

Vilamoura

Faro District · Portugal

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Vilamoura is a planned marina and golf resort on the central Algarve coast. It has a large yacht marina, several golf courses, wide sandy beaches and a promenade of restaurants and bars. The resort is built for holidays, so it is easy to use.

It suits families, golfers and couples who want sun, beaches and comfort in one place. Most visitors stay in a hotel or apartment near the marina and use the resort as a base for the wider Algarve. Vilamoura is also a short drive from Faro, the nearest airport.

When to visit

The Algarve is sunny for most of the year. Summer is hot and dry and is the best time for the beach. The sea warms up slowly, so late summer is often better for swimming than early summer. Spring and autumn are mild and good for golf, walking and cycling, with fewer crowds. Winter is mild, but most of the rain falls between October and March.

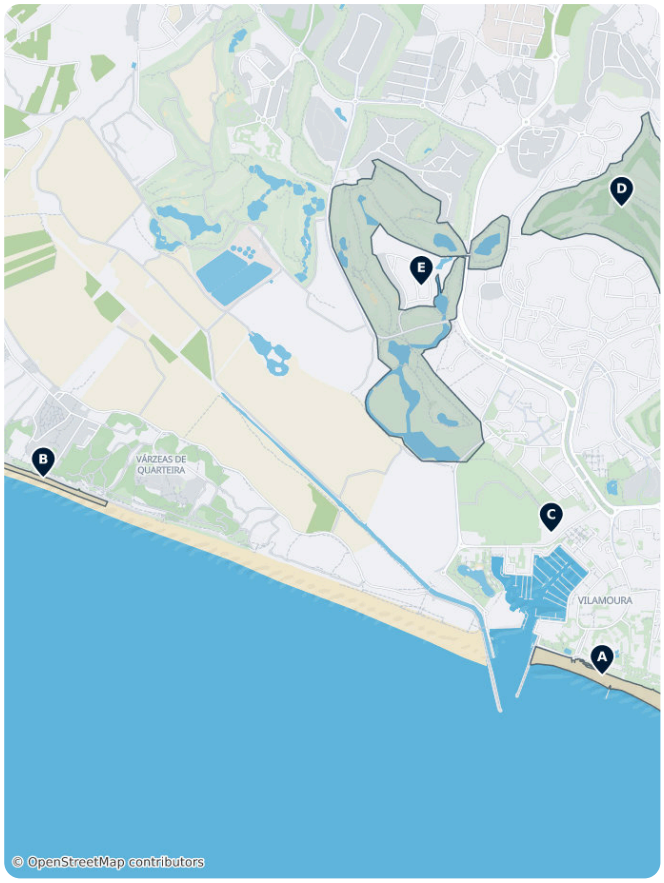
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	15° / 18° Feels like 12°	10° / 6°	Dry air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 19° Feels like 13°	10° / 6°	Dry air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 22° Feels like 15°	11° / 8°	Dry air
April	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 24°	13° / 10°	Dry air
May	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	15° / 11°	22 sunny days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 31°	18° / 14°	23 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	19° / 16°	28 sunny days · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Great Great for the beach	29° / 33°	20° / 17°	28 sunny days · UV 8 (Very high)
September	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 30°	19° / 16°	23 sunny days
October	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 27°	16° / 13°	
November	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 22°	13° / 8°	Dry air
December	Good Good for sightseeing	16° / 19° Feels like 13°	11° / 7°	Dry air

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

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

Top sights

- Vilamoura Marina is the heart of the resort. Walk along the quays, watch the yachts and have a meal or a drink on the promenade. Boat trips leave from here.
- A Praia de Vilamoura is the sandy town beach next to the marina. It is easy to reach on foot and has beach cafes and water sports.
- B Falésia Beach is part of a long stretch of sand of almost 6 km. Red and white cliffs rise behind it, with pine trees on top. Walk west along the sand to find quieter spots.
- C Cerro da Vila Roman ruins is a Roman site with baths, mosaics and fish-salting tanks. A small museum stands next to it. It is a quiet change from the beach.
- D Old Course is a classic parkland golf course among pine trees. It opened in 1969.
- E Laguna Golf Course is one of the other golf courses in the resort, north-west of the marina.



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What to experience

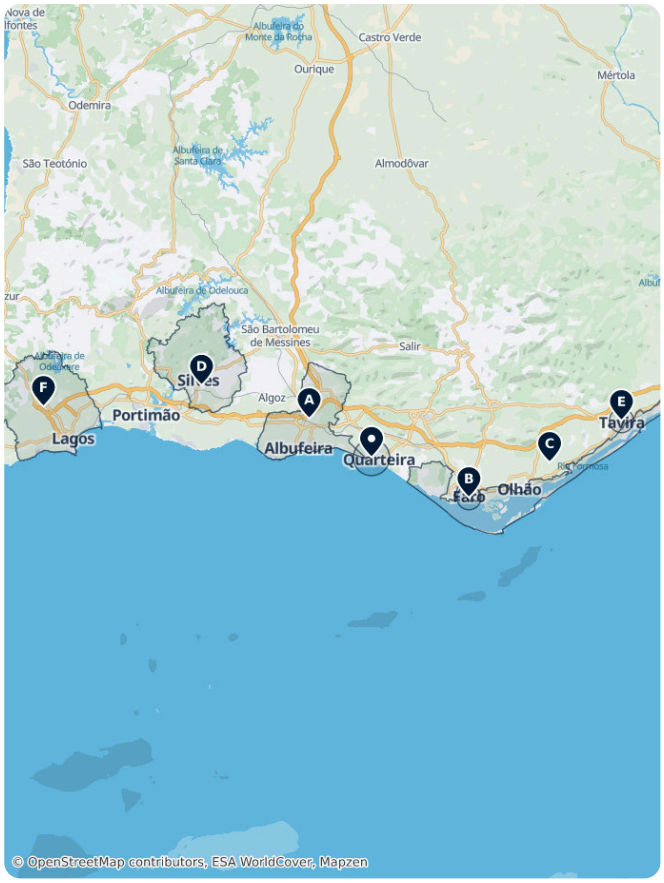
Things to do that are special to Vilamoura:

- Take a boat trip from the marina to see sea caves and cliffs.
- Go sea fishing on a charter boat from the marina.
- Try water sports such as jet skiing and parasailing at the beaches near the marina.
- Play golf. The resort has several courses, and the mild winter makes it a year-round sport.
- Watch birds in the nature area west of the resort, which is an Important Bird Area known for the purple swamphen.
- Look into the water at night in the marina. Fish gather under the coloured boat lights.

Day trips

Vilamoura is a good base for the central Algarve. The towns below are listed from nearest to farthest.

- Quarteira is a seaside town just east of the resort, a short drive or taxi ride away. It has a long beachfront promenade and a fishing harbour, and it is more local and less polished than Vilamoura.
- Loulé is an inland market town with a historic centre and a covered market. It is a short drive from the coast.
- A Albufeira is about 25 minutes by car. It has an old town, beaches and busy nightlife.
- B Faro is about 25 minutes by car and is the regional capital. It has a walled old town and a marina, and it is the gateway to the C Ria Formosa lagoon.
- D Silves is about 40 minutes by car. It has a large red-stone Moorish castle and a quiet old centre.
- E Tavira is about 40 minutes by car. It is a calm town on a river with a bridge over the river, many churches and island beaches reached by boat.
- F Lagos is about 1 hour by car. It is a good base for cliffs, sea caves and beaches in the western Algarve.



Where to explore

Nearby places around Vilamoura:

- East towards Spain: Faro, Olhão, Tavira and the Ria Formosa nature reserve.
- West along the coast: Albufeira, Carvoeiro, Portimão and Lagos.
- Inland and far west: Silves, Monchique and Sagres.

Getting there

- By air: Faro Airport is the nearest airport, about 25 km from Vilamoura. Most visitors take a taxi or a pre-booked transfer, or rent a car.
- By bus: Buses run from Faro Airport and Faro bus station to Vilamoura. Check Vamus Algarve for routes and timetables.
- By train: There is no train station in Vilamoura. Trains reach Faro and Loulé, and you continue by bus or taxi.
- By car: The A22 motorway runs along the Algarve coast, and there are no tolls on it.

Getting around

- On foot: The marina area is flat and easy to walk. The golf areas, Cerro da Vila and the beaches are farther apart, so you may need a short ride.
- Local buses: Regional buses of Vamus Algarve link Vilamoura with Quarteira, Faro and Albufeira.
- Taxi: Taxis are useful in the evening and for reaching golf clubs and farther beaches.
- Cycling: The resort is flat, so cycling is pleasant.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The marina area is flat and easy to walk. Golf courses, the Roman site and some beaches are farther apart, so you may need a short ride.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The resort is flat, so cycling is pleasant, but main roads can be busy in summer.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Not if you stay in the resort. A car is useful if you want to explore the wider Algarve.
- Motorway: The A22 along the coast has had no tolls since 1 January 2025.

Food & drink

Fresh fish and seafood are the local specialty. Look for grilled fish, seafood rice and the Algarve cataplana, a seafood stew cooked in a copper pot.

The marina promenade has the widest choice of restaurants, with Portuguese, Italian and international food. For simpler and cheaper fish meals, visit the fishing harbour and the old streets of Quarteira nearby.

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

Vilamoura is very safe for visitors. Petty theft is the main problem. Do not leave bags or valuables in parked cars, at beach car parks or at golf clubs.

The Algarve sun is strong, so use sun cream and drink water. Swim only where lifeguards are on duty and follow the beach flags. Stay away from the edge and the base of the cliffs at Falésia Beach, because parts of the cliffs can fall. The emergency number is 112.

History

Vilamoura is new, but the land is old. Romans lived here more than 1,500 years ago. At Cerro da Vila Roman ruins you can see the remains of a villa with baths, mosaics and tanks used to make fish products, including garum, a salty fish sauce. The site was found in 1963, and later people also lived here in Visigothic and Moorish times.

The modern resort was planned in the 1960s by the banker *Cupertino de Miranda*. The Old Course opened in 1969, and the marina opened in 1974. Since then Vilamoura has grown into one of the largest tourist resorts in Europe.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Portugal at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY



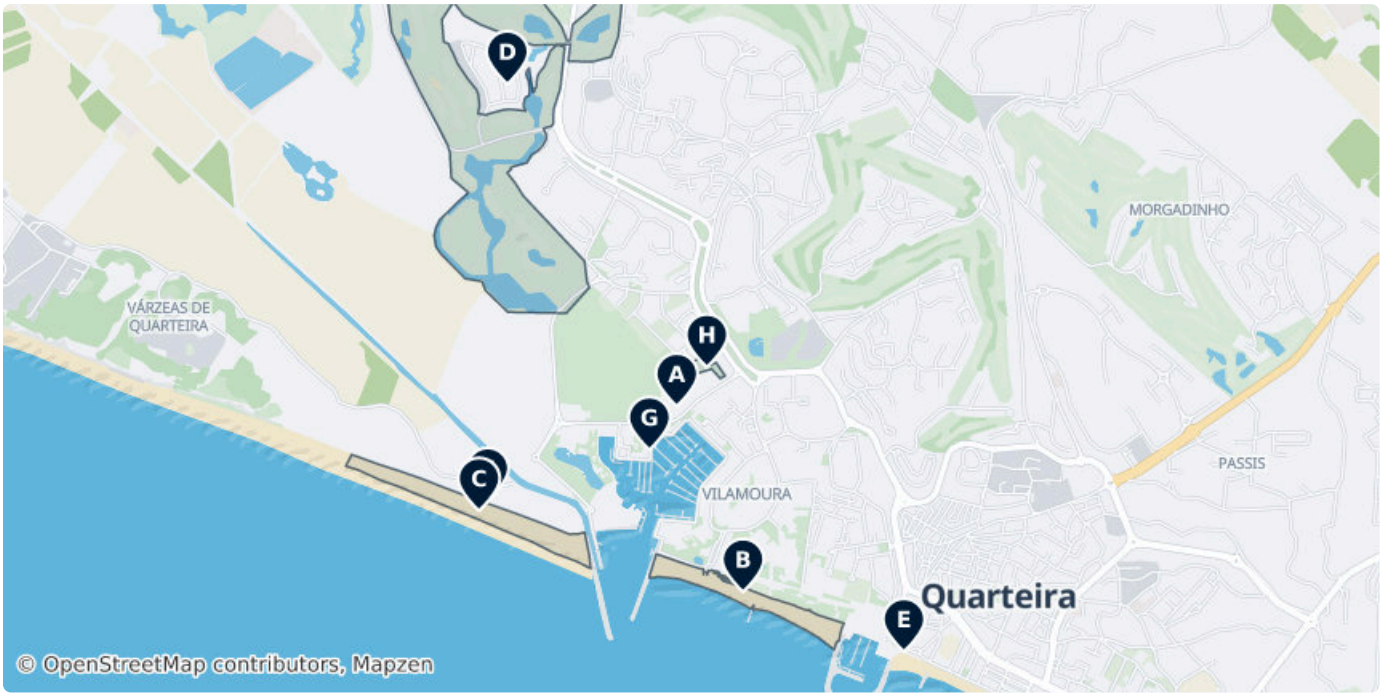
Type C / Type F
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Portuguese

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Vilamoura Essentials

This selection highlights the diverse infrastructure of Vilamoura, from the 1st-century Roman ruins of Cerro da Vila with their preserved mosaics to the 18-hole Dom Pedro Laguna Golf Course. The list covers the red-cliffed Praia da Falésia and the central Praia de Vilamoura. Local food culture is represented by the Mercado do Peixe and marina-side dining at Akvavit, complemented by leisure spots like the NoSoloÁgua beach club and the Roman-themed Family Golf Park.





A Roman ruins of Cerro da Vila

The Roman Ruins of Cerro da Vila are the remnants of a historical villa in the Algarve region of southern Portugal.

Avenida Cerro da Vila, Vilamoura 8125, Portugal (37.07995, -8.12051)



B Praia de Vilamoura

Sandy beach located between the marina and Quarteira, featuring sun loungers and proximity to central resort amenities.

(Unnamed Road), 8125, Portugal (37.07156, -8.11675)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

C Praia da Falésia

Expansive beach characterized by its high, reddish-orange sandstone cliffs and a six-kilometer stretch of sand reaching toward Olhos de Água.

8200, Portugal (37.07522, -8.13172)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

D Dom Pedro Laguna Golf Course

An 18-hole course designed by Joseph Lee, distinguished by its open terrain and numerous water hazards across low-lying coastal land.

8125-507 Vilamoura, PT (37.09451, -8.13011)

dompedrogolf.com/our-courses/lagun... , +351 289 310 333

E Mercado do Peixe

Traditional fish market featuring daily catches from local Atlantic waters and a variety of regional produce.

(37.06885, -8.10762)

F NoSoloÁgua

Waterfront beach club and bar offering lounge seating and music, situated at the entrance of the Vilamoura Marina.

(37.07568, -8.13122)

G Akvavit

Fine-dining restaurant located on the marina's edge, serving a menu of international dishes and Scandinavian-inspired specialties.

Rua Marina de Vilamoura, Vilamoura 8125, Portugal (37.07797, -8.12205)

H Family Golf Park

Minigolf complex featuring two 18-hole courses designed with themes inspired by the history of the Roman Empire.

(37.08171, -8.11880)

DATA SOURCES

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- Akvavit — "Holiday home Can Mateu Pollenca" by booking.com

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