



Portugal - Center Based Tour in East and West Algarve Bicycle Tour 2022

Self-Guided Tour

8 Days / 7 Nights



Variety is on the program! Flat in the east, with miles of fine sandy beaches, steep and rocky in the west, with spectacular rock formations and beautiful bathing bays. In the middle the nature reserve "Ria Formosa", an extensive lagoon area with many waterways and dune islands. A refuge for rare species of birds and marine animals. Large mussel basins alternate with the huge salt fields from which the famous "Flor de Sal" originates. On this bike tour you will experience the varied coastal area and the fertile plateau, the "Barrocal", the fruit and vegetable garden, as this area is also called. Not to forget the untouched, sparsely inhabited hilly hinterland, where it seems that time has stood still. In addition to local attractions, the eventful history of this country also offers many secrets to discover. The regional cuisine, with the numerous dishes with fish or fresh seafood, ensures the culinary delights. Discover the many secrets of this region.

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TICO # 50022092

Itinerary Day to Day

Day 1: Arrival to Faro

You arrive at Faro airport and take a taxi to the hotel in Pechão. You will be welcomed by a tour representative in the reception area of the hotel at the agreed time. You will receive the tour information and we will answer any questions you may have. You will receive the rental bicycles and we will make any necessary adjustments.



Day 2: Black Route 36 km + 250 m

This tour takes you through the rural area of the Barrocal. You reach the coast at the seaside resort of Fuseta. The Barrocal region is renowned for its fruit bearing trees. Fuseta is a busy little fishing port with lots of small, colourful boats and a promenade with a number of cafes and restaurants. On leaving Fuseta you cycle through the Ria Formosa nature reserve. You continue on a very pleasant cycle path which takes you right through the nature reserve between the lagoons and the railway line. Here you can watch a great variety of aquatic birds, flamingos, storks and in the winter months even cormorants and cranes. The sea salt (Flor de Sal) from this region is highly prized and is extracted from the numerous salt flats in this area.

Afterwards, the tour leads you under the railway line and after a short ride you come to the main road which you stay on until you reach Olhão. It is possible to use the hard shoulder. As you come to Olhão you will see the Quinta da Marina Visitor Centre. It's very interesting and informative and well worth a visit. Then you cycle through the town, along the marina, passing the two big market halls which are very striking buildings. Nearby is the interesting old town where you will find a large number of restaurants offering delicious fish and seafood dishes.

Day 3: Green Route 44 km + 400 m

The tour leads you to Torre where you cycle through the plain of the Ribeiro de Lourenço, an unspoilt river valley with lots of orange groves. You pass a beautifully laid out golf course and an area of thick bamboo before reaching the entrance of the holiday resort of "Quinta do Lago", a luxury holiday resort with very attractive villas and surrounding gardens. You then cycle on good roads down towards the sea, into the middle of the river delta of the "Ria Formosa" nature reserve. The delta is an extensive area of branching lagoons and water channels and many salt flats. Storks, flamingos and a great variety of water birds nest here. After cycling through the lagoon area, you will come to the edge of the airport, after which you skirt Montenegro and go through the university town of Gambelas. When you reach the railway line the path ends. Finally, you reach the busy



main road and cycle along it for a short distance and then you continue on your way back to your hotel via Patação and Conceição.

Day 4: Red Route 38 km + 310 m

Today you visit Faro, the capital of the Algarve. The route takes you on minor roads through the rural region of Barrocal, passing many typical villages towards Faro. You reach the outskirts of the town and you then continue on a very good cycle path which takes you directly into the historical part of Faro. The old town, surrounded by an old city wall, where there are many places of interest to explore. Renovated buildings from the heyday of the 16th and 18th centuries, such as a cathedral with the bishopric, a monastery and many museums. Then it leads through the city gate "Arco da Vila", on which one of the many stork nests of Faro is enthroned, you come to the beautifully landscaped city park "Manuel Bivar" and then to the marina. Here are several small cafes and restaurants where you can take a break and enjoy a snack or leisurely lunch. The route then follows out of the city passing a newly created recreation park and then you return to your hotel along quiet country roads.

Day 5: Blue Route 43 km + 590 m

Today starts with a transfer from your hotel to the beautiful small town of Alte. The bike tour begins at the entrance to the town in a beautiful park. You cross the town first, it is considered one of the most beautiful towns in the Algarve. The route begins with a ride north to the reservoirs of Funcho and Arade. At first the route follows alongside the Rio Arade and then takes you through the hilly landscape of the Serra, on a constantly undulating gradient to the small village of Pereiras. After this point a steep road leads up to a summit from which you can see the Funcho reservoir. After a short descent through a beautiful valley, you will reach the reservoir and cycle alongside it on unsurfaced, winding paths lined with broom,



wild roses and medronho bushes and trees. When you reach the end of the path you will cross the wall of the dam and after a short but very steep descent (you may have to get off your bike), you will reach another reservoir, the Barragem do Arade. Once again, ride alongside the reservoir back to the dam wall. From there you go downhill, through a fertile plain resplendent with large orange groves, back to your hotel.



Day 6: Purple Route 36 km + 310 m

You leave today from directly behind your hotel with a short climb on a narrow unsurfaced path, which leads through an area of dense bushes and woodland. The route then continues through the fertile area of Barrocal where a variety of crops grow. There are also many vineyards. You ride on quiet country roads through small hamlets and pinewoods towards the coast and will come to the Alfanzina lighthouse, which stands right on the edge of the cliffs. Right next to the lighthouse you will have a marvellous view of the cliffs and rocky stacks surrounded by the sea. The route then continues along the coast, to the small village of Vale do Covo and Benagil bay. One option here is to park your bike at the "Pescador" restaurant and go for a short cliff walk. We recommend that you wear sturdy shoes for

this and walk in an easterly direction as far as Marina. After the walk you cycle back in the direction of Silves. The route takes you through the small town of Porches and the varied landscape of the Barrocal. Before reaching Silves, you will return to the Rio Arade River and follow the riverbank all the way to your hotel.

Day 7: Brown Route 42 km + 290 m

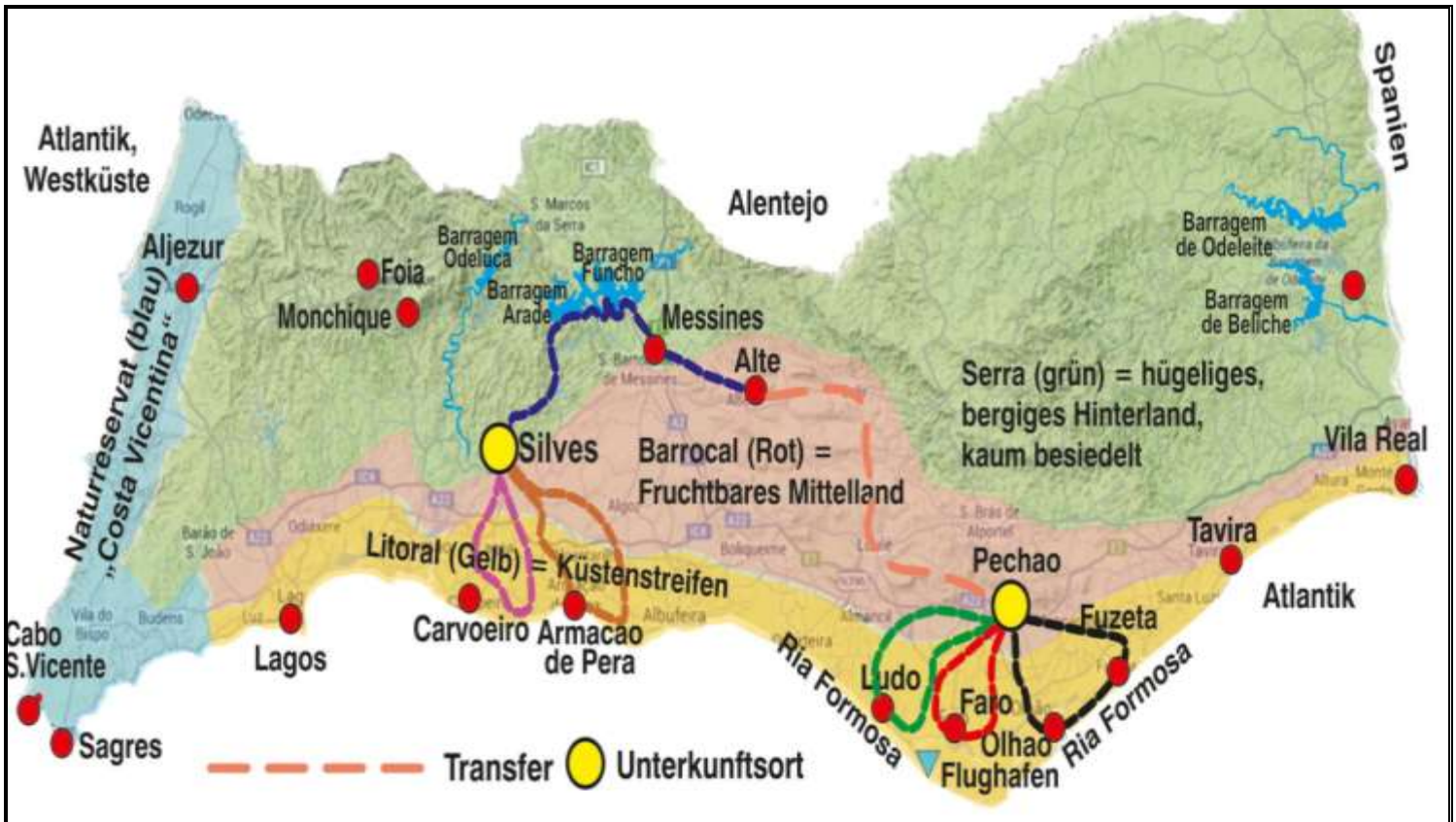
Today, you begin by riding through the rural area of Barrocal to the coast. You will come to the lively tourist resort of Armacão da Pêra, which was originally a small fishing village, but today is one of the largest tourist resorts in the Algarve. You cycle through the resort on the busy beach promenade and come to the small, picturesque "A Nossa Srª da Rocha" Chapel, built on a rocky promontory which projects far into the sea. After this you cycle around the lagoon and the dunes of the protected wetlands of the "Lagoa dos Salgados" and reach the wonderful sandy beaches, which stretch eastwards. The route takes you on board walks along the beach to Guia and continues past Alcantarilha, towards Silves and back to your hotel.

Day 8: Departure

You will be transferred from your hotel to Faro airport or to a different destination in the Algarve which we will have agreed with you.



Route



Route Characteristics:

Tour Profile: Medium. The routes are predominantly flat or slightly hilly. There are also some short steep climbs and descents. The routes follow mostly on surfaced side roads or on good unsurfaced tracks

Distance: 239 km

Travel Season: Departures daily January 1 to December 31, 2022

Season 1: January 1 – March 31 and November 1 – December 31

Season 2: April 1 – April 30

Season 3: May 1 – June 30 and October 1 – October 31

Season 4: July 1 – September 30

**Prices per Person:**

Double Occupancy B&B Season 1	€ 540.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 1	€ 690.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 2	€ 560.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 2	€ 795.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 3	€ 695.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 3	€ 945.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 4	€ 740.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 4	€ 1095.00
Bike Rental Touring Bike, aluminum frame, 24 gears	€ 105.00
Bike Rental Trekking Bike, aluminum frame, 27 gears	€ 120.00
Bike Rental E-Touring Bike, 9 gears, 3 electric levels	€ 170.00
Bike Rental E-Trekking Bike, 11 gears, 3 electric levels	€ 190.00
Tour Guide (up to group size of 6 people)	€ 150.00 per day

Accommodation:

4 start family run hotel in the east and 3 start hotel in the west

Included:

- 7 nights with extended continental breakfast
- Transfer from Pechão to the start of the route in Alte on day 5
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel
- Transfer from the hotel in Silves to the airport Faro or another place in the Algarve
- 6 carefully developed routes
- Bike map per route with directions and elevation profile as well as useful information in a rotatable map holder
- Personal welcome, briefing meeting and hand over of bicycles with careful checking
- GPS device with all daily routes
- Travel documents with tour description, useful tips and attractions
- 24 hour service hotline, including weekends and holidays

Not Included:

- Airport transfer to the hotel in Pechão 35€

Bikes

Touring Bike



Trekking Bike



E-Touring Bike



E-Trekking Bike

