

Its limited size (approximately five thousand square kilometres) enables visitors to get to know several sites in a single day - from the mountains inland to the coastal marshes – and observe a great number of different species. This variety is also enhanced by the richness of the landscape, which accommodates all of Portugal's main habitats such as extensive cork oak woods, grasslands, coastal lagoons, salt flats and marshland.

Around 40 per cent of the region has been designated Natura 2000 areas under the Birds and Habitats Directives and there are Important Bird Areas (IBA - Birdlife International) in the Algarve. This extensive network of areas of ornithological importance include the Ria Formosa estuary and the Castro Marim marshes, two of the country's most important wetlands where thousands of waterbirds can be found, with rare species such as the swamp hen and Audouin's Gull. The Sagres peninsula and cape is the main migration bottleneck in Portugal for birds of prey and other soaring birds, such as the black stork, the imperial eagle and the

These natural attractions, combined with easy access within the region, a wide variety of accommodation and its popular beach culture, make the Algarve a rich birdwatching area worth discovering. Birdwatching in this beautiful region provides an outdoor experience that should not be overlooked!



Good Conduct

- > Whenever you use the services of a tourism company, check that it is duly licensed and has the necessary permission to operate in
- Give preference to local companies organising birdwatching activities, this will help to boost the local economy.
- > Avoid disturbing nests and breeding bird colonies.
- If you find an injured bird, contact the following authorities: GNR - SEPNA (Lisbon) Tel. (+351) 217 503 080 SOS Ambiente Tel. (+351) 808 200 520 RIAS (Ria Formosa Estuary Bird Rehabilitation Centre): Tel. (+351) 927 659 313
- In the event of a fire: call 117
- In case of an emergency: call 112



Swamp Hen



particularly numerous around the fresh-wate coastal lagoons of the Ria Formosa Estuary, the Vilamoura reed beds and the Salgados Lagoon. A symbol of the Ria Formosa Estuary Nature Park and one of the principal attractions of the region



Red-Crested Pochard

Netta rufina



A duck with localised distribution in the Algarve, easily observed at the São Lourenço Lagoon and others nearby sites such as Foz do Almargem



Red-Rumped Swallow

Hirundo daurica



A summer species, fairly common in the inland areas of the Algarve particularly the Serra do Caldeirão and Monchique mountains, Nests close to river banks and can easily be observed in orchards and meadows.



Black-Eared Wheatear

Oenanthe hispanica



A rare summer migrant which is restricted to the inland areas of the Algarve during the breeding season. The Serra do Caldeirão and Monchique mountains are the best places to observe this passerine, which migrates to Africa for the winter mid-September



Griffon Vulture

Gyps fulvus



Although it neither nests nor spends the winte in the Algarve, the griffon vulture is relatively ommon in this region in the autumn during migration. At that time of year it can be seen in the



Audouin's Gull

Larus audouinii



Present in the wetlands of the Ria Formosa Estuary and Castro Marim. It may easily be observed on the salt flats at the Cerro do Bufo (Castro Marim), in the Ludo area (Formosa Estuary), at the Ferreira Neto Fishermen's Village and at Santa Luzia (Tavira). The Audouin's Gull is present all year round although less abundant in the summer and autumn months.



Little Bustard



A grassland bird which is rare in the Algarve, it can be seen at the Sagres peninsula and Castro Marim The best time to see it is in the spring when the males are fairly active.



Sardinian Warbler

Sylvia melanocephala











One of the region's most common species, the warbler appears in a wide variety of habitats year round from the coastal wetlands to the inland cork



Dartford Warbler



This bird is also relatively common in the Algarye although its habitat is limited to the inland mountainous areas rich in rock-roses and cork oaks Resident and easy to observe at sites such as the Serra



Glossy Ibis Plagadis falcinellus

A regular winter visitor and easy to observe particularly at the Salgados Lagoon and the São urenco Lagoon at Ouinta do Lago.



Flamingo



A common species in the main wetlands of the Algarve especially Castro Marim, the Ria Formosa estuary and Salgados Lagoon. Although resident, it is more abundant in winter and especially in the salt-flat areas where it feeds and rests.



Bee-Eater

Merons aniaste



A summer visitor, present in large numbers from April to September especially in inland areas where there are plenty of bees to feed on. The bee-eater is very easy to observe in the Serra do Caldeirão and the area around the Ria Formosa Estuary (Ludo, Castro Marim, etc).



Little Tern

Sterna albifrons





Fairly common during the spring and summe months especially at the Ria Formosa estuary. Castro Marim and the Alvor estuary. It can be observed close to the coastal salt flats and lagoon areas.



Collared Pratincole





Spoonbill Platalea leucorodia



Although resident its population is most abundant in winter. Among the best places for observation are the salt marshes in Castro Marim, Arraial Ferreira Neto in Tavira, Santa Luzia, Ludo in the Ria osa, the Salgados Lagoon and Alvor Estuary.



Little Bittern



A small heron which is relatively rare in the Algarye. It can be spotted in the reedbeds of the freshwate coastal lagoons, particularly São Lourenço and Salgados. Although a summer migrant, it is

uently seen in autumn and winter also



A fairly common bird in the Algarye which is present in nearly all types of habitats. Very abundant in coastal pine forests, especially in the Ludo, Ria Formosa estuary and Serra do Caldeirão



Black-Winged Kite Elanus caeruleus



A bird of prey regularly seen in the Algarve especially in winter in areas such as the Ria Formosa Estuary and the Vilamoura reed beds it may also be observed in autumn and spring, especially in the Sagres area.

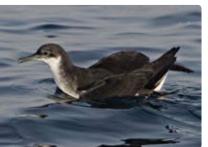


Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus



A fairly common shorebird in the Algarve which is present throughout the year. This bird nests on salt flats and sand dunes, and is very easy to observe. The Ria Formosa and Alvor estuaries, Castro Marim and Salgados lagoon are popular sites where this species



Yelkouan Shearwater Puffinus yelkouan

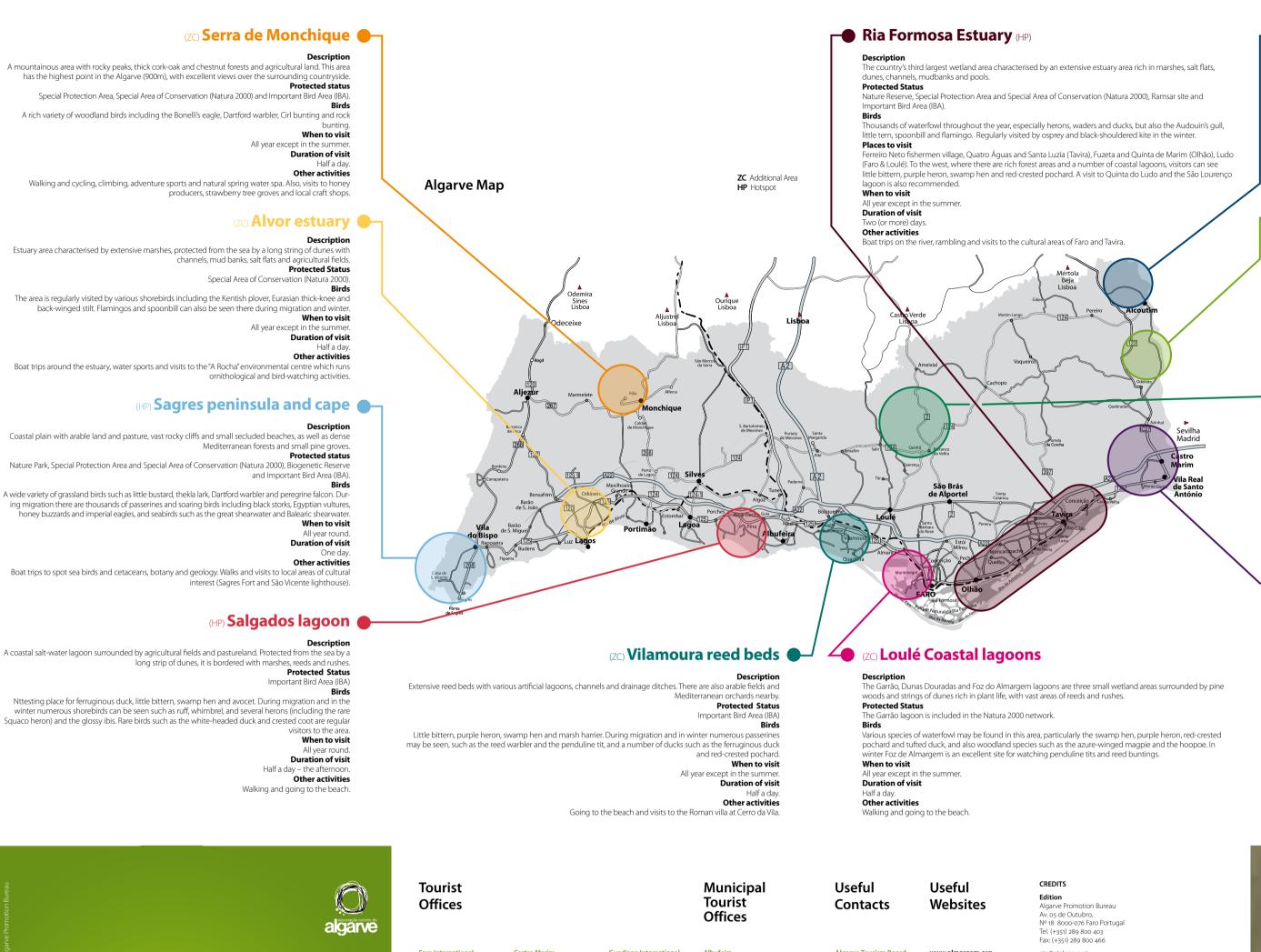






the Algarye coast between July and October. The easiest place to observe this bird from land is Cape St Vincent and it is also possible to see the species anywhere on the Algarve coast from a boat







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Print Run

KW Language & Com

Archive TA - Pedro Reis (landscape photos) Graphic design and layout birdwatching in the algarve

and Vila Real de Sto. António (HP)

Castro Marim marshes

Alcoutim and River Guadiana (ZC)

Signposted walks, visits to the museum and boat trips on the river

beautiful scenery and viewing points.

● Foz de Odeleite (ZC)

walks and rides can be taken on foot or by car.

Serra do Caldeirão (HP)

kingfisher and thekla lark among others.

Walking, visits to mountain villages and sampling local cuisine.

pecial Area of Conservation (Natura 2000)

Protected Status

Other activities

Protected Status

When to visit In the spring and autumn

Protected status

All year except in the summer. **Duration of visit**Half a day – the morning.

Duration Half a day. **Other activities**

Birds

DescriptionAn arid zone with few wooded areas and Mediterranean orchards. There are holm oak groves and

pockets of thick brushwood on the banks of the Guadiana River where you can find riverside walks with

Golden oriole, rufous bushrobin, azure-winged magpie, Dartford warbler, Eurasian tree sparrow, red-rumped swallow, little ringed plover and eagle owl. There are regular sightings of the white-rumped swift. When to visit

DescriptionRiverside area, a tributary of the River Guadiana, rich in riverside forests and traditional orchards. Marked

Rufous bushrobin, bee-eater, rock bunting, azure-winged magpie, moustached warbler, short-toed eagle

mountainous area covered with thick cork-oak forests and bush featuring numerous mountain streams

A variety of woodland birds, especially passerines and birds of prey: Dartford warbler, blue rock thrush, Bonelli's eagle and the eagle owl. A number of species can be seen in the spring such as the moustached warbler, red-rumped swallow, golden oriole, orphean warbler, short-toed eagle and the wryneck.

Walking, visits to traditional mountain villages and sampling local gastronomic specialities and local crafts.

tion Area, Special Area of Conservation (Natura 2000) and Important Bird Area (IBA).

Other activities

DescriptionOne of Portugal's largest wetland areas, characterised by extensive marshes and salinas (salt-producing

Protected Status
Nature Reserve, Special Protection Area (Natura 2000), Ramsar site and Important Bird Area (IBA)

Birds

Waterbirds (over 200 species) throughout the year which include the Audouin's gull, slender-billed gull, Caspian tern, flamingo and spoonbill. The lesser-known short-toed lark and little bustard inhabit the area. It is also a nesting area for the subalpine warbler, collared pratincole, Montagu's harrier and little bittern.

When to visit

All year except in the summer **Duration of visit**

Other activities

Visit the salt production areas and discover the historic sites, particularly Castro Marim Castle.

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www.meteo.pt

www.spea.pt Study of Birds