

Sagres

Faro District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Sagres is a small village at the far southwest corner of Portugal, where the Algarve meets the open Atlantic. The coast here is high cliffs, strong wind and wide sea views. It is wilder and quieter than the resort towns to the east.

It suits active and nature-focused trips: surfing, coastal walks, birdwatching and sunsets at the southwest tip of mainland Europe. Sagres is also linked to the 15th-century Portuguese voyages of discovery. A few nights is enough for the cliffs, beaches and the cape.

When to visit

May, June, September and October are the best months. Days are sunny, the wind is lighter and the village is calmer than in high summer. July and August are dry and busy, and the Atlantic stays cool even then. Winter is mild but wetter, with the biggest waves for surfers.

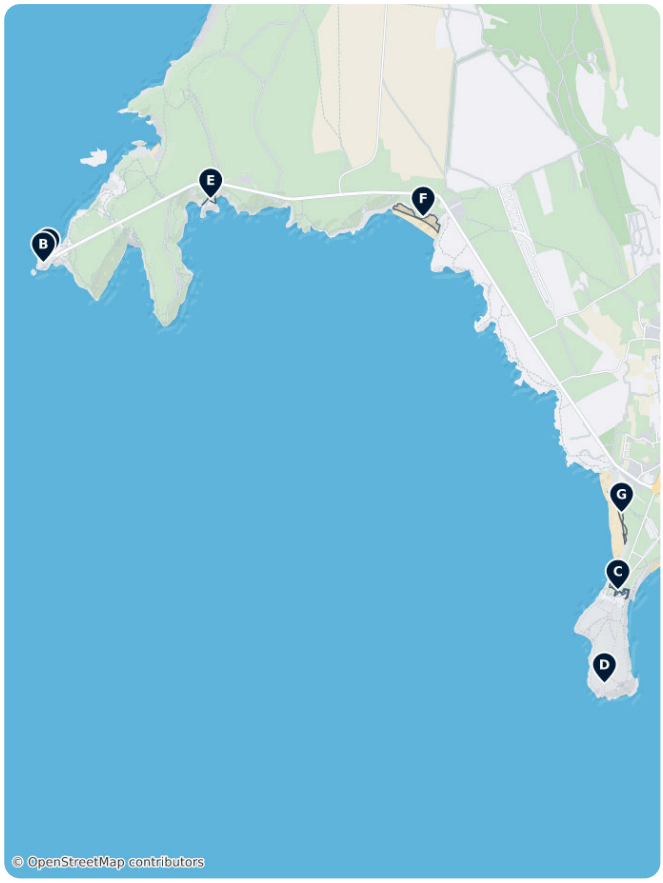
Sagres is breezy all year, so bring a light jacket in every season. The **Festival of Birdwatching and Nature Activities** is held in October; check the dates before you travel. It brings guided bird walks, boat trips and talks to the village during the autumn bird migration.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for wildlife watching	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	12° / 8°	Dry air
February	Great Great for hiking	15° / 18° Feels like 11°	12° / 8°	Dry air
March	Great Great for hiking	17° / 20° Feels like 13°	12° / 10°	Dry air
April	Great Great for hiking	18° / 21° Feels like 14°	14° / 11°	Dry air
May	Great Great for hiking	20° / 24° Feels like 16°	15° / 13°	☀ 22 sunny days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 25°	17° / 15°	☀ 23 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for hiking	23° / 26°	18° / 16°	☀ 28 sunny days · Humid air · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for hiking	23° / 27°	19° / 17°	☀ 28 sunny days · Humid air · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 26°	18° / 16°	☀ 23 sunny days · Humid air
October	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 24°	17° / 14°	
November	Great Great for hiking	18° / 21° Feels like 15°	14° / 11°	Dry air
December	Good Good for wildlife watching	16° / 19° Feels like 12°	13° / 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 Cabo de São Vicente is the southwest tip of mainland Europe. Tall cliffs drop into the sea, and sunset draws crowds.
- B Farol do Cabo de São Vicente stands on the cape and is its main landmark. Walk to the cliff edge nearby for the sea views.
- C Fortaleza de Sagres is a walled fortress on the headland above the village. It has a giant stone wind compass and a small chapel. Allow at least 30 minutes.
- D Farol de Sagres marks the end of the headland by the fortress. The cliffs and open sea around it are worth the short walk.
- E Forte de Santo António de Belixe is a small coastal fort on the road to the cape. It is a good stop for cliff views.
- F Praia do Beliche is a sandy cove below tall cliffs, reached by a long staircase. It is a good place for a swim on calm days.
- G Praia do Tonel faces west, below the fortress. It takes the full force of the Atlantic, so it is a surf beach more than a swimming beach.

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What to experience

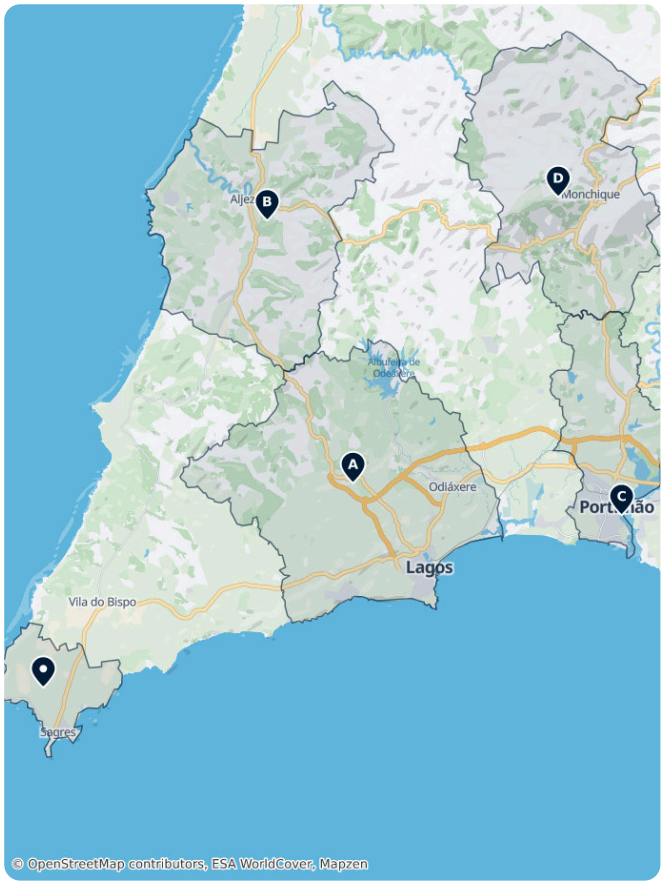
Sagres is about doing things outdoors. These are the signature experiences.

- **Sunset at the cape**: Watch the sun go down over the Atlantic from the cliffs at the lighthouse. It is the classic Sagres evening. Food trucks and souvenir stands set up nearby, and tour buses arrive, so come early for a good spot.
- **Surf lesson**: Mareta is the calmer spot for beginners. Tonel is for experienced surfers. Surf schools in the village rent boards and wetsuits. The water is cool all year, so a wetsuit is a good idea.
- **Autumn bird migration**: In September and October, large numbers of birds cross this corner of Portugal on their way to Africa. Watch from the cliffs, or join walks and boat outings during the nature festival held in October.
- **Boat trip from the harbour**: Dolphin-watching and sea cave boat tours leave from the fishing harbour at Baleeira.
- **Walk the Fishermen's Trail**: A stretch of this long coastal trail runs along the cliffs here, past Sagres and the cape. Take water, as there is little shade, and stay back from the cliff edge.

Day trips

Sagres sits at the end of the road, so day trips are best by car. Driving times are one way.

- A Lagos: about 35 minutes by car, or about 1 hour by bus. A historic town with an old centre and a coast of cliffs and sea caves.
- B Aljezur: about 50 minutes by car. A gateway to the wild west coast, with large Atlantic beaches.
- C Portimão: about 50 minutes by car. A large city with a wide beach at Praia da Rocha and a fishing quarter.
- D Monchique: about 1 hour 15 minutes by car. A cool, forested hill town with views from the highest point in the Algarve.



Where to explore

Sagres is the far western base of the Algarve.

- East: Lagos and Portimão for towns, nightlife and more beaches.
- North along the west coast: Aljezur for surf and wild beaches.
- Inland: Monchique and Silves for hills and history.
- Further east: Carvoeiro for small coves and cliff walks.

Getting there

- **By air**: Faro Airport (FAO) is the main gateway, about 116 km east. A taxi or pre-booked transfer takes about 1 hour 10 minutes and costs roughly 100 to 180 euros. By public transport, go first to Lagos and change: the Aerobus 56 runs from the airport to Lagos in about 2 hours. It is seasonal, so check the timetable.
- **By train**: There is no railway to Sagres. The Algarve line ends in Lagos. A regional train from Faro takes about 1 hour 45 minutes. Book on Comboios de Portugal.
- **By bus**: From Lisbon, take a coach to Lagos (about 4 hours), then bus 47 to Sagres (about 1 hour). The main stop is in the village centre.
- Public transport is slow and services are limited. Many visitors sleep a night in Lagos or rent a car.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The village is compact. The harbour, the fortress and Mareta and Tonel beaches are a short walk from the centre. The cape is about 6.5 km away, so go by bus, taxi or car.
- **Bus**: Regional bus 47 connects Lagos, Sagres, Beliche beach and the cape. The timetable is limited, so plan the return trip before you leave. Pay the driver in cash, or use the Vamus app or a prepaid card for lower fares. A Vamus Tourist Pass covers unlimited rides on the regional network for several days. See timetables and fares at Vamus Algarve.
- **Taxi**: A taxi from Lagos costs about 40 to 45 euros.
- **Cycling**: Roads between the village, the fortress and the cape are open and windy. Check the wind before you ride.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village is compact and the fortress and nearby beaches are walkable. The cape and west coast beaches are too far to walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The roads are open and often windy. The cape is about 6.5 km from the village.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the village itself. Yes for the cape, the west coast beaches and day trips. Public transport is limited.
- **Route**: No motorway reaches Sagres. The A22 ends near Lagos, then the EN125 continues west via Vila do Bispo to Sagres.
- **Parking**: A large free car park sits by the lighthouse at the cape. Do not leave valuables in the car.

Food & drink

Sagres is a fishing village, so seafood is the reason to eat here. Look for grilled fish, octopus rice, stuffed squid and *massada de peixe*, a fish and pasta stew. Goose barnacles, called *percebes*, are a local delicacy.

Restaurants cluster in two places: along Rua Comandante Matoso, the main street, and at the fishing harbour in Baleeira. Fishing boats work out of the harbour. Locals start the evening early with drinks before sunset, and nights get cool, so bring a sweater.

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

Sagres is very safe for visitors. The main crime risk is theft from parked cars at beaches and the cape, so leave nothing visible inside.

The cliffs and the sea are the real dangers. Many cliff edges have no fence, and strong wind can make the edge risky. Stay on paths and keep children close. The west-facing beaches have strong waves and currents, so swim only where lifeguards are on duty. The sun is strong from May to September, so bring sun protection.

History

The Romans called the cape the Holy Promontory. Legend says the body of Saint Vincent arrived here, guarded by ravens, and the story later appeared on the coat of arms of Lisbon. The cape and Farol do Cabo de São Vicente still carry his name.

In the 15th century, the headland was linked to *Henry the Navigator* and the Portuguese voyages along the African coast. The Fortaleza de Sagres guarded the harbour. The 1755 earthquake and tsunami then damaged the fortress.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



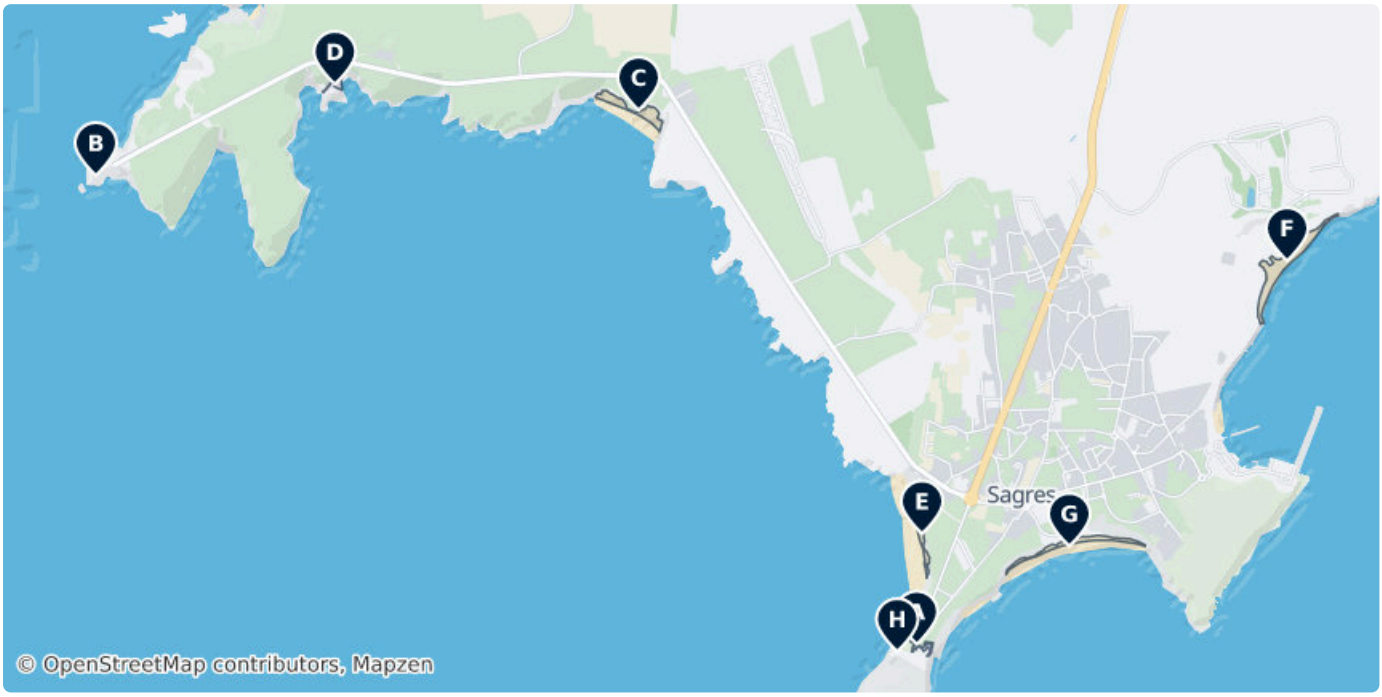
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Sagres Essentials

Sagres marks the southwestern tip of Europe, defined by sheer limestone cliffs and a historical connection to the Age of Discovery. This collection includes the 15th-century Sagres Fortress, home to a massive stone wind compass, and the Lighthouse of Cabo de São Vicente, built over a former Franciscan convent. The list covers the region's diverse coastline, from the surf-heavy swells of Praia do Tonel to the sheltered, cliff-backed sands of Praia do Beliche and Praia da Mareta.





A Sagres Fortress

The Fortress of Sagres, also known as Castle of Sagres or Fort of Sagres, is a military structure, located near the Sagres freguesia, in...

Acceso ao Farol, 8650, Portugal (37.00086, -8.94810)



B Lighthouse of Cabo de São Vicente

The Lighthouse of Cabo de São Vicente is a beacon/lighthouse located along the coastal peninsula of Sagres Point in the civil parish of...

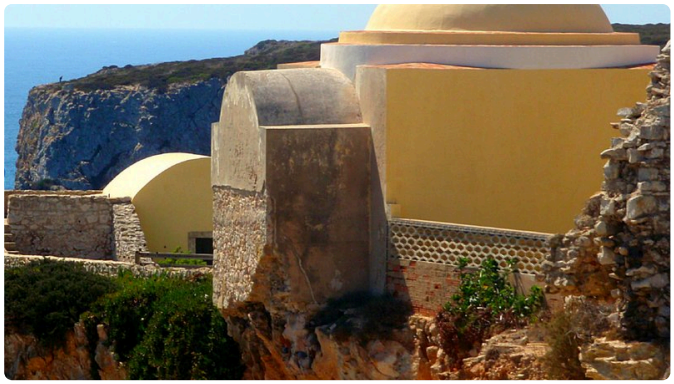
8650, Portugal (37.02291, -8.99652)



C Praia do Beliche Beach

Located between Sagres and Cape St. Vincent, this beach is sheltered from the wind by 40-meter-high limestone cliffs. It is a frequent spot for surfing and bodyboarding due to its consistent Atlantic swells.

Portugal (37.02599, -8.96450)



D Fort of Santo António de Belixe

The Fort of Santo António de Belixe, which is also referred to as the Fortress of Beliche, is located on Cape St.

(Unnamed Road), 8650, Portugal (37.02721, -8.98242)

monumentos.pt/Site/APP_PagesUser/SIPA.aspx



E Praia do Tonel

Situated on the western side of Sagres Point, this sandy beach is positioned directly beneath the fortress cliffs. It is exposed to strong Atlantic winds and swells, making it a primary location for surfing.

Portugal (37.00605, -8.94779)



F Praia do Martinhal

Located to the east of Sagres, this wide beach is known for its calmer waters and the limestone islets visible just offshore. It is protected from the prevailing northern winds.

8650, Portugal (37.01890, -8.92626)

G Praia da Mareta

The largest and most central beach in Sagres, located on the southern coast. It serves as a starting point for the walk toward the Sagres Fortress and is characterized by its high surrounding cliffs.

8650, Portugal (37.00546, -8.93910)

H Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Graça

A 16th-century chapel located within the walls of the Sagres Fortress. This simple white structure was built on the site of a former church allegedly founded by Prince Henry the Navigator.

8650, Portugal (37.00050, -8.94925)

Best Beaches in Sagres

Sagres sits at Europe's southwestern edge, where the Atlantic meets high limestone cliffs. This selection includes the sheltered southern coves of Mareta and Martinhal, the wind-swept western surf breaks of Tonel and Beliche, and remote spots like Praia do Telheiro, known for its unique geological formations. The coastline ranges from wide sandy stretches to the distinctive rounded pebble shores of Praia dos Rebolinhos, all set within the Southwest Alentejo and Vicentine Coast Natural Park.





A Praia do Beliche Beach

Sheltered by 40-meter cliffs between Sagres and Cape Saint Vincent, this beach is a known surf spot with a steep staircase access.

Portugal (37.02599, -8.96450)



B Praia do Tonel

Located directly beneath the Sagres Fortress, this west-facing beach is characterized by its large central rock and consistent Atlantic swells.

Portugal (37.00605, -8.94779)



C Praia do Martinhal

A long sandy beach east of Sagres, notable for the limestone islets (Ilhotes do Martinhal) located offshore and its suitability for windsurfing.

8650, Portugal (37.01890, -8.92626)

D Praia da Ponta Ruiva

Named for the ochre-red rock at its southern end, this remote beach is a significant surf location on the western coastline.

Portugal (37.06849, -8.96425)

E Praia da Mareta

The main beach of Sagres, stretching 600 meters along a sheltered bay. It is the closest beach to the town center.

8650, Portugal (37.00546, -8.93910)

F Praia do Telheiro

Located near Cape Saint Vincent, this beach is geologically famous for the Telheiro Unconformity, where distinct rock layers from different eras meet.

Portugal (37.04591, -8.97907)

G Praia do Barranco

A secluded sandy cove located at the end of a long valley, often used as a quiet anchorage for boats.

8650, Portugal (37.04229, -8.89530)

H Prainha das Poças

A small, rocky cove situated near the Sagres harbor, offering a more sheltered environment than the open Atlantic beaches.

8650, Portugal (37.00250, -8.94478)

I Praia dos Rebolinhos

A beach characterized by its lack of sand, covered instead in "rebolinhos"—large, smooth, rounded pebbles.

8650, Portugal (37.02222, -8.92029)

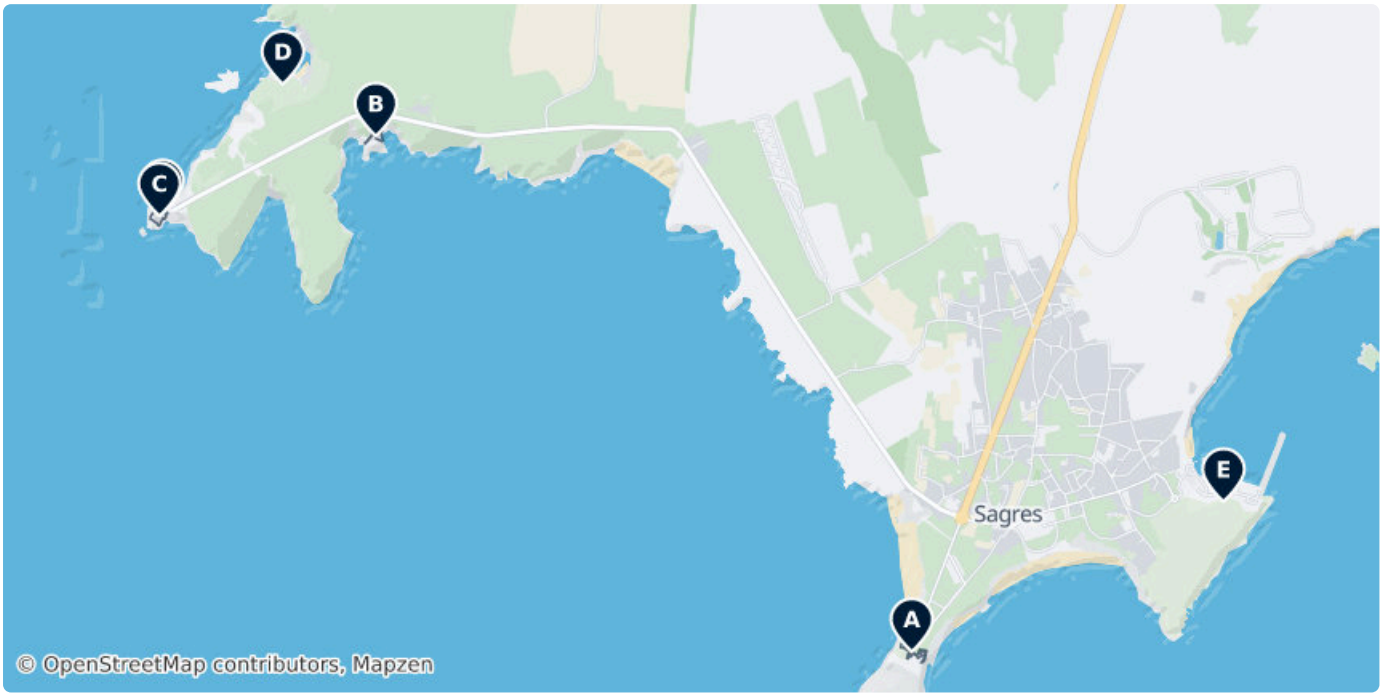
J Praia da Baleeira

Situated next to the working fishing port and marina, this beach was historically linked to the local whaling and tuna fishing industries.

(Unnamed Road), 8650, Portugal (37.01119, -8.93041)

Historic Sites of Sagres

Sagres' coastline is defined by its strategic military and maritime heritage. This collection features the 15th-century Sagres Fortress, a key site of the Portuguese Age of Discovery, alongside the coastal defenses of Belixe and São Vicente. Archaeological sites include Roman fish-salting tanks near Mareta Beach and prehistoric shell middens at Rocha das Gaivotas. These monuments highlight the region's long history of human occupation, from ancient maritime industries to the 16th-century fortifications built to guard against pirate raids at Europe's southwestern tip.





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C Fortaleza de São Vicente

A 16th-century military fortification built to protect the Algarve coast from pirate attacks, situated on the high cliffs of Cape St. Vicent.

8650, Portugal (37.02312, -8.99629)

D Rocha das Gaivotas

Archaeological site containing Neolithic and Chalcolithic shell middens, providing evidence of prehistoric human settlement along the Sagres coastline.

8650, Portugal (37.02986, -8.98838)

arqueologia.patrimoniocultural.pt

E Ruinas Romanas

Archaeological remains of a Roman industrial complex, featuring fish-salting tanks used for the production of garum.

8650-368 Sagres, Portugal (37.00852, -8.92812)

F São Vicente, mártir da Igreja Cristã

Religious monument honoring Saint Vincent of Saragossa, located at the site where the martyr's relics were traditionally kept before being moved to Lisbon in 1173.

(37.02329, -8.99609)

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