

## Perfect Portugal

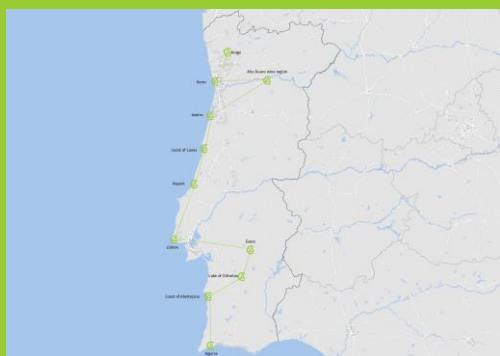
### The Tour

Portugal is a country full of wonders - charming medieval castles, cobblestone villages, captivating cities, golden pristine beaches and idyllic scenery. Perched on the Atlantic on the far edge of Europe, Portugal preserves a salty, traditional culture. Gnarled fishermen still mend their nets, and rustically clad women sell fish and produce in markets. Its buildings are covered in thousands of intricately decorated tiles in countless colours and patterns. Its food is humble, elevating local ingredients and simple flavours to their greatest potential - and its pastries are divine. The metropolitan capital Lisbon, spattered in remnants of the past, has a special radiance, which comes from the river and the proximity of the sea. Porto, an ancient city, whose historic centre has been classified as World Heritage, is the point of arrival of the river Douro, on whose valley slopes the famous Port wine is cultivated. If your idea of great tour includes friendly locals, a rich culture, wild scenery, exotic architecture, windswept castles, and fresh seafood with chilled wine, travel with us to Portugal!

*For Tour updates, dates and prices visit our website*

### Highlights:

- Wine tasting and guided tour at a vineyard in the Alto Douro wine region
- Moliceiro Boat Tour through the canals of the Ria de Aveiro in Aveiro
- Visits to the major cities of Porto, Lisbon and several UNESCO World heritage sites like the Convent of Christ in Tomar, Monastery of Batalha, Royal Building of Mafra and historic Évora
- Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, one of the worlds most visited pilgrimage locations



### Tour information

Start: Braga  
End: Luz  
Tour days: 21  
Non-Driving days: 11  
Max. daily mileage: 115 miles  
Avg. daily mileage: 74 miles  
Total mileage: 740 miles  
Santander - Braga: 382 miles  
Pets allowed

### Travel services

- Welcome Dinner
- Wine tasting and guided tour at a vineyard in the Alto Douro wine region
- Moliceiro Boat Tour through the canals of the Ria de Aveiro in Aveiro
- All campsites with electricity
- Assistance of multi-lingual motorhome guides during the whole tour
- Travel pack containing maps, a detailed road book with directions to the campsites, suggestions for sightseeing and general advice on motorhoming in Europe
- Secured Payment Certificate



## **Day 1 & Day 2: Braga**

We start our tour in Portugal's third-largest city, where we will have a group dinner in the evening giving the group time to get to know each other. On day 2 you can walk into the elegant town which is laced with ancient narrow lanes and strewn with plazas and a splendid array of baroque churches, of which the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte is UNESCO World Heritage.

## **Day 3: Braga – Porto**

On our route to Porto, you can stop at Guimarães (UNESCO World Heritage Site), also known as the "cradle of the nation." It was the first capital of Portugal and the birthplace of the country's first king, Afonso Henriques.

## **Day 4: Porto**

Today you have time to explore the city. The historical heart is the Ribeira quarter. We suggest you stroll through the maze of narrow streets and seek out some of the city's most cherished architectural treasures in this waterfront quarter. The buildings are so rare and precious that the neighborhood was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## **Day 5: Porto – Alto Douro wine region**

Drive the scenic but serpentine route through the Douro River valley or take the easier route and stop in Vila Real and visit the estate of Mateus. In the evening, we will stay at a vineyard and have a tour of the vineyard and a wine tasting of their excellent wines and Port.

## **Day 6: Alto Douro wine region – Aveiro**

From our stop at the vineyard we will travel to Aveiro, famed for its canals and beautiful buildings. Enjoy with us a trip on one of the colourful painted Moliceiros boats and if you have time, we recommend trying one of the excellent seafood restaurants!

## **Day 7: Aveiro – Coast of Lavos**

After having spent the night on the coast directly behind the dunes, visit Coimbra which is home to Portugal's oldest and most prestigious university. The historic city centre dates to Moorish times and is wonderfully atmospheric with its dark cobbled lanes and monumental cathedral.

## **Day 8: Coast of Lavos – Nazaré**

Take a short drive along the coast to the next campsite or go inland and visit Tomar which is dominated by its 12th-century castle and the Convento de Cristo (UNESCO World Heritage) and one of the country's most spectacular religious sites. Tomar is wrapped in Templar myth and legend. Seat of the mysterious Order of the Knights Templar and later, the Order of Christ in Portugal, the convent, with its two churches and myriad cloisters, is mesmerizing.

## **Day 9 & Day 10: Nazaré**

We will have two days in Nazaré, a picturesque coastal resort, to give you some time to relax and enjoy the cliff-backed beaches where you can admire surfers riding the world's largest waves. You will also have time to take a trip to visit the Shrine at Fátima, the most important pilgrimage site in Portugal, drawing pilgrims from all over the world.

## **Day 11: Nazaré – Lisbon**

On route visit the mediaeval town of Óbidos. It is one of the most picturesque and well-preserved towns in Portugal. On your way to the capital do not miss Cabo de Roca, the wild and rugged headland that marks the most westerly point of mainland Europe.

## **Day 12 & Day 13: Lisbon**

You will probably spend at least one day in the bustling capital, one of Europe's most beautiful and cosmopolitan cities with endless things to do. The city is blessed with a wealth of historic monuments, world-class museums, and many other fabulous attractions. Our campsite is not far from Sintra, another UNESCO world Heritage listed site. It has glittering palaces and exotic gardens and looks like a page torn from a fairy tale.

## **Day 14: Lisbon – Évora**

Today we will drive through some of the cork oak forests where you can visit a factory to learn about the traditional craftsmanship and production of cork.

## **Day 15: Évora**

Évora is one of Portugal's most beautifully preserved medieval towns. Visit the elaborate medieval cathedral, the columns of the Templo Romano and the picturesque town square.

## **Day 16: Évora – Lake of Odivelas**

After all the cultural experiences of the past few days we can now spend a relaxing day under the olive trees at the lake.

## **Day 17: Lake of Odivelas – Coast of Alentejana**

Today we will return to the coast for two lazy days.

## **Day 18: Coast of Alentejana**

Spend some time at the beach, or at the pool and enjoy some excellent seafood in one of the town's restaurants.

## **Day 19: Coast of Alentejana – Algarve**

Of course, we need to go to the Algarve when in Portugal, for the beaches but don't forget to stop at the Cabo de São Vicente, the wind blasted and storm pounded headland at the southwesterly extremity of Europe.

## **Day 20: Algarve**

Use the day to relax before the long journey home.

## **Day 21: Departure and end of tour**