

## Eight holiday ideas for Portugal this summer – still with availability

Holidays to Portugal have been given the green light – here's a month-by-month guide to help plan a break to suit every type of traveller



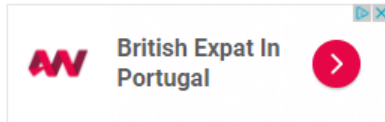
With Portugal on the green list, Britons can now holiday there without having to self-isolate on return CREDIT: GETTY

By Trish Lorenz, Travel Writer

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Portugal's inclusion on the Government's green list was not unexpected – the country has one of the lowest infection rates in Europe and its transmissibility index continues to fall. It recorded only 180 positive cases of Covid-19 in the week to May 5, the lowest figures since early April. Portugal's vaccine rollout, at just under 30 per cent of the population, is also in line with European member states.

However, as it stands, Portugal's own entry requirements state that non-residents are not allowed in except for essential purposes. It is expected that following the announcement today, Portugal will lift this restriction from mid-May though that is yet to be officially confirmed.



So, if you are longing to hear Atlantic waves breaking on a sandy beach, for the scent of grilled sardines to tempt your tastebuds, or to savour a glass of Portuguese red wine on a sun dappled square, here is our list of the best Portuguese holidays to book now:

### 1. Serenity and understated luxury at Sao Lourenço do Barrocal

**Best month to visit:** June, September or October

Situated in rural Alentejo, the [Sao Lourenço do Barrocal](#) estate has been in the same family for 200 years and retains a genuine sense of place, with vineyards, centuries old olive trees, an orchard and walled garden. The



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## 5. Culture in Lisbon

**Best month to visit:** September or October

A brace of cultural openings is giving the historic Portuguese capital a new look. The Muñoz Carmona Gallery ([munozcarmonagallery.com](http://munozcarmonagallery.com)) invites international artists to exhibit their work. Made in Situ ([madeinsitu.com](http://madeinsitu.com)), showcases designer Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance's pieces and Sokyo Lisbon focuses on ceramics ([sokyolisbon.com](http://sokyolisbon.com)). There's also the city's contemporary art museum MAAT, a striking architectural icon on the riverside. Stay at The Vintage: rooms are decorated with mid-century design and have a vintage bar cart for making complimentary gin and tonics.

**How to do it:** The Vintage, Double rooms from €99 per night, including breakfast. Spend three nights or more and you'll be collected by chauffeur from the airport and receive a complimentary massage ([thevintagelisbon.com](http://thevintagelisbon.com); 00 351 210 405 400). Rooms still available from May 17 onwards.

## 6. Find an alternative Algarve in Lagos

**Best month to visit:** July to September

Avoid the busy resorts of the central Algarve and head west to the historic village of Lagos, which retains a traditional feel but also offers a buzzy evening street life. Nearby beaches include the long sandy sweep of Meia Praia and the picturesque bay of Praia do Camilo. For laid back sophistication, stay at Casa Mae: its rooms and suites overlook an organic orchard and the ancient city walls, there's a farm to table restaurant, spa with rooftop pool and concept store dedicated to Portuguese design.

**How to do it:** Casa Mae, double rooms from €285 per night including breakfast ([casa-mae.com](http://casa-mae.com); 00 351 968 369 732). Rooms still available from May