

Walking The Algarve's Coast

Trip Code: SGPA

Version: SGPA Walking The Algarve's Coast



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore Lagos and discover its prestigious role in Portugal's Age of Discovery
- Hike deserted clifftop paths and the Great Coastal Path to Ponta da Piedade
- See the striking birdlife of Ria Formosa National Park where flamingos dance gracefully in the sun
- Watch colourful fishing boats bring in the catch of the day, for you to enjoy in the local restaurants each evening

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days walking and sightseeing
- Luggage transfer
- GPS travel app
- Thursday and Saturday departures throughout dates listed
- Friday departures also available end March to end October
- Join at Lagos / End in Tavira

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 7 Breakfasts
- 7 nights Hotel with swimming pool

[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 the swell in the waters off laid-back Sagres, stand in awe at nature's artwork at Ponta da Piedade where rock formations stand proud out of the Atlantic to the soundtrack of crashing waves, and take a dip at secluded beaches. This is a holiday to fuel your senses, from the smell of the salty sea air, to the sight of rocks changing colour in the sun, or the taste of freshly caught seafood at the local restaurants.

Your walks will take you along quiet clifftop paths, through the Ria Formosa National Park that teems with birdlife, and along golden beaches to the pretty, traditional villages of Figuera and Fuseta, and to the bustling resorts of Albufeira and Tavira. This trip has been designed so that you can experience everything this fantastic region has to offer, and staying in 4-star hotels with swimming pools each night means you can unwind at the end of every day with all your creature comforts, whether that be with a good book by the pool, or with a glass Vinho Verde in the bar. After all, this 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, at your own pace. Staying in a selection of fantastic 4-star hotels with pools makes for the perfect environment in which to relax after a day of hiking, as well as allowing 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 for 4-5 hours and with no more than around 500m of ascent in a day. If you love to experience a destination anew, then you will love this year-round getaway.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Arrive in Lagos, explore its historic centre, and soak up the atmosphere of its harbour.

Arrive in Lagos, a town with so much to offer that we recommend adding additional nights before your hiking trip begins - just ask our Sales Team for details. A strategic port during Portugal's extraordinary Age of Discovery, this old town is steeped in history. Take time to discover the spectacular Igreja de Santo Antonio church that boasts one of the most stunning Baroque interiors in Portugal - decorated with artistically carved and gold-plated woodwork along with oil paintings honouring the life of St Anthony after whom the church is named. Alternatively, take a stroll along the strong defensive walls that have protected the town since the 13th century and pay visit to the Castelo dos Governadores (Governors' Castle) that stands proudly by the harbour. In the evening, you will be spoilt for choice for places to dine and, with such close proximity to the coast, fresh fish is sure to be featured on the menu!



Accommodation

Hotel with swimming pool

DAY 2

Discover Sagres and hike along peaceful coastal trails to Figueira.

Your first walk of the week begins from laid-back Sagres, a popular town amongst surfers seeking the thrill of the Atlantic waves. After breakfast, a short transfer will take you to the start of your walk where you can witness these thrill seekers in action before you set off on your way. The peaceful trails along this stretch of coast are a world away from the bustling tourist resorts. Black, red and yellow rock formations, sparse plateaus, long drawn-out sandy beaches and breathtaking headlands offer the perfect backdrop for today's hike to the small village of Figueira. Now it is time to enjoy a well-earned refreshment or two! During the spring, the cliffs come alive with brightly coloured shrubs, and sea birds flock to rocky ledges, so be sure to carry your binoculars on this walk.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation

Hotel with swimming pool



Ascent

400M



Descent

400M



Time

5 hours



Distance

14KM

DAY 3

Walk along the Great Coastal Path to Ponta da Piedade.

Your day begins with a short transfer to the small yet perfectly formed coastal village of Burgau - a traditional village with fishing at its heart where you may even spot fishing boats setting sail for the day's catch. You will have time for a morning coffee in one of the cafes on the square before setting off on your hike. Leaving Burgau behind, you will soon be accompanied by the sound of the waves crashing below the cliffs as you meander along the clifftops to the popular resort of Praia da Luz. Here you can enjoy a welcomed drink and perhaps a bite to eat at one of the beachfront cafes, or take a dip in the inviting waters before continuing your journey along this magnificent coast. Feeling refreshed, your route continues along the Great Coastal Trail to Ponta da Piedade where impressive golden arches and rock formations emerge from the ocean and beneath which you will hear the gurgling of water in grottoes and caves - testament to the power of the deep blue waters that formed these natural works of art.

Meals: **B**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 400M		Descent 400M		Time 5 hours		Distance 16KM
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DAY 4

Discover the charms of pretty Ferragudo and walk on The Seven Hanging Valleys Trail.

Your route today begins at what is possibly the prettiest village on the Algarve - Ferragudo. Sitting at the mouth of the Arade River, this traditional fishing village is home to all the qualities you might hope for: whitewashed houses, colourful fishing boats, and fragrant flowers. You will have time to explore its cobbled streets before setting off along the coast to your next goal, Carvoeiro, from where you join the stunning Seven Hanging Valleys Trail. This magnificent trail gets its name from the seven secluded bays it encompasses as you make your way along, through fragrant juniper and shrubbery that bursts into colour in the spring. In the evening, enjoy dinner in one of Albufeira's many restaurants and enjoy a spot of people watching in this vibrant resort.

Meals: **B**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 500M		Descent 500M		Time 5-6 hours		Distance 15KM
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DAY 5

Explore the Ria Formosa and enjoy watching the wildlife it is home to as you make your way to Faro.

Today's walk will introduce you to the wonder of the Parque Natural da Ria Formosa and its spectacular wildlife. A short transfer will take you to the start of your route, from where you will wander on winding paths and wooden walkways amongst sand dunes and lagoons, and it won't be long before you have your first encounter with the wildlife. Today is a day for nature lovers, and we recommend taking time to marvel at the numerous species of bird that call this nature reserve home: Greater Flamingos, Spoonbills, and black-winged Stilts to name a few. If you're lucky, you may even spot a Bee-eater. In the evening, take a stroll through Faro's picturesque cidade velha (old town), protected by its mighty medieval walls, or to the marina and enjoy a glass of wine as the sun sets. As you meander through town, you will note a patchwork of architectural styles, reflective of the town's history.

Meals: **B**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 50M		Descent 50M		Time 4 hours		Distance 11KM
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DAY 6

Witness fishermen at work in Fuseta, visit the fascinating Anchor Graveyard, and take the boat to historic Tavira.

Your morning begins with a scenic train journey to the traditional town of Fuseta. A town with an authentic Algarve feel, where it is easy to see the local fishermen mending their crab baskets and the colourful boats chugging in and out of the quay fetching fresh hauls for the nearby market. Take time to enjoy a coffee and absorb the alluring atmosphere before setting off on your way. When you're ready, your route will take you past glistening salt basins, colourful houses, and fruitful orchards as you make your way to the slow flowing river of Ria Formosa. From here, you skirt the edge of the lagoon to Ilha de Tavira to discover the fascinating Cemiterio das Ancoras (Anchor Graveyard), a memorial to the lost tuna fishing industry that once thrived in the area. The anchors were originally used to fix the nets in place rather than mooring the boats. Continuing along the fine sandy beach, you will soon arrive at the north of the island from where you will take a ferry across to the historic town of Tavira, your home for the night.

Meals: **B**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 150M		Descent 150M		Time 5 hours		Distance 19KM
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DAY 7

Explore the Eastern Algarve and walk to the Spanish border.

Today's walk will take you on an idyllic route along the Eastern Algarve coast all the way to the Spanish border. Hiking over gentle dunes, through fragrant pine forests, and along deserted beaches, today's walk is one for taking off your boots and dipping your toes in the ocean. You will soon reach your final destination, Vila Real de Santo Antonio, sitting on the Rio Guadiana estuary that marks the border between Portugal and neighbouring Spain. This strategic town was built from scratch following the infamous Great Earthquake of 1755, and was built under royal decree with the protection of Portugal in mind. Take time to explore the Praca Marques de Pombal (Central Square) where the only church in the town, Igreja Matriz, stands centre-stage, before taking the train back to Tavira. Spend your final evening on the Algarve immersing yourself in the town's enchanting architecture, and raise a toast to a great week.

Meals: **B**

	Accommodation Hotel with swimming pool		Ascent 100M		Descent 100M		Time 4 hours		Distance 15KM
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DAY 8

Departure Day.

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast and explore a little more of Vila Real de Santo Antonio before making your onward journey.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

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

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
- Local public trains/buses
- Boat trip to Tavira Island
- 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.

GPS Travel App

This holiday includes a GPS navigation app, which contains the routes for you to follow each day, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your personal smartphone device before you leave home and you are ready to go.

While the travel app is running, your phone battery charge can be consumed faster than normal, so we strongly recommend that you pack a power bank with you just in case you require it.

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 or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's 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

Your 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 that best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Faro Airport, served by many departures from UK regional 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.

We can also arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, or you may even wish to make this trip part of a bigger trip of your own, or pair it with one of our other holidays - just ask our Sales Team for details.

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 evening meals are typically enjoyed late into the evening with a glass of wine. One of Portugal's national obsessions is *Bacalhau*, a dried salted cod which features heavily on menus alongside other delicious seafood as, after all, Portugal has almost 1,800km of coastline. It is not all about amazing local seafood though, as Portuguese cuisine is centred on simple, fresh, flavourful cooking and includes many meaty stews such as *Cozido a Portuguesa*, which contains a variety of cooked meats, sausages, and vegetables cooked together slowly in a rich broth and usually served with rice and accompanied by one of the country's fantastic wines.

And it's not just savoury dishes and wine the Portuguese are passionate about. The *pastel da nata* is not only a dessert, it is a constitution and it is served in almost every cafe. These delicious custard filled pastries topped with cinnamon are at once flaky, creamy, and utterly delicious. Originally known as Pasteis de Belem, these moreish delights were created by the monks of the Mosteiro des Jeronimos monastery in Lisbon, where they have been made and sold since 1837.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

We have hand-picked a great selection of 4-star hotels for you on this trip, all chosen for their great locations and hospitality. Each hotel offers comfortable bedrooms, and lovely communal areas including a restaurant and bar area, and a great buffet breakfast to fuel you on your hikes - and some also have a pool where you can cool off after a day on the trails. Please note that this trip is offered with double/twin or single rooms.

It is also 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 for which this region is so popular - just ask our Sales Team for details.

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.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates (see *Health & Vaccinations below*), **and visas for your holiday**. Please ensure that you check the [FCDO](#) for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

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
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers
- Functional base layer top and leggings
- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses

- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)
- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Headtorch with spare batteries
- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

Land Only Information

Please note that 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 end of March 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 - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with 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.

We offer some transfers to your accommodation from the nearest airports - please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' section for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Walk on the wild Atlantic coast by day and relax in handpicked 4-star hotels by night. Plus, each hotel has a swimming pool so you can feel soothed and refreshed after a day on the trails. Staying in Lagos for the first three nights, and Tavira for the last two nights of your holiday allows you to get more out of your time in these historic coastal towns, or to easily swap a day of walking for a day lounging by the pool. After all, this is your holiday to spend as you wish!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 04/07/2025 and the trip is subject to change