

This town was a thriving seaport with its own castle that was later destroyed in the earthquake of 1755. Most of the older parts of the town that survived have been carefully maintained. In the Roman times it was known as *Baltum*, but was later changed by the Moors to *Al-Buhera*. It became an important trading port during the Moors 8th Century occupation. During the "War of the *Miguels*," the town was besieged and set ablaze. The destroyed town suffered a very long period of poverty and has now only really recovered with the growth of tourism. Albufeira has its share of historic sites, but it is better known for its beautiful beaches which draw millions of tourist each year.



POINTS OF INTEREST

Nice Beaches

Praia de Balaia, Praia de Castelo, Praia de Falésia, Praia de Galé, Olhos d'Água, Praia de Maria Luisa, and Praia de São Rafael.

The Old Town

Many of Albufeira's oldest buildings were destroyed in the 1755 earthquake but the old town still has an old-fashioned, leisurely charm all of its own. Wander down cobbled streets lined with little shops, sidewalk cafes, and the odd art gallery and museum.

Torre Do Relogio (Clock Tower)

This is the "landmark" of the city. From this tower, you can hear its hourly chimes (on Rua Bernardino de Sousa).

Torre Sineira (Bell Tower)

Built in 1869, it is part of the Parish Church Edifice and has a belfry with eight bells.

OTHER SIGHTS

- Museums: O Museu Arqueológico-Histórico and Galeria de Arte
- Churches: Igreja da Misericórdia, Igreja de Santa Ana, Igreja de São Sebastião
- Other towns near Albufeira: Ar mação de Pera, Boliqueime, Guia, Paderne with its ruined castle perched on an isolated hill some distance from the village. At Ponte Grande, there are impressive caves with large arches and the underwater caverns of Grutas do Xorino.
- An old Moorish arch on Travessa de Igreja Velha indicates the place where a primitive mosque stood and is now the town's first church.
- Zoo Marine: aquariums, rides, a swimming pool, a 4D cinema, bird shows, and the chance to interact with dolphins. www.zoomarine.com
- Golf Courses: Balaia Golf Village, Sheraton Pine Cliffs, Salgados Golf Club

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

February 4th - Feira do Pau Roxo

July - Feira de Artesanato (Crafts fair)

August 15 - Feira de Nossa Senhora da Orada

August - Feira de Frango (Chicken Festival)

August 28th & 29th - Feira de Nossa Senhora da Guia

May through Oct – Fiesa International Sand Sculpture Festival in Pera

TRAVEL TIPS

For a fun way to get around, take the Turistrem, a tourist train which circles the town for only 3 euros.

Visit the market in Albufeira on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month and a flea market on the 3rd Saturday (0800-1300).

Pick up a local city map in the tourist office to find your way around.

TRANSPORT

By Car: Drive time is about 3.5 to 4 hours.

Visit www.viamichelin.com for driving directions. You may also inquire at the Traveler desk for information regarding GPS rentals.

By Train: You can purchase tickets online at www.cp.pt (able to view in English)

FOR MORE INFO...

Albufeira Tourism Office:

Rua 5 de Outubro, 8200 Albufeira

Tel: 289-585-279/289-515-973

Camping site: Camping Albufeira

Estrada de Ferreiras, 8200 Albufeira

Tel: ++351 289-578-629

Webpage: www.albufeira.com

www.algarve-info.com/algarve/albufeira.htm

www.webtourist.net



Faro

The capital of the district, Faro, is a city with much to see. The walls that surrounded the town are from Moorish and medieval times. What remains from the past can still be seen in churches and museums. Faro is outlined with noble residences that bear witness to Faro's splendor in centuries past. Narrow streets of whitewashed houses recall the town's Moorish heritage.



POINTS OF INTEREST

Hermitage of Nossa Senhora do O (Our Lady of O)

Situated on the ramparts, this chapel was rebuilt after the earthquake of 1755 and has an interesting facade. It is probably here, during the period of Moorish rule, that a statue of the Virgin mentioned in one of the Canticles of Santa Maria was kept.

Cathedral

The Cathedral dominates the center of the Old Town of Faro. A large part of the Gothic church was destroyed in the 1755 earthquake and later rebuilt. Only the tower and a south window are left from the original building. The cathedral was constructed in Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles.

Carmo Church (Igreja do Carmo)

To the north of St Peter's Square lies the wide Largo do Carmo, dominated by this twin-towered Baroque church. It houses an important collection of religious statuary; including nine statues of the Triumphal procession which are the work of the Algarvean sculptor and carver Manuel Martins. Next to the Carmo Church you will find the Bone Chapel, which is a must see!



Bone Chapel (Capela de Ossos Bone Chapel)

Visit in the morning since they close early in the afternoon.

Next to the Carmelite church (Igreja do Carmo) is the "Bone Chapel" which is lined with the bones of monks. The inscription over the door reads "Stop here and think of the fate that will befall you – 1816", a helpful reminder put in place by the Carmelite monks who built the chapel that year on the grounds of the larger church dating to 1719.

Infante Dom Henrique Archaeological Museum/Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Assunção

The Archaeological museum and church was built on the site of the old Jewish quarter. Work on the church and monastery continued from 1519 until 1550. The building was completed by Queen Catarina (1507-1578) and is an important example of the art of the first renaissance in the Algarve.

Ramparts and Castle

Faro's defensive walls were raised by the Moorish prince, Ben Bekr, in the 9th century. The two barbican towers which defend the entrance to the Arco do Repouso (Arch of Rest), originated as the reinforcement of the city's defenses during the 12th & 13th centuries.

OTHER SITES

- **Maritime Museum** - This museum houses a small but interesting ethnographic collection related to marine activities and fishing in the Algarve, including models of the different types of vessel used.
- **Misericórdia Church** - It is the only church in the Algarve built in the form of a Greek cross to a plan that is believed to have been the work of an architect from Lisbon.
- **Episcopal Palace** - This is one of the Algarve's foremost buildings in the "cha" (plain) architectural style which predominated at the end of the 16th and throughout the 17th century.
- **Celeiro de São Francisco** - This octagonal structure was built within a garden as a place to take shelter from the heat.
- **Hermitage of Santo António do Alto / Antonine Museum** - Built beside a watchtower in the Middle Ages, the chapel retains a stone marking the year of its construction – 1355.
- **Arco da Vila** - Located at the south end of the Jardim Manuel Bivar, is this arched gateway surmounted by a bell tower and a statue of Faro's patron saint, St Thomas Aquinas. Through the gateway lies the very attractive historical center of Faro, part of which is still surrounded by a 13th century wall.



TRAVELER TIPS

The downtown has pedestrian-friendly streets suitable for shopping for local Portuguese products.

TRANSPORTATION

Driving: Approximately 3.5 - 4 hours

Visit www.viamichelin.com for driving directions. You may also inquire at the Traveler desk for information regarding GPS rentals.

FOR MORE INFO...

Faro Tourist Office:

Rua da Misericórdia, 289-803- 604



Note: Local time is one hour behind Spain.

Lagos is a charming Algarve coastal town that has retained its traditional Portuguese character whilst developing into a cosmopolitan holiday destination that welcomes thousands of visitors every year. Historically, Lagos' greatest allure has been its geographical position. Lying opposite the North African coast in the Bensafrim estuary, it attracted settlers, foreign invaders, and became a focal point for discovery voyages at the time of Portugal's Golden Ages of Discoveries. Prince Henry the Navigator brought fame to the region by founding his navigation school in nearby Sagres, by residing in Lagos and building his famous caravels in the town. Lagos soon became a hub of maritime activity as explorers such as Gil Eanes, the first to round Africa's Cape Bojador in 1434, departed from the town in search of new land and fortune. Vessels returning laden with riches and slaves transformed Lagos into a base for African trade and brought increased wealth and prosperity to the area.



Nowadays, the allure is all to do with the region's abundance of beautiful beaches. Visitors are spoilt for choice with the long stretches of sand dunes beaches such as Meia Praia or the smaller, sheltered coves like Praia da Boneca or Praia Dona Ana. Both alternatives are equally appealing: the size of Meia Praia makes it a favorite for water sports while the cliffs of the smaller beaches provides grottoes, rock pools, and enchanting nooks and crannies that delight all the family. The coastline in the area is particularly attractive and can be explored from the sea on one of the scenic boat trips that regularly depart from the marina. Not to mention the fantastic beauty of snorkeling and scuba diving.

The town itself is best explored on foot. Many of the homes in the historic city center still retain the traditional stonework, the quaint wrought iron balconies, and the shaded inner patios. Shops, bars, and restaurants line the cobbled streets, making it a very pleasant spot from a stroll and a taste of the local cuisine.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Nice Beaches – Ponta da Piedade

The town of Lagos is a historical beauty spot. Old Town walls, beautiful chapels, cobbled streets, and lots of atmosphere. But once again, it is Mother Nature that provides the most romantic spot. Ponta da Piedade, about 3kms from Lagos is a fairytale landscape of sea caves and grottoes, cliffs and arches, and clear, clear water. You can visit Ponta da Piedade by land – 182 steps will take you from the cliff top to the bottom, with some stunning views on the way. Or you can explore by boat, the skilled boatman taking you into the caves and through the arches. The play of sunlight on the incredibly clear water is truly magical.

Castelo dos Governadores (Governors' Castle)

This castle was built on the site of a former Arab castle during the 14th-16th centuries to become the residence of the governors of the Algarve. Partially destroyed in the 1775 earthquake, it contains a beautiful example of a Manueline window, alongside which King Sebastião allegedly said his last prayers before his failed trip to Africa.

Igreia de São Sebastião (St, Sebastian's Church)

Originally a 14th century chapel, it was made a church and dedicated to St. Sebastian in 1463. The church contains a large 18th century statue of Our Lady of Glory that came from Brazil and a 16th century crucifix that is said to have been used in the famous Alcácer-Quibir battle. From its hilltop vantage point, the church commands fabulous views over Lago's and the sea.

A Cidade de Areia (The sand City) Fiesa 2006

A magical world of gods and myths awaits you at FIESA 2006. An enchanted atmosphere, a journey in time to the myths of ancient Greeks and Egyptians, the gods of mighty Rome and the drama of the last supper. Admire the sculptures in every powerful detail. One of the biggest sand cities in the world.



OTHER SIGHTS

- **Museu Municipal Dr. José Formosinho** - Adjoining St. Anthony's church, this museum contains unique collections of religious art, archaeological finding, and paintings in addition to sections dedicated to Lagos' history, Algarve ethnography and mineralogy. Entrance to the museum includes admittance to the church.
- **Igreja de Santo António (St. Anthony's Church)** - Impressive gilt carving of the sanctuary is one of the most beautiful in Portugal and has made this 18th century church a striking example of Portuguese baroque. The ornate interior contrasts greatly with the simplicity of the exterior.
- **Muralhas (Town Walls)**
Originally of Carthaginian or Roman origin, the ramparts were extended by the Arabs and then again in the 14th and 16th century to accommodate the town's growth. The walls offer beautiful panoramic views of the surrounding hills and the Bay of Lagos.
- **Zoo Lagos:** Quinta Figueiras Sítio do Medronhal, Barão de S. João - 16€ per adult. Mon – Sun 10am – 7pm
- **Sao Gonçalo's Gate** – Located near Fortaleza da Ponta da Bandeira and the town's beach, this entrance is flanked by two barbican towers, in keeping with Islamic fortresses. This was the main access to the quay of the late medieval town in the 15th and 16th centuries. It's named after a saint (1368-1422) who has a small shrine in the passageway.
- **Coastal Hikes** - <http://www.algarverde.de/en/private-guided-walks/coastal-walks/>

TRANSPORT

By Car: Drive time is about 4 to 4.5 hours.

Visit www.viamichelin.com for driving directions. You may also inquire at the Traveler desk for information regarding GPS rentals.

By Train: You can purchase tickets online at www.cp.pt (able to view in English)

FOR MORE INFO...

Lagos Turismo:

Sítio de São João, 8200 Albufeira

Tel: 282 763 031



Lisbon: A truly international city

Once the launching spot for many of the voyages of discovery (notably Vasco da Gama's epic journey to India), Lisbon was the first true world city, the capital of an empire spreading over all continents, from South America (Brazil) to Asia (Macao, China; Goa, India). It is forever known as the city of the explorers.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Praça do Comércio

This is the main plaza in Lisbon facing the water and host to many of the city's large events like an international marathon held each December and the New Year's Eve celebration (not in 2009-2010 due to construction on the plaza). On the opposing edge of the plaza is the Augusta Triumphal Arch which leads into the all the shopping streets.

Castelo de S. Jorge

Hours of Operation: 0900-2100 (Mar-Oct) & 0900-1800 (Nov-Feb)

Set on the highest point of Lisbon, the castle can be seen from almost every point in the city. It is also a great location to view 360 degree of the city.

Belém District

This historic area has the Discoveries Monument, Vasco de Gama's final resting place at Jeronimos monastery and the world heritage site of Torre de Belem. Please be advised that most of Belém's monuments are closed on Mondays.

- Torre de Belém – *Hours of Operation: 1000-1700 (Oct-April) & 1000-1830 (May-Sept); Closed Mondays*
- Discoveries Monument – *Hours of Operation: 1000-1800; Closed Mondays*
- Jeronimos' monastery – *Hours of Operation: 1000-1700 (Oct-April) & 1000-1800 (May-Sept); Closed Mondays*

OTHER SIGHTS

Coach Museum (Museu dos Coches) has one of the most amazing collection of old carriages in the world.

Other Museums: Ancient Art, Chiado (Contemporary Art), Tile, Archaeology, Ethnology, Costume, Theater, Maritime, Military, City, Gulbenkian, Modern Art Center, and the Ricardo Espirito Santo Silva Foundation.

Palaces open to the public: Ajuda and Fronteira.

Christ the King Sanctuary (Santuário do Cristo Rei) - The 110 meter high statue of Christ offers a magnificent panoramic view over Lisbon and River Tagus.

Churches: Cathedral (with Treasury); São Vicente de Fora; Conceição Velha (Manueline), São Roque and Sacred Art; Madre Deus; Santa Engrácia Pantheon (Baroque), and the Estrela Basilica.

Nightlife Areas: Av. 24 de Julho (Alcântara), Bairro Alto, Docas (Doca de Alcântara) and Parque das Nações

LOCAL CULTURE

Walk the city's first promenade. Tree-lined and tiled the entire way, the Avenida da Liberdade is beautiful. Along the walk there are several stores, cafés and restaurants including the Hard Rock Café. You can start at the Restauradores metro stop and head towards the large Marquis de Pombal roundabout (also the location of a similar named metro stop).

Ride the trams. Lisbon has several trams that run up the steepest hills and saves you the uphill slog. Plus it's a unique way to travel around the city.



Enjoy Portugal's famous pastries. Pateis de Belém has been making their famous pastries since 1837. They keep the recipe a secret and for good reason, on any given day, there is a line out the door. You can grab a pastry to-go or eat in their tiled tearooms.

Day trip to Sintra or Cascais. Two very different villages are within a short train ride from Lisbon. The Never-Never land of Sintra is brimming with castles scattered over its rolling hills. Its historic centre is listed as an Unesco World Heritage site. Cascais is a seaside village full of pastel-colored buildings. Today, it's one of the liveliest resort towns on the Estoril coast.

Hear some live music. During the summertime, the city brings in several live music acts from around the world. In recent years, Jack Johnson, Metallica, The Killers, Dave Matthews Band, Black-Eyed Peas and more have performed in Lisbon. For more traditional music, visit one of their Fado houses to listen to music unique to Portugal.



TRAVELER TIPS

Watch your pockets and purse. Like all big cities, there is lots of petty theft. Follow smart city travel tips and you should be fine. If you're driving to Lisbon, remove all valuable items from plain view.

Most of Lisbon's museums and monuments (especially those in Belem) are close on Mondays. This is a good day to go up to the castle or to visit the Oceanarium, which are both opened every day.

Purchase the LisboaCard. To save money on entrance fees to major attractions and public transportation (including the Metro), consider buying this card which is sold at tourist offices or online at www.lisboacard.com.

TRANSPORT

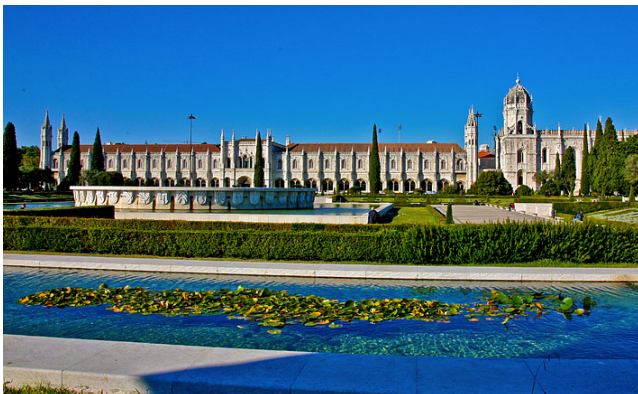
Due to the public transport infrastructure, it is difficult to get to Lisbon from Rota without your own personal vehicle or extended travel time.

By Car: Approximately 6-6.5 hours driving time. The route may include toll roads. Choose the best travel route for yourself on the ViaMichelin website at www.viamichelin.com.

By Train: Approximately 9.5 hours from Madrid to Lisbon on the overnight train and approximately 3 hours from Sevilla's Santa Justa to Madrid. If you do not have a car, you can reach Santa Justa station from El Puerto de Santa Maria train station. Check out the RENFE website for current train schedules and prices at www.renfe.es.

By Bus: International buses run from Estacion de Autobuses Plaza des Armas in Sevilla to Gare do Oriente.

By Airplane: The major Spanish airlines, Iberia and Spanair, fly from several airports in Andalucia to Lisbon via Madrid or Barcelona. Their websites are www.iberia.com or www.spanair.com.



FOR MORE INFO...

Lisbon Tourism Office:
Praça do Comércio, Hours: daily 0900 - 2100

Websites: www.atl-turismolisboa.pt
Pasteis de Belem: www.pasteisdebelem.pt
Criso Rei statue: www.cristorei.pt

Vila Real de Santo Antonio: The frontier town with Spain

This town was a small fishing port and dates back to Phoenician times. Due to the flatness of the area, the neighboring hill of *Castro Marim* helped strengthened the location. This frontier town with Spain was specially designed and rebuilt after the devastating earthquake of 1755 by the *Marquês de Pombal*. This town is best for shopping and trying the Portuguese cuisine. Although it is not particularly known for sightseeing, there are areas nearby worth visiting.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Vila Real de Santo António Museum– Centro Cultural António Aleixo. This small but interesting museum is mainly focused on the designs for tins for packaging in the fishing industry.

Nice Beaches – Praia da Alagoa, Praia da Altura, Praia das Cabanas-Mar, Praia do Cabeço, Praia da Cacela, Praia da Lota, Praia da Manta Rota, Praia do Retur, Praia de Monte Gordo, Praia de Santo António, Praia Verde

Marina – take a leisurely walk along the marina and you will also find parking here.

OTHER SIGHTS

- Nature Reserve of Castro Marim
- Visitors can take a boat trip upriver to the charming small Portuguese town of *Alcoutim*.
- Monte Gordo - a parish of Vila Real de Santo Antonio which is only 3 kms away.
- Visit archeological sites - Cerro do Castelo de Santa Justa (*Alcoutim*); Povoado de Vale do Boto (*Castro Marim*)
- Castles - Castelo Velho - (*Alcoutim*); *Castro Marim*
- Roman ruins - Montinho das Laranjeiras - (*Alcoutim*)
- Boat Trip up River Guadiana

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Feira de Vila R. de Sta. António in *February*; Festival do Teatro (Theatre) in *April*; Municipal Holiday on *13th of May*; Festival da Musica in *May and June*; Rota do Atum (Tuna Fish) in *Jul*; Festival de Folklore in *September*; Feira de São Bartolomeu (*Castro Marim*) in *September*; Beach Fair on *10-12 October*; Flea Market - *13th of every month*

LOCAL CULTURE

Local market – in the main plaza, you can buy some honey, sweets, or local crafts.

Shop and eat – here you can find colorful tablecloths or try the Portuguese cuisine.

TRANSPORTATION

By car: Drive time is about 2.5 hours. Visit www.viamichelin.com for driving directions. You may also inquire at the Traveler desk for information regarding GPS rentals.

By train: You can purchase tickets online at www.cp.pt (able to view in English)



FOR MORE INFO...

Tourism Office:
Tel: 281-542-100

Webpage: www.portugal-info.net/algarve/vrsa.htm or www.webtourist.net



Gibraltar

A trip to Southern Spain would not be complete without a trip to "The Rock" of Gibraltar! Thought to be one of the two Pillars of Hercules, Gibraltar has long been a coveted strategic military location dating back to the days of the Islamic conquest of Spain. Gibraltar is believed to have received its name from the corruption of the Arabic phrase "Jebel Tariq" which translates as Tariq's Mountain. Today, Gibraltar is under British control which is why a passport is required to visit this mini piece of Great Britain in Andalucia.



POINTS OF INTEREST

Rock of Gibraltar

"The Rock," which is made of limestone, is the top attraction of Gibraltar and riddled with over 140 known caves including the Great Siege Tunnels, St. Michael's Cave, and the Ape's Den. Take the cable car up to the summit of the rock. It is opened Mon-Sat from 9:30-1715; the last car down is at 1745.

The Great Siege Tunnels is only a small part of the 32-mile network that housed up to 18,000 Allied soldiers during World War II. Excavated during the Great Siege of 1779-83 to permit the mounting of a gun on the North Face of the Rock, they were later extended to provide an impregnable line of artillery.

Barbary Apes

The Ape's Den is full of Barbary apes brought over from Africa by the Moors. Legend has it that when the Apes disappear from "The Rock" so will the British!

Saint Michael's Cave

Opened until 18:30 - Taxi tours are also offered (usually cost around 30€) St. Michael's Cave served as a hospital during the war but now hosts summer musical concerts. One of Europe's most dramatic natural grottoes, the cave is a unique subterranean auditorium, now a special venue for concerts and other live performances.



The Gibraltar Museum

Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 1000 - 1800. Saturday from 1000 - 1400. Closed Sundays.

See the unique story of Gibraltar with a specially produced film and many galleries full of original artifacts, old prints and photographs. Take a tour through time, from the origins of the Rock 200-million years ago to the Gibraltarians of today and its natural history. In the basement is the best-preserved Moorish Bath House in Europe.

Main Street - (pedestrian shopping zone) the shopping center of the Western Mediterranean; the range of gifts is quite enormous from delicate glassware, priceless porcelain, unusual pottery, leather, perfumes, spirits jewelry, silks or cashmere.

OTHER SIGHTS

- Alameda Botanical Gardens - visit the attractive 19th-century gardens and relax after shopping or sightseeing.
- Jews' Gate -this spot commands spectacular views of the magnificent Rif Mountains of Morocco and the towering Jebel Musa, the second Pillar of Hercules.
- Moorish Castle - the 14th-century Tower of Homage is a survivor of countless sieges and a testament to a once larger complex, which reached Casemates on the waterfront; now used as a short-term prison.
- Lighthouse - situated on the southernmost tip of Gibraltar, the lighthouse at Europa is the only one outside the UK, which is regulated by Trinity House.

- Catalan Bay - from your panoramic vantage point you will see the delightful beach and village of Catalan Bay, home to some of the original Genoese settlers in the eighteenth century and a haven for Spaniards fleeing from Napoleon's invasion of Spain in the nineteenth century.

LOCAL CULTURE

Enjoy some authentic fish & chips. What better place to enjoy some fish & chips with a pint of British Ale than in Gibraltar? There are plenty of pubs and taverns offering this quintessential British meal.

Get a picture of the Barbary Apes of "The Rock." This is one of the iconic photos from Gibraltar but use caution when you're around the apes. These famed apes are notoriously bad-mannered. Be careful having food or shiny objects around them as they have been known to steal and run.

Shop Duty-Free! All shops in Gibraltar are duty-free so splurge and purchase some souvenirs. There are a range of items from beautiful linens and traditional British products to cheesy souvenirs and more!

TRAVEL TIPS

Gibraltar takes euros. You do not need to change your money to Gibraltar pounds, as you may run into troubles converting back to euros/dollars.

REMEMBER YOUR PASSPORT! Check that you have it before making the drive!

If you drive, it is usually best to park in Spain and walk across the border. The line going into Gibraltar from Spain can be long during the summer, sometimes as long as 3 hours by car to get through. Getting around Gibraltar is easy and there are plenty of taxis.

TRANSPORTATION

Driving: Approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes

Visit www.viamichelin.com for driving directions. You may also inquire at the Traveler desk for information regarding GPS rentals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tourism Office - Duke of Kent House, Cathedral Square

207.836.0777, tourism@gibraltar.gi

Website: www.gibraltar.gi

