The historic centre of São Brás de Alportel is the prime starting point for a journey of discovery of the town. The yard surrounding the Mother Church provides sweeping panoramic views from the rocky barrocal to the sea. Around it lie some of the crowning glories of the municipality's heritage. In the heart of the village, delight in the Paços do Concelho (Town Hall), the beautiful brick-coloured building that once housed the Orphanage - birthplace of renowned local Roberto Nobre - the former Episcopal Palace, the Dr Estanco Louro Municipal Library, and Fonte Nova

Parish Church The first references to this prime example of local heritage date back to

1518. Since then, the structure has undergone continuous work. When visiting the religious building, be sure to note its imposing entrance. Once inside, visit the baptistery, which houses a neoclassical-style marble altarpiece - the only one of its kind in the region.

Episcopal Palace

Formerly used as a summer residence by the Bishops of the Algarve, the initial structure in this locale dates back to the late 16th century. Having housed the first primary school in the municipality, it is the current location of the Arts and Crafts Centre

Built Heritage



Largo São Sebastião (Saint Sebastian's Square)

The square was named following the construction of Saint Sebastian's Chapel, after 1673. By the late 19th century, the village had seen substantial growth. This led to the hemming in of Saint Sebastian's Square and its neighbouring chapel by a dense urban fabric of narrow passages and alleyways.

As a result, a decision was made to demolish the church in 1892 (relocating it to the west), with the prosperous village gaining ample space but preserving the toponym

Population and urban growth forced new expansion in 1950 with the demolition of the block between the square and Rua João Rosa Beatriz.

In 1957, the population of São Brás erected a monument here in honour of local poet Bernardo de Passos Sixty years later, a redevelopment project would bring a new lease of life

Archaelogical Heritage

to the square, which is in the heart of the town



Millennia of history has left marks of the various civilisations that have walked this land through the ages. With human occupation dating back to Paleolithic times, the municipality of São Brás de Alportel presents valuable historical and archaeological heritage that encompasses a notable Roman and Islamic legacy, which can still be seen to this day in archaeological findings and place names.

São Brás de Alportel's "Calçadinha"

The municipality's most notable archaeological monument, this route, the origins of which date back to Roman times, invites visitors to walk over stones that are thousands of years old.

Start off by the Municipal Library as you set off on a historical journey. Having undergone several archaeological recovery works, 2 sections of the route have now been uncovered: Section A, which is 100m-long, and Section B, which registers a length of 550m.



Travel back in time, going through the archaeological itineraries, which will take you to places of pre-historic civilizations (Vale das Mealhas). Roman Civilizations (Vale da Corte) and Islamic Civilizations (Vale do



Fonte Nova and Lavadouro (New Fountain and Public Wash-house) Dating back to 1945, the Public wash-house and New Fountain, also known as Lovers' Fountain, feature a washbasin with 20 tanks, an imposing remnant of the area's hydraulic heritage, inviting visitors to hear the soft murmur of water haunted with echoes of the past.

"Jardim da Verbena" (Vervain Garden)

The only remnants of the Baroque construction that once stood here are a garden and fountain with eight spouts, over which stands a beautiful dome. The former palace garden is now open to the public and played an important role in the municipality's recent history. It is spread over several levels and encompasses a leisure area, municipal swimming pools, and a bandstand.

Paço da Paixão (Stations of the Cross)

Adjacent to the Episcopal Palace is an 18th-century pediment displaying the stations of the cross, as is characteristic of the Baroque period, traces of which can still be seen across the Algarve.

Largo da Praça (Old Market Square)

Daily life in the old village revolved around this important square. The remarkable neo-Arabic style building that can be seen here was built in



Museu do Trajo (The Costume Museum)

This museum is not to be missed by those who seek information about the history and ethnography of the Algarve region. Founded in 1986, it is located in a 19th-century palatial building filled with late-romantic style décor. Initially owned by cork producer Miguel Andrade, it stands as a testament to the economic expansion seen by the municipality at a time when it became one of the most notable cork-producing centres in the

Parque das Amendoeiras (Almond Tree Park)

Perfect for a family day out, Parque das Amendoeiras, which is located to the north of the town, near Avenida da Liberdade, brings the countryside closer to the urban centre and tells the beautiful Tale of the Almond Trees. The park is easily accessible and contains leisure areas, exercise equipment, intergenerational games, and play areas for children.

Replica of seaplane "Santa Cruz"



The monument, built by Carlos Oliveira Correia, in homage to the 1st Air Crossing of the South Atlantic, was inaugurated as part of celebrations held for the 95th anniversary of the departure of pilot Sacadura Cabral and navigator Gago Coutinho (who had family ties in São Brás). Having set off on the 30th March, they arrived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on the 17th

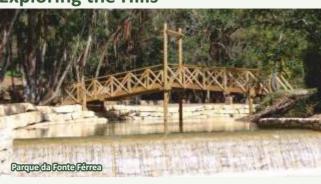
An imposing, full-scale work of art, it is 3.7 meters tall and has a wingspan of 14 metres, honouring the History of São Brás de Alportel and Portugal, ensuring the historic feat of these two national heroes, Gago Coutinho and Sacadura Cabral - who completed the first aerial crossing of the South Atlantic - is passed down through history.



Don't leave yet to visit the Espaço Memória do Município, in the City Hall building (Rua Gago Coutinho), where you can take a speedy journey through half a millennium of history!

Exploring the Hills

Nature



Covering an area of 150km2 between the rocky barrocal and the hills, a vast section of which is classified, São Brás de Alportel is home to notable natural heritage. This can be seen not only in the beauty of the landscape but also in the rich geology, diversity of natural environments, and geographical and climatic characteristics, all of which came together to grant this area its name: the land of good air.

Fonte Férrea Park

Once you've passed the village of Alportel, head north and along the EN2 -Cultural Route - where you'll find the beautiful Fonte Férrea Park, hidden in the heart of the Caldeirão Hills. This is the perfect place for a refreshing stop surrounded by nature. Stop for a picnic, walk, and a breath of fresh hill air, and be sure to sample the iron-rich water, which, for centuries, has been known for its medicinal properties

An easily accessible park, it provides resources for visitors and hosts several annual events.

The perfect place for nature observation, a huge diversity of wild fauna can be spotted here thanks to the park's proximity to the Alportel stream aquatic ecosystem. Several species of birds, such as jays, blackbirds and turtle doves, call this wonderful location home

While you're here, don't miss out on a walk through the Caldeirão Hills. Leave São Brás heading north along the EM 1202. Stop by the picturesque hamlets of Cova da Muda, Javali, and Parises, and rest in Serra Park before moving on towards the real, unexplored Algarve. Once there, make sure to sample the local cuisine and breathe in the nature that surrounds you. On the northern edge of the municipality, discover Cabeça-do-Velho, Cerro da Ursa, and Monte dos Capitães.

The Land of Cork

In the heart of the ancient Mú Hills lies the birthplace of the best cork in the world and the story of the people of São Brás and Silves - pioneers in the trade and transformation of this wonderful fruit of nature. The cork industry, the expansion of which played an instrumental role in the foundation of the municipality, is still the most profitable and iconic industry in the region, to this day.

The Cork Route

This is a themed route exploring one of nature's most exceptional goods: cork, which will take visitors into the heart of the Algarve, the Caldeirão Hills, where the highest quality cork is extracted from beautiful cork oaks. The route includes visits to installations built for the cork industry and the Welcome and Interpretation Centre at the Costume Museum, in addition to hosting exhibitions of local products.

Locations not to be Missed



Castanhas Viewpoint

Only a couple of kms north of São Brás de Alportel, located at an altitude of 330m, the Castanhas Viewpoint provides a sweeping view over the town and a glimpse of the sea. Providing the perfect spot to stop for a chat or some fun in contact with nature, it is the ideal resting spot for visitors on a healthy hike through Alportel Valley.

Alto da Arroteia Viewpoint

Placed between the hills and the sea at an altitude of 368 metres, this viewpoint provides one of the most beautiful, unique views of the inland Algarve. Here, enjoy a horizon of hills, valleys, and sea, all filled with indescribable colour and beauty. To find this spot, take the EN2 just north

Cabeça do Velho Viewpoint

Head to one of the municipality's most northerly towns to take in this mountain landscape crisscrossed by streams, the sea on the horizon. This viewpoint has a picnic area, café, and a designated motorhome parking

Geopoints [Mesquita and Funchais]

The shape and colour of the rocks reveal the workings of how our planet came to be. São Brás de Alportel provides a wide variety of rich landscapes that stretch between valleys and mountain tops, all over bedrock formed by limestone, greywacke, and schist. These Geopoints allow visitors to interpret the geomorphologic wealth of the land and explain the development of this territory, which dates back millions of

Hundreds of years of knowledge gathered by the stone workers of the São Brás quarries is certainly also worth a visit. Easily accessible Funchais Geopoint also provides a unique panoramic view over the town.

Alto da Ameixeira Viewpoint

Mountain aromas perfume the landscape in a location where the deep greens of the hills meet the sea. A locale not to be missed, this new picnic area is perfect for breathing the clean hill air and stopping for a rest off the E.M.1202, just north of Cova da Muda

Rural Heritage



Countless elements of rural heritage sprinkle the landscape, inviting visitors on a stroll through the countryside in search of the history hidden in each locale. Living testimonies of the municipality's strong Arab heritage remain in the shape of mills, fountains, wells, norias, and watermills. Once meeting points and centres of community life, they make excellent locations for both socialising and leisure.

Moinho do Bengado (Bengado Mill)

Spotted on hilltops, old windmills can be seen wherever you go. Of the mills scattered across the landscape, recently restored Bengado Mill awaits a visit from visitors ready to reminisce about a time when its sails produced this population's daily bread.

A cylindrical, stone, Mediterranean-type mill with a fixed millstone, the Moinho do Bengado covers an area of 42.50m2 and operated a halter mill, employing the most ancient form of rope traction system to rotate the roof in search of the best quadrant.

Alportel Museum

Located in the heart of the traditional village of Alportel, this museum is a mandatory stopping point for those seeking to find out more about the ancient history and traditional values of the rural populations that call the Caldeirão Hills and barrocal their home. Having played a key role in the cork industry, the village itself deserves thorough exploration. Take a stroll along the pedestrian routes of the Alportel Valley, stop for a rest in Alportel Park and don't forget to visit the monument built in honour of Estanco Louro, in the renowned local's very birthplace.

Capela de S. Sebastião (Saint Sebastian's Church)

The very first religious building was erected here on the orders of Bishop Dom Francisco Barreto II in 1673. The urban restructuring of the village then led to it being substituted, with another chapel built in honour of the same saint a couple of metres to the west, in 1893. The chapel that can be seen today has a rectangular, single nave and chancel and holds funeral

Capela de S. Romão (Saint Romanus Chapel)

Located about 4 km west of São Brás de Alportel, in São Romão, this 17thcentury chapel stands as an interesting example of rural religious architecture. A chapel with a rectangular, single nave and chancel, it displays a façade edged in quoins, socles, coping, and a broken pediment. In the late 19th century, Estácio da Veiga found two funerary monuments that comprise part of the municipality's archaeological estate, which are currently exhibited in the National Archaeology Museum.

Capela de Alportel (Alportel's Chapel)

Although the ancient origins of the toponym Alportel derived from a Latin term - Portellus (meaning narrow passage) - that was later Arabised, the chapel is a recent late-19th, early 20th-century construction.

It has a single, rectangular nave and chancel and displays an extremely sobering façade offsetting framed openings and a triangular pediment.

Tradition

Handicrafts



The art of traditional handicrafts has been passed down from generation to generation, ensuring each one lives on through time.

Nowadays, those who practice these ancient crafts are few and far between, but some of these authentic popular cultural treasures can still be found, such as esparto weaving (in Desbarato), handmade decorative and roof tiles, typical bricks (Vale das Mealhas and Bengado), cattail chairs in Alportel, palm brooms, mats and baskets, handicrafts from São Romão, wooden toys, lace and quilting, all produced in the town.



The only one of its kind in the country, the Flower Torch Procession is a unique manifestation of the feelings of a people. On Easter Sunday, flowers are scattered across the ground and a torch is raised in honour of the resurrection of Christ. "He has risen, just as he said! Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" The cry echoes through the flower-covered streets. The town is adorned, each balcony decorated with a blanket of

In the afternoon, the churchyard surrounding the Mother Church hosts an ensemble of sounds and flavours, popular music concerts and a display of regional sweet treats. Be sure to sample traditional São Brás "tender" sugared almonds

Feira da Serra

The last weekend of July marks the Feira da Serra, an event that works as an open door into the genuine Algarve. For four days, the colours, flavours and know-how of the hill populations comes together, taking fair-goers back in time in search of their roots, stories composed of traditions, legends and habits masterfully sculpted out of stone, woven on a loom, painted on a canvas, sung in a chant, and danced from the soul.

The crafts, cuisine, arts, sounds, and know-how of the southern Portuguese population shine through this event, which excels in its quality, diversity, and genuine nature



Musical Traditions



Local folklore, harmonising Charolas (traditional folk songs) and the tune of an accordion, continues to enchant generations and is still very much alive in this land's musical traditions. In fact, the municipality's musical traditions are kept alive by a range of musical groups, including: The S. Brás de Alportel Accordion Group, Rancho Típico Sambrasense, Veredas da Memória and Cante Andarilho.

Its roots stretching back to time immemorial, the tradition of singing "Charolas" is alive and kicking among the people of São Brás de Alportel. The tunes heralding the good news can be heard on New Year's Eve and the Day of the Kings (6th January), sung to the sound of the accordion, triangles and castanets.

Annual Events Calendar

- * Charolas Concert > 6th January (Day of Kings)
- * São Brás Fair > 2nd February * São Brás Carnival > Sunday before Lent
- * Flower Torch Festival > Easter Sunday * Historical Recreation > Last weekend of May
- * Municipality Day > 1st June * Popular Saints Festivals > June
- * Feira da Serra > Last weekend in July
- * Folklore Festival > Summe
- * Gostos d'Agosto > Cultural Events Programme > August
- * Biker Meetup > First weekend in August * Calcadas > 14th August
- * Summer Fair > First Sunday in September
- * Youth Accordion Players Festival > Last Sunday in November

Living Here Feels Good **Linerary**

Eastern Algarve

In the Heart of the

SÃO BRÁS DE ALPORTEL

Directions:

Localization map of the Algarve



Alportel

Useful Information: Municipal Tourist Information Office

Calçadinha Explanatory and Welcome Centre 289 840 000 / Fax. 289 842 455

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday: 10 am - 6:30 pm

289 840 210 / 289 840 000

arqueologia@cm-sbras.pt

Address: Victorino Passos Pinto

Alportel Museum Address: Sítio de Alportel

São Brás Cinema/Theatre

Municipal Art Gallery

Bengado Mill

ddress: Av. da Liberdad

or 962 471 272

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday:

2 - 5 pm (Winter) / 2 - 6 pm (Summer

Out-of-hours visits can be booked by pric appointment by calling 2 289 843 711

389 840 000 / Fax. 289 842 455 /

289 840 000 / 289 841 959 / Fax. 289 842 455 cine-teatro@cm-sbras.pt

Opening hours: 9:30 am - 1 pm / 2 - 5:30 pm; Closed

289 840 000 / 289 841 959 / Fax. 289 842 455

289 840 005 / Fax. 289 842 455
turismo@cm-sbras.pt / gav@cm-sbras.pt

☑ turismo@cm-sbras.pt

São Brás de Alportel Town Hal Address: Gago Coutinho, nº 1 289 840 000 / Fax. 289 842 455 gidi@cm-sbras.pt

EN2 Memory House 289 840 205 / 960 448 07 casa.en2@cm-sbras.pt

The Costume Museum Address: Rua José Dias Sancho, n.º 61 Monday to Friday: 10 am -1 pm / 2 - 5 pm Dr Manuel Francisco do Estanco Louro Municipal

№ 289 840 100 M info@museu-sbras.com Dr. José de Sousa Pires Municipal Sports Pavillion

Mondays: 2:30 - 6:30 pm and Saturdays: 3 - 6 pm 289 840 360 / Fax. 289 840 369 address: Campina Front desk: Monday to Friday: 9 am - 12:30 pm / 2 -289 840 200 pavilhao@cm-sbras.pt

Address: Rua do Matadour Open from June to septembe 289 841 243 **Municipal Outdoor Pools**

Address: Dr. Alberto Sousa | 🛂 289 840 070 Open from: De september **Tourist Office** Address: Largo S. Sebastião

289 843 165
turismo.saobras@rtalgarve.pt **Bus Station "Circular"**

Taxi Rank 🕓 289 842 611 Volunteer Fire Department 289 842 606 Health Centre 28 289 840 440 National Republican Guard 💟 289 840 800







Find the Best Quality Produce at the Municipal Market. MUNICIPAL Take the flavours of the hills away with you when you go: delicious honey, carob liqueur, arbutus brandy and mouthwatering smoked

sausages. True temptations for every sense. Be sure to visit shops selling local produce to take the Taste of Tradition with

Find out more when you pop into the Municipal Market at Rua Boaventura Passos or by phone at 289 840 014289 840 014

Culinary Demonstration

A live cooking demonstration is held at the Market on the last Saturday of each month, with special participations from chefs eager to present their own signature dishes, filling the space with mouthwatering aromas.

HANDICRAFTS



Take original pieces of locally-made handicrafts with you. Explore your options when you SHOP LOCALLY, but also at the TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (Arts and Crafts Centre -Historic Centre), at the EN2 MEMORY

Listen to them as you 8

discover the Route of

A new complementary space has been added to enrich the São Brás de Alportel Arts and Crafts and Historic Centres, Artesão displaying local crafts and products

typical of the Caldeirão hills. Watch several local artisans as they practice their craft here for all to see.



São Brás de Alportel covers an area of 150km², stretching from the rocky "Barrocal" to the hills, providing a range of trails for walkers filled with treasures of natural heritage and a whole load of history just waiting to be discovered! We've made a list of our top suggestions of signposted walking trails, though you can also find information on all the trails available on the municipality's website at www.visitsaobrasalportel.pt

WT1 > A Walk to the Spring [9km]

A route along old pathways through the barrocal, in Mesquita and Bengado. WT2 > Between Valleys, Springs, and the Memories of the Caldeirão Hills A route divided into 3 different optional sections in the hilliest part of the

municipality, taking walkers through Parises and Cabeça do Velho.

PP3 > Lages Ravine [7km]

shepherds' paths [28,3km]

A route through the most picturesque locations along the northern border of the municipality.

Fonte Férrea Trails

Explore fantastic trails fit for all the family at the Fonte Férrea Park, and venture through the Caldeirão Route!

Stone over Stone, seeking to explore Corotelo

A route sure to astound all walkers, through geology and thousands of years

Along the Trails of the Barrocal - from Penedo Gordo to "Calçadinha" Um percurso surpreendente pela geologia, com milénios de história. Walks through the Alportel Valley A Walk through the Valley... along

A route made up of 3 trails: Alcaria, Várzea da Cova, and Ribeira de Alportel, through the stunning Alportel Valley along breathtaking trails.

A Walk to the West... in the twilight of Soalheira [9km]

Set off from the Capela de São Romão (Saint Romanus Chapel) through rolling hills, the sea peeking through peaks and troughs in the distance.

The perfect path to take in charming landscapes populated with beautiful rainfed orchards that culminate in the "Quinta do Peral" Environmental

Biodiversity Station [2km]

The Way to School (Peral) [3,7km]

North of the village of Alportel, allow hundreds of birds, butterflies, and dragonflies to whisk you away, and help keep track of each species!

Ornithological Itinerary - Sítio do Javali

Explore a trail through cork oaks, vegetable patches, and streams. Also make sure to stop by the birdwatching spots along the EN2 in Bispo, Fonte

Geological Itinerary

A route along which walkers are taken on a journey of discovery of the ancient art of clay sculpting - the oldest practice in the area, the traces of which can be found in the beautiful Bengado Valley.





In the heart of the eastern Algarve, between the rocky stretch of "barrocal" and the hills, the lands of Alportel serve up a rich, flavourful cuisine. The flavours that shine through are those found in tasty, healthy Mediterranean cuisine: a range including cold tomato "gaspacho", chickpea, chicken, and bread "açorda", as well as kid with peas, wild rabbit au vin and, of course, the "soups", a typical dish consisting of slices of day-old rustic bread with broth poured over them.

Taste the spice of tradition in a range of local restaurants that can be

😭 😭 WHERE TO STAY

São Brás de Alportel awaits, providing a range of accommodations for all tastes: a RURAL HOTEL, several RURAL TOURISM options, more than 100 options of LOCAL ACCOMMODATION and MOTORHOME SERVICE

Get searching and book now at: www.visitsaobrasalportel.pt



WHERE TO SAMPLE

Sweet treats made in São Bras are certainly some of the best of what the region has to offer, crafted using honey, carob, arbutus berries, figs, and almonds, not to mention traditional stuffed figs, lollipops and the traditional São Brás "tender" sugared almonds. A list of unmissable ingredients essential to cultivating hospitality! Explore the best of the sweet treats São Brás has to offer:



WHERE TO DELIGHT IN NEW EXPERIENCES

São Brás de Alportel invites you to indulge all of your senses when you dive into brand-new Experiences!

● How about a family day out to Quinta do Peral – Interpretation and Education and Environmental Centre, providing donkey rides, games, parties, workshops, and much more! Book:

№.289 845 420 quintadoperal@cm-sbras.pt

You can also book guided tours to Bengado Mill and Mesquita Watermill, as well as of the Historic Centre, at the Tourist Office: ☑ turismo@cmsbras.pt 🕓 (+351) 289 840 210

Remember: the best stories are the ones we live together! Why not opt for a family adventure, in the middle of nature, at Monte dos Marafados? Or who knows a fun trip to the time of the Romans? Minte dos Marafados: 🗹 marcocran@email.com

 Make time for a memorable bike ride: enjoy the municipality on two wheels when you rent bikes to dive into an adventure into nature: ☑ avalanche.bikeshop@gmail.com , ☑ info@mtbalgarve.pt,

or info@ridesouthportugal.com • Enjoy a true adventure in the heart of Serra do Caldeirão! You can travel in a classic 4x4Toyota from 1978 or experience fun workshops

in 🛮 serra.algarvia.sba@gmail.com • Explore the Cork Route in the birthplace of the best cork worldwide: ☑ turismo@algarverotas.com

• Visit an artisan production of natural soaps and you can even book a

workshop: celiasousacosmetics@hotmail.com

Venture out on an unforgettable paragliding flight:

Take a chance on a caravan adventure! Rent them here! You can opt for a 2Cv story: Siesta Campers- info@siestacampers.com;

opt for a more modern version of the Soul Campers -

info@soulcampers.com.pt or a classic model

vintagecampersvan.com info@vintagecampersvans.com

Find out what all the local tour operators have to offer at

