

Excursion

Ludo and Lagoa de S. Lourenço

Code: LL1

Coordinates: 7°59'17.82"W 37°1'0.59"N

Municipality: Faro and Loulé

Description: Ludo is an extensive rural property with many bodies of water including freshwater and brackish lagoons, salt pans and saltmarshes. To the north, farmland and forest, especially maritime and umbrella pines, predominate, as well as agricultural smallholdings, small stands of holm oak and Mediterranean scrub. The site is crossed by the Ribeira de São Lourenço

which is one of the most important parts of the entire ecosystem. Around this there are patches of reeds and bulrushes and riverine woodland, mainly tamarisks and poplars. To the east of Ludo is the Lagoa de São Lourenço, surrounded by a golf course. This is a lagoon rich in aquatic vegetation, especially bulrushes, rushes and reeds.

How to get there: on the road that leads to Faro Island, park the car before the bridge over the Ria Formosa. There is a road to the right leading to the interior of



Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Ludo and Lagoa de São Lourenço. **Itinerary:** take the road that starts at the main road to Faro Island. At the end of a long straight stretch, there is a signposted road on the right that skirts the Lagoa de São Lourenço before entering Ludo. Further ahead you can rejoin the road back to your starting point.

When to visit: all year round.

Duration of visit: 4 or 5 hours.

Most interesting species

	Season
Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	all year round
Little Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>)	all year round
Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	autumn and winter
Glossy Ibis (<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>)	winter
Common Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	winter
Red-crested Pochard (<i>Netta rufina</i>)	all year round
Eurasian Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)	all year round
Black-shouldered Kite (<i>Elaeus caeruleus</i>)	winter
Booted Eagle (<i>Aquila pennata</i>)	all year round
Black Kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>)	spring
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	winter
Purple Swamphen (<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>)	all year round
Caspian Tern (<i>Sterna caspia</i>)	autumn and winter
Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	spring and summer
Wryneck (<i>Jynx torquilla</i>)	spring
Red-necked Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus ruficollis</i>)	spring and summer
Black-headed Weaver (<i>Ploceus melanocephalus</i>)	all year round
Common Waxbill (<i>Estrilda astrid</i>)	all year round



Red-necked Nightjar (*Caprimulgus ruficollis*)

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Signs and other aids: the itinerary at Lagoa de São Lourenço is signposted and includes information panels. There is a good hide near the lagoon. There are no signs or other aids at Ludo.

Special features: place where a great variety of birds occurs. Over 200 species can be observed here during the year. Main wintering ground for ducks in the Algarve. One of the best places for bird photography in the Algarve (Lagoa de São Lourenço), in particular for the Purple Swamphen, Red-crested Pochard and Glossy Ibis, among others. Easily reached area that can be visited on foot or by

bicycle. Part of it can also be visited by car. Regular presence of raptors, including the Booted Eagle which winters here.

Other places of interest nearby:

Montenegro saltpans and area adjacent to Faro Airport, Faro Waterfront Park.

Notes: a full visit to this site calls for time and a willingness to walk. It is advisable to visit the site early in the morning. The itineraries described above are detailed in other information materials, including the leaflet on the birds of Ludo produced by the Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds and Birdwatching Guide produced by Loulé Municipality.

Excursion

Ludo and Lagoa de S. Lourenço

- E Lagoa de S. Lourenço
 - F Ancão Bridge
 - G Foz da Ribeira de S. Lourenço
 - H Ludo Saltpans
- Recommended route



Excursion

Faro Island

Code: FA1

Coordinates: 7°58'49.57"W, 36°59'55.44"N

Municipality: Faro

Description: extensive string of sandy barrier islands occupied by numerous buildings; bathing beaches, etc. It separates the estuarine system from the sea and is bounded on the north by a wide water channel and saltmarshes and on the south by beaches and the open sea.

How to get there: from Faro, follow the

signs for the airport. Before reaching the airport, follow the sign for Faro beach. Shortly after crossing the bridge to the island, turn left and take the paved road to the end.

Itinerary: after the end of the paved road, there is a wooden walkway which runs east, parallel to the estuarine zone. This is the suggested itinerary.

When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.

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Most interesting species

	Season
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	winter
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	autumn and winter
Oystercatcher (<i>Haemantopus ostralegus</i>)	autumn and winter
Curllew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	autumn and winter
Audouin's Gull (<i>Larus audouinii</i>)	winter
Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)	winter

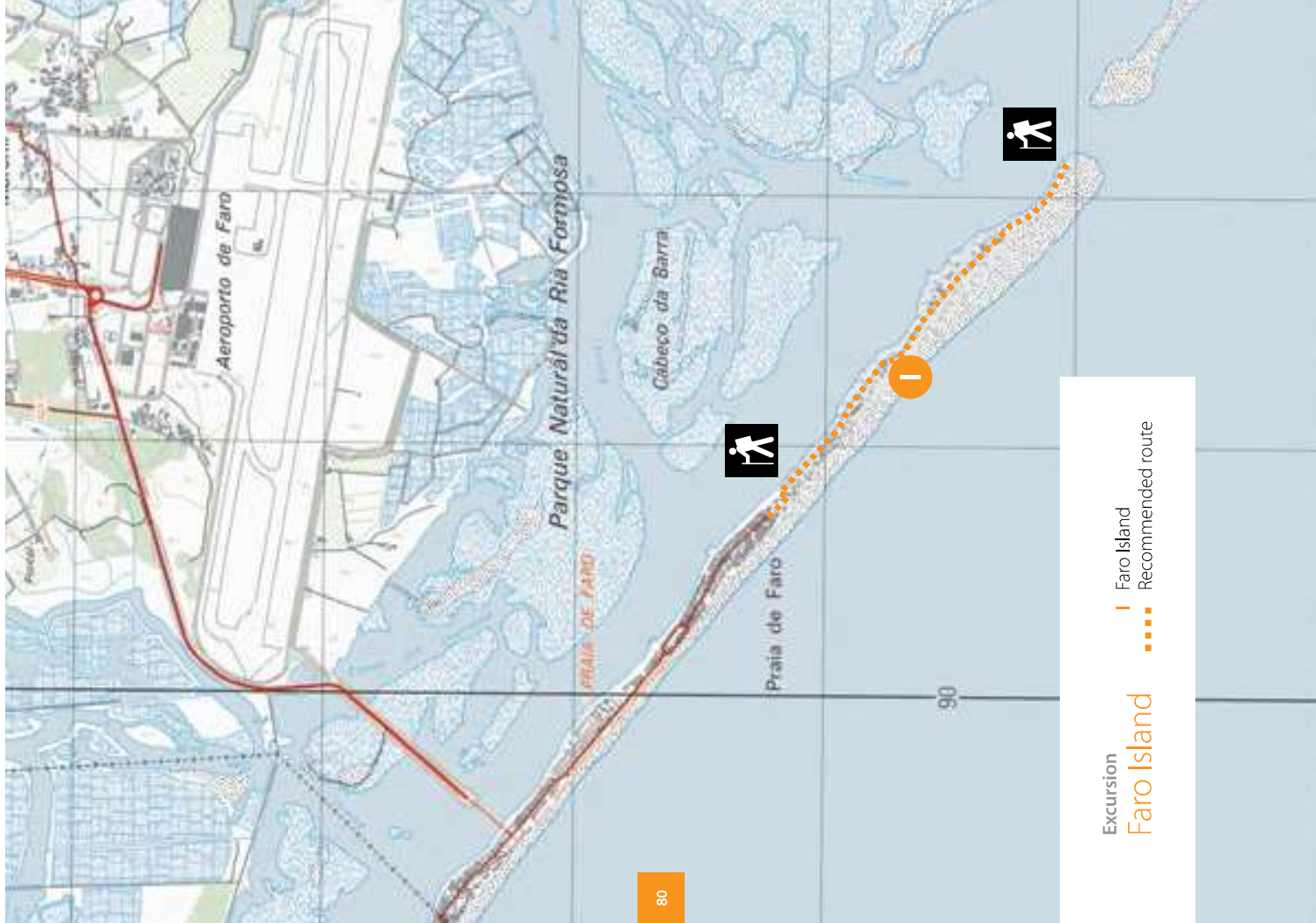
Signs and other aids: only a wooden walkway.

Special features: very interesting for observing various species of waders feeding in the estuary at low tide, including dunlins, plovers, sandpipers, oystercatchers, etc. Regular occurrence of other birds such as the Osprey, Audouin's Gull and the Caspian Tern, as well as some rarer species such as the Brent

Goose and the Common Gull.

Other places of interest nearby: Ludo and Montenegro saltpans.

Notes: visit especially at low tide and preferably early in the morning, before the regular disturbance caused by humans in the area. Avoid the bathing season because of the large numbers of people.



Excursion
Faro Island | Faro Island
 Recommended route

Excursion Faro Waterfront Park

Code: FA2

Coordinates: 7°56'49.72"W, 37°1'19.95"N

Municipality: Faro

Description: pedestrian trail along the city's waterfront, where this adjoins the Ria Formosa wetlands. Passes abandoned salt pans, saltmarsh areas, waterways and mudflats or mud banks exposed at low tide.

How to get there: from the centre of Faro near the harbour, or at the entrance to the city coming from the EN 125 from the northwest, near the municipal theatre.

Itinerary: the itinerary runs along the waterfront of the city of Faro, beginning near the municipal theatre and ending in the industrial zone. Passes behind the railway station and the Hotel Eva, by the harbour and the Old Town. Skirts the Neves Pires former saltworks southeast of Faro and enters the former industrial area and commercial wharf.

When to visit: all year round except June, July and August.

Duration of visit: 2-3 hours.



Ria Formosa

Most interesting species

Most interesting species	Season
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	winter
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	winter
Greater Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus roseus</i>)	autumn and winter
Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	autumn and winter
Common Greenshank (<i>Tringa nebularia</i>)	autumn and winter
Little Tern (<i>Sterna albifrons</i>)	spring



Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Signs and other aids: the trail is marked with signposts and information panels about the local birdlife.

Special features: this is the only birdwatching trail in an urban area in the Algarve. Interesting for observing waders at low tide. Conversely, the saltpans are interesting at high tide, with birds such as the Flamingo and Black-winged Stilt, among others. In winter Faro is home to a peregrine falcon that hunts regularly in this area, so it is easy to observe. The

itinerary is easy to reach and can be done on foot or by bicycle. It passes several places of cultural interest including the municipal theatre and the historic centre of Faro.

Other places of interest nearby:

Montenegro saltpans.

Notes: visit both at low tide and high tide. Late afternoon is recommended for a visit, when the light is more favourable for observation.

- J Waterfront Park
- K Commercial Docks
- L Atalala
- Recommended route

Excursion

Faro Waterfront Park

