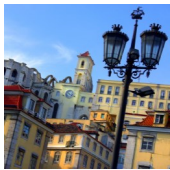


Portugal

12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS - GROUP TRAVEL
SUGGESTED ITINERARY - CAN BE CUSTOMIZED



Spend 12 days experiencing the beauty and fascinating history of Portugal. This comprehensive itinerary will show you the very best of Portugal's rich cultural heritage. Beginning and finishing in the ancient capital city of Lisbon, you will go back to the times of the Romans, through the era of the Moorish kingdom - and into Portugal's very exciting Age of Discovery. Aside from the castles, cathedrals and monasteries, during the tour there will be time to relax, to shop and to visit local markets, and you'll have two full days of leisure in the Algarve Region to enjoy Portugal's beautiful, turquoise beaches. Last but not least - you'll have a full day in Portuguese wine country.



DAY 1 ~ ARRIVE LISBON

Arrival to Lisbon, Portugal's enduring capital city. Upon arrival, a local guide will meet your group in the airport's arrival hall. As your hotel rooms will not be ready for check-in until the afternoon (and in attempt to help you defeat any pangs of jetlag), the guide will then lead your group on a relaxing tour to begin discovering wonderful Lisbon, which is one of the oldest cities in all of Europe.

Your sightseeing tour today, which will be on bus and on foot, will include free time for lunch. You will explore Lisbon's oldest district: the Alfama. Before the Christian "Re-Conquest" of Iberia, most of Portugal and Spain (with the exception of the very northern kingdoms) formed part of a great Moorish kingdom. This area that you will visit today, the Alfama, was the city of Lisbon during the Moorish era. (History note: even before the Moors arrived to Lisbon - Celts, Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans and Visigoths had already left their mark here). During your tour, your group will go inside the ancient Castle of St. George. While fortifications

have existed on this hill for thousands of years, the castle that you will visit today was erected by the Moors - including the castle's famous walls. After the Christian "Re-conquest," the castle became a royal palace for the monarchy.

Today many fishermen and women live in this quarter, which lies on the hill between the ancient Castle of St. George and the Tejo River. It offers visitors charming lanes, beautiful squares and quite a few remarkable views of the city including the Miradouro de Santa Luzia and the Largo das Portas do Sol. The 12th-century Cathedral of Lisbon is also located inside the Alfama. This area is also a terrific spot to experience "Fado" - a traditional, melancholic folk music, and you'll find many fado bars and restaurants in the area. The tour will finish at your hotel, where after check-in you are free to relax and freshen up before tonight's group dinner in the hotel's restaurant.



DAY 2 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, meet your local guide for a morning walking tour of the heart of Lisbon. During the tour your guide

INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights in Lisbon
- 1 nights in Fatima
- 2 nights in Porto
- 3 nights in Algarve
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner per itinerary
- Ground transport via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistant and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 city sightseeing tours in Lisbon
- Fado dinner show
- Day trip to spectacularly beautiful town of Sintra
- See the tomb of Prince Henry the Navigator
- Tour the university town of Coimbra
- Explore Porto's local Port wine cellars
- Full day in the Duoro Valley Region
- 3 nights on Portugal's famed Algarve Coast

EuropeExpress



will take you through the Baixa district (historic, financial center), the center and the Chiado neighborhood (elegant shopping area). You will see historic squares like the Praça do Comércio, Rossio and Praça dos Restauradores as well as major avenues including Rua Augusta and the Avenida da Liberdade. At the end of the walking tour, everyone will have free time to have lunch before boarding a private bus and traveling to Lisbon’s suburb of Belém where you will experience Lisbon’s two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Jerónimos Monastery, a superb example of Manueline (late-Gothic) architecture, and the Torre de Belém, a stunning 16th century monument that was commissioned to honor Portugal’s remarkable feats of exploration during the Age of Discovery. The tour will finish back at the hotel, and the evening is at leisure.

DAY 3 ~ LISBON



After breakfast in the hotel, enjoy a free day in Lisbon! You can revisit an area that caught your eye, shop, or visit the city’s lively Ribeira Nova food market. If you’re interested in continuing your sightseeing – we recommend visiting one (or all) of the following museums: the National Coach Museum, the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum or the National Museum of Ancient Art. One last suggestion would be to visit Oceanario de Lisboa, the largest aquarium in Europe.

DAY 4 ~ LISBON



After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby and prepare yourself for a real treat. Today you’ll travel to one of Portugal’s most beautiful, picture-perfect towns: Sintra. This historic town, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is home to the Sintra National Palace – a

remarkably well-preserved structure with stunning decorative tiles – and the 19th-century Romanticist National Palace of Pena, which was the summer palace of the former Portuguese royal family. In addition to touring both palaces, you’ll also have time to wander Sintra’s lovely shops and cobblestone streets before returning to Lisbon in the afternoon. You will return to Lisbon by traveling along the Estoril and Cascais Coastline with views of the Atlantic Ocean.

This evening all group members will meet in the hotel lobby and proceed to a Fado restaurant for a dinner show (transport included). On your last evening in Lisbon, enjoy traditional dishes from Lisbon paired with the soulful, folk music that has become one of Portugal’s best exports.



DAY 5 ~ FATIMA

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and travel north by private bus to the walled city of Obidos, home to some of the finest Portuguese medieval architecture that you will see on this trip. Enjoy a guided walking tour of Obidos followed by free time for lunch before continuing north to the town of Alcobaca. Alcobaca is home to one of medieval Portugal’s most important monasteries. The Gothic monastery, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is over 800 years old. Inside you will find the tombs of many past Kings and Queens of Portugal – including Pedro I.

You will then continue to the nearby town of Batalha, which is home to another must-see UNESCO World Heritage Site: the Monastery of Saint Mary of the Victory. It took over a century to build this Gothic, Manueline structure. Inside you will see beautiful examples of filigree detailing and stained-glass windows – as well as the

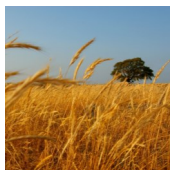


tomb of Prince Henry the Navigator, a major promoter of Portugal's maritime discoveries. From here, you'll drive to tonight's destination – the town of Fátima, which is best known as a Catholic pilgrimage site because of its Marian apparitions. Upon arrival to the hotel, your group will check in and have time to freshen up before a group dinner in the hotel.



DAY 6 ~ PORTO

After breakfast in the hotel, your group should check out and travel north to city of Coimbra. This lovely city's claim-to-fame is its extremely historic university, which is one of the oldest in all of Europe. The university sits on the highest hill overlooking the houses on the banks of the Mondego River. Upon arrival you will tour the university's Baroque Library, which is considered one of the most beautiful in Europe. Walk through the medieval area passing the Old Cathedral and the Church of Santa Cruz. Afterwards, your group will continue traveling north to tonight's destination: Porto (also known as "Oporto"). A city best known for its production of port wine, the entire city center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival you will have free time to have lunch and to explore some of Porto's famous Port wine cellars. Afterwards, a local guide will give your group a late-afternoon walking tour of Porto's historic center before the group transfers to the hotel for check-in. Tonight you are free to enjoy Porto on your own.



DAY 7 ~ PORTO

After breakfast in the hotel, meet a local guide in the lobby for a full-day excursion by private bus to the Douro wine region, which located in the picturesque

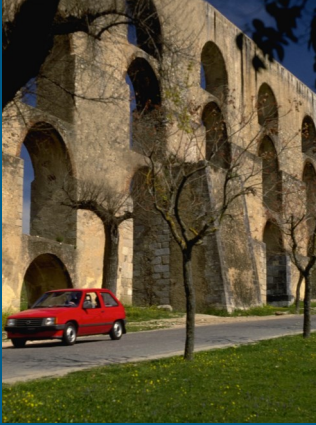
valley of the Douro River. This area is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its historical and cultural value. People have been producing wine off here for over 2000 years, and even today much of the winemaking is done by family-run businesses. While most people associate this wine region with Portugal's most famous wine - Port (a fortified wine, sweet, often served with dessert), the region also produces table wines – many of a very high quality. In fact, on the 2013 edition of Wine Spectator's Top 100 List, this region had two wines featured.

Your excursion today will include a visit to the lovely Mateus Manor House, an 18th century Baroque estate with formal gardens. While touring the house and grounds you will see the house's famous "water mirror" that resides in front of the house, a fascinating library as well as lovely collection of paintings, china and silver. After touring the house and gardens, continue your sightseeing tour with a visit to a local winery where you will learn about the process of winemaking. In the afternoon your group will return to Porto, and the rest of the day is at leisure. Enjoy your last evening in the north of Portugal.



DAY 8 ~ FARO

After breakfast in the hotel, group members should check out and board the private bus to Porto's Train Station. You will board then board the Alfa Pendular, a high-speed train that will transport you from the north of Portugal to the very south in less than six hours. While on this very comfortable train you will enjoy lovely views of practically the whole length of the country. Your destination is the stunning, turquoise coastline of the Algarve region where you'll spend your next three nights. Upon arrival to the station in Faro, a private



Why Should You Encourage Your Travel Agent to Book Your Group Through Us?

Ease of Use

Experience

Flexibility

Peace of Mind



coach will transfer your group to the hotel for check in. In the evening, a group dinner has been organized in the hotel’s restaurant.

This is the most visited part of Portugal, and once you see its beautiful beaches, you will understand why. This area is also home to a very interesting history. Many of Portuguese star explorers – like Vasco de Gama – departed on their historic voyages from the Algarve. The area also contains ancient Roman ruins and the remains of historic Moorish castles. However – since you’ve just had a busy week of sightseeing, we’re going to suggest you relax and enjoy the pristine beaches while in the Algarve. Have lunch in small fishing villages, swim in amazingly blue waters, visit local markets, shop, or play a round of golf in this most scenic and paradisaical regions of Portugal.



DAY 9 & 10 ~ FARO

After breakfast in the hotel, you have a free day to enjoy the pristine beaches and quaint villages of the Algarve coastline. (And if you’re not a big beach fan, no worries – we can organize interesting sightseeing and transportation in the area for you).



DAY 11 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and board its private bus to return to Lisbon for your final evening in Portugal. Upon arrival to Lisbon, check into the hotel and enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure in Lisbon. This evening your group will have a final dinner together in a local restaurant.



DAY 12 ~ LISBON

After breakfast in the hotel, your group will check out and transfer by private bus to Lisbon Airport for its return flight to the USA.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US ?

Whether it is taking a family trip to Paris, an educational group to Barcelona, or a church group to Rome we can build an affordable, European trip tailored to your interests. From single city itineraries to multiple cities and countries, your travel agent will work with us to create custom tours for groups of 10 to 500 people.

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