

atelier balancê



**BASKET
WEAVING
IMMERSION**

8-11 May 2025

Soul Farm, Aljezur, Portugal

ABOUT

Explore the art of basket weaving during a 3-day immersion at Soul Farm, a magical place nestled in the spectacular landscape of the Costa Vicentina. Led by Ysaline from Atelier Balancê, this series of workshops offers a hands-on experience in various traditional and contemporary basket weaving techniques. Whether you're new to weaving or a seasoned enthusiast, you're very welcome to join us on this creative journey. We'll dive into ancient crafts, embrace slowness and create a variety of tiny baskets or focus on one bigger piece, using our hands as main tools.



THE WORKSHOPS

TWINING WITH DISCARDED ROPES

In this 3 hour workshop you'll learn the twining technique. We'll apply this traditional basket weaving technique on discarded ropes recycled from agriculture, fisheries, electric work, etc. You'll learn how to start and build up a little basket, different ways to finish it and how to manipulate the shape.



CORDAGE WITH LOCAL PLANTS

In this workshop you'll learn how to turn plant fibers into cordage. We'll work with various materials, thicknesses and colors, in order to create different samples, to get a good understanding of the technique and to inspire you to use cordage in your daily life and craft projects.

EMPREITA DE PALMA

'Empreita de palma' is a traditional Algarvian basket weaving technique, using palm leaves from the Palmeira-anã (*Chamaerops humilis*). The leaves are handpicked in the wild and dried for a month. In this 4 hour workshop you'll get to know everything about this traditional craft, its origin, its history, its technique and material. You'll learn the different steps from braiding the leaves to sewing them into a shape.



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COILING WITH LOCAL PLANTS AND DISCARDED ROPES

In this 3 hour workshop you'll learn the basics of a coiling technique and you'll create a small basket/plate/wall hanging. We'll use found materials : locally handpicked and dried plants, discarded fishing ropes and agricultural ropes.

ABOUT ATELIER BALANCÊ



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Atelier Balancê applies traditional basket weaving techniques on found materials, such as natural fibers and discarded ropes, and aims to convert them into new shapes and objects through experimental manipulations. Hands become tools to interweave research, craft and art. Stories become tangible. Atelier Balancê honours the process of making, the poetry of time and traditional craftsmanship, it's a sculptural exploration and a call for ecological awareness.

I'm Ysaline Ophoff, born in Belgium and currently based in Portugal. After working as an architect for several years, I decided in 2019 to put my fascination for crafts into practice. I went to the Brazilian Amazon, where I learned various basket weaving techniques with local basket weavers. By discovering the different layers of this craft - the technical know-how, the connection with nature, but also the social aspect of it - my curiosity and the desire to discover more only grew. In 2020 I founded Atelier Balancê.

LOCATION



Soul Farm is a peaceful ecotourism project, surrounded by the stunning nature of the Costa Vicentina Natural Park in Southwest Algarve. In this setting filled with nature's beauty, colors, sounds and perfumes, you'll find two traditional farmhouses, handmade wooden facilities, hammocks, a yoga deck and much more.

Take a walk in the narrow streets of the old town of Aljezur (7km away), enjoy the wild beaches and dramatic cliffs along the coastline (Arrifana beach is only 2km away), prepare yourself to be swept off your feet by breathtaking sunsets.

www.soulfarmalgarve.com

IG : @soulfarm.algarve



LOCATION



ACCOMMODATION

Soul Farm's two farm houses are traditional Portuguese country homes, with a lot of space inside, terraces around and a patio nestled in between both houses. You'll find all the comfort you need.



CATERING



Danila will bring some delicious, nourishing food to the table. All meals are vegetarian and prepared with seasonal ingredients. In case you have any food allergies or intolerances, let us know.



SCHEDULE

Thursday 8th of May 2025

* optional for 2nd time participants

afternoon
19h00 Check-in
Welcome dinner

Friday 9th of May 2025

9-10h Breakfast
10-13h Workshop : Twining with discarded ropes / Freshening up technique of your choice + design sketch
13-14h Lunch
14-16h Workshop : Cordage with local plants / Basket weaving time - technique of your choice

Saturday 10th of May 2025

9-10h Breakfast
13-14h Lunch
14-18h Workshop : Empreita de palma / Basket weaving time - technique of your choice
18h Pizza night

Sunday 11th of May 2025

9-10h Breakfast
10-13h Workshop : Coiling with local plants and discarded ropes / Finishing object
13-14h Lunch



PRACTICAL INFO

Price :	Package 1 : €470 * Package 2 : €350 (full program without accomm.) - €20 discount for 2nd time participants
What's included ?	4x basket weaving workshops 1x welcome dinner 3x breakfast 3x lunch 1x pizza night 3x nights of accommodation (Package 1) **
What's not included ?	transport (a car is recommended if you want to explore the surroundings; you can reach Aljezur town by bus, and get to Soul Farm by taxi/Uber) dinner on Friday (you can use the kitchen or find several restaurants in the area)
Participants :	min. 3 - max. 8
Booking :	Contact us on hello@atelierbalance.net and we'll get back to you with all the details.

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www.atelierbalance.net
IG : @atelier.balance

* Cancellation policy: If you cancel more than 30 days before the start date, you will receive a full refund of your pre-payment. Unfortunately, no refunds can be issued for cancellations made within 30 days of the immersion start date. However, participants are welcome to arrange substitutions if they are unable to attend. In the event of a cancellation by the organizer due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, such as natural disasters or emergencies, a full refund will be provided.

** Accommodation is included from Thursday 8/05 until Sunday 11/05. You'll share a room in Casa Grande or Casinha, which will be entirely reserved for participants of the retreat.

