# Algarve beaches face risk of vanishing due to coastal erosion



The Algarve region of Portugal faces a growing threat as several of its renowned beaches risk vanishing due to coastal erosion, a situation that has raised concerns among local authorities and the tourism sector, notably British visitors who frequent the area. Efforts to counteract this environmental challenge involve replenishing the fading shores with additional sand and undertaking construction measures to stabilise the coastline.

One notable location affected is Fuseta-Mar beach in the municipality of Olhão, where an initial intervention involved adding 80,000 cubic metres of sand to reinforce the beach. However, despite these efforts, the protective dune cord suffered a collapse, leading to worries that restoration work may not be completed in time for the busy summer tourist season.

During an official visit to the Algarve in early April, Portugal’s Minister of Environment, Maria da Graça Carvalho, confirmed governmental plans and funding to introduce an additional 150,000 cubic metres of sand to further shore up the beach. However, the progression of this project depends on the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA) approving an emergency tender that would expedite the necessary work and ensure the beach’s readiness for the upcoming season.

Minister Carvalho emphasised the urgency of the situation, stating: “We really need to justify opening an emergency competition so that [the work] is ready at the start of the bathing season." She explained that this sand injection would rehabilitate a 600-metre stretch of the shoreline, broadening it by approximately 30 metres. The minister also highlighted the practical reasons for an emergency tender, noting: “Without emergency intervention, it will be difficult to have this ready for the beach season. From what we saw and the opinions of the technicians who were with us, we really have justification to move forward.”

The need for swift action arises because a conventional international tender process could cause delays, potentially preventing completion of the replenishment in time to support the region’s summer tourism. Given the prominence of the Algarve’s beaches in attracting international visitors, such as those from the UK, stakeholders are closely monitoring the situation.

Aside from Fuseta-Mar, multiple other beaches along the Algarve’s coast have also experienced the effects of coastal erosion and related geophysical changes, prompting a broader conversation about long-term protective strategies and the resilience of these coastal environments.

The Express is reporting on these developments as part of ongoing coverage regarding environmental and tourism-related issues impacting Portugal’s southern coastline.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://jang.com.pk/en/36993-portugals-stunning-beaches-could-soon-vanish-forever-as-major-threat-emerges-news> - This source highlights the danger of beaches in Portugal, particularly in the Algarve region, facing disappearance due to coastal erosion, which aligns with the article's focus on the Algarve's beaches being at risk.
2. <https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2025-04-12/will-fuseta-beach-be-summer-ready/96869> - This article supports the claim of efforts to combat coastal erosion in the Algarve, specifically mentioning interventions at Fuseta Beach to ensure its readiness for the summer season.
3. <https://www.portugalresident.com/over-e20-million-to-go-on-priority-interventions-stabilising-cliffs-protecting-vulnerable-beaches/> - This source confirms the Portuguese government's commitment to protecting vulnerable beaches through significant investments, reflecting the broader strategy to address coastal erosion.
4. <https://www.sulinformacao.pt/en/2025/03/passou-um-ano-nada-se-fez-e-a-praia-do-forte-novo-esta-novamente-destruida/> - This report illustrates the ongoing impact of coastal erosion on other beaches in the region, like Praia do Forte Novo, highlighting the need for consistent protective measures.
5. <https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/2024-08-07/algarve-beach-sand-replenishment/91147> - This news item corroborates the government's investment in sand replenishment efforts across the Algarve region, such as in Quarteira, to combat erosion and protect beaches.
6. <https://www.noahwire.com> - Although not specifically about the Algarve area, this source is mentioned in the context of ongoing coverage of environmental issues impacting Portugal’s southern coastline, aligning with the broader thematic discussed in the article.
7. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2047611/portugal-beach-erosion-tourist> - Please view link - unable to able to access data