



Hotel Baía Grande

Albufeira

What to do in Albufeira

Albufeira is much more than just sun and sand! While it is currently the main tourist hub of the Portuguese Algarve, the town holds secrets and details that make it truly fascinating.

A name with Arabic roots: The name "Albufeira" derives from the Arabic word Al-buhera, meaning "castle of the sea" or "small lagoon." The Moors fortified the region in the 8th century, and their influence is still evident in the narrow, maze-like streets of the Historic Centre.



The tunnel to paradise

Did you know that to reach the main beach from the historic centre, you have to pass through a tunnel? It's a pedestrian tunnel, about 20 metres long, carved directly into the rock, which gives access to Praia do Peneco. It's a striking and extremely photogenic entrance to the sea.

Elevator with panoramic views

Albufeira has a public elevator (Elevador do Peneco) that connects the top of the cliff to the beach. It offers more than just convenience; it provides one of the best panoramic views of the Atlantic, saving you the climb up the town's steep stairways.

The earthquake that changed everything

Like much of Portugal, Albufeira was devastated by the Great Earthquake of 1755. The subsequent tsunami destroyed almost the entire town wall and castle. In fact, the Church of Santa Ana is one of the few structures that partially survived, displaying a mix of architectural styles from both before and after the earthquake.

From sardines to tourism

Until the 1960s, Albufeira was a humble fishing village. Its transformation into a tourist hub happened incredibly quickly. Even today, when visiting Praia dos Pescadores (Fishermen's Beach), you can see colourful local boats, keeping alive the essence of what the town was like before the arrival of luxury hotels.

"The Strip"

In the Areias de São João area, there is a street filled with neon lights and bars that seems to have come straight out of Las Vegas. It offers a striking contrast to the traditional whitewashed town.

The Algarve is one of those destinations that offers everything needed for the perfect holiday. Located in southern Portugal, it stands out for its spectacular beaches, charming towns and mild climate for much of the year, making it an ideal choice for both families and couples seeking relaxation and beautiful scenery without having to travel too far.



What to visit?

One of the Algarve's great attractions is its cliffs and hidden coves, particularly in areas such as Lagos or Carvoeiro, where the scenery is simply stunning. A visit to Faro is a must, with its walled historic centre and peaceful atmosphere, as is a stroll through traditional towns like Tavira, perfect for relaxing walks and discovering the most authentic side of the Algarve.

What to do?

The Algarve invites you to enjoy the sea in countless ways: from boat trips to explore caves, such as the famous Benagil Cove, to family beach days on spacious, comfortable sands. It is also an ideal destination for those seeking to relax, offering seaside walks and terraces perfect for watching the sunset, as well as water activities and gentle outings suitable for all ages.

What to eat?

Algarve cuisine is simple yet delicious. Highlights include codfish prepared in various ways, seafood cataplana (a flavourful stew) and grilled octopus. All these dishes are made with fresh ingredients and follow traditional recipes, tasting even better when enjoyed with a view of the Atlantic.

Our recommendation

If you would like to try well-prepared local cuisine, we recommend "Marinheiro", a classic spot where you can savour authentic Portuguese dishes in a warm, relaxed setting.

Trips nearby

From the Algarve, it's well worth visiting Lagos, known for its beaches and lively historic centre, or exploring Faro, ideal for a day of culture and gastronomy. Both options perfectly complement a stay in southern Portugal.

Discover the best attractions in the Algarve below

- Zoomarine
- Theme Parks
- Trampoline Parks
- Jeep tours and other transport options tailored to you
- Wonderful beaches and cliffs
- Albufeira Historic Centre
- Restaurants in Albufeira
- Albufeira Marina for a stroll or boat trips
- And more...

What to do in Albufeira

You can ask our reception for assistance, or call No. 9

Reception: Tel. No. 9

*If you wish to use your mobile phone, please contact +351 964 642 450