

algarve,
europé's
most famous
secret

albufeira

municipality

2013 . 3rd Edition

albufeira

First and foremost, Albufeira is famed for its beaches, for the countless shades and tones of its rocks and cliffs. This is a place where people live to the rhythm of the great holiday destinations, sunbathing during the day and at sunset flocking to enjoy the restaurants, bars and discotheques that enliven the nighttime hours.

Just a few miles inland and everything changes. The green of the countryside is dotted with almond, fig, orange and pine trees and decorated chimneys stand out against the ochre of tiled roofs. Bucolic villages invite you to experience a way of life rooted in the tranquillity of nature, to add another dimension to your holidays.

HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALBUFEIRA

Archaeological sites confirm that there were people living in the Albufeira area in the Neolithic period and during the Bronze Age. The Romans settled on the peninsula where the original urban centre of Albufeira was located. Little is known of the Roman town of Baltum beyond the fact that it was a fishing centre and that there were mines operating near Paderne.

With the Arab conquest, the city was given the name of Al-Buhera, and it is from this that its current name is derived. The Moorish occupation was a period of prosperity based on agriculture and on trade with North Africa, which led to the construction - or reconstruction - of the town's castle and defensive walls.

After the first Christian occupation, in 1249, the reconquest of the Algarve by D. Afonso III began. In 1250, all the castles and lands of the Algarve had been taken, including Albufeira.

A period of decline ensued due to dwindling trade with the ports of the Mediterranean, and this was followed by economic revival during the period of the Discoveries (15th/16th centuries). In the 18th century, a series of seismic tremors, culminating in the earthquake of 1755, reduced Albufeira to poverty, and it was only at the end of the 19th century that prosperity returned, with the growth of the fishing and fish canning industry.

Since the 1960s Albufeira has become an internationally renowned centre for tourism, which has brought renewed growth and, in 1986, elevation to the status of a city.

VISITING ALBUFEIRA

Sky, sea, soft golden sand. Next, an ochre cliff crowned by the brilliant white of the houses. A view of Albufeira that stays in the minds of those who visit it.



Albufeira - LC

MAIN CHURCH

Built at the end of the 18th century, the church possesses an imposing bell tower. The interior consists of a single nave. On the high altar there is a valuable statue of Nossa Senhora da Conceição (Our Lady of the Conception) (18th century), the patron saint of Albufeira, and an altarpiece painted by the Algarvian artist Samora Barros (20th century). The side altars and the sacristy contain statues from the 18th and 19th centuries.



Main Church - VC

CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA ORADA (OUR LADY OF ORADA)

A typically rural chapel, built in a once deserted valley. Much frequented by fishermen, it contains "ex-votos" depicting miracles. In the churchyard, two graves belonging to victims of the constitutional struggles of the 19th century are to be found.



Chapel of N. Sra. da Orada LC

CHURCH OF SÃO SEBASTIÃO (ST. SEBASTIAN)

This church was built in the middle of the 18th century and is located in the Praça Miguel Bombarda. Its architecture is popular in style. On the outside of the church, the outstanding features are a cupola and two doorways, of which the side one has stonework in the Manueline style, a fine example of Baroque decoration. The interior with a single nave has a wooden altarpiece from the second half of the 18th century, six statues of saints, all made of wood and by unknown artists, and also a stone statue dating perhaps from the 16th century, which must have belonged to the old Chapel of Nossa Senhora da Piedade (Our Lady of Piety).



Church of S. Sebastião - LC

CHURCH OF SANTA ANA (ST. ANNE)

The architectural features of this church, which has a cupola surrounded by pinnacles, are popular in origin (18th century). The chancel contains a wooden altarpiece dating from the middle of the 18th century.

MISERICÓRDIA CHURCH

Standing on the site of a former Arab mosque, the building was restored in 1499 as the chapel of the "Alcaides", the local governors. Rebuilt after the earthquake of 1755, it nevertheless retains some of its earlier Gothic (15th century) features, namely the doorway, the triumphal arch and the apse. Nearby stands the Gothic doorway of the old hostelry.

CLOCK TOWER

Located in what was once the county jail, it has an interesting decorative structure in wrought iron to support the bell.



ClockTower-LC

getting to know albufeira municipality

PADERNE

Paderne has its origins in the remote past and may have begun life with the arrival of settlers who had been living in the nearby castle. Located in a scenic position on a gentle hill, its old white houses stand out from the surrounding countryside. One of the houses in the village has an interesting decorated chimney dating from the 18th century.

MAIN CHURCH 11

The original building in the Manueline style (16th century) has been altered by successive periods of reconstruction. The interior consists of three naves. The arch of the chancel is decorated with human figures and has monogrammed columns at the sides. The high altar has a highly ornate carved altarpiece (18th century). There is an interesting collection of 17th and 18th century statues.

CASTLE 12

Situated about two kilometres from Paderne, it is built on a spur of rock around which flows the Quarteira creek. It is Arab in origin and was inhabited until the 14th century.

It has thick walls of "taipa" (made of mud mixed with lime and stones), a typical feature of Moorish buildings. There is an interesting barbican tower which served to defend the most exposed side of the castle. Only the entrance gate and the tower that defended it are made of stone. Inside are to be found the ruins of the chapel of Nossa Senhora da Assunção (Our Lady of the Assumption).

Nearby, there is a bridge of medieval origin that retains a stretch of the old road and a water mill with its weir.



Paderne Castle - TA

GUIA

A village with a long history which has grown rapidly in recent decades.

MAIN CHURCH 09

A country church built in the 17th century, with statues from the 17th and 18th centuries. There is also a dado of tiles with blue and white designs (17th century).

CHAPEL OF NOSSA SENHORA DA GUIA (OUR LADY OF GUIA) 10

A typical Baroque building with a lively façade (16th/18th centuries). The high altar has a vault and walls covered in polychrome tiles and a carved gilded altarpiece (18th century). There is a statue of Nossa Senhora da Guia (Our Lady of Guia) (17th century).

Not far away, at the mouth of the Espiche creek, is Lagoa dos Salgados. With its typical lakeland vegetation, this is an excellent spot for watching migratory birds.



Interacting with dolphins - Zoomarine

THE PLEASURES OF SUN AND SEA

Albufeira boasts beaches where the sand is fine and the sea a turquoise blue, sheltered by cliffs where "Mother Nature" excelled herself in the range of natural hues. It is for its beaches that Albufeira is internationally renowned, because each one is different... and they are all equally enchanting.

Galé

An expanse of sand that stretches for miles between cliffs. It is equipped with a wide variety of tourist facilities. In the direction of Albufeira there are two small beaches that are quiet and little visited.



Galé - HR

Evaristo, Castelo and Coelha

Coves protected by rock formations. Great natural beauty.



Evaristo - HR

São Rafael and Arrifes

Beaches of great beauty separated by rocks. Tourist facilities. Nearby, Ponte Pequena and Ninho das Andorinhas are fascinating rock formations.



Albufeira

A long strip of sand with the city surrounding it like an amphitheatre, it is made up of three beaches: Peneco, Pescadores and Inatel.



Falésia

Endless miles of beaches fringed by the green pines and the many reddish colours of the surrounding cliffs. Tourism and sports facilities available.



Oura, Santa Eulália, Maria Luísa, Olhos de Água and Belharucas

A series of beaches, each sheltered by colourful cliffs. Tourist and sports facilities.



MAR, GOLFE E MUITO MAIS

The coast of Albufeira is very inviting for water sports: sailing, water skiing, windsurfing, scuba diving.

The golf courses almost reach the sea; so, even while you're thinking about your next birdie, you cannot forget that the soft golden sand lies waiting for people yearning for sun and rest.

A hotly contested tennis match? A few hours of horse riding through the perfume of the pine trees? All this and much more awaits you, for holidays full of activity.



POPULAR ART

Many of the traditional crafts of the Algarve are to be found in Albufeira. Local craftsmen and women continue to make items from palm leaves and esparto grass, objects in copper and tin, baskets, lace and typical footwear, as they have done for centuries. More recent in origin, but equally creative, are the painted textiles and tapestries they produce, which are often decorated with regional motifs.

THE TASTE OF GOOD COOKING

Gastronomic pleasures in Albufeira begin with the fresh fish and shellfish that the fishermen bring in from the sea every day. Who can resist grilled sardines, golden bream or sea bass? Or fresh lobster caught in the rocks?

Those who enjoy traditional cooking can choose from a wide range of typical fishermen's recipes. As a starter, perhaps "conquilhas" soup, made with a kind of clam and flavoured with bay leaves and coriander. Follow that with mackerel cooked with oregano, sardines in tomato sauce or sardines with maize meal. For special occasions, there is nothing better than a fish or shellfish "cataplana" cooked in the hinged copper vessels that are a feature of any Algarvian kitchen.

From the farmers of the hinterland come dishes of corn with pork and sausages, of "chicharo" beans, chicken casseroled with its giblets and shoulder of lamb roasted with almonds, honey and rosemary for an unforgettable flavour. To round off a meal, the choice includes almond balls and fig cake, a very sweet local delicacy.



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Albufeira - LC



Scenic Viewpoint - LC

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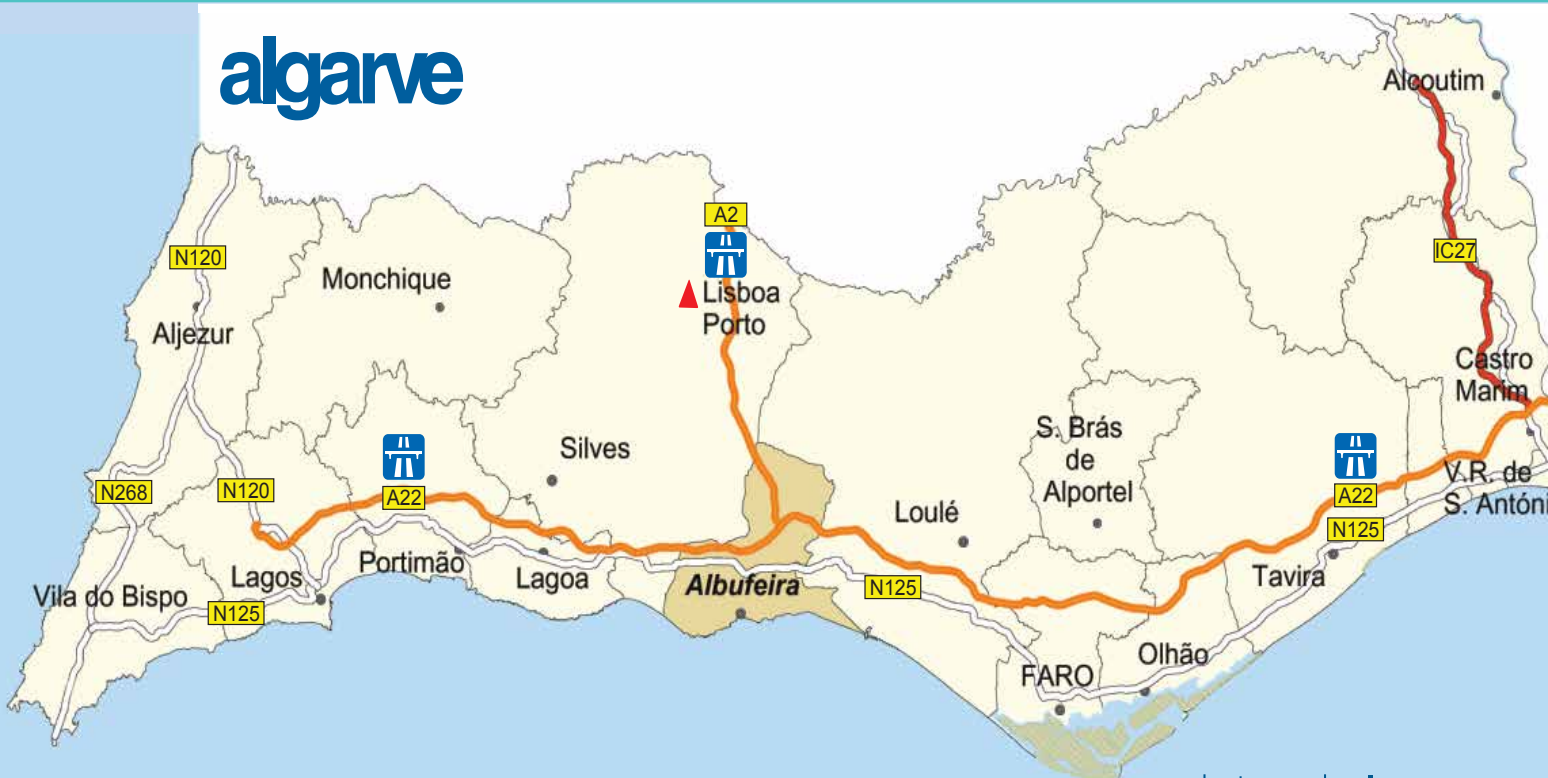
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