

Faro

On the southern Atlantic coast, this pretty Portuguese city has everything from the Moorish to the moreish...



Clockwise from left Faro is the main city in the Algarve; Sushi Pearl restaurant; Fazenda Nova hotel; Estaminé on Ilha da Barreta. Bottom Space Invaders is full of interior-design delights

Stay

- An elegant retreat in the town centre, Aqua Ria offers small-scale luxury. Soundproofed rooms ensure respite from the shopping area and watering-holes just a few steps away. From £60; booking.com/hotel/pt/aqua-ria-boutique.en.html
- A former farm, Fazenda Nova in nearby Tavira is secluded and well placed to explore the Algarve. Luxuriate in the infinity pool, nestling in the orchards, or delve into the well-stocked library. The fantastic restaurant is equipped with a 200-year-old oven. From £125; fazendanova.eu

Eat

- With its stunning view across wetlands, Marisqueira Capelo in Santa Luzia is the ideal place to watch flamingos take flight. The expansive seafood menu is locally caught, and the lobster is a must. 00 351 281 381670
- Sushi Pearl offers a good alternative to touristy taverns with its minimalist wooden interior and local clientele. The sashimi is wonderful and won't leave your purse feeling too light. 00 351 915 777 879



Drink

- Take a catamaran (animaris.pt) to the island of Ilha da Barreta (aka Deserta), chill out on the six-mile stretch of sandy beach and round off a perfect day at Estaminé, a chic eco-friendly bar with a local menu and wine list. 00 351 918 779 155
- After dark, take to the dance floor under the 600-year-old arches at the slick cocktail bar Columbus. barcolumbus.pt

Shop

- A destination for interior designers, Space

Invaders stocks everything from modernist classics by Charles and Ray Eames to contemporary Bouroullec brothers' work. It makes for inspirational shopping. spaceinvadersdesign.com

- Set on the pretty mosaic-tiled street of Santo António, António Manuel offers a local edit of global designers for men and women. Browse preppy, bright separates from Hugo Boss, Etro and Gucci. antoniomanuel.pt
- Foodies should head to Mercado Municipal, Faro's biggest market for fresh produce, where locals shop for everything from fish and cold meats to cheese. It's great for picking up delicatessen treats before hitting the beach. mercadomunicipaldefaro.pt



Do

- Explore the city ramparts and castle, built by Prince Ben Bekr in the ninth century. The Earl of Essex inflicted considerable damage in 1596: books looted during his raids can be found in the Bodleian Library.

Spa

- Throw body and mind into the luxury bootcamp at the fabulous Cascade Resort. Marco Baioa puts guests through their paces, with motivational training thrown in. Relaxing at the spa afterwards is all the sweeter for it. algarveluxurybootcamp.com ●

FLY WITH

EasyJet flies to Faro from London Gatwick from £37 return (easyjet.com)

