

Self-Guided Walking in the Algarve

Trip Code: SGPA

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Lagos and discover its prestigious role in Portugal's Age of Discovery
- Hike the Great Coastal Path to Ponta de Peidade and deserted clifftop paths
- Watch birdlife of Ria Formosa National Park dance in the sun as flamingos make a graceful call
- Witness colourful fishing boats bring in the catch of the day ready for you to enjoy in the local restaurants each evening

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days walking and sightseeing
- Thursday and Saturday departures throughout the dates listed
- Friday departures also available from start of April to end of October
- Join at Lagos / End in Tavira

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

From the wild west to the tranquil east, experience deserted coastal paths along Portugal's enthralling Algarve coast. Witness surfers catching waves off the coast from laid-back Sagres, stand in awe at nature's artwork at Ponta Peidade, where rock formations stand proud out of the Atlantic to the soundtrack of crashing waves, and take a dip in the inviting deep blue waters from secluded beaches. This is a holiday to fuel your senses, from the smell of the salty sea air, the sight of the rock formations changing colour in the sun, or tasting the freshly caught seafood in the local restaurants.

Your walks will take you over deserted clifftop paths, through Parque Natural da Ria Formosa teeming with birdlife, and along golden beaches to pretty, traditional villages of Figuera, Fuzeta and to bustling resorts of Albufeira and Tavira. This trip has been designed to experience all this fantastic region has to offer, and staying in 4-star hotels with swimming pools each evening means you can unwind at the end of each day in comfort, whether that be with a good book by the pool or with a glass Vinho Verde in the bar. After all, it is your holiday!

Is this holiday for you?

This superb self-guided holiday is all about enjoying the popular Algarve through new eyes, on foot, and at your own pace. Staying in a fantastic range of 4-star hotels with pools makes for the perfect place to relax after a day hiking and allows you to enjoy the many restaurants and facilities of popular tourist resorts. Your walks will take you on well-established coastal paths, rocky trails, and elevated cliff paths, walking 4-5 hours a day with no more than approximately 500m of ascent in a day. If you love to experience a destination anew then you will love this year-round get away.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Luggage transfers
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Welcome briefing
- Transfers to/from your walks as per itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Lagos
- Travel from Tavira
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts at your hotel in Lagos. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a land only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Faro Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

If you are flying to Faro Airport you can travel via public transport to Lagos, the journey takes approximately 2 hours. From the airport, take the shuttle bus to Faro Train Station from where you can take the train to Lagos.

Alternatively, it is possible to arrange a private transfer, please ask our sales team for more information.

Your trip ends in Tavira from where you can take the bus or train to Faro Airport, the journey takes approximately 1-2 hours and requires one change along the way.

Alternatively, you can take a taxi from Tavira to Faro Airport for approximately 40 euros, the journey takes approximately 30 minutes.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

The Portuguese are passionate about food. It is a reason for celebration, time with family and socialising with friends, and as is typical on the Med, evening meals are enjoyed late into the evenings with a glass of wine. Portugal's national obsession is Bacalhau, a dried salted cod which will feature heavily on menus alongside other delicious seafood. After all Portugal has almost 1800km of coastline. But it is not all just seafood as Portuguese cuisine is all about simple, fresh cooking with many meaty stews such as Cozido a Portuguesa which includes beef, pork and chicken served with fresh vegetables and usually accompanied by one of the countries fantastic wines.

And it's not just savoury dishes and wine the Portuguese are passionate about. The pastel da nata is not just a dessert but a constitution, served in almost every café. This delicious custard filled pastry topped with cinnamon is flaky, creamy and utterly delicious. Originally known as a Pasteis de Belem this delicious pastry is the creation of the Masteiro des Jernimos monks in Lisbon where they have been sold since 1837.

Accommodation

We have hand selected a great selection of 4* hotels for you on this trip, all selected for their great locations and hospitality. All of the hotels offer comfortable bedrooms, and great communal areas including a restaurant and bar area. The hotels all offer a great buffet breakfast to fuel you on your hikes and some also have a pool area for you to cool off after a day on the trails. Please note that this trip is offered with double/twin or single rooms.

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation in Lagos before your trip and Tavira at the end of your trip if you wish to extend your stay and enjoy the beaches this region is so popular for. Please refer to the dates and prices tab for further details or speak to one of our sales team.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your walk. We ask that you please ensure that each piece of your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection in the morning on the day of each hotel change. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are walking.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however, getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 5 to 6 hours for consecutive days on sandy or rugged paths. The routes are along the coast, so a head for heights is recommended.

Climate

The Algarve enjoys a sunny microclimate with over 300 days of sunshine a year. Summers are dry and hot, but the south-western tip of the continent enjoys a mild climate all year round thanks to the influence of the ocean.

Spring (April to June) and Autumn (September and early October) are delightful, but a little rain is possible with day time temperatures between 16-22 degree Celsius, with matching sea temperatures. Temperatures tend to be a little warmer in the Autumn than in the Spring though spring is an excellent time of year to enjoy spring flowers.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good grip soles
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses

- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles
- Headtorch & spare batteries
- Your self-guided route notes

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

This trip is available for departures on Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the dates listed, with additional departures on Fridays between the beginning of April and the end of October.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Walk on the wild coast by day and relax in handpicked 4-star hotels each night. Plus, each hotel has a swimming pool so you can cool off on those summer days. Staying in Lagos for the first three nights, and Tavira for the final two nights of your holiday allows you to enjoy these historic coastal towns further, or to easily swap a day walking for a lounge by the pool. It is your holiday to spend as you wish!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 03/12/2024 and the trip is subject to change