

Escape to the Algarve

Fancy a sensibly priced home for holidays or retirement in southern Portugal? Calico Park, close to Faro airport, may be just what you're looking for. We show you how to start the process of buying

Popular television programmes such as *A Place in the Sun* have helped inflate the price of bricks and mortar properties on the continent. Modern mobile homes provide an excellent alternative for British buyers to own a cost effective second home abroad, with the potential to move permanently on retirement.

Barrons' website explains that as European nationals, British citizens can stay in Portugal for 180 days as tourists, but if they intend to settle they must apply for a residence permit from the immigration authority, and retired people will be expected to show pension receipts and proof of health care cover, whether private or state-funded.

The Algarve is in the extreme south of Portugal and was the last part of the territory to be conquered from the Moors by the Portuguese king, Dom Alfonso III, in 1292. Traces of the Moorish presence are still seen in its terraces, chimneys and whitewashed houses, and with average temperatures ranging from 14°C in winter to 24°C in summer, though temperatures can and do exceed 30°C at times, it's easy to see why this region is becoming more popular among British buyers. ➔



WHAT DOES THE PARK OFFER?

Calico Park currently has 23 homes on site, with three more to arrive shortly. Ten of these are occupied and there are three available for purchase. The park allows kids and animals at the discretion of the management and it is possible to reside there 365 days a year.

Facilities include an on-site swimming pool, a pool side restaurant and bar, laundrette, mini supermarket, public telephone and private parking.

HOW CAN I BUY?

Buying at Calico Park is relatively straightforward for British buyers, thanks to two websites. Both www.caravanholidayhomes.co.uk, run by Barrons Caravans, and www.hotspotz.co.uk, a site full of useful information, provide details of the park, the local area and homes that are available, along with those all-important prices.

Hotspotz states that on average 60% of the company's clients purchase their mobile home in the sun for holiday use in the first instance, perhaps as a place to visit with extended family, especially when the kids are younger. It also said many of those then moved abroad

permanently once they retired, joining the 40% who purchased for immediate retirement or simply a new lifestyle in the sun.



‘ So, if you’re looking for a second home in the Algarve, Calico Park could be just what you’re after. ’



WHAT CAN I BUY?

Hotspotz offers hundreds of homes from major UK companies – ABI, BK Bluebird, Delta and Willerby, as well as the best of the Spanish models from Alucasa and Movilcasa.

ABI's Westwood, for example, costs from £53,995 fully sited, while Willerby's Lyndhurst would set you back £45,995. More modest homes start at around £26,000, such as Delta's Santana (£25,495) or BK's Savannah (£27,995). Prices cover all aspects of the purchase, including organisation of export, import, transport, installation, plot preparation and connection to mains services.

All homes purchased through Hotspotz are offered on a 10-year leasehold and plot fees must be paid annually in advance. Calico Park offers the opportunity to sub-let the home for part of the year, generating around 400 Euros a week in high season, and runs a sub-letting management scheme that charges 20% of the rental income – a good idea if you're looking to recoup some of your investment.

So, if you're looking for a second home in the Algarve, Calico Park could be just what you're after. Do let us know if you're considering buying a park home or holiday caravan abroad – we'd love to hear from you. ■



Information

Barrons ☎ 01325 383333
www.caravanholidayhomes.co.uk
Hotspotz ☎ 0870 756 3702
www.hotspotz.co.uk