

The Algarve – golden beaches, world-class golf and secret corners to discover

Historically a wealthy Arabic trading enclave, the Algarve still shows flashes of those early Moorish influences, with riad-style buildings and flat roofs once used for drying figs, corn and almonds. At that time, Silves was the mighty capital of the region and you can still visit its imagination-firing red stone castle, complete with treason gate. Faro is the modern regional capital, and well worth a day trip or evening out, with attractive marina, colourful old town and designer shops. You can also find busy crafts markets in most of the villages and towns dotting the countryside, selling traditional woollens, brassware and ceramics.

The golden beaches are of course one of the main draws of the region. The Ria Formosa nature reserve, which incorporates salt marshes, moor land and lagoons protected from the sea by wide sand bars, extends from Faro to Tavira and beyond. Take the miniature trains, boats or walk across to the sand bars and soak up the sun or try your hand at all manner of watersports. The crown jewel of the south coast beaches is island sand bar just off the elegant town of Tavira.

Tavira itself is an enchanting, wealthy town with a labyrinth of cobbled streets leading to the ruins of a hilltop castle. An arched Roman bridge spans the river and wide avenues and squares in the newer part of town offer attractive shops and cafes. Visit in late June and you'll catch the "Festa de Cidade", with paper flowers decorating the streets, free sardines and dancing into the night.

Travelling west of Faro, although undeniably touristy, is an attractive coastal town which is lively without being too over-powering. Slightly inland, Loule is a sleepy Moorish settlement, perfect for an afternoon's wandering, which comes to life for the pre-Easter carnival. And in the hills high above the coast, a day trip to Monchique is not to be missed. The charming town, with winding streets has great panoramic vistas and is famous for the local firewater, made from strawberry tree fruit.

Turn north up the Algarve's short stretch of coast on the Atlantic and you'll feel you've entered another world. Devoid of tourist crowds, you'll find stunning cliff-lined beaches with big surf, quiet lagoons and beautiful wild countryside. It's well worth the drive up from the south coast for a day to experience a very different side to the Algarve, and if this is your idea of beach paradise, then take a look at our hotels in Alentejo, the region that borders the Algarve along this coastline.

We encourage compassion for animals. If you go for a carriage or horse ride, please opt for services offering healthy animals. We encourage you not to support the "sport" of bullfighting. In Portugal, whilst the bull is not killed during the public fight, he is slaughtered afterwards and is tortured during the display.

Getting There

Fly direct from the UK to Faro with Ryanair, BA, TAP, Easyjet, MBI, Monarch, Jet2 amongst others.

Combine With

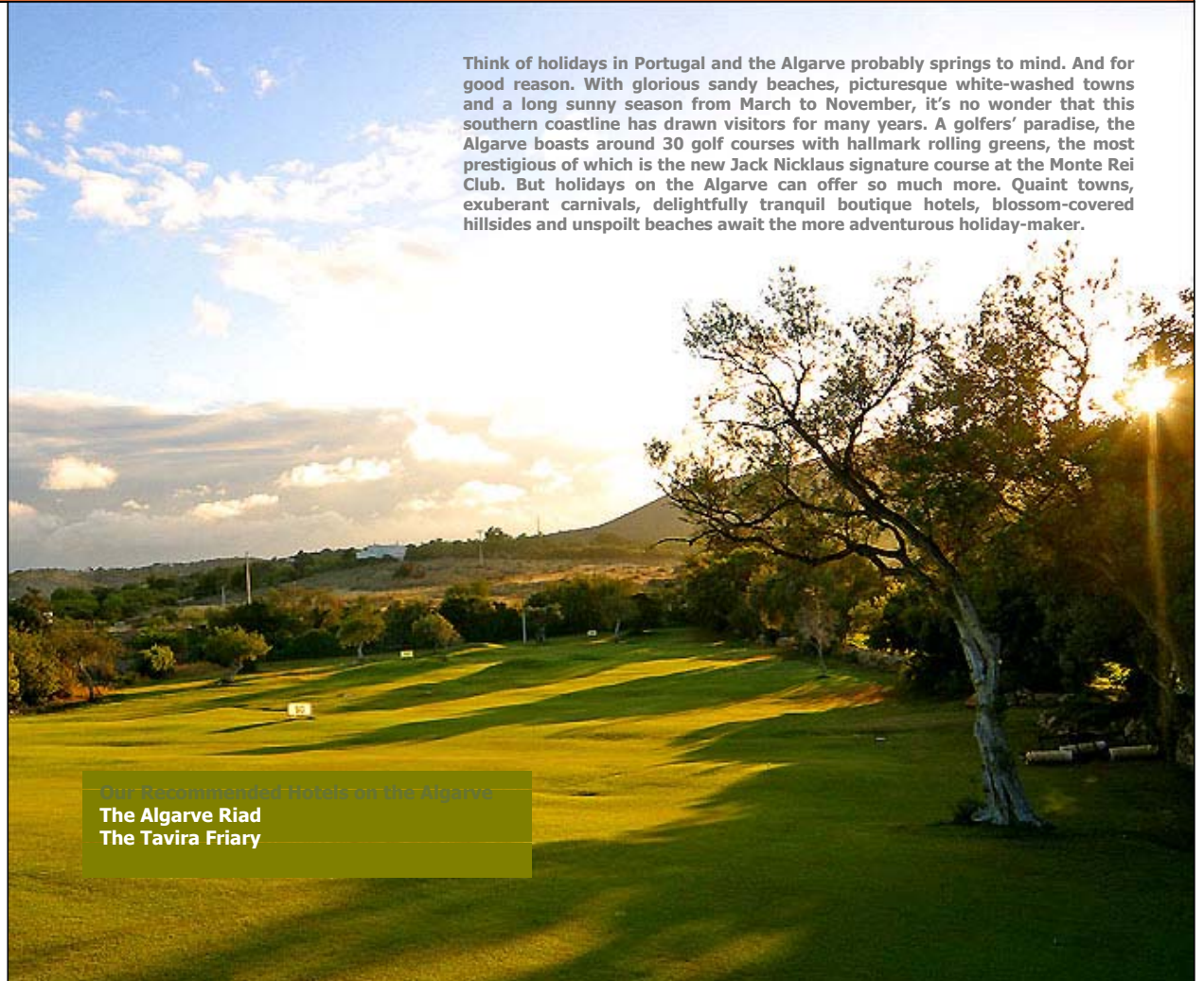
Alentejo on the west coast for ultimate beach bliss, or head north to Lisbon and the Silver Coast beyond, for a top to toe tour of Portugal. Being so accessible, any of our hotels on the Algarve are perfect for a minibreak or weekend getaway.

Golf

Our Algarve hotels are perfectly placed for some of world's best golf courses, with green fees available to our guests at privileged rates.

For more images & hotel details see c-boutiquehotels.com
To book call **08717 500070**

Think of holidays in Portugal and the Algarve probably springs to mind. And for good reason. With glorious sandy beaches, picturesque white-washed towns and a long sunny season from March to November, it's no wonder that this southern coastline has drawn visitors for many years. A golfers' paradise, the Algarve boasts around 30 golf courses with hallmark rolling greens, the most prestigious of which is the new Jack Nicklaus signature course at the Monte Rei Club. But holidays on the Algarve can offer so much more. Quaint towns, exuberant carnivals, delightfully tranquil boutique hotels, blossom-covered hillsides and unspoilt beaches await the more adventurous holiday-maker.



Our Recommended Hotels in the Algarve
The Algarve Riad
The Tavira Friary