

Step lightly: the beach at Tróia; right, from top, the new boutique Quinta da Comporta; Beach House at the Tróia Resort



styled many of the local super-villas (Estrada Nacional 253 KM2; martamantero.com).

Travelling without a villa gang? Comporta has just got a new boutique hotel, Quinta da Comporta, in Carvalhal village (quintadacomporta.com; doubles from £219, B&B). For now, the rooms and suites are a perfect taster of Comporta's shabby-chic aesthetic, but, in time, villas will open on site, too.

**Get me there:** Comporta village is 75 minutes' drive from Lisbon airport. Hire a car — you'll need it anyway. Follow the inland route after dark, but in daylight, you should drive to Setubal and take the vehicle ferry to Tróia (atlanticferries.pt; £15, one-way; 30min) — no quicker, but a picturesque journey. *Katie Bowman* >

**You want:** A chic villa break  
**So try:** Going swanky in Comporta

**G**ive it another 10 years and the name Comporta will trip off travellers' tongues in the same way as the Hamptons, Saint-Tropez or Bondi. It's one of those bohemian beach towns that is the perfect distance from a major city (Lisbon): close enough to attract urbane restaurants and curated homeware boutiques, but far enough to retain sandy pavements and grocery-store owners who couldn't care less whether you're a billionaire or a boat hand. Lisboetas love its gritty-glam appeal.

There's lots of space for everyone, too: Comporta is actually a collection of beaches that runs an epic 30km south from Tróia Mar Beach to Carvalhal.

What all these city slickers bring to the area, of course, is gorgeous second homes — that, happily, you can rent. You might choose a converted grain store among ricepaddies, which sleeps 14 in magazine-shoot splendour, or a sleek, glass cube with infinity pool in the dunes. But be aware: the coastline is so well protected here, no-one gets sea views (from the shore, the land looks wild and uninhabited). Tróia Resort is a contemporary development of 'ocean' houses and *Grand Designs* apartments that gives visitors a taste of villa living, while also having fashionable restaurants and loved-by-locals bars nearby (troiaresort.pt; a three-bed beach house starts at £317 a night).

Fill your time following a timetable of one day villa, one day beach. The swishest sands are Praia Comporta, Praia do Pego and Praia do Carvalhal, each with a sensational seafood restaurant and terrace tables you'll need to book as soon as you arrive in Portugal. A favourite is Restaurante Sal, on Pego, for salted turbot to share and a plate of *percebes* (barnacles), the delicacy that costs a third of the price it would in Spain (00 351265 490129, restaurantesal.pt; mains about £14). Once the *contas* paid, slope down to a stripey bed and parasol (hire two loungers and an umbrella for £18), dig out a book, then promptly fall asleep reading it.

Dusk means sundowners. Tróia Marina's bars are lively, or try Comporta Café (comportacafe.pt), which is laid-back and loungey. Follow your cocktails with a pre-dinner shopping trip — stores reopen at 4pm or 5pm. They stay open until nightfall, too, so you can also buy kaftans and cooking utensils on your way back to your villa before bedtime. In Comporta village, Casa da Cultura hosts pop-up stores from Portuguese artisans in converted stables (Rua do Secador 8; casacultura.comporta.pt), while RICE sells scruffy linens, woven baskets and kooky cushions chosen by Marta Mantero, who has



**DISCOVER...**  
**SAGRES**

**Because:** Come to Portugal's most southwesterly town and you'll find a laid-back surfer's vibe, rugged cliffs and deserted coves. **Travel's tip:** Hire a VW Campervan (siestacampers.com; from £259 for five days). Park for free at Praia da Ingrina, where grannies feed you freshly caught prawns at Sebastião restaurant (Rua Serpa Pinto 32, Raposeira)



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