

Portugal in Depth

Escorted Tour

11 days / 10 nights

From
\$4,499

Per person/Double Occupancy/Land Package
Travel dates from April to October, 2024 (see chart)

Day 1: Lisbon - Obidos - Alcobaca - Nazare - Batala - Fatima

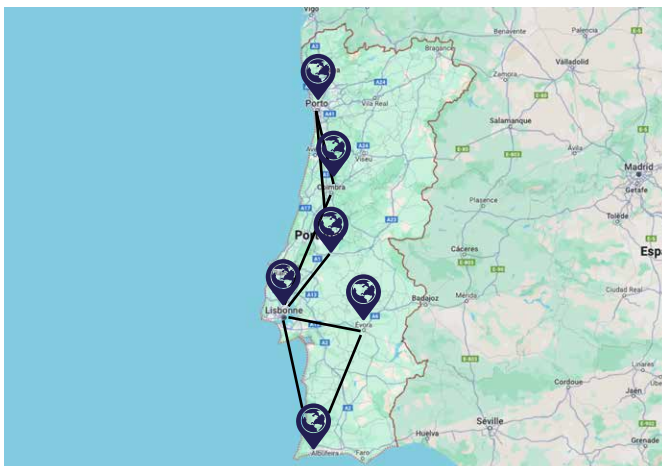
Departing from Lisbon through a landscape rich in windmills and fruit trees, you will arrive in Óbidos which is surrounded by medieval walls where you will admire the harmony of the architecture, the diversity of the handicrafts and taste the famous ginginha (bitter cherry liqueur).

Visit Alcobaca with the first and largest gothic church in Portugal with the tombs of the doomed lovers Pedro and Inês de Castro. Stopping in Nazaré, a typical fishing village and seaside resort immersed in tradition and legend. The tour continues to Batalha where you will visit the Monastery of Santa Maria de Victoria, a masterpiece of the Gothic architecture



in Portugal. See the tomb of Henry the Navigator, the mastermind behind Portugal's era of maritime discoveries. After you arrive in Fátima, the famous Marian Shrine, there is the opportunity to assist the candle procession.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Fatima



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Day 2: Fatima - Coimbra - Aveiro - Porto

The tour departs for Coimbra - visit of the University, one of the oldest in the world, with its magnificent baroque library and its unique atmosphere characterized by ancient traditions and customs such as the black student capes and the melancholic fado music. Stop at St Clara Church, where lies the tomb of Queen St. Isabel, the protagonist of the "miracle of the roses". In the city centre, you can admire the exclusive ceramic of Coimbra. In the afternoon, you continue to Aveiro, a city of canals and known as the "Venice of Portugal", where there is time to see the graceful boats "moliceiros" and taste the local sweets "ovos moles". Drive to Porto.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast in Porto

Day 3: Porto - Guimaraes - Braga - Porto

Porto, the 2nd largest city in Portugal and designated a world heritage by UNESCO is a living amphitheater inviting us to make a morning visit to discover the riverside area, old houses, palaces and churches that history has made eternal and port wine, known worldwide. The tour continues to the Minho, the northwest region of Portugal that offers natural green sceneries and sparkling "green wine". Starting by Guimarães - the cradle of the nation and birthplace of the first king of Portugal where, walking through the historic centre, for moments one is plunged back into medieval times. Visit the Sacred Hill, crowned by the Castle, as well the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, where the original building dates to the 15th century. Drive to Braga known as the "Portuguese Rome" for its concentration of religious architecture such as the oldest cathedral in the country and the Bom Jesus do Monte Sanctuary with its famous baroque stairway and gardens. Return to Porto.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Porto

Day 4: Porto

Day at leisure to discover the area.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Porto

Day 5: Porto/Amarante - Vila Real - Vale do Douro - Lamego - Urgeirica

The Great Ocean Road is one of the world's most epic journeys, a dramatic 240-kilometre union of limestone. Departure to Amarante, a pretty town proud of São Gonçalo, the patron Saint of Amarante, known for the promotion of love and marriage and where the river facing monastery houses his tomb. With a lively, bustling market where you can find fruit, vegetables, chickens, cloths, and an immense variety of other popular items.

After, drive to Vila Real - visiting the gardens of the manor of Mateus, whose façade is still depicted on the well-known Portuguese rosé wine bottles. Then, you enter in the port wine region, travelling through the vineyards and the breathtaking landscapes of the Douro Valley.

Stop in Lamego, overlooked by one of Portugal's most important shrines N. S. Remédios with its magnificent baroque style staircase. Perhaps try some of the local delicacies such as the local ham or the famous "Bola de Lamego" (a loaf baked in the oven with smoked ham).

Continue to the mountainous hinterland to Viseu, center of the Dão Vineyards and a city connected with Portugal's oldest hero, Viriato, the Lusitanian chief. In the shadow of the cathedral, narrow streets, and doorways with coats of arms carved in granite make up the ancient town of Viseu. Along the centre is a busy commercial area. Arrival to Urgeirica.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Urgeirica

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Day 6: Urgeirica - Bussaco - Tomar - Lisbon

Breakfast at the hotel. Drive through the heart of Portugal to Bussaco well known for its luxuriant forest, made up of a selection of rare trees and plants of exotic beauty, where a charming and romantic hotel has been built which was formerly a royal hunting lodge.

Continue to Tomar, a city whose development is closely linked with the Order of the Templars, which received these lands in 1159 as a reward for the assistance they gave to Dom Afonso Henriques (the first King of Portugal) in the Christian reconquest of the territory.

It was Dom Gualdim Pais, the first Grand Master of the Order in Portugal, who founded the castle and the remarkable Convent of Christ inside. Enlarged and altered over the centuries, it retains the influences of various architectural styles. It is the centerpiece of the city and classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. The tour then continues back to Lisbon.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Lisbon

Day 7: Lisbon - Sintra - Cabo da Roca - Cascais - Estoril - Lisbon

Departure towards Sintra for a luxury day. Visit the Palace of Sintra and walk through this charming village. Enjoy an amazing view from the westernmost point of mainland Europe (Cabo da Roca). Along the coast, we pass by one of the most famous surfing beaches, the incredible Hell's Mouth, the cosmopolitan Cascais and the gardens of Estoril Casino. Return to Lisbon.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Lisbon



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Day 8: Lisbon - Evora

One day discovering the town of Évora, a mosaic of culture, history and traditions. Leaving Lisbon, we cross the bridge over the river Tagus and head through a beautiful and bucolic landscape of olive trees, cork oak trees and vineyards before arriving at Évora –World Heritage of UNESCO.

In the narrow streets of this whitewashed town, walk back through time visiting some of Évora's most important monuments: the Roman Temple, the Romanesque- Gothic Cathedral, Saint Francis Church with its "Chapel of Bones" and the University. At the market, we see and feel the richness of the products used to prepare one of the most elaborated and appreciated gastronomies of Portugal. Throughout the visit, we also admire the diversity and authenticity of local handicrafts with cork, ceramic, and copper objects. Time for lunch. In the afternoon, free time for a better discover of the city.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Evora

Day 9: Evora - Beja - Silves - Lagos

Part of the morning at leisure in Évora and then driving southward passing Beja where the highest tower of Portuguese medieval castles dominates the town and the region. Crossing small mountains we enter in the Algarve. By fields of orange trees, we arrive to Silves, the renowned town dominated by its red sandstone castle dating back mainly to Moorish

times and by the memory of its former cork industry. Continue to the golden sands of the Algarve passing by Praia da Rocha to Lagos.

Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Lagos

Day 10 : Lagos - Ponta da Piedade - Sagres - Cabo de Sao Vicente

The Algarve has the call of the sea that led to the discovery of the New World. Stop in Ponta da Piedade and admire the magnificent views over the Atlantic Ocean, and cliffs whose shapes have been sculpted by the erosive action of both the sea and time.

Continuing to Sagres, a fishing port, for a visit to the fortress that was the mythical "navigation school" forever linked with the presence of Prince Henry the Navigator during the first days of Atlantic navigation and the discovery of the African coast. Proceeding along the cliffs to Cabo São Vicente, the most southwestern point in mainland Europe. The city of Lagos, a cosmopolitan town with a marina and fishing port where you can taste the delicious Algarve dishes, such as the fish and shellfish cooked in a copper pan (cataplana). Don't forget to try the fine sweets such as the famous marzipan, almond and fig cakes. Return to the hotel, where, the afternoon at leisure invites you to take a dip in the warm sea.

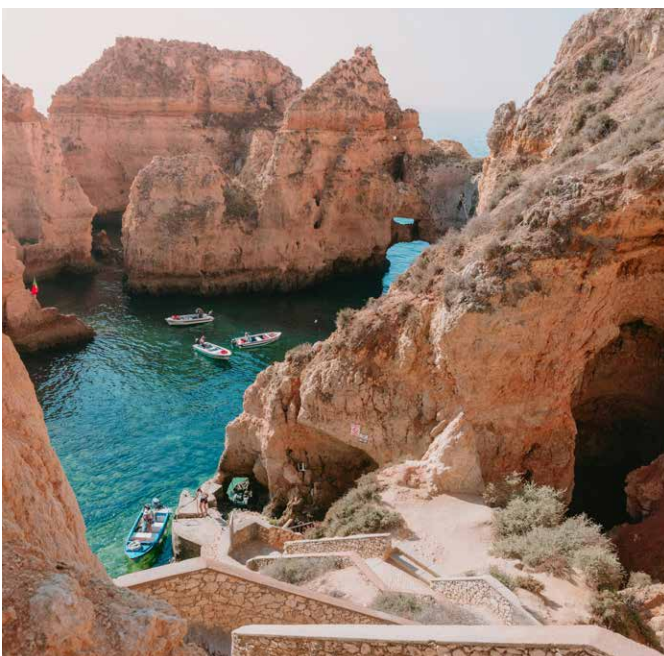
Overnight: 4* Hotel with buffet breakfast Lagos

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Day 11: Lagos - Setubal - Serra da Arrabida - Lisbon

A last look at the water while travelling along the coast to say farewell to the Algarve. The return trip to Lisbon will take you by the city of Setúbal, a major port and industrial centre on the north bank of the Sado estuary. Then comes a scenic route over the Arrábida mountain range, an area preserved as a Natural Park, with amazing scenery and unique vegetation at the gates of Lisbon and enjoy the views of the Troia Peninsula. Crossing the bridge over the Tagus River, we arrive in Lisbon.



The Package includes:

- 10 nights accommodation, 4* hotels with buffet breakfast
- Transportation by air-conditioned bus or minivan
- Services of a guide throughout the tour
- Entrance fees: Batalha Monastery, Coimbra University, Palácio da Bolsa (Porto), St. Francisco Church (Porto), Gardens of Palácio Mateus (Vila Real), Convent of Christ (Tomar), Palace of Pena (Sintra), Chapel of Bones (Évora), São Francisco Church (Évora), Évora Cathedral, São Vicente Fortress (Sagres).

The package does not include:

- Flights
- Porterage
- Lunch, dinner or beverages unless mentioned
- Entrance fees unless mentioned in the inclusions
- Personal expenses
- Gratuities
- Hotel city taxes

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Land package 11 days / 10 nights, price per person

Departure dates 2024	Double occupancy	Single occupancy
April 6, 20	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499
May 4, May 18	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499
June 1, June 15	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499
July 6, July 20	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499
August 3, August 17	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499
Sep.7, Sep. 21	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499
Oct.5, Oct.19	\$ 4,499	\$ 5,499

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