

ALGARVE PRE TOUR VENUE AND ACCOMMODATION 1 – 4 April 2019

Hotel location GPS **37°06'08.6"N 8°22'00.6"W**

Holiday Inn – Algarve, Avenida Marginal, Armação de Pera, Algarve Tel. +351 282 320 260
Hotel reception email info@hialgarve.com



Our Algarve Pre Tour base is the Four Star **Holiday Inn Hotel**. It has sweeping views out over the ocean, an outdoor pool and direct beach access. Free WiFi in all public areas of the hotel, all rooms have satellite TV, tea and coffee making facilities. There is some garage parking and street parking outside the hotel. Conference attendees will have full access to all hotel facilities. There are three restaurants - Por do Sol with an extensive hot and cold buffet choice, Raj Indian Restaurant and the Palm Beach Restaurant with an A la Carte Menu with fresh fish. The hotel also has two panoramic bars which have a lovely outlook over the beach from an extensive terrace. Hotel accommodation includes breakfast in the hotel.

On request, it may be possible to upgrade individual rooms to sea view with a balcony at an extra cost.

The pre tour programme runs from check in Monday 1 April, evening drinks reception and dinner to breakfast in the hotel and check out on Thursday morning 4 April and one bed and breakfast in the Évora hotel as detailed in the schedule. Lunches will be taken in local restaurants during the visits organised and are included as part of the programme. Dinners on Tuesday and Wednesday in the Algarve and on Thursday in Évora are not included and you are free to go into town and explore the area. There are many restaurants & cafes close by.

If arriving by car - Directions are available on Google maps as the hotel is marked as a location.

More information on the hotel facilities <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/algarve/faoap/hotel/detail>

Airport Transfers - the closest airport is Faro (approx. 45 mins drive) which is served from many locations throughout the year. The best way from Faro Airport is by taxi and there are usually lots of taxis at the Airport. It is best to prebook your taxi transfer via sites such as <https://www.yellowfishtransfers.com/en/home> You can also arrange transfers via the hotel reception email info@hialgarve.com If enough people are arriving together we can also arrange a transfer for a group when we have flight details.

If arriving by train from Lisbon there are direct trains. The nearest train station is Tunes, 12km away. There are good taxi services available.

Numbers are limited for this pre tour and priority will be given by order of receipt of your booking form.

All bookings will be administered together with our partner travel agent in Faro, **Rotatur Lda**. They can accept debit/credit card payments. Full details will be circulated on receipt of booking forms.

Armação de Pera is a traditional sea side resort in the Silves council area and is located in the centre of the Algarve . The long gently sloping sandy beach is directly accessible from the hotel. There is a newly renovated pedestrian only esplanade which runs for approx. 200m along the beach front with many shops, cafés and restaurants. Armação is one of the last places in the region where fishing boats are launched from and recovered to the actual beach.

The 'old village' is at the eastern end by the fishermen's beach and is more typically Algarvean. It is here, on the beachfront that the remains of a 17th century fort still stand - built to defend the village from pirates and corsairs by a wealthy fishing boat owner. There is a chapel inside, dedicated to Santo António, which is also 17th century. The cobbled street on the corner of the hill opposite the whitewashed fort leads down into a network of little streets with a variety of shops, cafés, bars and restaurants.

Pre Conference Tour 1 / 4 April 2019

All subject to confirmation, full details will be circulated.

DATE/GUIDES	TIME	EVENT
Monday 1 April		Check into Holiday Inn Algarve hotel – B & B 3 nights included in tour
	19.00 – 19.30	Welcome Drink, Introductions followed by dinner in hotel
Tuesday 2 April	9.30	Bus Departs hotel
Marilyn Medina Ribeiro	10.00 – 12.30	Visit private gardens in Carvoeiro / Lagoa / Almancil
	13.00	Lunch at local restaurant included
	14.00 – 15.00	Visit to private garden – project with planting inspired by Olivier Filippi. To be confirmed
	15.30 – 17.00	Refreshment break / Guided Wildflower walk
	17.30 approx.	Return to hotel. Free to go into town (dinner not included).
Wednesday 3 April	9.30	Bus Departs Hotel
Claudia and Udo Schwarzer Carrascalhino, Aljezur	10.30-12.30	Ecologically managed areas around the house include cistus species and wild hybrids. A guided walk through their developing native forest following removal of dense eucalyptus plantation.
	12.30	Depart for travel to coast
	13.00-14.30	Lunch included at local restaurant on way to :-
OPTIONAL - for those not wishing to take part in the guided walk, transport into Aljezur or stay at Arrifana beach. Refreshment break snack provided.	14.30-17.30	West Coast landscapes , Ribat of Arrifana http://en.rotavicentina.com/ Guided 4.5km easy walk along west coast with views to ocean covering part of Rota Vicentina. Walking shoes / boots essential, stream crossing http://flora-on.pt/#/1perto%3a37.3057+-8.8694 Flora for walk route including rare <i>Biscutella vicentina</i> and <i>Euphorbia monchiquensis</i> Photo opportunities and frequent stops to observe plants.
	18.00	Return to hotel. Free to go into town (dinner not included).
Thursday 4 April	9.30	Check out Hotel and depart
	10.00-11.30	Guided Visit MGAP Botanic Garden, Silves dedicated to the flora of the Barrocal region - a new project showing first phase of demonstration gardens on 2ha site. Fruit garden and Quinta tour.
	11.30-11.45	Coffee at Quinta da Figueirinha included
	11.45-13.00	Visit private garden
	13.00-14.00	Buffet Lunch at Cruz de Portugal restaurant Silves
	14.00	Travel to Évora by bus with refreshment stop
	Approx. 18.00	Check in at Évora hotel - 1st night B&B included in this tour , subsequent nights included in the main programme. Free to go into town (dinner not included)
Friday 5 April		Join main programme / optional day visit or free day to explore Évora.