

Algarve, a destination for nature lovers

(to an article by Visit Algarve Portugal in The Portugal News)

Vicentina route.

In the spring of 2012, the Algarve region launched the Vicentina route along the west coast of the region. The route runs from Santiago do Cacém in the Alentejo to Sagres in the Algarve and is integrated into the extensive European GR11 route, part of the GR network of footpaths, which will connect Sagres with St. Petersburg.

The Ria Formosa Natural Park.

This park is home to a variety of species, located between Ancão beach and Manta Rota beach, just off the coast of Faro and is the largest protected coastal zone in Portugal. Manta Rosa is also famous for its excellent golfcourses.

The Ria Formosa Natural Park is ideal for hiking and boating. It consists of sand dunes, marshes, lagoons and freshwater lakes.

The diverse group of inhabitants includes birds fish, mammals and amphibians. The park is known for its bird-watching, with many birds resting and feeding here during the winter months.

Costa Vicentina Natural Park

This park stretches along the rugged west coast of the Algarve and is characterised by its unspoilt landscape. The main attraction of this area is the natural beauty of the beaches and impressive cliffs. In the Costa Vicentina Natural Park on the west coast of the Algarve an abundance of wildlife can be found.

The Alvor estuary

This beautiful area lies between Portimão and Lagos and is the most important wetland in the western Algarve. A lagoon complex of 1,400 hectares of marshland and dunes, making the area is an excellent place for bird watching and walking.

The Leixão Da Gaivota

Leixão Da Gaivota is situated at the mouth of the River Arade (where our Vila Arade flat is located) and is one of the most important locations along the coast of the Algarve for nesting birds. It is an island on the coast, chosen as a nesting area by white herons, black-winged waders, European cormorants and purple herons.

Serra de Monchique, Espinhaço de Cão and Caldeirão

The serra de Caldeirão is the most important area in the Algarve stretching from the banks of the Odelouca current to the rugged plateaux in the north-east Algarve. The hills of Monchique, Espinhaço de Cão and Caldeirao, which act as a gigantic amphitheatre, form a protective barrier for the lower-lying parts of the coast and provide shelter from the cold northern winds and rainstorms.

Sapal de Castro Marim

The wetlands of Sapal de Castro Marim are a natural habitat for a wide range of a large number of animals and are home to around 153 species throughout the year.

These include flamingos, storks and redshanks. An invaluable ecological

heritage and it is a valuable location that provides shelter and breeding conditions for many species of molluscs, fish, reptiles, amphibians and crustaceans.