

*Well, come!*

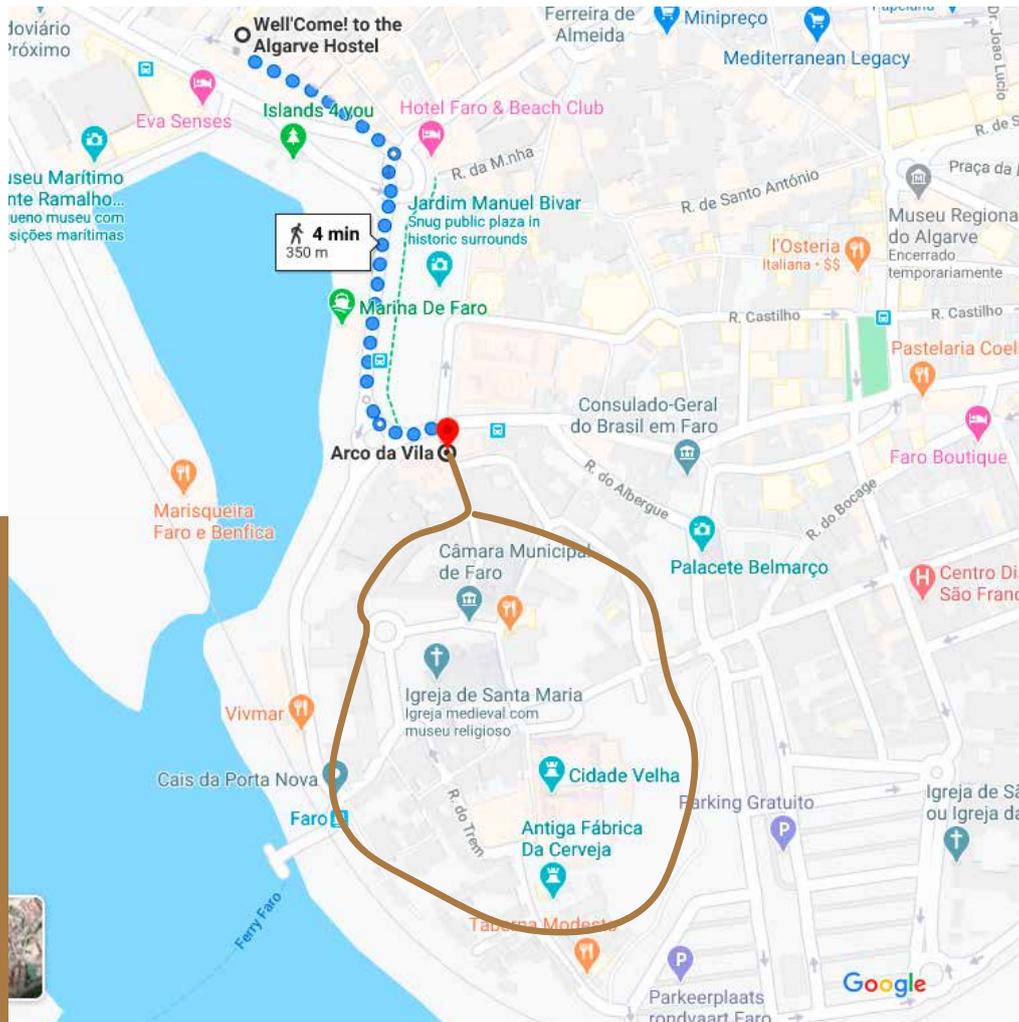
HOSTELS & GUESTHOUSES

HALF DAY IN THE OLD TOWN  
e-book

# HOW TO GET THERE

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*Spend 5 minutes walking from our house called “Well’Come! to the Algarve Hostel” and get into the “Arco da Vila”, our first stop, The Entrance to the Old Town. During the walk take the opportunity to see the Ria Formosa and have a nice walk through “Jardim Manuel Bivar” and maybe seat in the benches and have some ice cream.*

*Some curiosity for you about Ria Formosa:*

- Do you know that Ria Formosa is a Natural Park with more than 18 400 hectares;*
- The most important cities around the Ria is Faro, Olhão and Tavira;*
- During the year you can take a boat from Faro and go to the Ilha do Farol, Ilha da Culatra, Ilha Deserta and Praia de Faro.*

# ARCO DA VILA ARCO DA VILA ARCO DA VILA

## Some history



*In the entrance to the Old Town, there is the famous “Arco da Vila” , which is a National Monument, is one of the oldest doors in the town and has a great historical and cultural importance for the city and the country.*

*The “Arco da Vila” was during a long time, the main entrance to the town. During the time of the Romans, it was the entrance which led to the “Fórum Romano”.*

*During the Moors Era, the central door we see today was closed and they made a side entrance, so they could have a little bit more of control about who was entering their city.*

*Just during the Christian Era the front was opened again after the earthquake in 1755. The Bishop of Algarve Dom Francisco de Avelar asked his italian friend who was an architect to rebuilt the entrance. This italian friend brought a little bit of Neoclacissism to the monument.*

*The Saint we can see on the top is São Tomás de Aquino.*

*This is a very important place in Faro, because as we can see, throughout the history of the city, it was always a place that connected people.*

*Are you ready to join this adventure with us?*

# ANOTHER PATH ANOTHER PATH ANOTHER PATH

## Another view



*After you get into the path to the Old Town, we are going to tell you a secret. Be bold and instead of doing the same path as you will see everybody doing, which is going straight ahead the street, turn right in the street called "Rua Monsenhor Boto", we guarantee that the view you'll get of the main church will be amazing. And the path will be less sloping than the other.*

*Be aware of one thing while in this street, at some point you won't be able to see the beginning nor the end of the street.*

*Finally, arrive at the "Largo da Sé". This place is called that, because it is the home of the Sé in Algarve, but now, some history about this place.*

*The "Largo da Sé" throughout the times was always an important and strategic place, because it is high and surrounded by the Ria Formosa. This, because the Ria Formosa, this great lagoon, was always a part of the economic life in Faro or Ossónoba, as it was the name of the city before, did you know that?*



*During the Roman Era, this was the Forúm Romano, as we said before, being a political, religious and administrative center of Ossónoba. Some years later, when the Moors conquered this place from the Romans, they made it the center too.*

*Just during the XIII century Dom Afonso III start to build the church in the center and the "Largo" starts to look as it is nowadays.*

# SÉ DE FARO

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As we said before, during the XIII century the “Largo da Sé” started to look more like nowadays, because they started to built a church at the centre. A curious fact about this time is that just in 1577, when the Bishop of Algarve (the same that rebuilt with his italian friend the “Arco da Vila”) moved to Algarve, the church was enlarged and became the Sé os Algarve.

Before the Sé in Faro, the Sé of Algarve was in a city called Silves. If you go there you can still visit the old church.

When Faro turned into the religious center of Algarve, its importance grew even more in the country.

Inside the “Igreja da Sé”, also known as Church of Saint Mary, you will be able to visit a museum ecclesiastic, a small chapel of bones and if you go upstairs into the roof, you will have a amazing view of Ria Formosa and Faro.

\*Price and schedule must be asked in the building.

Some interesting facts:

- It is classify as a National Monument of Portugal;
- If you look to the clock in the top of the tower, you will see IIII instead of the number IV;
- Walking around the building you will see some letters and “drawings” in some stones. These are the marks of people who worked or gave something during the time the church was built.



# PAÇO EPISCOPAL

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*Episcopal Palace*



## *After the church*

*Go visit the Episcopal Palace, a place of great religious importance in Faro, this is because there is the house of the Bishop in Algarve.*

*Inside the building you will be able to see amazing tiles from the XVIII century and paintings.*

*Just for you to know, through the hole e-book we have been saying that this "Largo" was throughout history a very important place and it remains so until today.*

*It is still the home of the Church in Faro and also have the "Câmara Municipal" centre of the administrative power.*

*\*Price and schedule must be asked in the building.*



# MUSEU MUNICIPAL DE FARO

*After you visit the Episcopal Palace, go to the “Museu Municipal de Faro” and take a journey in the history of Faro, knowing since the Romans, the Moors and the cristians.*

*Some interesting fact about the Museum is that once that place was a Convent of Our Lady of the Assumption of the Order of Santa Clara, then a Cork Factory and then the Museum.*

*The building, as similar to the oders we talked about during our journey is also a National Monumet of Portugal and has a enormous Algarvian architectural value.*

*Some of the exhibitions you will be able to visit inside are:*

- 1- “Caminhos do Algarve Romano”
- 2- “O Rosto do Oceanus”
- 3- “A presença dos Árabes”
- 4- Paintings

*\*Price and schedule must be asked in the building.*

## **Curiosities:**

*-It is the second oldest museum in the Algarve. The building is a museum since 02/02/1894.*

*-Some people say they are able to see a face of a young Moor in the stones outside the museum. Have you found the face?*



*If you do, share the photo and tag us @wellcomehostel in your Facebook or Instagram photo.*

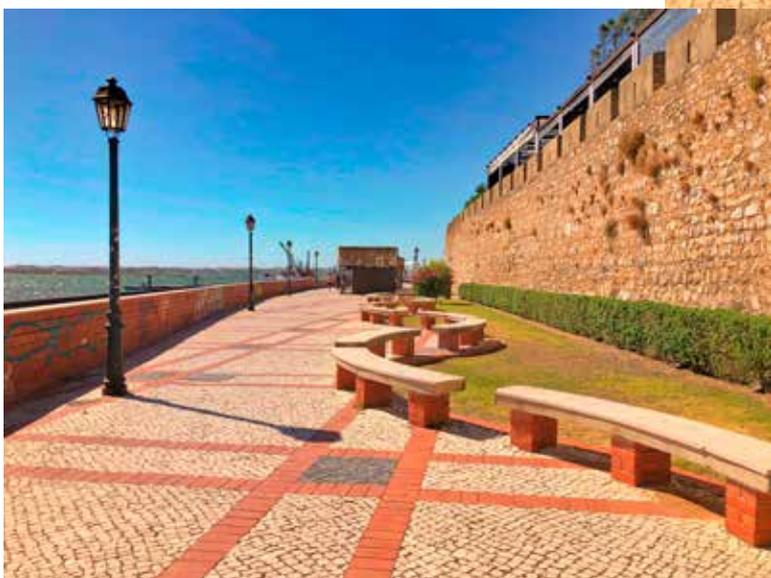
# THE WALLS THE WALLS THE WALLS

**After you have visited the Old Town and enjoyed the great views, what about getting to know the walls? Around the Old Town there is a great wall that once protected this important place. Nowadays, it represents history and the past and is also a great place to walk around and find amazing spots.**



## **Observations:**

**Near to this Wind Rose in the floor you will find the place where you can take the boats to the beaches: Beach of Faro, Ilha do Farol, Ilha da Culatra e Ilha Deserta.**



*You can finish your tour with a pic-nic in one of the beaches outside the Old Town, while you enjoy the view and the fresh air.*



*Thank you!*

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