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Visit our website

www.algarve-retreats.com

Welcome to your accommodation and to the start of your holiday. Our aim is to make your stay as enjoyable as we possibly can and to ensure that your time with us is problem free. We have prepared this guide to help you make the most of your time in the Algarve. Included within these pages and available via our website is information and excursion details that we hope that you will find useful. Should you require any further information or wish to book any of the trips or activities, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Kindest regards,

The Algarve Retreats Team

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1. About Us

Algarve Retreats offer a full range of real estate, rental and management services and in doing so we are confident that you will receive a quality service at very reasonable prices.

Regardless of whether you are buying, selling, renting or holidaying in the Algarve, our professional and friendly approach will ensure that you have the peace of mind to know that you are dealing with a company who 'have walked in your shoes' and understand your needs. With over 20 years' experience of holidaying, living, and renting in the Algarve we know that we can offer the service that you deserve, and we are the people that you can trust!

For rental clients a 24-hour contact facility is also provided, should they require our support or assistance during their stay.



2. General Information

The Western Algarve offers the perfect place to spend a holiday or even a lifetime. Filtered by thousands of miles of ocean the air is fresh and clean, drenched in over 300 days of sunshine per year, the Algarve offers one of the healthiest lifestyles in the world.

Ferragudo, Alvor, Lagos, Praia da Luz and beyond.

The whole of the Western Algarve offers an eclectic and cosmopolitan experience. Cobbled streets and stunning sandy beaches that welcome visitors looking for a holiday to remember for a lifetime. With the naturally beautiful River Arade leading to the picturesque village of Ferragudo, the sheltered Alvor estuary with its wildlife.



The historic walls of the old city of Lagos, the award-winning Lagos Marina and the stunning view across the Bay of Luz from the beach is breathtaking. This area really does have something for everyone.

Further afield the quaint fishing villages of Burgau and Salema offer traditional algarvian style with stunning scenery and a visit to the 'end of the world' at Sagres and Cape St. Vincent is a must to see the Western most tip of Europe.





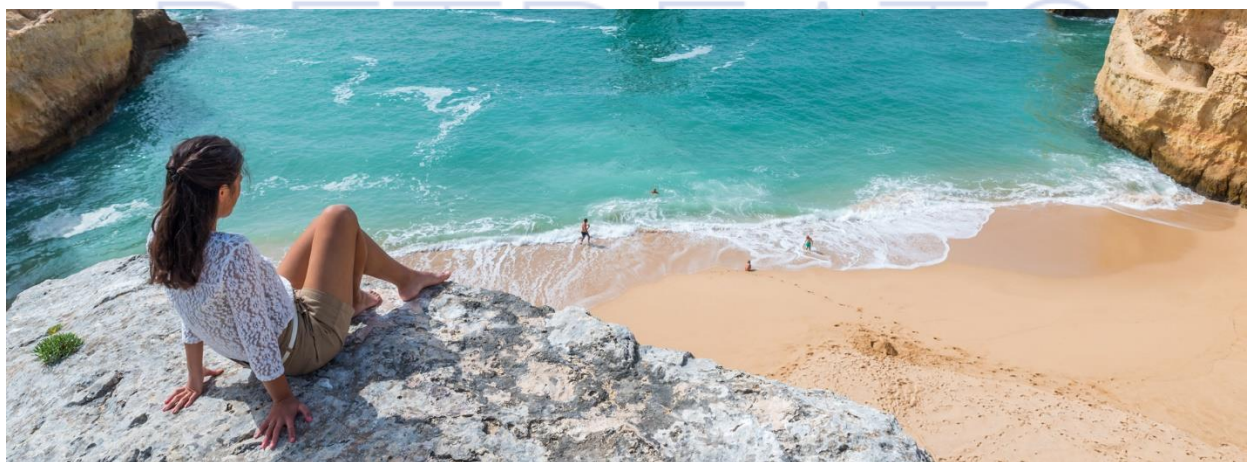
This is also the site of the historic naval College of Henry the Navigator. The cape continues to be an important landmark for the international transportation of goods, with its lighthouse, which is visible in the sea, 50 miles away.

The area has so much to offer, if you're a Sun worshipper and beach lover, surfer, sailor, hiker, historian, ornithologist or you just want to enjoy your holiday experience. Excellent food, friendly people and a wealth of activities to suit all tastes, the Western Algarve has something for you.

Once a visitor, always a friend!

For more detailed information please visit our website,

www.algarve-retreats.com



3. Beaches

The Western Algarve offer some of the best beaches in the world. Regardless of whether you enjoy a long expanse of gently shelving sand to the sea or a small, secluded rocky cove, the Western Algarve can provide whichever you prefer.

Beaches of Lagos

Meia Praia, Lagos



The Meia Praia's crescent shape frames 6km of beach which makes it a favorite for regular visitors to Lagos and is probably one of the best beaches in the world. Stretching to the Alvor estuary the Meia Praia begins just behind the old fishing docks at the edge of Lagos town. The beach is lined with an assortment of bars

and restaurants where you can enjoy a cocktail, meal or a simple drink as the sun goes down and there is plenty of parking available along the whole beach.

Batata, Lagos

Also known as the Town beach, Batata lies at the entrance to the Marina and offers its visitors the opportunity to watch majestic yachts enter and leave the Marina. With soft golden sand that shelves gently into the sea it is the ideal place to laze away the day, whilst having the convenience of being close to the old town.



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Praia Dona Ana, Lagos



One of the most photographed beaches in the Algarve and very popular with a backdrop of beautiful cliffs that offer some welcome shade. The beach is divided into two parts with the furthest end accessible at low tide or at any time if you don't mind getting wet to the waist. There is plenty of parking but be prepared to take the steps

down to the sand!!

Praia do Camilo, Lagos

A secluded little beach on the road to Ponte de Piedade. This is a beautiful beach with crystal clear waters and picturesque cliff formations. The views from the cliffs here are simply astonishing which makes it a good spot to embark on a cliff walk. The shallow, rocky seabed attracts diverse marine life and is a great spot for snorkelling.



Porto do Mos, Lagos



Praia Porto do Mos is at the western end of Lagos. This long stretch of sand is ideal for a long beach walk and with a beach bar restaurant is an ideal place to spend the day. Parking is plentiful and with direct access to the beach, Porto do Mos is much more user friendly than some of the other beaches with long step access.

Beaches from Alvor and Ferragudo

Praia do Alvor, Portimão

Praia do Alvor is almost a continuation of the beautiful beach of Meia Praia in Lagos. Separated by the Alvor Estuary this long expanse of soft golden sand gently shelves into the blue water of the Atlantic.



Ferragudo



The beaches in Ferragudo are all very different but equally as beautiful with their fine golden sands and stunning views. Grande Beach ('Praia Grande') and Angrinha Beach ('Praia da Angrinha') are overlooked by the fort of São João de Arade and are both perfect for windsurfing.

Molhe Beach - 'Praia do Molhe' boasts lovely views of Praia da Rocha and Portimão marina.

Pintadinho Beach - 'Praia do Pintadinho' is a sheltered sandy cove beach with a lighthouse and Caneiros Beach - 'Praia dos Caneiros' has stunning rock formations and a popular restaurant!



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Beaches from Luz to Salema

Praia da Luz



A long, golden curve of sand flanked by rocks at the western end, where you can hunt for shellfish and rock crabs, and the 'Rocha Negra' to the east. Luz is a beautiful beach with its own picturesque charm. There is a large selection of beach bars and restaurants close by which helps to make this the ideal family beach.

Praia da Burgau

The quaint little fishing village of Burgau slopes all the way down to the beach, which has a fantastic beach-bar that is very popular with families.



Praia da Salema



A spacious stretch of golden sand lying right in front of Salema village. The restaurant Atlantico lies on the very edge of the beach.

There are cliffs at either end, which make this beach popular for snorkeling and scuba diving.

Praia Boca do Rio



This beach is quite isolated and popular with campers. The beach lies between Burgau and Salema.

The remains of a French 'Man-of-War' lay on the sea bed just offshore so lots to explore for Scuba divers and snorkelers.

4. Golf

Through our association with some of the Algarve's best golfing agents and courses we can book you a round or build a golfing package to suit your corporate or personal requirement.

There are several great courses within a few minutes' drive of your accommodation, why not contact us or visit our website for details.



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5. Activities and Excursions

Please visit our website

<https://www.algarve-retreats.com/discover/what-to-do/excursions-and-activities>

for more details, videos and photos.

There is so much to see and do in the Western Algarve.

From lazing the days away on one of the sun-drenched beaches to the high octane thrills that accompany, parachuting, race track karting or one of the many water sports, there is something for everyone.

For information or to book any of these attractions, contact us for the best available prices.



Slide & Splash has been considered one of the best and largest water parks in Portugal and Europe.

With a total area of 7 hectares, the park offers many aquatic entertainments for all tastes and ages, as well as lawns or sun loungers, zones with animal shows, massage and fish spa, several restaurants and a shop.



Transport is available from across the Algarve.

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Dolphin Seafaris. Take a trip off shore into the beautiful clear waters of the bay of Lagos and beyond. Here you will see dolphins at play in their own, natural environment. Dolphin watching is a beautiful experience for all the family. A number of trips leave both Portimao and Lagos Marina several times per day and

last for approximately one and a half hours. This is a must and not to be missed.



Zoomarine is one of the biggest family attractions on the Algarve. With spectacular presentations including shows with Dolphins, Sea lions, Tropical Birds and Birds of Prey. You can swim with the dolphins with the unique Dolphin Emotions experience. There is an amazing 4D cinema and if all this is not enough there is also a family fairground with Big Wheel, small Rollercoaster and water slides. Buses run daily from all resorts. A life time experience and one to remember, is spending time in the water with the dolphins, truly amazing.



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Portitours Jeep Safari is a full day excursion. All drivers are experienced, informative and very entertaining. This is guaranteed to be one of your best days out in the Algarve. It's fun, informative and takes you to parts of the Algarve that you would never find on your own.



Yacht Charter. Why not add that touch of luxury and individuality to your holiday? Let us arrange a private yacht charter for you. A full day excursion on the Seastar Bavaria is a great way to spend a day at sea. With your own crew you can sail east or west and drop anchor for a picnic or go ashore and have lunch at one of the many restaurants dotted along the coast.



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Bom Dia - BBQ cruise. Set sail from Lagos Marina on the Bom Dia for a BBQ cruise off the stunning western Algarve coastline.

The boat will anchor in a sheltered bay and whilst the crew prepare your food why not take a dip in the crystal blue water or take a trip by small motor launch and visit the incredible grottos and caves around "Ponta da Piedade". Once back aboard and you eaten all you can it's time to set sail again, relax, sip a cocktail and enjoy the sun, sea and the view.



Algarve Autodrome and Kartdrome. A great day out, providing all the family the opportunity to drive on an F1 racing circuit in one of the superfast Peugeot RCZ, Porsches or Nissan GTR. Alternatively, ride pillion on one of the superbikes available.

Have a family race day on one of the biggest karting circuits in Europe. With

Karts for all ages, full safety briefings and stewards on hand to assist this is an exhilarating day of adventure. Take the family challenge and see who is crowned as champion!!!

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Skydive Algarve. Enjoy views of the Algarve from above in a thrilling tandem skydive experience. Feel your adrenaline pumping as you jump out of the plane at 15,000 feet. Free fall for about 60 seconds before your experienced instructor opens the parachute and you gently float down to earth.

Skydive Algarve, is in Alvor, and is open for tandem skydiving all year round.

Cape St Vincent

Why not pack up a picnic and watch the sunset at the end of the world. Cape St Vincent is the most westerly tip of Europe and has the most spectacular sunsets in the world. The drive will take around 35 minutes and the scenery is breathtaking. Sit on the edge of the sheer cliffs, sip a glass of wine and make a toast to the sun as it disappears into the sea.



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6. Shopping

Lagos offers a variety of shops and boutiques with designer labels, gift shops, luxurious bedding and antiques as well as many street traders. With prices to suit all pockets it's well worth a morning or afternoon stroll to window shop or bag a bargain before you eat.

Please remember that most of Shops are closed between the hours of 13.00 and 15.00 and do not open on Sundays.

Markets

There is a large market that travels the length of the Algarve each month. It arrives in Lagos on the first Saturday of the month and is located at the side of the football stadium close to the 'Macdonalds' roundabout.

Aqua Shopping



This complex can be found in Portimão and is approximately 20 minutes' drive from the centre of Lagos. Here you will find many familiar High Street names and plenty of places to eat. Take the train, the station in Portimão is walking distance to the shopping centre.

Algarve Shopping

Situated in Guia and about 40 minutes' drive east of Lagos, Algarve Shopping is full of designer labels and places to eat. There is also a large multiplex cinema here the shows all the latest releases in English with Portuguese sub titles.



The Designer Outlet

The Designer Outlet Algarve is a delightful mix of stores selling international brands, as well as a terrific spot for hanging out with your family and friends in the warm Algarvian sun.



Designer Outlet Algarve is designed to have the look and feel of a typical Algarvian village, complete with tiled façades, arched walkways, calçada streets and, even, peaked chimneys. Throughout the year, performers will roam the streets and

activities are planned to enhance the shopping experience.

Besides being the largest outlet mall in southern Portugal, it is also the first in Europe to be integrated into a commercial development along with an IKEA store and the Mar Shopping retail mall. An outside leisure area offers a respite from shopping, with children's activity equipment, interactive water fountains, green areas and food trucks.

Supermarkets

There is a good selection of supermarkets to be found in and around all major resorts. Opening times vary but in the main they are usually open from 08.00 to 22.00 during the summer and 08.30 to 20.00 during the winter.



Further afield at in Portimao next to Aqua Shopping and at Algarve Shopping in Guia, you will find an Iceland / Waitrose store that sells many familiar UK brands.

Iceland

Waitrose

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7. Places to Eat

the Western Algarve offers a seemingly endless variety of Restaurants and Bars for every budget and every taste. Whether you want to try the local cuisine or if you prefer Italian, Chinese, Indian, Thai, Tapas or Burgers you will find all close by.

In fact, there are so many restaurants it would be impossible to list our recommendations in this book.



Please check out TripAdvisor for options or we would be happy to share our preferences if you ask.

Part of the enjoyment of your holiday is to explore and find the places that you will want to return to time and again.

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8. ESSENTIAL INFORMATION – Just in Case!!!!

SOS – Emergency Info - Ambulance or Fire Service for Portugal: 112

All telephone numbers are local numbers. If ringing from a non-Portuguese number dial 00351 in front of your chosen number.

There are both public and private hospitals in Faro, Portimao and Lagos. There are Emergency departments in health centres in major towns – take your passport and your EHIC (E111) when requesting treatment.

Faro, Portimao and Lagos Hospitals are open 24/7.

Public Hospitals	Telephone
Faro	289 891 144
Lagos	282 770 100
Portimao	282 450 300

** Please note that the private hospitals are available via a central switchboard.

Private Hospitals	Telephone
Faro	282 420 400
Lagos	282 420 400
Portimao	282 420 400

You will find a number of pharmacies and dentists open in all resorts, very often the pharmacies provide 24 hour opening times on rotational basis. The numbers below are to a specific pharmacy or dentist in each resort. There are many others available.

Pharmacy	Telephone
Lagos	282 760 556
Luz	282 789 793
Alvor	282 459 588
Portimao	282 485 641

Dentists	Telephone
Lagos	282 798 152
Luz	282 788 820
Alvor	282 457 225
Portimao	282 495 311

Should you need to contact the police in a non-emergency, please use the numbers detailed below.

Local Police	Telephone
Lagos	282 780 240
Portimao	282 417 717

Please see below a list of Embassy's and Consulates These are in various locations across Portugal, including Lisbon (L), Faro (F) and Portimao (P).

Consulates	Telephone
British (P)	282 490 750
Irish (L)	21 330 8200
French (L)	21 393 9292
German (L)	21 881 0210
Swedish (L)	21 394 2260
Finland (F)	289 399 873
Norwegian (L)	21 300 9100
Canadian (L)	21 316 4600

Airports	Telephone
Faro General	289 800 800
Lisbon General	218 413 500

9. Other Useful Information

Banks

The Banks are open Monday to Friday: 8-30 a.m. until 15-00 p.m.

There are a number of banks or cash machines in all resorts. Cash machines known as Multibank's can also be found in most public places, supermarkets and shopping centres.

Car Hire

Should you wish to hire a car during your stay please ask Algarve Retreats for details.

Electricity

If your system is overloaded the trip switch will automatically shut down. To remedy this, turn off a few power points and reset the switch, which can be found in the fuse box, usually near the front door. There are occasional power failures in the area, particularly after a storm or planned cuts because of maintenance. If you have any problems with the electricity do not tamper with the system yourself, as this can be dangerous. Please contact us and we will provide assistance. The power supply in Portugal is 220v.

PLEASE NOTE - Electricity in Portugal is an expensive commodity.

Air Conditioning Units and other such appliances are very efficient at both cooling and heating your accommodation. Please do not leave appliances switched on during periods of non-occupancy. Additional charges for excessive use may be levied by owners for the additional electricity usage. Thank you for your co-operation.

Keys

Please make a note of our telephone numbers, so that you can contact us if you lose your keys.

During your stay, if you lose the keys to your accommodation or lock yourself out, there is a minimum charge of €120 for us to gain entry for you.

Any amounts that require a charge to be made that exceed the security deposit amount must be paid by you within 7 days of your return home.

Public Transport

Regular bus and train services operate all along the Algarve. Lagos is the end of the line for the train service, which is relatively cheap and usually on time. The train station is directly behind the Marina. There are two services to Faro, a fast one and one which stops at every station which takes much longer. It is best to check time tables carefully before embarking.

The bus service is inexpensive, the buses are clean and run regularly along the coast. Bus stops, called Paragens are plainly marked.

There are regular coach services to Lisbon, which are not expensive, it makes a pleasant part of the holiday to take one of these and stay overnight in the city.

Refuse Disposal

There are no house to house refuse collections in Portugal. Refuse should be disposed of daily by placing it in one of the many large green bins marked "Lixo" or at one of the recycling points called 'Isla Ecologica'.

By removing refuse daily, you will ensure that your holiday home stays fresher and this will also lessen the possibility of problems with ants and other insects. If it is left outside the house it will attract stray dogs, cats and possibly rats and mice.

Taxi's

The taxi services are efficient and very reasonably priced. The main 2 main companies are detailed below. They can be booked by contacting them half an hour before you want them for a local journey and arrange a pick up. If using a non-Portuguese telephone, please remember to dial 00351 before the number.

Gils Eanes – 282 764 481

Taxiarade – 282 460 610

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10. Using the Roads

The accident rate on Portuguese roads is very high and the EN 125, which runs the length of the Algarve is one of the most dangerous roads in Europe.

Speed Limits: The speed limit, unless there are signs to the contrary, is 40 kmph in built up areas, 90 kmph on main roads and 120 kmph on motorways.

Seat belts: are compulsory, both in the front and back. Children under 13 years old are not allowed in the front seats.

Documents: if you are bringing your own car, it's documents should be kept in the car. The driver should always carry his / her driving license, passport or identity card.

Hire Cars: When completing the rental agreement ensure that everyone wishing to drive the car has their name on the agreement, which should be kept in the car at all times. Also, in the car should be the car documents – ensure that they are. Do not leave valuables in the car or indeed anything on view as hire cars are easy and profitable targets.

To the Driver: If wanting to turn left, make sure that there is not a continuous white line down the middle of the road – if there is you must not cross it. Many of the roads now have loops, bearing off to the right and bringing you round so that you can go straight across the road, which makes turning left a less hairy experience. At roundabouts, give way to the traffic coming from your left.

Do not Drink and Drive: the laws over here are very strict and if you are caught the penalties are severe – a hefty fine or even a night in prison. **Please if you plan to drink taxis are cheap and readily available TAKE ONE please DO NOT Drive!!!!**

Spot Checks: these are common here and the Police do not need a reason to stop you. If you have done anything wrong do not argue. You will have to pay an “on the spot” fine and arguing will only increase this.

Parking: Most places have designated parking areas, many of which are “Pay and Display” so look for the ticket dispensers by the side of the road. There are several car parks where you collect a ticket as you go in and pay on the way out. Otherwise parking is free, though check before you leave your vehicle that

it is secure and there is nothing on view to attract a thief. Supermarket car parks are popular places for thieves and beggars.

Tolls: You will come across Tolls on many Motorways in Portugal. The only one on the Algarve is the A22, which runs from Faro to Lagos. This is usually the main road that tourists use to reach their resort.

If you travel the full length of the motorway, one way, the cost incurred will be around 8.00 euros.

YOUR CAR RENTAL PROVIDER CAN SUPPLY ALL THE INFORMATION THAT YOU NEED

The only option that you have to avoid this inconvenience is to use the EN 125 road as an alternative route to reach your destination.



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