



*Welcome  
to Turiscampo  
and to the  
Western Algarve*





Dear Guest,

We would like to welcome you and wish you a pleasant stay at our campsite Turiscampo.

Our camping offers a number of leisure facilities especially designed for your holidays and that you can use free of charge:

- two swimming pool complexes (consisting of children's pool, adult's pool and jacuzzi), one outdoors and another covered and heated;
- two playgrounds;
- multisport field;
- ping-pong table;
- mini-club;
- petanque field;
- outdoor fitness park.

For an additional charge, it is possible to use our indoor gym and/or SPA where you can have a massage, make an appointment with an hair-dresser, choose from a number of beauty treatments or use the sauna or turkish bath.

To avoid any risk of you getting bored on your holidays, we have also prepared a daily program of activities and animations which is posted weekly on the lateral wall of the supermarket, next to the restaurant and sanitary blocks and that can also be consulted on the Yelloh! Village app.

If you decide to explore our many beaches with its golden sands and crystal clear waters, the options are endless (you can find a map at the reception/ touristic information desk).

Even though the Algarve is mostly known for its beaches and many hours of sunshine, it has a lot more to offer.

On the following pages, we invite you to discover a bit more of the historic, archaeological and natural heritage of this region, often unknown or neglected.

We will finish this short guide with some useful practical information.

If you need any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the reception or our touristic information desk, which operates from the reception building during high season.

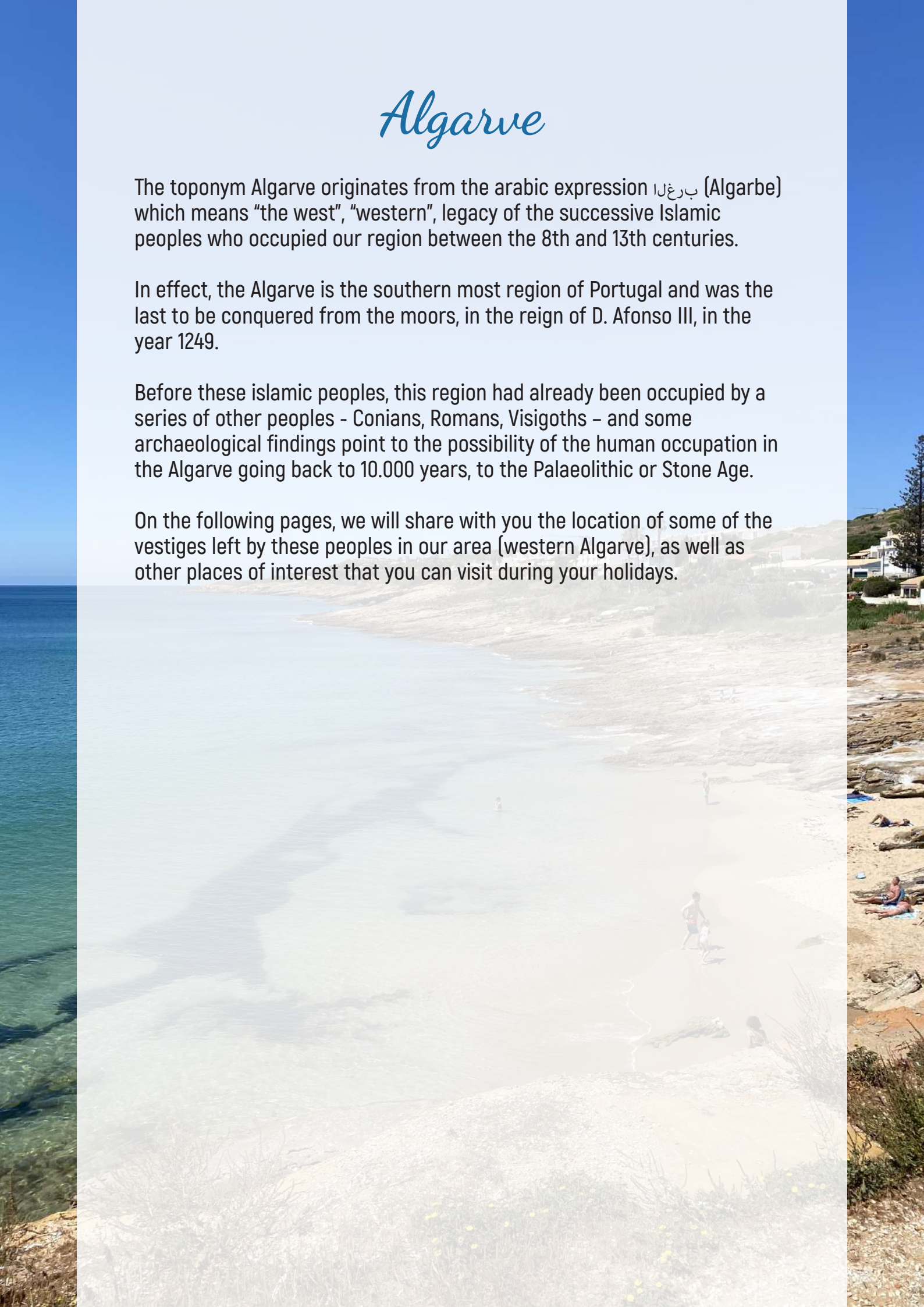
# Algarve

The toponym Algarve originates from the arabic expression برغال (Algarbe) which means "the west", "western", legacy of the successive Islamic peoples who occupied our region between the 8th and 13th centuries.

In effect, the Algarve is the southern most region of Portugal and was the last to be conquered from the moors, in the reign of D. Afonso III, in the year 1249.

Before these islamic peoples, this region had already been occupied by a series of other peoples - Conians, Romans, Visigoths – and some archaeological findings point to the possibility of the human occupation in the Algarve going back to 10.000 years, to the Palaeolithic or Stone Age.

On the following pages, we will share with you the location of some of the vestiges left by these peoples in our area (western Algarve), as well as other places of interest that you can visit during your holidays.



# Western Algarve



## 1 Cape of St. Vincent ("Cabo de São Vicente")

The ancient roman "Promontorium Sacrum", dedicated to the God Saturn, marks the southwest boundary of Europe and it's where the fortress (original construction dating to the 16th century) and lighthouse of St. Vincent are located.

Not far from here you can find the Fortress of Beliche, built at an unknown date (although it already existed in the 16th century), restored and converted into a guesthouse in the 1960s.

## 2 Fortress of Sagres ("Fortaleza de Sagres")

The Fortress of Sagres, also referred to as Castle of Sagres or Fort of Sagres, is a military monument built on the 15th century, during the time of the prince D. Henrique, driver of the Portuguese Discoveries.

Inside, a special note for the Church of Nossa Senhora da Graça, also built during the same period.

(Paid entrance, more information at <https://loja.cultural.gov.pt/>)

### 3 Raposeira

Many drive by this village on their way to the beaches of Ingrina and Zavial, without realising that the surrounding landscape hides multiple archaeological treasures dating back to the prehistoric ages: the menhirs of Milrei, Padrão and Aspradantes.

Since you're not far from Vila do Bispo, why not make a little detour and visit its church, one of the best examples of the Baroque style in the western Algarve, standing out for its decorative richness.

### 4 Salema and Figueira

On the beaches that we will mention next there is more to do than diving, getting a tan or picking up shells. There, you can explore the traces left by creatures that inhabited the earth millions of years ago.

There are dozens of dinosaur footprints scattered along the beaches of Salema and Praia Santa (beach accessible from "Praia da Figueira" at low tide).

### 5 Lagos

The city of Lagos was central to the Portuguese Discoveries of the 15th century. This is the golden century for this city which, for about 40 years, due to its proximity to the african continent, becomes the departure and arrival port for the vessels that, year after year, discover the coast of this continent and return loaded with its exotic products: ivory, gold and silver. In 1573, Lagos was elevated to the status of city by King D. Sebastião, and became the capital of the Kingdom of the Algarve.

The main historical attractions of this city are:

- Its walls, part of which date back to the time of the Carthaginian or Roman presence, with later Arab and Christian reconstructions - wall section facing the sea, near Praia da Batata, with its two albarran towers that defended the entrance at the door of São Gonçalo. The remaining stretches of the walls that encircle the town were built between 1520 and the end of the 16th century;

- The Castle of the Governors ("Castelo dos Governadores"), originally an arab construction that suffered multiple subsequent alterations and was, during the 16th/ 17th centuries, the residence of the governors, general captains of the Algarve. On the façade there is a Manueline window (from the 16th century), where tradition refers to King D. Sebastião attending r;

mass before leaving for the fateful battle of Alcácer Quibir where he would disappear;

- The Fort of Ponta da Bandeira ("Forte da Ponta da Bandeira", also referred to as Fort of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França), located on Praia da Batata, in front of the entrance of the stream of Bensafrim, ensured the defence of the old port. It is a construction of the 17th century, with moat, drawbridge and imposing door. Inside there is a small chapel with tiles from the 17th century;

(Paid entrance, more information by calling 00351 282 780 060)

- The Regimental Warehouse ("Armazém Regimental"), dated from 1665, is a building situated on Praça do Infante designed to store all the products that arrived by sea to the port of Lagos;

- The Slave Market ("Mercado dos Escravos"), the place where the first sales of slaves took place; they arrived by sea, on the vessels returning from Africa (15th century);

(Paid entrance, more information by calling 00351 282 771 700)

- The church of Santo António ("Igreja de Santo António"), built in 1707, very damaged by the 1755 earthquake that destroyed much of the Algarve, was rebuilt in 1769 and its rich baroque interior is considered one of the most impressive examples of gilded woodcarving in Portugal.

(Access through the municipal museum Dr. José Formosinho, more information by calling 00351 282 762 301)

## **6 Alcalar**

The unsuspected village of Alcalar is home to some rather unusual megalithic monuments ("mamoas") dating back to the 3rd millennium B.C.. They are tomb buildings so the archaeological site had a mainly funerary function. (Paid entrance, more information by calling 282 248 594)

## **7 Serra de Monchique**

The "Serra de Monchique" is a mountain range in western Algarve whose highest point – "Foia" (902 m altitude) - is the highest in the Algarve. On clear days, you can have a spectacular view of the territory, with the Atlantic Ocean on the horizon.

Due to the fact that it is close to the sea, it has a micro-climate (humid subtropical) that allows for the existence of a rich and varied vegetation, including some rare species in the south.

In this mountain there is an important thermal complex, "Caldas de Monchique", surrounded by a park of lush vegetation where you can find the largest magnolia tree in Europe.

Other points of interest are the waterfalls of Barbelote, Penedo do Buraco and Chilrão, as well as "Barranco dos Pisões", a green space through which a stream of clear water flows, where you can spend a nice summer afternoon and have a picnic in the shade of a beautiful plane tree classified as a monumental tree due to its centenary age.

## 8 Silves

Despite the foundation of Silves dating back to the Roman period, it was with the Muslim occupation, which began around 714/716, that Silves became a prosperous city, capital of the Algarve in the 11th century.

The city was definitively reconquered in 1249, during the reign of King Afonso III, together with Faro, Porches and Albufeira, which marked the conclusion of the Portuguese reconquest process.

As vestiges of those times we have:

- the Castle of Silves, one of the most remarkable works of military architecture that the Arabs left us, with more than a thousand years of existence;

(Admission paid, more information by calling 00351 282 440 837)

- City walls and gates: of these, only a few sections of the walls remain, built in red sandstone and rammed earth, and some towers that protected the residential area, or Almedina, of Silves; of the four gates of the Almedina, only the turret of the main city gate remains, made up of an albarran tower, built in the 12th or 13th century, which gives access to the city;

- the "Sé de Silves", an old gothic cathedral, which was most likely built on the site of the old mosque;

- The "Cruz de Portugal", one of the most beautiful Portuguese stone carved crosses, whose exact date is unknown (it is believed to be from the 15th century or the beginning of the 16th century).

# Practical Information

## Weather Forecast:

[www.ipma.pt/en](http://www.ipma.pt/en)

## Transportation:

Táxi: 00351 282 460 610

Bus (local): <https://vamusalgarve.pt/#/pt/vamus%20algarve/routes>  
<http://aonda.pt/onda.php?lid=4>

Bus (National/ International): <https://rede-expressos.pt/en>  
<https://www.flixbus.com/>

Uber available in the area (through the app)

Train : <https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/pt>

## Tolls:

The Algarve has an electronic toll system. To use the highway you should register your car plate number and credit card details beforehand, on the following web page:

<https://www.portugaltolls.com/en#easytoll>

If you used the highway already, without registering before, then you need to check the outstanding amount and pay for it on the following web page:  
<https://paytolls.vialivre.pt/portalweb/>

For more information, please contact the reception / tourist information desk.