

Travel Guide | Portugal

UNLOCKING EUROPE'S MOST SPECTACULAR DESTINATIONS



Welcome to Portugal

Embark on an enchanting odyssey through the soul-stirring landscapes of Portugal, an often-overlooked jewel. Unfurling its secrets for the discerning traveller, discover a country of timeless elegance, dramatic coastlines, and historical magic. Journey through the iconic cities of Lisbon and Porto, each adorned with a tapestry of historical riches. Explore the enchanting allure of Sintra, where regal opulence springs to life. Immerse yourself in the echoes of the Iberian Peninsula's cultural richness, from the grandeur of meticulously restored palaces to the richness of Portugal's ancient wine heritage. With every moment, Portugal unveils itself as a sanctuary where past and present combine, promising an extraordinary destination for those seeking something magical in their travel story.

WHO SHOULD VISIT

Portugal's enchanting blend of old-world charm and modern wonders caters to every traveller. Culture enthusiasts can immerse themselves in the soulful notes of Fado shows, a captivating journey into Portugal's rich musical heritage. History comes to life as grand palaces and architectural wonders unfold tales of past civilisations. Food lovers can savour the exquisite blend of flavours in traditional Portuguese cuisine, from fresh coastal seafood to the aromatic spices of local dishes. Or relax in charming beach towns where pristine sands meet the azure Atlantic Families will find a haven of imagination in amongst palaces, inspiring libraries, lively atmospheres, and the warm hospitality of the locals.

WHEN TO GO

Portugal extends a warm welcome to visitors throughout the year, each season unveiling its own distinctive allure. Optimal times include the shoulder seasons (May-June, September-October), offering a harmonious blend of pleasant weather, fewer crowds, and ideal conditions for sightseeing, winery tours, and enjoying quieter beaches. While Summer (Jun-Aug) can bring both crowds

and heat, with average temperatures around 29 °C. Yet, the cooling Atlantic breeze offers some respite. Winter months (Nov-Mar) can mean some rain, but are ideal for those exploring the southern regions, with temperatures averaging a comfortable 16°C along the Algarve.

HOW TO GET THERE

PLANE: Depending on where you are coming from, one of the most convenient ways to access Portugal is by air, with two primary airports — Porto and Lisbon — serving as key entry points. Even when coming from Spain, flying can be the best value option to access these cities. Private transfers can be expensive given the long distances and there are no train lines that link the south

TRAIN: Portugal boasts a well-connected railway network that links major cities and towns throughout the country. While trains may not cover every corner, they offer affordable, comfortable, and convenient transportation, often showcasing scenic landscapes. Major tourist destinations like Lisbon, Faro, Lagos, Porto, and Coimbra are easily accessible by train.

There are no direct international train connections into Spain from Lisbon or Porto so you will need to take connecting trains, which can be unreliable and timely. There are also no trains connecting Spain to the Algarve.

CAR: For more independent travellers that want to explore the hidden coves and nature reserves of Portugal, driving can be a great option. The country's network of roads and motorways is steadily growing. However, confidence is key as navigating Portugal's towns can be challenging. Roads may suddenly narrow, and intricate oneway systems may divert you off course unexpectedly.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Enjoy effortless self-driving adventures in Portugal. Broadly English speaking locals & modern amenities on roads make exploration a breeze.
- > Train travel between Spain and Portugal is lengthy and involves a number of connections, while extensive driving distances inflate private transfer costs. Consider flying for a more affordable and direct route between countries.



Portugal Highlights

Coimbra

- Visit university and library, Biblioteca Joanina
- · Visit the children's park -Portugal dos Pequenitos



Porto

- · Guided sightseeing tour (2hr)
- Entry tickets to Lello bookstore
- · Port Cellar visit with tasting
- · Cruise on Douro River



Douro Valley



- · Winery tour and tasting
- · River cruise among the vineyards



OPTIONAL OVERNIGHT STAY

Óbidos **VISIT TOWN**

- · Independent time in the historical village and Castle of Obidos (2h)
- Optional lunch stop



Sintra

- · Guided tour including Pena Palace (exterior), Quinta de Regaleira and Sintra town (4hrs)
- Entrance to Sintra Palace







Fly to Madrid 1.25hr

Fly to Barcelona 1.75hr

Drive to Douro Valley 1,75hr

Fly to Barcelona 2hr Drive to Porto 3hr



Fly to Madrid 1.25hr Drive from Seville 5hr

Faro

Tavira



Seville

Aveiro

VISIT TOWN

centre (2h)

Optional lunch stop

· Independent time in the seaside

town to explore the canals with traditional boats & lively town

Lisbon



- · Tasting at Pastéis de Belém
- · Fado Show and dinner



Cascais

VISIT TOWN

- Independent time in the seaside village with time for lunch (3h)
- Explore the lighthouse at Cabo da Roca, the most western mainland point (1hr)



Seville – Lagos drive 3hr Porto – Lagos drive 3hr

Lagos

The Algarve

- Stay in Lagos
- · Oyster Farm visit with lunch
- · Wine tasting and lunch
- · Explore the region incl. Arabian castle & Moorish sites



3-4 NIGHT STAY

Madeira

1-2 NIGHT STAY

- Guided tour of Botanic Gardens
- · Dolphin watching boat tour
- · Wine tasting and farmers markets
- · Guided tour of Santana



MOROCCO



Top Experiences

VISIT THE HOME OF THE PORTUGUESE TART

It's almost impossible to go to Portugal and not taste the Portuguese tart, and this is where it all started—the iconic Pastéis de Belém. These world-renowned custard tarts boast a crispy pastry shell cradling a luscious, creamy custard filling. Dating back to the 18th century, these delectable treats originated from the kitchens of the Jerónimos Monastery. A visit to Pastéis de Belém offers more than just a culinary experience; it's a journey into the authentic taste of a time-honoured Portuguese pastry, capturing the essence of tradition and indulgence.





IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE ALLURE OF FADO

Transport yourself to the essence of Portuguese expression with live performances of traditional Fado music, where soul-stirring melodies and poignant storytelling create an emotional journey. This immersive experience offers a profound insight into the cultural tapestry of Portugal, making it a must-see for those seeking an authentic encounter with the country's musical heritage.



THE DISNEY MAGIC OF PENA PALACE

Explore the UNESCO Listed Pena Palace and its surrounding gardens, an integral part of the Romanticist castle dating back to the 19th century. With distinct colourful terraces, diverse plant life, and breathtaking views, these gardens contribute to the fairy-tale allure of Sintra. Rumour has it that the castle inspired Walt Disney in creating his iconic fairy-tale castles, adding an extra layer of magic to the experience.







GET LOST IN MYSTICAL GARDENS

Discover this architectural marvel from the early 20th century, crafted by the visionary Italian architect Luigi Manini. This UNESCO World Heritage site boasts enchanting gardens, mysterious tunnels, and the iconic Initiation Well. Delve into the romantic allure of this estate, where each step unveils hidden symbols and the mystical ambiance of its magical architecture. Explore the wonders that make Quinta de Regaleira a captivating testament to imagination and artistry.







DISCOVER MAGICAL INSPIRATIONS

Marvel at ornate architecture, intricate woodwork, and a stunning spiral staircase, creating an immersive experience for literary enthusiasts. Livraria Lello is one of Portugal's oldest bookstores and the enchanting inspiration for JK Rowling's Harry Potter series, while Coimbra University Library, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was the film set for Beauty and the Beast. Entry to Lello even grants you credit towards purchasing a book, making it a truly magical and memorable souvenir.





TASTE THE DOURO VALLEY'S TREASURES

Explore the UNESCO-listed Douro Valley, an ancient winemaking region celebrated for its terraced vineyards along the majestic Douro River. With a rich history as one of the world's oldest demarcated wine areas, the valley showcases timeless traditions amidst stunning beauty. Sample a diverse range of wines, from robust reds to exquisite ports, and discover the Douro Valley's enduring charm and historical significance.



SIP AND SAVOUR THE WORLD OF PORT WINE

Visit the illustrious port houses of Porto, where the timeless tradition of Portugal's iconic Port wine unfolds, tracing its roots to the 17th century. Delight in a tasting session at these historic establishments, savouring the rich and distinctive flavours that define this legendary fortified wine. Immerse yourself in the authentic atmosphere of Porto's celebrated port wine cellars, home to revered names like Graham's, Taylor's, and Sandeman, each contributing to the legacy of this esteemed beverage.



THE COLOURFUL WORLD OF PORTUGUESE AZULEJOS

Azulejos are traditional Portuguese ceramic tiles known for their vibrant colours and intricate patterns. These decorative tiles typically feature geometric or Moorish-inspired designs and are used to adorn walls, floors, and facades of buildings. Azulejos have a rich history, dating back to the 15th century during the Moorish period. They are an integral part of Portugal's cultural and artistic heritage, often depicting scenes from history, landscapes, or religious themes. Some of the most iconic examples include the São Bento Railway Station and the Chapel of the Souls in Porto

Family friendly

STEP INSIDE THE GRANDEUR OF JERÓNIMOS MONASTERY

Explore the iconic Jerónimos Monastery, a masterpiece of Manueline architecture built in the 16th century to commemorate Vasco da Gama's historic voyage to India. Admire the intricate detailing and grandeur of this monastic complex, housing the explorer's tomb. Delve into Portugal's maritime history and marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship that defines this UNESCO-listed monument. A visit promises a journey through time, reliving the country's golden age of exploration.









SINTRA – Hotel Valverde Sintra Palácio De Seteais, 5-star

With just 30 rooms, this historic XVIII century Palace, set amongst the UNESCO listed wooded mountains of Sintra, promises a romantic, luxurious and unique stay. Featuring period architecture, the interior is elegantly decorated with frescoed walls, antique furniture and chandeliers. The rooms are spacious and most offer incredible views. The restaurant, bar, games room and library, accentuate the homely feel. And the gardens that include an outdoor swimming pool, SPA and maze delivers perfect views, including of Pena Palace atop the adjacent mountain. Simply stunning



DOURO VALLEY - The Vintage House Hotel, 5-star

Immerse yourself in the beauty of the Douro Valley, where history, luxury, and breathtaking landscapes converge. The Vintage House Hotel, set in the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage Douro Region, offers a classic and tranquil escape in Pinhão. Once a 19th-century winery, the hotel now boasts 47 rooms and suites, each providing unique views of the Douro River. Classic design meets sophistication in this elegant space, surrounded by hills and mountains adorned with vines. Gastronomy at The Vintage House is a celebration of regional flavours, showcasing the best of Douro wines.



LISBON - Palácio Ludovice Wine Experience Hotel, 5-star

Palácio Ludovice Wine Experience Hotel is a lavish boutique haven that seamlessly fuses history and modern luxury. Originally the residence of 18th-century architect João Federico Ludovice, the palace has been meticulously transformed into a luxurious 61-room boutique hotel. Architect Miguel Câncio Martins infuses every corner with an exquisite blend of historical charm and contemporary elegance. Positioned to capture breathtaking views of the São Pedro de Alcântara Viewpoint and the iconic Glória Tram, the hotel offers an unparalleled experience in the heart of Lisbon.



PORTO - PortoBay Flores, 5-star

Housed in a 16th century palace and complimented by a newly built wing, the PortaBay Flores perfectly blends its historic Porto ancestry with a modern amenity and style. Its boutique 66 rooms, restaurant, bar, library, spa and indoor pool provide an exclusive and convenient oasis on Porto's main pedestrian boulevard, Rua das Flores. Its contemporary furnishings are elegant and refined and the hotel exudes exceptional standards of service. Popular with locals as a meeting spot for lunch, dinner or aperitif, this boutique 5-star property delivers a home away from home feel in Portugal's most accessible and delightful city.



COIMBRA - Quinta das Lágrimas, 5-star

Quinta das Lágrimas, nestled within an 18th-century palace surrounded by 12 acres of lush gardens, is a retreat of peace and elegance in Coimbra. Once a private sanctuary for kings and emperors, this "Small Luxury Hotel of the World" is now open to those who appreciate fine living. Divided into Palace, Garden, and Spa guestrooms, the Quinta offers distinct atmospheres that combine historic charm, botanical beauty, and modern design. Guests can explore the timeless love legend of Prince Pedro and Inês de Castro while savouring the art of living well.

Family Friendly Activities

Portugal stands out as one of the most family-friendly countries in Europe. Embracing a child-centric culture, little ones are warmly received everywhere – be it museums, restaurants, town squares, or theatres. Cities abound with parks and playgrounds, while the country's untouched landscapes and magical palace gardens create a natural paradise, offering families a welcoming haven. In addition to our already mentioned family-friendly activites, here are some more you can add for the perfect family itinerary through Portugal.



Lisbon Oceanarium

UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

Dive into an underwater adventure at the Lisbon Oceanarium, one of Europe's largest. With interactive exhibits allowing hands-on exploration of sea life, it's a top attraction for families, offering an educational and entertaining experience for children.

PLAYGROUNDS & PARKS

Portugal is renowned for its family-friendly recreation spaces. We recommend at Parque Eduardo VII in Lisbon, wehre you can enjoy expansive green areas, a charming duck pond, and the opportunity for kids to sail electric toy boats, it's a haven for families. Meanwhile, Crystal Palace Gardens in Porto is perfect for young botany enthusiasts and is adorned with romantic architecture, features a serene lake, numerous fountains, and a modern public library.



THE ULTIMATE BALANCING ACT

Adventure atop the ancient city walls of Óbidos, encircling the town since the 8th-11th centuries. Spanning 1.5km around the town's perimeter, the walls offer unique viewpoints with some sections feature shortcuts leading to beautiful viewpoints. Reaching a height of 13m in the highest part, families can marvel at the historic charm and stunning vistas below. Caution: Not for small children and beware those afraid of heights.



MINIATURE PALATIAL PLAYGROUND

Step into the captivating Portugal dos
Pequenitos in Coimbra, a miniature park where
kids can explore scaled-down Portuguese
houses and monuments. Each pavilion tells
a story of heritage and wonder, offering a
journey through time for both kids and adults.



LIVE MUSIC

Experience the vibrant music scene of Portuga with the whole family. Many cities host live music events in public spaces, providing an opportunity for families to groove together and enjoy the lively atmosphere.

Portugal Travel Guide

Best of Portugal

8 DAYS

Discover Portugal's greatest attractions including Lisbon, Porto and the charming villages of Sintra, Cascais, Óbidos and Aveiro across 8 leisurely days. Enjoy guided city tours, dinner and a Fado show, a traditional cruise on a Ribero, Port tastings and a train journey through the Douro Valley for a winery lunch and wine tasting experience.



Ormina Highlights & Inclusions

- > Visit 'must see' cities of Lisbon and Porto; charming villages in Sintra, Óbidos and Aveiro and the Douro Valley.
- > 7 nights in exquisite 5-star hotels.
- > 7 breakfasts (B), 1 lunch (L), 1 dinner (D).
- > Guided tours of Lisbon, Sintra, Porto and Douro Valley.
- > Dinner and Fado show in Lisbon.
- > Pastry tasting of the famous Pastéis de Belém.
- > Port tasting in Porto.
- > Cruise on a traditional Ribero in Porto.
- > Train journey into the prestigious Douro Valley with lunch and wine tasting at a winery.
- > Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites.
- Entrance to Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower, Pena National Palace gardens, Quinta de Regaleira and Livraria Lello.
- > Deluxe VIP transport.
- > Arrival transfer on the first day.
- > Note: hotel city taxes, if applicable, are not included.

TOUR FOCUS









DAY 1 Lisbon (D)

Welcome to Portugal's capital Lisbon – one of the oldest cities in the world that dates to 1200 BC. On arrival, transfer to your hotel to freshen up and enjoy the day at leisure before commencing our tour in the evening with a welcome dinner and Fado show of traditional Portuguese music.

STAY 2 NIGHTS: Pousada de Lisboa 5-star or similar

DAY 2 Lisbon (B)

Enjoy a morning guided sightseeing tour of Lisbon including the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower and Lisbon Cathedral. The monastery, now home to the Maritime and National Archaeology Museum, contains exquisite ornate features and shrine like entrances. The Belém Tower is iconic and played a significant role in Portuguese maritime discoveries. After tasting the famous Pastéis de Belém, continue to Alfama, the oldest part of city, that remains a picturesque labyrinth of narrow streets and small squares. The rest of the day is available at your leisure. Options include visiting the shopping district of Chiado, the bustling Bairro Alto district or the Castelo de Sao Jorge for its spectacular views.



DAY 3 Lisbon - Cascais - Cabo da Roca - Sintra

(B)

Depart Lisbon for Cascais, a coastal resort town and former fishing village. Enjoy independent time to explore its fabulous shops, restaurants and beach before continuing for a quick stop at Cabo da Roca, Portugal's most western mainland point. Enjoy the views before continuing to Sintra, home to royal retreats, estates and castles dotted amongst the Sintra Mountains and Natural Park. On arrival, enjoy the rest of your day to relax and take full advantage of your exquisite hotel located in this idyllic landscape which is UNESCO World Heritage Listed.

SIM D MIGHTS

STAY 2 NIGHTS: Tivoli Palácio de Seteais 5-star or similar

DAY 4 Sintra (B)

Today, your guided discovery of Sintra commences with the external grounds and gardens of Pena National Palace, a national monument and one of Portugal's Seven Wonders. The castle stands on the top of a hill in the Sintra Mountains. Continue to the beautiful Quinta de Regaleira. The Estate consists of a Romantic palace and chapel, and a luxurious park that features lakes, grottoes, wells, benches, fountains, and a vast array of exquisite constructions including the famous 27 metre circle Initiation well. Complete the tour with an orientation of Sintra town before enjoying the remainder of the day at leisure.



Two-nights in the UNESCO World Heritage Listed landscape of Sintra for a memorable stay in a magnificent hotel property.

DAY 5 Sintra – Óbidos – Aveiro – Porto (B)

Visit the quaint hilltop village of Óbidos. Surrounded by medieval walls, the former Roman settlement features a unique city gate decorated with intricate tiles and paintings, cobbled streets and a Moorish Castle. Continue to the charming and picturesque seaside town of Aveiro, complete with canals, small bridges and traditional building façades made of glazed ceramic tiles and painted in a variety of colours and patterns. Afterward continue to Porto, a beautiful city built on the hillside of the Douro River.

STAY 3 NIGHTS: PortoBay Flores 5-star or similar

DAY 6 Porto (B)

Enjoy a guided walking tour of Porto's UNESCO World Heritage historic centre with its beautiful period buildings and winding narrow streets overlooking the Douro riverfront. The tour includes the famous Livraria Lello bookstore that inspired J.K. Rowlands' Harry Potter, the famous tiles of São Bento train station, the Ribeira District and a visit and tasting to one of Porto's Port cellars. Finish with a wonderful cruise along the Douro River on a traditional Ribero. The rest of the day is available to self-explore this amazing city.

DAY 7 Porto – Douro Valley – Porto (B, L)

Today, we travel to the enchanting UNESCO World Heritage listed Alto Douro region, where landholders have been producing wine for over 2000 years. Journey by train to visit a winery for a tour, wine tasting and closing lunch before returning to Porto.

DAY 8 Porto (B)

If you are not continuing with Ormina Tours on another back-to-back small group journey or a tailored itinerary, your tour ends on hotel check out.



Train journey to the Douro Valley for a winery lunch and tasting experience.

Departures and Pricing

2024			2025		
STARTS	ENDS	PRICE*	STARTS	ENDS	PRICE*
Lisbon	Porto	Twin Share per person	Lisbon	Porto	Twin Share per person
6-May-24	13-May-24	\$6,390	5-May-25	12-May-25	\$6,690
10-Jun-24	17-Jun-24	\$6,390	2-Jun-25	9-Jun-25	\$6,690
8-Jul-24	15-Jul-24	\$6,390	7-Jul-25	14-Jul-25	\$6,690
16-Sep-24	23-Sep-24	\$6,390	15-Sep-25	22-Sep-25	\$6,690
21-Oct-24	28-Oct-24	\$6,390	20-Oct-25	27-Oct-25	\$6,690
Sir	ngle Supplement	\$3,300	Sir	ngle Supplement	\$3,300

^{*} All prices are listed in AUD. Prices in other currencies are available on our website





Extend your stay

OUR MOST POPULAR TOUR EXTENSIONS

PRE-TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

A Best of Spain Small Group Journey (10 Days)

- Visit Madrid, Cordoba, Granada and Seville and the charming villages of Toledo, Baeza, Ubeda and Ronda.
- > Enjoy guided sightseeing tours, lunch and wine tasting at a winery, dinner and flamenco show and olive oil tastings.
- Best of Spain and Portugal tours may be combined with extensions to start and end in Madrid.

Priced from \$6,890 pp. Explore more on page <?>.

Seville to Lisbon (3 Days)

- > Discover the south of Portugal departing from Seville (or tailored from Lisbon) to visit the ancient Portuguese village of Tavira.
- > Two-night stay on Portugal's famed Albufeira coast, featuring magnificent beaches and multi-hued cliffs.

Priced from \$1,750 pp.

POST-TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Porto to Madrid (3 Days)

- > Extend from Porto's Douro Valley to the amazing city of Salamanca and onto Madrid.
- Visit Salamanca, Spain's most important university city with a guided sightseeing tour that includes the UNESCO World Heritage listed Old City.
- > Enjoy a free day in Salamanca, options include the Art Nouveau and Art Deco Museum Casa Lis, strolling the beautiful gardens of Huerto de Calixto y Melibea or visiting The University of Salamanca, Spain's oldest founded in 1134.

Priced from \$2,050 pp.









Madeira Regional Discovery

Discover the captivating beauty of Madeira Island on this 5-day Regional Discovery. This oasis of natural wonders in the Atlantic beckons those seeking a harmonious blend of scenic exploration and cultural immersion. Explore lush landscapes, from dramatic cliffs to botanical gardens, and marvel at the breathtaking scenery that defines this Portuguese paradise. Immerse yourself in the vibrant culture of Funchal, the island's capital, and enjoy the unique blend of local traditions and modern sophistication.

Ormina Highlights & Inclusions

- > 4 nights in exquisite 4 or 5 star hotels.
- > 4 breakfasts (B), 3 lunches (L).
- > Private guided tour of the Botanic Gardens.
- > Wine tasting at the wine lodge and a visit to the local farmer's market.
- > Boat tour to a dolphin watching experience with lunch by the
- > Private guided tour of Santana Village's traditional stone houses.
- > Enjoy a three-course lunch at a clifftop restaurant with panoramic ocean views
- > Deluxe VIP transfers as indicated.
- > Note: hotel city taxes, if applicable, are not included

DAY 1 Funchal

Arrive in the beautiful city of Funchal, Madeira with a private airport transfer. Choose to relax at your hotel or spend the day exploring the vibrant city. Areas of interest include Monte Palace Tropical Gardens, Cristiano Rinaldo Museum and Rua de Santa Maria street art

STAY 4 NIGHTS: Porto Mare Hotel 4-star or similar

DAY 2 Funchal (B,L)

Start your day with a private guided visit to the Botanical Gardens, housing over 2000 exotic plants. Afterward, enjoy a wine tasting at a local lodge and explore the Farmers' Market. Indulge in a three-course lunch in the charming Old Town, paired with local wines. The evening is then your to enjoy at leisure.

DAY 3 Funchal (B. L)

Enjoy a boat tour for an exciting dolphin watching experience, cruising through crystal-clear, azure waters. Afterwards, indulge in a delightful lunch set against the picturesque marina. The evening is at your leisure.

DAY 4 Funchal - Santana - Funchal (B)

Start the day with a private guided tour of Santana. Discover the charming village, renowned for its traditional stone houses. Explore the island's cultural tapestry, uncovering the unique architecture and heritage of these iconic structures. Following the tour, take a short 'levada' walk to connect with Madeira's lush landscapes and appreciate its natural beauty. Your private driver will then transfer you to a clifftop restaurant with panoramic ocean views. Treat your taste buds to a delightful three-course lunch, accompanied by the finest local wine.

DAY 5 Funchal (B)

After breakfast, your private airport transfer awaits for your ongoing journey.

Twin Share per person

from \$3.058 AUD

UPGRADE OPTIONS

> Upgrade to a 5-star hotel: recommended The Cliff Bay.



Ormina Tours

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Reservations

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