



SHORT ESCAPE: PORTUGAL

Journey to the sun-soaked shores of Portugal, where you'll explore the streets of Lisbon, medieval Porto and the famous vineyards of the Duoro Valley.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Europe, Portugal



7 days from AU\$11,495 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Storied cities, sun-drenched scenes and friendly locals are just part of the reason Portugal is one of Europe's hottest destinations right now. Amongst its vibrant cities, whitewashed villages and Moorish walled towns, admire architectural tributes to the country's most celebrated navigators, savour hearty Portuguese cuisine and see what makes the perfect port.

Journey Highlights

- Gaze upon white-domed cathedrals and meander through grand plazas and narrow cobblestone lanes in some of Europe's oldest and most beautiful cities.
- Savour the best of Lisbon's culinary delights on an evening foodie tour
- Explore quaint hilltop towns overflowing with World Heritage sites
- Visit leading wineries in the Douro Valley, one of the oldest wine regions in the world
- Wander through Porto's atmospheric Ribeira neighbourhood



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Lisbon

Welcome to the Portuguese capital and transfer to your hotel in the bohemian Bairro Alto neighbourhood.

Bairro Alto Hotel

Day 2: Lisbon

Explore the Belém district crowned by the magnificent World Heritage listed Jerónimos Monastery, commissioned to celebrate Vasco da Gama's discovery of a sea route to India in 1498. Visit the iconic Belém Tower and pause to sample the country's famous custard tarts. Afterwards, visit the National Coach Museum.

This evening is at leisure, or alternately, why not savour the taste of Lisbon's culinary scene with your Guardian Angel (additional cost). Begin with a Portuguese apéritif before stopping at Mercado da Ribeira to sample traditional hams, cheeses and petiscos – a variety of small portions of traditional Portuguese food. Finish your evening sampling traditional deserts from the large array of top Lisbon restaurants, or with port and sweet treats at the beautiful Opera House.

Bairro Alto Hotel | Meals: B

Day 3: Lisbon - Monserrate & Sintra - Lisbon

Travel to Sintra, a summer retreat of Portuguese monarchs, Moorish emirs, and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the National Palace, a former Royal residence, with a variety of architectural styles and interior decorations, and see for yourself why the town is often referred to as a page torn from a fairy-tale as you stroll at leisure through the ancient narrow streets, occupied with local handicraft shops and cafés.

Continue on to discover one of the most beautiful architectural and landscape creations in Portugal: the Park and Palace of Monserrate. One of the best examples of 19th century European eclecticism, the Palace combines gothic and Indian influences as well as Moorish suggestions and is surrounded by lush gardens with a remarkable botanical collection including species from around the world.

Bairro Alto Hotel | Meals: B

Day 4: Lisbon - Porto

Leave Lisbon behind and head to Porto. En Route, make a stop at the enchanting ancient forest of Serra do Bussaco. This unique location is a hidden world of moss-covered paths crisscrossing an enchanting wonderland of grottoes, tiny chapels, pools, fountains and fertile forest of nearly 400 Portuguese varieties of vegetation alongside an additional 300 species from sources as far away as Japan.

Continue on to Porto, Portugal's vibrant and colourful second city teeming with medieval relics, soaring bell towers, extravagant Baroque churches and stately Beaux-Arts buildings. Some of Europe's most graceful arched bridges span the gorge cut by the Douro River above. Porto's fame, however, springs not from the beauty of its buildings but from the taste of its port wine. First extensively developed by English merchants in the early 18th century, the port industry still plays a major role in the city's economy.

Hotel Infante Sagres | Meals: B**Day 5: Porto**

Enjoy a half-day tour, winding your way through the city's narrow cobbled streets past merchants' houses and cafés admiring the richly coloured tiles on every street corner. Explore the quayside of the fascinating Ribeira district, Porto's old town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as some of the city's most beautiful monuments including the opulent 19th-century Stock Exchange Palace and the St Francis Church. Round off your day with a port tasting at one of the famous riverside lodges.

The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Alternately, you may choose to continue your exploration of Porto in a Motorcycle Sidecar at Sunset (additional cost). Cruise down glamorous avenues, discovering the beautiful coastal city and its landmarks as the sun goes down and the night comes alive.

Infante des Sagres | Meals: B

Day 6: Douro Valley

Explore the Douro Valley, otherwise known as the Alto Douro Wine Region. This famous wine region is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has nearly 600,000 acres of land under cultivation, producing equal quantities of port and table wines. Its stunning landscape of terraced hills overlooks the winding River Douro. Accompanied by your driver and guide, stop at two of the best wineries in the region for a tour, tasting and chance to take in the wonderful views. Continue on to the river port of Pinhão to see the striking glazed tiles of the railway station before heading north towards the city of Vila Real. Here, time permitting, you might want to see the sumptuous gardens of Casa de Mateus.

For those looking to continue their Douro Valley experience, you may wish to enjoy an optional private, authentic rabelo boat cruise along the Douro River (additional cost).

Return to Porto in the late afternoon to enjoy the remainder of your day at leisure.

Infante des Sagres | Meals: B

Day 7: Depart Porto

Meet your driver and Guardian Angel and transfer in the comfort of your private luxury vehicle to Porto airport for your onward flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Barrio Alto Hotel, Lisbon



There's no doubt that Bairro Alto is one of Lisbon's most luxurious hotels. Named after the lively and fashionable Bairro Alto district in the heart of downtown, the boutique hotel overlooks Luis de Camões - Lisbon's main square - in a restored 19th century building resplendent in primrose yellow, with wrought iron balconies and stunning views of the Rio Tejo. The location is ideal for exploring Lisbon's creative district; nestled in a central spot, it's the perfect place from which to discover the rest of the city. The arty neighborhood of Bairro Alto is a pretty jumble of cobbled alleyways, home to countless galleries, trendy restaurants and live music spots.

Inside, the hotel's décor is a juxtaposition of glamorous urban style with traditional architecture and furnishings from Portugal. The spacious rooms and suites are full of light and colour; our favourite rooms are the Mansard rooms in the fifth floor, making use of the unique attic space with slanted ceilings and wooden beams: perfect for a romantic getaway. Beautifully outfitted in Ralph Lauren wallpapers, the Mansard rooms have Virginia Mota watercolours and Nuno Cera photographs adorning the walls. In total there are 55 spacious guestrooms, including four suites. For the ultimate peace and quiet, we recommend the rooms that face onto sleepy Flores Street.

On the top floor a breezy terrace peers down over the city with fantastic views across the red rooftops. It's the perfect place to relax with pre-dinner

cocktails. The sophisticated atmosphere of Café Bar has become a hot spot for locals with live music and DJ sets at the weekends; each of the bar's three floors has a different personality, from cosy and intimate Mezzanine, to the cosmopolitan ground floor and the relaxing Igloo Lounge. Located on the ground floor is the highly acclaimed Flores Restaurant, a typical bairro kitchen specialising in traditional Mediterranean cuisine. Light lunches, sandwiches and snacks, including the famous Caesar Salad, can also be enjoyed at the terrace.

Why we like it

- Luxury boutique hotel in the heart of Lisbon
- Located between the bohemian Bairro Alto and cosmopolitan Chiado districts
- Amazing city views from the top floor terrace, over the Rio Tejo
- A stone's throw from the area's famous theatres, churches, museums and bakeries
- Tram 28 handily stops right outside the door

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