

Portugal's warm southern coast offers an attractive combination of sunshine, easy cruising and sandy beaches to explore from the comfort of Celtic Star



Sailing onboard CELTIC STAR IN THE ALGARVE consists of 3 Easy Steps

1. Book your place onboard Celtic Star 7th- 13th September 2019
2. Book your return flight to Faro airport which is quick, inexpensive and convenient.
3. Jump in a taxi and meet Richard and Petra at Vilamoura Marina (30 mins transfer) for the start of your amazing sailing holiday.



Itinerary Summary

- 7th September 5pm.** Join Celtic Star at Vilamoura Marina for cava, canapes and welcome dinner onboard Celtic Star.
- Day 1: 8th September** Sail along the coast to anchor at Alvor 26nm. Lunch and dinner aboard
- Day 2: 9th September** Alvor to Lagos 8nm: Lunch and dinner ashore
- Day 3: 10th September** Lagos to Ferrugado 12nm Lunch ashore dinner on board
- Day 4: 11th September** Ferrugado to Albufeira: 21 nm Lunch and dinner on board
- Day 5: 12th September** Albufeira to Culatra 35m: Lunch and dinner on board
- Day 6: 13th September** Breakfast and Depart from Culatra Island by ferry for Faro (Airport is just outside the town)

MARINA DE VILAMOURA



Meet Richard and Petra at the marina at Vilamoura, only a 30minute taxi transfer from Faro airport. We will introduce you to other guests and allow you to settle into your cabins before we show you around Celtic Star and complete a safety brief. Then your holiday in the sun begins! Relax and enjoy beautiful fresh canapes and cold cava in the cockpit followed by a delicious three course dinner with locally sourced fresh seafood and wines. After dinner we will get out the sea charts and chat about the plans and any requests you may have for destinations or holiday wishes. The following plan may need some adaptation to the sea and weather conditions at the time.

DAY 1: VILAMOURA TO ALVOR



Setting sail and heading west along the beautiful coast of the Algarve for four hours until we arrive at the entrance to the channel leading to the quaint Portuguese fishing village of Alvor.

We plan to anchor in the channel here for lunch. Salad and mixed cold cuts and fish are served in the cockpit with delicious fresh bread. After lunch we will take the dinghy ashore so you can explore the town and then relax in the beachside bars, to swim or snorkel. Alternatively, you may wish to stay on board and relax and swim from the boat. We will serve another delicious three course dinner with matched wines on board Celtic Star in the evening.



A short sail today takes us into the marina at Lagos which is located at the western end of the Algarve. Lagos is a vibrant, historic town and considered the jewel of the Algarve. You will spend much of the day to explore the fascinating old town, or relaxing on the beach.

The town was founded by the Phoenicians and the Moors made it an important trading town before the re-conquest by Christian armies in 1241. It was used by Henry the Navigator as a base for African trade and remnants of the first slave market in Europe can be found alongside the old custom house. The Museum is interesting to visit as it is one of the few buildings which survived the 1755 earthquake.

The marina is just a five- minute walk over the bridge from the old town. There are also several good beaches as well as a host of good restaurants. We will book a restaurant for the evening and serve cava and canapes in the cockpit before we go out to dine.



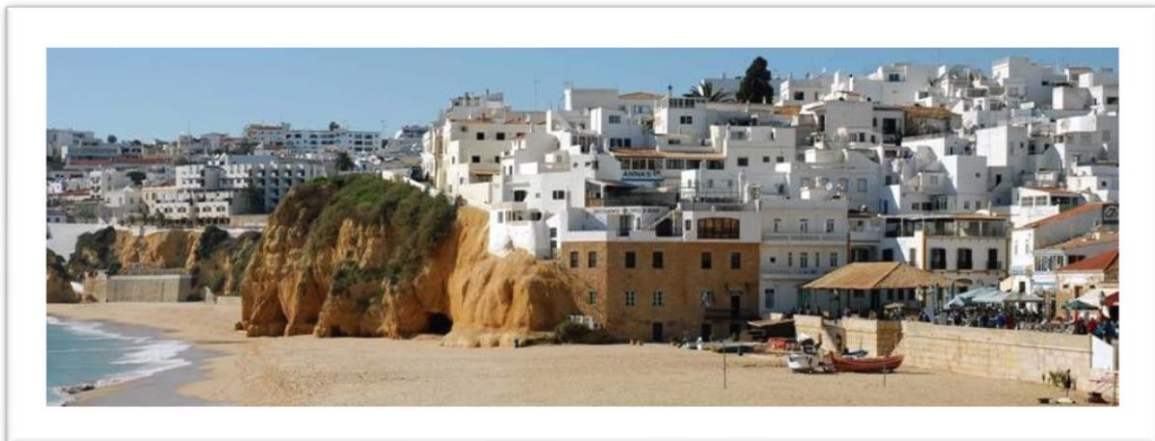
DAY 3: LAGOS TO FERRUGADO



We start to head East again today and sail the short distance to the lovely quiet anchorage off the beach on the east side of the harbour where there are good beach restaurants.

Portimao has lovely river front gardens which are worth a visit. The fish restaurants by the bridge are famous for sardine lunches This is another town almost totally destroyed in the 1755 earthquake but was rebuilt to become a busy port. In the past, the town has been attacked by the Spanish, English and the Dutch which accounts for the forts.

DAY 4: FERRUGADO TO ALBUFEIRA



Today we continue to sail east towards Faro for 15nm. It will take about 3 hours to reach Albufeira, situated approximately halfway between Lagos and Faro.

The marina is well positioned, just a 20 minute walk in to the town centre which has managed to retaincombine its old-world charm with modern conveniences. There will be time to explore the town and surrounds or laze on the beach or on board before dinner is served aboard Celtic Star.

DAY 5: ALBUEIRA TO CULATRA & FARO



The final day of sailing along the coast takes us to the unique destination of Isla du Culatra. The 35 NM passage is the longest of the week and will give you the chance to see the fascinating coast of the Algarve.

We will arrive in the late afternoon at the anchorage which is situated at the entrance to the channel leading to Faro and Olhao. It is recommended for its safety and interest particularly the bird watching. The anchorage is on the inside of a sandy island with beautiful beaches, particularly on the southern shore. The small village has a few fishermen's cottages, holiday homes and a small hotel. Here we will finish the cruise with time to relax and explore the island before our final meal on board.

DAY 6: DEPART CELTIC STAR

After a hearty breakfast we ask you to depart from Celtic Star by midday and catch the ferry into Faro to explore and continue your holiday or to fly home from the airport a short distance away.

The old town of Faro is still protected on the seaward side by the 9th century Moorish walls, constructed on Roman foundations. The main square of the old town, once the Roman forum, is dominated by Faro's 13th century cathedral (not especially interesting unless for the storks nesting in the bell tower). The archaeological museum in the nearby former 16th century convent is worth a visit. The church of Nossa Senhora do Carmo contains some wonderful gilded wood carving and a chapel lined with the bones of over 1,200 monks. Near the small marina of Faro is a modest maritime museum which displays several interesting relics of the town's maritime history. For lovers of the natural world, however, perhaps the area's most enduring appeal is the Ria Formosa lagoon, a nature reserve extending to over 17,000 hectares and a haven for dozens of breeding and migratory bird species including black storks, flamingos, little egrets and even the occasional kestrel and osprey. Otters are also regularly spotted here at quieter periods.