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— ACCESSIBLE TOURISM —

# Algarve Accessible City Guide

5-Day Itinerary



for people with  
reduced mobility



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# Destination: Algarve

The Portuguese region of Algarve amazes with the beauty of its landscape, its fishing villages and its famous paradisiacal beaches. In some corners there are also monuments that keep the heritage of the ancient civilizations that once populated the south of the country.

This destination receives thousands of tourists every year, so it has been able to adapt to the different needs of travelers. It currently has a wide range of accommodation and services for people with **reduced mobility**.

In this guide we propose you make a **5-day accessible travel itinerary**. However, you can

always select the information that interests you and plan your trip in the time you have.

You will discover...

- What places you can visit as a traveler with **reduced mobility**.
- What activities are accessible in Algarve.
- What **accessible transportation** options are available and where you can find them.
- Which hotels we recommend from our catalog.



# Airport accessibility

Located in the Algarve region, **Faro International Airport** is one of the busiest in the country and offers the MyWay service for passengers with **reduced mobility**.

During boarding and deplaning, the traveler will be accompanied by a specialized professional. As specified on its [official website](#), you will be helped with check-in, luggage, security controls, boarding and seated on the plane.

Assistance must be requested at the time of booking, at least 48 hours before flight departure. The airline will inform the airport to ensure the provision of the MyWay service. You can also find a map indicating where the MyWay service points are located on the [airport's website](#), as well as accessible parking availability for people with **reduced mobility**.



# Recommended hotels

## TOP 5 EN ALGARVE



### Vila Gale Ampalius

Vila Galé Ampalius is an accessible 4-star hotel located in front of Praia da Marinha, in the Portuguese resort town of Vilamoura. There are a variety of shops and restaurants, golf courses, a casino and the Roman ruins of Cerro da Vila in the hotel's surroundings.

[Book Now](#)

### Praia da Lota Resort

The Praia Da Lota Resort - Hotel is located just five minutes from the wonderful Lota beach in the town of Manta Rota, in the Portuguese Vila Nova de Cacela parish. The 20 square meter accessible rooms for guests with reduced mobility have a private terrace and are decorated in red tones.

[Book Now](#)

### Aquashow Park Hotel

The Aquashow Park Hotel is located in the town of Quarteira, next to the main highway A22. This hotel is adapted for visitors with reduced mobility, who can enjoy an amazing and affordable holiday. The comfortable Double rooms adapted for guests with some kind of physical disability are ideal to enjoy the best of a great trip.

[Book Now](#)

### Vila Gale Tavira

Vila Gale Tavira offers accessible accommodation in the heart of the small town of Tavira, the perfect place to enjoy the charm of southern Portugal. Nearby you can visit the famous Medieval Castle (classified as a National Monument) and the walls.

[Book Now](#)

### Hotel Vila Gale Lagos

Vila Galé Lagos is located in front of a popular Meia Praia in Lagos. Its excellent location allows guests to easily go to the historic city center, the Lagos Marina, nearby beaches and the area's local gastronomy. The property is accessible for people with reduced mobility and is an ideal stay when traveling with children.

[Book Now](#)



# 5-day accessible travel itinerary

## Day 1

Start your morning in **Tavira**, one of the most charming cities in Algarve. The pavement of its historical district has irregularities, but it is possible to take an **accessible tour** and explore its tourist attractions.

[Visit Portugal](#) suggests visiting Praça da República first, surrounded by cafes where you can have a delectable regional dessert and coffee.

Next to the square you will find the Gilão river and bridge of Roman origin. From there you can see the typical architecture of the houses of the Algarve. Nearby, you will also find the **Jardim do Coreto** and the **Mercado da Ribeira**, both **accessible sites** where you can feel the lively atmosphere of the city.

Ask a companion for help to get into the historic center, as there may be steep slopes.

If you feel like it, visit the **Municipal Museum**

**of Tavira / Palácio da Galeria**, whose exhibitions invite you to learn about the history of the municipality. The building has **elevating platform lifts** at the entrance and upper floors.

If you want to visit the **Castle of Tavira**, please be advised of certain architectural barriers inside and the viewpoint is only accessible through a staircase without a banister.

You can also see the beautiful façade of the **Church of Santa Maria do Castelo** a short distance away. To better find your way around, download the [map located on visitportugal.com](#).

In the afternoon relax at **Praia do Barril**. Its waters are calm and it is **accessible** for people with **reduced mobility**.







## Day 2

Start off your second day by visiting **Olhão**, which retains the charm of a traditional fishing village. There is usually not much tourism, so you can immerse yourself in the authentic local atmosphere. Visit its market and be on the lookout for any regional product that may pique your interest.

Next, go to the capital of Algarve, **El Faro**. The Visit Portugal website recommends an **accessible tour of the city** beginning at the famous **Jardim Manuel Bivar** central square. Opposite is its marina, barrier-free for **wheelchair users**.

From here you can head towards the **Rua de Santo António** pedestrian street, where there are plenty of shops and restaurants. Some entrances may have steps, but in general its surroundings are **accessible**.

Two and 2.5 kilometers away, respectively, visitors will find the **Igreja de São Pedro** and the **Igreja de Carmo**, both decorated in the Rococo and Baroque style. As specified in [Visit Portugal](#), the first has a staircase at the entrance, while the second is **partially accessible** (except for the Chapel of Bones, which has steps and a narrow corridor).

While in the historic district you can see the **Iglesia da Misericórdia**, which dates back to the 16th century. Also, stop to admire the details of the **Arco da Vila**, which inside preserves an Arab gate from old stonewalls.

Later, you can visit the **Largo da Sé** square, where the **Episcopal Palace** and **Cathedral** stand out.





If you wish, make a stop at the **Municipal Museum of Faro**, which is located in a former Renaissance convent from the 16th century. The entrance is **accessible** and its collection has interesting pieces from Prehistoric to Medieval times.

You will also find other accessible religious buildings in the city, such as San Francisco, which houses tiles and paintings from the 18th century. In the area you can take a photo next to the **Arco do Repouso**, which was Faro's gateway between the 12th and 13th centuries. In order to make the proposed route on [visitportugal.com](https://visitportugal.com), be sure to bring the [map](#) with you.

Finally, do not miss the opportunity to explore the **Ria Formosa Natural Park**, considered one of the 7 Natural Wonders of Portugal. It occupies 18,000 hectares and extends through Faro, Olhão, Loulé, Tavira and Vila Real de Santo António.

Here lives the largest population of seahorses in the world, among other species. Take a **wheelchair-accessible [Formosamar boat ride](#)** and watch the various waterfowl. It will be an unforgettable experience.









## Day 3

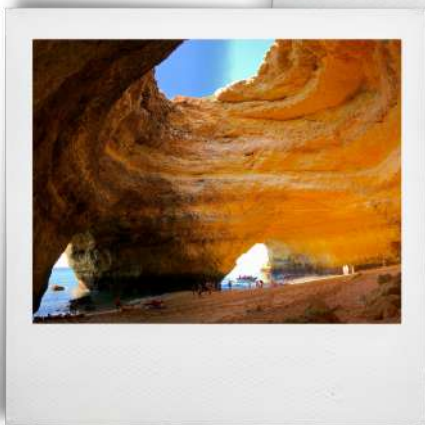
Depart early for **Vilamoura**, a beautiful town known for its large marina and golf courses.

**Praia de Vilamoura** is **accessible**, so you have the option of bathing for a while in its crystal clear waters or simply strolling across the beach. There are walkways to the parasol

area, accessible restrooms, sanitary facilities and qualified lifeguards to help with assisted swimming, among other services. In addition, you will find a variety of cafes, bars and restaurants around.



**Albufeira**, a major tourist destination, is only 20 minutes by car. Explore some of its streets and head towards the marina. We suggest you take a boat to the spectacular **Benagil Caves**. This **Algar Experience tour** lasts 3 hours and is **accessible** to people with **reduced mobility**. On the boat tour you will also get to know **Praia da Marinha**, considered one of the most beautiful in the world. You will treasure this moment of the trip.



If you like the party scene, in the summer months you have the opportunity to fully enjoy the nightlife in the clubs on the **Montechoro Strip** in Albufeira.









## Day 4

Kick off day four exploring historic **Lagos**. The [Visit Portugal official website](#) suggests starting the tour with a visit to the **Forte da Ponta da Bandeira**, a place that was built in the 17th century to defend the city from invaders who entered from the sea.

Nearby you can circulate through the **Porta de São Gonçalo** and **Castelo dos Governadores**. The **Praça do Infante** is also accessible. You can also buy souvenirs and stroll through the **Municipal Market of Lagos**.

As indicated by [Visit Portugal](#), the city has several **accessible beaches**: Batata, Luz,

Porto de Mós and Meia Praia (the last three offer an amphibious chair).

We recommend visiting **Praia da Batata** and approaching the tunnel that gives access to **Praia dos Estudantes**. Take a picture next to the spectacular rock formations.

To get to know **Ponta da Piedade** we suggest you take a boat tour. [Actual Boat Trip](#) offers this accessible experience for people with **reduced mobility**. However, you are free to choose the services of a different provider in the Port of Lagos.







## Day 5

Today you will visit **Sagres**, a destination that surf lovers usually fall in love with. It is the only place in the country that has two coasts: one western and one southern. Thus, from the **Sagres Fortress** you can contemplate spectacular views of the landscape.

Finally, do not leave Algarve without experiencing a beautiful sunset in **Cabo de San Vicente**.





## More accessible attractions

**1** Relaxing on one of **Algarve's beaches** is always a good plan. If you want to know which ones are accessible, use the [Visit Tourism search engine](#) and select the "Accessible Beach" filter.

**2** **Loulé** is a city with a variety of markets. You will find many handicrafts in the kiosks. Keep in mind that many streets retain their medieval essence.

**3** You can add a visit to other charming towns such as **Ferragudo**, **Silves** and **Carvoeiro** to your itinerary.

**4** The [largest sand sculpture park in the world](#) is located in Lagos. Let yourself be surprised by more than 90 figures that have been carefully sculpted by experts from different parts of the world.









## Regional transportation

It is essential that during your trip you can adequately move to all the places you want to visit. Therefore, do not forget to take a look at this list with information on transportation and rental of mobility equipment.

- **Comboios de Portugal**. Access to customers with special needs in rail transportation.
- **Próximo**. This Faro-based company has accessible buses with lifting platforms and reserved spaces.
- **Auto Faro**. Accessible taxi service for people with reduced mobility.

- **Taxi Transfers Pinheiro**. Accessible vehicle for the transportation of passengers with reduced mobility at Faro Airport.
- **Delgaturis**. Accessible tourist train serving the Algarve area.
- **Albufeira Mobility**. Scooter and wheelchair rental. Delivery anywhere in the Algarve.





## Medical attention

Remember that if a serious medical emergency arises during your trip, you can call **112**. It is free and you can be assisted in Portuguese, Spanish or English. If it is a minor problem, go to the nearest pharmacy or a local health center.

If you need the services of the Red Cross in Faro, call 289 899 900.

Below, we provide you with the numbers of the following hospitals:

Lighthouse - 289 891 100

Lakes - 282 770 100

Portimao - 282 450 330

This health information has been extracted from the VisitAlgarve portal.





## Other useful information

### Climate

The Algarve usually has an average of 300 sunny days a year. However, we provide several links where the weather conditions are shown, so that you decide when is the best time to travel:

- [Holiday Weather](#): Average annual climate, rainfall, average sea temperature.
- [El tiempo](#). Daily and hourly weather forecasts.

### Concierge Service

Travegali.com offers a **free Concierge Service** to all its clients. It is responsible for finding the best accessible room. It also helps with booking mobility equipment, accessible activities, airport assistance and accessible transportation.



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