

What's New for 2018 in the Algarve?

Find out about new rides at Zoomarine and Aquashow theme and water parks, new flight routes, predictions for the 2018 weather and exchange rates, and more!

ALBUFEIRA, PORTUGAL, February 2, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- 2017 saw Portugal and the Algarve winning many tourism awards, and we welcomed more visitors than ever before with hotels and private rental accommodation selling out at the height of the season.

The Algarve is once again a thriving holiday hotspot, and that's a very positive thing for both local business and tourism.

Here are some of the exciting, new developments and improvements that you can look forward to in 2018.

Zoomarine Theme Park:

2018 will bring some new experiences and shows to the highly popular Zoomarine theme park and returning visitors can expect a plethora of exciting new additions.

There will be a fabulous tropical river that spans 400 meters of curving waterways where you can sit in the comfort of your buoy and glide past the coconut trees and waterfalls.

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Gary Miller

The hugely successful Pirate Bay will be open for the whole season for the first time along with firm favourites like the Beach, 4D Cinema, Aquarium, Big Wheel and of course the dolphin shows, so [Zoomarine tickets](#) should definitely be on your shopping list for 2018!

Exchange Rates Predictions for 2018:

With the looming prospect of Brexit in the air, we wonder where the GBP/EURO relationship will end up. Peter Lavelle from currency experts PureFX told us “The pound to euro exchange rate may rise in 2018! This is because the UK economy continues to do well, with the UK creating a bumper 102,000 jobs late last year. Meanwhile, the euro could fall, because Germany is still struggling to form a government, following September's fragmented elections!”



The new coconut river ride at Zoomarine

Perhaps some of the cheaper package deals will have increased in price, and unfortunately, the closure of Monarch won't help with the airfare hikes that happen every summer, but generally speaking, everything looks positive and Portugal still represents excellent value for holiday makers.

Aquashow Water Park:

We spoke with Juri Tietzen, Aquashow's Commercial Director and he hinted that we can expect some very exciting new things in 2018 although he wasn't keen to give the game away just yet.

"Every year we have some new exciting rides. For the opening season in 2018, however, you'll have to wait to see what they are and I think visitors will love them" he teased.

Thanks for the teaser Juri, guess we will just have to keep you posted on the [new Aquashow arrivals](#) as soon as he lets us know.

Weather Predictions for 2018:

Jason Nicholls, Senior Meteorologist at weather experts AccuWeather spoke with Algarve Fun and gave his prediction for 2018.

"Overall this coming Spring for southern Portugal does not look to be as wet as last spring. The wettest part of the spring will likely be in March then April and May look drier than normal. Much like last summer there will be very little rainfall this coming summer. Temperatures will average above normal this spring and summer, similar to last year. Last March through August temperatures averaged near 2 degrees C above normal. This year could be warmer by 0.5 to 1 degree C. Autumn 2018 will be another warm and drier than normal period for Algarve."

Many thanks Jason; it sounds like it will be a good year for visitors and residents alike.

Visitor Numbers:

The increase in visiting tourists to Portugal was around 20% from 2016 to 2017, and with hotels already filling up in January, we are expecting a continued strong rise in 2018.

Tourism is flourishing with a new wave of tourists discovering the spectacular coastal resorts along the Algarve, rich Winelands of the Alentejo and the cities, Lisbon and Porto seeing record numbers, Portugal has never been more popular, even offseason.

French, American and Asian numbers are the ones that have noticeably taken a prominent peak, and European visitors continue to pour in.

We asked Gary Miller, Director at [attraction and activity experts Algarve Fun](#), about the feedback he was getting so far this year and he said "Many of our partners, most notably boat operators, have reported strong winter bookings and as we progress into 2018 we are hopeful that not only will this build into a busy season, but another year where the length of the tourist season extends to an earlier start and a later finish."

New flight route from Italy:

Spanish airline Volotea has added a great new destination to its schedule with a direct flight between Faro and Verona from June to September.

Currently, the only flight that links Italy and the Algarve and the Spanish airline will start with a weekly flight through the four-month, peak period. According to Dora Coelho, Director of the ATA, “2016 saw 108,000 overnight stays by Italian tourists in the region. That’s why we consider this market to be strategically relevant to the region.”

MAR Shopping and Designer Outlet:

In the latter part of 2017, an IKEA megastore opened in Loule, near Faro airport and the retail area was completed with two distinct shopping areas. 2018 will be the first crucial summer season for the centre.

The first retail area is MAR Shopping, which is home to some big international brands, such as Zara, H&M and the eagerly awaited Starbucks. Then there’s the Designer Outlet, and that finalises the retail park with brands including Calvin Klein and Lacoste and many others offering their ranges at up to 70% discount.

Faro Airport

Over the past couple of years, we’ve seen an enormous renovation taking place in Faro Airport that is reported to have cost in the region of €40million.

The new and improved airport suffered some pretty hefty disruptions during the renovation, but with the revamp complete, we now have modern and more efficient, 93,120sqm airport that can cope with the influx of new visitors making departures and arrivals more fluid which we hope is good news for tourists arriving in 2018.

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