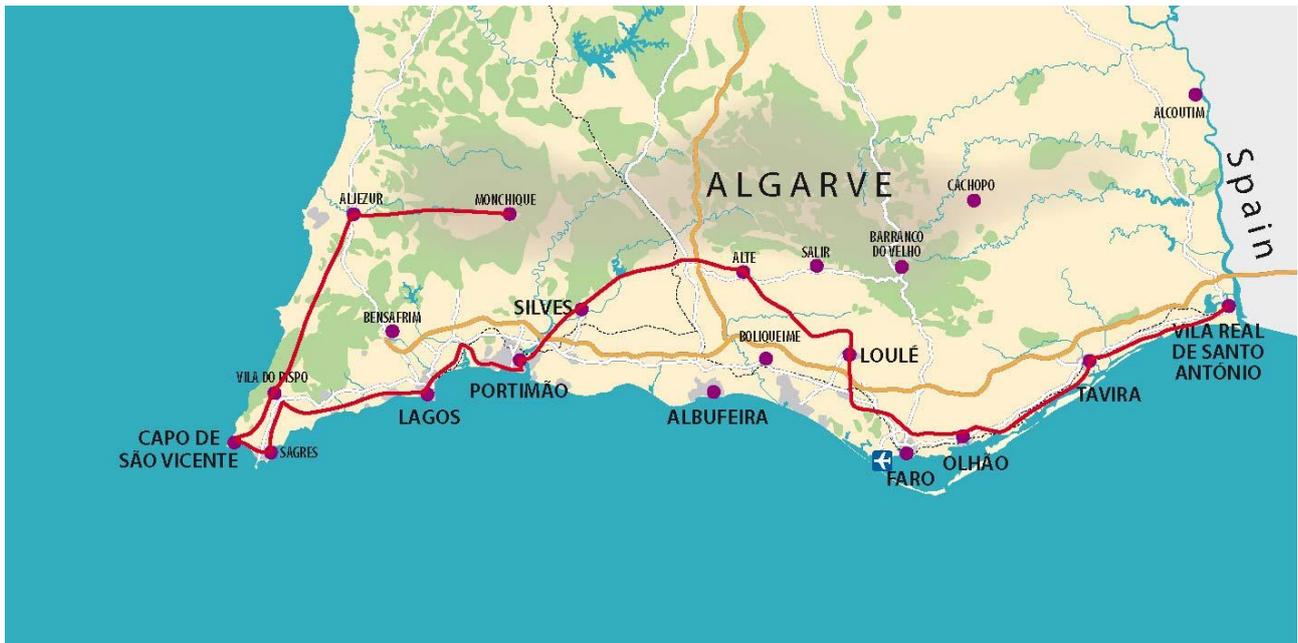


Cycling Safaris

Portugal - The Best of the Algarve

Self guided 2018

Approx. 300 km | 13 nights/14 days – From Silves to Western Algarve



Many clients have now had a very enjoyable cycling holiday along the Algarve coastal cycle path the 'Ecovia do Litoral'. However, we felt that there was also a lot to offer inland including some great scenery and traditional Algarvean places to visit.

The best of the Algarve tour provides 2 weeks of cycle touring, each week with a rest day roughly halfway through the week. You can choose to ride week 1 Eastern Algarve to Silves, and week 2 Silves and western Algarve tour.

This is designed to be a gentle and relaxing cycling holiday with a rest day roughly halfway through each week, cycling the Eastern Algarve area to Silves and then on to the Western Algarve mainly on quiet tarmac roads and occasionally dirt tracks. Each night you stay in good quality hotels in interesting towns with plenty of choice so you can get a well earned evening meal.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival

If you are arriving at Faro airport to start with then we will collect you from the airport and take you to your first nights hotel in Vila Real de San Antonio. We will collect your bicycles and all associated equipment on the way to Vila Real.

Vila Real is an interesting old town on the banks of the Guadiana river which forms the border between Spain and Portugal. The town is full of character and not particularly touristy, but there are plenty of bars and restaurants. Depending upon your arrival time, you may be able to catch the ferry across the Guadiana and try a short bike ride around Ayamonte and its surrounding

coastline, just to give you a brief taste of Spain before heading west across the Algarve region of Portugal.

Vila Real de San Antonio Hotel: Your hotel is a modern hotel right in the centre of town so everything is right on your doorstep. The hotel provides en-suite accommodation, air conditioning, bar and swimming pool and breakfast is included.

Day 2 Vila Real de San Antonio to Tavira 28km approx

Your first day of cycling is a gentle run along the Ecovia do Litoral to Tavira, a ride of approximately 28km. Along the way you will pass through the coastal resorts of Monte Gordo and Altura as well as passing by the interesting old coastal town of Cacela Velha, definitely worth a visit if only to try out one of the many cafés and restaurants that are located there. You should be able to arrive in Tavira with plenty of time to have a good look around this lovely old town, a major coastal town since as long ago as Roman times.

Tavira Hotel: Your hotel is located close to the river in the centre of Tavira, so it is well located for exploration of the town by bike or on foot. The hotel provides bed and breakfast accommodation with clean, modern rooms and en suite facilities.

Day 3 Tavira to Olhão 26km approx

Another gentle day cycling along the mostly flat Ecovia do Litoral, which should enable you to arrive in Olhao in good time for more sight seeing. There are cafes and restaurants along the way and the route also passes through the charming old fishing village of Fuseta. If you arrive in Olhao early enough, you may like to take a ferry or water taxi over to one of the islands Armona, Culatra or Farol for an afternoon on the beach or dinner in one of the fine seafood restaurants located on the islands.

Olhao Hotel: The traditional style hotel is in the centre of Olhao with basic but clean facilities. There is also a lovely roof terrace with great views over to the islands. The hotel provides accommodation only, but there are many cafés and restaurants in the immediate vicinity for a great evening meal and also breakfast.

Day 4 Olhão to Loulé 30km approx

Today's ride of around 30 km heads inland away from the Ecovia do Litoral. By-passing the regional capital Faro and passing by the famous Roman remains at Estoi, you head up into the hills and through quiet villages to reach the lovely old town of Loule. Loule is an explorer's haven with its narrow cobbled streets leading off the central Avenida, tiny shops and hidden away bars and restaurants, well worth a couple of hours walk upon arrival.

Loule Hotel: A short walk from the centre of Loule and close to many bars and great restaurants, this hotel features rooms with air conditioning, satellite TV and bars, breakfast room, roof terrace swimming pool and also a laundry service.

Day 5 Rest Day

An opportunity to relax and explore the fascinating old town of Loule or relax by the roof top swimming pool at the hotel, right in the centre of town. If you are still feeling energetic, then you may choose to cycle down to the coast where some of the finest beaches in the Algarve can be found.

Day 6 Loulé to Alte 34km approx

A more challenging day in the rolling hills to the north of Loule, but well worth the effort for the tremendous scenery. Taking the gentle hill up out of Loule, you head towards the tiny hill-top village of Querenca, a great coffee stop and a place to take in the splendid views. Heading north



WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation on a B&B basis in good quality hotels
- Maps and route details
- Cycle hire
- Luggage transfers
- Route assistance where necessary (phone helpline)
- Airport pick up from Faro Airport on first day of week one and transfer to airport at end of tour

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.

If you have a large group that prefers to have the services of a dedicated guide and/or a support vehicle, which 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, 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.

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.

BIKE INFO



SCOTT SUB Comfort 20 features comfortable geometry intended for everyday use. With a Shimano 21 Speed transmission, Brakes: Promax TX 123 and a custom Racktime carrier, this bike has it all with regards to trekking around.

The advantage of this self guided cycling safari is that you can enjoy each day's cycle at your own pace. To get the most out of your holiday we would recommend that you do take a few practice rides before this tour.