office: Rua de S. Domingos N° 65 . 8100-536 Loulé; 00 351 289 412 959

### Visit a fish market

For me, nothing gives a sense of place better than a food market, and in the Algarve that means fish. Olhão, on the eastern side of the Algarve, famous for fishing since the Middle Ages, has the best both in terms of architectural exterior and an interior, with more than 80 stalls. The variety and abundance from the Atlantic is impressive: dorada (sea bream) and robalo (sea bass) are the crème-de-la-crème but octopus and squid are also popular, as well as clams, percebes (goose neck barnacles), and lagosta (rock lobster). Stop for a coffee at any of the little pavement cafés outside to dry out your feet afterwards.

Open: from 7am until about 1pm; closed Sundays, and on Mondays it has limited produce.

Address: Avenida 5 de Outubro, 8700 Olhão

Contact: 289 707 298

### Take to the water

Algarve Seafaris offer a variety of programmes, including deep-sea fishing, reef fishing and cruises along the coastline, exploring caves and secluded beaches. The choice of transport ranges from large catamarans to smaller yachts and cruises begin at Vilamoura Marina. Stops are made to swim and dive as well as venturing into some of the more impressive caves.

Cost: cruises from €34; fishing from €52, including equipment and bait but excluding a fishing licence (€5)

Contact: 289 302 318; [algarve-seafaris.com](http://algarve-seafaris.com)

### Zoo Marine

*This is the Algarve's biggest visitor attraction. There is a strong emphasis on conservation and education and many opportunities for children to interact with the animals and birds at close range. The dolphins, sea lions and seal shows are excellent and children aged six and over can swim with dolphins in small groups (book in advance; €169 per person). There are also water slides and merry-go-rounds.*

*Admission: adults €29; children under 3ft 3in are free; taller children €19  
Open: 28 March to 26 November, 10am to 6pm, and until 7.30pm in July and August (in October and November, it closes at 5pm and on some weekends)  
Address: EN 125 - Km 65, Guia, 8201-864 Albufeira  
Contact: 289 560 300/1; [zoomarine.pt](http://zoomarine.pt)*

### Dolphins in the wild

*To see sea life in its natural habitat, head to Mar Ilimitado at Sagres, which specialises in marine wildlife-watching. Accompanied by a couple of marine biologists, guests go out in a RIB and are likely to see sea turtles and porpoises as well as storm petrels, shearwaters and gannets.*

*Admission: adults €35; children €25  
Address: Rua do Poente, 8650-378, Sagres  
Contact: 91 683 2625; [marilimitado.com](http://marilimitado.com)*

### Water parks

*It's hard to miss the water parks in the Algarve, as several of them are landmarks. I have found that children absolutely love them and have spent entire days there. The three main ones are:*

#### *Aquashow Park Hotel, Quarteira*

*Popular for its 50ft-high snake slide.*

*Open: May to September, 10am to 5pm with later closing in high summer  
Admission: €29 per adult; €18 aged five to 10; under fives free  
Address: Estrada Nacional, 396 Quarteira  
Contact: 289 315 129; [aquashowparkhotel.com](http://aquashowparkhotel.com)*

### Aqualand, Alcantarilha

The kamikaze, which takes just four seconds for you to slide 120ft, has the longest queues here.

Open: June to September 10am to 5pm, with later closing in high summer

Admission: €27 per adult; €19 for children aged 5-10; under fives free

Address: E.N. 125 Sitio das Areias Apartdao 11, 8365 -908 Alcantarilha

Contact: 282 320 230; <http://aqualand.pt>

### Slide & Splash, Estombar

Spread over seven hectares, highlights include the Tornado and the Turbulent River. It also stages animal shows starring parrots and reptiles.

Open: April to October 10am to 5pm with later closing high summer.

Admission: €27; €19 aged five-10; under fours free

Address: E.N. 125 Vale de Deus, Estombar, 8401-901 Lagoa

Contact: 282 340800; [slidesplash.com](http://slidesplash.com)

### Water sports

The west coast provides perfect conditions for surfing. There are various schools for beginners, including Sagres Natura (lessons from €50/day; 282 824072; <http://sagresnatura.com>), which picks you up and takes you to whichever beach has the right conditions for the day. Water-skiing can be done in the calmer waters off Quinta do Lago

(289 394929 or 96 403 8472; [lagowatersports.com](http://lagowatersports.com)), as can banana boat rides, jet skiing and other water sports.

There are various English-language publications available in newsagents that give details of current and future concerts, festivals and fairs. Another good source of information is [algarveuncovered.com](http://algarveuncovered.com).

### Shopping

Local pottery makes an attractive souvenir to take home. The best choice and most beautiful workmanship can be found at Porches Pottery, on the main N125 near Lagoa. Plates in all shapes and sizes are hand painted with flowers, fish, dragonflies and more in blues, turquoises, greens and yellows. Coffee and tea sets, lamps, butter dishes, soap dishes, plant pots and candle sticks can all be shipped

*home if required. Browse at leisure and enjoy a delicious salad at the Bar Bacchus, perhaps in a corner of the shady garden.*