

Lagos

Faro District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Lagos is a historic walled town on the western Algarve coast. It has a lively old centre, a marina and some of the most photographed coastline in Portugal. Golden limestone cliffs, sea caves and small beaches start right at the edge of town.

It suits a beach holiday with some culture. Most visitors stay in or near the old town. They walk to the cliffs and beaches, take boat trips, and use the town as a base for the western Algarve. Lagos was also the home port for many 15th-century Portuguese voyages of discovery.

When to visit

May, June and September are the best months. The weather is warm and dry, the sea is swimmable and the town is less crowded. July and August are hot and busy, and prices are highest. Winter is mild but wet, and some seasonal businesses close.

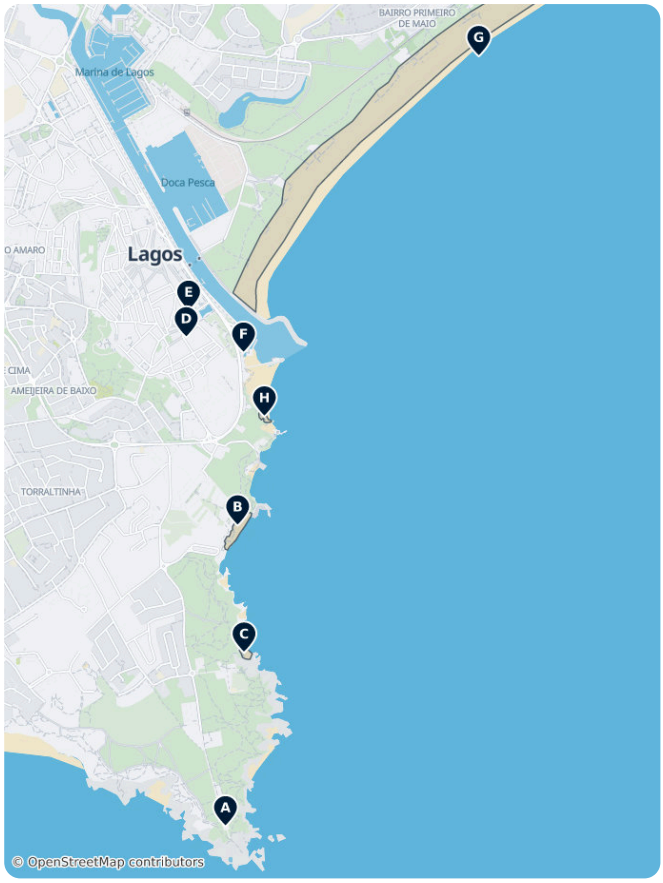
In June, the Popular Saints festivals bring street parties and parades to the old town. They are a good reason to time a trip for early summer.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for hiking	15° / 18° Feels like 12°	11° / 7°	Dry air
February	Great Great for hiking	16° / 18° Feels like 12°	11° / 8°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	17° / 20° Feels like 13°	12° / 9°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	18° / 22° Feels like 15°	14° / 11°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 25°	15° / 13°	☀ 22 sunny days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	17° / 15°	☀ 23 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 28°	18° / 16°	☀ 28 sunny days · Humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 29°	19° / 17°	☀ 28 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 27°	18° / 16°	☀ 23 sunny days · Humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 26°	17° / 14°	
November	Great Great for hiking	18° / 21°	14° / 10°	Dry air
December	Good Good for hiking	16° / 19° Feels like 13°	12° / 9°	Dry air

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

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

Top sights



- A Ponta da Piedade is the headline sight. Cliffs, rock arches and sea caves line the headland, and a lighthouse stands on top. Come in the evening for sunset, and take a boat or kayak trip to the caves.
- B Praia de Dona Ana is the best known of the town beaches. It has tall cliffs and rock stacks. It is a 15 to 20 minute walk from the old town.
- C Praia do Camilo is a small cove below the cliffs. A long wooden staircase leads down to the sand, and a short rock tunnel sits nearby.
- D Igreja de Santo António is a baroque church with a richly gilded wood interior. It is a National Monument and the best indoor sight in town.
- E Antigo Mercado dos Escravos marks the place where Lagos held Portugal's first market for enslaved Africans, from 1444. It is a sobering stop that explains a hard part of the Age of Discoveries.
- F Forte da Ponta da Bandeira is a small 17th-century fort at the harbour mouth. It guarded the town and now offers sea views.
- G Meia Praia is a very long open beach east of the marina, with wide sand and room even in summer. It is popular for walking, kitesurfing and windsurfing.
- H Praia dos Estudantes is the closest beach to the old town, a short walk from the centre. Pick it for a quick swim or a drink by the sea.

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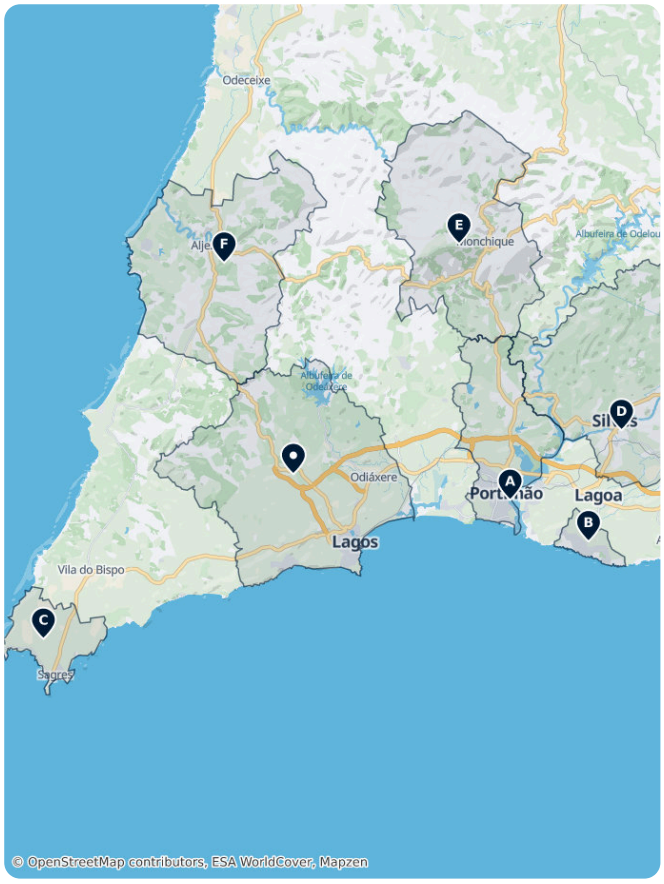
What to experience

- **Cave and arch boat trip**: Small boats and kayaks leave the marina and the beaches to enter the sea caves under Ponta da Piedade. Calm mornings are best.
- **Sunset on the cliffs**: Walk or drive to Ponta da Piedade for the evening light on the rock. It is the most popular sunset spot in town.
- **Dolphin and coast cruises**: Boat tours leave from the marina in the warmer months.
- **Wind and water sports**: Meia Praia has steady winds for kitesurfing and windsurfing. Lessons and rentals are available in season.
- **June street festivals**: The Popular Saints celebrations bring parades and street parties to the old town.

Day trips

These towns are all close and reachable in under an hour by car.



- A Portimão: about 20 minutes by train or car. A large city with a wide beach at Praia da Rocha and a fishing quarter known for grilled sardines.
- B Carvoeiro: about 35 minutes by car. A small resort with beaches and a clifftop walk to Algar Seco, where sea caves and rock formations sit by the water.
- C Sagres: about 35 minutes by car. Wild, windy cliffs at the far southwest tip of Europe, with a fortress and Cabo de São Vicente lighthouse.
- D Silves: about 40 minutes by car. A red-stone Moorish castle and cathedral in an inland town.
- E Monchique: about 40 minutes by car. A cool, forested hill town with spa waters and views over the coast from Foia, the highest point in the Algarve.
- F Aljezur: about 35 minutes by car. Gateway to the wild west coast, with large Atlantic beaches and strong surf.

Where to explore

Lagos sits in the western Algarve, so it works well as a base for the whole region.

- West: Sagres and Aljezur for wild Atlantic coast and surf.
- Nearby: Portimão and Carvoeiro for more beaches and resort towns.
- Inland: Silves and Monchique for history and hills.
- East: Albufeira and Tavira for a longer day out or a second base.

Getting there

- **By air**: Faro Airport (FAO) is the main gateway, about 90 km east of Lagos. Taxis, shuttles and rental cars take about 1 hour. There is no direct airport bus: public transport goes via the Faro bus station and takes roughly 2 to 2.5 hours. Lisbon Airport (LIS) is another option for a longer trip.
- **By train**: Lagos is the western end of the Algarve line. Regional trains run along the coast through Portimão, Tunes and Faro. From Lisbon, take the fast train to Tunes and change for Lagos. Book on Comboios de Portugal.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches run from Lisbon and other Algarve towns to the bus station in Lagos, near the marina and train station. The trip from Lisbon takes about 4 hours.
- Lagos is a short walk from the bus and train stations. The old town starts just beyond the marina.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is flat and compact, and the marina, main squares and Praia dos Estudantes are all walkable. Dona Ana and Camilo beaches are a 15 to 25 minute walk along the cliffs.
- **Local transport**: Regional buses connect Lagos with Portimão, Praia da Luz and the rest of the Algarve. Tourist trains run to the main beaches and Ponta da Piedade in summer.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are useful for Ponta da Piedade and the beaches west of town. A short ride costs only a few euros.
- **Cycling**: A flat coastal path runs east towards Meia Praia. The cliff roads are hilly.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is flat and compact, and the main beaches are a short walk away.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A flat coastal path leads east, but the cliff roads are hilly.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the old town and nearby beaches. Yes, if you want Sagres, the west coast beaches and inland day trips.
- **Parking**: Parking in the old town is limited and often paid. Use the paid car parks near the marina or on the edge of the centre. Spaces at Ponta da Piedade and Dona Ana fill up early in summer.
- **Motorway**: The A22 along the Algarve has been toll-free since 1 January 2025. The EN125 is a free alternative but slower.

Food & drink

Seafood is the main reason to eat in Lagos. Look for grilled fish, grilled sardines in summer, octopus and cataplana, a seafood stew cooked in a copper pot. For sweets, try Algarve almond and fig desserts.

Restaurants cluster in the old town around the squares and streets near Praça Gil Eanes, and along the marina. For fresh produce and fish, visit the municipal market on Avenida dos Descobrimentos. Menus on the busiest tourist streets cost more, so walk a street or two back for better value.

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

Lagos is safe for visitors. The main risk is petty theft. Watch for bag theft on beaches and in busy streets, and do not leave valuables in parked cars, especially at beach and viewpoint car parks.

The cliffs are the main physical danger. Edges can be unstable, so stay on marked paths and away from the drop. Check the sea flags before swimming, as currents can be strong on open beaches. The sun is strong from May to September, so bring sun protection.

History

The Romans called the settlement Lacobriga. The Moors later held the town for centuries before Portugal took it back.

In the 15th century, Lagos was a base for the Portuguese voyages along the African coast, linked to *Henry the Navigator*. Ships sailed from here, and in 1444 the town held the first market for enslaved Africans brought to Portugal. Antigo Mercado dos Escravos recalls this period.

From 1576 until 1755, Lagos was the capital of the Algarve. The 1755 earthquake and tsunami badly damaged the town. The 17th-century Forte da Ponta da Bandeira and the baroque Igreja de Santo António are among the sights that tell this story today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



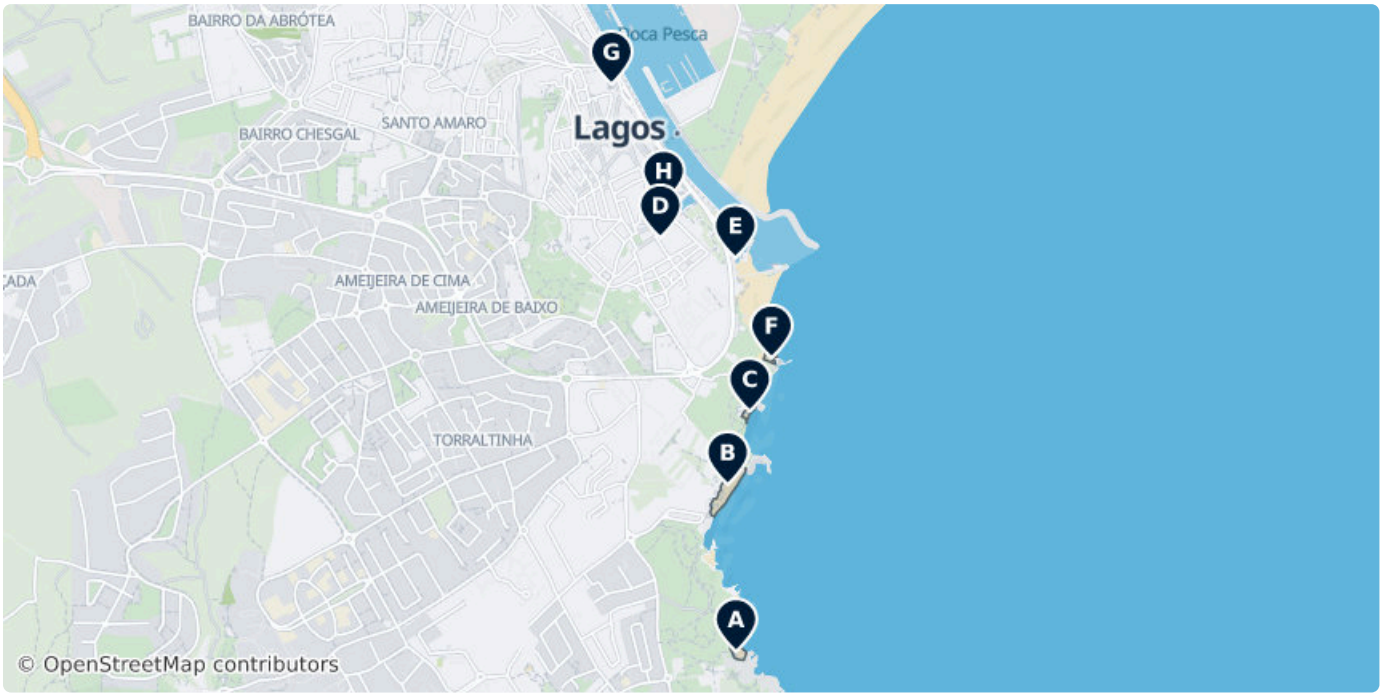
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Lagos Must-Sees

Lagos balances its maritime history with a dramatic coastline of limestone formations. The town's heritage is anchored by the 18th-century Igreja de Santo António, famous for its Baroque gilded woodcarvings, and the 15th-century site of Europe's first slave market. Along the shore, the 17th-century Forte da Ponta da Bandeira guards the harbor entrance. Natural landmarks include the iconic rock arches of Praia do Camilo and the sheltered waters of Praia da Batata. For local flavors, the 1924 Mercado Municipal provides fresh Atlantic seafood daily.





A Praia do Camilo

Accessible via a 200-step wooden staircase, this beach is defined by dramatic ochre cliffs, rock tunnels, and calm turquoise waters.

Portugal (37.08734, -8.66852)



B Dona Ana Beach

Swim among the rock formations in the crystal clear water. The picturesque beach offers some wonderful views.

(Unnamed Road), Lagos 8600, Portugal (37.09228, -8.66883)



C Praia do Pinhao

Small, secluded cove framed by high orange cliffs and a natural stone arch, accessible by a steep staircase south of the town center.

(Unnamed Road), 8600, Portugal (37.09445, -8.66800)



D Igreja de Santo António

18th-century Baroque church featuring an interior of elaborate gilded woodcarvings and blue-and-white azulejo tiles depicting the life of Saint Anthony.

4 Rua General Alberto da Silveira, Lagos 8600594, Portugal (37.09959, -8.67133)



E Forte da Ponta da Bandeira

The Fort of Ponta da Bandeira, also known as Pau da Bandeira Fort; Fort of Nossa Senhora da Penha de França; the Fort of Registo; or the...

(Unnamed Road), Lagos 8600, Portugal (37.09899, -8.66854)

cm-lagos.pt/portal_autarquico/lagos/v... , +351 282 761 410



F Praia da Caldeira

The closest beach to the historic center, situated next to the harbor fort. Its location behind the breakwater ensures calm conditions for swimming.

Avenida dos Descobrimentos, Lagos 8600, Portugal (37.09603, -8.66720)

G Mercado Municipal

Built in 1924, this two-story market sells fresh Atlantic fish and local produce. The rooftop terrace provides views of the Lagos Marina.

Rua da Porta de Portugal, 8600-998 Lagos, Portugal
(37.10414, -8.67314)



H slave market

Historical museum housed in a 15th-century building on the site of Europe's first slave market, documenting the history of the transatlantic trade.

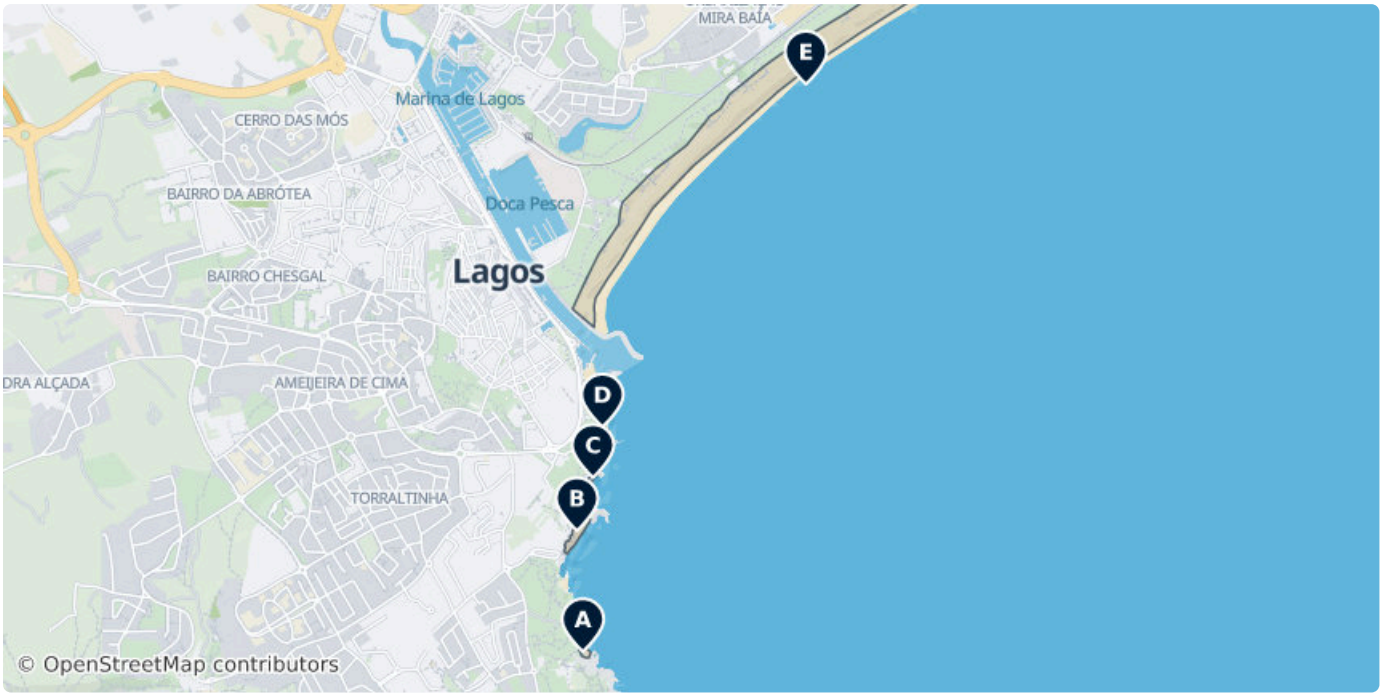
26 Rua da Senhora da Graça, Lagos 8600548, Portugal
(37.10061, -8.67121)

Mo	Closed
Tu–Su	10:00–13:00, 14:00–18:00

goodtimeslagos.com/slave-market/

Beautiful Beaches

Lagos is renowned for its dramatic coastline of golden limestone cliffs and turquoise waters. This selection includes secluded coves like Praia do Camilo, accessed via a long wooden staircase, and the expansive Meia Praia, which stretches for four kilometers. Visitors can find unique geological features, such as the Roman-style bridge at Praia dos Estudantes and the distinctive rock formations of Dona Ana Beach. These beaches offer varied environments, from sheltered spots protected by high cliffs to open stretches with views across the bay.





A Praia do Camilo

Reached via a wooden staircase of about 200 steps, this small cove is enclosed by high, orange-toned limestone cliffs and features calm, turquoise waters.

Portugal (37.08734, -8.66852)



B Dona Ana Beach

Swim among the rock formations in the crystal clear water. The picturesque beach offers some wonderful views.

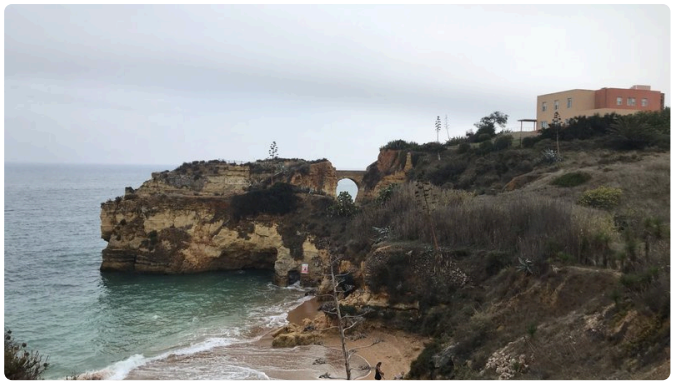
(Unnamed Road), Lagos 8600, Portugal
(37.09228, -8.66883)



C Praia do Pinhao

A small, secluded beach sheltered by high cliffs. It is accessible by a steep stone staircase and remains quieter than its more famous neighbors.

(Unnamed Road), 8600, Portugal (37.09445, -8.66800)



D Praia dos Estudantes

Notable for a Roman-style stone bridge connecting two rock formations above the sea. Man-made tunnels through the cliffs link this beach to neighboring Praia da Batata.

Portugal (37.09651, -8.66752)



E Meia Beach

One of the greatest beaches in Portugal. There's something for everyone.

Portugal (37.11051, -8.65710)

Authentic Regional Portuguese Cuisine

Lagos offers a diverse range of traditional Portuguese dining, from historic establishments in the old town to specialized seafood spots by the harbor. This selection includes one of the city's oldest restaurants, founded in 1860, alongside venues famous for extensive wine cellars and all-you-can-eat grilled fish. Menu highlights across these locations feature regional staples like cataplana, piri-piri chicken, and fresh catches from the Atlantic, reflecting the Algarve's coastal culinary heritage.



A Meu Limão

Located in the historic center near the Santo António Church, specializing in Mediterranean-influenced tapas and regional Portuguese dishes.

Rua General Alberto da Silveira, 8600-316 Lagos, Portugal
(37.09967, -8.67152)

meulimao.webs.com

B A Barrigada

Situated near the shipyard, this restaurant is known for its rodízio of grilled fish, offering a variety of fresh daily catches.

Estrada de São Roque, 8600-716 Lagos, Portugal
(37.10386, -8.66983)

restauranteabarrigada.pt

C a Tasca do Kiko

Located by the marina, this eatery focuses on modern interpretations of Portuguese petiscos and fresh seafood, featuring an outdoor terrace.

(Unnamed Road), Lagos 8600, Portugal
(37.10667, -8.66955)

Mo–Su	11:00–23:00

D Os Arcos

A traditional family-run restaurant in the historic center, specializing in Algarvean seafood cataplana and charcoal-grilled fish.

5 Rua da Estrema, Lagos 8600, Portugal
(37.10169, -8.67229)

E Don Sebastião

Established in 1979, this restaurant features one of Portugal's most extensive wine cellars and serves traditional meat and seafood dishes prepared on a charcoal grill.

26 Rua 25 de Abril, Lagos 8600763, Portugal (37.10187, -8.67233)

F Algarfo

Traditional Portuguese grill house specializing in regional seafood and meats prepared over charcoal.

L4 Largo Salazar Moscoso, Lagos 8600, Portugal (37.09241, -8.67332)

G Onda Norte

Regional restaurant located near Porto de Mós, serving traditional Algarvean cuisine with a focus on local seafood.

L4 Largo Salazar Moscoso, Lagos 8600, Portugal (37.09248, -8.67322)

H Vitasol Park

Restaurant located within the Vitasol Park complex, serving regional Portuguese dishes in a family-oriented setting.

23 Rua Quinta do Landeiro, Lagos 8600302, Portugal (37.11738, -8.67085)

I Dois irmãos

Founded in 1860, this is one of the oldest restaurants in Lagos, specializing in traditional Algarvean fish and seafood recipes.

6 Praça Infante Dom Henrique, Lagos 8600525, Portugal (37.10029, -8.67106)

J Frango Dourado

A local churrasqueira specializing in traditional piri-piri grilled chicken, with options for both dine-in and takeaway.

L9C Rua Joaquim Agostinho Fernandes, Lagos 8600, Portugal (37.10479, -8.68013)

K Brasao

Traditional Portuguese restaurant known for serving classic regional meat and fish dishes in generous portions.

23 Praça do Poder Local, Lagos 8600524, Portugal (37.09358, -8.67963)

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