

Portugal Private Tour

Blue Dot
Travel





PORTUGAL PRIVATE TOUR

On your private group tour to wonderful Portugal, you will get a taste of the best this country has to offer.

You will experience the charm and beauty of this wonderful country, visiting its well-preserved castles, fortified towns, historical ports, and magnificent coast. This small country is just 92,000 square km, which makes getting around the country relaxed and easy.

Once a medieval superpower due to its superior navigational skills, Portugal has history at every turn. It was visited – invaded – by the Romans, the Celts, the neighbouring Moors and Christians. Today, the country is primarily Catholic, with over 80% of the 10.5 million inhabitants identifying as Catholic. Today, Portuguese is the 6th most spoken language in the world. This is mainly due to the colonisation of countries like Brazil, Angola, Mozambique and even parts of India and the sub-continent.

You will visit several destinations listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Sites, including the iconic Belem district in Lisbon, the colourful Sintra historic centre filled with castles in the style of 19th-century Romantic architecture, the medieval town of Obidos and the impressive Monastery of Batalha built to commemorate the 1385 Portuguese victory over the Castilians.

You'll also have three nights in Lisbon, Portugal's capital and largest city, serving as the country's chief port. As a port city, Lisbon has been a gateway to the wider world, moulded by a succession of different cultures. The city reached its heights after the Reconquista and during the Age of Exploration. It developed its own architectural style, Manueline, named after its monarch Manuel I. This architectural style, seen only in Portugal in the 16th century, is characterised by rich and lavish ornamentation and nautical themes, such as mouldings encrusted with carved barnacles and nautical instruments over windows and doors.

There is much to see and do, and along way you'll be enjoying delicious Portuguese food, wine and hospitality.



Day 1, Tuesday 3rd October
PORTO

Welcome to Portugal! You'll arrive at Porto airport at various times and meet your guide at the hotel, where you will spend two nights. This charming city is known for its beautiful buildings, wonderful food and waterfront location. What better way to capture this than a welcome dinner in a local restaurant overlooking the river. *D*



Day 2, Wednesday
4th October
PORTO

This morning you'll explore the second-largest city in Portugal and the one that gave it its name. You'll begin with a walking tour of the historic district, admiring the magnificent and well-preserved architecture of the city. Including the UNESCO listed São Bento Station, adorned with glazed ceramic work, the enchanting Lello Library, which inspired the Harry Potter sets, and the Palácio da Bolsa with its famous Arab salon. Lunch is included at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, enjoy the "World of Wine" experience, where you'll learn all about Portuguese wine production, followed by a Port wine tasting and cellar tour. There will be time in the early evening to relax, and dinner will be at your leisure tonight. *B/L*

Day 3, Thursday 5th October
PORTO — DOURO VALLEY

After breakfast, you'll travel towards Régua, the capital of the Douro region. One of the oldest wine regions in the world, the Douro Valley is a postcard-pretty mix of terraced vineyards, mountain scenery and quaint villages. To immerse yourself in the culture of this region, lunch will be at a local Quinta (traditional country estate) followed by wine tasting. After checking in to the Villa Galé Vineyards (2-night stay), your group will have a private ride on a Rabelo Boat, the traditional cargo boat used to transport wine barrels. After this, you'll have time to relax and soak up your beautiful surroundings. *B/L*

Day 4, Friday 6th October
DOURO VALLEY

Today will be spent enjoying the local life of the Douro Valley. In the morning, you'll visit the Gardens of Enoteca, part of a 160-year-old Quinta where you will be welcomed by the warm atmosphere and local music. You'll visit the vineyards to see the wine-making processes before having a tasting and lunch at the Quinta da Avesada winery. Weather dependant, you can participate in the grape crushing, treading on the grapes to the sound of traditional chants from the Douro. If this isn't possible, you'll be part of a hands-on cooking lesson with the local condessa. Either way, this promises to be an unforgettable day! Returning to your hotel in the late

afternoon, your evening and dinner will be at your leisure. **B/L**

Day 5, Saturday 7th October
DOURO – VISEU - BAIRRADA – AVEIRO

This morning you'll drive approx 1 hour to Viseu, an elegant medieval town packed with art and history. Step back in time as you walk the cobbled streets, followed by a visit to a local cheese producer and a tasting of course! You'll continue for another short 1-hour drive towards Bairrada, the region known for "Leitão à Bairrada", the Portuguese speciality of slow-cooked pork. Enjoy this delicacy for lunch before continuing another hour or so to Aveiro, known as the "Portuguese Venice" because of its canals and colourful boats. "Ovos moles" are a local pastry delicacy from Aveiro District. You'll have a hands-on try at making them yourself before taking a tour of the city's sites on a traditional Moliceiro boat. Check in to the Hotel Aveiro Palace for one night then find a spot to enjoy dinner and your evening at your leisure. **B/L**



Day 6, Sunday 8th October
AVEIRO — ÓBIDOS — LISBON

After breakfast, you'll drive approx 2 hours to the delightful town of Obidos, home to a wonderfully

preserved castle and ancient city wall. After walking the city's narrow streets, you'll visit a local artisan to learn more about "Azulejo", the art of painting on ceramic tiles. It's an approximately 1-hour drive to Portugal's atmospheric capital, Lisbon, where you'll enjoy a late lunch in a special location that encapsulates the city's history. Check in to the Lumen Hotel, where you will spend the next 3 nights. There is so much to see and do in Lisbon and your afternoon and evening are free to explore this fabulous city. **B/L**

 **Day 7, Monday 9th October**
LISBON

This morning you will enjoy a guided tour of Lisbon, one of the oldest capitals in Europe. You'll start by visiting the neighbourhood of Belém, known for the impressive Jerónimos Monastery, the Tower of Belém and its Gothic architecture. After a break to sample the famous "Pastel de Belém" (Portuguese tart), you'll visit the Ajuda Palace with time to explore inside. The remainder of your day and evening is free to wander, shop, or watch the city go by from a local cafe - the choice is yours. Enjoy! **B**

Day 8, Tuesday 10th October
SINTRA & QUELUZ

Today will be a full day of sightseeing, with approximately 3 hours of driving and several wonderful stops. First stop is Sintra, a mountaintop town known for its fairytale castle, lush forests, and eccentric labyrinthine gardens. For six centuries it was the favourite residence of the rulers and still

remains a resort location for wealthy Lisbon families. Don't forget to taste Sintra's delicious queijada (tartlet), the city's speciality. Next, you'll visit the Palace Biester, a hidden artistic gem that was recently restored for visitors to enjoy. Continue to Cascais, a charming fishing village where you'll have free time to wander the city and find a bite to eat for lunch. You'll travel via the steep cliffs of Cabo Da Roca, the westernmost point of Europe, providing spectacular windswept views. Your final stop is the 18th Century Palace of Queluz for a glimpse into royal life, with its opulent interiors and beautiful gardens. This fantastic day will conclude with dinner in a traditional Fado house, where a moving musical performance accompanies your meal. **B/D**



Day 9, Wednesday
11th October
LISBON — ÉVORA — LAGOS

After breakfast, you'll travel approx 1.5 hours to Evora, classified as a world heritage



by UNESCO. You'll enjoy a walking tour of the narrow streets of this whitewashed town, visiting Evora's most important monuments: the Roman Temple, the Romanesque-Gothic Cathedral and the Saint Francis Church with its "Chapel of Bones". Take a walk through the local market, amongst locals shopping for the fresh produce that makes Portuguese cuisine a delight. You'll have free time for lunch and to shop for local cork, ceramic and copper handicrafts. In the afternoon, you'll continue towards Lagos, approx 2-3 hours drive. There'll be time to check in to the Hotel Vila Galé and freshen up before heading out for dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 10, Thursday 12th October
LAGOS & SAGRES

With its relaxed, happy-go-lucky atmosphere, it's hard to imagine that picturesque Lagos was the site of the first slave market in Europe. This morning you'll take a walking tour to learn about the city's fascinating history. Nowadays, Lagos is known for the iconic "Ponte da Piedade" rock formations which you'll visit before having free time for lunch and wandering around town. After lunch, you'll continue to the remote, windswept town of Sagres. With its 16th Century fort precariously perched on the edge of the cliffs, it was considered a sacred place for centuries, and it's easy to understand why. You'll return to Lagos in the late afternoon, in time for some sunset drinks and your final dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

Day 11, Friday 13th October
LAGOS TO YOUR VILLA

After breakfast at your hotel, you'll be transferred to the airport. We hope you'll be left with many great memories from your trip and ready to relax. **B**



Icon indicates a day where there is **moderate physical exertion**. A basic level of fitness is required: eg. A trek over 'mostly flat' terrain or climbing several flights of steps without the support of handrails or elevators.



Icon indicates a day where there is a **particularly active section**. A good level of fitness is required: eg. A longer trek over non-groomed, uneven terrain, or ascending to reach a panorama. May also include exposure to higher altitude. **An alternate activity may be offered if you choose to sit out an active section.** Please call - we are happy to discuss each tour in more detail.