



What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

By Floriane

Wondering **what to do in Albufeira** on an Algarve road trip? Albufeira is the Algarve's main seaside resort, but in reality the town has **many facets**, from its historic center to its clifftop beaches and lively marina.

Above all, **Albufeira is an excellent starting point for a boat trip to visit the Benagil cave**, one of the most impressive natural sites in southern Portugal. That's why we chose to stop here.

In this article, we share **our experience of Albufeira**, what we liked (and didn't like), **what to do in a day**, our **practical tips**, and why this town works so well as a base for exploring **the central Algarve**.

Key facts about Albufeira

- ☐ **Location:** south coast of Portugal, in the heart of the Algarve
- ☐ **Time from Faro:** about 40 minutes
- ☐ **Recommended duration:** 1 day (or 2 nights if exploring the caves)
- ☐ **Ideal for:** going out, beaches, boat trips, Benagil cave

Boat trip to Benagil cave + dolphins

If there's **one must-do activity in Albufeira**, it's **a boat trip along the coast in search of dolphins** to the famous **Benagil cave**.

We recommend this excursion, which departs from Albufeira marina for a sea outing. As soon as you leave the port, you'll understand why this coast is so famous:

- sea caves sculpted by the ocean,
- natural arches,
- steep, ochre-coloured cliffs.

♥ The highlight of this tour, of course, is arriving at the **Grotte de Benagil**. Seen from the sea, the circular opening at the top of the cave is even more impressive. The light coming in, the contrast between the rock and the turquoise water... even if

What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

the site is very busy, it's still **spectacular**. And if you want to see the dolphins, of which there are many in this region (so you can see them without another boat around), it' **s an ideal outing with children**.

□ We really advise you to **book in advance**, especially in high season :

[Book a 2.5-hour boat trip to observe dolphins and geological formations.](#)

Discover Albufeira's historic center

We recommend you start your morning by exploring **Albufeira's historic center**, perched high above the ocean. Here, the atmosphere is immediately different from that of the more modern districts: **cobbled streets, white houses, narrow staircases** and small belvederes with sea views.

We go for a walk without a precise itinerary, taking the time to :

- along the sloping streets,
- stop for a coffee in a shady square,
- admire the coastal views.

What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

Albufeira's beaches

Albufeira has **several beaches within walking distance** of the center, which is really handy when you've only got a day. The beaches are large and beautiful, but the ocean water is always cool, even in midsummer.

Praia dos Pescadores: convenient and central

This is the "easiest" beach: at the foot of the old town, large, lively and very accessible. Perfect for a break, even if, of course, it's the busiest beach.

Praia do Túnel (Praia do Peneco)

It's right next door, separated by a rock, and has a special charm: you can get to it via **a tunnel dug into the cliff** from the center of Albufeira, which immediately gives it a "hidden beach" feel, even though it's still very central. It's a very popular beach, however, and accessible by lift for families or people with reduced mobility.

Praia da Falésia: our favorite

If you've rented a car, **Praia da Falésia** is well worth a visit. It's located towards **Olhos de Água**, about 20 minutes by car from the starting point, and this 6km-long beach is famous for its **red cliffs** and immense beach.

There's a **cliff-top path** with incredible views of the ocean and coastline.

☐ **Sunrise or sunset.** The cliffs take on an orange/red hue, the light is crazy, and the ocean has this deep blue that feels almost unreal.

Here's a 6km round-trip [hiking itinerary](#) to admire the cliffs from above.

Albufeira, the “Las Vegas” version: The Strip street

It's impossible to talk about Albufeira without mentioning **The Strip**. It's the best-known street/area for partying, with an atmosphere clearly reminiscent of cities like **Las Vegas** or **Cancún**: neon lights, bars, nightclubs, touts, XXL menus, music blasting from everywhere.

If you're looking for a night out, this is the place for you. If you're looking for a quieter atmosphere, we'd advise you to avoid this area.

What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

Stroll around Albufeira marina

When you return from your excursion, we recommend a late-night drink at the **Albufeira marina**. It's a totally different atmosphere from the historic center: here, everything is more modern, more colorful, almost Californian.

How to get to Albufeira

- ☐ **From Faro:** about 40 minutes' drive
- ☐ **From Lagos:** about 1h

Rent a car in the Algarve

The car is clearly **the best way** to explore the Algarve. Roads are in good condition, and Albufeira is well situated for trips to **Benagil, Armação de Pêra or Lagos**.

Renting a car from Faro airport is easy and often very affordable, especially outside the high season. It's clearly the ideal option for an Algarve road trip, at your own pace and without having to rely on public transport.

☐ To compare offers and find the best value for money, after testing several, today we use [the DiscoverCars comparator](#), reliable, clear and easy to use.

☐ Another point not to be overlooked: comprehensive insurance offered via DiscoverCars is generally much cheaper than that offered directly at the rental company's counter, while offering more comprehensive coverage. A real gain in peace of mind, and above all a good way to avoid unpleasant surprises when collecting or returning the car.

[☐ Compare offers on DiscoverCars](#)

How long to stay in Albufeira

As always, this is not a simple question to answer.

☐ In our opinion, **1 day is enough** for :

- discover the historic center,
- enjoy the beaches,
- take a boat trip to the Benagil cave.

For the night, we prefer the more typical villages [of Armação de Pera](#) and [Olhão](#):

In Armação de Pera, we recommend [Algar Papa Rooms](#), a little nugget with swimming pool + parking + sea view.

Olhao: our reco [Hotel Cidade de Olhão](#) with pool + breakfast + good location

☐ We recommend renting a hotel with a pool, as the water temperature is cool even in summer, you can check ocean temperatures in real time on the [IPMA website](#).

Our opinion of Albufeira

Albufeira is clearly not our favorite village in the Algarve, but **it fulfills its role perfectly**. We liked :

- its **historic center more charming than expected**,
- **easily accessible beaches**,
- and above all its **ideal position for visiting the Benagil cave**.

It's also **an easy destination for families**, as the beaches are close to the historic center and the main beach is accessible by elevator, so it's practical with a stroller and a heavy load.

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!

Before you leave, **find all our articles to help you organize your trip:**

- [☐ Where to sleep in the Algarve? our best addresses](#)
- [☐ Itinerary for your Algarve road trip?](#)

What to do in Albufeira? Beaches and boat trips

- [☐ Car rental in Faro in the Algarve: our tips and advice](#)
- Visit the villages of [Lagos](#), [Armação de Pêra](#), [Alvor](#), Albufeira and [Olhão](#)
- [☐ Visit the must-see Benagil cave](#)
- [☐ How to visit the cliffs of Ponta da Piedade?](#) by boat and on foot

Donnez une note à cet article :
0 avis (0/5)

Merci de partager notre article :

- [Share on X \(Opens in new window\) X](#)
- [Share on Facebook \(Opens in new window\) Facebook](#)
- [Share on Pinterest \(Opens in new window\) Pinterest](#)
- [Share on WhatsApp \(Opens in new window\) WhatsApp](#)
- [More](#)