

# DIVING

in Barlavento,  
Algarve  
Portugal



# Barlavento, Algarve



the destination  
of choice  
for diving



The Barlavento region of the Algarve, famous for its marvellous beaches, golden sands, with flame-coloured coastal cliffs and tranquil waters, is an essential destination that makes diving alluring 300 days a year.

Its waters, rich in flora and fauna, offer a limitless range of possibilities to observe and contemplate, making it easy to capture images and details of its fabulous subaquatic world.

In summer, water temperature ranges between 16° and 24° C and the current is generally moderate or weak, allowing for diving throughout the entire year, particularly in spring or autumn. There is sun and good weather practically all year round, guaranteeing a stay with a pleasant climate.

Depths vary from 10 to 40 metres, suitable for either experienced divers or novices. For those who practice technical diving, there is also the possibility of exploring some very special areas, whose depths are between 40 and 60 metres.

Among the subaquatic attractions that can be explored are shipwrecks from the 18th century and the First and Second World War, beautiful reefs and natural walls, as well as the new **Ocean Revival Underwater Park**, created in the last quarter of 2012, open to all divers from around the world, which has made this unique area even more special.

The region, in addition to being well served by flights connections and excellent communications, offers a vast range of quality options for tourism, with a variety of gastronomic attractions, a rich heritage in historic monuments and spots overflowing with natural beauty, as well as an ample range of accommodation. With its various options for visitors beyond diving, its welcoming people and its modern and safe infrastructure, Barlavento is the ideal destination for enjoyable family holidays.

For diving, Subnauta, considered by many to be the best diving centre in Portugal, based at Praia da Rocha in Portimão. Equipped with very skilled, experienced and helpful staff and the most advanced and complete premises, boats and equipment, offers a guarantee of quality, safety and comfort to its customers.

# Ocean Revival

the incredible  
experience  
of diving  
in a unique  
underwater park

A project promoted and developed by Subnauta, with passion, enthusiasm and total dedication, Ocean Revival came about after four 20th-century Portuguese Navy warships, linked together by a common history, were sunk in a single location.

This underwater park brings together the natural desire to unravel the mysteries of the sea and to foster sustainability and the ideal conditions for the proliferation of marine biodiversity. It is also an incomparable opportunity for the advancement of scientific study in the area of marine biology.





The **Ocean Revival Underwater Park**, unique in the world, consists of a fleet of Portuguese Navy ships. It is made up of four ships sunk three miles from Portimão as their last act of service to Portugal: the Oliveira e Carmo corvette, which is 85 metres long, the Zam-beze ocean patrol, the 65 metres long Almeida Carvalho hydrographic corvette and the jewel in the crown, the Herme-negildo Capelo admiral frigate, which is more than 100 metres long. The vessels are located in an area free of shipping, at depths of between 16 and 30 metres and with mooring buoys for each ship, thus allowing safe and accessible diving at all certification levels, in addition to being a prime location for technical diving and for specialties such as Wreck Diving, Digital Underwater Photography, Oxygen Enriched Air Diving (Nitrox), Sidemount

Diving and Diver Propulsion Vehicle (DPV) among others.

The Ocean Revival Project also brings a hyperbaric chamber serving the local community, installed at Barlavento Hospital in Portimão, which allows for rapid and effective response to any emergency diving situations and even a Museum exhibit at Portimão Museum where visitors can learn more about the history of the ships and their patrons.

The Ocean Revival initiative, located in this unique natural setting, is transforming Barlavento into a benchmark for world-wide diving.

*A fusion of heritage, entertainment and excitement has become one of the world's essential diving destinations.*



# Diving in Barlavento

a unique  
experience



With an extensive coastline, bringing together geographic, climatic and historic characteristics and a unique heritage, Barlavento is a definitive and outstanding location in choice diving destinations in the world bringing several themes together in one place.

*Diving...*

*... into history! – subaquatic archaeological heritage in abundance.*

Considering the fact that Barlavento, throughout history, has served as an obligatory passage for commercial or military ships in the Mediterranean route, is a natural host to a limitless treasure chest of shipwrecks, some of them of great heritage and historical relevance and at depths accessible to the recreational diver. Shipwrecks that stretch from the XVIIIth century to the modern day, among which some of the most prominent are:

> L'Océan, a ship equipped with 80 cannons, was an admiral ship from a French fleet of 14 ships which during the course



of the Seven Years' War was involved in a confrontation with the powerful English Armada. This battle became known as the "Battle of Lagos". Subnauta, as the creator and promoter of the Ocean Revival, is proud that as part of their programme of publications for the promotion of diving in Barlavento, to have published the book «Fahrenheit 1759» with the historical take of the Battle of Lagos, written by the renowned archaeologists Jean-Yves Blot and Maria Luísa Blot;

> The remains of three of the four Allied ships sunk by a German U35 submarine in 1917 by the famous submarine commander from the First World War, Kapitanleutenant Lothar von Arnauld de La Perière, without loss of life. The Torvore, the Wilhelm Krag and the Nordsoen are three of the ships sunk by the submarine; their remains are testimony to the extraordinary events of April 24th, 1917 and they can be visited by divers;



> The Faro gunboat, on February 27th, 1912, took a committee formed by – among others – a British minister and the British consul on a trip to Sagres. After the visitors disembarked at Lagos, the gunboat headed for Faro, where close to Alvor, around 7pm, it was T-boned by the tugboat Josefine that had been coming from Portimão and which blasted open the port side, sinking it immediately. After it reached its hundredth birthday, the Portuguese Navy and Subnauta commissioned a plaque to commemorate the event, and the gunboat's status was raised to the category of shipwreck of historical-archaeological interest.

*... into the largest  
Artificial Reef in Europe –  
The Ocean Revival  
Underwater Park*

Unique in the world and one of a kind, this park provides various options for divers. Via the sinking of four Portuguese Navy ships, a theme park has been created that has quickly become an artificial reef populated by various different species. The four ships that make up the Park are three miles from Barra de Portimão, and are in an area protected from shipping, at depths ranging between 16 and 30 metres and with mooring buoys on each ship, allowing for safe and accessible diving at all levels of certification.



... into marine life –  
*Rich in Biodiversity*

Due to the confluence of several oceanic currents, Atlantic fauna is very rich and varied. The multi-coloured seabed, lined by incredibly beautiful coral, gorgonians, sponges, anemones, cerianthus and various types of algae are what guarantees that diving in the area is never dull and always full of allure, with everything from major species to small fish and nudibranchs.

One of the most interesting features when diving in the Barlavento is Sea Slugs. More than 150 species of sea slugs have been recorded, the majority of which can be observed along the entire Barlavento coast, with the endemic *Algarvia alba* especially worthy of mention, of which just two have been spotted and which there is no known photograph of a living one. Subnauta is offering a prize to the first person to submit a verified image of the species. Divers fascinated by these species in all their various shapes and colours can enjoy an Algarve Sea Slug Guide, published by Subnauta, with photographs and descriptions to aid easy identification. Sea Slugs delight divers, regardless of whether they are photographers or simply admirers - and they love to be photographed!



# Subnauta

## diving with quality and safety

Subnauta, A Tourism Activity Operator, registered with RNAAT under number 34/2007, a PADI 5 Star Dive Resort Centre S-799337, is the best and best-equipped diving centre in Barlavento.

Devised by divers for divers, Subnauta has a different nature to all other dive centres, with a unique knowledge of the region's diving, and has conceived and promoted the Ocean Revival Project, preparing the ships for diving and designing its subaquatic itineraries, it promoted and published the Fahrenheit 1759 book about the Battle of Lagos and the subaquatic itinerary of L'Océan, the Algarve Sea Slug Guide, describing the region's more than 150 important species, and the Algarve Diving Guide with the description of the 50 most emblematic locations in the region.

Subnauta provides services of the highest quality, supported by a motivated and skilled team, whose ethos is one of good service, and the availability of the best equipment and technology available, and its constant aim is the protection and preservation of the fauna, flora and heritage of the Algarve and the comfort and safety of its customers and teams.

The quality of services provided are a reflection of the following mission statements, which are for the benefit of its customers:

### > Mission, Vision and Values

To serve divers, helping them to discover the coast of the Barlavento, its heritage, its subaquatic fauna and flora, with warmth, safety and quality. In order to achieve this, Subnauta offers various kinds of diving training, diverse ranges of diving services with the best professionals, equipment and technology. Its activities are underpinned by a code of conduct, the desire to provide quality and excellence, respect for the environment, motivation for its teams, leadership, safety and the desire to constantly exceed the expectations of its customers.



### > Safety Policy

The safety of customers and their colleagues is Subnauta's primary concern. For this reason, all necessary investment to guarantee maximum safety and to minimise risks are completely fulfilled. The preoccupation with safety is reflected in the way Subnauta conducts its activity, and is also reflected in the policies and procedures in place, in the quality of diving equipment and its maintenance, in the ways respiratory mixtures are produced, in the procedures and methods used in diving excursions and in the life-saving equipment placed on all boats and at the dive centre.

### > Premises

The dive centre, which covers an area over 700m<sup>2</sup>, is situated in the centre of Praia da Rocha in Portimão. The premises, which comply with all safety guidelines, is comprised of the centre itself with its technical area, washing, drying and changing rooms; shop, classroom, presentation room; and a three-metre deep diving tank for training and equipment tests.



### > Boats

Boats, designed for diving, are all equipped with two engines and sophisticated navigation equipment that exceeds all legal requirements, and operate with a maximum of 12 divers on board in order to guarantee a high level of comfort and safety. Three Ribs, XaNax, XôStress and XeGuedive, measuring 7, 10 and 12 metres respectively, for daily diving excursions, and a 58 feet multi-hull vessel, XuNauta, for two- and three-day trips, with live aboard accommodation. Boats are subject to regular maintenance, an-

nual inspections and are equipped with all of the adequate safety equipment and navigation instruments, and are safe for Marine Tourism in a way that offers the strictest of guarantees to customers and crewmembers.

### > Diving Equipment

Equipment, always in perfect working order, is top of the range brands such as Aqualung, Apeks, Suunto, Shearwater, Whites, DUI, BTS and DTD. The equipment is washed and disinfected every day and is inspected in order to guarantee that it works perfectly.

### > Respiratory Gases

Air, oxygen-enriched air and trimix are produced with a system that has six filtration levels, with a "Bauer PureAir Station" certified compressor, guaranteeing respiratory mixtures with levels of quality and purity well above the standards of the sector. Samples of these respiratory mixtures are sent every three months to an analysis laboratory in the USA in order to verify and guarantee that the systems work perfectly. Diving cylinders are opened and inspected annually and hydraulic tests are carried out or they are replaced every five years.



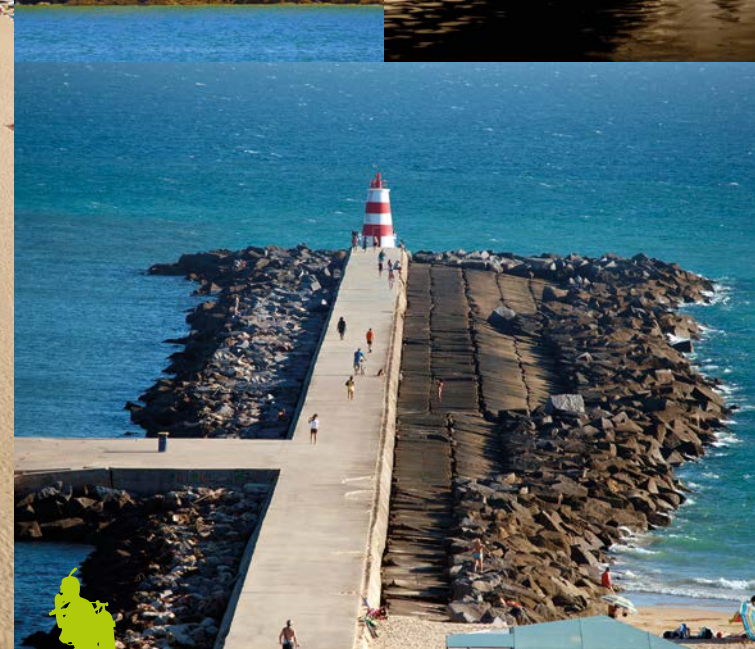
# Where to stay – Portimão

Praia da Rocha is an extensive and enchanting beach with superb conditions for diving and is also a place blessed with an excellent infrastructure that allows for the enjoyment of a relaxed holiday experience.

In addition to being easily accessible, with a superb range of hotels and apartments and various restaurants where the excellent cuisine of the Algarve can be sampled together with magnificent Portuguese wines, the area has a beautiful Marina and is home to a range of shops, bars and nightlife.

It is the ideal place to travel to with family and friends. Divers and non-divers alike will find entertainment and fun for all. Among various leisure options, the following are available: paragliding, hang-gliding, sailing, water-skiing, bird and dolphin watching. Also, it is possible to see motor racing, climbing or potholing, horse-riding excursions, cycling or to play golf on some of the most beautiful and famous courses in the world.

Diving Packages: Contact Subnauta to find out about the packages that has been set up with the main hotels within a short distance of the diving centre in order to make your stay even more comfortable and at the most competitive prices.



# SUBNAUTA

*dive the Algarve*

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