

"It's so close yet so far from everything," says Algarve businessman Constantino Jordao, who has a family holiday home on Ilha da Faro, named after the beauty of it. "There's no internet, no phones. That's the beauty of it," he adds.

Whilst Ilha da Armona is more popular with tourists, with restaurants, bars and a campsite, as well as the perfect spot for water sports such as canoeing and diving. Culatra is mainly inhabited by fishermen. With a population of around 1,000 people, a local school and a

but examples, says this memorandum of Congress.

For a more luxurious experience of the Bira, yachti charter Champaagne Cruises in Vilamoura offers day cruises, where clients are shown the wildlife and visit the beaches and marshes. "The water is very still here, so it's good fun for people that want to water-ski," says Lucy Meadows of Cham-

engines, ensuring a clean, quiet trip for nature lovers. "The propellers never hit the floor before the hull, so as not to damage the Ria bottom,"

THE WILD LIFE THAT INHABITS THESE ISLANDS.



Also providing a shuttle service to the islands but specializing in nature tours along the Ria Formosa is Natura Algarve, an eco-tourism company set up in 2008 by Sónia Almeida and Ricardo Barreiros that offers a number of different programmes, including birdwatching and dolphin watching all accompanied by the inside knowledge of the team. The consultant and information we provide are conceived bearing in mind that our clients not only want to enjoy a service, but also a unique experience that will stay with them forever", explains Sónia. Another option is an eco-friendly trip with Sungays, whose solar-powered boat is the only one in the Ria Formosa. Launched in 2008 by marine biologist Mafalda Garcia, the CO<sub>2</sub>-free vessel is supported by two electric motors and stays with them forever", explains Sónia. "Another option is an eco-friendly trip with Sungays, whose solar-powered boat is the only one in the Ria Formosa. Launched in 2008 by marine biologist Mafalda Garcia, the CO<sub>2</sub>-free vessel is supported by two electric motors and stays with them forever", explains Sónia.

made it to their home. No cars are allowed on the islands, and with basic amenities, this is certainly a destination to get away from it all. Accessed only by boat, ferries run regularly from Olbia (less frequently during the winter), with tickets costing up to €3.20 (return); taxi boats are available 24 hours a day.

A large black heron with long legs and a long beak stands in shallow water, looking down at its reflection in the water. The background is a dense green forest.

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Uma rica variedade de fauna e flora, o parque natural da Reserva Natural da Ria Formosa, aberto ao público, é o principal atracalho que existe para a observação de aves, juntamente com o centro da comunidade local Piscotela.

O local preferido para a observação de aves, é a ilha das Barreiras, que protegem a ria do Rio Formoso e Barreta - ou ilha Deserta - são três das quatro ilhas da Clára, que existem no Rio Formoso, que é exploradas pelo turismo intermacional.

