



EXAMPLE ITINERARY

HIGHLIGHTS OF PORTUGAL

Explore the treasures of Portugal

Are you ready to explore the charm and beauty of Portugal? This 9-day journey takes you through the highlights of this captivating country, where you'll experience its vibrant culture, stunning landscapes, and rich history. From the bustling streets of Lisbon to the tranquil vineyards of the Douro Valley and the historic allure of Porto, this tour offers a perfect blend of cultural immersion, culinary delights, and breathtaking scenery.

Your adventure begins in Lisbon, Portugal's lively capital. Here, you'll dive into the city's culture with a unique tasting experience that introduces you to the local flavors and traditions. The journey continues with a day trip to the enchanting towns of Sintra and Cascais, where you'll explore the majestic Pena Palace, a fairytale-like castle perched high above the hills.

As you leave Lisbon, a side trip to the medieval town of Óbidos and the coastal village of Nazaré will provide a glimpse into Portugal's rich history and stunning coastlines. Then, you'll arrive in the picturesque Douro Valley, famous for its terraced vineyards and world-renowned wines. Enjoy an immersive Douro experience, complete with visits to two wineries, tastings, a delightful lunch, and a serene boat trip along the Douro River.

The final leg of your journey takes you to the vibrant city of Porto, known for its historic architecture and lively atmosphere. A guided walking tour of Porto will lead you through its charming streets, ending with a visit to the famous cellars in Gaia, where you'll learn about the region's famed port wine.

This 8-night Highlights of Portugal tour offers an unforgettable experience, showcasing the best of what this beautiful country has to offer. Should you wish to customize or extend your itinerary, we're happy to tailor it to your preferences.

SUMMARY (9 days)

Start: Lisbon

End: Porto

3 N Lisbon

2 N Douro

3 N Porto

What's Included?

- All private transfers
- Hotels (4-star)
- Breakfasts & meals mentioned in the itinerary
- Guided tours with fluent English speaking guides.

What's not Included?

- International Air Flights
- Medical/Travel Insurance
- Meals & Drinks, other than those mentioned in the itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities

This is an example itinerary which can always be adjusted to meet your individual requirements and budget.



ITINERARY

DAY 1: Bem-vindos! Welcome to Portugal's Capital

Arrival and first day at your leisure

Upon arrival in Lisbon, we will arrange for a private transfer to your hotel in the city centre. First afternoon & evening free to get acquainted with this cosmopolitan city and the vibrant atmosphere that it will offer over your stay.

We will provide you with maps, tips, and recommendations for good places to go for dinner & drinks.

Optional: Exploring the Treasures of Belém by Tuk-Tuk

Enhance your Lisbon experience with an optional 2-hour private tuk-tuk tour of the historic Belém district, a fantastic way to kick off your stay in the city. This tour offers a comfortable and engaging introduction to Lisbon's rich history and cultural heritage.

Starting with a pickup from your accommodation, the tour takes you through iconic landmarks that reflect Portugal's Golden Age of exploration. Discover the Jerónimos Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its Manueline architecture, and the Belém Tower, an emblem of Portugal's Age of Discoveries. Conclude with the Monument to the Discoveries, celebrating renowned Portuguese explorers like Vasco da Gama and poet Camões.

Led by a knowledgeable driver who also serves as a storyteller, this tuk-tuk tour provides valuable insights into each site's historical significance. It's a perfect way to get acquainted with Lisbon and set the stage for your adventures. Note that children under six are not permitted on the tuk-tuk, and the itinerary may be adjusted due to traffic conditions.



DAY 2: Flavors and History of Lisbon

Walking city & food tour (aprx. 4h)

Experience Lisbon like a local with a private 4-hour walking tour that blends food, culture, and tradition. Your local guide will pick you up from your hotel at 10:00 AM for a personalized gastronomic and cultural introduction to the city.

Explore the historic neighborhoods of Mouraria and Downtown, savoring local flavors at approximately four tasting stops.

Discover the birthplace of Fado music and the vibrant multicultural atmosphere of Mouraria, and delve into Lisbon's rich history from the 12th century to the present day. Enjoy insights into the city's old stores and unique venues.

Prepare for a walk through cobblestone streets with some uphill and downhill sections. This tour is perfect for first-time visitors and history enthusiasts. Bring your appetite, good mood, and comfortable shoes. The sequence of stops may vary based on factors like your hotel location. You will have the rest of the afternoon & evening free to explore Lisbon at your leisure..



Lisbon, the captivating capital of Portugal, is a vibrant city where traditional charm meets modern flair. Nestled at the mouth of the Tagus River and overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Lisbon boasts sun-kissed limestone buildings, narrow alleys, and a relaxed atmosphere. The city's century-old trams and funiculars add to its historic appeal, particularly in the Baixa district, where historic shops line baroque streets. Known for its stunning viewpoints, pleasant climate, friendly locals, and the soulful music of Fado, Lisbon enchants visitors with its unique blend of heritage and contemporary vibrancy.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch - Transport: Walking tour with private guide

DAY 3: Magical Sintra & Cascais

Full day trip (aprx 9 h)

Explore the Wonders of Sintra & Cascais

Your private guide/driver will collect you from your hotel to start your day with a visit to Sintra, renowned for its fairy-tale architecture and lush landscapes. Begin with the enchanting Pena Palace, perched atop a hill with its vibrant, colourful façade and sweeping panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Wander through its ornate rooms and expansive, meticulously landscaped gardens, and immerse yourself in its whimsical charm.

Next, head to the Moorish Castle, an ancient fortress offering dramatic vistas of the region. Explore the rugged stone walls and take in the breathtaking scenery from the castle's towers, appreciating the historical significance and panoramic perspectives it offers.

Make your way to Quinta da Regaleira, a mystical estate famous for its enigmatic Initiation Well, elaborate gardens, and whimsical architecture. Delve into the estate's enchanting ambiance and uncover its hidden secrets, including intricate underground tunnels and symbolic monuments.

Afterwards, you can enjoy a leisurely **lunch** (cost not included) in Sintra, sampling local specialties and soaking in the charming, historic atmosphere of this picturesque town.

In the afternoon, it's on to Cascais, a stunning seaside town known for its breathtaking coastline and vibrant marina. Stroll through the quaint, cobblestone streets, visit the local markets, and unwind by the marina.

End your day with a serene walk along the Cascais beachfront, where you can relax and reflect on the day's enchanting adventures. Return to Lisbon in the evening, carrying with you the magical memories of your day exploring Sintra and Cascais.



***Sintra** is a charming resort town nestled in the foothills of Portugal's Sintra Mountains, evoking a sense of mystical enchantment for its visitors. Once a favored retreat for royalty, Sintra is adorned with pastel-colored villas and palaces amidst its lush, forested landscape. The Sintra National Palace, with its dramatic twin chimneys and intricate tilework, showcases a blend of Moorish and Manueline styles. Perched atop a hill, the 19th-century Pena National Palace captivates with its whimsical design and panoramic vistas. The combination of its magical palaces, ancient Moorish castle, and UNESCO World Heritage city center creates an atmosphere straight out of a fairy tale.*

***Cascais** is a picturesque coastal resort town renowned for its sandy beaches and vibrant marina. Originally a modest fishing village, it gained prominence when King Luís I chose it as his summer retreat in the 19th century. Today, Cascais is an elegant blend of ornate 19th-century architecture, traditional Portuguese charm, and top-notch tourist amenities, making it a splendid holiday destination.*

*The **Pena Palace**, an iconic Romanticist castle, crowns a hill in the Sintra Mountains above the town. Visible from Lisbon on clear days, it stands as a national monument and a prime example of 19th-century Romanticism. A UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the Seven Wonders of Portugal, the Pena Palace is celebrated for its unique architectural style and historical significance.*



Meals included: Breakfast - Transport: Private driver/guide

DAY 4: Charms of Óbidos and Nazaré

Side day trip (aprx. 8h)

Embark on an enchanting day trip with a private driver/guide, taking you from Lisbon to the breathtaking Douro Valley. Begin your adventure with a pickup from your Lisbon accommodation and head towards the charming town of Óbidos.

Nestled on a hilltop near the Atlantic coast, Óbidos boasts a rich history dating back to before the Romans. The town flourished under the royal favor, especially during the 13th century when King Dinis gifted it to Queen Isabel. Stroll through its narrow, cobblestone streets, and marvel at the well-preserved medieval architecture, including the impressive castle, Manueline porticoes, and quaint white houses adorned with colorful window boxes.

Your next destination is Nazaré, renowned for its spectacular beaches and stunning coastal views. Visit the El Sítio district, perched atop a dramatic 318-meter rock, offering panoramic vistas of the Portuguese coastline. Discover the legend of Nazaré, which speaks of a miraculous intervention by the Blessed Virgin Mary that saved a knight's life in the 12th century.

Enjoy a leisurely lunch at Pangeia by the Sea, a favourite spot that boasts stunning ocean views. Relish the local cuisine while soaking in the serene seaside atmosphere. (lunch not included)

In the afternoon, continue your journey with a scenic drive to the Douro Valley, known for its rolling vineyards and picturesque landscapes. This approximately three-hour drive will lead you through some of Portugal's most scenic countryside. Upon arrival in the Douro Valley, check in at your hotel and prepare to relax and immerse yourself in the region's renowned wine culture and natural beauty.

Óbidos is an enchanting town encircled by its original crenellated walls, which lend it a timeless, fairy-tale charm. Within these ancient fortifications, the historic center is a captivating labyrinth of narrow, cobblestone streets, each lined with charming, flower-adorned, whitewashed houses. These homes are adorned with bright splashes of yellow and blue, adding to the town's picturesque allure. Wandering through Óbidos feels like stepping back in time, with its well-preserved medieval architecture and quaint, inviting squares. The town's rich history is palpable in its elegant Manueline porticoes, and the maze of alleys reveals countless hidden gems, from charming boutiques to cozy cafes. The entire area exudes an air of serenity and nostalgia, making Óbidos a delightful destination for those seeking both beauty and historical depth.

Nazaré, a coastal gem with a rich maritime tradition, was once famous for its distinctive traditional costumes worn by local fishermen and their families. These vibrant outfits, which include embroidered aprons and headscarves, along with seven layers of colorful flannel skirts, occasionally appear today, offering a glimpse into the town's cultural heritage. However, Nazaré's modern reputation has been built on its extraordinary surfing conditions. The town's dramatic, high-breaking waves are created by the nearby Nazaré Canyon, an underwater feature that funnels and amplifies the ocean swells. This natural phenomenon has turned Nazaré into a world-renowned surfing destination, attracting thrill-seekers and professional surfers from across the globe. The juxtaposition of traditional charm and contemporary surf culture makes Nazaré a unique and exciting destination.

Meals included: Breakfast - Transport: Private driver/guide



DAY 5: Elegance & indulgence in the Douro Valley

Full day trip (aprx. 9h)

Experience the enchanting Douro Valley with a day dedicated to its finest pleasures. Your journey begins at a small, quaint family-owned quinta—a traditional Portuguese vineyard estate—where you'll immerse yourself in the vineyard's charm and enjoy a unique wine tasting paired with artisanal chocolates.

Next, visit a world-renowned, family-owned quinta, rich in history, for an in-depth exploration of its legacy. Here, experts will guide you through a tasting session featuring four exceptional wines.

Enjoy a delightful lunch at a beautiful restaurant with stunning views of the surrounding vineyards and valley, where exquisite local cuisine is perfectly paired with the region's finest wines. In the afternoon, relax on a private boat cruise along the Douro River, sipping wine or soft drinks as you soak in the serene views. The day concludes with a scenic drive through the Douro Valley's breathtaking viewpoints, leaving you enriched by the elegance and natural beauty of this iconic region.



The Douro region is a stunning gem, renowned for its breathtaking beauty and rich history. As one of the world's oldest demarcated wine regions, established in 1756, the Douro Valley enchants visitors with its dramatic terraced vineyards, carved into the steep mountain slopes, and its charming granite bluffs. The landscape is dotted with elegant whitewashed quintas (estates) and historic 18th-century wine cellars, creating a picturesque setting that draws wine enthusiasts and travelers from around the globe. Explore winding scenic roads that lead to postcard-perfect villages and savor exceptional regional cuisine at renowned local restaurants. The Douro Valley offers a perfect blend of exquisite ports and wines, captivating vistas, and a timeless, enchanting atmosphere.

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch - Transport: Private driver/guide



DAY 6: Wine & Culinary Delights in Porto and Gaia

Your day begins with a scenic drive from the Douro Valley to Porto, where you'll check into your hotel. From there, embark on a memorable tour of one of the region's prestigious wine cellars. You'll learn about the rich traditions of Port winemaking and enjoy a two-hour guided tour, followed by a premium tasting in the elegant Main Room.

Afterward, indulge in a delicious lunch at a nearby restaurant, where expertly paired wines accompany each course. Highlights include coastal shrimp with sparkling wine and crispy confit suckling pig paired with Graham's 20-Year-Old Tawny Port.

After lunch you can simply relax and enjoy the restaurant's stunning views over Porto and the Douro River at your own pace...

The rest of your evening is free to explore Porto's vibrant charm.

Gaia, officially known as Vila Nova de Gaia, is a charming city located just across the Douro River from Porto. Famous for its historic wine cellars, where the world-renowned Port wine is aged and stored, Gaia offers stunning views of Porto's skyline and the river. The city is a blend of tradition and modernity, with a picturesque riverside, vibrant restaurants, and cultural landmarks. Visitors can explore its rich winemaking heritage, stroll along the scenic waterfront, or enjoy panoramic vistas from its hillside terraces, making Gaia a must-visit destination for wine lovers and travelers alike.

Meals included: Breakfast & lunch - Transport: Private driver/guide



DAY 7: Porto - Beyond the wine

Morning walking tour (aprx. 4h)

Experience the charm of Porto with a guided walking tour that reveals the city's highlights over a leisurely 3.5 to 4 hours.

Begin your day by meeting your local guide in the lobby of your hotel. The tour starts in Porto's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you'll explore its Roman and medieval architecture. Marvel at the Cathedral of Porto, an enchanting 12th-century landmark.

Next, visit the São Bento Railway Station, renowned for its stunning tile panels depicting the history of Northern Portugal. With over twenty thousand tiles adorning the main atrium, it's a true tile museum.

Stroll along Aliados Avenue, known for its impressive granite buildings and a mix of Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles. At the avenue's top, admire the Porto City Hall.

The tour also includes a visit to the beautiful Lello Bookstore and the impressive Stock Exchange Palace (Palácio da Bolsa). Should these locations be too crowded, they will be substituted with a visit to Saint Francis Church or the Cathedral to ensure a high-quality experience.

Free afternoon in Porto

This afternoon, you'll have the perfect opportunity to relax and explore Porto at your own pace. Immerse yourself in the city's unique charm and vibrant atmosphere.

For inspiration, visit the Clérigos Tower for breathtaking views of Porto's skyline. The Crystal Palace, with its beautiful gardens and panoramic Douro River vistas, offers a peaceful retreat. Discover the Serra do Pilar, where the 13th-century monastery provides a glimpse into Porto's rich heritage, or explore the Porto Cathedral ('Sé'), renowned for its historical and architectural significance.

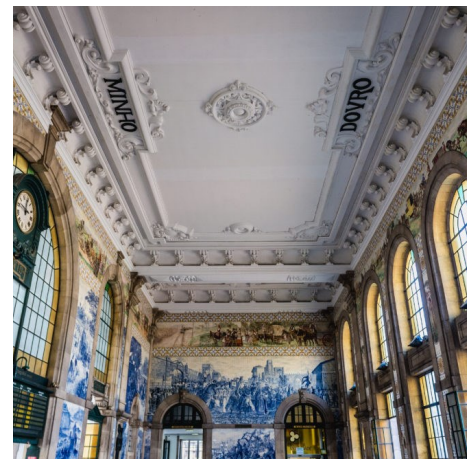
Make sure to explore the WOW Porto complex, a dynamic cultural hub featuring the WOW Museum and the Port Wine Museum. Experience the rich flavors at iconic wine cellars like Calem and Taylor's, and take a ride on the Gaia Cable Car for stunning views of the city.

Stroll through the Foz district, known for its picturesque beaches and scenic promenades along Avenida do Brasil, and delve into Porto's vibrant art scene with visits to Galeria Municipal do Porto, O! Galeria, and Galeria Quadrado Azul.

Finally, unwind at the Marés Swimming Pool, an architectural marvel by Álvaro Siza Vieira, nestled between the rocks and the sea. Enjoy a day of discovering Porto's diverse attractions and the relaxed pace of this captivating city.

Porto, Portugal's second largest city, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its historic charm and world-famous Port wine. Nestled along the Rio Douro, it offers a mix of art, architecture, and gastronomy. Unlike Lisbon, Porto boasts a unique character with stunning bridges and vibrant local culture. Vila Nova de Gaia, across the river, is known for its Port Wine Cellars, where visitors can explore winemaking traditions and enjoy tastings.

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 8: Charming Aveiro & Historic Coimbra

Full day trip (aprx. 7h)

Embark on a captivating day trip from Porto with a private driver and guide, delving into the scenic beauty and rich history of central Portugal. Your journey begins with a drive to Aveiro, a charming coastal village renowned for its picturesque canals and colorful *moliceiros*, traditional boats once used for harvesting seaweed. Experience the village from a unique perspective with a traditional 45-minute moliceiro boat ride (cost included) through its scenic waterways, offering a glimpse into local life and history.

Following your boat ride, enjoy some free time in Aveiro to explore its quaint shops and local delicacies. Afterward, continue your journey to Coimbra, a city steeped in academic heritage. Here, take a leisurely break for **lunch** (cost not included) and savor the regional cuisine before diving into Coimbra's rich history.

In the afternoon, meet your local guide for a two-hour walking tour of Coimbra, including a visit to its prestigious university. Founded in 1290, the University of Coimbra is one of the oldest in Europe, and its historic campus is a treasure trove of architectural and academic heritage.

Your day concludes with a return to Porto, where you'll be dropped off at your hotel. This full-day trip not only offers an immersive experience of Aveiro's charming canals and Coimbra's academic legacy but also provides an opportunity to explore the heart of Portugal's cultural and historical landscape.

Aveiro, often referred to as the "Venice of Portugal," is celebrated for its charming canals, vibrant Art Nouveau architecture, and the iconic Moliceiros boats adorned in bright colors. Nestled along the Ria de Aveiro, a vast saltwater lagoon historically prized for its seaweed, salt, and fish, Aveiro has evolved into a lively university city. It features an authentic fishermen's quarter, intricate Art Nouveau buildings, and a rich array of grand religious structures, offering a picturesque blend of tradition and modernity.

Coimbra, once Portugal's capital in the 13th century, is steeped in history with its impressive array of ancient buildings, churches, and monasteries from that era. Known for its prestigious university—one of the oldest in Europe—Coimbra exudes a relaxed, laid-back vibe, with delightful bars and restaurants enhancing its appeal. While it may not boast the same level of tourist traffic as Porto or Lisbon, Coimbra provides an authentic Portuguese experience. Its enchanting mix of history, culture, and art promises a memorable and immersive visit, making it a hidden gem worth exploring.

Meals included: Breakfast - Transport: Private driver/guide



DAY 9: Departure

We will arrange for a private driver to take you to the airport for your flight home :(

Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end...

We hope you enjoyed your stay with us in Portugal.

Até logo!

Meals included: Breakfast



If you would like to extend or adjust this itinerary to continue exploring with us, we will be more than happy to create a customised itinerary for the remainder of your stay.

PRICE & INCLUSIONS



ACCOMMODATION

At Just Explore we understand one of the biggest worries when booking a holiday is the standard for your hotel. That's why we only use pre-viewed character hotels with great locations to help you relax and enjoy your stay with us.

Your accommodation will be made up of:

4-star hotels

Breakfasts included - All centrally located

Air conditioning - En-suite rooms

TRANSPORT (all included)

Luxury AC vehicle

Private transfers to/from airport on arrival and departure only.

All private transfers from town to town mentioned in above Itinerary.

GUIDED VISITS & TOURS (all entrance fees included)

Lisbon - Cultural and Tasting Experience

Lisbon - Sintra & Cascais Day Trip with Pena Palace

Side Trip to Obidos & Nazare on the way to Douro Valley

Douro Experience - 2 wineries visits + tastings+ lunch+ boat trip

Porto - Gaia Cellar experience (visit + tasting + lunch) + Porto walking city tour

Porto - Day trip to Aveiro & Coimbra

MEALS & SHOWS

2 lunches

OPTIONAL

Lisbon: Tuktuk tour (day 1)

Assistance During Your Trip

Full support & assistance on hand 24/7

As with all our clients we will provide you with maps, a list of recommended places to visit, bars & restaurants etc. to help you enjoy the authentic Portugal whilst you're exploring at your leisure.

Insurance

We recommend that all travelers take out there own private medical & travel insurance whilst traveling to avoid any unforeseen expenses...

Please Note:

The above itinerary may change at any time due to circumstances beyond our control. We will duly advise of any such changes as soon as possible.

PRICE* (Per person)

Depends on the number of travelers and dates

Please enquire for furthers details

** Subject to our standard terms & conditions (full details on separate sheet)*

