

# ITINERARY

## CHARMING PORTUGAL



### DAY 1 / LISBON ARRIVAL

#### Arrival to Lisbon

On the right bank of the broad Tagus river estuary, the capital of Portugal graciously reclines over rolling hills. This is a spectacular geographical location and does much to explain the cosmopolitan history of the city.

Its exceptional natural light, which has long inspired writers, photographers and filmmakers, the brightly coloured buildings straddling the slopes, the striking ochre of the roofs, the tiling on so many facades and the narrow twisting alleys of the medieval districts bestow Lisbon with the peculiar atmosphere of a city perched somewhere between the European north and the Mediterranean south.

Throughout millennia, the superb natural harbour of the Tagus was used by traders and seafarers. Lisbon's long history begins under the Phoenicians as Alis-Ubbo, before becoming the Roman settlement of Felicitia Julia Olisipo in the second century.

Wandering its distinctive neighbourhoods, taking the tram through historic neighbourhoods, riding the century-old lifts up and down the steep slopes, taking a boat ride on the Tagus, or even jumping on the metro, itself a veritable underground museum of contemporary Portuguese art, there are so many means to discover the great diversity and cultural depth that Lisbon has to offer.

To the west, close to the mouth of the Tagus, visit Belém with its gardens and monuments to the Lisbon of the Voyages of Discovery now declared UNESCO World Heritage.



Much was rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake. A regular, symmetrical plan was established for the "Baixa (Downtown)" opening it up to both the light and the river. There, you will come across the traditional commerce. There is also the seductive appeal of the Chiado; a neighbourhood evoking the bourgeois tastes of 19th century Lisbon. To the east, the Parque das Nações (Park of Nations) concentrates a huge range of leisure facilities and features the Oceanarium.

By night, the traditional neighbourhoods fall under the spell of Fado, the melancholic style of Portuguese folk music, while a younger crowd flocks to lively, stylish bars of the Docas, down by the river, or the Bairro Alto, adjoining the Chiado. Oh, and don't forget to taste the delicious pastéis de nata (custard tarts)!

Lisbon is a city that makes you want to go exploring, to discover whatever might appear in every neighbourhood, on every street.

**Once you arrive to the airport, please collect your luggage and make your way into the arrivals hall where your driver will be waiting for you with a signboard**

**Private transfer to hotel with your private chauffeur & check in at the hotel**

## **7 PM - 10 PM Petiscos dinner walking tour**

7 PM Meet your host in hotel lobby.

The Petisco or petiscos is a gastronomical habit that has its roots in all the Iberian Peninsula, but it's better known by its Spanish name Tapas.

You will enjoy a wonderful experience in Lisbon. Both Tapas and Petiscos are the same and they are Iberian delicatessen. Special little snacks that accompany drinks or make small tasty light meals or large meals made of small, tasty snacks.

Let us have the honor of showing you some of the best and historic restaurants in this, our capital. Let us take care of the details to ensure your Lisbon visit will be truly unforgettable and of course, worth repeating! Between restaurants you will pass through some of the traditional and emblematic sites of the city with all the historical notes and anecdotes that make up the fabric of this great city. Bear in mind that your experience will also be ours and we will do everything to make sure it will be an evening worth remembering.

10 PM Return to the hotel at leisure.

Accommodation in Lisbon: Bairro Alto Hotel\*\*\*\*\*

## **DAY 2 / LISBON**

Breakfast at the hotel.

### **9.30 AM – 1.30 PM Half day Lisbon Highlights Tour**

9.30 AM Meet your driver and guide outside the main entrance of your hotel

Today in the morning you will meet your guide and driver and start a half day tour of Lisbon's highlights. Lisbon, capital of Portugal, located at the mouth of the Tagus River and from where the Portuguese boats set sail overseas in the 15th and 16th centuries towards East. At that time, the Maritime Discoveries period, the city became the center of a large empire, still visible in the monuments of Belém section. Well known for its historic traditional neighborhoods you'll be amazed with the sections of Chiado, Bairro Alto and Alfama as well as the Castle of Saint George and the gorgeous views you can enjoy from the top of its hill.

Head straight to the Eduardo VII Park, then continue on to the Marquês de Pombal, Rossio, Praça do Comercio, Cathedral, Chapel of St. António, St George's Castle and the view point of Sra do Monte.

Continue on to the Monastery of St. Vicente de Fora, Alfama, Casa dos Bicos (The Saramago Foundation, where the ashes of the writer rest), Largo do Chiado, S. Bento, Basílica da Estrela, Infante Santo, and Bairro de Belém (where we can stop to taste the famous pastries). The final part of the tour takes in the Monastery of Jerónimos, Belém Tower and the Monument to the Discoveries.



1:30 PM Drop off at the hotel or city centre

Free time for lunch

#### **4 PM – 8 PM Custard Tart Workshop at a Chef's house**

4 PM Meet your driver outside the main entrance of the hotel and transfer to your Chef's home

4.15 PM Arrival to the workshop and meet your chef at their home

This baking class is fully dedicated to the internationally famous Portuguese egg custard tart. During this hands-on baking class, you will learn from the pastry Chef how to prepare these little pieces of heaven and all the its tricks, using the most traditional methods and old recipes, in a very special location, their own place!

We propose you a private baking class, held in such an exclusive place, where you will enjoy the custard tarts you baked yourself, with a comforting afternoon tea, and share them with the Chef and your family and friends.

It may also include baking other traditional Portuguese sweets.



7:45 PM Transfer with your private driver back to the hotel.

8 PM arrival to Hotel

Evening at leisure

Accommodation in Lisbon: Bairro Alto Hotel\*\*\*\*\*

### **DAY 3 / LISBON**

Breakfast at the hotel.

#### **9 AM - 5 PM Full Day Excursion to Estoril, Cascais and Sintra**

9 AM Meet your guide at hotel lobby and driver and guide outside the main entrance of your hotel

Among the sites you shall not miss in Portugal there's **Sintra**, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO for the great beauty of its nature and architecture, with fairy tale palaces and lush vegetation. You shall visit the romantic Pena Palace on top of the mountain and also the isolated Convento dos Capuchos where Franciscan monks used to live in the 16th century.

**Cascais and Estoril Coast** are places of charm and aristocratic traditions that you'll meet along the Atlantic Ocean, the white sandy beaches and magnificent fortresses from the 17th century.

Situated close to the sea and traditionally a fishing village, **Cascais** enjoyed an important period of development in the 14th century, when it was a major stopping off point for boats on their way to Lisbon, turning it into a very busy port at that time.

It was, however, in the second half of the 19th century, when sea bathing became a popular activity, that Cascais was given the impetus that transformed it into a very fashionable summer resort. The great driving force behind this transformation was the king of Portugal, Dom Luís I, who, in 1870, converted the Fortaleza da Cidadela into the summer residence of the Portuguese monarchy. The king's example was immediately copied by the nobility, who built palaces and extremely beautiful villas in the town, where they spent the hottest season of the year, completely transforming the appearance of the former fishing village.

Particularly recommended is a stroll through its streets, where you will find shops of the highest quality, or perhaps you might prefer to enjoy a few moments' rest at one of the many outdoor cafés and restaurants scattered about the town.

A special mention is reserved for the local cuisine, especially the fresh fish and shellfish dishes that are served here and which can be enjoyed in the region's many restaurants.



Time at leisure for lunch during the tour Cost of food NOT included – your guide will point you in the right direction

4 PM Transfer back to Lisbon with your driver

5 PM Arrival to Lisbon

Rest of afternoon at leisure

Accommodation in Lisbon: Bairro Alto Hotel\*\*\*\*\*

## DAY 4 / LISBON

Breakfast at the hotel.

### 10:30 AM-6:30 PM Cork, Wine, Horses & Lunch with the estate Countess

10:30 AM Meet your driver outside the main entrance of the hotel and transfer to the wine estate

11:30 AM Arrival to wine estate and meet your hosts for the day

A very exclusive experience in an old Wine Estate, producing wines for 400 years and house of hidden treasures.

Inhabited by Queen Eleanor of Austria (third wife of King Manuel I, sister of the Emperor Carlos V), who lived here until 1530, when she married the King of France, Francis I. The estate has today a property totaling approximately of 5400 hectares and is managed, as it was in the 4 consecutive generations before, by a woman, the Countess of Schönborn and Wiesenheid.

Its stud farm is specialized in dressage because of their natural gaits and conformation.

Close to the Riverside, the wine tradition in this estate dates back to Roman times, millennia before the Foundation of the House and its vines grow in soils inserted in a place where in ancient times there was a delta of the Tagus estuary, which, with the coming and going of the tides, provided soils with the marine minerals that today influence these wines, giving them freshness, elegance and minerality.

This is the place where you will spend the day, in an intimate and unforgettable experience. You will start the day visiting the estate in a Jipe or a tractor, depending on your party size. You will see the vineyards, the lake, the cork trees, the horses in freedom, and visit the cellars, where you will have a wine tasting at the end, commented by the winemaker of the Estate.

After this incredible morning, that you got to know about the Estate and its history, you will have lunch in one of the gardens or in the dining room of the Palace, prepared by its cooks and in the company of the Countess.

In the afternoon there will still have time to have an equestrian demonstration of Puro-sangue Lusitano horses from this House, in one of the disciplines (working equitation or dressage).



5:30 PM Transfer back to Lisbon with your driver

6:30 PM arrival to hotel

Rest of afternoon at leisure

Accommodation in Lisbon: Bairro Alto Hotel\*\*\*\*\*

## DAY 5 / LISBON – COIMBRA – AVEIRO – DROP OFF DOURO VALLEY

Breakfast at the hotel & check out.

### 9 AM – 6.30 PM Enjoy a guided tour to Coimbra & Aveiro before dropping off at Douro

9 AM Transfer to Coimbra

11 AM Arrival to Coimbra and visit the charming town

Long ago, this site was occupied by the Celts, but the process of Romanization 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 Eminio. 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.

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.

1.30 PM Continue to Aveiro

2.15 PM Arrival to Aveiro

Visit Aveiro with your driver/guide

The capital of the Ria, a vast lagoon where the freshwater of the River Vouga joins with the sea, Aveiro is intersected by canals, genuine streets of water, along which can be seen gliding the brightly colored boats known as barcos moliceiros. Originally founded in the time of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Aveiro is now one of the most interesting cities on the Portuguese coast.

Due to the large numbers of web-footed birds that once inhabited this lagoon area, the city's first name was Aviarium.

The Ria is linked to Aveiro via three canals: the Canal das Pirâmides (marked at its entrance by two stone pyramids), which extends into the Canal Central, the Canal de São Roque, which marks the limits of the city to the north-west and separates it from the salt-pans; and the Canal dos Santos Mártires (or the Canal do Paraíso) which leads to the south-west.

Using the Canal Central as the city's main axis, we suggest two tours of Aveiro:

- On the Left Bank, begin by admiring the graceful Art Nouveau buildings, which are beautifully reflected in the canal, stroll through the Mercado do Peixe (Fish Market), wander around the Beira Mar district and along the canal banks and savour the gentle sea breeze.
- On the Right Bank, visit the city museum housed in the Convento de Jesus. Monuments and churches, as well as the hustle and bustle of city life taking place under the diffuse light of the Ria, all add to the charm of this coastal city.



Enjoy some time at leisure for lunch - Cost of food NOT included - Your driver/guide will point you in the right direction

5 PM Continue to Douro

6.30 PM Arrival to Douro Valley

With three World Heritage Sites recognized by UNESCO, there is no shortage of reasons to visit the Douro Valley, one of the most stunning landscapes in all of Portugal.

In the Historic Centre of the city of Porto you will find remarkable buildings lining the riverbanks. Many of these buildings are directly linked to the production of wine and bear witness to the urban development that this production has provoked over the years. On the opposite bank of the river you will find the city of Vila Nova de Gaia, a hive of commercial activity with the famous Port wine cellars.

Following the river Douro upstream, you reach the Alto Douro Wine Region. This is a land of traditions, a place of enchantment and mysticism, a great stretch of land where Nature reigns in perfect harmony with the inhabitants that have shaped the valley slopes and organized the land into vineyards.

Each of these vineyards can be accessed by winding roads that pattern the landscape. There has been evidence of wine production for more than two thousand years in the region, but it was only in 1756 that the Demarcated Douro Region was created and wine production in the region was organized and became internationally recognized. It was the first region in the world to be demarcated and it is a land where traditions and modernity go hand-in-hand. This combination is still evident today in the traditional harvest that is still done by hand and the squashing of the grapes by foot and the most modern vitification processes that accompany these traditions.

The course of the Douro river winds through the valley, carving its way through the rock and rushing furiously towards the sea. The construction of dams has made the river navigable and nowadays cruise liners are a common sight. In the wine region, the train follows the Douro river along the majority of its stretch, giving its passengers a privileged view of the stunning landscape.

In addition to its wine, this region's fertile soil also yields other plant life in the form of olive trees that produce high quality olive oil and almond trees that fill the valley with color and perfume in the months of February and March and produce the almonds that are used to make several traditional sweet treats. Farming is common in most villages which results in flavorful dishes made from traditionally cultivated produce. Roast kid goat and veal are some of the main dishes in the region but those passing through cannot miss the wide range of smoked meats, artisanal cheeses and typical desserts.



Check -In at hotel

Rest of day at leisure.

Accommodation in Douro: Six Senses Douro Valley Hotel\*\*\*\*\*

## DAY 6 / DOURO VALLEY

Breakfast at the hotel

### 9 AM – 5 PM Douro Valley exclusive wine & private sail experience

An incredible experience reserved for our special guests! After a gorgeous drive through the majestic Douro Valley, we will arrive to Pinhao and embark on a traditional private rabelo boat to sail to our favorite winery, Quinta da Gricha, from the prestigious winemaker Johnny Graham (Churchills wine cellar).

Upon arrival to the dock, we will be transported through the climbing vineyards with amazing views and endless natural beauty that will take one's breath away! A warm reception welcomes our guests to the winery before starting with a tour of this newly renovated property and premium wine tasting.

Guests will feel at home in this magical place, absorbing the true feeling of the Douro Valley perched high up on the hillside overlooking terraced vines with the famous Douro River below.

Indulge in a traditional lunch, chosen specifically by the Chef to reflect the local gastronomy and seasonal products of the estate paired with incredible wines.

Once this gastronomic event concludes, we will return by boat to Pinhao and to guests' Douro Valley accommodation by private vehicle.

A truly authentic and memorable experience!

Rest of afternoon at leisure.

Accommodation in Douro: Six Senses Douro Valley Hotel\*\*\*\*\*



## DAY 7 / DOURO – PORTO

Breakfast at the hotel.

Check out.

**Private transfer to Porto.**

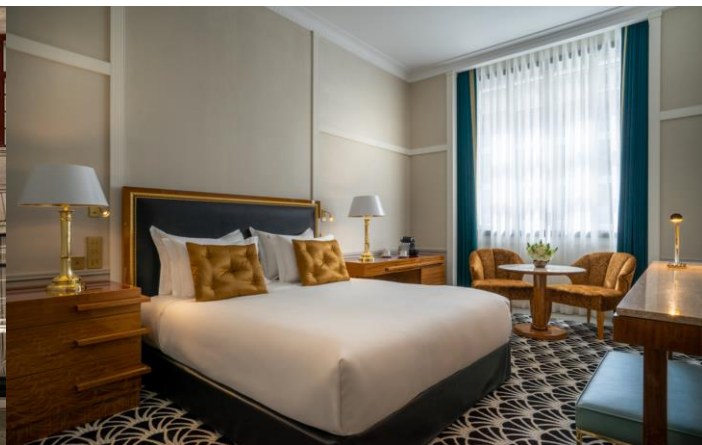
### Arrival to Porto

Capital and gateway to the north of Portugal, Porto is both the city that provided a nation with a name and a fortified wine known world-wide: port.

With its splendid geographical location on the mouth of the river Douro and an architectural heritage of exceptional quality, the historic center of Porto was declared UNESCO World Heritage in 1996. Porto is the capital of the North and the second largest city in the country; its hard-working inhabitants are noted for their commercial enterprise, always standing firm against outside impositions and foreign invaders, which explains why Porto has become known as the «unvanquished» city.

In addition to its history, any visitor to Porto will be quickly impressed by the forceful character both city and its inhabitants.

If you want to get to know the city better, we recommend a gentle stroll through its streets, taking time to admire the typical granite houses and monuments, enjoying a tram ride along the banks of the river, or even going for a boat ride under the city's six bridges, from where you can enjoy an entirely different view of the city. These itineraries seek to demonstrate the impressive contrasts this city has to offer. The "Baixa (Downtown)" of Porto, with all the rhythms of city life, its movement and intense retailing. There is a very peculiar expression which bestows a Nordic, mercantile tone onto a city that is both spiritually and intensely baroque. In sharp contrast, in the Serralves Park, there is the sheer modernity of the building housing the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the romantic, soothing surroundings of the surrounding leafy park.

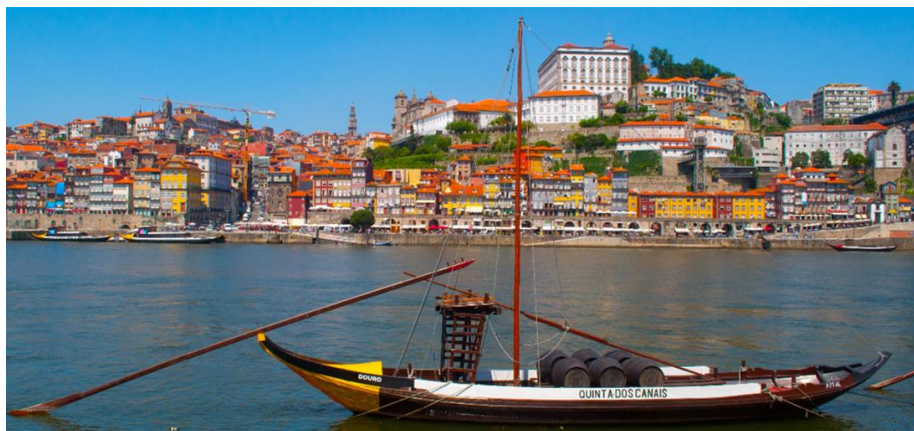


Check in at hotel & time at leisure.

### 3 PM – 7 PM Enjoy a half day guided tour in Porto & Winery Visit

Meet your guide at hotel lobby. Today you may enjoy the day to get to know this beautiful city! In the morning our tour guide

During this Half-day private tour, you will be able to experience all the charm and history of Porto right after leaving your hotel. You will indeed start by doing a panoramic tour towards the trendiest and most cultural area of the city called Boavista and Foz. This is where some of the best museums of the city are located (like Serralves) and also where the Atlantic meets the Douro river providing the ideal location for the upper class residences. Once you reach the historical city center, considered World Heritage by UNESCO, you will have more than enough time to explore the Church of São Francisco. This old simple gothic Franciscan church is now known as "the cave of gold" in an astonishing exhibit of wealth and power. Right next door you'll find the Stock Exchange Palace with incredible granite work and magnificent neo-Arab influences. On your way up to the Cathedral you'll still have time to admire the interesting glazed tiles of the São Bento Railway station.





After a visit to the Cathedral (12th century) you will be able to admire the river Douro and all of the Port Wine lodges that brought fame and fortune to the city. But a tour in Porto would never be complete without a visit to these wine cellars. After crossing the D. Luis Bridge, you will start to smell the aroma of the slowly aging Port Wine. The massive vats improve the quality of a wine that can last for more than 100 years. During a guided visit of the wine cellars you will learn about its production, storage methods and all the secrets that make this nectar one of the most appreciated in the world. You will enjoy a wine tasting at one Porto Winery (Sandeman, Barros or other nice winery depending on the day)

Accommodation in Porto: Maison Albar Hotels Le Monumental Palace\*\*\*\*\*

## DAY 8 / PORTO

Breakfast at the hotel

### 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM Porto Experience Half Day Tasting Tour



Discover local gastronomy through a whole different angle. Accompanied by Gourmand award-winning food writers, you will uncover the secrets of Porto's delicacies, history, and context. Because this experience isn't just a tasting: it's an opportunity to truly connect with the food, the people, and the culture. To begin our trip, and to fully immerse into the local food scene, we will visit the city's central market. Here, we will be meeting the unique vendors, and learning about the ingredients that fill up Porto's restaurants and home kitchens. Plus, you'll get to taste some delicious artisan cheeses that exude the aromas of the mountain. Our journey will then take you to explore the backstreets that lead to iconic places; we'll run into unexpected gastronomic gems like taverns and snack-bars where you'll find Porto's beloved everyday specialties. But highlight also goes to the local pastry shops, where you'll taste sweets of the most delicate nature,

from the unmatched repertoire of Portuguese conventual pastry. This gastronomic journey through Porto wouldn't be complete without tasting the esteemed port wine in a very special location.

Visit 6 spots, among restaurants, taverns, pastry shops, and markets.

We will provide round 18 different tastings, that may include 3 regional cheeses, cured ham, cured loin, pork leg sandwich, cod fritters (bolinho de bacalhau), cachorrinho (Porto hot dog), broa (regional bread), olives, dried fruits and nuts, pastel de nata, jesuíta, limonete, 3 table wines from different regions, 1 beer, and 2 port wines.

Rest of day at leisure.

Accommodation in Porto: Maison Albar Hotels Le Monumental Palace\*\*\*\*\*

## DAY 9 / PORTO

Breakfast at the hotel

### 9 AM – 5 PM Guimaraes Tour with traditional Portuguese Lunch & Vinho Verde Wine Tasting

9 AM Meet your driver/guide and transfer to Guimaraes

Depart by private van to Guimaraes, known as the "Cradle of Portugal" and in 2012 - the 'European Capital of Culture'. Here, you will visit the Palace of the Dukes and see Renaissance pieces and Baroque furniture, porcelain, Flemish tapestries and Persian rugs. Nearby, witness the 10th century Guimaraes Castle.



Continue the tour to the charming town of Amarante and indulge in a traditional Portuguese Lunch prepared by Chef André Silva at Casa da Calçada, Relais & Chateaux, a 16th century palace of the Count de Redondo. After lunch visit the 16th century Monastery of São Gonçalo, as well as the lovely Roman Bridge.

Cost of food NOT included / special set menu during the week 35€ p/person, weekends are a la carte and subject to quote.

Your next stop will be to a world renowned 'vinho verde' vineyard and wine estate to learn more about this special grape and the production of the wine, finishing with a tasting of the sparkly nectar paired with some local cheese! There will be some free time to enjoy the beautiful gardens and specialties of the estate.

Transfer back to your hotel

5 PM Arrival to Hotel

Rest of afternoon at leisure

Accommodation in Porto: Maison Albar Hotels Le Monumental Palace\*\*\*\*\*

## **DAY 10 / PORTO DEPARTURE**

Breakfast at the hotel

Check out

Your driver will be waiting for you at the main entrance of the hotel

**Private transfer to Porto airport**

Take departure flight