

Hotels in the Algarve by the sea with swimming pool



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By Floriane

Are you planning a **road trip to the Algarve** and looking for an easy-going place to stay? Here, we share with you the **best hotels (and nuggets)** we found and tested during our stay, with one non-negotiable criterion in the region: **the swimming pool**.

How do you choose where to sleep in the Algarve (without spending hours)?

- **Lagos**: perfect as a western base (cliffs, caves, incredible beaches).
- **Alvor**: beach spot + nature, less concreted seafront.
- **Olhão**: excellent for the **Ria Formosa** and the islands (local atmosphere).
- **Armação de Pêra**: convenient to **Benagil** + great beaches.

□ Distances are short in the Algarve, so if you want to opt for **2 accommodations** so you don't change spots every night, we recommend the villages of Alvor and Olhao, which are perfectly located for radiating.

□ Why do we insist on the pool?

Even in midsummer, **the ocean remains cool** (often around **18°C**). After a day at the beach, being able to swim in more temperate water... it changes everything.

It's also a good idea to opt for a hotel with parking, as there isn't always free parking close to fishing villages like Lagos and Armação de Pêra.

[Read our article on our 10-day itinerary + 7-day versions in the Algarve.](#)

Lagos: 2 sure values (well placed)

Lagos is a small, authentic fishing village and the starting point for a visit to the **rock formations of Ponta de Piedade** .

Recommended number of nights: 2

1) Top City Hostel & Suites: the “low budget + pool” option

An excellent plan if you want to **do everything on foot** (center / port / beaches) without blowing your budget.

□ Why we recommend it

- Very good value for money
- **Rooftop pool** (a big plus in Lagos)
- Convenient location (historical center within walking distance)

Ideal for: tight budgets, short stays, wanting to be in the heart of Lagos.

[Info and booking for a double room or a dormitory bed at Top City Hostel & Suites](#) – Rated 8.8/10 on Booking

2) Carvi Beach Hotel: mid-range view + comfort

The simple and effective option if you want to sleep **above Praia Dona Ana** and enjoy the nearby spots.

□ The big highlights

- **Rooftop pool** with sea view
- **Parking** (rare and precious in the area)
- Top access to beaches and Ponta da Piedade
- Double + family rooms

Ideal for: couples, families, car travelers who want a good balance.

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[See prices for Carvi Beach Hotel](#)

Alvor: the “feet in the water” spot (real beach break)

Alvor was **one of the most pleasant surprises of our stay**. We didn't really expect to find such a large stretch of fine sand (not too concrete) in this part of the Algarve.

Recommended number of nights: 2

Pestana Alvor South Beach: comfort + 3 pools + direct beach

access: superior range

It's a bit of a **splurge** for us, but within a reasonable budget, as accommodation is pretty cheap in the Algarve.

□ **Why we loved it:**

- **Direct access to Alvor beach**
- **3 swimming pools** (yes, we tested them all with our daughter)
- Modern, bright, pleasant
- Super location: close to Alvor + sea view

[Booking information for the hotel Pestana Alvor South Beach](#) – Rated 8.5/10 on Booking

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Olhão: our base on the Ria Formosa (quiet & convenient)

Hotel Cidade de Olhão: pool + breakfast + good location - mid-range

Olhao is our favorite village of the trip, an authentic village at the gateway to the Ria Formosa Natural Park.

Recommended number of nights: 3

☐ We liked:

- Swimming pool (a real break after the islands)
- **Breakfast included**
- Conveniently located for port/ferry/excursions

☐ **Ideal for:** Ria Formosa, islands (Armona / Culatra / Farol), more local atmosphere than elsewhere.

[Information and booking for Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#) from €80 per night - rated 8.7/10 on Booking

Armação de Pêra: “Practical + Benagil” plan

Algar Papa Rooms: nugget with pool + parking + sea view

An excellent base if you want to get **as close as possible to the Benagil grotto**.

Recommended number of nights: 2

□ Why we loved it:

- **Swimming pool**
- **On-site parking** (important: few free spaces in the village)
- Sea view + beach access
- Excellent value for money

[See prices for Algar Papa Rooms](#) from €60 per night - rated 9.5 / 10 on Booking

Our 10-day Algarve itinerary, short version

Day 1: arrival Faro airport → Lagos: hotel [Top City Hostel & Suites](#) (Lagos)

Day 2: Ponta da Piedade (walking + boat): hotel [Top City Hostel & Suites](#) (Lagos)

Day 3: Lagos + beaches : [Our hotel Pestana Alvor South Beach](#) (Alvor)

Day 4: Alvor (beaches + Três Irmãos + footbridges) : [Our hotel Pestana Alvor South Beach](#) (Alvor)

Day 5: Armação de Pêra (beaches + Lagoa dos Salgados): [Hotel Algar Papa Rooms](#) (Armação de Pera)

Day 6: Benagil + 7 Hanging Valleys hike: [Hotel Algar Papa Rooms](#) (Armação de Pera)

Day 7: Albufeira and red cliffs beach: [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#)

Day 8: Ria Formosa (cruise): [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#)

Day 9: Ria Formosa (island by ferry): [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#)

Day 10: Olhão (center + markets) → Faro airport

Our 7-day Algarve itinerary - short version

Day 1: Arrival Faro airport → Lagos [Hotel: Top City Hostel & Suites](#)

Day 2: Lagos + beaches: [Hotel Top City Hostel & Suites](#)

Day 3: Ponta da Piedade (walking + boat) : [hotel Top City Hostel & Suites](#)

Day 4: Benagil + 7 Hanging Valleys hike : [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#)

Day 5: Ria Formosa (cruise) : [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#)

Day 6: Ria Formosa (island by ferry) : [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#)

Day 7: Olhão (center + markets) → Faro airport

Our hotels in Algarve on our map

Feel free to leave us a **note** below to let us know if you are planning this trip, **ask** any questions or **share** on social networks([our Instagram](#)) we will answer you with great pleasure!

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- [Itinerary for your Algarve road trip?](#)
- [Car rental in Faro in the Algarve: our tips and advice](#)
- [Our best restaurants in the Algarve](#)
- Visit the villages of [Lagos](#), [Alvor](#), [Albufeira](#) and [Olhao](#)
- [Visit the must-see Benagil cave](#)
- [How to visit the cliffs of Ponta da Piedade?](#) by boat and on foot
- [What to do in Portugal's Ria Formosa natural park](#) and islands?

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