Itinerary

Sunny Portugal  Estoril Coast, Alentejo & Algarve
Dec 6, 2019 - Dec 15, 2019

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Ancient castles and Roman ruins. Groves of lemon and almond trees. Quiet, whitewashed villages, and kind gentle people. Portugal is waiting for you.

Day 2: Cascais, Portugal - Tour Begins

Your tour opens in a scenic coastal resort on the “Portuguese Riviera,” your home for three nights. The mansions scattered about Cascais and Monte Estoril hint at its history as a haven for exiled European royals and nobility. Tonight, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner.

**Hotel**  
Vila Gale Cascais Hotel
Cascais

**Culinary**  
Dinner

**Weather**  
High 58°
Low 48°
Rain 4°

Day 3: Choice of Lisbon Panoramic City Tour or Alfama District Walking Tour

This morning it’s your choice! Join a panoramic Lisbon city tour by coach and uncover sights that include Jeronimo’s Monastery (a UNESCO World Heritage site), Belem Tower (UNESCO), and the Monument to the Discoveries, with the tour capping off with a visit to the National Museum of Coaches -OR- embark on a walking tour* of the historic Alfama District, Lisbon's most symbolic quarter. Step back in time on an exploration of this residential neighborhood, which is considered a village within a city. Stroll the neighborhood’s medieval alleys, narrow streets and small squares, and pass by beautiful churches, whitewashed houses decorated with tile panels and wrought-iron balconies adorned with pots of flowers. Next, climb the hill to explore the castle, which boasts the most breathtaking panorama of the city. Later, enjoy leisure time in the Portuguese Riviera. Stroll the narrow cobblestone streets, sit in a seaside café, walk wide ocean side promenades, or shop for ceramics, lace, filigree, hand woven works and tapestries. This evening, savor excellent Portuguese cuisine and wine while local artists perform the traditional Fado (UNESCO).

**Hotel**  
Vila Gale Cascais Hotel
Cascais

**Culinary**  
Breakfast & Dinner

**Weather**  
High 58°
Low 48°
Rain 4°

Day 4: Cascais - Sintra - Obidos - Fatima - Cascais
Begin your day exploring the picturesque town of Sintra (UNESCO), the favorite summer residence of Portuguese kings for six centuries. Journey to Portugal's beautiful “Silver Coast,” a spectacular region filled with sleepy villages, rich vineyards and age-old castles. Travel on to picture-perfect Obidos, where white washed houses are held snug by medieval city walls. Later, visit Fatima, the world-famous Marian pilgrimage site.

Day 5: Cascais - Evora - Alentejo

Travel the beautiful Portuguese countryside and stop in historic Evora (UNESCO), known as the “Museum City of Portugal.” Inside this medieval-walled city stands a 2nd-century Roman temple to Diana and the 16th century Chapel of Bones. Indulge in the full-bodied character of the region’s wines during a winery tour and tasting. Tonight, enjoy your stay in the heart of Alentejo’s countryside at a country resort set among 3,000 acres of farm land, vineyards, and cork trees.

Day 6: Alentejo - Sagres - Lagos - Algarve

Journey to the famous Algarve and discover the secrets of the 16th-century fortress at Sagres, home of Prince Henry’s School of Navigation and the “compass rose.” Garner magnificent views of beautiful Cape of St. Vincente, where 200 foot cliffs plunge into the Atlantic at the most southwesterly point of Europe. Next, explore the historic resort town of Lagos, where Moorish and Renaissance influences abound. Here, the famous voyager, Prince Henry the Navigator, began his explorations and from the harbor where Vasco da Gama sailed in 1499 on his epic voyage of discovery. Stroll through the fortress and historic buildings while taking in the surrounding ocean views during some leisure time.

Day 7: Algarve

The entire day is yours to experience the beautiful Algarve on your own. Geraniums, camellias and oleanders grow alongside fig, orange and almond trees, while brightly colored fishing boats bob on the seas. Protected by hills to the north and warmed by the sea, the Algarve’s mild climate and beautiful beaches attract vacationers from all over the world.

Day 8: Algarve - Faro - São Brás de Alportel - Algarve

Journey to Faro, gateway to the Ria Formosa protected lagoon landscape. Explore the city’s historic center with 9th-century Roman walls, dramatic golden coastline, and its archaeological and architectural gems. In historic São Brás de Alportel, a presentation by a local liqueur maker is followed by a tasting of some of the many varieties produced in the region. Portugal is the world’s number one producer of cork. Visit a local cork factory to learn about its importance to the local economy and its many uses. Complete your day with dinner featuring local delicacies and wine.
Day 10: Lisbon - Tour Ends

Your tour ends today.

Post Night: Turim Marques

Would you like to enhance your trip to Portugal with a magical stay on Madeira Island? Known as the “Pearl of the Atlantic,” Madeira Island is located 400 miles off the coast of Africa and only a 90 minute flight from Lisbon. Madeira Island boasts a subtropical climate, majestic mountain ranges, breathtaking ocean views, flower gardens, waterfalls, natural ocean water pools, terraced fields of vineyards and bananas, and much more. Get to see and know all of Madeira Island with a visit to the Botanical Garden and two days of sightseeing. In Funchal, the island’s capital, discover 500 years of history in its charming plazas and colonial mansions. Visit a family-owned embroidery shop and a local Madeira wine cellar for a tasting. Celebrate your adventure with a traditional “espetada” dinner (beef marinated in herbs and cooked over an open fire) accompanied by local entertainers and festive music.