

Best of Portugal

11 Days

1 Country

15 Meals

This Best of Portugal journey reveals a nation's proud history, warm-hearted locals and soul-warming cuisine. Starting in Lisbon, you'll travel north and south to explore a Templar stronghold, watch thoroughbreds perform at an Alentejo farm and visit the Algarve.

Past Guest Rated **4.6/5** 
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Your Must-See Highlights

- **Explore** Lisbon, Coimbra, Tomar, Évora and Porto with a Local Specialist
- **Discover** the Algarve, Lagos, Castelo de Vide, Viseu, Nazaré and Óbidos
- **Visit** the Hieronymite Monastery in Lisbon, the cathedral in Évora, the Palace Gardens at Palacio de Mateus, the Stock Exchange Palace, Arabian Hall and a local port wine cellar in Porto, the University Library of Coimbra, the Convent of Christ in Tomar, the Shrine at Fátima and the Gothic Monastery at Batalha
- **View** the Castle of Guimarães

Day

1 Welcome to Lisbon A sea of pastel pinks, yellows and blues dot the seven hills of the romantic Portuguese capital, which you will have an opportunity to explore today before meeting your fellow travellers and Travel Director for a Welcome Reception and orientation drive past some of the city's most iconic sights. **(WR)**
Hotel: Turim Av Liberdade

2 Discover Colourful Lisbon Delve into Lisbon's centuries-old seafaring heritage today, paying tribute to the brave men who set off from these shores to discover the 'New World'. With our *Local Specialist*, we'll see the shimmering white Monument to the Discoveries, the iconic suspension bridge spanning the Tagus, and Belém Tower, built as a fortress protecting the city of Lisbon. We'll *Dive Into Culture* on a sightseeing tour of the UNESCO-listed Hieronymite Monastery, an exquisite testament to 16th-century Manueline architecture and art. There's time to join an Optional Experience to the historic towns of Cascais and Sintra. In the evening, perhaps enjoy a traditional Portuguese dinner amidst the heart-wrenching, haunting sounds of the *fado*. **(B, 🍷)**

3 Journey to the Algarve Region We journey across the Tagus this morning and drive south towards the Serra da Arrábida Mountains and to the golden pastures of the Alentejo. The hearty aroma of Portuguese chicken fills the air at our *Be My Guest* experience as we *Connect With Locals* over a traditional lunch at a stud ranch, where Lusitano horses were once reared at the pleasure of King João VI in the 18th century. Our journey continues further south, bound for the sun-kissed shores of the Algarve – our home for the next two nights. **(B, BMG, 🍷)** **Hotel: Real Bellavista**

4 Cliffs, Beaches and More in the Algarve The dramatic cliffs and beautiful beaches of the Sagres Peninsula provide a stunning backdrop for our morning coastal drive. Admire spectacular views across Baleeira Beach, before continuing along the coast to Cape St. Vincent, the site of many sea battles centuries ago. We end our excursion with a visit to the resort town of Lagos – once the home of Henry the Navigator. **(B)**

5 Onwards to Elegant Évora Journeying north, we travel to the ancient Alentejo city of Évora. Join your *Local Specialist* and visit the elaborate cathedral, Roman temple and the Chapel of Bones. Spend the rest of your day, delving into the medieval history of this enchanting city. Consider joining an Optional Experience to the medieval village of Monsaraz. This evening, we dine at our hotel in Évora. **(B, D)** **Hotel: M'ar de Ar Muralhas**

6 Venture Past Mountains to Viseu Our first stop today is in the hilltop town of Castelo de Vide with its white façades, narrow alleys and Jewish Quarter. Travel north towards the Serra de Estrela mountains and arrive later in Viseu, set high on a plateau near the famous Dão vineyards. Explore the city's rich art and architectural history, and see the 12th-century Sé, standing imposingly on a hill overlooking the city. **(B)**
Hotel: Grão Vasco

7 Through the Douro Valley to Porto Vineyard-clad hills provide an enchanting backdrop for our journey today through the Douro Valley, where Port wine is produced. We explore the magnificent gardens at the Baroque-style Palácio de Mateus, depicted on the label of the distinctive Mateus Rosé wine bottles. We then continue via Guimarães for views of its impressive 10th-century castle. **(B)** **Hotel: Neya**

8 Explore Vibrant Porto Join a *Local Specialist* today for a sightseeing tour of Porto, which takes you past baroque churches and along the winding lanes that tumble down towards the Douro River. See the remarkable bridges that span the river and the Gothic Church of St. Francis. Visit the Stock Exchange Palace with its splendid Arabian Hall inspired by Granada's Alhambra, before we *Dive Into Culture* and gain insights into the centuries-old tradition of local port production at a tasting in a port cellar. Spend the rest of the afternoon strolling through the historic centre of Porto. **(B, 🍷)**



Port tasting in Porto. Learn about Portugal's 300 years of Port wine tradition when you visit a wine cellar and get to taste some of its vintages. Read more at trafalgar.com.

9 On to Coimbra and Pilgrimage to Fátima Soak up the grand atmosphere of one of Europe's greatest and oldest universities with a *Local Specialist*, then stroll through the ancient streets and squares of Coimbra, before journeying to the Templar city of Tomar. We join a *Local Specialist* to visit the Convent of Christ, originally built as a Templar stronghold in the 12th century. We arrive in the pilgrimage centre of Fátima, visited by millions of Catholic pilgrims, where three young shepherds famously saw apparitions of the Virgin Mary. **(B, D)** **Hotel: Fátima**

10 Experience Village Life Returning to Lisbon En route to Lisbon, we stop at the imposing monastery of Batalha – a UNESCO World Heritage site and the best example of late Gothic architecture in Portugal. Our next stop is the fishing village of Nazaré, before we visit the medieval walled city of Óbidos with its whitewashed houses and cobblestone streets. Our last night in Portugal together sees us toast to an incredible journey at a Farewell Dinner. **(B, FD)**
Hotel: Neya

11 Farewell Lisbon Say a fond *adeus* to your fellow travellers at the end of an unforgettable Portuguese holiday. Find out more about your free airport transfer at trafalgar.com/freetransfers. **(B)**

See below for a selection of departure dates. Speak to your Travel Agent or search 'Best of Portugal' on trafalgar.com for all available departures and pricing.

2023

Jan	02 [■] 13 [■] 27 [■]	Aug	02 04 09 11
Feb	10 [■] 24 [■]		16 18 23 25
Mar	10 [■] 17 [■] 24 [■] 31 [■]		30
Apr	07 14 19 21 ⁺	Sep	01 ⁺ 06 08 13
	26 28		15 20 22 27
May	03 05 10 12		29
	17 19 24 26	Oct	04 06 11 13
	31		18 20 ⁺ 27
Jun	02 07 09 14	Nov	10 [■] 24 ^{■+}
	16 21 23 28	Dec	08 [■] 22 ^{■+} 26 ^{■+}
	30 ⁺		
Jul	05 07 12 14		
	19 21 26 28		

2024

Jan	12 ^{■+} 26 [■]	Jul	03 05 10 12
Feb	09 [■] 23 ^{■+}		17 19 24 26
Mar	08 [■] 15 [■] 22 [■] 29 [■]		31
Apr	05 12 17 19	Aug	02 07 09 14
	24 26		16 21 23 28
May	01 03 08 10		30
	15 17 22 24	Sep	04 06 11 13
	29 31		18 20 25 27
Jun	05 07 12 14	Oct	02 04 09 11
	19 21 26 28		16 18 25

- These departures may vary in itinerary, hotels, and inclusions in line with seasonal changes.
- ★ **Festive Meals:** Christmas and New Year's Eve dinners have been arranged for these departures. Join us in Europe to celebrate the festive season.
- ✦ **Special Rate Solo Rooming:** These departures include 20 – 100% discount on our standard single supplement.

Deals & discounts

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📱 See what happens on trip:
#TTBestOfPortugal

- 🍷 Connect With Locals
- WR Welcome Reception
- B Breakfast
- 🏠 Stays With Stories
- L Lunch
- D Dinner
- 🍷 Dive Into Culture
- RD Regional Dinner
- FD Farewell Dinner
- 👤 MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®
- BMG Be My Guest