

What to do in the village of Armação de Pêra in Portugal? Our must-sees



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By Floriane

Wondering **what to do in Armação de Pêra in the Algarve**? You've come to the right place. During our stay in southern Portugal, we stopped off at **Armação de Pêra**, a village known for its large beach and lively seafront in summer.

In this article, we share with you **our feelings**, what we liked, what we didn't like, and above all **our practical advice** on whether Armação de Pêra deserves a stopover during your trip to the Algarve.

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Key facts : Armação de Pêra

Where to find Armação de Pêra ?

In the Algarve, southern Portugal, 45 minutes from Faro.

Must-see

- The great beaches
- The cliffs and rock formations to the west
- Boat trip to the must-see Benagil cave (with [Onda Boat Trip](#))
- The protected natural area

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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

What to do in Armação de Pêra, Portugal

We chose **Armação de Pêra** as our base because of its **summer atmosphere**, its **beautiful, immense beaches**, and because it's one of the **best places to discover the famous Benagil caves**.

The great beaches of Armação de Pêra

Armação de Pêra boasts **almost all the iconic landscapes of the Algarve**: a large urban beach, wild beaches bordered by dunes and marshes, and spectacular rock formations on the west side.

Beaches:

- The **Praia de Armação de Pêra** is directly adjacent to the village. It's a huge beach, very easy to get to.
- If you're looking for a more natural ambience, we clearly recommend walking eastwards towards **Praia dos Salgados** and **Praia Grande de Pêra**. These two beaches run alongside the **Lagoa dos Salgados** nature reserve. They are wilder, quieter and offer a real sense of space. The big advantage is that they are **easily accessible from the village via a footbridge** that runs alongside the dunes and marshes. A very pleasant walk, with nature on one side and the ocean on the other.

We advise you to stay in a hotel with a swimming pool, as the ocean water is around 18 degrees even in midsummer.

Rock formations:

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To the west of the village, the landscape changes again. The **first rock formations** on the coast can be seen here. They're the **picture postcard of the Algarve**. We took a little path that allows us to observe them **from the top of the cliffs**, offering **lovely views of the ocean** and **coves in incredible shades of blue**. Of course, we took plenty of photos along the way.

These rock formations create **small coves**, almost deserted even in midsummer, where you can enjoy a more intimate atmosphere.

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Explore the coast and the Benagil cave by boat

It's **the closest village to the [Benagil cave](#)** (a must-see in the Algarve), just **ten kilometers** away. Clearly, this makes it an **excellent starting point** for discovering this emblematic Algarve site, without spending hours in transport.

□ **Why is the Benagil cave so well known?** The limestone rock of the coastline has been shaped by the sea over time, hollowed out and nibbled away by erosion until it forms a **vast cave**. The ceiling has partially collapsed. This has revealed a **large circular hole**, called an *algar*, which lets in light and illuminates the interior of the cave.

□ It can be seen from a **hiking trail that overlooks it** (but which is very busy), but it's also possible to admire it from the sea by docking there by boat.

□ There is **no access on foot to enter Benagil cave**, and swimming access is prohibited and dangerous due to the strong currents in this area.

From Armação de Pêra, you have two options for visiting it:

- □ **Boat trip from Armação de Pêra:** If you don't have a rental car, the easiest way is to book a **boat trip**, which will take you along the coast, entering several sea caves including the famous **Benagil cave from the sea**.

□ [Info and booking for a 1-hour cruise to explore the Benagil cave](#) with a **French guide**.

By booking via [Get Your Guide](#): *the big advantage, in our opinion, is that you **can change or cancel your booking up to the day before**, with a simple click on the application, which is always reassuring.*

- **If you have [rented a car](#)**, you can also drive directly to the **village of Benagil** or the Lagoa area, then either :
 - □ **Take the hiking trail** (la [randonnée des sept vallées suspendues](#)) that overlooks the cave. The path is easy, but bring your own walking shoes.
 - □ Opt for a **guided tour of the caves by kayak**. This option allows you to enter the very interior of the Benagil cave, skirting the cliffs as closely as possible and discovering beaches and secret corners inaccessible on

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foot.

The tour is supervised, the distance is reasonable, and the experience is truly different from that on land. ☐ [Info and booking for a guided kayak tour](#)

☐ To sum up:

- **Without a car:** leave directly from [Armação de Pêra by boat with Onda Boat Trips](#) (with French guide).
- **With a car:** reach the Benagil cave and opt for a [kayak excursion to enter the cave](#).

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Explore the Lagoa dos Salgados protected natural area

To the east of **Armação de Pêra**, towards **Praia dos Salgados**, there's a complete change of atmosphere. Here you'll find the **Lagoa dos Salgados nature reserve**, a protected area between marshes, dunes and ocean.

This nature reserve is famous for its **freshwater lagoon**, surrounded by paths and footbridges, where you can take a leisurely stroll or bike ride. On one side, you can walk along the marshes, a haven for many birds, and on the other, enjoy the view of the Atlantic Ocean.

☐ La [Lagoa dos Salgados](#) is also a renowned **bird-watching** site. Depending on the season, you can see **flamingos, herons, egrets** and many other species. Even if you're not an avid birdwatcher, the walk is well worth the detour.

Perfect for a nature break, it reminded us of the [Alvor nature reserve](#).

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Downtown Armação de Pêra

Armação de Pêra was originally an old fishing village, but today the town center faces the immense beach.

The village center is **quite small**, with **a few narrow streets that are still typical of the** area, and **quickly merges with the seafront**.

Above all, it's a good place to take a break, **eat a grilled fish** or **have a drink** before returning to enjoy the beach.

Where to stay in Armação de Pêra? A hotel with parking and swimming pool

We clearly recommend accommodation with a **swimming pool**, a real plus as **the ocean water is cold**, even for us [Oléronnais](#) who are used to the Atlantic all year round.

After the beach, being able to swim in more temperate water makes all the difference.

We found a little nugget with [Algar Papa Rooms](#):

- ☐ Pleasant **pool**
- ☐ On-site **parking** (*few free spaces in the village*)
- ☐ **Excellent location: sea view and beach access**

♥ **Very good quality/price ratio** (Booking score 9.5/10, one of the best rated in the sector).

- ☐ **Comfortable** accommodation with a **small terrace**, perfect as a **base in**

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Armação de Pêra, especially if you're traveling by car.

[See prices for Algar Papa Rooms](#) rated 9.5 / 10 on Booking

Our top restaurants in Armação de Pêra

As is often the case in the Algarve, **fish and seafood dishes** remain the best bet.

Here are **two addresses we've tested and approved** :

- [Restaurante Zé Leiteiro](#) Zé Leiteiro: a great address for €17, with all-you-can-eat service of several varieties of fresh fish, cooked and salted to perfection, **a real little canteen** in the historic center. We ate there twice.
- [NANA on the Beach](#) An ideal address for **seafront** dining. It's a bit touristy, but **the location is clearly worth the detour!**

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How do I get to Armação de Pêra?

For your **Algarve road trip**, the easiest way is to land at Faro airport and rent a car. Armação de Pêra is a 45-minute drive away.

[Renting a car in Faro](#) is easy and very affordable. This is an ideal option for an Algarve road trip at your own pace. Expect to pay around €20 per day with **the Best Deal agency**.

□ To compare offers and find the best value for money, after testing several today, we're using the reliable and easy-to-use [Discover Cars](#) price comparator for car hire.

□ Another important point: the comprehensive insurance offered via DiscoverCars is often much cheaper than that added directly at the rental company's counter, while offering broader coverage. A real time-saver, and above all a way of avoiding unpleasant surprises when picking up or returning the vehicle.

□ [Compare offers on Discover Cars](#)

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Find our complete guide and all our advice for your [car rental in the Algarve](#).

Our opinion on Armação de Pêra

We loved the litoral and its lively village, and above all the **immediate proximity of the Benagil caves** make it an interesting stopover, especially for one or two nights, or as a base for exploring the coast. We recommend staying for **2 or 3 nights**.

□ If you haven't left yet, remember to slip on your neoprene wetsuits for a swim for yourself and any children, as the water in the Atlantic is cooler than on our shores. We know what we're talking about, because we live on [the Ile d'Oléron](#).

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Our map

As always, find all the above locations on our interactive map.

Don't miss the town of [Alvor](#) and the [cliffs of Ponta da Piedade](#), as well as the village of **Olhao**, the [Ria Formosa nature reserve](#) and [the island of Armona](#), an Algarve gem.

Find our complete guide and all our advice for your [car rental at Faro airport in Algarve](#).

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?](#)
- [Car rental in Faro in the Algarve: our tips and advice](#)
- Visit the villages of [Lagos](#), [Alvor](#), Albufeira and Olaho

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- [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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