

# Villascapes Top 10 Family Days Out in the Algarve

Here are our suggestions for some enjoyable days out in the Algarve.

## 1. Beach hopping:

Obviously a visit to the Algarve is not complete without visiting the wonderful clean sandy beaches all along the coast, from large open stretches to rugged coves. Portugal always features in the 'Best European beach' guides and almost all beaches offer a range of facilities and water sports for all the family to enjoy.

Staying in the Vale do Lobo area, you will enjoy the long sandy stretch from Vilamoura to Faro, including Vale do Lobo, Ancao, Garrao and Quinta do Lago.



Also worth a look are Salema and Sagres in the western Algarve, Praia da Rocha, Meia Praia, Gale, Falesia and Praia da Marinha (near Lagoa), in the central Algarve, and Ilha de Tavira in the east. Check out our Beach Guide.

**Our Note:** Also having visited this recently, don't forget to include a trip to the wonderful Ponta da Piedade near Lagos. There are amazing rock formations and boat trips to enjoy around the grottoes and caves here.



## 2. Explore the Ria Formosa Natural Park

This nationally protected 60 km area of several barrier islands stretching along the Algarve coast between Faro and Tavira is rich in wildlife and a stop-over point for birds migrating between Europe and Africa. Enjoy nature trails through pine woods, dunes and past the Roman salting tanks, to the tidal mill, one of only a few remaining in Portugal.

Start at the Ria Formosa Environmental Education Centre of Quinta Marim near Olhao (east of Olhao on the EN125, near the Olhao campsite). Picnic sites and café.

**Our Note:** The Ria Formosa stretches along to Quinta do Lago so can be enjoyed when staying in our villas here.



### 3. Zoomarine

Located in Guia, near Albufeira, this is one of the most popular attractions in the Algarve. It is a large marine activity park with various aquatic shows featuring dolphins, seals and sea lions. It is also one of the few places, if not the only place in Europe, where you can **swim with dolphins**. As well as being entertaining, the park focuses on environmental education in its 4D cinema, and has a well-reputed rehabilitation centre for marine life. There are also playgrounds, swimming pools, a sandy beach with slides & a wave pool, and other amusements for children.

**Location:** Estrada Nacional 125, Km 65, 8201-864 Guia,  
**Tel:** 00 351 289 560300



### 4. Fiesa Sand Sculpture Festival

FIESA is considered one of the greatest sand sculpture festivals in the world. Held annually in the Algarve since 2003, 40,000 tons of sand are transformed into towering sculptures relating to a specific theme. This amazing work is carried out by a group of talented sculptors and experts in the art of sand sculpting who come from different parts of the world to take part. FIESA is always hugely popular and great fun (I should know, I've been!). The sculptures are lit up at night, with lovely lighting effects and occasional live music. The photos opposite relate to FIESA Music II 2014.

**Location:** on E524 road, between Pera and Algoz.  
**Entrance fee:** €9 for adults, children half price, under 6 free

For more information see [www.fiesa.org](http://www.fiesa.org)



### 5. Waterparks

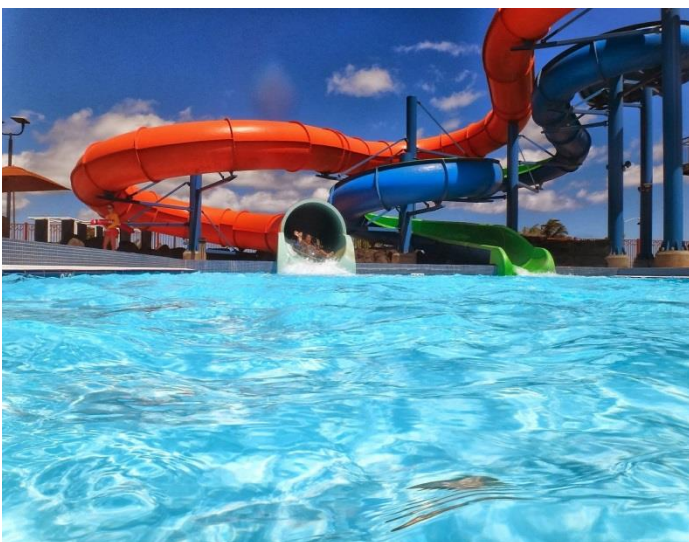
Enjoy a day in the sunshine and pools at one of these 3 waterparks located along the Algarve.

**Slide & Splash** at Lagoa, with slides, pools & rides plus live falconry, reptile & tropical bird shows.

**Aqualand**, at Alcantarilha, with its high slides, a river rapid run & surf beach area with wave pool.

**Aquashow** at Quarteira, with the biggest wave pool in Portugal and the unique 'White Fall', not for the faint hearted!

A good day out with lots of facilities to keep the whole family amused.



## 6. Boat Trips

There are various boat trips to be enjoyed in the Algarve, along the coast, in and around the caves and grottes of the western Algarve, dolphin watching, or perhaps take a ferry from Faro to the islands just across the Ria Formosa.

Of interest to those with young would be 'pirates' in their family, is the chance to sail on a Pirate Ship out of Vilamoura!

With these tours, you get a chance to see the coast and some amazing caves and rock formations, enjoy some swimming and maybe even a barbecue lunch on a deserted beach!

**Main Embarkation points: Vilamoura, Albufeira, Lagos**



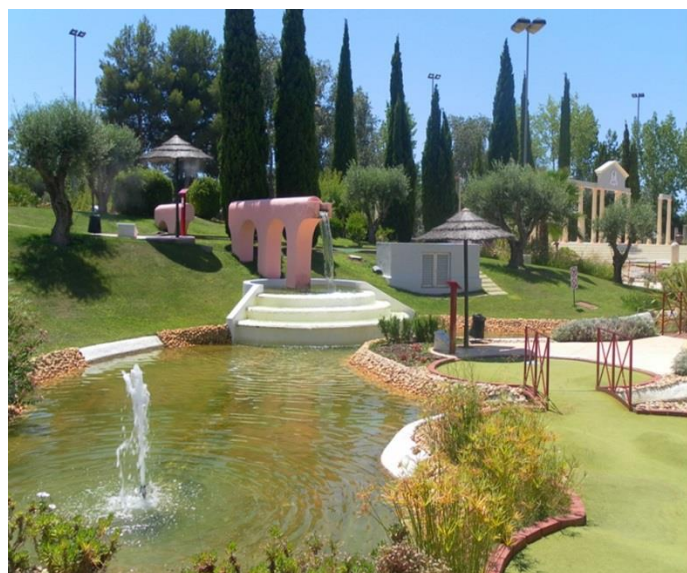
## 7. Family Golf Park

This Family Golf Park is a great leisure and entertainment area, for families, friends and golfers alike. There are two 18-hole mini-golf courses, called Appia Via and Via Lusitania, well laid out in lovely surroundings with lakes, arches & columns all based on an Ancient Rome theme. You can also relax on the terrace with a drink and some food from the snack bar while your children enjoy themselves in the play area, or in the games room. Also on option is a tour of the Vilamoura resort, marina, and beach on the tourist train, which is great for getting an overview of this popular area.

**Location:** Rua dos Marmeleiros, Vilamoura

**Tel:** 00 351 289 300800

**More Info:** <http://familygolfpark.pt/en/>



## 8. Guided Cycling Tours

Enjoy the chance to get off the main roads and explore some of the hidden sights of the Algarve with a half day guided cycling tour.

Whether it's exploring the hills and villages inland, or taking a more gentle tour along the Ria Formosa, there are tours for all levels.

**Operator:** Activity Algarve/Algarve Bike Tours

**Tel:** 00351 913 226 954

**More info:** <http://www.activityalgarve.com>





### 9. Algarve Quad Bike Tours.

If you like the idea of something a little adventurous, then enjoy picturesque landscapes and panoramic views from your quad bike, as you are guided through the Algarve countryside and villages.

Suitable for all the family from the age of 8 upwards, no quad bike experience is necessary.

Tel: 00 351 962 497037 (mobile)

More info: <http://www.quad-ventura.com/>

### 10. A Car Tour & Visit to the historic town of Silves

Take in the picturesque typical Portuguese villages of Alte and Paderne, and then head to the **historic ancient town of Silves**, once known as the Algarve's capital in the time of the Moors. The castle, located on a hillside in the centre of town, is an impressive reminder of Portugal's past, and children will enjoy climbing the towers and playing in the gardens.

Just under the castle, enjoy a snack or a meal at the lovely Café Ingles with its wonderful shady terrace and occasional live music.



These are just a few ideas for your stay. There are of course many other sporting and leisure activities to enjoy throughout the Algarve. You might want to play some golf or tennis, or spend some time diving, surfing or sailing, or perhaps even try out some karting in Almancil.

What is always nice is the very good chance of experiencing the glorious Algarve sunshine, all 300 annual days of it!

For holiday accommodation, check out our villas & apartments in the Golden Triangle of resorts of Vale do Lobo, Dunas Douradas and Quinta do Lago, on our website [www.villascapes.com](http://www.villascapes.com)

or give us a call on 020 8579 2854