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Population

40 000

Currency

1 Euro = 100 cents

Opening hours

Normally from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, however many shops no longer close for lunch.

Internet

www.visitportugal.com

www.visitalgarve.pt

Newspapers

Região Sul

Jornal do Algarve

Público

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

The tourist office is in

Rua da Misericórdia

Telephone no:

+351 289 803 604

FARO

PUBLISHING DATE: **2012-04-25** | COUNTRY CODE: **PT**

Contents: The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafes, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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Many people say that Faro – the capital of the Algarve – is located on Europe’s most scenic coast, offering beautiful, long sandy beaches that stretch away into a horizon framed by rocks on either side. Faro is a charming old town with cobbled streets and leafy parks. Its location in the centre of the Algarve makes Faro the perfect starting point for round-trips.

THE CITY



© Jerome Bon

Faro's old town is not so old (it was burned down by English troops in 1596, later rebuilt, and then destroyed by the earthquake of 1755), but still beautiful and pedestrian-friendly. Next to the citadel's ring-wall is the small harbour where the newer and livelier town stretches away to the north and east.

The gardens next to the harbour, Jardim Manuel Bivar, are a good starting point. At the upper-end, the city's main shopping area begins – a little network of pedestrian streets with all kind of shops, cafés and restaurants. North from here, you come to some of Faro's famous churches – for example, Igreja do Carmo – or going north-west via the Largo 25 de Abril roundabout, you arrive at the fresh produce market. Going straight to the west, you will eventually reach the slightly uphill Avenida 5 de Outubro, which ends in front of Faro's magnificent Liceu (grammar school). Here you are rewarded with a broad vista of Faro, the wetlands of Ria Formosa and the sea.



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DO & SEE



© Glen Bowman

Museu Municipal

Also called Museu Arqueológico as it contains mainly archaeological finds.

Located in the former Nossa Senhora da Assunção monastery inside the ring-wall, the gardens date from 1540, and with beautiful, two-storey cloisters, form the heart of the museum. Among the most remarkable items is a Roman floor mosaic from the 4th-century with the head of the god Neptune in special detail.

Address: Praça Dom Afonso III

Faro Cathedral

From outside, Faro's cathedral is low and squat, a mixture of Renaissance and Baroque as a result of protracted renovations and additions following the devastation of war and natural catastrophes. The interior is equally mixed but with interesting features, including a large organ from the 18th-century with Chinoiserie decoration.

Address: Largo da Sé

Igreja do Carmo

Of Faro's churches, this Baroque broadside is the most popular, but not so much for its fantastically over-elaborate, gold-leaf laden interior as for its Capela dos Ossos - a "bone chapel" - that was added in 1816, which is entirely decorated with the skeletons of monks.

Address: Largo do Carmo

Parque Natural da Ria Formosa

The Ria Formosa wetlands area was declared a protected natural area in 1987 because its unique conditions as a breeding place for wetland birds being threatened by the expansion of tourism. This way, the entire coast from Faro to Cacela Velha was able to avoid exploitation. A boat trip to one of Faro's islands is one way to visit Ria Formosa.

The Palace and Gardens of Estoi / Roman Remains of Milreu

The Palácio de Estoi, unique in the Algarve, is situated in the town of Estoi, just north of Faro. It is a private palace built in Rococo style during the second half of the 19th-century. This miniature version of the King's palace in Queluz, outside Lisbon, is surrounded by very beautiful gardens that are open to the public. In Milreu – just outside Estoi – are the Algarve's chief Roman remains.

Address: Rua do Jardim, Estoi

EATING



© Kirti Poddar

In Faro, you must eat fish and shellfish. All the oyster and clam breeding of Ria Formosa makes molluscs a good choice. Meat can also be good, but in particular, chicken, lamb and black pig, porco preto.

Ibn Harun

Named after the city's last Moorish emir and situated in Faro's old ring-wall, with a number of cool and inspiring rooms around a large dining-room. The food is not Arabic as one might think, but traditional Portuguese, beautifully served and quite expensive.

Address: Rua do Repouso 1

Phone: +351 289 824 839

Camané

Now a traditional fine restaurant at Praia de Faro, with a veranda overlooking Ria Formosa. Pure, simple dishes made from the finest fresh produce from the sea: cockle soup, fried or grilled fish, rice dishes with fish and shellfish, lobster, fish stews.

Address: Avenida Nascente, Praia de Faro

Phone: +351 289 817 539

Monte do Casal

Ambitious and highly rated restaurant in the boutique hotel of the same name, a short car trip north of Faro (just after Estoi). The Englishman Bill Hawkins has converted a series of old farm buildings into a moderately luxurious, moderately neat and moderately cosy hotel in the countryside. He has put much of his energy and enthusiasm into the

restaurant, boasting an international menu with clearly gourmet aspirations without forgetting the gourmand.

Address: Cerro do Lobo, Estoi
Phone: +351 289 991 503
Internet: www.montedocasal.pt

Mesa dos Mouros

A small, pleasant place in the old citadel, with some tables outside in the square. Good, light shellfish dishes and salads. Also good for aperitifs.

Address: Largo da Sé 10
Phone: +351 289 878 873

Dois Irmãos

Fine, tiled surroundings and a long history as one of Faro's best and most popular fish restaurants. As always, there are also other alternatives on the menu.

Address: Largo Terreiro do bispo 14
Phone: +351 289 823 337

Taska

High proportion of local guests and a simple pub environment. The food is traditional Portuguese, with the emphasis on seafood. Try the classic carne de porco com ameijoas, pork with cockles, or something more unusual like eel or whitebait.

Address: Rua do Alportel 38
Phone: +351 289 824 739

Chalavar

A simple and attractive restaurant which is so successful that they have cleared the sawdust off the floor and washed down the walls. A pity, but the small inner courtyard with its smoking grills still creates an ambience. Select fish, in particular, from the raw produce on display.

Address: Rua Infante Dom Henrique 120
Phone: +351 289 822 455

CAFES



© Glen Bowman

Aliança

Every larger Portuguese town has a large, fine, old café with literary connections. Generally rectangular and generally with wooden panelling on the walls - like this one. The inhabitants of Faro come here to convince themselves that things have not entirely changed with the passing of time, and those from other parts to enjoy going back in time. Open-air café.

Address: Rua Dr Francisco Gomes 26

Pirâmides

Lively café in the small park next to the harbour, with open-air café and all kinds of fancy dishes in addition to the usual selection. A definite meeting place in Faro.

Address: Jardim Manuel Bivar

Gardy

A patisserie (pastelaria) with the cake-eating female clientele in the dark interior, while the tourists flock to the open-air café which stretches around the corner on one of the town centre's pedestrian streets.

Address: Rua de Santo António 16

Cafe do Coreto

A great place for an afternoon snack or a light meal. Cafe do Coreto specializes in home made pizzas, which come to your table hot from the oven.

Address: Jardim Manuel Bivar

BARS & NIGHTLIFE



© Glen Bowman

Faro is a student town and this guarantees an active nightlife. Most of the more serious dancing takes place at large clubs outside the city, mainly to the west towards Quinta do Lago and Vilamoura. But you can start at the bars and clubs in and around Rua do Prior.

Millennium III

Large warehouse-style club with interesting DJ's and live music every so often. Situated in Faro's principal nightlife street.

Address: Rua do Prior 23

Upa Upa

A cool place which starts quite early but continues till late. Good music and open-air café.

Address: Rua Conselheiro Bivar 51

Columbus

Relaxed bar adjacent to the park, with tables in the colonnade facing the park and harbour.

Address: the corner of Rua João Dias
Internet: www.barcolumbus.com

Taberna Da Sé

Comfortable open-air café in the old citadel, young clientele and frequent live music. Closes around midnight.

Address: Largo da Sé 26

T-clube

A favourite with the jet-set. This is a sophisticated place geared mainly to the rich, beautiful and trendy, so dress accordingly. Saturday is "full house" with guests queuing up to get onto the dance floor.

Address: Baganvilla Plaza Shopping
Internet: www.tclube.com

Kadoc

The largest nightclub of all – Kadoc – can accommodate more than 8,000 partygoers and this is where the really big groups play. Iron Maiden's concert is said to have been a classic.

Address: Estrada de Vilamoura, Albufiera
Internet: www.kadoc.pt

SHOPPING



© Eric Wüstenhagen

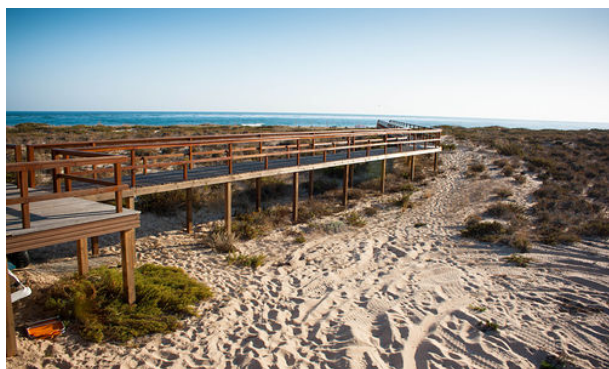
Faro's main shopping area is directly adjacent to Jardim Manuel Bivar. If you take Rua Dr Francisco Gomes, at the top corner you will arrive in central Faro's car-free shopping precinct, with clothes, shoes and other accessories, sports, furnishing and textile shops in an area which stretches for three to four blocks in all directions. The heart is Rua de Santo António, with the Gardy patisserie. In Rua Dr Francisco Gomes, there is the pleasant Café Aliança.

The pedestrian area ends to the north at the Praça Ferreira de Almeida market place. This is where Faro's best wine shop, Garrafeira Rui, is to be found. Its

fragrant range also includes local sausages, cheeses, sweets, etc. If you take Rua do Lethes from here, and on the right beyond the theatre by the same name, go into Rua Dr Justino Cúmano, you will eventually arrive at Faro's large fresh produce market, Mercado Municipal. It is open until quite late and is a perfect place for familiarising yourself with the local fresh produce. Also open on Sundays in the summer.

Forum Algarve is just outside the centre of Faro, on the EN125 in the direction of the airport. This is the town shopping centre, and as such it is very tasteful and pleasant, with a long inner courtyard open to the sky.

SLEEPING



© Alexander Savin

Casa De Estoi

A hundred-year-old house in the town of Estoi, just north of Faro, which has been converted into a small hotel that is a good value for the money and has a lot of character. Also, there is a swimming pool in the small courtyard behind the house.

Address: Rua de Faro 80, Estoi
Phone: +351 289 990 130
Internet: www.casadeestoi.com

Residencial Algarve

Clean, neat and a bit sterile, but good value in central Faro. All rooms have own bathroom and TV. Breakfast in the small courtyard is included.

Address: Rua Infante Dom Henrique 52
Phone: +351 289 895 700
Internet: www.residencialalgarve.com

Hotel Faro

Faro's most modern hotel, cleaner than the adjacent competition provided by Hotel Eva without losing out in terms of design. Very central. 60 rooms, restaurant, bar and terrace with view of the city and Ria Formosa.

Address: Praça Dr. Francisco Gomes 2
Phone: +351 289 830 830
Internet: www.hotelfaro.pt

Monte do Casal

Located slightly to the north of Faro, just after the town of Estoi, but worth the trip. The Englishman Bill Hawkins has converted a series of old farm buildings into a moderately luxurious, neat and cosy hotel in the countryside. Features a pool, gardens and bar as well as an ambitious and highly rated restaurant.

Address: Cerro do Lobo, Estoi
Phone: +351 289 991 503
Internet: www.montedocasal.pt

Hotel Eva

This well established comfortable 4 Star Hotel is extremely well located in the very heart of the city of Faro in the Algarve and is only 10 kilometres from the international Faro Airport.

Address: Avenida da Republica 1
Phone: +351 282 423770

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



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<http://www.forex.se/sv/Om-FOREX/Bankbutiker/>

Airport

Faro's international airport is located six kilometres to the west of the city, right by the sea. Buses 14 and 16 depart regularly for Faro centre - a ticket costs €1.65 and the trip takes approximately 20 minutes. A taxi takes just under fifteen minutes and costs around €12 (more at night time and during the holidays and if you have a lot of luggage).

Public Transport

Faro's train station connects the city with the rest of the Algarve and Portugal. There is also a well-developed bus network, usually more efficient, for trips in the region. In Faro itself, it is best to walk.

Taxi

For longer trips it is better to negotiate the price in advance as the driver has the right to various surcharges for returning empty if the taxi meter is used. Tips are not obligatory but appreciated, even if small.

Radio Taxis

Phone: +351 289 895 790

Post

Faro's main post office is in Largo do Carmo and is open from Monday to Friday.

Pharmacy

Each district of the town always has one pharmacy open 24-hours (farmácia, with a green cross) in accordance with a schedule displayed in the window of closed pharmacies. Otherwise, opening hours are from 9am to 1pm and from 3pm to 7pm.

Dentist

The national dental service is not particularly expensive but not of the highest quality. A private dentist in Faro is Dr Ana Medinas Clínica Dentária.

Address: Avenida 5 de Outubro 25, 2F

Phone: +351 289 828 266

Telephone

National code: +351

Area code: 289

Electricity

220 volt/50Hz





Avenida Calouste Gulbenkian	A1 B2 C2	Rua da Angola Rua da Atalaia	B1 A2	Rua Eca de Queiros Rua Engenheiro Joaquim Lopes Belchior	C3 B4 C4
Avenida Cinco de Outubro	B3 C3	Rua da Boavista	A2 B2	Rua Filipe Alistao	A3 B3
Avenida da Republica	A3	Rua da Madalena	A3	Rua Frederico Lecor	A2 B2
Avenida Doutor Julio Almeida Carrapato	C2 C3	Rua da Moagem	A2 A3	Rua General Humberto Delgado	C3
Estrada da Penha	C2	Rua Das Olarias	B2	Rua Gil de Caneiro	B1
Estrada da Senhora Da Saude	A1 A2	Rua de Berlim	C3 D3	Rua Gil Eanes	A3
Estrada de Penha	C1 C2	Rua de Mocambique	A1 B1	Rua Horta Machado	B3
Estrada de Sao Luis	C2 D2	Rua de Santo Antonio	B3	Rua Infante Dom Henrique	A2 A3
Horta Das Figuras	A1	Rua de Sao Luis	B2	Rua Jaime Piras	D3
Jardim Manuel Bivar	A3	Rua de Sao Pedro	A3	Rua Joao de Deus	B3
Largo da Sé	A3	Rua do Alportel	B1 B2 B3	Rua Jornal Folha do Domingo	C1 C2
Largo de Sao Francisco	B4	Rua do Bocage	B3	Rua Jose Esteveao	A3 B3
Praca da Paz	B2	Rua do Bom Joao	C3	Rua Lejana de Cima	B1
Rua Aboim Ascencao	A2 B2	Rua do Compromisso	A3 B3	Rua Luis de Camoes	A2
Rua Antero de Quental	C3	Rua do Misericordia	A3 B3	Rua Luis de Sousa	B3
Rua Antonio Enes	C3 D3	Rua do Prior	A3	Rua Manuel Ascencao	A2
Rua Ataide de Oliveira	C2 C3	Rua do Rasquinho	A3 B4	Rua Miguel Bombarda	A2
Rua Batista Lopes	B3	Rua do Reitor Teixeira Guedes	C2 D2	Rua Moinho da Palmeira	D3
Rua Bernardo Passos	B3	Rua do Sporting Club Farense	B2 C2	Rua Nova	B3
Rua Brito Cabreira	B2 B3	Rua Dom Frei Joao de Faro	B2	Rua Nova do Castelo	A4 B4
Rua Caldas Xavier	C3	Rua Dom Jeronimo Osorio	C2 C3	Rua Pe da Cruz	B3
Rua Castilho	B3	Rua Doutor Candido Guerreiro	B3 C3	Rua Pintor Artur Costa	C2
Rua Cesar Pola	B2	Rua Doutor Joaquim da Rocha Peixoto Magalhaes	D3	Rua Pintor Carlos Porfirio	C3 C4
Rua Comandante Jose Nunes da Cruz	C2 D2	Rua Doutor Jose de Matos	C3 D3	Rua Serpa Pinto	A2 A3
Rua Conego Carlos Patricio	D3	Rua Doutor Jose Filipe Alvares	C1	Rua Teofilo Trindade	B2
Rua Conselheiro Sebastiao Teles	A2 A3	Rua Doutor Justino Cumano	B3	Rua Teresa Ramalho Ortigao	B3
Rua Coronel Antonio Santos Fonseca	A2 B2	Rua Doutor Rodrigues Davim	A2 B2		