

# Golf Guide

This handy directory provides basic information in a nutshell on the Algarve's golf courses, from Castro Marim in the east right over to Parque da Floresta near the southwestern point. Famed for their quality design and playing conditions, courses in the Algarve can be enjoyed the whole year round thanks to an ideal climate, mostly sunny and warm but moderated by fresh Atlantic breezes. Built in harmony with the natural environment and suitable for golfers of all abilities, the courses afford ideal conditions for golfing holidays. At all the Algarve courses golfers will find the following common amenities: a clubhouse, bar, restaurant, pro shop, hire of equipment such as clubs, trolleys and buggies, and at least one putting-green.

## 1. PARQUE DA FLORESTA

A challenging layout and built on mainly hilly terrain with both coastal and inland views. The course has a variety of interesting and unusual holes, starting with a long sloping par-4 requiring an approach shot where a large hollow on the left comes into play. On the short fifth, only 88 metres from the yellow tees, played from an exposed hill-top to the green on the crown of a hillock, club selection can vary widely in the fickle winds. The memorable par-3 fifteenth is played over a valley with a small lake. Another lake comes into play on the par-3 11th and par-4 16th and 17th holes.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 5,673 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: PGA GOLF ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 282 690054

## 2. BOAVISTA GOLF

Set within a 260-acre area, much of this spectacular new 6,053-m long course is surrounded by land being left in its natural undeveloped state. Designed by Howard Swan, it is built on naturally rolling terrain with hundreds of indigenous trees and palms. The course affords golfers spectacular views over nearby Lagos and the western coastline, as well as inland towards the Monchique hills. Strong candidates for the signature

hole are the par-3 sixth played over a deep ravine, the par-four 7th and the scenic 14th measuring 194m off the yellow tees where a lake comes into play.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,053 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 282 782151

### **3. PALMARES**

Palmares course is famous for its annual Almond Blossom tournament week in early February. The breathtaking scenery can be appreciated from most of the course, with views over the Alvor river estuary, beaches and the bay of Lagos. On the outward nine, there are five authentic links holes amongst the dunes close to the ocean exposed to the prevailing winds. The most demanding hole is the long par-5 fifth running roughly parallel to the shore. The other holes extend throughout hillsides and valleys with almond and fig trees, palms and pines. The par-3 tenth, requiring a long iron or a fairway wood is over a valley which is all carry from tree to green.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 5,961 METRES

PAR: 71 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 282 790 500

### **4. PENINA**

**Penina – Championship Course** Golf in the Algarve teed

off here in 1966 with this masterpiece layout by Sir Henry Cotton. It has hosted the Portuguese Open 8 times, including 1998 /2000. The imposing Le Meridien Penina overlooks the course, built on flattish parkland terrain with fairways lined by countless trees, and containing several tricky water hazards. It includes several long par-3 and par-4 holes, requiring both length and accuracy. Two of the memorable holes are the scenic dogleg 5th par-5 with a canal, lake and contoured green, and the daunting 197m long par-3 thirteenth with water on the right all the way to the putting surface. The par-38 back nine starts and ends with two par-5 holes, a true test of skill.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,343 METRES

PAR: 73 EXTRAS: GOLF ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 282 420200

**Penina – Resort Course** Also designed by Cotton, this full-sized 9-hole course, although less demanding than the Championship one, has several challenging holes. Holes 1, 2 and 3 are all tree-lined dogleg par-4's where keeping to the fairway is a definite advantage. The only par-5 is the 499-metre fifth hole, long and straight with an elevated green, a typical Penina feature. The par-4 sixth, with out of bounds to the right, requires a precise drive through a narrow avenue of tall trees, whereas the drive on the dogleg 7th needs to be a controlled draw followed by an approach steered left of a greenside lake that is too close

to the green for comfort. A long par-3 with several bunkers and a long par-4 round off this pleasant course.

HOLES: 9 LENGTH: 2,987 METRES

PAR: 35 EXTRAS: GOLF ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 282 420200

**Penina- Academy Course** This short 9-holer is laid out in amongst the Championship fairways and comprises six par-3's and three par-4's. The greens are relatively small and therefore demand precise tee or approach shots, but the course is nevertheless ideal for all-year-round holiday golf and to perfect one's short game.

HOLES: 9 LENGTH: 2,035 METRES

PAR-30 EXTRAS: GOLF ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 282 420200

## **5. MORGADO DO REGUENGO**

This exciting new course opened in February 2003 within a 950-hectare estate a few miles inland from Portimao. With views of the nearby Monchique hills, the complex will eventually house two 5-star hotels, very few villa plots and another 18-hole course. Designed under PGA European Tour supervision it is one of the Algarve's longest layouts, with three par-5's on the back nine. It features large greens and a total of 104 bunkers - an excellent test of putting and precision golf in general. Many of the holes wind through valleys dotted with native olive, fig and carob trees. Six lakes or dams serve as hazards and refuges for aquatic birds, as well as catering for irrigation needs.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,399 METRES

PAR: 73 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND CHIPPING AREA

TEL. 00 351 282 402150

## **6. ALTO GOLF**

Opened in 1991, Alto was the last work of Sir Henry Cotton and boasts a majestic site overlooking the ocean, and with views inland towards the Monchique hills. Some 10,000 trees were planted on the course and have attracted a large variety of birds. Unusually the

course starts with a straightforward par-3. The impressive 16th hole measuring 604 metres from the tiger tee is one of the longest par-5's in Europe. Apart from this formidable hole and perhaps the tricky par-4 tenth, the course is not overly difficult and can be enjoyed by golfers of all standards. A modern clubhouse overlooks the amphitheatre 18th green, the culmination of an excellent par-5 finishing hole.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,100 METRES

PAR: 71 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND CHIPPING GREEN

TEL. 00 351 282 460870

## **7. PESTANA**

**Pestana – Pinta Course**- The Monchique Hills form the spectacular backdrop to this excellently designed course. Most of the natural contours of the terrain were retained as was the majority of the centuries-old olive trees, one of which has been estimated to be over 1,200 years of age. Large, sometimes deep bunkers and fine, fast undulating greens are strong features of the course. The par-3 seventh is one of the signature holes, played over a valley to a well-bunkered wide, but not deep, green demanding a high, soft-landing shot.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,151 METRES

PAR: 71 EXTRAS: DAVID LEADBETTER ACADEMY WITH CHIPPING GREEN

TEL. 00 351 282 340900

**Pestana – Gramacho Course** was as unusual “double-nine” course but nine new conventional holes were opened for play in September, 2002. Inserted after the original 4th double hole, the new loop was designed by Nick Price and Rick Elliott, head architect to Ronald Fream. Apart from areas near the lateral boundaries, the new holes are fairly wide open, with little or no rough, so golfers can keep up a steady pace of play. The scenic 10th is a downhill par 3 with lakeside green guarded by bunkers and palm-trees. After the 13th hole, players return to the original five closing holes with their familiar optional sets of tees and large optional greens, affording a pleasant mix of old and new on natural, contoured terrain.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: AROUND 6,100 METRES

PAR: 71 EXTRAS: DAVID LEADBETTER ACADEMY WITH CHIPPING GREEN

TEL. 282 340900

## **8. VALE DE MILHO**

This compact par-3 9-hole course in Carvoeiro is one of only three in The Algarve. It offers an interesting variety of holes to test golfers' short game abilities. Features include regular sized greens, water hazards and bunkers similar to those on a full course. With

holes ranging in length from 60 to 164 metres, the layout is located in a park area within a quality residential complex. Good amenities and service ensure a friendly club atmosphere for residents and visitors alike. Ideal for holiday-makers who wish to combine little golf with visits to neighbouring beaches.

HOLES: 9 LENGTH: 926 METRES

PAR: 27 EXTRAS: CHIPPING & PUTTING GREEN

TEL. 00 351 282 358502

## **9. SALGADOS**

This coast line course features several links holes by the beach but with a difference: Salgados has by far the largest number of water hazards to be found on any course in the Algarve - fourteen in all. Accuracy of shot-making is therefore of extreme importance. This is specially the case with the par-5 sixth where there is a large lake on the right and rough to the left of the narrow fairway The 12th is a short par-3 to a two-tiered green just beyond a lake and guarded by bunkers on each side. Sea and land breezes across the low lying terrain affect the playing conditions, making this a challenging course that demands concentration.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,080 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 583030

## **10. BALAIA**

This executive par-3 nine-hole course is part of the Balaia Golf Village complex just east of Albufeira. Built on pleasant, undulating terrain with umbrella pines, cork oaks and carob trees. The course has holes measuring between 73 and 160 metres in length (58 to 147 metres for ladies), demanding a wide range of club selection for tee-shots. Excellent for holiday golf and sharpeninG one's short Game.

HOLES: 9 LENGTH: 983 METRES

PAR: 27 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND GOLF SCHOOL

TEL. 00 351 289 570442

## **11. PINE CLIFFS**

The spectacular Pine Cliffs clifftop nine-hole layout is set against a glorious backdrop of the Atlantic. Only 2,324 metres long and with one par-5 hole, it is a pleasant holiday course set amongst umbrella pines, although narrow, undulating fairways demand accurate placing of shots. The piece de resistance is the last hole, a par-3 aptly named 'Devil's Parlour', where a long shot from the clifftop tee must carry a deep chasm in the reddish

cliffs in order to reach the green located close to the hotel grounds. Another memorable hole is the short par-4 second where one is tempted to thread the drive between two tall pinetrees not far short of the well guarded green.

HOLES: 9 LENGTH: 2,324

PAR: 33 EXTRAS: GOLF ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 289 500100

## **12. VILAMOURA**

The Villamoura – The Old Course A mature course of classic English layout opened in 1969, with mainly narrow pinetree-lined fairways. Renovation work to the irrigation system, re-seeding and general upgrading was carried out, and a completely new clubhouse built in 1997. This is one of the favourite Algarve courses of both visiting and resident golfers. The one and only lake is on the attractive par-3 fourth where the tee-shot must clear not only the water but also a pine and a bunker fronting the green. The back nine has three par-5's with the long 16th requiring three precise shots to avoid the menacing pines and to reach the green safely.

HOLES: 18 LENGT: 6,254 METRES

PAR: 73 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND PUTTING GREEN

TEL. 00 351 289 310341

**Vilamoura – Pinhal Golf Course** The course opened in 1976, but several holes were re-constructed in 1985 and 2001 to improve its playability and appeal to all levels of golfers, Pinetrees are also a strong feature, and combined with the comparatively small greens, mean that accurate shots are required on most holes. The par-4 fourth is an interesting hole where one needs to play for position from the tee as a lake comes into play on the approach shot, Careful play is also required on the par-3 twelfth with its contoured green guarded by bunkers. The excellent closing hole is a par-4 with a downhill approach shot to a well defended sloping green.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,353 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 310390

**Vilamoura – Laguna Golf Course** This parkland course built on low-lying coastal land has many heavily bunkered greens and several water hazards to take advantage of the high water table. More exposed than the other courses at this large resort, Laguna is often influenced by the sea breezes. The 9th is a tricky par-4 with an old well in the middle of the fairway and a lake on the right, all the way to the green. Played from a raised tee, the par-3 17th has a threatening lake on the left.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,111 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 310188

**Vilamoura – Millennium Golf Course** Opened in May 2000. This is an extremely attractive, quality course. It is situated adjacent to the Laguna layout with which it

shares a spacious, modern clubhouse. The first nine holes are completely new and were built mainly in amongst typical Algarvean pinewoods. The par-36th with its lakeside green is destined to be one of the signature holes. The back nine holes, part of the former 27-hole Laguna course, are located on flattish undulating terrain and have been refurbished and partially modified.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,157 METRES

PAR:72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 310188

### **13. VILA SOL**

The course is laid out on ideal undulating terrain in amongst natural woods, mainly pines, carob and fig trees, and little artificial landscaping was required during construction. Several water hazards were, however, introduced. The original 18-hole course, opened in 1991, was the venue of the Portuguese Open in 1992/3. In 2000, a third 9-hole loop was opened, named the Prestige, and the others are now the Prime and Challenge loops. With its large, contoured and often speedy greens, together with several long, testing par-4 holes, the course is an excellent challenge for golfers of all handicap levels.

HOLES: 27 PAR: 72 (EACH 18-HOLE COMBINATION)

LENGTHS: PRIME+PRESTIGE 6,320M, 10-27 – CHALLENGE+PRESTIGE-6,173 – PRIME+CHALLENGE – 6,335 METRES

EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE & ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 289 300505/25

### **14. VALE DO LOBO**

**Vale do Lobo – Royal Course** Combines nine original Henry Cotton designed holes with nine conceived by Rocky Roquemore and opened in 1996. It incorporates the world-famous par-3, the 16th, with an extensive carry over the russet cliffs, and which is the photographers' favourite. One of the signature holes is the par-3 ninth over a lake to a spectacular semi-island green. Another fine hole is the challenging par-4 twelfth with sharply contoured fairway and a large green bunkered on all sides.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,050 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 353465

**Vale do Lobo - Ocean Course** Upgrading started in 2002 is now complete, with 3 new holes replacing former ones. A new lake comes into play on a several holes and hole 1 is now a tough par-4 (stroke index 1), 423m off the backtee. A course with lovely scenery, not to be missed.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 5,815 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 353465

## **15. QINTA DO LAGO**

Quinta do Lago South The championship course within the 800-hectare estate of the same name, has hosted the Portuguese Open eight times. The layout favours the long hitter but correct placement of shots are needed to score well. Strategic bunkering, occasional water hazards and large, contoured greens are the main challenges. The signature hole is the beautiful par- 3 15th with a long carry over a large lake to the green set in amongst pine trees. The 8th, 10th and 18th are excellent testing par-4's for low-handicap players on this scenic course which is an enjoyable experience for players of all standards.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,488 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 390700

**Quinta do Lago North** - (Ex-Ria Formosa) Is basically the same style as Quinta do Lago South course, Quinta do Lago North is notable for its four fine par-5 holes and many dog-legs where accuracy off the tee is a must. The tricky downhill par-3 fourteenth with its green well defended by bunkers on either side is an outstanding challenge. A majestic 480-m par-5 finishing hole demands a drive over a lake and between fair-way bunkers to set up the ideal second shot, with the approach up a steep rise to the green.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,205 METRES

EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE, PERMANENT BAR BY 9<sup>TH</sup> TEE

TEL. 00 351 390700

## **16. SAN LORENZO**

This magnificent Joseph Lee and Rocky Roquemore 18-hole layout opened in 1989, and is currently considered the fifth best course in continental Europe by Golf World magazine. It comprises several scenic and testing holes culminating in the memorable 18th with an exhilarating approach to the well defended green across a lake. The 6th, 7th and 8th are tight, challenging holes skirting water hazards along the right hand side. The immaculately maintained course, which is owned by the well-established Le Meridien Dona Filipa Hotel nearby, is open to visitors although priority is given to hotel guests who pay nominal green-fees. Course privileges are also granted to Le Meridien Penina Hotel guests.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,238 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE

TEL. 00 351 289 396522/289 396534

## **17. PINHEIROS ALTOS**

An independent 18-hole course built on the Quinta do Lago estate. Here is an unusual layout with two nines of contrasting character. The outward nine meander through typical Algarvian pine woods whereas many water hazards must be negotiated coming home. The course embraces part of the Ria Formosa nature reserve, making this another course of beauty and challenge for players of all standards. The outstanding par-3 fifth calls for a mid-iron shot played across a valley full of umbrella pines to a heavily contoured green. Hole number 12 is a par-5 that requires careful positioning of shots to avoid a watery grave on the left.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,182 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: GOLF ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 289 359910

## **18. SAN LORENZO**

This new executive course is integrated into the rural Golf-Domizil Colina Verde Aparthotel complex near Moncarapacho, east of Faro. Basically it is a par-3 course but the 2nd hole is a 243-metre par-4. It features challenging full-size greens with subtle contours, and a water hazard that comes into play on three holes, particularly the 160-metre 5th. Ideal for beginners, holiday golfers and those seeking short game practice.

HOLES: 9 LENGTH: 1,117 METRES

PAR: 28 EXTRAS: CHIPPING/BUNKER PRACTICE AREA

TEL. 00 351 289 790110

## **19. BENAMOR**

A course with striking mountain and ocean views, located just east of Tavira. The rolling terrain was wisely used by the designers to produce widely varying holes. With three short par-4's and a par-3, the start is relatively uncomplicated. However, precision on many tee and approach shots is a must. The inward nine features several memorable holes, e.g. the tricky par-3 tenth over water and unplayable rough left of the green, and the two par-5's, the 15th and 18th, the latter having out of bounds areas on either side close to the green.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 5,497 METRES

PAR: 71 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND CHIPPING GREEN

TEL. 00 351 281 320880

## **20. QUINTA DA RIA**

Opened at the end of 2001, this impressive 18-hole course just east of Tavira borders on the Ria Formosa nature reserve. Although affording spectacular ocean views, it is built on gently undulating terrain and includes five man-made lakes, one of which-along-side the scenic par-3 17th - has an island and is already the habitat of many species of birdlife. Hundreds of old olive and carob trees were transplanted on to the course, and since the vineyard and orange orchard surroundings will be devoid of housing development, the natural atmosphere will be retained.

This Roquemore designed course has four par-3's, four par-5's and the rest par-4's, divided equally into each 9-hole loop. The bent-grass greens are slightly undulating and well guarded with bunkers.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,090 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 281 950580

## **21. QUINTA DE CIMA**

Stretching southwards from the EN125 road on a 62-hectare area, this layout belongs to the same complex as Quinta da Ria. It is also a Roquemore design and provides an interesting challenge to golfers of all standards, with well-guarded greens, several close to hazards of both the water and sand variety.

Holes 4,5,6 and 13 are crossed by a stream that includes a few small dams, but golfers will require concentration as the magnificent hilly inland and ocean views can be distracting. Continuity of the tranquil natural setting is assured since there will be no housing development around the course.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 6,256 METRES

PAR: 72 EXTRAS: DRIVING RANGE AND ACADEMY

TEL. 00 351 281 950580

## **22. CASTRO MARIM**

Opened in 2001 this challenging 18-hole layout, the Atlantic Course, is part of a 170-hectare property development near the historical town of Castro Marim, close to the Spanish border and the River Guadiana. It is built on attractive rolling terrain with pines and a variety of other tree species, and affords scenic views of the river, Atlantic Ocean and a backdrop of hills.

HOLES: 18 LENGTH: 5,466 METRES

PAR: 71 (72 FOR LADIES)

TEL. 00 351 281 510330