

## One of Portugal's best beaches: Odeceixe

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Odeceixe is an Aljezur beach that has been named as one of the winners in the Seven Wonders – Beaches of Portugal competition.

The national contest was launched at the beginning of the year and aims to promote environmental quality, particularly with regard to the country's natural beauty, coastline and water resources.

The Odeceixe beach, the only one chosen in the Algarve, located in the north of Aljezur, received the special distinction last week in the Seven Wonders competition, as the best beach with cliffs and a river in Portugal, after more than one million citizens



The Odeceixe beach in Aljezur, a "Portuguese Wonder"

submitted their favourite beach preferences.

Sitting on the edge of a valley, the Odeceixe beach connects to the Ribeira de Seixe and has stunning picturesque landscapes, and great bathing in the calm waters that flow between towering cliffs and a sandy shoreline.

The rare beauty of the cliffs surrounding the beach is enhanced with prime habitat for birds, and this area provides excellent conditions for bird watchers who can expect to see species such as the peregrine falcon, white stork and red billed chough.

Organisers of the Seven Wonders said that Odeceixe "is indeed a natural park and the only place in the world where it is possible to observe storks that nest on sea cliffs in their natural environments."

In the Alentejo region, two beaches were selected as part of the Seven Wonders. The Alentejo winners were the Vila Nova de Milfontes – Funas beach in Odemira, which was given the award for being the best "river beach" in Portugal.

The Zambujeira do Mar beach in Odemira was commended for being the most superior "urban beach" in the country. The fourth Wonder can be found in Alto Douro, where the Ribeira Albufeira do Azibo beach was selected as the best Portuguese-located lagoon, followed by the Porto Santo beach in Madeira which won the category "best dune" beach.

The Cascais-located Guincho beach, renowned internationally for its surfing, kiting and windsurfing, received the most "sport friendly" location award, and the Lagoa do Fogo, situated in the Açores was announced as a Wonder for being the "best wild" beach.