

Insight Vacations: Country Roads of Portugal - End Porto, Summer 2020

Day 1 - Welcome to Lisbon.

On arrival at Lisbon International Airport, there are complimentary transfers to your hotel at 09:30, 12:30 and 15:30. Settle in and relax before joining your Travel Director at 18:00 for a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant. Enjoy the the opportunity to mingle with your fellow travellers during a pleasant evening of good food and wine.(Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Altis Grand Hotel, Lisbon.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Day 2 - Lisbon and the Age of the Great Discoveries.

Your guided sightseeing with a Local Expert takes you along the spacious avenues of the Lower Town and across the tree-shaded squares. Pass beneath the hilltop Bairro Alto to the Terreiro do Paço, the finest square in the city, named after the palace that was destroyed in the terrible earthquake of 1755, along with much of the rest of the city. Visit the Belém Quarter from where sailing ships once set forth to discover unknown lands. Enjoy a taste of Pastéis de Belém from the patisserie that has been using the same secret recipe for almost 200 years. See the modern Monument to the Discoveries and the more ancient Belém Tower, erected to protect Jerónimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which you visit. With free time in the afternoon, perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Royal Portuguese Riviera to explore the glamorous resort of Cascais, the wealthy playground of Estoril and visit one of the Royal summer palaces?(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Altis Grand Hotel, Lisbon.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 - The Algarve.

Cross the River Tagus and head for the sun-drenched southern coast to reach Lagos, a fishing port nestled on the bay of Meia Praia. After free time to explore, continue to your resort hotel set within a magnificent 360-acre estate. Simplicity is in the soul of Algarve cuisine, along with seafood so fresh it still tastes of the sea. The nearby coast houses restaurants and bars overlooking the beautiful coastal waters.(Breakfast)

Accommodations: Ria Park Hotel & Spa, Almancil, Algarve.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 - Everlasting Évora.

Journey to the medieval walled city of Évora where cathedrals, churches, aqueducts and ancient castle walls all serve to create the feeling that this beautiful city is a living, breathing museum to Portugal's rich past. Join your Local Expert to explore the highlights of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the Roman Temple and visit the Capela dos Ossos, an extraordinary 17th century chapel comprising the skulls and bones of 5,000 bodies. Visit the cathedral with its attractive mix of Romanesque and Gothic architecture. With the afternoon at leisure, you may wish to continue to stroll through Évora's unique historical centre, or the serene city park, following the aqueduct inside the city walls?(Breakfast)

Accommodations: M'Ar de Ar Aqueduto, Évora.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 - Monsaraz and Évora.

Travel to the striking white village of Monsaraz, situated on an imposing hilltop, surrounded by cork oaks and vineyards. From the castle ruins, admire the spectacular views across to the dry Spanish plains, contrasting with the blue of one of Europe's largest artificial lakes. Meet a local boat captain

and hear tales of life upon the water during your leisurely cruise. Sit down to a delicious Highlight Lunch in a local restaurant that was formerly an olive oil mill. Savour the local cuisine as your menu is typical of the local Alentejo region and accompanied with wine. Return to Évora where the evening is at your leisure to explore this beautifully preserved regional capital.(Breakfast / Lunch with Wine)

Accommodations: M'Ar de Ar Aqueduto, Évora.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch with Wine

Day 6 - Scenic drive to Óbidos, Fátima and Tomar.

Pass cork oak forests and expansive rice fields as you journey to the fortified town of Óbidos. Walk inside its walls to explore the craft shops, art galleries and flower-laden houses that line the narrow, medieval streets. Continue to Fátima, Portugal's most renowned place of pilgrimage. See the basilica or perhaps visit the Chapel of the Apparitions, which commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds in 1917. Proceed to Tomar and visit one of Portugal's historical jewels, the Templar Castle and Convent of Christ, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With your Local Expert, explore the octagonal Templars' Rotunda in the cloister and glimpse the day-to-day life of a warrior monk in the domestic areas. Outside on the battlements, the Manueline Window is a national masterpiece. You also visit the Synagogue of Tomar, one of the best preserved medieval synagogues in Portugal, housing a small Jewish museum.(Breakfast / Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Hotel dos Templários, Tomar.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 7 - Coimbra, the Douro and Pinhão.

In Coimbra, your Local Expert will show you the highlights of the Old Town, including a visit to the impressive baroque university library. Enjoy a wonderful Farm-to-Table Dinner, freshly prepared from locally sourced ingredients at Quinta da Roêda, renowned as the "Jewel of the Douro". Home to one of the most distinguished port houses, tantalise your taste buds with a tasting of port produced by the Croft family.(Breakfast / Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Vintage House Hotel, Pinhão, Douro Valley.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 8 - GUIMARÃES AND PORTO.

Journey to Guimarães to admire the views from the ruined castle and explore the cobbled streets and cosy squares. Next, continue on to Porto, where we are guided by our Local Expert to explore Portugal's second city, a World Heritage town and where Portugal originates. In the evening you are at leisure to enjoy your boutique, five-star hotel, a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World, in the heart of Porto's historic district. The decor is a mix of classic and contemporary and each room is individually decorated with original artwork. Alternatively, why not join an Optional Experience to see the pastel-painted houses in Porto's Ribeira district before cruising on a traditional Rabelo boat and finishing off the evening with a Portuguese dinner in the comfort of your riverside restaurant?(Breakfast / Lunch with Wine)

Accommodations: Infante Sagres, Porto.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch with Wine

Day 9 - Porto, Grande Dame on the Douro.

With a full day free to enjoy at your own pace, why not take a stroll to admire the multi-coloured houses, churches covered in beautiful glazed tiles and the iconic bridges? For a different perspective and excellent views of the city, perhaps embark on a relaxing Douro cruise? In the evening, bid adeus to your Travel Director and fellow travellers with a mouth-watering Celebration Dinner with wine, at an authentic Porto restaurant.(Breakfast / Dinner with Wine)

Accommodations: Infante Sagres, Porto.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Day 10 - Depart Porto.

After breakfast your transfer will arrive at Porto airport at 09:30 or 12:00.(Breakfast)

Meals: Breakfast