

Albufeira

Faro District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Albufeira is one of the Algarve's biggest beach resorts. Sandy beaches sit below golden cliffs, and a small white old town rises above the main beach. The name comes from the Arabic *al-Buhera*, "the lagoon".

It suits beach holidays, families and groups who want nightlife and easy day trips. It is busy and lively in summer and quieter and cheaper in spring and autumn. If you want a calm village, stay in a smaller place nearby.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are warm, sunny and less crowded. Summer is hot and dry, and July and August are the busiest and most expensive months. Winter is mild but wetter, and some bars, restaurants and attractions close. The sea is warmest in late summer.

The biggest event is **New Year's Eve**. The town holds a concert and fireworks at Praia dos Pescadores, so book a room well ahead.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 19°	8° / 3°	Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 21°	9° / 4°	Dry air
March	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	10° / 6°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	12° / 9°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 10°	22 sunny days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	29° / 35°	17° / 14°	23 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	32° / 37°	19° / 16°	28 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
August	Great Great for the beach	32° / 37°	20° / 17°	28 sunny days · UV 8 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
September	Great Great for watersports	28° / 34°	18° / 15°	23 sunny days · Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 30°	16° / 12°	Calm winds
November	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 23°	11° / 7°	Dry air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 20°	9° / 5°	Dry air

Best months: March, April, May, June, July, September, October, November

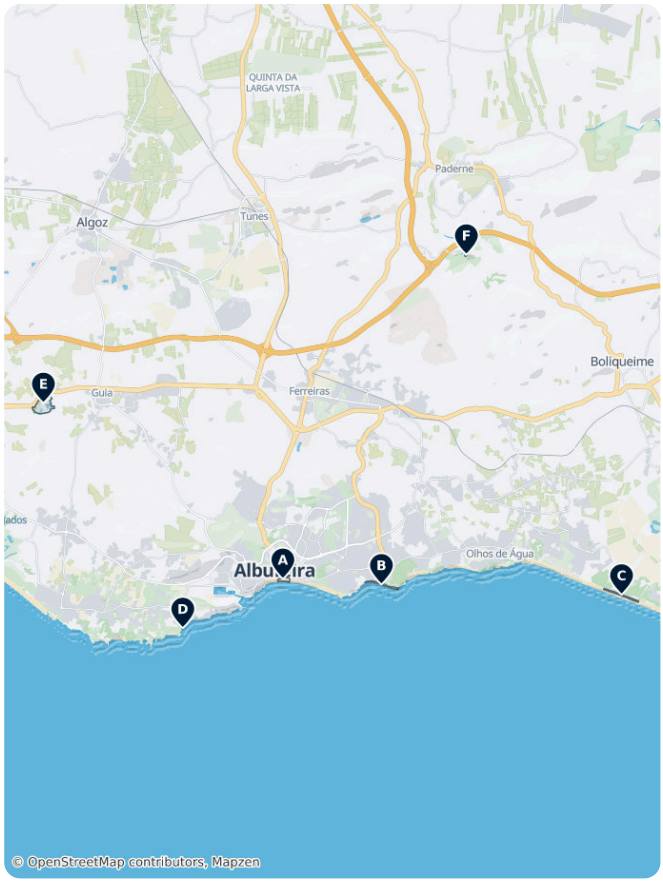
Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

Albufeira is mainly about beaches, with a few sights inland.

- A Praia dos Pescadores is the old town's main beach. Fishermen once pulled their boats onto this sand, and white houses rise behind it. An escalator links it to the cliff-top car park.
- B Praia da Oura is a long golden beach in a small bay, with rock formations at its quieter eastern end. Shops and restaurants are close behind it.
- C Praia da Falésia Alfamar is a long beach under cliffs that run east towards Vilamoura. Its length gives you more space than the town beaches.
- D Praia dos Arrifes is a smaller beach about 4 km west of the old town. It is a calmer choice with the same cliff scenery.
- E Zoomarine Algarve is a marine-life park inland, with animal shows, aquariums and water rides. It is the best rainy-day or family option.
- F Paderne Castle is a 12th-century Moorish fortress on a hill above the Quarteira River, about 8 km from town. It is open to visitors.

In the old town, the small archaeology museum and the sacred art museum are worth an hour.



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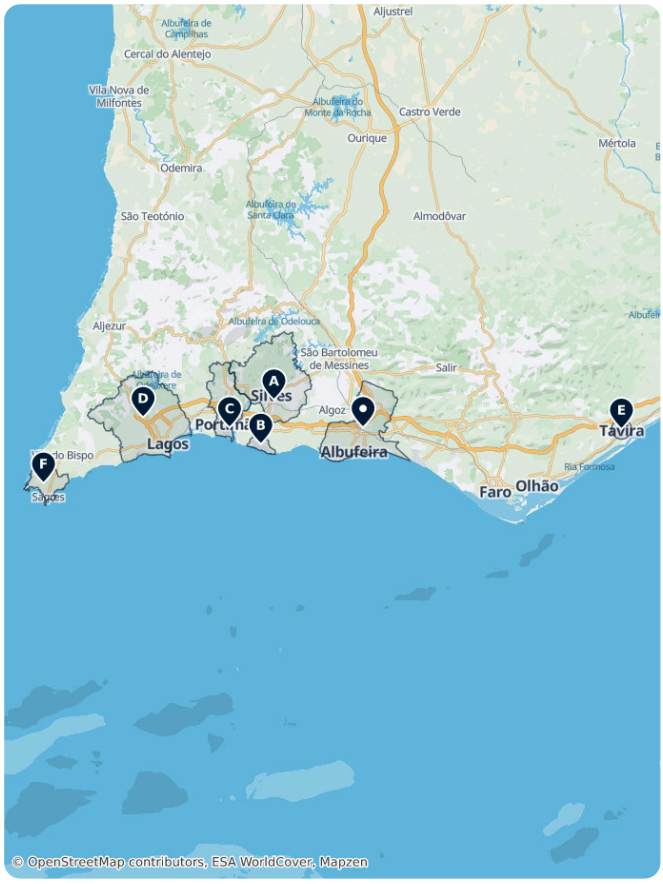
What to experience

- **Boat trip from the marina**: Two-hour cruises visit coastal caves and look for dolphins.
- **Sunset from the old town cliffs**: Walk up to the cliff-top viewpoints above the main beach in the evening.
- **Local market**: A gypsy market with clothes, fruit and household goods runs on the first and third Tuesday morning of the month.
- **A night on the Strip**: Bars and clubs line Avenida Francisco Sá Carneiro in Areias de São João. It is loud and busiest in summer.
- **Golf**: Many courses are within 20 minutes, including Pine Cliffs and Salgados. Book tee times early for spring.

Day trips

Most trips are easy by car, listed from closest to farthest. Times are one way.

- A **Silves**: about 30 minutes. A red sandstone castle above a former Moorish capital.
- **Loulé**: about 30 minutes. A market town with a covered market, busiest on Saturday mornings.
- B **Carvoeiro**: about 30 minutes. A small cove resort, close to the Benagil cave coast.
- C **Portimão**: about 40 minutes. A river port with fish restaurants and the big Praia da Rocha beach.
- D **Lagos**: about 45 minutes. A walled old town and the rock arches of Ponta da Piedade.
- E **Tavira**: about 1 hour. A quiet town with a stone bridge and boats to island beaches.
- F **Sagres**: about 1 hour 15 minutes. Wild cliffs and the lighthouse at Cabo de São Vicente.



Where to explore

Nearby resorts:

- Vilamoura and Carvoeiro

West of Albufeira:

- Portimão, Lagos and Sagres
- Aljezur for wilder Atlantic beaches

Inland:

- Silves and Monchique

East of Albufeira:

- Olhão, Ria Formosa and Tavira

Getting there

- **By air**: Faro Airport (FAO) is the gateway, about 40 minutes away by road. Buses and taxis run to Albufeira.
- **By train**: Albufeira-Ferreiras station is in the north of the municipality, about 6 km from the old town. Fast trains from Lisbon take about 3 hours. A local bus runs between the station and town about every 30 minutes, or take a taxi. Book at Comboios de Portugal.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches arrive at Albufeira bus station, about 1.5 km from the centre. Services run from Lisbon and from other Algarve towns.

Getting around

- **City buses (GIRO)**: Lines connect the bus station, the old town, the marina and the beaches. Pay the driver in cash. Intercity Vamus tickets are not valid on them.
- **Regional buses**: Vamus Algarve runs buses to Faro, Lagos and other towns.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are easy to find. Use them for the Strip at night and for the station.
- **On foot**: The old town is compact and has steep streets. An escalator links the cliff-top car park to the main beach. Beach areas are far apart, so you need a bus or taxi between them. Cycling is not practical because of the hills and traffic.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The old town is compact but hilly. Beaches and resort areas are far apart, so you need a bus or taxi between them.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

Hills, cliffs and busy summer roads make cycling a poor choice for getting around.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for a beach stay in town. It helps for day trips along the coast and inland. Rent at Faro Airport.
- **Parking**: The old town streets are narrow and mostly closed to cars. Use the two car parks at Praia dos Pescadores, one at beach level and one on the cliff top. They fill early in July and August.
- **Roads**: The A22 motorway along the coast has been toll-free since 1 January 2025. Lisbon is about 3 hours away by car.

Food & drink

Fish and seafood are the local focus. Try grilled sardines or sea bream, and *cataplana*, a seafood stew cooked in a copper pan. Look for almond and fig sweets for dessert.

For fish, eat in the lanes of the old town and at the restaurants behind Praia dos Pescadores. Many places near the beach serve a standard tourist menu. Walk one or two streets back for better prices, or buy fresh fish at the municipal market.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Caldo Verde
A simple, comforting soup of shredded kale, potato, and slices of chourico sausage.

Francesinha
A hearty Porto specialty: a meat-stuffed sandwich covered in melted cheese and a spiced tomato-beer sauce.

DINNER

Bacalhau
Salt cod, Portugal's national dish, said to be prepared in hundreds of different ways across the country.

Sardinhas Assadas
Charcoal-grilled sardines, especially popular in summer street festivals and along the coast.

Arroz de Marisco
A rich, soupy seafood rice, similar to paella but wetter, packed with shellfish.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Pastel de Nata
A small custard tart in flaky pastry, best eaten warm with cinnamon and sugar.

DRINKS

Vinho Verde
A young, light, slightly sparkling white wine from northern Portugal, meant to be drunk within a year of harvest.

Port Wine · Vinho do Porto
A fortified wine from the Douro Valley, aged in cellars around Porto, ranging from sweet ruby to complex aged tawny styles.

Ginjinha · Ginãa
A sweet liqueur made from sour cherries, traditionally served in a small cup, sometimes with a cherry at the bottom.

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Safety & health

Albufeira is generally safe. The main risk is petty theft.

- Watch bags on the beach and in crowded streets. Do not leave valuables in parked cars.
- Keep your drink in sight at night, and check prices before you order on the Strip.
- Stay away from cliff edges, and do not sit directly under cliffs. They can collapse.
- Obey the beach flags. Atlantic currents can be strong.
- Summer sun is strong. Use sunscreen and drink water.

History

The Romans called the place *Baltum*. Muslim rule began in the early 8th century and gave the town its name. Portuguese forces took it in 1249. The 12th-century fortress at Paderne Castle dates from the Moorish period.

The 1755 earthquake and its sea waves destroyed almost the whole town. The parish church collapsed, and more than 200 people died inside it. The old town you see today was rebuilt afterwards.

Albufeira stayed a small fishing town until the 1960s. Then tourism took over. Praia dos Pescadores was once where the fleet landed its catch.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



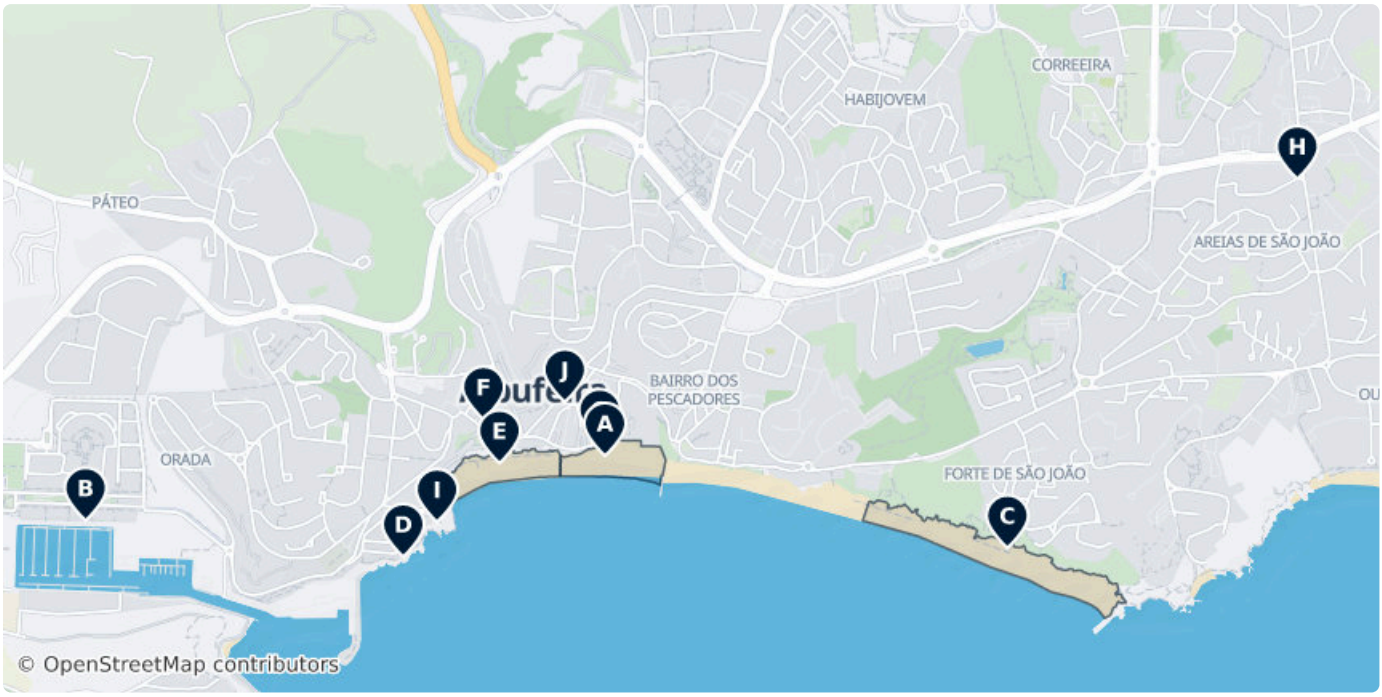
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Albufeira Essentials

Albufeira's coastal landscape features the central Praia dos Pescadores and the cliff-backed Praia do Peneco, which is accessible via a dedicated tunnel from the Old Town. The historic center contains the 18th-century Neoclassical Igreja Matriz and remnants of the Moorish castle walls. Elevated viewpoints like Miradouro Rossio provide perspectives over the marina and the Atlantic. To the east, the Strip serves as the city's primary nightlife hub, while the marina serves as a departure point for boat tours exploring the Algarve's sea caves.





A Praia dos Pescadores

Centrally located beach directly in front of the Old Town. It is accessible by escalators from the cliffs above and was historically the site where fishing boats were launched and landed.

Largo Cais Herculano, Albufeira 8200061, Portugal (37.08663, -8.25034)



B AlgarExperience

Boat tour operator based at Albufeira Marina providing coastal excursions, including visits to the Benagil Cave, dolphin watching tours, and sunset cruises along the Algarve coastline.

8200-394 Albufeira (37.08499, -8.26686)

algarexperience.com, +351 967 525 127



C Praia dos Alemães

A wide sandy beach situated at the eastern end of the main bay. It is generally quieter than the central town beaches and features a Blue Flag designation for water quality.

8200, Portugal (37.08429, -8.23754)

D Miradouro Rossio

A clifftop viewpoint on the western side of town offering panoramic views of the Albufeira Marina and the Atlantic coastline.

Largo do Rossio, 8200-150 Albufeira, Portugal (37.08407, -8.25676)

E Praia do Peneco

Also known as Praia do Túnel, this beach is reached through a 20-meter tunnel carved into the cliffs or via an elevator. It marks the western end of the town's main sandy stretch.

Esplanada Doutor Frutuoso da Silva, 8200-146 Albufeira, Portugal (37.08644, -8.25370)

F Igreja Matriz

An 18th-century Neoclassical parish church built on the site of an earlier structure that collapsed in the 1755 earthquake. It houses a 15th-century statue of Our Lady of the Conception.

4 Travessa da Igreja Matriz, Albufeira 8200204, Portugal (37.08755, -8.25421)



G A Ruína

A long-standing seafood restaurant situated in the Old Town, constructed within the remains of the ancient city walls overlooking the beach.

13 Rua da Bateria, Albufeira 8200097, Portugal (37.08698, -8.25051)

H The strip

Located in the Areias de São João district, this area is the center of Albufeira's nightlife, featuring a dense concentration of bars, clubs, and international restaurants along Avenida Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro.

2 Rua Júlio Dinis, Albufeira 8200283, Portugal (37.09365, -8.22832)

I Miradouro Rua Latino Coelho

A high-altitude vantage point providing views across the rooftops of the Old Town, the central beaches, and the harbor.

(37.08496, -8.25569)

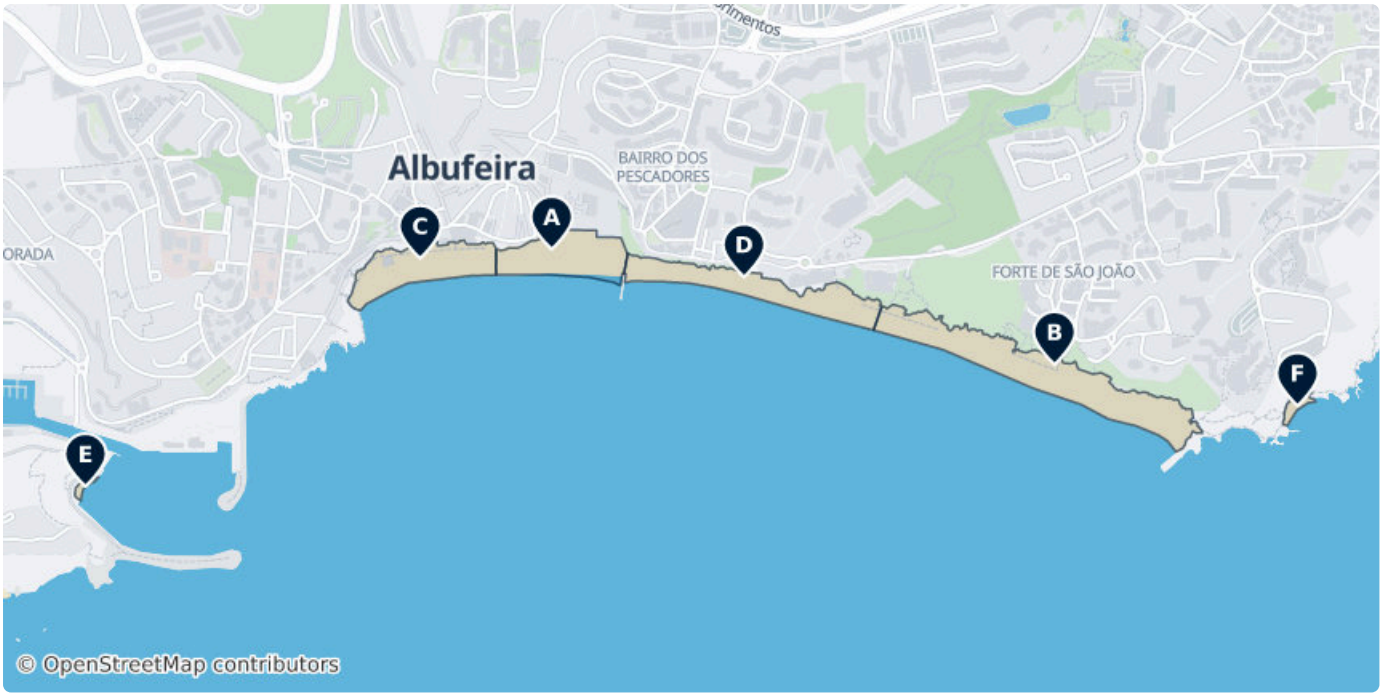
J Castelo de Albufeira

The remains of the city's Moorish fortification and medieval walls. While much was destroyed in 1755, sections of the towers and gates are still visible within the Old Town's architecture.

2 Rua Joaquim Pedro Samora, Albufeira 8200145, Portugal
(37.08799, -8.25162)

Best Beaches in Albufeira

Albufeira's central coastline features a series of interconnected sandy beaches characterized by golden limestone cliffs and clear Atlantic waters. This selection includes the historic Fisherman's Beach, accessible directly from the Old Town, and the west-facing Tunnel Beach with its distinctive rock formations. These beaches are connected by a seaside promenade and offer seasonal lifeguards and direct access to the town's pedestrian center via tunnels and escalators.





A Praia dos Pescadores

Located directly in front of Albufeira's Old Town, this beach historically served as the landing point for the local fishing fleet. It is accessible via an outdoor escalator descending from the clifftop.

Largo Cais Herculano, Albufeira 8200061, Portugal (37.08663, -8.25034)



B Praia dos Alemães

A wide stretch of sand situated on the eastern edge of the main bay. It is bordered by low ochre cliffs and offers a quieter alternative to the central urban beaches.

8200, Portugal (37.08429, -8.23754)

C Praia do Peneco

Reached through a 20-meter tunnel cut through the cliffs from the Old Town, this beach features a prominent limestone rock formation at its western end and an elevator for cliffside access.

Esplanada Doutor Frutuoso da Silva, 8200-146 Albufeira, Portugal (37.08644, -8.25370)

D Praia do Inatel

This beach lies between the town center and the eastern cliffs, named after the prominent hotel complex situated above. It features a flat sandy expanse and a paved seaside walkway.

Rua Almirante Gago Coutinho, 8200-089 Albufeira, Portugal (37.08607, -8.24545)

E Praia da Baleeira

A small, rocky cove located near the Albufeira Marina. It is characterized by its pebbly shore and views of the harbor entrance, often used by local fishermen.

8200, Portugal (37.08181, -8.26222)

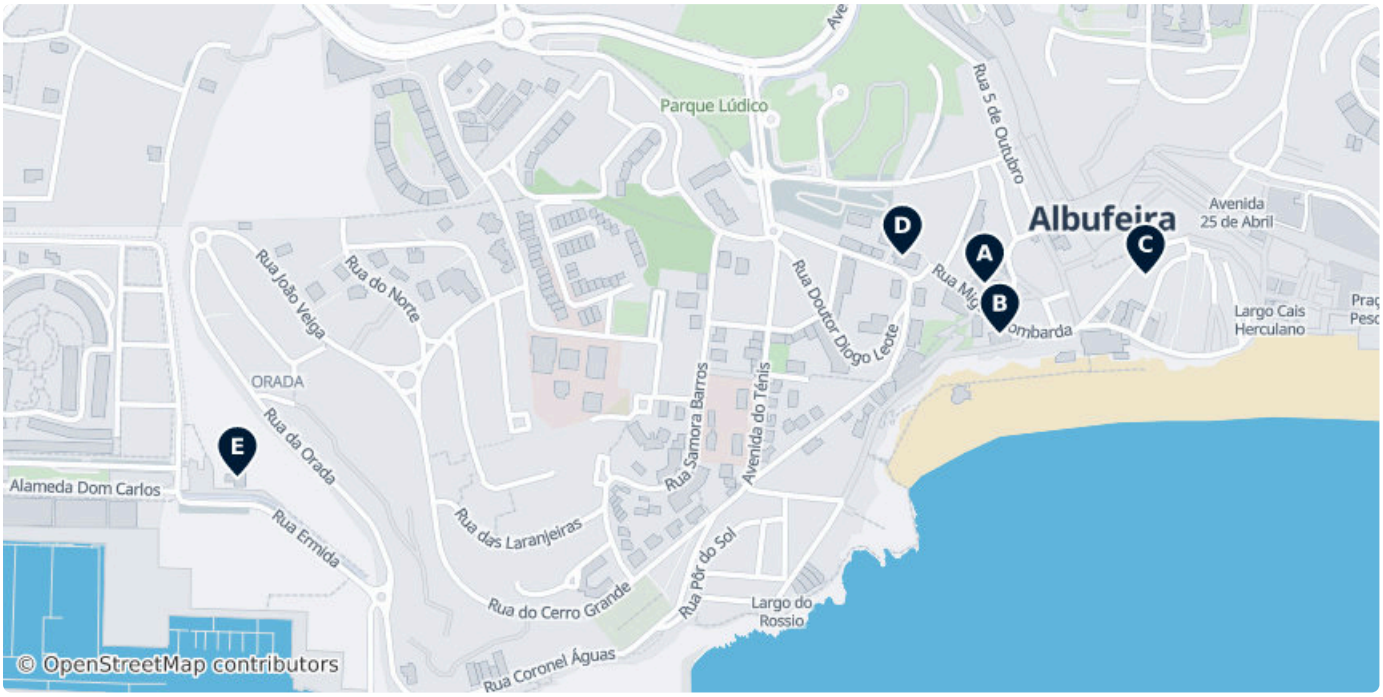
F Praia dos Aveiros

A small, sheltered cove flanked by jagged rock formations. It is known for its clear waters and rock pools, making it a location for snorkeling away from the larger crowds.

Portugal (37.08345, -8.23136)

Historic Churches of Albufeira

This collection highlights the religious architecture of Albufeira, ranging from 15th-century Gothic origins to late 18th-century Neoclassical reconstructions. These sites reflect the town's recovery after the 1755 earthquake, featuring Manueline doorways, gilded altarpieces, and sacred art collections. Key landmarks include the Neoclassical Igreja Matriz, built on a former mosque site, and the Igreja de São Sebastião, which houses a museum of religious artifacts. Together, these chapels and churches provide a window into the spiritual heritage and maritime traditions of the Algarve.



A Igreja Matriz

An 18th-century Neoclassical building constructed on the site of an earlier mosque. It features a single nave and houses the 18th-century statue of Our Lady of the Conception, the patron saint of Albufeira.

4 Travessa da Igreja Matriz, Albufeira 8200204, Portugal (37.08755, -8.25421)

B Igreja de São Sebastião

A 16th-century structure blending Manueline and Baroque architectural styles. The building currently houses a Museum of Sacred Art, displaying religious artifacts, paintings, and sculptures collected from various local chapels.

9 Praça Miguel Bombarda, Albufeira 8200076, Portugal (37.08702, -8.25400)

C Igreja da Misericórdia

Originally a 15th-century Gothic chapel belonging to the local hospital, it was rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake. It retains a Manueline doorway and contains a notable high altar with 18th-century gilded woodcarvings.

(37.08765, -8.25205)

D Igreja Sant'Ana

An 18th-century church located in the historic center. It is characterized by its simple exterior and a detailed wooden altarpiece inside, representing the transition between the Baroque and Neoclassical periods.

9 Travessa Primeiro de Dezembro, Albufeira 8200569, Portugal (37.08785, -8.25531)

E Igreja da Orada

Situated near the marina, this 18th-century chapel is dedicated to Our Lady of the Oracle, the patron saint of local fishermen. It features a simple whitewashed facade and hosts traditional religious festivals every August.

Rua Ermida, Albufeira 8200394, Portugal
(37.08549, -8.26422)

DATA SOURCES

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