

# 10 Reasons to Love Faro

From wild trails and secret beaches to a handsome historic centre with a buzzing food and nightlife scene – here are 10 reasons to stick around in the Algarve's capital

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# 1

## The flamingo-dotted Ludo Trail

Just minutes from the city, this 7km path starts near Faro Airport and winds through the peaceful Ria Formosa estuary, with *passadiços* (wooden walkways) cutting through salt pans and marshes speckled with wildflowers. Walk or cycle the trail, admiring wild samphire in summer and spotting flamingos, spoonbills and long-legged avocets wading in the shallows.

### GET OUT THERE

#### FLY TO...

easyJet flies to Faro from 20 airports across Europe, including London Gatwick and Paris Orly. Book now at [easyJet.com](https://www.easyJet.com)

#### STAY IN...

3HB Faro has a rooftop terrace with an infinity pool, a bar, a fire pit, and views over the city. Book now at [easyJet.com/holidays](https://www.easyJet.com/holidays)

TRAVELLER

2

### The stork-topped Arco da Vila

This neoclassical gateway marks the entrance to Faro's historic centre. Look up to spot the massive nests made from sticks by white storks. In spring, fluffy chicks peek over the edges of the nests, while their parent birds fly back and forth from nearby wetlands.

3

### The hidden Capela dos Ossos

Tucked in a garden beside Igreja do Carmo, this fascinating chapel offers a contrast to Faro's sunny plazas. Inside, the bones of more than 1,000 monks form intricate geometric patterns. Visit in the late afternoon for the best light through the windows.

4

### Cidade Velha Rooftop is sunset-perfect

Climb to this rooftop restaurant for panoramic views. The kitchen serves up Portuguese classics with a modern twist, all washed down with local wines or inventive cocktails. As evening falls, watch the sun set over the city rooftops.

5

### Cocktails come with culture

Hidden away in a converted hermitage, Bar Madalena delivers a dose of culture with its cocktails. Seasonal drinks feature fruits and Algarve-made *medronho*, or firewater. At weekends, DJs and live music fill the space, with crowds spilling onto the square.

6

### Praia da Barrinha is worth the walk

Follow the wooden walkway from Praia de Faro to discover this hidden beach at its end. The 20-minute journey rewards with a seemingly private stretch of Atlantic shoreline. Visit at low tide to explore rock pools, or after storms when burrowing sea urchins wash ashore.

7

### The sweet tastes of Padaria Centeio

Faro's bakeries offer regional sweets. The Pastel de Faro – a pastry with rich almond cream – rivals its more famous custard cousin. Also try a Dom Rodrigo – the traditional egg-based dessert that comes wrapped in foil – and cake made with almonds and figs.

8

### Crowd-free island beaches

Escape the mainland on wooden boats heading to Ria Formosa's barrier islands. Ilha da Culatra offers a fishing village to explore and Ilha da Barreta remains blissfully undeveloped. Even in August, you'll find empty stretches of Atlantic-facing sand and marine life in the shallows.

9

### The views from Faro's cathedral

Climb almost 70 steps up the cathedral bell tower for the best view. The 13th-century structure blends architectural styles, while inside *azulejo* tiles depict biblical scenes. Time your visit for late afternoon when light floods the nave and tour groups have thinned.

10

### Fresh produce from Mercado Municipal

Faro's market is the place to come for colourful fruit and vegetables (the Algarve's oranges are in high demand) and delicious cheeses, pastries and olives. Arrive early to see fishmongers display enormous tiger prawns and scarlet shrimp.

