

Ericeira

Mafra · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Ericeira is a fishing town on Portugal's Atlantic coast, about 45 minutes by car from Lisbon. It is best known for surfing. In 2011 about 4 km of coast here became a World Surfing Reserve, with seven surf breaks.

The old centre sits above the sea, with whitewashed houses, narrow lanes and small beaches below. It suits a relaxed trip of two or three nights. You can surf or take a lesson, eat fresh seafood and visit the palace at Mafra.

When to visit

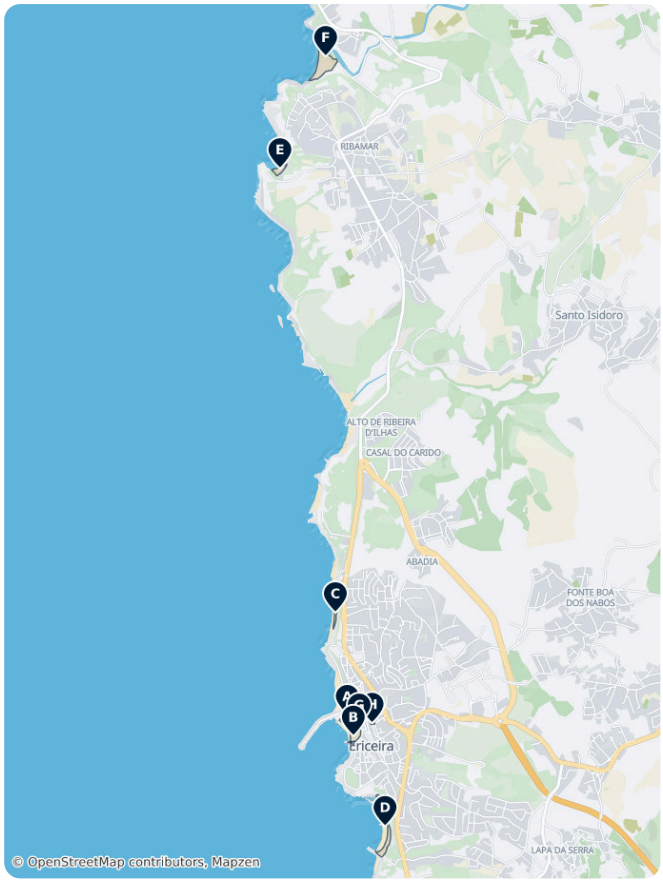
Summer is the easiest season for beach days and surf lessons. Winter brings the biggest north and northwest swells. The advanced breaks work best then, and conditions are harder for beginners. Spring and autumn are a good middle choice. Rain is most likely from October to March.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	14° / 17° Feels like 10°	10° / 6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 18° Feels like 10°	10° / 7°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for sightseeing	16° / 20° Feels like 12°	11° / 8°	Dry air
April	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 21° Feels like 13°	13° / 10°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 23° Feels like 16°	14° / 12°	21 sunny days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 25°	16° / 14°	20 sunny days · UV 8 (Very high)
July	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	18° / 16°	24 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	18° / 17°	24 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	18° / 16°	20 sunny days
October	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	16° / 13°	
November	Good Good for sightseeing	17° / 20° Feels like 13°	13° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	11° / 7°	12 rainy days · 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 Nossa Senhora da Natividade is the old town's fort, on the edge of the sea.
- B Praia dos Pescadores is the small sheltered beach below the old town. In 1910 the last Portuguese royal family left from here by boat.
- C Praia de São Sebastião is a sandy beach north of the centre.
- D Praia do Sul is the beach south of the centre, popular at sunset.
- E Praia dos Coxos is a surf break known for powerful waves. It is a shallow reef for expert surfers, and you can watch from the shore.
- F Praia de São Lourenço is a beach and surf break north of town.
- G Capela de Nossa Senhora da Boa Viagem is a small chapel in the old town, named for Our Lady of Good Voyage.
- H Mercado da Ericeira is the town's indoor market.
- Ribeira d'Ilhas is another well-known surf spot just north of town.

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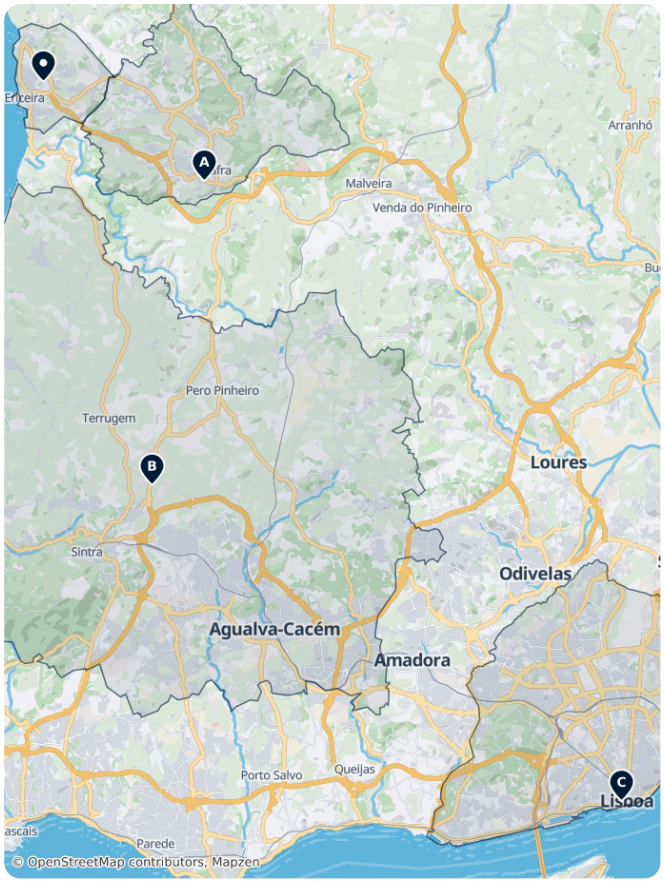
What to experience

- Take a surf lesson. Foz do Lizandro, south of town, is the usual choice for beginners.
- Watch surfers from the shore at Coxos on a day with a large swell.
- Watch the sunset from Praia do Sul.

Day trips

Ericeira works well as a base for a few short trips.

- A Mafra: about 10 km inland, on bus line 2803. It is known for its large 18th-century palace-convent. The Tapada Nacional de Mafra park is next door.
- B Sintra: about 47 minutes by bus 1633 to Portela de Sintra rail station, then local transport into town. Palaces and forest hills fill a full day.
- C Lisbon: about 1 hour 10 minutes by bus from Campo Grande, or about 45 minutes by car. It is a long day but easy to do.
- Foz do Lizandro and Praia da Adraga: beaches to the south, about 20 to 25 km away and easiest by car.



Getting there

- By air: Lisbon airport (LIS) is the main gateway. Take the metro to Campo Grande station, then the bus to Ericeira. By car it is about 45 minutes.
- By train: Ericeira has no train station. Take a train to Lisbon or Sintra and continue by bus.
- By bus: Carris Metropolitana buses leave from Campo Grande bus station in Lisbon, next to the Campo Grande metro station. Lines 2803 and 2740 take about 70 to 80 minutes. Line 2801 is faster, about an hour, but runs only at weekday rush hours. Check the timetable on Carris Metropolitana.

Getting around

- The old town and the nearest beaches are easy to cover on foot. The northern surf breaks are better reached by car or taxi.
- Buses leave from the Ericeira bus terminal. Line 1633 goes to Portela de Sintra about every 45 to 60 minutes. Line 2803 goes to Mafra and on to Lisbon.
- Tickets are sold by the driver. A Navegante card with Zapping credit gives a lower fare than an onboard single ticket. Contactless bank cards are accepted on a growing number of Carris Metropolitana lines, including line 1633. Check with the driver before boarding. Details are on Carris Metropolitana.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town and nearby beaches are compact and easy to walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycling suits short trips along the coast.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Not for the old town and the nearest beaches. A car helps for the northern surf breaks, Mafra and Sintra.
- Tolls: the A8 and A21 motorways from Lisbon are tolled, and there is a toll station near Ericeira. The N247 coast road is slower.
- Parking: in summer, park at the edge of the old town and walk in.

Food & drink

Ericeira is a fishing town, so look for grilled fish, caldeirada (fish stew), clams cooked with garlic and coriander (amêijoas à Bulhão Pato), seafood rice and percebes (goose barnacles).

Restaurants cluster around Praça da República and the lanes of the old town.

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

Ericeira is a safe town for visitors. Petty theft from parked cars is the most common problem, so leave nothing visible in a car at beach car parks.

The Atlantic coast is exposed. Waves, currents and rocks can be strong, even on calm-looking days. Ask a surf school or local lifeguard about conditions before you swim. Several reef breaks have sea urchins and shallow rock, so surfers there usually wear boots. Expert-only breaks such as Coxos are not for beginners.

History

Ericeira grew as a fishing port. On 5 October 1910, King Manuel II left from Praia dos Pescadores by boat as the monarchy fell in Lisbon.

Forte de Nossa Senhora da Natividade and the old chapels recall the town's seafaring past. The World Surfing Reserve status in 2011 recognised how important surfing had become to the town.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



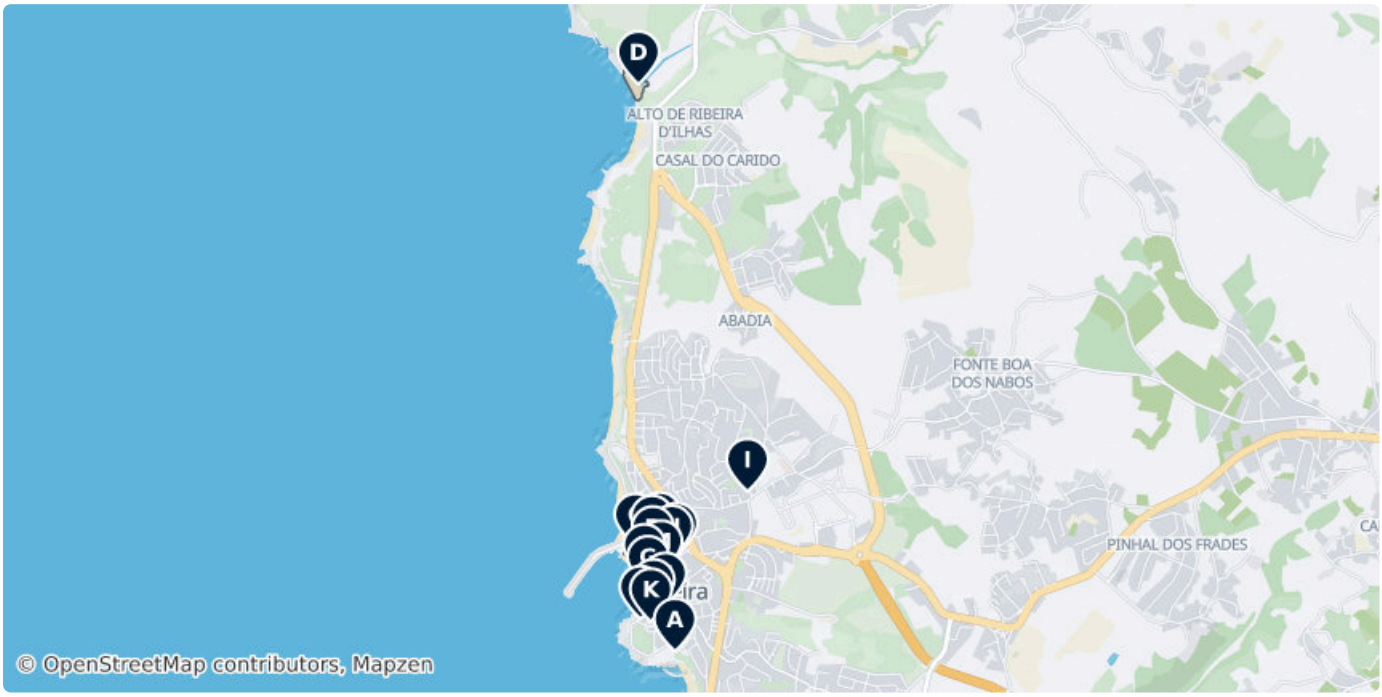
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230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Ericeira's Unmissable Coastal Charms

Ericeira, Europe's only World Surfing Reserve, blends maritime history with world-class waves. This selection features Ribeira d'Ilhas, a premier competitive surfing beach, alongside the 17th-century Capela de Nossa Senhora da Boa Viagem and the 18th-century Forte de Nossa Senhora da Natividade. Explore the traditional Mercado da Ericeira for fresh Atlantic seafood, or visit historic churches like Igreja da Misericórdia, known for its intricate tilework. The village's culinary identity is represented through local seafood institutions and regional restaurants overlooking the rugged coastline.



A Ericeira

Central point for local maps and visitor information regarding heritage sites and coastal activities.

(38.96040, -9.41681)

B Capela de Nossa Senhora da Boa Viagem

17th-century chapel situated above the harbor, traditionally dedicated to the protection of local fishermen.

6 Travessa de Santo António, Ericeira 2655361, Portugal
(38.96485, -9.41819)



C Forte de Nossa Senhora da Natividade

18th-century coastal fortification built to defend the port, featuring characteristic stone walls and Atlantic views.

3 Rua de Baixo, Ericeira 2655237, Portugal
(38.96546, -9.41927)

D Praia Ribeira d' Ilhas

World Surfing Reserve beach known for its consistent right-hand reef break and hosting international surfing championships.

2655, Portugal (38.98780, -9.41908)

E Praia dos Pescadores

Centrally located sandy beach sheltered by cliffs, still used by local fishermen to launch traditional boats.

(38.96399, -9.41871)

F Restaurante "O Gafanhoto"

Regional restaurant specializing in traditional Portuguese cuisine and local seafood dishes.

(38.96262, -9.41740)

+351 261 864 514

G Mar das Latas

Contemporary restaurant and wine bar offering views of the Atlantic coastline and Praia dos Pescadores.

6 Travessa do Honrado, Ericeira 2655, Portugal
(38.96342, -9.41848)

Mo–Su 16:00–22:00

facebook.com/mar.das.latas, 00351912218423

H Tasca Da Boa Viagem

Traditional Portuguese eatery located near the historic center and the seaside.

(38.96197, -9.41895)

Mo–Su 00:30–15:30, 19:30–23:55

tascadaboaviagem.com, +351927094552

I Cantinho da Cattuxa

Local cafe and restaurant serving Portuguese cuisine in a casual setting.

(38.96811, -9.41230)

Mo–Sa 07:30–20:00

facebook.com/cantinhodacattuxa, +351261861030

J Igreja da Misericórdia da Ericeira

17th-century Renaissance and Baroque church featuring a museum and traditional Portuguese azulejo tile panels.

8 Rua da Novinha, Ericeira 2655, Portugal
(38.96554, -9.41776)

K Sta. Marta's Chapel

Small coastal chapel adjacent to Santa Marta Park, featuring traditional blue and white whitewashed architecture.

21 Largo de Santa Marta, Ericeira 2655357, Portugal
(38.96185, -9.41830)

L Adega Bar 1987

Long-standing local bar specializing in Portuguese tapas and regional wines.

(38.96230, -9.41814)

+351 938217602

M Mar à Vista

Established seafood restaurant overlooking the ocean, known for its live shellfish tanks and fresh Atlantic catch.

11 Rua da Misericórdia, Ericeira 2655, Portugal
(38.96417, -9.41767)

N Mercado da Ericeira

Municipal market offering fresh daily catch from local fishing boats, seasonal produce, and regional cheeses.

(38.96490, -9.41700)

O Ponto Fresco

Local supermarket providing groceries and essential supplies in the town center.

(38.96502, -9.41670)

P Nutwood

Artisanal gelateria offering a variety of handmade ice cream flavors in the heart of the village.

2 Largo Jaime Lobo e Silva, Ericeira 2655, Portugal
(38.96538, -9.41823)

We–Th	14:00–19:00
Fr–Sa	14:00–23:00
Su	14:00–19:00

nutwood.pt

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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