

How to visit the Ponta da Piedade cliffs: by boat and on foot



## How to visit the Ponta da Piedade cliffs: by boat and on foot

By Floriane

Wondering **how to see the famous Ponta da Piedade cliffs in the Algarve?**  
**Which boat trip should you choose?**

You've clearly come to the right place. During our stay in Lagos, we took the time to discover **Ponta da Piedade**, one of the most impressive natural sites in the whole region.

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In this article we give you all **our tips and tricks** for exploring this incredible site.

### **Key facts : Ponta de Piedade caves**

#### **Where is Ponta da Piedade?**

To the west of Lagos, just a few minutes from the city center.

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#### **Must-see**

- ☐ Limestone cliffs sculpted by the ocean
  - ☐ [Sea caves accessible from the sea](#)
  - ☐ Coastal path with spectacular views
  - ☐ One of the Algarve's most beautiful sunsets
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#### **Our centrally located hotel**

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☐ ☐ [Information and reservation for the hotel Algar Papa Rooms](#) with pool and oceanfront parking

## Where can you find the Ponta da Piedade rock formations?

The **Ponta da Piedade** formations are located a 30-minute walk south of Lagos town center in Portugal's Algarve region.

## How to discover the cliffs and caves of Ponta da Piedade?

Ponta da Piedade is a group of **limestone cliffs shaped by the sea** over the centuries. Erosion has carved the rock, forming **natural arches, sea caves, rock pillars and small coves** nestling at the foot of the cliffs.

The color of the rock varies with the light, from ochre to golden, sometimes almost orange at the end of the day. The contrast with the intense blue of the ocean below is striking.

☐ Clearly, this is one of the places where you can see why the Algarve is so famous.

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## Explore the cliffs of Ponta da Piedade by boat

△ Please note: we asked ourselves this question before our stay, but unfortunately **swimming access is forbidden and dangerous**, due to strong currents and sea traffic.

For us, **the best way to discover the Ponta da Piedade caves is from the sea**. By boat, you'll skirt the cliffs at water's edge and enter several **sea caves accessible only from the ocean**.

♥ If there's only one boat trip you need to take during your stay, it's with [Happy Time](#).

We chose a **small motorboat excursion from Lagos**, with a **French-speaking guide**, booked via GetYourGuide. [GetYourGuide](#) (*Big advantage: you can change or cancel your booking up to the day before, which is always reassuring,*

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*depending on the weather.*

□ During the trip, the boat passed between the rock formations, as well as under some natural arches, and got as close as possible to the caves. The guide explained the formation of the cliffs, showed us the amazingly shaped rocks (elephant, cathedral...) and shared a few anecdotes about the site.

In a nutshell,

- □ **Departure directly from Lagos**
- □ **Small group** (maximum 10 people)
- □□ **English-speaking guide**

Remember to book in advance, especially during school vacations.

□ [Info and booking for this excursion departing from Lagos](#)

□ **If this excursion is fully booked**, which can happen in high summer, you can also take this [boat tour](#), which offers almost the same experience.

## Discover Ponta da Piedade on foot along the coastal path

A second option, equally recommended if you have the time, is to explore **Ponta da Piedade on foot**.

It's very easy to get there, and we advise you to do so from Lagos town center (as there's very little parking space), by taking the **path that starts in the vicinity of the fort**, on the seafront (allow 30 minutes on foot). Right from the start, the path skirts the cliffs, offering **superb views of the coves and rock formations** below.

The trail leads gradually **up to the Ponta da Piedade lighthouse**, via a succession of natural lookouts. Staircases lead down into the cove for closer observation of the formations. Some points offer plunging views of the arches and caves, with the ocean hitting the rock below.

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Along the way, you'll also come across **several staircases carved into the rock**, leading down to lower platforms. Some of the descents may be closed depending on the season or site conditions, but they give a good idea of the verticality of the cliffs.

From the lighthouse, it's then possible to take **a more direct route back to downtown Lagos**, making for a pleasant loop without repeating the exact same route.

☐ **To be done in the cool**, ideally in the morning, and **allow the morning** to fully enjoy the trail, take photo breaks and take time to admire the scenery.

☐ We also recommend going at **sunset**, when the **golden lights illuminate the rocks**. The atmosphere is truly magical.

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## **Boat, kayak or trail: which to choose?**

### ▣ **By boat** ▣

The best option for seeing the caves from the inside and skirting the cliffs at water's edge.

▣ [\*Info and booking for a small boat cruise from Lagos\*](#)

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### □ **By kayak** □

A great experience, but best reserved for days with calm seas and if you're comfortable on the water.

□ [Info and booking for a kayak trip to the caves](#)

### □ **On foot** □

Perfect for panoramas, photos and sunsets.

□ **Our tip:** combine **boat + trail** to get both views.

## When should you visit the Ponta da Piedade cliffs?

- □ **Early morning:** fewer people, soft light
- □ **End of the day:** ideal for sunset
- \* **In summer:** busy, but not to be missed

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## How to get to Ponta da Piedade

- ☐ On foot from the center of Lagos (approx. 30 minutes)
- ☐ If you've [rented a car \(parking nearby link here\)](#), quickly full in summer). We advise you to leave your car at the hotel and then come on foot)
- ☐ By bike, except in hot weather

## Where to stay in Lagos to get closer to the Ponta da Piedade viewpoint?

### ☐ **Top City Hostel & Suites - budget option**

[Top City Hostel & Suites](#) is a great **low-budget** alternative in Lagos. It's just **a few minutes' walk from the historic center**, with easy access to nearby beaches and the port.

- ✓ **Very good value**
- ✓ **Rooftop pool** with sea view
- ✓ **Ideal location** to do everything on foot

☐ Rated 8.8/10 on Booking

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☐ [Info and booking for a double room or dormitory bed at \*\*Top City Hostel & Suites\*\*](#)

☐ **Carvi Beach Hote - mid-range**

The [Carvi Beach Hotel](#) is an **excellent option**, ideally located **just above Praia Dona Ana**, with quick access to beaches and coastal paths.

- ✓ **Rooftop pool with ocean views**
- ✓ **On-site parking**, a real plus in the area ☐
- ✓ **Quick access to beaches and Ponta da Piedade** ☐
- ✓ **Comfortable, well-equipped double and family rooms**

☐ [Information and booking for Carvi Beach hotel](#)

## Our opinion on the Ponta da Piedade caves

Ponta da Piedade is clearly one of **the Algarve's most beautiful natural sites**. The landscapes are spectacular, accessible and offer totally different atmospheres depending on whether you discover them from the sea or from the cliffs.

We recommend spending **at least half a day** there, and even more if you like walking, photography and taking the time to observe.

We then headed for the town of **Olhão** (further east) to explore the Ria Formosa nature park and [the island of Armona](#), before ending our road trip in the village of [Armação de Pera](#).

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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0 avis (0/5)

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