The Algarve, in the far south of Portugal, is one of the country’s most interesting regions for birdwatching. It has more than 300 species throughout the year including numerous birds of prey, seabirds, shorebirds, ducks, passerines and many others.

**Swamp Hen**
*Phrynoxy嗜*(Húmero)
This species is resident in the Algarve and particularly numerous around the freshwater coastal lagoons of the Ria Formosa Estuary, Alvor Estuary and the Ferreira Neto Fishermen’s Bufo salt-flat. It can be observed in large numbers especially in winter. Among the best places for observation are the Ria Formosa Estuary and the Ferreira Neto Fishermen’s Bufo salt-flat.

**Audouin’s Gull**
*Pelecanus audouinii*(Amaro turbante)
Present in the wetlands of the Ria Formosa Estuary and Castro Marim, it is a bird that can be observed at the São Lourenço Lagoon in the Algarve. This bird is often seen on the salt-flat areas where it feeds and rests.

**Flamingo**
*Phoenicopterus roseus*(Pata fumaca)
A summer visitor and easy to observe due to the large flocks it forms. The best time to see this species is during the spring and summer months especially at the Ria Formosa estuary, Castro Marim and Serrre do Caldeirão. It may easily be observed on the salt-flat areas where it feeds and rests.

**Little Tern**
*Sterna albifrons*(Galinha pratinco) 
This little heron can be observed in large numbers especially in winter in coastal lagoons, particularly São Lourenço and Alvor Estuary. It can be seen in large numbers.

**Collared Pratincole**
*Ixobrychus xanthus*(Pratinco aderido)
A fairly common bird in the Algarve which is easy to see in winter especially in coastal lagoons and salt-flat areas where it feeds and rests.

**Bee-Eater**
*Lanugularia melanocephala* 
A summer visitor, present in large numbers from April to September especially in inland areas where there are plenty of bees to feed on. This bird is a summer visitor and can be observed in the Ria Formosa Estuary and the area around the Ria Formosa Estuary itself.

**Little Bittern**
*Ixobrychus minutus*(Galinha pratinco)
A small heron which is a resident in the Algarve and occasionally seen in coastal lagoons, especially the Ria Formosa Estuary and the area around the Ria Formosa Estuary. Although a summer visitor, it is frequently seen in autumn and spring.

**Black-Winged Kite**
*Elanus caeruleus*(Galinha piquada)
A fairly common bird in the Algarve which is easy to see in winter especially in coastal areas.

**Collared Pratincole**
*Cranias semispilota*
This bird is relatively common in the Algarve, although its most frequent breeding site is the coastal lagoons of the Ria Formosa Estuary and the São Lourenço Lagoon in Castro Marim. It is also seen in large numbers in the Ria Formosa Estuary and the São Lourenço Lagoon in Castro Marim.

**Glossy Ibis**
*Platalea leucorodia* 
A regular winter visitor which is most abundant in coastal lagoons and salt-flat areas. It is also present throughout the year in the Algarve. It is a fairly common bird in the Algarve which is easy to see in winter especially in coastal lagoons and salt-flat areas where it feeds and rests.

**Spoonbill**
*Platalea leucorodia*
Although resident in population is most abundant in winter. It is also present throughout the year in the Algarve. It is a fairly common bird in the Algarve which is easy to see in winter especially in coastal lagoons and salt-flat areas where it feeds and rests.

**Birdwatching in the Algarve**

The Algarve, in the far south of Portugal, is one of the country’s most interesting regions for birdwatching. It has more than 300 species throughout the year including numerous birds of prey, seabirds, shorebirds, ducks, passerines and many others. 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 margins – 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 (BA - 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. Thousands of waterbirds can be found, with many species such as the Swamphen and Audouin’s Gull. The Sags peninsula and cape is the main migration bottleneck for Portugal for birds of prey and other soaring birds, such as the black stork, the imperial eagle and the Egyptian vulture.

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 protected areas.

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
- GNR - SEPNA (Lisbon) Tel. (+351) 927 659 313
- RIAS (Ria Formosa Estuary Bird Rehabilitation Centre): Tel. (+351) 861 609 110

In the event of a fire: call 112

In case of an emergency: call 112

In case of a fire: call 117

Give preference to local companies with the necessary permission to operate in protected areas.

Whenever you use the services of a tourism company, check that it is duly licensed and has the necessary permission to operate in protected areas.

Give preference to local companies organising birdwatching activities, this will help to boost the local economy.

Avoid disturbing nests and breeding bird colonies.

1. **Swamp Hen**
2. **Audouin’s Gull**
3. **Flamingo**
4. **Black-Winged Kite**
5. **Collared Pratincole**
6. **Glossy Ibis**
7. **Spoonbill**
8. **Birdwatching in the Algarve**
9. **Good Conduct**
10. **Swirl Hen**
11. **Audouin’s Gull**
12. **Flamingo**
13. **Black-Winged Kite**
14. **Collared Pratincole**
15. **Glossy Ibis**
16. **Spoonbill**
17. **Birdwatching in the Algarve**
18. **Good Conduct**
Serra de Monchique

A mountainous area covered with thick cork-oak forests and bush featuring numerous mountain streams and waterfalls. Tourists can spot eagles, griffon vultures and choughs. A mountainous area covered with thick cork-oak forests and bush featuring numerous mountain streams and waterfalls. Tourists can spot eagles, griffon vultures and choughs.

Sagres peninsula and cape

A coastal sand and pasture with small rocky cliffs and isolated beaches, as well as diverse Mediterranean forests and small areas of coastal forest. Tourists can spot honey buzzards, imperial eagles, and seabirds such as the great shearwater and Balearic shearwater.

Alvor estuary

A wetland area characterized by extensive marshes, protected from the sea by a long strip of dunes, it is bordered with marshes, reeds and rushes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Salgados lagoon

A coastal saltwater lagoon bordered by agricultural fields and pastures. Protected from the sea by a long strip of dunes, it is bordered with marshes, reeds and rushes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Vilamoura reed beds

A coastal reed bed surrounded by agricultural fields and pastures. Protected from the sea by a long strip of dunes, it is bordered with marshes, reeds and rushes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

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Serra da Caldeirão

A mountainous area with beautiful scenery and viewing points. Tourists can spot eagles, griffon vultures and choughs.

Castro Marim marshes and Vila Real de Santo António

A coastal area that is still in operation. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Loulé Coastal lagoons

A coastal saltwater lagoon bordered by agricultural fields and pastures. Protected from the sea by a long strip of dunes, it is bordered with marshes, reeds and rushes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Alcoutim and River Guadiana

A coastal area with few coastal forests and extensive salt marshes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Foz de Alentejo

A wetland area with few coastal forests and extensive salt marshes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Foz do Arelho

A coastal area with few coastal forests and extensive salt marshes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Foz do Douro

A coastal area with few coastal forests and extensive salt marshes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

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Vila Real de Santo António

A coastal area with few coastal forests and extensive salt marshes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Loule estuary

A coastal area with few coastal forests and extensive salt marshes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Vilamoura reed beds

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Alvor estuary

A wetland area characterized by extensive marshes, protected from the sea by a long strip of dunes, it is bordered with marshes, reeds and rushes. Tourists can spot little bittern, purple heron, swamp hen and marsh harrier. During migration and in winter numerous passerines may be seen, such as the redshank and the wigeon, as well as a number of ducks such as the tufted duck and common pochard.

Salgados lagoon

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