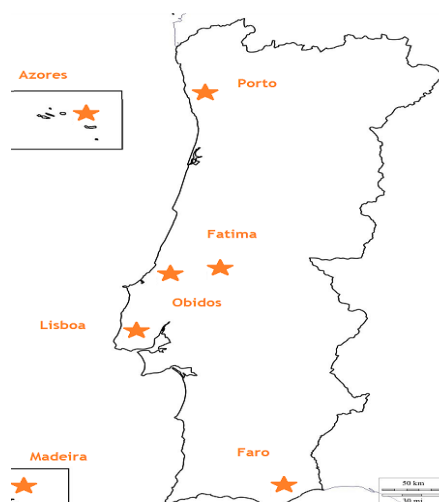


Full tour of PORTUGAL

Accommodation

- 4 nights in Porto
- 1 night in Fátima
- 1 night in Obidos
- 2 nights in Lisbon
- 2 nights in Faro
- 4 nights in Madeira
- 3 nights in Azores



Introduction to Portugal

Portugal is a country situated in south-western Europe on the Iberian Peninsula. It is the westernmost country of Europe, and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the West and South and by Spain to the North and East. The Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira are part of Portugal. The country is named after its second largest city, Porto, whose Latin name was *Portus Cale*. The land within the borders of today's Portuguese Republic has been continuously settled since prehistoric times: occupied by Celts like the Gallaeci and the Lusitanians, integrated into the Roman Republic and later settled by Germanic peoples such as the Suebi and the Visigoths, in the 8th century the lands were conquered by Moors. In the 15th and 16th centuries, as the result of pioneering the Age of Discovery, Portugal expanded western influence and established a global empire that included possessions in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America, becoming one of the world's major economic, political and military powers. The Portuguese Empire was the first global empire in history.

Mainland Portugal is split by its main river, the Tagus that flows from Spain and disgorges in Tagus Estuary, before escaping into the Atlantic. The northern landscape is mountainous towards the interior with several plateaus indented by river valleys, whereas the south, that includes the Algarve and the Alentejo regions, is characterized by rolling plains.

Portugal is among the 20 most visited countries in the world, receiving an average of 13 million foreign tourists each year.

Tourist hotspots in Portugal are Lisbon, the Algarve and Madeira. Lisbon is, after Barcelona, the European city which attracts the most tourists. Porto and Northern Portugal, especially the urban areas north of Douro River valley, was the tourist destination which grew most.



Detailed program

Day 1

- Arrival & welcome at Porto International Airport.
- Transfer to the Hotel.
- Overnight in Porto.

Day 2

- Breakfast.

Porto full day tour.

Visit the beautiful and mysterious lady, one of the most ancient cities of Europe with plenty of historic and cultural memories. A unique and unforgettable tour through the “Bairro da Sé”, the heart of ancient PORTO of medieval roots. We end this unforgettable tour at a famous wine cellar in the historical heart of VILA NOVA DE GAIA in an atmosphere that will take you in a journey to the past.



- Overnight in Porto.

Day 3

- Breakfast.
- Guimarães, Braga & Barcelos, full day excursion

One history to discover, one unique journey starting by the “birth of the nation”, GUIMARÃES, then through the capital of MINHO, BRAGA with their three sanctuary's, who shape the triangle of faith, devotion and pilgrimage; having lunch in one of the jewel of the Portuguese

baroque art. Ending this tour in the city of the miraculous rooster, who became symbol of Portugal, BARCELOS.



- Overnight in Porto.

Day 4

- Breakfast.
- Full day excursion to the Douro wine region, with wine tasting at one of the wineries.

Douro full day tour

By unique landscapes of mountain and river, were born one of the famous God nectars, discovering sights and traditions were we feel the faith of the People. In Amarante on the banks of the river we find the Monastery of S.Gonçalo, in Lamego we visit the shrine of Our Lady of Remédios. We will enjoy the magnificent panorama over the River Douro where on the sloops of the mountain had origin the most famous Portuguese wine: Port Wine.

Major Sights: Amarante, Lamego, Pinhão.



- Overnight in Porto.

Day 5

- Breakfast.
- Departure to Coimbra, and visit to the university town (Alta and Sofia).

Long ago, **Coimbra** was occupied by the Celts, but the process of Romanisation brought a great cultural transformation to this region. The presence of the Romans is still visible in the various archaeological remains housed at the Museu Nacional Machado de Castro, built over the cryptoporticus of the Civita Aeminium, the forum of the Roman city. After them, between 586 and 640, came the Visigoths, who altered the name of the town to Emínio. In 711, it became a Moorish and Mozarab city. In 1064, the city was conquered by the Christian Fernando I of Castile and governed by the Mozarab Sesnando.

The most important city to the south of the River Douro, it was for some time the residence of the Count Dom Henrique and Dona Teresa, the parents of the first king of Portugal, Dom Afonso Henriques, who was born here. It was the latter king who integrated the city into the Portuguese territory in 1131. Dating from this time are some of the city's most important

monuments: the Sé Velha (Old Cathedral) and the churches of São Tiago, São Salvador and Santa Cruz, representing the religious authority and the various orders that became established here.

Coimbra was the setting for the forbidden love of Dom Pedro I (1357-67) and Dona Inês, a lady at court. Inês was executed at the orders of the king Dom Afonso IV, who saw in this romance the danger of Portugal being submitted to the rule of Castile. An inspiration to poets and writers, their story still forms a major part of the city's rich heritage. Coimbra was the capital of Portugal during the Middle Ages, but it was the Renaissance that transformed the city into a place of knowledge, when Dom João III (1521-57) decided to move the University to the city on a definitive basis, whilst at the same time numerous colleges were created to provide an alternative to the official form of teaching.

In the 17th century, the Jesuits arrived in the city, immediately announcing their presence with the building of the Sé Nova (New Cathedral). In the following century, the royal work instituted by Dom João V (1706-50) was to enrich some of Coimbra's monuments, including the University. Dom José I (1750-77) also introduced some alterations into the city through the influence of his minister Marquês de Pombal, particularly in the field of education.



- Later visit of the Convent of Christ in Tomar.
- Visit of Fatima, the religious centre of the country.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima is a Roman Catholic Marian basilica in Fátima, Portugal. Its construction began in 1928 and it was consecrated in October 1953. The basilica is built at the site of the Marian apparitions reported by three Portuguese children in 1917 and known as Our Lady of Fátima. The tombs of Blessed Francisco Marto, Blessed Jacinta Marto and Sister Lúcia dos Santos, the three children, are in the *Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary*. Scenes of the Marian apparitions are shown in stained glass. The fifteen church altars are dedicated to the 15 mysteries of the Rosary. The large church organ was installed in 1952 and has about 12 thousand pipes. Four statues of the four great apostles of the Rosary and to the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary are at the four corners of the Basilica: Saint Anthony Mary Claret, Saint Dominic, Saint John Eudes and Saint Stephen, King of Hungary. The shrine attracts a large number of Roman Catholics, and every year pilgrims fill the country road that leads to the shrine with crowds that approach one million on May 13th and October 13th, the significant dates of Fátima apparitions. Overall, about four million pilgrims visit the basilica every year. The *Chapel of Apparitions* is at the very heart of the basilica and the exact location of the apparitions is marked by a marble pillar which holds a statue of the Virgin Mary.



- Overnight in Fatima.

Day 6

- Breakfast.
- Departure to Alcobaça and visit of its monastery, one of the seven wonders of Portugal.

The city of Alcobaça grew along the valleys of the rivers Alcoa and Baça, from which it derives its name. It became notable after the first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques, decided to build there a church to celebrate the Conquest of Santarém, to the Moors, in 1147. The church later evolved into the Monastery of Alcobaça, one of the most magnificent gothic monuments in the country. Nazaré consists of three sections: Praia (along the beach), Sítio (an old village, on top of a cliff) and Pederneira (another old village, on a hilltop). The Praia and the Sítio areas are linked by the Nazaré Funicular, a funicular railway. The Alcobaça Monastery is a Mediaeval Roman Catholic Monastery located in the town of Alcobaça, in central Portugal. It was founded by the first Portuguese King, Afonso Henriques, in 1153, and maintained a close association with the Kings of Portugal throughout its history. The church and monastery were the first Gothic buildings in Portugal, and, together with the Monastery of Santa Cruz in Coimbra, it was one of the most important of the mediaeval monasteries in Portugal. Due to its artistic and historical importance, it was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1989. The Alcobaça Monastery was built following an early Gothic style, and represents the arrival of this style in Portugal. The church and other main buildings were constructed from 1178 until the end of the 13th century. The church was consecrated in 1252. Following the precepts of the Order of Cistercians, the original monastic buildings were built under clean architectonic lines, without any decoration apart from some capital sculpture and a statue of the Virgin Mary.

- If time permits, short visit of coastal city of Nazare.
- Continuation to Obidos, a walled city.

The town of Óbidos is located on a hill and is still encircled by a fortified wall. The well-preserved mediaeval look of its streets, squares, walls and its massive castle have turned the picturesque village into a preferred tourist attraction in Portugal. If visiting, it is compulsory to try the local cherry liquor known as ginjinha.



- Overnight in Obidos.

Day 7

- Breakfast.
- Departure to Lisbon, the capital of the country and full day tour including entrance to Belém Tower and Monastery of Hieronymites.

Lisbon city tour

Boasting springtime temperatures during the winter and cool summers freshened by a breeze blowing in from the Atlantic, Costa de Lisboa, on the southwestern coast, offers a rich and impressively integrated diversity. The capital of Portugal since its conquest from the Moors in 1147, Lisbon is a legendary city with over 20 centuries of History. The Alfama is one of the oldest quarters in Lisboa. Since it largely survived the earthquake of 1755, the area still retains much of its original layout. Adjacent to the Alfama are the likewise old quarters of Castelo and Mouraria, on the western and northern slopes of the hill that is crowned by St. George's Castle. Radiant skies brighten the monumental city, with its typical tile covered building facades and narrow Medieval streets, where one can hear the fado being played and sung at night.



- Fado dinner show

Fado is a music genre which can be traced from the 1820s in Portugal, but probably with much earlier origins. In popular belief, fado is a form of music characterized by mournful tunes and lyrics, often about the sea or the life of the poor. However, in reality fado is simply a form of song which can be about anything, but must follow a certain structure. The music is usually linked to the Portuguese word *saudade* which symbolizes the feeling of loss (a permanent, irreparable loss and its consequent life lasting damage). Customers will enjoy a full Portuguese tasting dinner with some national specialties.



- Overnight in Lisbon.

Day 8

- Breakfast.
- Full day excursion to Sintra, Cascais and Estoril. Visit of La Pena palace and the coastal cities of Cascais and Estoril.

Sintra & Cascais full day excursion

The small city of Sintra lies between Lisbon and the Atlantic on a promontory of land between two gorges on the north side of the well-wooded Serra de Sintra. With its beautiful setting and equable climate it was an early choice as the summer seat of the Portuguese royal family. The beauty of the scenery, combined with the magnificent subtropical vegetation and

the nearness of the sea, is almost beyond compare, making Sintra one of the loveliest spots in the Iberian peninsula, wholly justifying Lord Byron's description of it as "glorious Eden". Early in 1996 UNESCO included Sintra in its list of world cultural heritage sites.

One of Portugal's prettiest coastal towns, Cascais was a sleepy fishing village until King Luís I's Royal Court arrived in 1870, bringing glamour which still survives today. Since even before medieval times, Cascais had lived off fishing on these Atlantic shores, servicing a large part of Lisbon. During the exploration of the "new world", Cascais was important to Lisbon strategically due to its proximity to the Tagus River (Rio Tejo), and it became quite wealthy from the maritime trade and services. The great earthquake of 1755 that wiped out most of Lisbon, also destroyed much of Cascais (and subsequently many of the oldest buildings in Cascais now date to this period, when rebuilding began).



- Overnight in Lisbon.

Day 9

- Breakfast.
- Departure to Évora, famous for its Roman history and monuments.

Due to its well-preserved old town centre, still partially enclosed by medieval walls, and a large number of monuments dating from various historical periods, including a Roman Temple, Évora is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Among its main sights, we can mention:

- ✓ *Aqueduct of Silver Water*: with its huge arches stretching for 9 km, this aqueduct was built in 1531-1537 by King João III to supply the city with water.
- ✓ *Cathedral of Évora*: mainly built between 1280 and 1340, it is one of the most important gothic monuments of Portugal. The cathedral has a notable main portal with statues of the Apostles (around 1335) and a beautiful nave and cloister. One transept chapel is Manueline and the outstanding main chapel is Baroque. The pipeorgan and choir stalls are renaissance (around 1566).
- ✓ *Palace of Vasco da Gama*: Vasco da Gama resided here in 1519 and 1524, the dates corresponding to his nomination as the Count of Vidigueira and Viceroy of India. The Manueline cloister and some of its Renaissance mural paintings are still preserved.
- ✓ *Roman Temple of Évora*: improperly called Diana Temple, this 1st century-temple was probably dedicated to the Cult of Emperor Augustus (but some texts date it to the second or even the third century). It is one of a kind in Portugal. The temple was incorporated into a mediaeval building and thus survived destruction. It has become the city's most famous landmark. The temple in Corinthian style has six columns in front (Roman hexastyle) with in total fourteen granite columns remaining. The base of the temple, the capitals and the architraves are made of marble from nearby Estremoz. The intact columns are 7.68 m (25.20 ft) high. It can be compared to the Maison Carrée in Nîmes, France.
- ✓ *University of Évora*: Formerly a Jesuit college built by Cardinal-King Henrique in 1559, it includes the 16th century Mannerist church and the academic buildings surrounding the large 17th-18th century cloister.



- Continuation to Faro and walking tour.

Let us begin with its name. Faro derives from Ibn-Harun, the Arabic family name of the 11th century governors. The history begins with the Arco da Vila at the top of a palm-lined garden with views out over the sea. From outside, the arch is the project of the Italian architect Fabri. From within, it belongs to the Moor prince Bem Bekr. Within the Castle walls, the narrow streets with archways and alleys lead onto the Afonso III square where the statue of the king recalls the city's conquest in 1249. On the site of the former mosque stands the Sé, the landmark of the new regime. Within, the Renaissance interior is impressive. While in the neighbourhood, head over to the church of Misericórdia and the elegant Bishop's palace. And in the pretty cloisters of the Nossa Senhora da Assunção convent, the tour takes us back to Roman times with the priceless collection of the Infante D. Henrique Museum. Beyond the walls, there is a very different city, rebuilt after the earthquake of 1755 by a still rich noble and bourgeois class. They made their mark in their elaborate residences and palaces and the Lethes Theatre. For a great family day out, visit the Living Science Centre where all will enjoy the museum's take on "Cyber Space" themed around the "Sun". The capital of the Algarve, with its lively and bustling centre packed with stores, terraces and restaurants and with the best in seafood, will surprise you every step of the way.



- Overnight in Faro.

Day 10

- Breakfast.
- Full day excursion to the Algarve region: visiting its beaches and Sagres fortress town.

Our first stop is the ancient city of Silves, the ancient Arab capital of Algarve. You will be able to see the Silves Castle, one of the best well preserved Moorish castles in the country, and the Silves Cathedral, the main Gothic monument in Algarve.

Then we will head for Lagos, an ancient maritime town that Prince Henry the Navigator called home. It was here that he sent ships to Morocco and Africa. Visit some of the town's most well known sites, including the statue of Prince Henry, the Antonine Museum, and the site of the former slave market.

Finally, we will go to Sagres, a fishing village that was the starting point of many expeditions. Here we can find Cape St. Vincent, the southwesternmost point in Portugal, and the lighthouse of one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.



- Overnight in Faro.

Day 11

- Breakfast.
- Departure transfer, Faro airport.
- **FLIGHT FARO - FUNCHAL (not included)**
- Arrival transfer, Funchal airport.
- Overnight in Funchal.

Day 12

- Breakfast.
- Eira do Serrado/Monte 1/2 day excursion during the morning.

The heart of the island. Starting in Pico dos Barcelos (355 m), climbing to Eira do Serrado (1094 m) with na amazing view of Curral das Freiras. Then we'll visit the church of N.S. Monte, the "protector" of the Island.

- Funchal 1/2 day city tour

This tours starts in "Parque de Santa Catarina" one of the famous Gardens of Funchal, with a beautiful view over the harbour. Visit to the Cathedral (built in 1493), the market (fish, flowers, vegetables and fruits) and a visit to an embroidery factory. Botanical Gardens and Madeira Wine cellar are also places, which will delight you.



- Typical folklorian night with Madeiran; so that you may be free to indulge in the simple delights of Madeiran cuisine. Experience the culinary delights of Espetada, marinated beef cooked over the open fire on a Laurel skewer, Milho Frito, delicious golden fried maize or even the mouth watering homemade garlic bread. Put these together with wine and energetic entertainment by a local folklore group and you can be assured of a very enjoyable evening out.

- Overnight in Funchal.

Day 13

- Breakfast.
- Santana full day excursion.

What a glorious day out this is, with so many delights to see. *Pico do Arieiro*, which at 1810 meters. Is breathtaking, *Ribeiro Frio*, and the noted trout hatchery, *Santana* home to the “A” framed cottages. Whilst later follow the stunning north coast, visiting *Porto da Cruz*, *Portela* and its dramatic mountain views, *Machico* where the discoverers first landed and finally *Camacha* home to the famous wickerwork warehouse. A truly delightful day out.



- Including a short walk in the Laurisilva of Madeira.
- Overnight in Funchal.

Day 14

- Breakfast.
- Porto Moniz full day excursion

On this, probably the most popular excursion of the Island, you will visit Ca de Lobos & Ribeira Brava. Then, travel up through a lush valley region to the mountain pass of Encumeada at 1007 m, with a wonderful view over the north and the south coast. Next descend to the north coast till Porto Moniz, famed for its volcanic rock swimming pools, passing through São Vicente & Seixal. Stop for lunch. From this pretty village, climb the mountains to Paúl da Serra and descend to the south west coast till Calheta & Ponta do Sol. Finally the Cabo Girão (the 2nd highest sea climb in the world).



- Overnight in Funchal.

Day 15

- Breakfast.

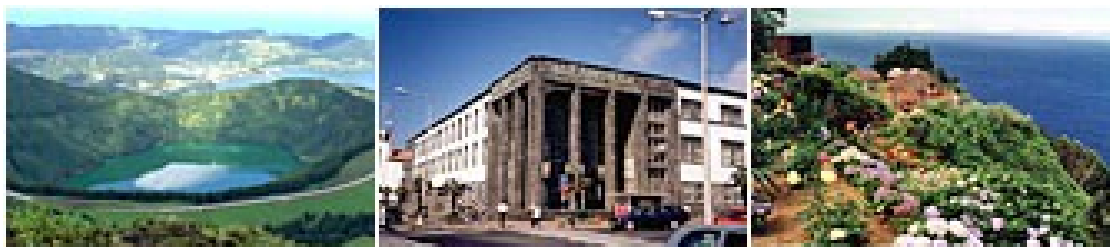
- Departure transfer, Funchal airport.
- **FLIGHT FUNCHAL - PONTA DELGADA (not included)**
- Arrival transfer, Ponta Delgada airport.
- Overnight in Ponta Delgada.

Day 16

- Breakfast.
- Full day excursion to Furnas & typical lunch: “cozido das caldeiras”

The landscape of Furnas, comprises a lake, a valley and a village, and it's located inland from the south-eastern coast. The especially during the summer much visited village of Furnas has a splendid botanical garden, the Terra Nostra Park, founded in the 18th century by the then American Consul Thomas Hickling. It features magnificent centenary trees, an exuberant vegetation from all over the world, small ponds, meandering paths and a pool with therapeutic warm and muddy waters. Yet, Furnas won its fame primarily from its 22 sources, consisting of mineral, sulphurous and mud sources that can be found here. Since 1630 when a powerful eruption took place, this region boasts an amazing variety of volcanic activity, among which also hot geysers (the hottest, Pêro Botelho, reaching 99°C). The thermal sources are reputed for their therapeutic qualities in the treatment of all kind of respiratory-related illnesses known up to date. The different sources can be used in balneotherapies as well as mineral water cures. Furnas Valley is crossed by two torrents, one is cold and one is warm and iron-bearing, and is considered one of Europe's richest hydrological regions.

The 2 km long Lagoa de Furnas is a paradisiacal refuge, where the Gothic profile of the Chapel Nossa Senhora das Victórias beautifully reflects on its calm and clear waters. It has a small sandy beach, provided with a bar and pedal boats, which you can rent during summertime. Here, you will also find fumeroles, but they are less impressive - even if their odour is as strong - than those of the village.



- Overnight in Ponta Delgada.

Day 17

- Breakfast.
- Full day excursion to Sete Cidades and Lagoa do Fogo & typical lunch

Departure from the Hotel towards the western most part of the Island, where the Mountains and Lakes of Sete Cidades are situated. Drive through the Southwest road, along the Coast through green pastures where cattle are grazing. Stop at the Belvedere of Vista do Rei, one of the most important panoramic spots of the Island, where the Blue and the Green Lakes placed in an enormous volcanic crater can be seen. Return to Ponta Delgada through a Mountain Road, on the North Western part of the Island, stopping at Pico do Carvão where the North and South coasts of the Island can be seen. In the outskirts of Ponta Delgada, stop to visit the Pineapple Plantations in greenhouses to observe how this tropical fruit grows. Pineapple liqueur can also be tasted at the Plantations.



- Overnight in Ponta Delgada.

Day 18

- Breakfast.
- Departure transfer, Ponta Delgada airport.
- End of our services.

Package inclusions

- Hotel Accommodation in hotels according to the preceding information with breakfast included.
- Private bus with driver for the circuit starting on day 5th until day 11th, visiting all cities described in the program from Porto to Faro.
- Transfers IN/OUT in Porto, Madeira and Azores.
- Full day city tours/ excursions in Porto; Minho region (Guimarães, Braga and Barcelos); Winery; Lisbon with Sintra, Cascais and Estoril; Faro and the described in Madeira & Azores.
- Private guides in Porto, Minho region, winery, Coimbra, Tomar, Fátima, Acobaça, Obidos, Lisbon, Sintra, Cascais, Estoril, Evora, Faro, Madeira & Azores tours.
- Entrance Tickets to winery, Torre de Belem, Monasterio dos Jeronimos; Palacio da pena; Terra Nostra (Azores) and in caldeira velha (azores).
- Fado Show & dinner in Lisbon; typical cozido das caldeiras in Azores.
- City taxes included
- *Escort guide not included & flights Faro-Funchal & Funchal-Ponta Delgada not included.*

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