**ALBUFEIRA** has long been one of the Algarve’s most popular resorts – and it’s easy to see why. The old centre is a highly picturesque medley of whitewashed houses atop low sandstone cliffs facing a fantastic town **beach**. But beyond, hundreds of modern buildings lie strung across the hillsides that spread east and west, around the town’s **marina**, a collection of brightly coloured, Lego-like modern shops, bars and apartments clustered around in-your-face yachts and speedboats. If you’re looking for unspoiled Portugal, this isn’t it, but Albufeira is undeniably fun, attracting a varied mix of holidaymakers. Continue reading to find out more about... Beaches Things to do in Albufeira Best time to visit Albufeira **Beaches** Although the 1755 earthquake destroyed much of the town, there’s still a Moorish feel to a few parts of central Albufeira – its original Arabic name, *Al-Buhera*, means “Castle-on-the-Sea”. There are some fine beaches either side of the town, too. **Praia da Oura** and those further east towards **Praia da Falésia** are the more developed, while the cove beaches to the west, up to the swathe of sands at **Praia de Galé**, tend to be quieter. Inland, Albufeira is the nearest base for a couple of the Algarve’s best family-orientated **theme parks**, while day-trips also run north into the hills to the pretty village of **Alte**.