

Cycling Safaris

The Algarve Coastal Cycle Route Ecovia do Litoral Self guided 2016 235 km | 7 nights / 8 days



We have put together a comprehensive cycling package to enable you to get the most out of the new Algarve Coastal Cycle Route called Ecovia do Litoral.

The Ecovia do litoral is a new dedicated cycle route in Portugal that links Cabo de S. Vicente (Sagres) in the west to Vila Real de S. António on the Spanish border.

This new cycle route combines trails in nature protection areas with linking stretches on traffic calmed or car-free routes. With a total of 235 km, runs across the Algarve municipalities and is designed to provide you with moderately challenging days of cycling.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrival at Faro Airport

Upon your arrival in the Algarve, we will collect you and equip you with your bicycle for the tour. Then we will transport you and your bicycles over to Vila Real de Santo António for your first night.

Day 2 - Villa Real to Tavira

31km/214m elevation gain

Following a well marked route, with supplied maps, you will cycle west towards Tavira, a charming old fishing town that has been around since Roman times, your destination for this day's cycling.

Day 3 - Tavira to Olhão

31 km/182m elevation gain

Today's ride continues west towards Olhão and passes through unspoilt coastal countryside and quaint fishing villages. Your destination in Olhão is a charming little hotel set right in the heart of the old fishing town, renowned for its moorish style architecture.

Day 4 – Olhão to Villamoura

40km/270m elevation gain

Your third day on the Algarve Coastal Cycle Route takes you through the regional centre of Faro and onwards past the prestigious golf resorts and the seafront at Quarteira, to your overnight stay in Villamoura, with its marina full of luxury yachts and a good selection of cafes, bars and restaurants.

Day 5 – Villamoura to Praia da Rocha

55km/494m elevation gain

Another interesting day's cycling through the popular resort of Albufeira and inland through the traditional old town of Lagoa, then on to Portimão and Praia da Rocha. Here you will stay in a charming hotel next to the old fort on the sea front.

Day 6 – Praia da Rocha to Praia de Luz

39km/353m elevation gain

Today you head through the fishing village of Alvor, towards bustling Lagos, a likely stop-over for lunch. From here you leave town along the old coastal road towards the popular coastal resort of Praia de Luz. There are lots of cafes and shops along the promenade and often market stalls and artists displaying their work, so it's worth getting here in time to explore.

Day 7 – Praia de Luz to Cabo de São Vicente

39km/570m elevation gain

Your final day of the cycling tour takes you through some dramatic and interesting scenery and on to the southernmost point of Europe, Cabo de São Vicente. The nearby town of Sagres with its ancient fort and sights of historical interest, provide plenty of opportunities to explore. We collect you and return you to a quaint hotel, set in a quiet square in the heart of the old market town of Loulé. Loulé is an explorer's haven, with its narrow cobbled streets leading off the central Avenida, tiny shops and hidden away bars and restaurants.

Day 8 – Departure

After breakfast we will transfer you from your accommodation to the airport.

2016 SELF GUIDED TOUR PRICE

Prices for January, February, November & December €855 per person sharing	Prices for March €885 per person sharing
Prices for April & October €890 per person sharing	Prices for May €930 per person sharing
Prices for June €1000 per person sharing	Prices for July €1130 per person sharing
Prices for August €1245 per person sharing	Prices for September €1070 per person sharing

The above prices are based on 2 people sharing a room and luggage transfer
Prices for single occupancy and solo tour supplement on request.

You can start this tour any day of the week.

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Good quality hotels/apartments along the route, incl. breakfast
- Quality bike and equipment hire
- Detailed maps and route details
- Luggage transfer (priced based on two people)
- Route assistance where necessary (helpline)
- Airport transfers from/to Faro airport

If your group consists of more than two people you will be entitled to a discount as the cost for the luggage transfer will decrease.

We can also organise a guided tour with a support van, for prices please contact our office.

If you have a large group that prefers to have the services of a dedicated guide and/or a support vehicle that can be provided as well. Please don't hesitate to contact us for a quote.

WHAT TO BRING

Here is a checklist of items we suggest to take with you:

- Cycling clothing: 2 jerseys, 2 padded shorts, waterproof jacket, and gloves.
- If you decide to take cycling shoes please bring your own spd pedals as our bikes are fitted with standard pedals
- Cycling helmet (these cannot be hired)
- Sunglasses, sunhat, high protection sun cream, after sun cream.
- Swimming costume (essential for those afternoon dips!)
- Casual evening dressing

TRAVEL INFORMATION

It is best for you to arrive and depart in Faro Airport. Please let us know your flight details and we will arrange a transfer on arrival for you.

From your last night in Boliqueime you are 20 mins away from Faro Airport. Alternatively you can get the train to Lisbon or the bus to Seville. The train from Lisbon to Faro is approximately 3 hours.

BACK UP SERVICE

As this is a self led trip you do not have the back-up of a guide and support van. Our aim is to allow you feel like an independent traveller, free to cycle each day at your own pace while at the same time having the security of knowing that your luggage will be waiting for you in your next accommodation.

If you experience small problems with the bike (e.g., a puncture) you will have a spare tube, pump and tyre lever. You also have access to a 24 hour helpline.