

FARO

PORTUGAL

👤 10,760,305 📞 +351 ☀️ 20°C

📄 EURO (EUR)

✈️ FOUR TIMES WEEKLY

👤 PAUL ROUSE



ENJOY THE SUNSHINE OF THE ALGARVE BEFORE THE INTENSE HEAT AND CROWDS OF HIGH SUMMER

CENTRAL & EASTERN ALGARVE

For golf and a bit of glitz, the Golden Triangle is one of the Algarve's busiest and most popular areas. For a little more peace and quiet, head east.

SLEEP Designer seclusion arrives this month in the shape of the new **Fazenda Nova** (Santo Estevao, Moncarapacho, 910 629 595, fazendanova.eu, rooms from €150), a country estate converted into a stylish 10-bedroom retreat by the owners, complete with restaurant, pool, gardens and orchards.

EAT Gourmet private catering company Fine Dining In Style now has a swish restaurant, **Gisela's** (Praça, Vale do Lobo, 289 353 421). The restaurant serves high-quality Portuguese and international cuisine in an enviable location with ocean views.

CULTURE Fashion and fitness shows, beauty makeovers, photo shoots, food and wine tastings, and trips on a private yacht are all on the agenda at **Glamour**, a taste of the high life which is taking place at Vila Vita Parc (Alporchinos, Porches) on 21 June.

SHOP For great ideas for outside living, home accessories, flowers and gifts, head for the newly opened **Dunas Home** (Rua Sacadura Cabral, Almancil), a perfect complement to the existing **Dunas** fashion boutique in nearby Quinta Shopping.

INFO

Faro International Airport is 7km from Faro city centre.

Taxi

The fare to Faro is approx €10. Other destinations – Olhão €18, Vilamoura €25, Albufeira and Tavira €40.

Bus

Airport buses go to Faro and shared shuttle buses serve selected resorts. Eva buses (eva-bus.com) go to various Algarve destinations.

Train

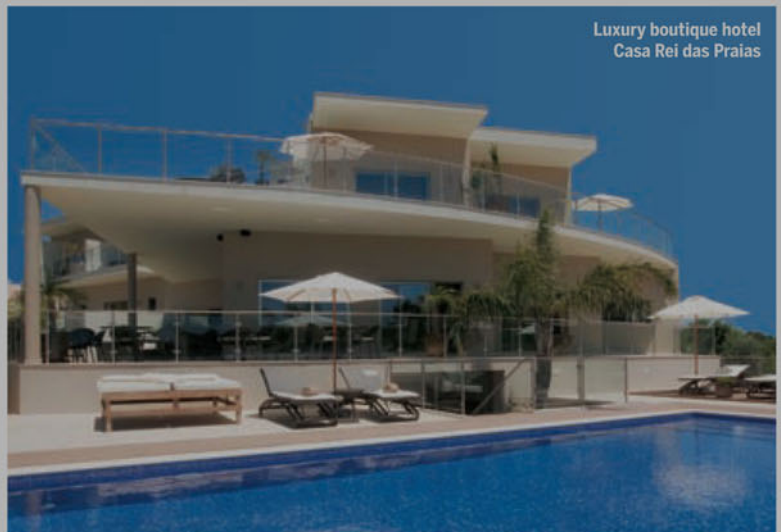
The nearest train station is Faro. Trains go to various Algarve destinations and Lisbon.

Car

Car hire is the best way to explore the interior. All the major companies have desks at the airport but pre-booking is recommended.

Tourist info

The Faro Tourist Information Centre (visitalgarve.pt) is at 8-12 Rua da Misericórdia. 289 803 604. Open 9.30am-5.30pm daily.



Luxury boutique hotel Casa Rei das Praias

LATER Johnny Hooper's (Rua Almeida Garrett, Albufeira) is a relaxed bar-restaurant featuring the sax-playing owner on stage every Tuesday and Friday night, plus Latino and blues bands every Sunday afternoon.

TIP Wine lovers are starting to discover the Algarve. Find out for yourself if this growing reputation is deserved with a wine tour at Adega do Cantor in Guia or Quinta dos Vales in Estombar, or a taste-and-buy session at Veneza in Paderne.

FURTHER AFIELD: WESTERN ALGARVE

Long-established resorts like Carvoeiro and Praia da Rocha mix tourist attractions with a touch of the real Algarve.

SLEEP A luxury villa-style boutique hotel close to Caneiros beach, **Casa Rei das Praias** (Vale da Azinhaga, Ferragudo, 282 491 416, casareidaspriais.com, rooms from €130) is ideal for a romantic stay, and has both indoor and outdoor pools and a mini-spa. **Vale d'Oliveiras** (Gramacho, Carvoeiro, 282 380 560, valedoliveirasresort.com, rooms from €189) offers two separate units – the hotel for couples and the residences for families, plus a comprehensive range of excellent facilities.

EAT Contemporary Portuguese cuisine and an extensive wine list are on the menu at **Pimenta Preta** (Palm

Gardens, Carvoeiro, 282 350 281), with live music by the pool on Friday evenings in summer.

CULTURE The Algarve International Fair (Lagoa Showground, 2-3 June, algarvefair.com) combines a lifestyle exhibition with family fun, including car displays, arts and crafts, a dog show, and plenty to eat and drink. Expect special events for the Queen's Jubilee.

SHOP There's a 'secret garden' feel to **Studio Bongard** (Rua Infante Dom Henrique, Ferragudo), where you will find sculptures, paintings and tiled pieces hidden among the plants and indoor ponds as you wander through the various courtyards and rooms. For souvenirs with a difference, the quaint **Cantinho da São** (Rua do Casino, Carvoeiro) offers hand-made Portuguese lace, purses, bags, cushions and children's toys.

LATER The award-winning cocktails are reason enough to seek out **InnSide Caffé** (Rua do Barranco, Carvoeiro) – not to mention the 4am closing time. If you fancy a dance go to **Katedral** (Avenida Tomaz Cabreira, Praia da Rocha), with separate areas playing house, 80s, R&B, Latin and pop. There is also a balcony with wonderful sea views.

TIP For an online guide to facilities and services in the Algarve which are geared towards the requirements of visitors with disabilities, special needs or medical conditions, go to somewherespecial.org.uk.