About your Algarve Holiday

We make sure you love it more

villaplus.com
Algarve holidays
you’ll love more

Picture this, sunbaked, golden beaches, secluded coves, pinewoods, resorts full of holiday atmosphere and tiny Moorish villages. Whether you enjoy a lively holiday atmosphere and great nightlife or the peace and quiet of a small fishing village there’s something in the Algarve to suit everyone.

Discover bustling markets, old churches set in beautiful countryside, golf courses with amazing views, impressive water parks and sea front restaurants. A dish of chicken Piri Piri is not to be missed.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Algarve, one of the sunniest spots in Europe.
A little more about Villa Plus

Welcome to Villa Plus. We hope you have a fabulous holiday in The Algarve and would like to tell you a little about the company. As a direct sell operator we only sell our own holidays. This means we place great emphasis on quality and service. In fact we take a personal interest in the enjoyment of your holiday and all our staff receive ongoing training to ensure we provide you with consistently good service.

Villa Plus have arranged villa holidays since 1986. Our product focus is on better villas, in better locations with private pools and more facilities. Over the years we’ve grown from just one destination to 13 across Portugal, Spain, Cyprus and Greece. We’re now one of the largest tour operators in the villa market and offer over 900 exclusive villas.

This holiday guide is designed to help you enjoy your holiday. Please read it carefully before you go. That way we can ensure all the arrangements made on your behalf run smoothly.

Thank you for choosing Villa Plus and we hope to see you again in the future.

Villa Plus Service Centre

Our resort staff are there to ensure all aspects of your holiday go as planned and to maintain your privacy. In general, they will not visit unless in an emergency or to carry out villa checks. Details of your Villa Representative can be found in the security information in your travel pack.
About your holiday

Travel adaptor/s
If you bring your own electrical equipment then you will need to bring a European travel adaptor.

Passport details
You must give your Advance Passenger Information (API, sometimes called APIS) details to your airline before you fly.

Baggage allowance
Baggage allowance, normally 20 kilos per person, can depend on who you’re flying with and will be specified on your itinerary. Collapsible wheelchairs, car seats for infants, pushchairs and carrycots may be carried as hand luggage in excess of the baggage allowance and can usually be taken to the final departure gate to be stored in the hold during the flight. Many charter airlines now charge for excess baggage and equipment such as golf clubs.

Dangerous goods
Please refer to the security policy of the airline you’re travelling with.

Special needs and requirements
If you, or any member of your party, have any special needs or specific requirements then please let us know at the time of booking. We’ll send you a form for disabled and less mobile clients for you to complete and return so we can ensure the villa and flights you’ve chosen are completely suitable for your needs.

Any queries just call + 44 (0) 1727 836686 or email info@villaplus.com

Here’s our tick list...

Travel documents
You’ll receive your holiday documents - specifically itinerary and flight reference number (to quote at check in), accommodation details, directions, car hire information and voucher - about ten days before you travel. Please check the documents match your reservation.

Holiday insurance
Whether you have taken the ‘Villa Plus’ holiday insurance or not, if you or a member of your party have a pre-existing medical condition, then you MUST advise your insurance company straight away. Failure to do so may invalidate your insurance.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)
The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows you to access state-provided healthcare in all European Economic Area (EEA) countries and Switzerland at a reduced cost or sometimes free of charge. The card is free of charge and, in addition to your travel insurance, we recommend you sign up. Register online at www.ehic.org.uk

Money
Whilst MasterCard and Visa cards are widely accepted, and most resorts have ATM’s, we recommend that you get some Euro’s before you go. Please note: travellers cheques are no longer used in Spain.

Towels
Although towels are provided in the villas, you’ll need to bring your own beach and pool towels with you.
Getting to and from your villa

**Villa Plus transfer from airport**
If you booked a Villa Plus transfer then, in general, you’ll see your Representative in the arrivals hall who will have organised your transfer. Please refer to the itinerary in your travel pack for more information.

**Villa Plus car hire**
If you’ve booked a car through Villa Plus then please refer to your itinerary and car hire voucher for collection details. It is advisable that one member of the party waits for the baggage whilst another goes to the desk to complete the contract and pay the appropriate deposit and so on.

**Directions to your villa**
Your directions are included in your travel pack.

**Arriving at your villa**
You can get into your villa at 1pm. If you arrive before 4pm, particularly in the larger villas, the maid may still be tidying up.

**Leaving your villa**
Please vacate your villa by 10am. The maid could arrive as early as 8am.

**Flight delays**
EU legislation entitles passengers to compensation from the airline if there is denied boarding, cancellation or delay to flights. Reimbursement in such cases is the responsibility of the airline and will not entitle you to a refund of the price of your arrangements from us. If the airline does not comply with these rules you should complain to the CAA on +44 (0) 20 7453 6888 www.caa.co.uk

---

Villa Plus Travel Insurance

Villa Plus holiday insurance is provided by Union Reiseversicherung AG. If you’ve taken this out there is a 24 hour medical emergency assistance facilities service who you can call directly on +44 (0) 845 260 3 260. Remember to have the following information to hand:

- A contact telephone number
- Name and age of patient
- Location of hospital and doctor’s telephone number
- The medical problem
- Your premium receipt number and details of booked travel arrangements

Please refer to your Insurance policy for details of the procedure you should follow, should you require outpatient treatment.

---

Lost luggage
If you’re unfortunate enough to lose your luggage then you need to report this at the lost luggage desk in the baggage reclaim area.

Left luggage
If you have a late return flight, then there are normally facilities where you can leave your luggage on your last day. This information can be found in the villa manual or you can contact the local office.

Villa keys
The keys to your villa will be contained in a security key box at your villa. Details of this together with the boxes security number are included with your final documentation. Normally only one set of keys will be supplied for the villa that you will be occupying. We would appreciate it if you could take care of the keys as obtaining replacement keys, or changing the locks can be expensive.
About Your Villa

Cots/extra beds
The majority of the cots that we supply are of the collapsible travel type. All cots supplied in the villas comply with local safety standards. All linen is laundered together so if you have concerns about cot linen, please bring your own. Extra beds are normally of the fold-up variety and are suitable for children only up to the age of 11 years old.

Gas Supply
Not all the villas have a gas supply. If applicable, the villa will usually be supplied with an orange coloured Butano gas bottle. In the unlikely event that the gas should run out, please contact our local Villa Representative, who will arrange for a replacement. Where gas water heaters are used in villas, they are subject to an annual inspection by local qualified engineers. A carbon monoxide detector is provided for your additional peace of mind.

Electricity
Electricity is 220 AC with continental twin plugs. Your villa electricity supply is not always as constant as in the UK. You may find that the electricity will “trip off” if too many appliances are used at once. This has become more apparent as we have added more equipment into the villas. If this happens, simply turn off some appliances and reset the main fuse box (the location and full details will be in the Villa Manual at the villa).

Internet
Most Resorts have an Internet access point ‘Hot Spots’, where you can check emails etc, and the location will be given to you in the Villa Manual. Some individual villas have internet access. Please see your Villa Manual for more details.

Air Conditioning
Many villas now include air conditioning/heating in the bedrooms as standard. Please see the individual villa descriptions. Some of these units operate on a sensor that will turn off the unit if the room is not in use. Please consult the Villa Manual for full details. In the case of any malfunction, we will endeavour to rectify them as soon as possible, Villa Plus cannot be responsible for any non-operational time that is out of our control.

Barbecues
All our villas have barbecues and wherever possible, brick built. It is not normal for maids to clean the barbecue and we ask guests to leave them in a reasonable and useable condition. We have asked owners to supply cleaning implements.

TV’s
To keep you entertained inside your villa, you’ll find a TV which will have a mix of satellite and terrestrial channels and also offer some English speaking channels too. DVD players (including films) are provided in the majority in our villas.
Health and Safety

Safety information
You'll find a Villa Manual with safety information specific to your villa at the property. Please take the time on arrival to familiarise yourselves with the safety features and layout of your villa. If you’re travelling with children then please take the time to point out to any areas where they should take particular care such as the pool and balconies. If you have any questions or concerns, then your Villa Representative will be happy to assist. Should you have an accident anywhere in or around the villa you must report this straight away to your Villa Representative.

Smoking
Smoking is not permitted in any of our villas and we would request you only smoke outside the villa. Please do not leave cigarette stubs in the garden.

Swimming pool
Whilst the swimming pool is an essential part of the pleasure of holidaying for many people, if misused it can be dangerous:
- Make sure you know the depths of the pool.
- Please observe our strict no diving policy.
- Do not run around the pool side - especially children with wet feet.
- Do not go out of your depth unless you are a good swimmer.
- Do not swim if you cannot see the bottom. If this is the case contact your Villa Representative as soon as possible. Bad weather, thunder storms and/or excess suntan oil (especially the non waterproof types), can turn the water cloudy. Use the poolside shower before swimming to keep the pool clean.
- Children and fair skinned people should wear a hat and T-shirt whilst in the pool as harmful ultra violet rays can penetrate water up to a depth of 1.5m and are reflected off the water surface.
- Beware of dangerous surfaces, drainage channels, slippery tiles or raised edges.
- Always supervise children and non-swimmers in and around the pool area.
- Do not swim if you have been drinking alcohol, especially late at night.

Report an accident immediately to your Villa Representative, who will attend the villa. Any fault with the pool or its equipment will be inspected and immediate action taken to correct the problem. If, in the opinion of the Villa Representative the pool must be closed for your safety until a repair is facilitated as quickly as possible, you will be instructed in writing to cease using the pool and our liability shall not exceed 33% of the villa rental portion of the holiday.

Pool Heating
Many of our swimming pools have been fitted with a Pool Heat Pump, making the pool 3°C to 5°C warmer at 1pm during the day than a non-heated pool under normal circumstances. This provides the pool with a beneficial warming, but does not make it a “hot” pool. Villa Plus cannot be responsible for any non-operational time, out of our control.

In the case of any malfunction, we will endeavour to rectify them as soon as possible and our liability shall not exceed £150 per villa per week in total. If the pool has a cover, please use it as it will significantly increase the temperature of the water.

Tap water
Water from the tap is generally ok for cooking purposes. For drinking we recommend you drink bottled water only.

Sun bathing
The best, safest and longer lasting tans are built up gradually - but although most travellers are aware of the danger, many holidays are still ruined by the effects of sunburn. Do take extreme care not to over-expose yourself or your children (particularly young babies), especially during the first few days. We suggest you stay under shade except for about 15 minutes in the early morning or late afternoon on the first day, gradually increasing the time as your skin becomes accustomed to the sun. Even then be sure to use a suntan preparation of the correct factor for your skin and apply it liberally at regular intervals, particularly after swimming. Children should wear sun-hats and their shoulders should be covered as much as possible. We strongly recommend the use of good quality, waterproof sun creams especially when in and out of the pool or down at the beach.

Beaches
Please be aware of the local safety precautions when you visit the beaches.

At all times, for your own safety, comply with the suggestions of the local lifeguards, warning notices or flag systems. Should you have any concerns consult a qualified authority or your Villa Representative.

Breakages
Please notify our Villa Representative should you notice any shortfalls in the quality of furnishings/cleaning etc. In case of breakages during your holiday, either replace with a matching item or report the damage to the Villa Representative. For details of our accidental damage waiver or security deposit, please refer to www.villaplus.com

Security
Please store valuables in the safe provided including vital documents. If you do not use the safe provided you may invalidate any insurance claim that you may have.

Most villas have an alarm and nightlight. Ensure the alarm is switched on when you leave the villa.

Additionally make sure all doors/windows are closed/locked if you leave the villa or are around the pool.
Places to visit

Beaches

A lifeguard and warning flags are stationed at some but not all beaches. A green flag indicates calm sea and a lifeguard is on duty. A green flag above a chequered flag means calm sea but no supervision. A yellow flag warns that the sea is suitable for strong swimmers only. A red flag warns that the sea is too rough for swimming.

Praia Do Ancao. A lovely long stretch of sandy beach beside the Vale do Garrao beach. Take the turning next to Pinetrees riding stables on the main N125 road.

Centianes. Steps lead down to this beautiful sandy beach. Exit Lagoa on EN125 then left at Carvoeiro beach and drive for another 2 km.

Ferragudo – Praia Grande. A wide and sandy beach. Turn off EN125 just east of Portimao Bridge and follow signs.

Praia Da Garrao. Lots to enjoy on this long stretch of sandy beach. Take the road leading to the Ria Park Hotel, go past the hotel (on your left) and take the first turning left.

Praia da Rocha. One of the Algarve’s most famous beaches, immense and very sandy. Next to Portimão Marina.

Quarteira. A long beach backed by a promenade with shops, restaurants and bars. The pier at the far west side forms the harbour in Vilamoura. Turn off EN125 just west of Almancil and follow signs.

For more beaches please see resort sections.

Attractions

Cape St Vincent marks the very south-westerly tip of continental Europe. Climb the lighthouse if open to see the prisms and 3000-watt bulb.

The Church of Saint Lawrence of Almancil. This 15th century Baroque church stands on a hill overlooking the main EN125 road 16km west of Faro. Hand-painted blue and white tiles inside depict Saint Lawrence’s life.

Faro. The administrative capital of the Algarve. The attractive part is around the cathedral with narrow cobbled streets and interesting shops and restaurants. Visit the Archaeological Museum, the Cathedral Nossa Sra do Camo Church, Arcoda Vila and the medieval walls.

Monchique. Drive high in the mountains to Monchique famous for its Georgian spa. Follow the road uphill to Foia for magnificent views.

Ria Formosa Nature Park. One of the most beautiful natural attractions of the Algarve, home to wetlands, indigenous fauna and flora and migratory birds.

The Golden Church of San Antonio, Lagos. The interior is an inspiring array of gilded, carved wood depicting ripening grapes and smiling cherubs in a Baroque style.

Silves. Once the capital of the Algarve, the old Moorish town with its castle and cathedral is great for exploring.

Festivals & Events

The Algarve has lots of festivals and fairs which take place all year round but the peak season is around Easter and during the summer. Check the Tourist Office in resort for further festivals and events.

Alleluia and Contest of the flowered torches. (Easter Sunday), S. Bras de Alportel. This popular religious festival is an age-old tradition. There’s a parade of flowered torches and arches and prizes for the best torches.

Algarve International Music Festival. Various locations during the months of May, June and July. The Algarve becomes the capital of music, shows, various types of music with artists and groups from all over the world.

Popular Saints Day. Celebrated in June all over the Algarve with the largest celebrations in Tavira, Quarteira, Faro and Algoz. There are many parties with music, dance, food, drink and generally lots of fun into the small hours.

Sweet Fair and Competition. Held in July in Lagos. Competitors create the ‘work of art’ from almonds, eggs and other local ingredients.

Sardine Festival. Celebrated in August every year in Portimão. Freshly caught sardines are grilled by their thousands along the quayside on charcoal grills.

Sand Sculpture Festival. This takes place every year from May to October. The fantastic exhibits are incredible work by artists from all over the world.

International Day of Tourism Celebrations, held in September in various locations:

Craft Fair, Silves.
Craft Fair, Vila Real Sto. Antonio.
Fisherman’s Festival, Albufeira.
Amateur Band Festival, Lagos.

Fairs & Folk Dancing

October is traditionally the strong month for fairs and the two major ones are: The Feira de Outubro at Monchique - Famous for its market and Feira de Santa Iria at Faro a lively event lasting several days. Folk dancing can be seen at hotels in all the major resorts and takes place in the evenings. Check events in resorts for dates and times.
Golf Courses

The Algarve leads the world as a golfing holiday destination with over 25 championship courses. Here is a taster of some of the courses:

**Albufeira**

**Balaia.** This small and attractive 9 hole, Par 27 Executive Golf Course set around lakes, rolling hills and a mixture of pine and cork trees tests the ability to control shot length and direction. Address: Balaia Golf Village, 8200 Albufeira Tel: 00 351 289 570 442/1. Website: www.balaia.co.uk. You can contact via website to pre-book.

**Salgados** course close to Gale beach between Armacao De Pera and Albufeira. Tel 289 583 030. Coming from Faro on the EN125 turn left at the Vale de Parra/Guia crossing. At the first traffic lights turn right. The course is about 1 km further on. 18 holes.

**Pine Cliffs** between Albufeira and Vilamoura. Coming from Faro on the EN125 turn left to Acoteias. After the turn to Vilamoura you will find the course on your left. Tel 289 500 300. 9 holes.

**Carvoeiro**

**Sesmarias and Carvoeiro Clube de Golf.** Features 2 courses. Gramacho offers a novel concept double 9 system with 27 tees, 9 fairways and 18 greens. Vale de Pinta is an 18 hole championship course. Tel 282 340 900. Follow EN125 and take the turn to Carvoeiro at the Lagoa roundabout. The course is clearly marked on the right.

**Vale do Milho.** Follow the EN125 and take the EN124-1 to Carvoeiro, continue to Algar Seco until you find the sign marking the course. 9 holes. Tel 282 358 502. www.valedomilhogolf.com. Bookings email valedomilhogolf@mail.telepac.pt. 9 holes, perfect for beginners and holidaymakers.

**Castro Marim**

**Castro Marim Golfe and Country Club** overlooks the Atlantic Ocean and the River Guadiana and borders Portugal’s second most important and largest nature reserve. 18 holes, Par 71. Address - Apartado 70, 8950-909 Castro Marim. Tel +351 281510330. www.castromarimgolfe.com. For golf bookings - Email: golfe@castromarimgolfe.com

**Quinta do Vale.** This course was designed by the famous player Severiano Ballesteros and has been designed to attract golfers of every level. 18 holes. Tel 281 531 615 / 281 543 407 info@quintadovale.com. For bookings golf@quintadovale.com. Address: Golfe e Urbanizacoes Vale do Odiána – Sucursal Eiras da Acha da, Castro Marim.

**Lagos**

**Quinta da Boavista** set between Luz and Lagos. Golfers will leave with great memories of the spectacular views of the mountains and sea. Tel 282 782 151. www.boavistagolf.com. For bookings email golfreception@boavistagolf.com. 18 holes.

**Palmares Golf Course.** Lagos. At the far end of the beach after you turn off the EN125. 18 holes, set on picturesque hills overlooking the beaches below. Tel +351 282 790500. Bookings email: golf@palmaresgolf.com

**Portimao**

**Alamos.** The sister course to Morgado golf course located next to two large lakes with its wide valleys and great views of the Monchique Mountains. 18 holes, Par 71. Address: Apartado 293, 8501-912 Portimao.Tel: 00 351 282 402150. www.esgolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: golf@morgadodoreguedo.com. Directions: From the Montechoro Hotel, take the road to the coast and Olhos d’Agua Golf Village, 8200 Albufeira.

**Morgado.** On the Algarve Downs, between Monchique and Portimão, this golf course is a nature lover’s paradise. 18 holes, Par 73. Address: Apartado 293 8501-912 Portimao Tel: 00 351 282 402150 www.esgolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: playgolf@golfedomorgado.com.

**Penina Golf Course** is just west of Portimão. Tel 282 420 200. www.lemeridian.com/penina. For bookings - Email: golf.penina@lemeridian-algarve.com. 18 holes. There is also a nine hole resort course and an Academy course for beginners or practice.

**Sagres**

**Parque da Floresta.** One of Europe’s most spectacular golf courses set in rolling countryside 15 minutes from Lagos with magical views over the mountains and nearby ocean. 18 holes Par 72. Address: Vale does Poco, 8650-060 Budens. Tel: 00 351 282 690054/5. www.parquedafloresta.com. For golf bookings - Email: golf@vigiasa.com.

**Silves**

**Silves Golf Course** is a serene spot but the course is anything but the proverbial walk in the park! Most holes offer spectacular mountain and valley views. 18 holes, Par 70. Address: Apartado 1011, Carvoeiro, 8400 Lagoa.Tel: 00 351 282 340 900. Website: www.pestana.com.

**Tavira**

**Benamor.** Offers some fantastic sights with the mountains of Barrocal to the North and the Atlantic Ocean to the South. 18 holes, Par 71. Address: Conceicao, 8800-067 Tavira.Tel: 00 351 281 320880. Website: http://www.golfbenamor.com. Pre-book on website.
Golf Courses

**Quinta da Ria.** A spectacular golf course in the Ria Formosa Natural Park and spreads along an almost flat surface down to the Ria Formosa River itself. It is a Par 72, comprising two loops of 9 holes and each loop with 2 Par 5, five Par 4 and 2 Par 3 holes. Address: 8900-057 Vila Nova de Cacela Algarve Portugal. Tel: 00 351 281 950 580. Mobile: 00 351 916 898 603. www.quintadariagolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: qdria@mail.telepac.pt.

**Quinta do Cima.** Sister course to Quinta da Ria, with greens protected by sand hazards and lakes. 18 holes. Address: 8900-057 Vila Nova de Cacela Algarve Portugal. Tel: 281 950 580. www.quintadariagolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: qdria@mail.telepac.pt.

**Vilamoura**

**Laguna Course.** Lakes demand accuracy the whole way through. Two 9 hole courses, both Par 36. Address: 8125 Quarteira. Tel: + 351 289 310180. www.vilamouragolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: reservas@vilamouragolf.com. Location: Off the EN125 west of Faro.

**Millennium.** An exciting addition to one of Europe's finest golfing destinations with the new front 9 holes providing the perfect compliment to an extensively reshaped 9 holes of the original course. Address: 8125 Quarteira. Tel: + 351 289 310188. www.vilamouragolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: reservas@vilamouragolf.com. Location: Off the EN125 west of Faro.

**Old Course.** Popular with both visiting and resident golfers. 18 holes, Par 73. Address: 8125 Quarteira. Tel: + 351 289 310341. www.vilamouragolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: reservas@vilamouragolf.com.

**Pinhal** is more open than the Old Course. It rolls through similar pine-laden countryside, however the greens are a little tighter. 18 holes, Par 71. Address: 8125 Quarteira. Tel: + 351 289 310390. www.vilamouragolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: reservas@vilamouragolf.com. Location: Off the EN125 west of Faro.

**Victoria ‘Clube de Golfe’.** Playing on this championship course will become a unique and unforgettable experience to any player. Address: 8125-507 Vilamoura. Tel: + 351 289 320100. www.oceanicogolf.com

**Vila Sol** became famous in 1992 when it hosted the Portuguese Open within a year of its opening. Requires long iron shots onto the greens. 18 holes, Par 72. Address: 8125, Tel: + 351 289 300506. www.vilasol.pt. For golf bookings - Email: golfreservation@vilasol.pt. Location: Take the Vilamoura turn off from the EN125 west of Faro.

**Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago & Almancil**

**Vale do Lobo Royal and Vale do Lobo Ocean** at Vale do Lobo. Tel 289 396 622. www.vedalobo.com. For bookings email golfe@vdl.pt. Both courses are 18 holes. The Royal is the main course; the 16th hole is possibly the most photographed in Europe. The Ocean Course is no less difficult and equally scenic.

**The Quinta do Lago North course and The Quinta do Lago South course.** This legendary course has hosted the Portuguese Open on several occasions. It meanders through the Quinta do Lago estate and Ria Formosa Nature Reserve with a number of lakes offering spectacular views. 18 holes, Par 72. Address: Quinta do Lago 8135 Almancil. Tel: 289 390 700. Quinta do Lago North Golf Course: www.quintadolagogolf.com. For golf bookings - Email: reservas@quintadolagogolf.com. Quinta do Lago South Golf Course: www.camporeal.pt. For golf bookings - Email: golfe.reservas@camporeal.pt. Location: Take the Almancil turn off from the EN125 and follow signs.

**Laranjal.** Originally an orange grove, this golf course has been expertly designed to provide a world class golfing experience. Boasts the same high standards set by Quinta do Lago North and South courses. 18 holes, Par 72. Tel.: +351 289 359 220/1. E-mail: laranjal@quintadolagogolf.com.

**The San Lorenzo (Sao Lourenco) Golf Course.** Situated in the Quinta do Lago development and forming part of the Ria Formosa Nature Reserve. The course’s rare beauty makes this an attractive challenge for any player. 18 holes, Par 72. Tel 289 396 522. Address: Quinta do Lago, Vale do Lobo, 8135 Almancil. Directions: Leaving Faro on the EN125 for Albufeira and take the sign for Almancil then follow the signs into Quinta do Lago from where there are signs to the San Lorenzo course.

**Pinheiros Altos.** Located in the Ria Formosa National Park, the now 27 hole Championship course is presented in three contrasting nine hole formats. Each nine holes is a Par 37. Tel 289 359 900. Address: Sitio dos Pinheiros, Quinta do Lago, 8135-863 Almancil.
**Children’s Activities**

**Aquashow Waterslide Park.** Tel 289 389 396 situated on the N396 as you turn off the main N125 road for Quarteira includes a massive wave pool and superb water slides.

**Aqualand Waterslide Park** (known as The Big One). Tel 282 320 230. Located west of Alcantarilha on the main N125 road some ten kilometres outside Albufeira, offers exciting rides such as ‘The Cork-screw’, Kamikaze and Crazy leap.

**Slide & Splash Waterslide Park.** Tel 282 341 685 near Estombar is ideal for both the young and old with curly slides and fast straight slides.

**Lagos Zoo** between Barao de S. Joao and Fensafrim. Situated in beautiful landscaped gardens.

**Zoomarine** close to Albufeira. Tel 289 560 300. An exotic marine life theme park, home to dolphins, sea lions, turtles, a museum, an alligator farm, mini zoo, exotic birds and tropical fish. Plus dolphin, sea lions and eagle shows.

**Krazy World** near Algoz. Tel 282 574 134. A whopping 36 hole golf course plus the children will love the petting farm and swimming pools.

**Penguin Village** in Vale do Lobo. Tel: 00 351 289 357 200. Offers many activities for children including mini golf.

**Markets**

Markets (Mercados) move around the whole of the Algarve during the month. All these are held monthly:

**ALBUFEIRA**
- Market at Albufeira
- Paderne
- Guia

**FARO**
- Estoi

**LAGOS**
- Lagos
- Odeaxere

**LOULE**
- Loule
- Alte
- Quarteira
- Almancil

**MONCHIQUE**
- 2nd Friday

**PORTIMAO**
- 1st Monday
  (except August)

**SILVES**
- Silves
- Algoz
- Alcantarilha

1st & 3rd Tuesday
1st Saturday
3rd Friday
1st Saturday
4th Monday
1st Saturday
3rd Thursday
Every Wednesday
1st & 4th Sunday
3rd Monday
2nd Monday
1st Friday
**Food**

Seafood is excellent in the Algarve as is much of the meat, especially pork and vegetarians will always find something on the menu.

The **emente turistica** (tourist’s menu) offers good value and a taste of the local cuisine - a set meal usually consisting of bread, butter, soup, a main course, a dessert and a glass of wine. The **prato do dia** (dish of the day) is also inexpensive.

**What to eat**

- **Ameijoas na cataplana** – clams (ameijoas), various meat, peppers, wine, garlic, onions
- **Atum** – tuna
- **Bacalhau** – a national dish of salted cod.
- **Sardinhas** – sardines
- **Porco a Alentejana** – a mixture of marinated cubed pork cooked with small clams, paprika and garlic.
- **Litoa assado** – suckling pig.
- **Figado** – liver
- **Vitela** – veal
- **Frango Piri-Piri** – chicken grilled in an African chilli sauce.
- **Pudim Molotov** – light flan with caramel
- **Arroz Doce** – rice pudding

**Albufeira**

Once a fishing village, Albufeira is the largest resort in the Algarve reached directly from Ferreiras on the N125 or from Pera, Portimao, Guia or Oura along the coast.

Although the main square in Albufeira is surrounded by souvenir shops and supermarkets the atmosphere of the town is essentially Moorish with hundreds of white houses reaching out from the centre and hugging the nearby hillsides. The old town is full of character with its original streets and small restaurants. The beautiful bay at Albufeira forms a natural amphitheatre, sheltered by bizarrely shaped cliffs. A lively resort, Albufeira has a number of bars and nightclubs.

**Beaches**

Made up of **Town Beach** and **Fisherman’s Beach**. Town Beach has bars along the cliffs rather than at beach level. Coloured fishing boats can be found on the extensive Fisherman’s Beach with boat trips available. At the far end of the beach is another ‘secret’ beach up steps and over the cliff beyond Fishermens Beach is a large stretch of Sandy beach and up the escalator at the far end gives you amazing panoramic views across the old town.

**Shopping**

The **Modelo, LIDL and Pingo Doce** supermarkets are located just off the main Albufeira by-pass. The Algarve Shopping mall is located on the EN125 just before you reach the Guia roundabout.

**Dining & Nights Out**

- **A Ruina** at Cais Herculano, on the Fisherman’s Beach. Tel. 289 512 094. Serves Portuguese cuisine.
- **O Dias**, next to the Beach Basket Restaurant. Typical Portuguese restaurant specialising in charcoal grilled fish.
- **Casa da Avo**, Albufeira, near the town hall. Tel. 289 587 886. Portuguese food.
- **Ricks Place, Snoopy and Twist**, located in Albufeira town are all good bars with live music.

**Bowling**

- **Clube Praia da Oura** - Albufeira. Tel. 289 590 300 ext. 347. Lawn bowling.

**Horse Riding**

- **The Riding Stables**, Vale Navio, Albufeira. Tel. 289 542 870.

**Mini Golf**

- **Quinta da Bella Vista**, 8200-916 Albufeira. Tel. 289 570 064.18 hole mini golf.

**Scooby’s**

- **Castelo**. Tel. 289 592 598. Fun for the kids – bouncy castle, pool, crazy golf.

**Tennis**

- Available at: **Jacaranda villas, Balaia Golf Village**. Tel. 289 512 681 - 7 courts.
- **Hotel Montechoro**. Tel. 289 589 423 - 10 courts, plus gym and squash facilities.

**Water Sports**

Windsurfing, Jet Ski and para gliding is available at Praia d’Oura. Water skiing at Falesia Beach near to Albufeira.
**Armação de Pera and Porches**

Until recent times, Armação de Pera was a tiny fishing village and even though there’s been rapid growth in the area the core of Armação de Pera is still made up of quaint fishermen’s cottages.

Armação has a daily fish market held by the beach, several supermarkets and many small shops selling local handicrafts and art. Many restaurants in the area serve Portuguese specialities as well as international food. The small fortress dating back to 1760 which contains a pretty chapel is worth a visit.

**Beaches**

Armação Beach is one of the longest beaches in the Algarve. Cliffs give way to a golden sandy beach that stretches all the way to Galé Beach near Albufeira. The first stretch of beach has car parking along the front, bars, fish restaurants, sun umbrellas for hire, lifeguards and flags, plus watersports. Excursions by boat to explore caves along the Algarve coastline are available from the beaches.

**Shopping**

Armação has many small shops selling local handicrafts, ceramics and art. There are several supermarkets, the main one being Marrachino and small mini-markets. A market is held daily Monday to Saturday selling fresh fish, meat, veg and fruit. For a really big shop take a trip to Algarve Shopping just east of Guia on the EN125 highway.

**Dining & Nights Out**

**Hera.** Tel. 282 312 770. Situated at the Fisherman’s Beach, Portuguese specialities and international food.

**Pizzeria Gaby.** Tel. 282 312 883. Situated in the walking street close to the fort and Fisherman’s Beach. Take-away service. Closed Wednesday.

**Pedros Bar.** On the Fisherman’s Beach. Serves light snacks and sandwiches.

**Clipper.** Tel. 282 314 108. On the sea front. Attractive food, inside and outside dining.

**Porches Velha.** Tel. 282 381 692. Fado music on Fridays and Saturdays. More upmarket price wise than most Portuguese restaurants. Advisable to book during the summer.

**O Leao.** Tel. 282 381 384. Converted old cottage in the centre of Porches in a pretty setting. More expensive international style restaurant.

**Tennis**

The “Canelas” camp site near Alcantarilha has a court where rackets can be hired. Better facilities at **Vilalara** in Armação and for serious players The **Carvoeiro Clube de Tenis.** Tel. 282 357 847 is not far away with 10 courts, 5 floodlit and 2 squash courts.

---

**Carvoeiro**

Once a small fishing village, this charming coastal resort lies some 5 km from Lagoa and is typical of the coastline with its dramatic cliffs and white houses perched above.

Brightly coloured fishing boats line the beach and the fish catch is still landed here by the locals. The main beach, although small is very attractive and the shops, restaurants and bars are centred around it. Carvoeiro is a good family resort but also has its share of nightlife for those seeking it.

**Beaches**

Carvoeiro beach is very attractive, although small, and has sun shades for hire in the high season and restaurant and bar facilities. The Carvoeiro area is particularly rich in dramatic and beautiful beaches with intimate coves backed by high cliffs. Centianes, Carvalho (smugglers beach), Benagil, Marinha to the east and Caneiros to the west are all attractive beaches. Some of the beaches are only accessible by boat. Check notices in the resort for day trips by fishing boat.

**Shopping**

There are various supermarkets in the centre of Carvoeiro, mini-markets at the Monte Carvoeiro centre and also at Quinta da Paraíso and at Sesmarias. The biggest and best is the Intermarche on the road from Lagoa to Carvoeiro. In Portimão the large hypermarket, “Continente” sells food and clothes etc. The main food market is behind the A Lanterna Restaurant, first left and 300m up Rua do Farol where you can buy fish, fruit and vegetables, normally open in the mornings, except Sundays. In the high season there are market stalls which sell a variety of gifts and goods usually in front of the beach area.

**Dining & Nights Out**

**O Patio.** In the square. Tel.282 357 367. Portuguese and International cuisine.

**Algar.** Benagil, near beach. Tel. 282 358 951. Good value and quality. Very popular so advisable to book.

**Smilers Bar.** Situated right on the front by the square. Friendly atmosphere.

**Manoel’s Jazz Club.** (Monte Carvoeiro Centre). Live music every night.

**O Bote Disco.** The most popular and well established disco in town. Situated right on the beach.

**Fishing**

Big-game fishing. Tel 282 357 354 or deep sea fishing from Portimão – Nitucha. Tel. 969 567 447.

**Tennis**

The Carvoeiro Clube de Tenis. Tel. 282 357 847. Offers 20 tennis courts, 5 of which are floodlit and a fitness centre.

**Quinta da Paraíso.** Tel. 282 347 478. 3 courts.

**Monte Dourado.** 2 courts.

**Water Sports**

Windsurfing, catamaran sailing and water skiing available at the Praia Grande Windsurf School, Ferragudo, just east of Portimão.
Lagos

Lagos a fishing town is the third largest town in the Algarve and formerly a walled town. Fishermen still auction the catch of sardines early in the morning.

In the old part of the town sections of the early Roman walls can still be seen and you can admire the impressive ancient fortress, which dates back to the 17th century and still guards the harbour. Lagos has a plethora of pavement side cafes and restaurants offering indoor and outdoor dining.

Beaches
Meia Praia is the main beach, a 5 mile stretch of golden sand which offers windsurfing and sun beds/parasols for hire. Small beaches on the western side of Lagos include the picturesque Praia d’Ana, Porto do Mos and Canavial. Some can only be reached by boat or by the famous ‘cliff walk’ which is only recommended for the sure-footed.

Shopping
Lagos has a good selection of boutiques, handicrafts and gift shops. There are numerous supermarkets, butchers, bakers etc. The food market on the main avenue offers fish, meat, fruit and vegetables. Open every morning until 1pm except Sunday and public holidays. Pingo Doce, a supermarket is just before you go over the bridge to Lagos - open 9am – 9pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 1pm Sunday. A market is held every Saturday near the bus station and a clothing market on the first Saturday of each month.

Dining & Nights Out

O Galeao. Tel 282 763 909. In a back street up from the main square. Portuguese run.
Dom Sebastiao. Tel 282 780 480. In the town centre. Portuguese restaurant.
Mullens. Tel 282 761 281. Lagos town centre.
Stevie Ray’s Bar. Tel 282 760 673 Jazz Bar in the town centre.

Bowling
Praia da Rocha Bowling Alley. Tel 282 483 812
Santo Antonio Lawn Bowling. Tel 282 413 427.

Horse Riding
Quinta da Paraiso Alto. Tel 282 687 263 / 789 801. Located at Bensafrim.
Tiffanys Riding Centre. Tel 289 697 395. 3km west of Espiche on EN125.

Tennis
Lagos Tennis Club. Tel 282 764 297.
At Hotel Meia Praia. Tel 282 762 001.
2 courts.

Water Sports
The Beach Hut Water Sports Club. Luz, 8 km away. Tel 919 533 476.
Blue Ocean Diving and Kayak Centre, Lagos. Tel 282 782 718. Scuba diving trips.

Luz

Luz is approximately 8 km from Lagos and is famous for its superb beaches. Full of character and atmosphere you can find great restaurants and facilities in this fishing village.

Literally translated Praia da Luz means ‘Beach of Light’ a name believed to date back to the time of the Moorish occupation. A beacon would be lit to warn fishermen at sea of any approaching danger from the savage Moors. And the lights can often be seen out to sea at night from the boats fishing for squid.

Beaches
Luz beach is one of the few natural bays along the coast with a wide stretch of golden sand gently shelving into the sea, making it ideal for children. Facilities include a bar restaurant, sun shades for hire in high season and a water-sports centre.

Shopping
A few boutiques and gift shops but Lagos generally offers a better selection. The commercial centre has a supermarket on the ground floor and a small market upstairs for fresh fruit, veg, meat and fish. There is a supermarket next to the Duke of Holland on the road from the beach to the main cobbled street. Another small supermarket is situated by the church. For a big shop go to Alisuper Baptista around the corner from the commercial centre.

Dining & Nights Out
Restaurant Fortaleza. Tel 282 789 926. Overlooks the sea and part of a 16th century fortress.
Restaurante Cachoa. Tel 282 782 822. By the Luz traffic lights. Restaurant and art gallery. Beautiful setting.

Horse Riding
Quinta da Paraiso Alto. Tel 282 687 263 / 789 801 offers horse riding from one hour to a full day and barbecue evenings. Lessons available from qualified instructors.

Water Sports
The Beach Hut Water Sports Centre on Luz beach offers windsurfing, fishing, sailing and snorkelling with trained instruction if necessary.
The Luz Bay Club has an indoor and outdoor pool, gym, tennis, squash courts and more.
**Praia d’Oura**

Approximately two miles east of Albufeira, Praia d’Oura is a thriving resort. Not many years ago Praia d’Oura did not exist as a holiday resort but nowadays it is not so much a spin-off of Albufeira.

**Beaches**

Praia d’Oura ‘Golden Beach’ is noted for its golden sands, rides, windsurf hire and restaurants. Lifeguards are on the beach. The beach is quieter at the eastern end. Smaller beaches can be accessed along paths and over rocks with the red and cream cliffs of Falesia visible in the distance.

**Shopping**

A wide choice of shops can be found in Praia d’Oura as well as along the avenue known as ‘The Strip’. The Algarve Shopping mall located on the EN125 just before you reach the Guia roundabout gives you the chance to do a complete shop quickly and easily.

**Dining & Nights Out**

Churrasqueira – Beira. Tel. 289 589 916. Portuguese food and also fresh fish. Reasonable prices.

Os Campadres. Tel 289 541 848. Situated on the right on the road to Montechoro. Portuguese run, medium price range.

Bombay Palace. Tel. 289 512 543. Indian Tandori restaurant.

Ramos. Situated on the right on the road to Praia d’Oura. An attractive Portuguese owned restaurant with reasonable prices.

Gordini’s. Tel. 289 515 911. Just off the ‘strip’ Praia d’Oura. Serves Italian food including pizzas and pasta at reasonable prices.

Kiss Disco. Tel. 028 515 639 Near Praia d’Oura, just past Jacaranda. Elegant, lively, wild, attracts all kinds of people.

Vale do Lobo, Quinta do Lago, Almancil

Vale do Lobo is an exclusive development of villas, apartments, a 5-star hotel, golf courses and the 14 court Tennis Academy.

Quinta do Lago is an extensive area of pine woods fringed by the sea amongst which have been built high quality villas, horse riding facilities, water sports centre, the Buganvilla Shopping Plaza, a disco and several restaurants. The crossroads town of Almancil with its shops, cafes and businesses dedicated to catering for British expatriates and visitors is known for its accessibility to nearby attractions such as the Church of Saint Lawrence, Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago.

**Beaches**

Miles of soft golden sand stretch between Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago with several beach bars and restaurants offering refreshments and snacks throughout the day.

**Shopping**

There are a few shops in the centre at Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago and at the entrance to Vale do Lobo is a supermarket.

For a greater variety of shops visit Almancil, Loulé, and Faro (the capital) which has a shopping centre ‘Forum Algarve’. Guia just outside Albufeira also offers a shopping centre, ‘Algarve Shopping’. Buganvilla Plaza in Quinta do Lago has a supermarket, coffee bars, boutiques and other shops. Apolonia supermarket is on the main Almancil road. Almancil has several well-stocked supermarkets.

**Dining & Nights Out**

Sao Gabriel and Thai Garden, Almancil. Tel. 289 394 521. International Michelin star restaurant and Thai cuisine, open for dinner. Closed Mondays.

Julia’s, Praia do Garrau, Almancil. Tel. 289 396 512. Extensive range of fresh and live seafood bought daily.

Monty’s Bar, Praca, Vale do Lobo. Tel. 289 356 079. Monty’s steaks and ribs are well known in the area.

**The Green Valley Bistro**, Vale Verde, Quinta do Lago. Tel. 289 396 638. Restaurant offers good cuisine.

T-Club, Buganvilla Plaza, Quinta do Lago. Almancil. Tel. 289 396 751. Famous night spot with bar and Japanese restaurant.

The Praca, Vale do Lobo. Lively square featuring bars, discos and restaurants.

**Horse Riding**

Nearby at Pinetrees Riding Centre, Tel. 289 394 369. And also at Silver Horse Riding Centre at Quinta do Lago.

**Tennis**

The Vale do Lobo Tennis Academy, Tel. 289 357 850. Offers four all-weather courts, swimming pool and fitness gym.

**Water Sports**

Windsurfing boards available from the beach at Vale do Lobo and Dunas Douradas. Sailing and water-skiing on the salt lake at Quinta do Lago. Tel. 289 349 929.
Vilamoura

The largest purpose-built resort in the Algarve, Vilamoura means ‘Moorish Town’ and is well planned out and centred mostly around its big, stylish marina and its two beaches.

The waterfront is great for wandering around day or night and a number of boat trips can be taken along the coast as well as fishing trips. Part of the marina is the Commercial Centre built on two floors which offers restaurants and bars as well as shops. Enjoy the views of the marina and ocean while sitting at one of the pavement cafes. Vilamoura is popular with sports enthusiasts as it has excellent facilities.

Beaches
There are two beaches at Vilamoura. The Marina beach in front of the Hotel Atlantis and Marin Hotel with fine sand, all facilities and a beach bar/restaurant. The Falesia beach on the west side of the marina has three bar/restaurants.

Shopping
Several supermarkets are in the complex, one at the Marina in the Aldeia do Mar Holiday Village, at Topazio and at the Parque das Amendoeiras. Open 7 days a week from 8.30am – 7pm, 8pm in summer. Some attractive shops can be found by the Marina and a great selection in Quarteira and Loulé. A good fruit and veg market is in Quarteira with the fish market next to it. Also worth a visit is the fish wholesale market where the day’s catch is auctioned off. The open market is held near the fruit and veg market every Wednesday.

Dining & Nights Out
Esplanda Clube Nautico, Marina de Vilamoura. Tel.289 301 195. Enjoy lunch, dinner or delicious breakfast.

Gavea, Vilamoura Marina. Tel. 289 313 876. Reasonably priced Portuguese food.

Rosa Mexican cantina, located on the road into vilamoura. Tel. 289 384 27.

Kadoc Disco, Ribeira Queimada, 8100 Loule. Tel. 289 360 485. (on the outskirts of Vilamoura).

Black Jack’s Night Club. Tel. 289 301 446. Basements of the new Casino.

Casino, Tel. 289 310 000. Next to the Hotel Atlantis. Nightclub.

Horse Riding
Riding Stables of Vilamoura.
Tel. 289 310 900, 289 302 577.

Quinta do Azinheiro, Loule. Tel. 289 415 991 or 967 057 130.

Tennis
Vilamoura Tennis. Tel. 289 313 899
12 courts.

Vilamoura Tennis Academy. 6 hard courts and restaurant 289324123

Browns Sports Centre, Vilamoura.
Tel. 289 322 740.

Hotel Dom Pedro. Tel. 289 389 650.
6 courts.

Water Sports
Polvo sports. Tel. 289 301 884.
Windsurfing board hire and water-skiing at Vilamoura during the summer months.

Algarve’s Big Game Fishing Centre.
Tel. 289 313 980. Fishing excursions.

Useful Information

Language
Portuguese

Currency
Euro

International dialling code
+351

Emergency Services
112

Time
Greenwich Mean Time - if you are travelling from the UK then you do not need to change your watch.

Electricity
220AC - travellers from the UK will need a two-pin plug adaptor.

Opening Hours for Shops
From Monday to Friday shops are open from 9am to 7pm.
On Saturday this changes to 9am to 10pm.
Most shops close at lunchtime from 1 - 2.30pm.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication Villa Plus cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions and this holiday guide does not form part of our contract with you.

Restaurant recommendations have been made by past clients and on occasions restaurants close or change hands and therefore we are unable to guarantee quality or availability.

Copyright is reserved to Villa Plus Limited and this material may not be circulated, reproduced or published in whole or in part without the written consent of Villa Plus Limited. 01/05/2013
You can find our villas in 13 destinations across Europe

- Algarve
- Costa Blanca
- Menorca
- Mallorca
- Costa del Sol
- Lanzarote
- Fuerteventura
- Tenerife
- Corfu
- Kefalonia
- Rhodes
- Crete
- Cyprus

You can follow us on:
- Facebook: facebook.com/villaplus
- Twitter: @villaplusnews

Algarve:
- Portugal’s southern jewel
- Miles and miles of sandy beaches
- 300 days of sunshine each year
- Golfers’ paradise

- Impressive water parks
- Stylish marinas
- Super nightlife
- Over 160 villas with pools