

# Cycling Europe

## PORTUGAL – CYCLING THE WINTERLESS ALGARVE

SELF-GUIDED – 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



Explore the rugged cliff lined Portuguese coastline, with its hidden coves, curiously-shaped rocks and amazing colours known as the Algarve. Bike along old roads past typical villages and beautiful cork-oak forests in the hills of the Algarve. Discover the lovely Moorish town of Silves and its castle; Tavira, the most authentic Algarve town; and Lagos, an historic centre of the Portuguese Age of Discoveries. Take time to enjoy the beaches of fine gold sand, wonderful seafood and picturesque white-washed villages.



### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Transfer from Faro to Tavira

Welcome to the Algarve! Transfer from Faro Airport to Tavira. Explore this ancient Moorish town that has retained its unique character and heritage to become one of the finest resort towns of the Algarve. The surrounding coastline offers stunning beaches.

#### Day 2: Tavira Loop (42km,+200m)

Your first day cycling is gentle on quiet roads alongside the Serra Algarvia. Pass through quaint villages and cycle old roads and rural paths, crossing through large areas of orange orchards. The aromas are wonderful! Visit the 'Pego do Inferno' waterfall and return to Tavira for overnight.

**Day 3: Tavira to Vale Das Gralhas –**  
(45km, +400m).

Start the day with a relaxing flat ride along the “Ria Formosa”. The views are amazing and the park is a paradise for birdwatchers! Near the town of Olhao, head inland, leaving the coastal region to enter typical rural inland Algarve. Pass small villages and bike along country paths and roads, again crossing through orange orchards. Enjoy the evening in a lovely rural hotel.



**Day 4: Vale Das Gralhas to Querença–** (38km, +800m)

This is a more challenging day in the rolling hills close to the Algarve Mountains, but well worth the effort for the tremendous scenery. Cross a hilly region passing small villages and riding close to streams in valleys with a luxuriant Mediterranean forest. Along the way visit the town of Sao Bras de Alportel, once the biggest cork producing centres in Portugal. Enjoy the evening in the typical small village of Querença.

**Day 5: Querença to Vale Fuzeiros** (50km,  
+750m

Another day of challenging cycling inland with great views all the way. Ride ancient and narrow roads through a landscape of carob and fig trees and into a large valley of cork-oak trees. On the way visit the lovely hillside village of Alte, famous for its white painted houses and fresh water springs. Highlight of the day is a lovely ride skirting the Arade Dam.



**Day 6: Vale Fuzeiros to Lagos –** (66km,  
+600m).

Leave Vale Fuzeiros on winding roads and follow the Ardae River until you arrive at the historic Moorish town of Silves. Then follow the valley of the Odelouca River to the typical village of Odiaxere. From here you continue south to the sea and the beach at Meia Praia, a long beach of



fine golden sand. Cross over the Bensafrim River to reach the city of Lagos, one of the oldest towns in the Algarve with over 2,000 years of history. Parts of the crumbling wall from the 16<sup>th</sup> century still exists that surrounded the town to protect it from pirates, the marauding Arabs, Spanish and British fleets. Lagos is also an historic centre of the Portuguese Age of Discoveries, frequent home of Henry the Navigator, historical shipyard and, at one time, centre of the European slave trade.



#### **Day 7: Lagos to Sagres** – (58km, + 750m)

A challenging day cycling with a few hills. The terrain changes as you approach the rugged cliff lined coastline around Sagres and Cape St Vincent. Along the trails bordering the coast line to Ponta da Piedade, are fantastic views of cliffs, caves and rocks with an amazing mixture of colours. Continuing west, you pass through some quaint little coastal villages to reach Sagres. A further six kilometres on you can arrive at the edge of Europe, Cape St Vincent, the south-western most point of Continental Europe.

#### **Day 8: DEPARTURE:**

Arrangements end after breakfast with a transfer to Faro Airport.

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#### **GRADE / TERRAIN:**

**Moderate to moderately challenging:** 6 days cycling. 25% road, 75% off road dirt and gravel roads.

#### **2019 DATES – START ANY DAY:**

Self-guided: Start any day year round (subject to hotel availability). Extra charge may apply at New Year & Festivals. Best times to go: January – May & September – December (July & August are not recommended – too hot). Private Guided tours are possible – price on request

#### **2019 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EUROS:** (Price for minimum 2 people)

##### **Low Season: 27 Mar- 13 Apr, 21 Apr-26 May, 27 Sep – 31 Oct**

Double/Twin Share €1006

Single room supplement € 259

##### **Mid Season: 14-20 Apr, 27 May-26 June & 30 August -26 Sep:**

Double/Twin share €1256

Single room supplement €409

##### **High Season: 27 June - 29 August:**

Double/Twin share €1456

Single room supplement €459

**Solo Traveller Surcharge: €209 + single supplement**

**Bike hire (21-speed hybrid) € 120      Electric Bike € 240**

(includes: helmet, tool kit, pump, water bottle, handle bar bag or saddle bag and flat/spd pedals)

#### **Transfers from/to Lisbon:**

Lisbon Airport/Tavira      €169 (up to 4 persons)

Sagres to Lisbon Airport      €129 (up to 4 persons)

### 2019 TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Arrival transfers from Faro airport to your 1<sup>st</sup> hotel.
- Transfer from last hotel to Faro airport.
- 7 Nights accommodation in superior accommodation, some with swimming pools
- Breakfast daily
- Luggage transfers between hotels
- Tour briefing/orientation on arrival at the 1<sup>st</sup> your hotel
- Detailed maps, information pack, route notes, and GPS track
- Local assistance and backup from our area manager in Portugal
- GPS & Mobile Telephone (free calls, 24 hrs)

### NOT INCLUDED:

- Bike rental (optional)
- Flights to Portugal
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Lunches and dinners
- Drinks and snacks
- Personal equipment

**Additional nights:** You can add in extra days/nights at the accommodation along the way if you wish to explore a particular location a little longer.

**Dinners:** A dinner supplement or “half board” is not offered for this tour, however, when you arrive at each hotel you can ask to add dinner and pay the difference direct to the hotel. This way you have more flexibility and better price. They may charge from €20 – 25 for a 3 course meal, and maybe €25 - 30 in Lagos and Sagres.

**WONDERFUL PORTUGUESE FOOD!!** - you should try: fresh seafood, great cheese and Portugal's famous sandwich 'francesinha' as well as the classic Portuguese staples such as: 'bacalhau' (cod); 'sardinha assada' (grilled sardines); 'caldo verde' (warm soup of greens, potatoes onions and sometimes pork or sausage); 'alheira do Minho' (sausage of veal, duck, chicken or rabbit); seafood rice or 'arroz de marsco'; 'rissois' (crumbed and fried fishy snacks with béchamel sause); roasted suckling pig, and on the sweet side; 'pasteis de Nata' (custard tarts) and 'pasteis de Tentugul' (filo pastries with custard).

*Book through:*

## A Walker's World

**Don't just see the world. Experience it.**

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