

# Kat's Great Adventures

## Portugal - Trans Algarve Hill and Coast Bicycle Tour 2022

Self-Guided Tour

8 Days / 7 Nights



Discover the varied landscapes of the Algarve! Right through the mountainous hinterland that has remained originally to the fantastically beautiful rocky south coast of the Algarve ... The first three stages lead through the middle of the hills of the "Serra", a barely inhabited completely natural area. The landscape is dominated by cork oaks, eucalyptus and pine groves, alternating with open terrain with low bushes such as gorse, rock roses, medronho and the typical macchia fields. Evergreen river valleys are crossed, past deep blue reservoirs, breath-taking views over the endless sea of hills and the coastal area are unique. Then the contrast... always accompanied by the Atlantic, it leads on well-chosen trails along the fascinating coast. Golden yellow rock cliffs, secluded bathing bays with wonderful views of the deep blue Atlantic to the most south westerly point of Europe, the "Cabo de São Vicente". Experience the varied, unique landscape on this bike tour!

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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 Faro. 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: Azinhal - Vaqueiros 39 km + 860 m**

At first you will be transferred by bus to Azinhal, near the Spanish border, where we get ready to start the ride. After a short drive you reach the border of the river Guadiana, which you ride along and then the tour leads in the Serra towards Odeleite. The village is located on a steep slope below the water reservoir, you ride through steep alleys then up to a hill where the deep blue reservoir lies before you. Pass the lake and continue in the "Serra do Caldeirão", the area is very hilly and offers wonderful panoramic views of the surrounding green countryside, with vast pine plantations, fields with low shrubbery and cistus bushes. Along the way or in the far distance you will see small

villages where only a few or no inhabitants live. At the end of the stage you reach the small village of Vaqueiros where you will stay for the night. The village has shops, a cafe and a restaurant.

### **Day 3: Vaqueiros - Barranco do Velho 42 km + 860 m**

Today's tour is defined by constant uphill and downhill with several brook and river crossings. The landscape has changed, and cork oaks dominate the area, but also spruce, almond, and eucalyptus trees and many shrub species, especially the Medronho shrub, line the way. You reach Cachopo, a quiet village with its original character and then it goes in the direction of Currais. You ride through a varied area with dense forests and many shrub species, the top of the hills offers beautiful panoramic views. Then you reach on a paved road, the pretty village of Castelão, continue the ride to the river Ribeira de Odeleite, which is crossed on a stone bridge. During floods, the river cannot be crossed, and you have to drive over Ferreira to Barranco do Velho. The river valley impressed with its lush vegetation rich in different species. Then the trail leads winding up the hill to the village Parizes where you cross the "Rota da Cortiça", the Cork Route. After a few smaller river crossings and through wild vegetation, with cistus- and gorse bushes you reach the village Barranco do Velho, your destination for today.



### **Day 4: Barranco do Velho - São Bartolomeu Messines 45 km +560 m**

On a dirt road along a hilltop you leave the Serra do Caldeirão and come in the fertile field of Barrocal. The tour leads you through orange, almond and olive groves to Salir and after then to Benafim. You ride through the beautiful valley of the Ribeira de Alte and reach the picturesque village of Alte. After the village the ride continues through an agricultural area, marked by orange groves and varied tree crops. Finally, you reach your milestone São Bartolomeu de Messines, a place with good infrastructures, shops, cafes and restaurants.

## Day 5: São Bartolomeu de Messines - Portimão 49 km + 610 m

From São Bartolomeu you ride on a hill with a view to the water reservoir "Barragem do Funcho". After a short descent, through a magnificent valley, you reach the lake, which you drive along on winding nature trails, lined with flowering gorse, cistus and Medronho bushes, and then you drive over the dam. Afterwards, you reach after a short descent another reservoir, the "Barragem do Arrade", which you ride along and over the dam, slightly downhill in the direction of Silves. Shortly after you leave Silves in a southerly direction and pass through the area of Barrocal, a landscape with predominantly orange and vine plantations. The closer you get Portimão, the more populated the land is. In Ferragudo you reach again the Rio Arade and it offers a beautiful view over the estuary and the city of Portimão. On very well-prepared bicycle paths you head towards Praia da Rocha and reach your hotel.



## Day 6: Portimão - Burgau 49 km + 490 m

Today you visit the small village of Alvor, which is located in the lagoon of the Rio do Alvor. You ride through romantic alleys, drive around the lagoon and over a range of hills to the sea, along the coast towards Lagos. After Lagos you ride along the gold coast "Costa d'Oiro" to Praia da Luz, a small quiet seaside village with an old church and a fortress. You drive through the village on a cobblestone street, through small holiday villages and reach Burgau.

## Day 7: Burgau - Cabo S. Vicente - Sagres 42 km + 610 m

Today, the last stage begins and ends at the most south-western point of Europe. After Salema starts a steep climb on a hilltop, further on through an open area with fields towards the village of

Figueira. Afterwards you'll continue on slightly hilly terrain through farmers' fields, pass a constant uphill and downhill on natural trails to the small village of Raposeira, by narrow alleys, and reach Vila da Bispo. The tour leads through a barren plateau directly to the main road to the lighthouse complex at Cabo de São Vicente, which is located on 60 meter high cliffs. Next, you ride on a beautiful coast road and reach your destination of this stage, Sagres.

## Day 8: Departure

Transfer (included), you will be chauffeured by us to Faro airport or another agreed destination in the Algarve.



## Route



### Route Characteristics:

**Tour Profile:** Medium. The routes are alternately flat or hilly. In the inland mostly on very quiet roads with some parts on good unsurfaced tracks. Along the coast on well-maintained side roads or unsurfaced tracks. There are some steep climbs and descents, especially on the last 3 stages.



**Distance:** 265 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 – May 31 and October 1 – October 31

Season 3: June 1 – June 30 and September 1 – September 30

Season 4: July 1 – August 31

## **Prices per Person:**

Double Occupancy B&B Season 1	€ 740.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 1	€ 910.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 2	€ 780.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 2	€ 1060.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 3	€ 840.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 3	€ 1180.00
Double Occupancy B&B Season 4	€ 1020.00
Single Occupancy B&B Season 4	€ 1610.00
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:**

Typical Portuguese guest house, 3\* and 4\* hotels

## **Included:**

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

## **Not Included:**

- Visitors taxes of 1.50 € per person/ night in Faro
- Transfer from the airport to the hotel in Faro, approximately 15 €

## Bikes

### Touring Bike



### Trekking Bike



### E-Touring Bike



### E-Trekking Bike

