



TRAVEL
EXPERIENCES
Alqueva
Route

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L'INSTANT EXPLORE PORTUGAL: A COLLECTION OF INSPIRING TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

Let us be honest: anyone could do a booking in an amazing hotel. Accessing fantastic properties, tours or transportation is nowadays rather easy with modern IT at hand for anyone. If that would be all, then any agency could deliver a fantastic job anytime. This is not the case, though.

To offer a truly inspiring experience, to open the eyes of the traveler to unique and authentic views of destination: all in all, to have someone remembering a special moment ten years later, this is not within reach for anyone. Finding the right moment, getting the correct balance or adding the special charm is what makes our work a step ahead. Will be so glad to make it happen. And we do. Always.

Introducing you to Explore Portugal; a selection of authentic "Once in a lifetime" experiences.

JUST A FEW INSPIRING SAMPLES:

Alqueva Route

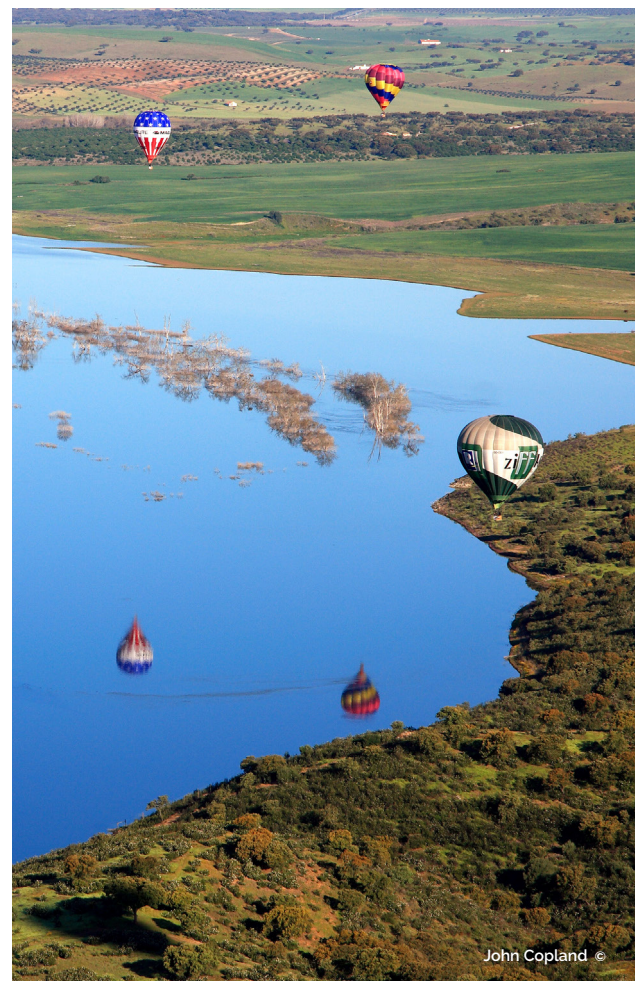
Imagine a place where we feel covered by a majestic starry sky. The feeling is indescribable, and usually only possible artificially, in a planetarium, where we sit comfortably for a lesson on the stars. In Portugal, we are lucky to have that feeling in the open air. And Explore Portugal works with the most connoisseurs of the area and in astronomy who lead our guests to marvelous journeys. Right in the middle of Alentejo, the wonderful Alqueva sky is like dark velvet cloaked by a huge blanket of stars. It is a protected area and internationally certified as a Dark Sky Reserve, or "Starlight Tourism Destination", which extends over an area of about 3,000 square km.

Recognizing it as an exceptional place for star-gazing, the municipalities around the great Alqueva lake joined together in an effort to preserve this special feature and so at night public lighting is reduced to a minimum to enable a better enjoyment of this natural phenomenon.

You can see the Ursa Major, Ursa Minor, Cassiopeia, and a wide variety of other constellations, visible depending on the season. You can locate the signs for Leo, Virgo and Libra, discover Scorpio and Sagittarius, and even follow the mysterious Capricorn, as well as Cygnus, Aquila and Lyra. You can identify the majestic Milky Way and behold Aquarius and Pisces, Pegasus and Aries. Then you'll see Taurus, which night after night defies the glorious Orion. And there is still time to see Gemini, Auriga and to select your favorite star.

The quality of the Alqueva sky enables naked eye observation of a large number of celestial bodies. But to make everything perfect, the ideal is to have binoculars or a telescope. If you don't have any with you, no problem, we will make this equipment available and be ready to learn how to look at the sky and identify the stars.

In the midst of nature, you will be surprised by the ever mysterious megalithic monuments such as the Cromlech of Xerez, near the Orada Convent, and the dolmens and menhirs that are part of a tour of the heritage of the region, and you mustn't miss a trip to the admirable walled village of Monsaraz, where the streets and houses are made of schist.



There are a number of suggestions for discovering the Alqueva area, but the Dark Sky Route is undoubtedly a journey of surprises and discoveries that you will always remember.