

Guest Information

CASA SANDRA

JJ Villas

Luxury Villas in the Algarve

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while in the Algarve, we recommend Abbey National. Please contact Abbey National before you leave England for a list of their branches in the Algarve.

Bars and Cafés

There are several bars and cafés in Almádena. Some of these are shown on the map of the village. The alcohol laws are less strict than the UK and, if you want it, you can buy a beer with your breakfast. The bars and cafés in Almádena tend to be used by local Portuguese people and some of the owners do not speak much English.

If you are looking for more lively bars, then Luz and Lagos is where you should be heading. Here you will find many bars with loud music and entertainment.

Beaches

There are some of the best beaches of the Algarve near the villa. We set out a brief description of each one below starting East and moving West:

Lagos and Meia Praia

A 10 minute drive and you are in Lagos. Batata is the closest beach to the centre of town. It is a fine sandy beach beneath the wall of an ancient fortress that still stands guard over the harbour entrance. More impressive however, drive another 3 minutes through Lagos and follow the signs to Meia Praia. The beach Meia Praia is a 5 kilometre stretch of golden sand and is easily the biggest of Lagos' beaches. It curves around the edge of the bay all the way from Lagos marina to the river estuary at Alvor. It is a long open beach but with no natural shade. It has water sport facilities, sun beds and sun shades for hire.

From Lagos to Luz

There are a string of small beaches between Lagos and Luz, including the picturesque Praia Dona Ana. To get to this beach, involves steep steps near the Golfino Hotel. It is backed and flanked north and south by cliffs, but because it faces East, the sand here is nicely sheltered from Westerly winds.

Praia do Mós and Porto de Mós also appeal to those who prefer smaller more intimate coves. Porto de Mós is in a small bay between Lagos and Luz flanked by cliffs that usually give shelter and shade on one side or the other. There is a large car parking area and beach access is easy.

A short boat trip from Lagos takes you round the rock formations and grottoes of Ponta da Piedade. The boats depart from Praia Dona Ana. You can also catch a day boat trip to Sagres enabling you to see the beautiful coast line from Lagos to Sagres. These trips start from the pontoon in the harbour of Lagos.

Luz

Under a 5 minute drive from the villa and you are in Luz. Once you have got use to the local roads, the quickest way to reach Luz is to go straight ahead at the lights when you leave Almádena and follow this road straight until you come to a T junction. At the junction turn left and follow this road straight – in less than 1 minute you will be in Luz.

Luz is one of the most popular beaches in the Algarve and is a well established family resort. It has a good, wide sandy beach which starts right in front of the village. You can do most of the water

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sports you would want to do, as well as there being several relaxed restaurants as well as shops and bars.

Burgau

A little further West you will find the village of Burgau and its beach. It is about a 10 minute drive from Almádena. Follow the directions above for Luz but at the T junction turn right.

Burgau is a lot quieter than Luz. The beach is right in front of the village and is flanked by cliffs at either end. It is good for snorkelling and scuba-diving as well as having its fair share of water sports and restaurants. Parking near the beach is in short supply so it is best to leave your car at the top of the village and walk down.

Boca do Rio

Access to the beach is easy but it is tucked away. The easiest way to find it is to turn off the EN125 at Budens. Scuba divers and snorkellers will want to explore the remains of a French man-of-war lying on the seabed about 300m offshore.

Aljezur and The West Coast

The beautiful West Coast of the Algarve with its dramatic cliffs and rock formations is still completely unspoilt and there are some fantastic beaches – famous for fishing and bird-watching – but usually unsignposted and hidden from the road by high sand dunes.

Aljezur itself is a little visited, but quaint old town, founded by the Arabs in the 10th Century. If you climb up to the ruins of the old Castle, you can enjoy spectacular views over the surrounding countryside and Aljezur makes a good central point for a scenic drive through the West Algarve.

A good trip is: take the EN125 from Almádena to Vila do Bispo and then turn North, over the hills of the Dog's Spine Ridge and down into Carrapateira, where you will find the first of the wonderful West Coast beaches. From there continue to Aljezur and return to Lagos on the EN120 (the main road from Lisbon).

Breakages and Breakage Deposit

We take a breakage deposit (subject to a minimum of £150) to cover any accidental damage. This deposit is refunded two weeks after your return. We accept that accidents do happen, however, should you accidentally damage anything in the villa, it will be a lot cheaper for you to buy the replacement item yourself at the Modelo supermarket in Lagos or Portimão.

Car Hire and Petrol

If you have booked car hire to be picked up at the airport, the map we have provided will show you where to go. You can park your car anywhere outside the villa. Your car hire documentation will have the contact phone numbers to call in the event of any queries or an emergency.

If you are in Portugal and did not book car hire but have changed your mind, please call Holiday Autos on 0044 1276 413 844 and quote JJ Villas to receive your discount, or order over the internet at www.holidayautos.co.uk/aff/jjvillas. Holiday Autos have an office in Lagos where you can pick up the car. You can also arrange to drop off the car at the airport and not Lagos if this is helpful.

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Petrol can be purchased from the majority of supermarkets as well as many petrol garages. The nearest place to Almádena to buy petrol is the Ecomarché supermarket in Budens (see “Shopping – Supermarkets” section below for directions).

Check In and Check Out

In order for the villa to be prepared and ready for your occupation, guests are asked not to arrive at the villa until 2pm. Further, guests are asked to check out of the villa by 10am at the latest. You have provided us with your flight details so we can arrange for our management company to meet you at the villa to explain everything you need to know to enjoy your holiday and answer any questions that you may have. They will offer you the key for the safe in the master bedroom of the villa. A €15.00 deposit must be paid locally for the key.

They will also come to the villa at the end of your holiday to collect the keys and check for any damaged/lost items. On the assumption you did not lose the safe key, they will also return your €15.00 deposit.

Chemist/Pharmacy and Hospital

The nearest chemist/pharmacy is in Luz and is sign posted. The nearest hospital is in Lagos.

Consulates

In cases of lost or stolen passports and other emergencies, contact your national consulate in the Algarve or embassy in Lisbon. The address of the British Consulate is Largo F.A. Mauricio, Portimão and the phone number 282 417 800 (The British Consulate can also help Commonwealth nationals).

Cooker/Oven, Hob and Grill

Every villa has a cooker/oven, hob and grill as standard. Casa Sandra has a gas cooker and hob with an electric grill and hot plate. It is operated the same way as ovens in the UK, but please read the instructions carefully to make sure you understand everything you need to before using it.

Cot and High Chair

If these are required, these must be booked at least eight weeks before departure. If you have not booked these but change your mind, please let us know and we will do our upmost to try and provide these but we can not guarantee that we will be able to if booked after this date.

Crime

The crime rate in the Algarve is a lot lower than in the UK however there is crime and therefore we ask you to behave as if you were in England. For example, do not leave valuables in your car, use the safe provided in the master bedroom of the villa and lower the roller shutter when you leave the villa.

Dehumidifier

Every villa has air-conditioning as standard which also has a dehumidifier setting. We recommend the dehumidifier or heating setting is selected during the months October to March due to the large amount of moisture in the air in the evening. This not only removes the moisture but will make the villa warmer in the cool evenings during this time of year. However, please read the instructions carefully before using.

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Discount Off Your Next Holiday

We know you will enjoy staying at our villas and therefore we know you will want to come again. We therefore offer guests substantial discounts off their next holiday should guests book their next holiday within two weeks of leaving Portugal.

Dishwasher

Every villa has a dishwasher. The dishwasher is very similar to those found in the UK, however, if you want to use the dishwasher please read the instructions carefully before hand. You will have to buy the dishwasher powder etc. from the supermarket in order for the dishwasher to work.

Dressing Gowns and Slippers

All adults staying in our villas are provided with luxury dressing gowns and slippers.

The dressing gowns provided come in two sizes, extra large for the men and large for the women. These must be left in the villa when you vacate. Due to dressing gowns going missing in the past, they will be checked once you have vacated the villa and the price of any dressing gowns that are missing will be deducted from your breakage deposit as well as the cost to export any missing ones to the villa from England (a minimum charge of £64 plus UK VAT).

The price of the dressing gowns are £40 for the extra large and £38 for the large. Guests can also order these on return to the UK (without the JJ Villas logo, unless you want it!).

The slippers provided are thrown away once they have been used and therefore if any guest would like to keep any of the slippers, you are most welcome.

Driving

Please drive on the right. Always carry your passport and driving licence when driving. Should the police stop you and you can't show both of these, you will be fined and could end up in jail. This may appear hard but this is the law in Portugal. Further, the Portuguese Traffic Police are keen to collect as many fines as possible as they earn more days holiday the more money they collect.

Seat belts must be worn in the front and the back and under 13 year olds are not allowed to travel in the front. At an intersection of roads of equal importance, give way to the right. At roundabouts, give way to the left and give way to any vehicle already on the roundabout.

The alcohol limit is 0.5g/l, lower than the UK. Speed limits are 40kph in built up areas, 90kph on open roads and 120kph on motorways. Please, never leave anything of value or passports in your car as car robberies are not uncommon, even though the overall level of crime in Portugal is a lot lower than the UK.

DVD Player

Every villa has a DVD Player as standard (as well as a wide screen television, Sky digital, PlayStation 2, and VHS video). Please read the instructions carefully for details on how to operate the DVD Player.

A list of which channel has to be selected on the television to use the DVD Player can be found in the villa near the television.

The villa may have a selection of DVDs but it is recommended that guests either bring these with them or rent them in Portugal. The DVD player is Region 2 and therefore the DVDs you rent in

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Portugal should have English as one of the languages that can be selected. For more information on renting DVDs, please see “Video, DVD and PlayStation 2 Rental” section below.

Emergency Contact Details

If in the event of an emergency that requires Police, Fire or Ambulance, please call 112.

If you need help with anything, or the numbers below do not resolve your problem, please call JJ Villas in England on 0044 1733 810 430. However, please try the following numbers first:

Swimming Pool problems – Pure Pools 24 hr help line – 916 640 022

All other issues, please call our Management Company Rosemary Reynolds on 282 968 127

Fire

In the event of a fire, please vacate the villa by the nearest exit and then raise the alarm. The emergency services can be contacted by dialling 112. If you do not have a phone, please knock on one of the neighbours.

All villas are fitted with at least two smoke alarms, one in the kitchen and one on the landing. A fire extinguisher and blanket is provided in the kitchen.

Food

Soups

The Portuguese are dab hands at making delicious and nourishing soups. In Algarve restaurants you are most unlikely to be presented with anything out of a tin. What you will get will be made from fresh vegetables or fish. One thing to watch out for though: soups are very often served tepid here. If you like your soup piping hot, ask the waiter when ordering, “*Bem quente*” (pronounced “beng kent”).

Shellfish Starters

The cheapest shellfish in the Algarve are cockles. You can often get small clams or big mussels at a reasonable price as well. Before you order prawns, check on the price which is generally quoted per kilo and will vary with availability.

Seafood Main Courses

Lobsters are usually served simply boiled. Two kinds are available. The European lobster is the one most familiar in the UK. The Portuguese prefer the spiny lobster found off southern European shores. Same with dressed crabs. Northern Europeans like the edible or common crab, while Southern Europeans go more for the spider crab.

A very wide range of fish is landed at Algarve harbours, some familiar to foreign holidaymakers, some not. Tuna, swordfish, meagre and a type of bream called *dourada* are tops for those who can't be bothered coping with bones. The best locally caught bony fish are sole, bass, sea bream and red mullet. Scabbard fish and horse mackerel are cheaper. Cheapest and most typical of all are sardines. Fresh, summer-plump sardines cooked on a charcoal grill taste infinitely more interesting than the tiddlers you get out of a tin and eat with toast. Sardines and other grilled fish usually come with boiled potatoes or chips and a salad of lettuce, tomatoes, green peppers and onions.

The most popular Portuguese speciality seafood dishes are *Cataplana* (clams, spiced sausage, tomatoes cooked in a sealed, clam-shaped, copper pan), *Caldeirada* (several types of fish stewed

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with layers of potatoes, onions, tomatoes and green peppers) and *Arroz de Marisco* (several types of shellfish spiced and gently boiled with rice).

Meat Main Courses

The most popular Portuguese beef dish is *Bife à Portuguesa*, which is sirloin topped with smoked ham in a bed of French fries and cooked in a clay dish. Algarvians are keener on pork than steak. Pork appears on all menus, usually as fillets (*lombo*), chops (*costeletas*) or loin cutlets (*febras*).

The best known lamb dish is a stew called *Caldeirada de Cabrito*. Lamb or kid is often roasted as *Cabrito Assado*. Chicken is generally cooked over a charcoal grill. *Frango Piri-Piri* is chicken brushed with a chilli and olive oil sauce. Turkey appears on many menus all year round, usually as *Bife de Perú*, though *Perú Recheado*, turkey stuffed with meat or potatoes, is a Christmas speciality, as is Suckling Pig (*Leitáo*). Some restaurants feature game, such as wild boar and quail.

Sweets

There are an extraordinary range of Portuguese desserts and confectionery, but only a limited selection are generally on offer in Algarve restaurants. The best loved are *Pudim Flan* (Crème Caramel), *Tarte de Amêndoa* (Almond Tart), *Tarte de Natas* (a creamy cake dessert) and *Queijo de Figo* (layers of dried figs, ground almonds, cinnamon and chocolate).

Fridge Freezer

Every villa has a fridge freezer as standard. It is very similar to those found in the UK.

Gardener

All our villas have their own team of gardeners to take care of the garden. They will visit the villa normally on a Monday or a Wednesday but this is subject to change. They will not enter the villa.

Gas, Water and Electricity

Casa Sandra is on mains water, 3 phase electricity, solar hot water and bottled gas supply. The gas bottles provide the gas for the cooking oven.

You will be shown how to operate the gas bottles as part of your guided tour of the villa, however in practice, you will usually end up either doing nothing, or turning one valve should a gas bottle run out. Please let our management company know so that they can arrange for the gas bottle to be swapped for a new one.

The water for the villa is heated by solar panels on the roof and hence you should have a constant supply of hot water. If you have no hot water, please call our management company and they may turn on the electric immersion heater.

There is a gas boiler outside, between the kitchen and the gas bottles. This is not used. It was used to heat the water before solar heating was installed.

Should you need to turn off the gas, electric or water supply for any reason, the gas can be turned off by turning the two yellow valves 90° to the pipes in the boiler cupboard and turning the valve 90° in the kitchen. The electric can be turned off by pressing the main circuit breaker on the electric panel next to the front door behind the pin board. The water can be turned off by turning a valve 90° to the pipe next to the water meter by the front gate. Please let our management company know straight away if you have had to turn any utilities off.

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Hair Dryer

All the dressing tables in the villa have a hair dryer.

Health and Safety

JJ Villas takes health and safety extremely seriously and everything in the villa exceeds local and UK safety standards. However, you, the guest, must play your part and we bring the following items to your attention:

- Do not use the swimming pool on your own (and the other items listed in the “Swimming Pool” section below)
- Do not allow children to play on the stairs. The floors of the villa are marble which can be easier to slip on, especially when wet
- Use the bath and shower mats provided
- Place the shower curtain inside the bath or shower as this will prevent water getting onto the floor
- There is a fire extinguisher, fire blanket and first aid kit in the kitchen
- Take extra care if you are wobbly on your feet, especially when getting out of the bath.

Heating

During the winter months, the villa may need to be heated. Every villa has air-conditioning as standard that can also heat. However, please read the instructions carefully before using.

Internet Access

All our villas do not have a telephone. Should you wish to access the internet, there are a number of internet cafés in Luz and Lagos.

Included in the price of your holiday is one hours free internet access time per week of your holiday at Pirate Video in Luz. Pirate Video can be found by turning left out of Almádena on to the EN125. At the first set of traffic lights you come to that show Luz to your right, turn right. Follow the road straight to the end and turn left and go to the left of the roundabout. Pirate Video is about 150 metres on the right.

To obtain your free hour of internet access, you should take the internet card found in the villa next to the radio/CD player in the living room to Pirate Video and show this to them together with the name of the villa you are staying at with JJ Villas together with the name of the person who booked the villa holiday.

Kitchen

The kitchen in the villa will have every mod con you will need to enjoy your holiday. Before you use any kitchen appliance, please read the relevant section in this Guest Information document.

The kitchen has plenty of cutlery, pots and pans, glasses etc. We ask that for safety reasons that the glasses are not used outside as we do not want a glass broken in the pool as it is very hard to make sure there is no glass remaining. Plastic cups are provided in the villa for use around the pool.

If any glasses, plates etc. are broken, please do not pretend that you did not notice as these will be picked up when the maids clean the villa. The cheapest way to replace the item is to go to the supermarkets mentioned in the “Shopping – Supermarkets” section below and buy a new one. Should you leave it to our management company to do once you have left Portugal, not only will

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you have the cost of the broken item deducted from your breakage deposit, but they will charge for their time in looking for a replacement item, which can add up – you have been warned.

Laundry

The maids will wash and change all laundry once a week on change over day. However, should you want to wash any laundry while you are on holiday, all villas are fitted with a washing machine and tumble dryer as standard and are for guests use. Before using either the washing machine or tumble dryer, please read the sections below setting out information on these electrical appliances.

Local Information

Included in your welcome pack is information about the major towns in the Algarve. However, we set out below information on the local towns and certain sites that you should see while on holiday in the Algarve.

Lagos

Lagos is the third largest town in the Algarve, straddling the river Bensafrim and surrounded by beautiful, unspoilt countryside. It is a lively town with a maze of winding cobbled streets full of pavement restaurants, local cafés bars, antique and art shops and what must be one of the world's best stocked fish markets. It is also rich in culture and history, and is widely regarded as the most charming town of the Algarve.

Lagos was an important coastal settlement well before the beginning of our era. The impressive town walls, still largely intact, date back to Roman times. During the Moorish occupation, which lasted until the 12th century, Lagos was the centre of trade between Portugal and Africa.

In the days of the great discoveries, Lagos was the heart of naval Portugal. Its ship yards built the caravels for the voyages of exploration and it was here, close to Cape St. Vincent, the South Westerly tip of continental Europe, that Henry the Navigator's captains, Gil Eanes and Magelhães took to the sea.

Still a fishing town, and since the end of the last century the home of a major marina, Lagos has a rich nautical flavour. The gaily painted fishing boats line berths along the river, yachts sail out to Madeira, the Azores and the far ends of the earth.

You will find numerous supermarkets, butchers, bakers, etc in Lagos. The municipal food market on the main avenue is open every weekday morning until 1pm and offers a variety of fish and meat on the ground floor, fruit and vegetable upstairs. There is also an open-air market normally held on Saturdays, near the main Avenue.

Exploring the old part of town, searching out new restaurants is marvellous, most have tables outdoors set beneath fragrant orange trees in the square or lined along the edges of the narrow streets.

There is a fantastic selection with many specialising in fresh fish. You will also find a good choice of international fare on offer with Indian, Chinese, Italian, French, English, French, Dutch and Indonesian restaurants in and around town.

Lagos has an excellent nightlife, centred around the old town. Merely wandering through the maze of winding streets soaking up the atmosphere is entertainment enough but you will come across a good choice of bars and discos to suit a variety of tastes. Alternatively, sample a traditional

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Portuguese night out, dine, dance and be entertained by traditional Fado singing, you can find also the cinema and in Centro Cultural, there are sometimes classics music concerts and some shows.

With such a long and varied past, Lagos has plenty of historical sights that are well worth taking in during your stay. Sections of the old Roman wall (most of which was demolished in the great earthquake of 1755) can be seen at the back of the town. The site of the first slave market to be established in Europe is just off the main avenue and the hospital nearby is the former palace of Dom Henrique.

The golden Church of Santo António, a superb example of Portuguese eighteenth century baroque, inlaid with gold leaf and elaborate wood carvings, is well worth a visit. We also recommend a tour round the adjoining museum of local history and folklore.

Cape St. Vincent

The cape was so named after the body of St. Vincent came to that spot in the 9th Century and there lay until it was taken to Lisbon in 1173. Here were fought important naval battles and also existed St. Jeronimus "Convent, house for St. Vincent Pilgrims".

Monuments, walls and fortress date back to the 15th century. The fortress was rebuilt in the 18th century after Vauban's system. The reconstruction was finished in the year 1793 as to be seen in the escutcheon on the wall, facing the square. Inside, designed on the ground, one finds a geometrical figure made of rough stones and 43 meters diameter. Known as the windrose, (mariner's compass) which is believed to date back to Prince Henry's times. The windrose was only discovered in 1918.

Colinas Verdes

Colinas Verdes literally "green hills", is 9 km inland from Lagos, situated in beautiful rolling countryside that is very reminiscent of Dorset. The views are quite spectacular.

Sargaçal

A small village 4.5 km inland from Lagos. The nearest convenient shopping is in the village of Portelas or alternatively one can walk over the fields into the village itself. On rising ground with superb rural views and down to the sea at Lagos.

Falfeira

On elevated land within walking distance of the town centre, great views of Lagos, countryside and the sea.

Barão S. João

A small inland village that has been relatively untouched by tourism - one of many like that in the Western Algarve. In many of such villages you will find one or two small supermarkets and a couple of local bars. Barão S. João stands out in that it is also blessed with a few good restaurants. The village is a pretty ride along country roads, 11 km from Lagos.

Local Sport

Golf

Your welcome pack contains a separate document setting out all the golf available in the Algarve. However, for a brief description...around Lagos there are several courses, all within twenty minutes

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from each other. There is the fabulous Prado da Penina, a Henry Cotton championship course and an additional 9-hole course at the Meridien Penina Hotel. There is also the Palmares golf course with its ocean view fairways which is situated a little east of Lagos; follow the signs for Meia Praia leading off the main coastal road (EN125) at Odeáxere. Also within easy reach is the course near Alvor as well as the nearest course to Almádena- Parque da Floresta.

Yachting

Yachtsmen love the Algarvian waters because unlike the Med, the Atlantic Ocean gives one the real blue water feeling. Lagos is a main port on the transatlantic crossing, often the first/last. Please let us know if you are interested in chartering a bare boat 30-41ft Dehler, Bavaria, Jeanneau or Dufour, or would like to arrange sail-along trips to Madeira and the Azores. If you want to get pampered, we can arrange a fully catered 45ft Hutting cutter or for pure thrills, HobieCats can be rented at Meia Praia.

Surfing

Surfers come from around the world to the Algarve, for the great surf at Zavial, Sagres, Praia do Amorado and many other beaches. Surfing and body boarding lessons can be taken at the Lagos Surf Centre.

Windsurfing

Windsurfers love the Western Algarve, especially the Western part of the Western Algarve, the Barlavento, because there is wind there almost everyday and strong. Many afternoons bring force 5-6 winds! Windsurfing facilities are available at Meia Praia, Ferragudo and Praia da Luz.

Scuba Diving and Water Skiing

At Praia da Luz, the Sea Sports Centre offers scuba diving, sailing, deep sea fishing and snorkelling. Water-skiing enthusiasts should go to Burgau. At Sagres there is challenging scuba diving along cliffs and at various wrecks.

Horse Riding and Bird Watching

Horse Riding at the West Algarve Riding Centre at Burgau offers rides, instruction and day-long picnic rides. Shetland ponies are available for children. Also bird watching can be arranged at various protected reserves in the area guided by experienced ornithologists.

Other Sports

Tennis courts can be found at Meia Praia and the Lagos Country Club has an excellent Bowling Green. The Luz Bay Club features a wide range of sports including tennis, squash and a gym. The Sports Centre at Burgau also offers tennis, squash and aerobics.

Maid Service

All our villas have maid service. If you are staying in the villa for more than one week, you will have a complete changeover at the end of every week. The maids will make the beds and give the villa a good clean. The maids are not meant to wash up however, if you ask them nicely you may be able to persuade them to do this as well!

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Markets

There is a small market in Almádena (shown on the map) every weekday selling all sorts of items. Further, the fish market is open every weekday morning to buy freshly caught fish.

MARKETS			FLEA MARKETS
Albufeira- 1 st & 3 rd Tuesday	Boliqueime- last Thursday	Paderna- 1 st Saturday	1 st Saturday- Algoz
Alcantarilha- 1 st Friday	Budens- 1 st Tuesday	Portela da Corcha- 4 th Sat	2 nd Saturday- V.R. St. António
Alcaria do Cume- 2 nd Saturday	Cachopo- 1 st Sunday	Portimão- 1 st Monday	3 rd Saturday- Albufeira
Alcoutim-Pereiro- 4 th Sunday	Castro Marim- 2 nd Saturday	Quarteira- every Wednesday	4 th Saturday- Monte Gordo
Alcoutim-Vaqueiros- 2 nd Wed	Cortelha- 2 nd Saturday	Raposeira- 1 st Wednesday	1 st Sunday- Fuzeta
Algoz- 2 nd Monday	Estói- 2 nd Sunday	Rogil- 2 nd Saturday	1 st & 3 rd Sunday- Portimão
Aljezur- 3 rd Monday	Fuzeta- 1 st Thursday	S. B. de Alportel- every Sat	2 nd Sunday- Ferragudo
Almancil- 1 st & 4 th Sunday	Guia- 3 rd Friday	S. B. de Messines- 4 th Monday	3 rd Sunday- S. B. de Alportel
Alte- 3 rd Thursday	Lagoa- 2 nd Sunday	S. Marcos da Serra- 1 st Sat	4 th Sunday- Lagos & Olhão
Alvor- 2 nd Tuesday	Lagos- 1 st Saturday	Sagres- 1 st Friday	2 nd & 5 th Sunday- Almancil
Ameixal- 1 st Thursday	Loulé- every Saturday	Santa Catarina- 4 th Sunday	
Azilheira- 1 st Thursday	Moncarapacho- 1 st Sunday	Silves- 3 rd Monday	
Azinhãl- 1 st Sunday & last Sat	Monchique- 2 nd Friday	Tavira- 3 rd Saturday	
B. S. Miguel- 1 st Monday	Odeázere- 4 th Monday	Tunes- 4 th Saturday	
Benafim- 1 st Saturday	Olhão- 2 nd Saturday	V. Nova de Cacela- 3 rd Sun	
		Vila do Bispo- 1 st Thursday	

Microwave

The villas have 2 microwaves as standard – one of the many little things we have done to make your holiday a better experience. The microwaves are very similar to the ones you find in the UK however we ask that you read the instructions carefully before you use them for the first time.

Nightclubs

There are no nightclubs in Almádena. The nearest nightclubs are in Lagos which is a 10 minute drive from Almádena. Please do not drink and drive as the Portuguese have started to crack down on this and will arrest you. A taxi should only cost €10 to and from Lagos.

The nightclubs in Lagos close about 2am. If you want to party all night, you will need to go to Albufeira which is a 30 minute drive from Almádena. A taxi should cost €30 to and from Albufeira. For more information on Taxis, please see the “Taxis” section below.

Pets

No pets are allowed in all of our villas.

PlayStation 2

Every villa has a PlayStation 2 (as well as a wide screen television, Sky digital, DVD player, and VHS video). Please read the instructions carefully for details on how to operate the PlayStation 2.

A list of which channel has to be selected on the television to play on the PlayStation 2 can be found in the villa near the television.

The villa may have a selection of games but it is recommended that guests either bring games with them or rent them in Portugal. For more information on renting PlayStation 2 games, please see “Video, DVD and PlayStation 2 Rental” section below.

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Post Offices

Post offices are open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6.00pm. They are closed all weekend and public holidays. Post offices in villages close for lunch 12.30pm to 2.00pm and therefore, for this reason, if you need a post office, we would recommend using the post offices in Lagos (there are plenty of maps of Lagos in the town and therefore these should be easy to find).

At the time of writing, postcards and letters under 20g cost €0.53 to send to all EU countries.

Public Transport

Local bus services link all towns and villages, but services can be infrequent. A bus stops in the square of Almádena which goes to Lagos. Please see the time table at the bus stop for exact times and frequencies. Pay the driver on boarding.

Express regional buses stop only in the main towns and tickets should be bought from the bus station or travel agent. The nearest regional bus stop is in Lagos.

Train services link Vila Real de St António in the East and Lagos in the West with almost 50 stations in between. Tavira, Faro, Portimão and Lagos stations are fairly close to the town centres. The smaller stations are sometimes miles away from the town or village they are named after.

Lisbon trains end on the south side of the capital's river Tagus. The fare should include a ferry ride across.

Restaurants

There are many great restaurants in the Algarve, however if you are looking for a good restaurant near the villa, we recommend you pay a visit to O'Celero. This restaurant is about 100m walk from Almádena and is widely recognised by the residents of the Algarve as one of the best restaurants in the Algarve. You will find this restaurant on the map of Almádena. You will probably have to reserve a table if you want to eat at this restaurant.

Roller Shutters

Please see the section "Air-conditioning and Roller Shutters" above.

Safe for Guests use in the Villa

All villas are provided with a safe in the master bedroom. Guests must leave a €15.00 deposit locally for the key. The €15.00 will be returned once the key has been returned. This will be offered to you when you check into the villa.

Unless all items of value are deposited in the safe, we can't be held responsible for the loss of any items from the villa.

Shopping

Supermarkets

The village of Almádena has a small shop which should have most of the items you require. The nearest supermarket is a 4 minute drive away – turn right out of Almádena onto the EN125. Drive straight until you come to the village of Budens. Turn right off of the EN125 and you will see the Ecomarché supermarket on your left.

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You will find larger supermarkets in Lagos – Intermarché, Continente and Modelo. When shopping in all supermarkets, please make sure you have your fruit and vegetables weighed and priced before you get to the checkout. There will be a person in the supermarket who does this for you.

Trust us, it is very embarrassing unloading all of your shopping onto the checkout and causing a long queue behind you as you have had to put all the fruit and vegetables back into the trolley to get them weighed and priced.

Other shopping

Nearly every thing is cheaper in Portugal compared to the UK. There are many shops in Lagos and the other towns in the Algarve. However, if it is shopping malls you are looking for, then, in our opinion, the biggest and the best is called “Algarve Shopping” and can be found on the EN125 near Albufeira (turn left out of Almádena onto the EN125. Keep following this road until you come to the junction to join the motorway. Do not get onto the motorway but stay on the EN125 going towards Faro. As long as you stay on this road, you will not miss Algarve Shopping on your left with a very large Macro on your right).

There is a smaller, but nearer, shopping mall called Modelo in Portimão. If you follow the signs to Portimão, you will not miss the Model centre – it is opposite the McDonalds.

Slippers

See “Dressing Gowns and Slippers” section above.

Smoking

For the comfort of all our guests, all our villas are no smoking except for outside, the kitchen and the dining room. Please observe this request. Thank you.

Spa and Health Centre

Should you wish to relax at a spa or enjoy a massage, facial etc, we recommend the spa and health centre at Parque da Floresta (and it is only a five minute drive from the villa.) You can contact them on 00351 282 690 086.

Swimming Pool and the Swimming Pool Heater

The swimming pool is approximately 10m x 5m. Before going into the pool, please use the outdoor shower. The pool has three steps leading to the shallow end – 1m in depth. The swimming pool gradually becomes deeper, with the deepest part of the swimming pool being 1.50m in depth.

We respectfully ask guests to behave sensibly around the swimming pool and abide by the following rules:

- No diving into the swimming pool – it is not deep enough.
- Please do not take food or drink into the swimming pool.
- Please do not use the swimming pool on your own. There must be someone else present who can raise an alarm should the other person get into difficulties.
- Please do not take drinking glasses outside of the villa. Plastic drinking cups are provided in the villa for use around the swimming pool.

The swimming pool has a swimming pool heater which is set to keep the swimming pool at a very comfortable 28° C. All our villas include heating for the swimming pool between the months of

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April to October. Please see the pricing schedule for the cost to heat the swimming pool for your villa outside of these months. If you would like the swimming pool heated outside of these months, please let us know within 8 weeks of your departure date.

The swimming pool is cleaned every Wednesday or Thursday. Should you have any problems with the swimming pool, including the pool heater not working, please call Pure Pools 24 hour emergency help line: 916 640 022.

The pool heater is fitted with an electrical safety switch which will turn off the pool heater if something should go wrong with the electrical supply to the villa. This is not that common but does occasionally happen. If this should happen, please call Pure Pools and they will come to the villa and turn the pool heater back on. For guests that understand electrics – the villas electrical supply is 3 phase and occasionally two of the phases can get switched by the electrical company when they are working in the area. Should this happen, without the electrical safety switch, the heat exchanger on the pool heater will go backwards and could cause extensive damage.

Taxis

The standard cost of a taxi is about €1 per kilometre however if you pre-book, it should be possible to negotiate a cheaper price. Therefore, if you do not pre-book, the standard cost of a taxi from Almádena to the airport is about €80, from Almádena to Lagos is about €8 and Almádena to Portimão is about €20.

A list of taxi numbers will be in the kitchen of the villa, however if you would like to pre-book a taxi before you arrive in Portugal, please call us and we will be more than happy to arrange this.

Telephone

All villas do not have a telephone. UK mobile phones work in Portugal. There are many coin and card operated phone boxes along the Algarve with the nearest phone box to the villa being by the roundabout at the entrance to the village of Almádena. Cards can be bought from post offices and shops displaying “Credifone” signs.

There are three phone areas in the Algarve – 281 for east Algarve, 289 for central Algarve and 282 for west Algarve. This prefix must be dialled even if you are dialling from the same area, e.g. Faro airport general information is 289 800 800 regardless of where you are in the Algarve.

To dial the UK, place 0044 in front of the UK phone number and drop the first 0, e.g. JJ Villas phone number from within the UK is 01733 810 430 and from Portugal is 0044 1733 810 430.

Should you need to speak to the operator for any reason (e.g. to make a reverse charge or collect call) dial 099. Emergency services (e.g. Police, Fire etc.) can be contacted on 112.

Television

Every villa has a wide screen television and Sky digital as standard (and a DVD player, PlayStation 2 and VHS video), as well as the standard Portuguese channels. Please read the instructions carefully for details on how to operate the television.

A list of the channels can be found in the villa near the television. For help on Sky digital, please turn the television to the Sky digital channel and select sky channel 998 and 999.

For more information on renting videos, DVD or PlayStation 2 games, please see “Video, DVD and PlayStation 2 Rental” section below.

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Towels and Bed Linen

Each guest will be provided with 1 (one) face towel, hand towel, bath sheet and a beach/pool towel for the week. If you are staying for more than one week, the towels and bed linen will be changed weekly.

We are certain that you will not have enjoyed as luxurious towels as the ones you will be provided with in our villas.

Due to many towels going missing in the past, the towels will be counted once you have vacated the villa and the price of any towels (set out below) that are missing will be deducted from your breakage deposit as well as the cost to export the missing towels to the villa from England (a minimum charge of £64 plus UK VAT).

We are confident that you will agree the towels are more comfortable than any you could buy in the shops and therefore should you wish to buy any when you return to the UK (without the JJ Villas logo, unless you want it!), the prices are below:

Face towel	£2
Hand towel	£5
Bath Sheet	£17
Beach/pool towel	£10
One complete set	£32

The bed linen is also top quality and will be counted once you have vacated the villa as items have also gone missing in the past. Again, should any items be found to be missing, the price of the missing items will be deducted from your breakage deposit as well as the cost to export the missing items to the villa from England (a minimum charge of £64 plus UK VAT).

There is not space to list every item of bed linen, however, due to the quantity we buy, we receive a massive discount on trade prices which we would be more than happy to pass on to you. Please let us know if you would like a quote for any particular item(s) – we can guarantee you will be shocked at how much cheaper our prices will be to those in the shops and better quality.

Tumble Dryer

Your villa will have a tumble dryer in the kitchen for your use. The maids may also use the tumble dryer when you are not using it.

If you want to use the tumble dryer, please read the instructions carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the maid (you can also call JJ Villas on 0044 1733 810 430). The tumble dryer is similar to the ones you find in the UK, however some differences that are worth noting are:

The tumble dryer is a condenser type and therefore after using it the water container must be emptied. This is behind the fabric/time table at the top left of the tumble dryer and can be pulled out with a little tug. Further, the fluff must be put into the bin by removing the fluff container on the inside of the tumble dryer door.

Plug sockets in Portugal do not have a switch. They are always on and therefore to turn the electrical appliance off, the plug has to be pulled out of the socket.

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Useful Words and Expressions

Hello	Olá	pronounced: oh-lah
Good morning	Bom dia	pronounced: bawn deeah
Good afternoon	Boa tarde	pronounced: boa tard
Good evening/night	Boa noite	pronounced: boa noyt
How are you?	Como está?	pronounced: kawmoo esh-tah
I am pleased to meet you	Um prazer	pronounced: um prazair
Goodbye	Adeus	pronounced: ahdeyoosh
See you later	Até logo	pronounced: ah-tay lawgoo
Please	Faz favor	pronounced: fahsh favawre
Thank you (unisex)	Obrigad	pronounced: ob-ree-guard
I am sorry (apology)	Dexculpe	pronounced: deshcoolpe
Excuse me (when obstructing)	Com licença	pronounced: cawn leesensah

VHS Video Recorder

Every villa has as standard a VHS video recorder (as well as a wide screen television, Sky digital, DVD player, and PlayStation 2). Please read the instructions carefully for details on how to operate the VHS video recorder.

A list of which channel has to be selected on the television to watch a video can be found in the villa near the television.

The villa may have a selection of videos but it is recommended that guests either bring videos with them or rent them in Portugal. For more information on renting VHS videos, please see “Video, DVD and PlayStation 2 Rental” section below.

Video, DVD and PlayStation 2 Rental

The villa should have a selection of CDs, DVDs and PlayStation 2 games for guests to enjoy. Please do not take these with you as future guests will not be able to enjoy them.

If you feel the want to rent an item, we have organised guest rentals with Pirate Video in Luz. This can be found by turning left out of Almádena on to the EN125. At the first set of traffic lights you come to that show Luz to your right, turn right. Follow the road straight to the end and turn left and to go the left of the roundabout. Pirate Video is about 150 metres on the right.

Washing Machine

Your villa will have a washing machine in the kitchen.

If you want to use the washing machine, please read the instructions carefully. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask the maid (you can also call JJ Villas on 0044 1733 810 430). You will have to purchase washing powder etc. from the supermarket as this is not provided. The washing machine is similar to the ones you find in the UK, however some differences that are worth noting are:

The washing machine does not have its own on/off switch. Instead, the dial one turns to select the wash cycle is pulled out to turn the washing machine on and once the cycle is finished, the dial must be pushed back in before the plug is pulled out of the socket.

Plug sockets in Portugal do not have a switch. They are always on and therefore to turn the electrical appliance off, the plug has to be pulled out of the socket.

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Wines

All restaurants stock *vinho da casa*, house wine, in white (*branco*) and red (*tinto*). This will be the least expensive wine on offer and it saves you studying the wine list (*lista de vinhos*) which, unless you are familiar with Portuguese wines, you may find largely incomprehensible.

Nearly all restaurants in the Algarve stock only Portuguese wines, of which there is a very wide range indeed. In addition to a great variety of white and red table wines, Portugal produces many “green”, pink champagne-style and dessert wines.

Vinho verde, “green” wines from the Northwest of Portugal are light and refreshing, an appropriate lunchtime tippie, especially with fish or chicken dishes. Rosé is also light, though usually without the slight sparkle of *vinho verde*.

The Algarve produces both white and red table wines. They are low in price and high in alcohol. Alentejo whites and reds are a bit more expensive and generally a lot better. The Alentejo is the province to the North of the Algarve. Good names to look out for are Borba, Rendondo, Reguengos and Vidigueira.

Quality at a very reasonable price is the hallmark of light to full-bodied wines from the most famous wine growing areas further to the North: Dão, Barraida and Douro. Extra quality is more or less guaranteed if the word *reserva* on the label.