

Berlengas Islands Special Protection Area

Leiria District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

The Berlengas are a small group of rocky islands off the coast of Peniche. The main island, Berlenga Grande, has cliffs, sea caves, clear water and many seabirds. The area is a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

Most people come for a day trip from Peniche. There are walking paths, swimming spots and a small fort on an islet. There are no cars and only a few basic places to stay.

When to visit

Boats run in the warm season, from late spring to early autumn, if the sea is calm. Summer is busy, and daily visitor numbers are limited. Water is clear but cold. Bring a hat and sun cream, as there is little shade.

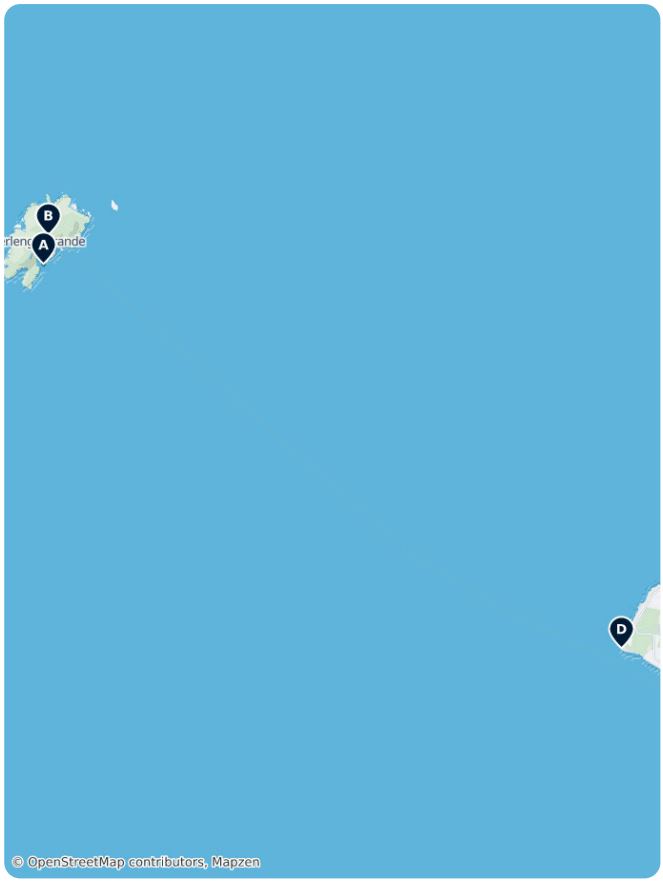
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for hiking	14° / 17° Feels like 10°	10° / 6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Great Great for hiking	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	10° / 6°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	16° / 21° Feels like 13°	11° / 8°	Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23° Feels like 14°	12° / 10°	Dry air
May	Great Great for wildlife watching	19° / 25°	14° / 12°	Dry air
June	Great Great for wildlife watching	22° / 27°	17° / 14°	
July	Great Great for wildlife watching	23° / 28°	18° / 16°	20 sunny days · UV 8 (Very high)
August	Great Great for wildlife watching	24° / 29°	18° / 17°	21 sunny days · Humid air
September	Great Great for wildlife watching	23° / 27°	17° / 15°	
October	Good Good for wildlife watching	21° / 25°	16° / 13°	
November	Good Good for wildlife watching	17° / 21° Feels like 14°	13° / 9°	13 rainy days · Dry air
December	Good Good for wildlife watching	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	11° / 7°	Dry air

Best months: May, June, July, August, September, October

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

Top sights

- A Forte de São João Batista is a 17th-century fort on a small islet, joined to the main island by a narrow stone bridge.
- B Berlenga is the main island, with trails, caves and views.
- C Farol da Berlenga is the island's lighthouse, at the top of a short climb.
- D Cabo Carvoeiro is a headland near Peniche where you see the islands from the mainland.



Berlengas Islands Special Protection Area – Plan Your Trip

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Getting there

- **By boat**: Boats leave from Peniche in the warm season. The trip takes about 45 minutes. Book ahead, as the number of visitors per day is limited and rules can change.
- **To Peniche**: Peniche is about 90 km from Lisbon. The drive takes about 1 hour 15 minutes. Buses also run from Lisbon.
- **Check first**: Boats stop in rough sea.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY

EUR €

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

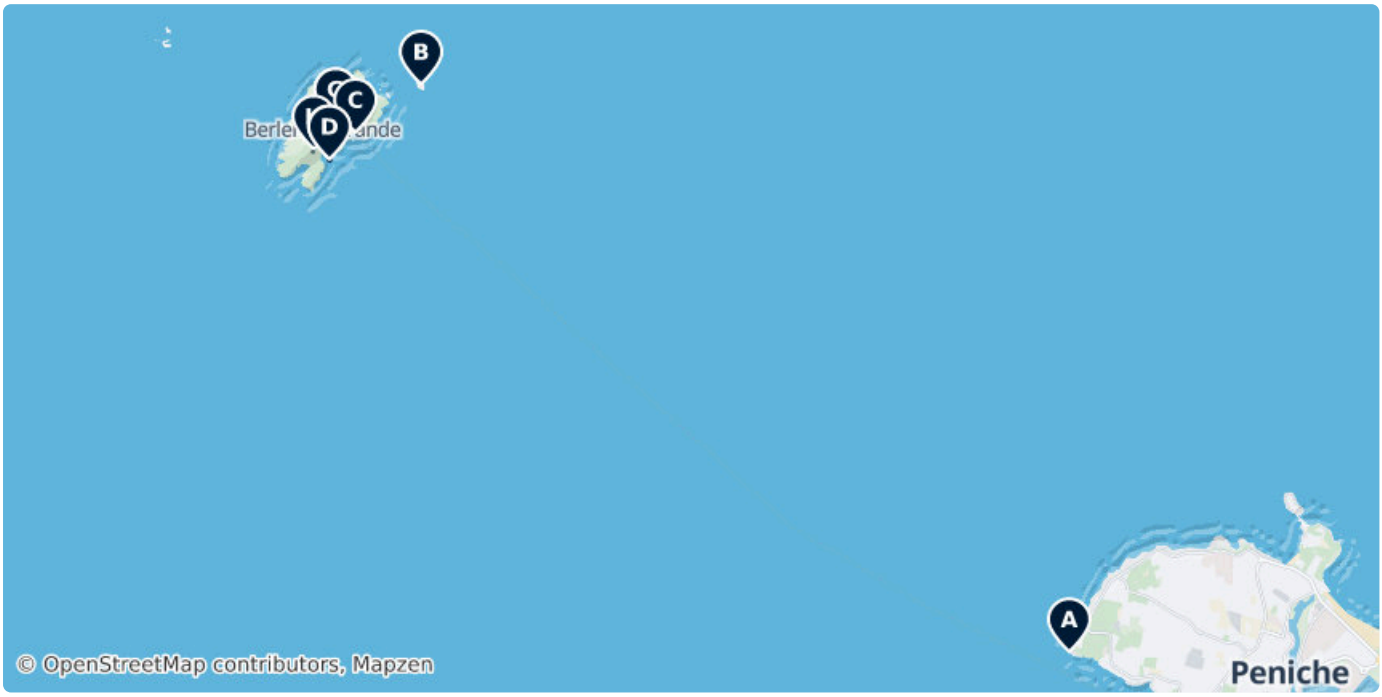
Portuguese

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Berlengas Islands Essential Discoveries

The Berlengas Islands, located off the coast of Peniche, comprise a granite archipelago known for the 17th-century Forte de São João Baptista and the Duke of Braganza Lighthouse. As a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, the area features dramatic cliffs like Cabo Carvoeiro and unique geological formations such as the Cerro da Velha islet. The islands serve as a critical nesting site for seabirds and contain historical infrastructure including stone cisterns and ferry connections to the mainland.





A Cabo Carvoeiro

Cabo Carvoeiro is cape which lies on the Atlantic coast, along the westernmost point of the Peniche Peninsula, in the civil parish of ...

Avenida Marciano Calado, 2520, Portugal
(39.35929, -9.40884)

B Cerro da Velha

A small rocky islet located within the Berlengas archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean.

(39.41927, -9.49753)

valentim.org/cume/99990

C Berlengas

The primary maritime arrival point and ferry terminal providing seasonal transport links between the Peniche Peninsula and Berlenga Grande.

(39.41419, -9.50652)



D Forte de São João Batista

A 17th-century coastal fortification built on the site of a former monastery, connected to the main island by a narrow stone bridge.

Caminho do Forte, Peniche, Portugal (39.41136, -9.51005)

E Forte de São João Baptista

A prominent maritime fortress featuring vaulted ceilings and stone corridors, originally constructed to defend the archipelago from pirate raids.

Portugal (39.41138, -9.51014)

F Farol da Berlenga

Also known as the Duke of Braganza Lighthouse, this 29-meter tower has guided ships through the archipelago since 1841.

2520, Portugal (39.41530, -9.50925)

G Berlenga

The highest point on the island of Berlenga Grande, offering views across the granite cliffs and the surrounding Special Protection Area.

2520, Portugal (39.41530, -9.50920)

valentim.org/cume/37398

H Cisterna

A historical water storage reservoir used to collect and preserve freshwater for the island's residents and garrison.

(39.41243, -9.51220)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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- Forte de São João Batista — "2026-06-21 Forte de São João Baptista das Berlengas 12" by Alexkom000, cc-by-4.0

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