



TIMELESS

TOURS & TRAVEL

FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER

TIMELESS PORTUGAL COACH TOUR 2023

All prices are in Australian Dollars unless otherwise stated

22/5/23

11 DAY BEST OF PORTUGAL TOUR (CL11)

DEPARTS LISBON SATURDAYS 04 MARCH 2023 – 10 FEBRUARY 2024

Tour is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 passengers.

Day 1 (Saturday) LISBON / ÓBIDOS / ALCOBAÇA / NAZARÉ / BATALHA / FÁTIMA

Depart Lisbon through a landscape rich in windmills and fruit trees, we arrive in Óbidos, surrounded by medieval walls where we can admire the harmony of the architecture, the diversity of the handicrafts and taste the famous gínginha (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. We continue to Batalha - visit the Monastery of Santa Maria de Victoria, a masterpiece of gothic architecture in Portugal where we also encounter the tomb of Henry the Navigator, the mastermind behind Portugal's era of maritime discoveries. After we arrive in Fátima, the famous Marian Shrine, there is the opportunity to attend the candle-lit procession. Accommodation.



Day 2 (Sunday) FÁTIMA / COIMBRA / AVEIRO / PORTO

After breakfast at your hotel depart for Coimbra - visit the University, one of the oldest in the world, with its magnificent baroque library and its unique atmosphere characterised 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, there is a chance to admire Coimbra's exclusive ceramics. In the afternoon, we continue to Aveiro, a city of canals and known as the "Venice of Portugal", where you shall have time to see the graceful "moliceiro" vessels and taste the local sweet delicacy "ovos moles". Drive to Porto. Accommodation.

Day 3 (Monday) PORTO / GUIMARÃES / BRAGA / PORTO

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

Day 4 (Tuesday) PORTO

Today is at leisure. *Optional activities available.* Accommodation.

Day 5 (Wednesday) PORTO / AMARANTE / VILA REAL / VALE DO DOURO / LAMEGO / URGEIRIÇA

After breakfast depart for Amarante, a pretty town proud of its Saint Gonçalo, renowned for promoting love and marriage and where the river facing monastery houses his tomb and with a lively, bustling market where you can find fruit, vegetables, chickens, fabrics and an immense variety of other popular items. Afterwards, we drive onto



PO Box 146, Neutral Bay NSW Australia 2089

Phone: +61 (0)2 9904 1239 / +61 (0)433 208 653

travtours@timeless.com.au

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Vila Real - visiting the gardens of the Mateus estate, whose façade is still depicted on the well-known Portuguese rosé wine bottles. Then, we enter the demarcated port 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. Here, you can sample some of the local delicacies, including the local ham and the famous "Bola de Lamego" (a loaf baked in the oven with smoked ham). Continue on through the mountainous hinterland to Viseu, centre of the Dão Vineyards and a city connected to Portugal's oldest hero, Viriato, a Lusitanian warrior. In the shadow of the cathedral, narrow streets and doorways with coats of arms carved in granite make up the ancient town of Viseu. We tour the centre and its busy commercial zone. Arrival in Urgeiriça. Accommodation.

Day 6 (Thursday) URGEIRIÇA / 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, and hosting a charming and romantic hotel, formerly a royal hunting lodge. We continue to Tomar, a city whose development is closely interlinked with the Order of the Templars, which received these lands in 1159 as a reward for the assistance given to Dom Afonso Henriques (the first King of Portugal) in the Christian reconquest of the country. It was Dom Gualdim Pais, the first Grand Master of the Order in Portugal who founded the castle and the remarkable Convent of Christ within. Enlarged and altered over the centuries, the complex displays the influences of various architectural styles; it is the centrepiece of the city and classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. We continue our journey until Lisbon. Accommodation.

Day 7 (Friday) LISBON / SINTRA / CABO DA ROCA / CASCAIS / ESTORIL / LISBON

Departure to Sintra for a day of luxury. Visiting the Palace of Sintra, we walk through this charming town before enjoying the amazing views from the westernmost point of mainland Europe (Cabo da Roca). Along the coast, we pass one of the most famous surfing beaches, the incredible Hell's Mouth, cosmopolitan Cascais and the gardens of Estoril Casino. Return to Lisbon. Accommodation.

Day 8 (Saturday) LISBON / EVORA

Enjoy a 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 - a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the narrow streets of this whitewashed town we 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 applied in preparing one of the most elaborate and best appreciated gastronomies of Portugal. Throughout the visit, we also get to admire the diversity and authenticity of local handicrafts with cork, ceramic and copper objects. Time for lunch. In the afternoon, there is free time to better discover this city. Our suggestion: gourmet standard wine, cheese and olive oil. Accommodation.

Day 9 (Sunday) EVORA / BEJA / PORTIMAO / SILVES / LAGOS

The morning is at leisure in Évora before driving south, pass Beja where the highest tower in any Portuguese medieval castle dominates the town and the region. Crossing the low mountain range, we enter the Algarve. Alongside fields of orange trees, we arrive in Silves, the renowned town dominated by its red sandstone castle dating back mainly to Moorish times and by the memories of its former cork industry. We continue onto the golden sands of the Algarve passing Praia da Rocha en route to Lagos. Accommodation.

Day 10 (Monday) LAGOS / PONTA DA PIEDADE / SAGRES / CABO DE SAO VICENTE / LAGOS

Breakfast at your hotel. The Algarve has the call of the sea that led to the discovery of the New World. We stop in Ponta da Piedade to 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 onto Sagres, a fishing port, for a visit to the fortress that was the mythical "navigation school" forever linked to 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 and home to some of the most delicious Algarve dishes, such as the fish and shellfish cooked in a cataplana copper pan, - and not forgetting the fine sweets such as the famous marzipan, almond and fig cakes. Return to the hotel, where an afternoon at leisure invites you to take a dip in the warm sea. Accommodation.



travel accredited

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AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION
OF TRAVEL AGENTS



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Day 11 (Tuesday) LAGOS / SETÚBAL / SERRA DA ARRÁBIDA / LISBON

A last look at the water while travelling along the coast before bidding farewell to the Algarve. The return trip to Lisbon takes you through 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 incorporating sweeping views of the Troia Peninsula. Crossing the Tagus River bridge, we arrive in Lisbon. END OF TOUR.

| 2023 Departure Dates Saturday | 2024 Departure Dates Saturday | Per Person in Twin / Double | Per Person In Single |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| March: 4, 18 April: 1, 15 May: 6, 20 June: 3, 17 July: 1, 15 August: 5, 19 September: 2, 16 October: 7, 21 | | AUD 4290 | AUD 5210 |
| November: 11 December: 9 | January: 13 February: 10 | AUD 3910 | AUD 4640 |

*Regular departure seat-in-coach tour by air-conditioned vehicle with multilingual escort/guides.
Tour is guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 4 passengers.*

*Tour departs central Lisbon (Marques de Pombal square)
Pick-up from selected Lisbon hotels may be included.
Pick-ups available at extra cost from other locations.*

Tour Includes:

Accommodation with daily breakfast in 4* hotels or similar:
 Fatima: Hotel Aurea; Porto: Hotel Vila Gale Porto; Urgeiriça: Hotel da Urgeiriça; Lisboa: Hotel Olissipo
 Marques de Sa; Evora: Hotel Evora Olive; Lagos: Hotel Marina Club;
 Transportation by bus or minivan as per itinerary;
 Entrances fees: Batalha Monastery, Coimbra University, Palácio da Bolsa (Porto),
 St. Francisco Church (Porto), Gardens of Palacio Mateus, Convent of Christ (Tomar),
 Pena Palace (Sintra), Chapel of Bones (Evora), São Francisco Church (Evora),
 Évora Cathedral, São Vicente Fortress (Sagres)

Additional Information:

Passport details are required in advance
 Tourist city taxes (in applicable cities) are to be paid locally

Generally, coach tours in Portugal use local guides in cities and destinations visited. Tours are also normally accompanied by a multilingual tour escort unless they are specifically listed as only 'English Speaking'. Your tour may comprise a combination of tours and other participants in your tour may be going to or leaving for other destinations. Your tour escort may also change during the course of your program. Your fellow travellers could be from all over the world, speaking various languages. Tour information and descriptions will be given in English, and possibly Spanish and other language(s) depending on those spoken by tour participants.

THE OPERATOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER HOTELS OR ITINERARY IF NECESSARY



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