

## DAY 1

# Olhos de Água mirrors of the sea day tour

A welcome day tour to have an in-depth knowledge of the Algarve coastal region. Olhos de Água is a little fishing village, unique for its endemic marine flora and fauna, aiming to conquer the title of 'Unesco Global Geopark'. Olhos de Água's beach always seems to be rediscovered. The high and low tides, together with groundwater hydrological processes, submerge and resurface pools of brackish water among sedimentary rocks on the beach. Olhos de Água represents a unique blend of tradition and modernity, coexisting relaxed and friendly atmospheres.

- Pick-up from Faro Airport. Full day in Olhos de Água, a picturesque Algarvian fishing village. Discover the characteristic white-sand coves and small pools of water among sedimentary moss-covered rocks, especially visible at low-tide, as 'mirrors of water like eyes on the sea'.
- Olhos de Água is a relaxing family tourism destination, to appreciate for its authentic and traditional Algarvian fishing-village identity, as a 'niche place' within a complex and competitive urban tourism context, recognized at international level too.
- Lunch or dinner in an idyllic Algarvian beachfront restaurant. Free time available for a panoramic stroll on the hill overlooking the ocean.
- Walk down the beach stairs among tropical and Mediterranean vegetation to reach Praia Maria Luisa, a wide sandy beach situated between two steep cliff edges. Have a pleasant day resting on fine white sand or swimming in the 'blue flag' sea.
- Back to Olhos de Água for visiting the village centre with local bars, restaurants and small beach shops. Enjoy wonderful and memorable sunset views before the evening!



## DAY 2

# Falésia Canyon day tour

A panoramic day tour to explore an area of outstanding natural beauty, a stretch of coast including a marine ecosystem of extensive biodiversity. The spectacular Falésia beach is almost 6 kilometers long, aiming to be part of future and potential 'Unesco Global Geopark', acclaimed for its ancient and peculiar geological features. The Falésia area is a spectacular red rock scenery with scattered maritime pines, mediterranean plants and wildflowers, looking like a brightly coloured Canyon sculpted by wind and water erosion. Further south, enchanting oasis of tranquility among rocky coves, away from Portuguese nightlife.



- Tuk-tuk fun tour towards Falésia, one of the most sought-after beaches in southern Portugal, ideal destination for water sport activities.
- Surrounded by uncontaminated nature, Falésia beach is a fabulous landscape tourism destination. A long sandy expanse to walk along its entire length, admiring different rock formations like 'Canyons by the sea', with distinctive bright-red and golden-white streaky coastal geomorphology.
- During the morning, go up and down the wooden stairs, then follow the paths to explore the cliffs of Falésia, one of the most iconic viewpoints in Algarve where to take wonderful photos.
- Access from Olhos de Água at Praia do Barranco das Belharucas towards the beach through fascinating Falésia rocky Canyon, immersed in nature. Other direct secondary accesses walking from Falésia beach up to the cliffs.
- Lunch in a top seaside restaurant offering zero km. products such as fresh fish, fruits and vegetables to support local communities and sustainability.
- Free time available in the afternoon for water sports such as: surfing, kayaking, jet-ski, catamaran, stand-up paddle and other recreational activities.



## DAY 3

# Albufeira fortress city day tour

A day tour in Albufeira, a charming and international coastal town with strong Algarvian identity. The 'Vila Velha' or 'Old Town' includes an ancient urban cluster of islamic archaeological remains such as walls, castles, bright clay towers and Arabic style houses overlooking the sea. Here is a fundamental and considerable green approach to the environment, offering different types of beaches and a modern Marina, water sports and recreational activities in direct contact with nature. Despite offering a bustling urban centre, Albufeira expresses traditional Portuguese lifestyle at its best.



- The so-called 'Al-Bulhera' or 'fortress city' was founded by the Arabs. Nowadays, Albufeira reveals a harmonious blend of ancient and modern urban aspects, with narrow streets and winding alleys, pastel-coloured villas, rounded houses with tall and decorated chimneys, curvilinear balconies as well as Moorish-style buildings. Here tourism and economic development have been gradually growing over the years.
- Tuk-tuk cultural tour to explore in-depth Albufeira historic centre: four little churches, the iron Clock Tower, several local shops selling cork, pottery and souvenirs, international bars, pubs and restaurants at main Praia dos Pescadores, proceeding to the most attractive beaches in the same area.
- From Praia dos Pescadores get to the top of the cliff by a panoramic open-air escalator to have stunning views over the ocean. Afterwards, gourmet lunch in a trendy seaside restaurant. Then, relax and walk along the seashore or get the tourist train to Pau da Bandeira viewpoint, skirting the eastern side of the coast overlooking the sea.
- Reach lively Praia dos Alemães and Praia da Oura. Admire the fantastic geomorphological features of coves, ravines and gorgeous paths among beachrocks, especially visible during low tide, when it is possible to walk along the strand in its entire length.
- During the early evening, free time available on bustling Oura and Santa Eulália strips, where you can experience local nightlife the most: cocktail bars with music, portuguese and ethnic restaurants, different clothing and gift shops.



## DAY 4

# Benagil temple of the sea day tour

A day tour to discover the most hidden coastal features of paleontological relevance: a succession of dizzying peaks and stratiform conglomerate deposits of fossiliferous limestone, gravel and sand. This area comprises the Pedra do Valado Marine Natural Park, with a wide range of protected flora and marine biodiversity. Here are unique natural surprises among vertical sequences of extravagant rock forms and arches emerging from the sea. Adventurous boat trip to the fascinating Benagil caves, the so-called 'temple of the sea' and dolphin watching.



- In the morning, from Praia dos Pescadores on the western side of Albufeira, get the panoramic elevator to reach the top of the cliff or walk up the stairs up to admire the amazing coastal scenery. Arrival at the Marina.
- Enjoy a fabulous speed boat tour! An excellent opportunity to spot dolphins, after crossing the stunning natural monument of the renowned Benagil caves, the so-called 'temple of the sea' surrounded by rock walls, inside illuminated by natural light.
- Lunch in a top beachfront restaurant offering regional cuisine: local seafood and meat, plus a range of desserts including almond, fig and eggs cakes, biscuits... And do not forget to taste, the most traditional portuguese cream pastry 'pastel de nata'!
- In the afternoon, from the Marina, walk to the spectacular Praia dos Arrifes, a coastal geologic formation of faults, fractures and rock tunnels, resulting from salt deposits and underground strata movements.



## DAY 5

# Albufeira off-the-road day tour

A day tour to explore the rural Algarve hinterland including its ethnographic and cultural heritage to preserve. Here the rural context reveals a profound geomorphological relationship between endemic vegetation and landform classification, such as limestone and clay hills, ponds, orchards and local plantations. Nowadays, the surrounding hydrological system of wells and natural freshwater resources nourish the soil during long periods of drought, as Arabs did in the past. Exciting 'off-the-road' jeep safari immersed in nature, among cultivated fields, remote villages and family-run farms.



- Adventurous jeep-safari in the Algarve hinterland, not far from the coast. Discover this scenic rural area and have wonderful 360° views of the surrounding hilly countryside with typical portuguese orange trees, olive groves and cork oak trees, all destined for final production and sales.
- First stop at Paderne village, an architectural heritage site of islamic influence dating back the 12th century: a small castle, family farms and elegant white terraced houses decorated with tall and showy chimneys. Paderne is situated on a limestone hill, offering groundwater resources and hydrological systems to keep the land cultivable. It is an endemic area of particular natural interest and microclimate, where citrus groves and vineyards are immersed in lush vegetation.
- Afterwards, visit to a farm-house where homemade Algarvian arbutus fruit liqueur 'medronho' is produced. Gastronomic lunch in a high-quality stand-alone restaurant in the same rural area.
- In the afternoon, further stop at charming Alte, one of the oldest villages in the Algarve region: have a stroll in the historical centre with the 13th century Church, a monument of architectural relevance and a few small craft shops selling pottery. Afterwards, relax at Alte Big and Small natural Springs: bathing crystal clear water and a place to find poetic and artistic inspiration!
- Return to Albufeira through cultivated fields and winding roads. Free time available for a sweet break or light after-hour dinner in Albufeira before the evening.



## DAY 6

# Dunes of Salgados day tour

A day tour to approach a context of particular geomorphological evolution caused by the 1755 tsunami, having significant impact on the territory and its population towards better global understanding of climate change and natural phenomena. Rapid sea-level rise and onshore wind enhanced sand transport, transverse dunes and sedimentary rock formation. Fantastic kayak exploration of wild beaches and sea caves, secret natural treasures in an exclusive stretch of coast, far from everyday beach life.



- Arrival at Praia dos Salgados, an attractive white-sand dune beach, comprising the Pedra do Valado Marine Natural Park and the Algarve Coral Reef, one of the richest biodiversity areas in Portugal. Here are more than 1.000 protected species and about fifty rare ones, not officially recognized yet. The beach is part of a 152 km2 preserved area, crossed by wooden walkways, enjoying enviable views of the ocean.
- Unique kayak experience among hidden caves and exclusive beaches, only accessible from the sea. Going beyond the rocks, admire the inside of caves near wild beaches and clear crystalline blue sea. In this way, have an in-depth knowledge of these spectacular geological features, well-recognized at international level too.
- In a modern coastal setting, break for lunch in a characteristic Algarvian beachfront restaurant, offering both homemade and refined portuguese cuisine.
- In the afternoon, free visit to the fishing town of Armação de Pêra. This is one of the most diversified and lively Algarvian tourism destinations with well-equipped beaches and contemporary style promenades. On the other hand, the 'Vila Velha' or 'historic centre', looks completely different from the rest of the same town.
- Free time available for water sports or relax. Salgados coast is entirely eco-sustainable, with different types of beaches along the way. Among these, quiet Praia da Galé.



## DAY 7

# Quarteira golden beach day tour

A day tour to better understand the dynamics of coastal erosion and gradual shoreline retreat. The respect of tourism eco-sustainability allowed responsible urban development and environmental management. The succession of hills and sandy areas offer distinctive landscape design with renowned award-winning golf courses, cliff-edge pools and an eco-friendly Marina. Visit to contemporary Vilamoura Marina and traditional Quarteira seaside town.



- Arrival at glamour Vilamoura Marina, recently built in the 70s. Here is a secluded bay full of yachts and luxury boats, attracting tourists from all over the world. The rich local economic support allowed responsible tourism establishments with eco-friendly five-star Hotels, Villas and more affordable houses.
- Here, the outstanding landscape offers well-designed public open spaces with tropical trees, maritime pines and flower beds, but also golf courses, cycle paths and parks with fitness trails. The international atmosphere and character of Vilamoura is ethereal and all-pervading.
- Enjoy bay life activities: ethnic restaurants, beach clubs, shopping and even a Casino! Continue from upstyle international Vilamoura beach towards Quarteira, a traditional Portuguese seaside town.
- Visit Quarteira walking along the modern promenade: portuguese restaurants, classic beachfront hotels, ice-cream parlors, kiosks. Lunch in one of the best beach restaurants, a perfect place for fresh seafood and selected daily menus.
- In the afternoon, from Forte Novo beach get to Foz da Ribeira do Almgem, residual flows in Almgem estuary dating back to Roman times. Being situated between the ocean and the sandy dune beach, this natural lake is regenerated by rain and sea water storms, after destroying the same sand barriers along the shore. This coastal plan estuary comprises salt marshes with endemic fauna and flora, thanks to human proximity to wetlands as well.
- Keep on walking to Vale do Lobo, where successful sustainable and responsible coastal redevelopment engineering works took place. Just think about nature conservation and landscape design, cliff-edge swimming pools, ocean-view golf courses or embankments, paths and coastal gardens!
- Vale do Lobo is a coastal area of extraordinary natural beauty. Also, it is a place where you can practice different sport activities such as: swimming, surfing, golf, tennis among pine forests and well-kept flowery areas. Relax and walk in the tranquility of this kilometre-long beach!



## DAY 8

# Algarve Shopping Center day tour

Shopping and stylish fashion at the Algarve Shopping Center, a lively open-air shopping center, in original and sustainable Algarvian architecture. It comprises the Algarve Retail Park with a total of 130 stores including clothing, food, accessories, technology, home furnishings and much more. Environmental concern and sustainable impact are fundamental to support local communities, promoting these principles and implementing green lifestyle practices to respect people and the planet.



- During this day, it is possible to enjoy different recreational activities depending on free time availability after arrival or before departure from Faro. Here below are two examples. It is also possible to organize alternative leisure solutions, according to client requests.
- Half-day at the Algarve Shopping Center and refreshing after-hour drink at a beachfront bar in Albufeira.
- Half-day at the Algarve Shopping Center and typical Algarvian lunch in the centre of Albufeira.
- One-way pick-up from/to Faro Airport or Albufeira, including nearby surrounding areas.



# Colourful Algarve: future Unesco Global Geopark

Discover the colours of nature in Algarve, a coastal region in southern Portugal, including a stretch of coast and hinterland targeted as potential and future 'Unesco Global Geopark'. In close contact with nature, admire the vast expanses of fine white sand, the variegated colourful rocky promontories interrupted by rolling hills, green meadows, maritime pines and cork oak plantations.

According to the 'UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development', the Algarve region follows the principle of 'Climate Action' for hydrological control and environmental conservation as well as ethnic preservation, being concerned about climate change, the territory and its inhabitants. In the hinterland, clay rocks and peaks are essential for groundwater preservation and flora maintenance during long periods of drought. It is also a precious material for the ceramics manufacturing industry and pottery

Also, find orange and citrus groves, almond, fig and olive trees, aromatic plants, wildflower areas, mediterranean and tropical vegetation! The bright orange and red sheer cliffs overhanging the sea, reflect wonderful and multicoloured sceneries in the water. The almost 300-kilometer long jagged and sandy coastline, includes a wide range of beaches, stunning crags and a combination of different types of sea caves, rocky outcrops and secret coves. The shoreline has been changing and reshaping after strong wind and consequent heavy beach erosion. During high and low tide, discover inaccessible stretches of coast or admire surprising panoramic views and different coastal landscapes. The Algarve region has been recognized as the 'Best European tourism destination' for years: 300 days of sunshine a year, clear blue sea, fabulous and unique beaches highly appreciated at international level, meeting and exceeding everyone's expectations. In total, 86 'blue flag beaches': some are trendy and popular, others are traditional and picturesque, close to fishing villages or apparently isolated, almost 'forgotten' by residents and tourists. Other beaches more are situated in protected fluvial or rocky-coastal natural parks, close to small islands and towns. Discover this innovative itinerary for an unforgettable and relaxing 'green vacation' to get to know more about the original Algarve region beyond frenzy mass-tourism, experiencing authentic portuguese lifestyle under an eco-sustainable perspective! Be immersed in nature, a source of inspiration during your stay, exploring the Algarve coast and its hinterland in rural charm and tranquility!

## COLOURFUL ALGARVE - LANDSCAPE SPECIALISTIC PROJECT PARTNERSHIP



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# Colourful Algarve

Flex itinerary from 1-8 days/1-7 nights

