

Portugal Holiday

with Heather McMann

March 11 - April 1, 2025

Overnight flight + 20 nights 22 days

34 meals



Highlights:

Lisbon • Sintra • Pena Palace and Gardens • Quinta da Regaleira • Cascais • Mercado da Ribeira • Obidos • Coimbra • Universidade de Coimbra • Porto • Livraria Lello • Dom Luis Bridge • Duoro Valley • Rabelo boat tour • Braga • Guimaraes • Evora • Capela dos Ossos • Arte em Cortica • Algarve • Lagos • Portimao • Silves • Boat excursion to sea caves (subject to availability) • Olhao

Tour includes:

Round trip flight with Air Canada
Twenty nights accommodation
Twenty breakfasts
Two lunches
Twelve dinners (include a glass of beer or wine)
Wine & liquor tastings
Meal gratuities
Two boat tours (subject to availability)
Hop-on Hop-off bus tickets in Lisbon and Porto
All side tours and entrance fees
Whisper headsets
Services of local guides
Local guide gratuities



Day One:

Vancouver – Lisbon

Depart Vancouver mid-morning for your **Portugal** holiday. After a brief stop in **Montreal** an overnight flight takes you to **Lisbon**, Portugal to begin your adventure.

Day Two:

Lisbon

Meals: D

Arrive in Lisbon, Portugal, a historical city where the sun shines 290 days a year. Spread across seven hillsides and filled with charming cobbled streets, beautiful Lisbon is breathtaking in every way. A local guide will meet the group at the airport and introduce the main sights on a city tour. Visit the **Belem** area, Lisbon's westernmost district where the **Tagus River** opens to the Atlantic. The area is home to the sensational architecture of the **Belem Tower** and **Jeronimos Monastery** (both World Heritage Sites). Check in to the hotel for a four night stay and join the group for a welcome dinner in a local restaurant for a first taste of the incredible cuisine of Portugal.



Day Three:

Lisbon

Meals: B, D

Enjoy a free day to explore Lisbon and all it has to offer. Visitors flock to the city for its Fado music (Portuguese folk song), historic ruins, winding old town, trams, not to mention those pastéis de nata - delicious rich egg custard tarts you must try. Lisbon effortlessly blends traditional heritage with striking modernism. You will have access to a hop-on, hop-off bus tour to see some of the most famous sites. Dinner will be with the group in a local restaurant.

Day Four:

Lisbon – Sintra – Cascais – Lisbon

Meals: B

Today is a full day excursion outside of Lisbon. First visit the charming Portuguese town of **Sintra**, situated within the lush forests and jagged hills of **Serra de Sintra**. Once a summer retreat for Portuguese nobility and royalty it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring opulent palaces, extravagant villas, and historic sites. Included are entrances to **Pena Palace**, the ruins of a Moorish castle; and **Quinta da Regaleira**, an extravagant and eccentric 19th century villa with fantastic gardens. Travel a short distance to the seaside town of **Cascais**. Once a fishing village it has been developed into a vibrant resort town while retaining its traditional and charming character. Explore the town on your own before returning to Lisbon.

Day Five:

Lisbon

Meals: B, L

Today is truly a taste of Lisbon! A local guide will join us this morning for a market walking tour. Visit **Mercado da Ribeira**. Opened in 1892 it is a very popular food hall and remains Lisbon's main food market. You can savour different types of cuisine, desserts, and drinks, and buy some of the best products made in Portugal in the iron interior under a large oriental style dome. As well, enjoy a tapas lunch at a local restaurant. Tapas are small savoury dishes, snacks, or appetizers, a popular meal of the area and a great way to try new local flavours. The remainder of the day will be free to relax or do more exploring.

Day Six:

Lisbon – Coimbra

Meals: B, D

Depart Lisbon after breakfast and travel by coach with a local guide to the medieval town of **Obidos**, one of the most picturesque and well preserved in Portugal. On a city tour you will find a well preserved castle within the walls, and a maze of streets and white houses that are a delight to stroll amongst. There will be an opportunity to taste the famous local liqueur, Ginjinha de Obidos, served in a chocolate cup. This cherry liqueur originated with 17th century monks from the region who combined Morello cherries and brandy and drank it as an aperitif or after dinner. Afterwards travel to the riverfront city of **Coimbra** for an overnight stay. Dinner will be served at the hotel.



Day Seven: *Coimbra – Porto*

A city tour will introduce you to Coimbra. Its steeply stacked historic centre dates to Moorish times and is wonderfully atmospheric with its dark cobbled lanes and monumental cathedral. The city is known as the Oxford or Cambridge of Portugal — it is home to the country's oldest and most prestigious university, **Universidade de Coimbra**. The tour includes a visit to the university and some of its most famous sites such as the **Royal Palace, Chapel of St. Michael, Baroque Library**, and more. Coimbra University is one of only five in the world listed as a World Heritage Site. It was founded in 1290 and has occupied its current building since 1544. It's the former royal palace, but very little remains of the royal residence. Its gold covered library is recognized as one of the world's finest and is filled with 40,000 books. Afterwards travel north to the coastal city of **Porto** for a six night stay. Dinner will be with the group at a local restaurant.

Meals: B, D

Accommodation:

Lisbon
Coimbra
Porto
Evora
Lagos

Olhao
Lisbon

Turim Av Liberdade Hotel
NH Coimbra Dona Ines
Eurostars Porto Das Artes
Hotel M'Ar de Ar Muralhas
Hotel Tivoli Lagos Algarve
Resort
Real Marina Hotel & Spa
Turim Av Liberdade Hotel

Day Eight: *Porto*

We begin our time in Portugal's second largest city: Porto, the city that gave the country (and port wine) its name. Full of old-world charm, houses with red-tiled roofs tumble down the hills to the riverbank, prickly church towers dot the skyline, mosaic patterned stones line the streets, and flat bottomed boats ply the lazy river. Porto is a fantastic walking city with winding cobblestone streets, chic shops, restaurants, port wine cellars, and galleries. A local guide will join us for a half day walking tour. Highlights will include **Livraria Lello**, considered one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world and said to have inspired the creation of Hogwarts in the Harry Potters series; the historic **Dom Luis Bridge**; entrance to a Porto wine cave for a tour and tasting; and more. The remainder of the day will be at your leisure to relax or explore. Dinner will be included at the hotel.

Meals: B, D

AGELESS PEACE OF MIND:
Not available for this tour

**Medical Insurance and Passport
Required**

Deadline to register: **December 28, 2024**

Day Nine: *Porto – Duoro Valley – Porto*

A local guide will join the group for a full day excursion to the **Duoro Valley**, the winding terraced region that produces the country's beloved port wine. Stretching along the Duoro River marvel at steep, twisting valleys and tidy terraces. Visit a winery for a tour and tasting and stop for lunch for a delicious three course meal with wine. A highlight will be a cruise down the river on a rabelo boat, a traditional Portuguese wooden cargo boat with a flat bottom that was used for centuries to transport people and goods, including of course, barrels of port wine.

Meals: B, L

Day Ten: *Porto*

Today will be at your leisure to either rest and relax or to explore on your own. You will be provided with a hop-on, hop-off bus ticket to explore some of the popular sights. Your tour guide can make some recommendations.

Meals: B

Day Eleven: *Porto – Braga – Guimaraes – Porto*

A local guide will join the group for a full day of exploring the areas around Porto. The first destination is **Braga**, Portugal's third largest city. Braga is an elegant town laced with ancient narrow lanes closed to vehicles, strewn with plazas and a splendid array of baroque churches. The constant chiming of bells is a reminder of Braga's age-old devotion to the spiritual world. It is one of the world's oldest catholic cities. Its upscale old centre is packed with lively cafes, boutiques, excellent restaurants, and more. Next visit **Guimaraes**, one of the finest historic cities in Northern Portugal, fondly regarded by the Portuguese as the birthplace of their country. The rich history is reflected in its magnificent Gothic monastery, a heavily fortified castle, and an elegant 15th century palace. Among these lies a maze of cobbled streets and charming plazas lined with traditional houses and family run shops. Return to Porto at the end of the day to enjoy dinner with the group at the hotel.

Meals: B, D

Day Twelve: *Porto*

Today will be at your leisure to either rest and relax at the hotel or to explore more of the amazing sights of Porto on your own. Your tour guide can make some recommendations.

Meals: B



Price Per Person:

Double or Twin: **\$10,875.00**
Single: **\$13,815.00**

Prices include all taxes



Considerable walking over uneven ground and cobblestones



Day Thirteen:

Porto – Evora

Meals: B, D

Today journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Evora** for a two night stay. The architecture of its white houses, tiles, and balconies along its narrow streets make walking through this city very enjoyable. The well preserved medieval town features protective walls, a 13th century cathedral, several palaces, and a 1st century Roman temple. A local guide will join us for a half day tour to view the main sights. Entrance is included to the strangely beautiful **Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones)**, a small chapel with its interior walls covered and decorated with human skulls and bones, one of Evora's best known monuments. As well, visit Evora Cathedral, the largest medieval cathedral in Portugal. The remainder of the day will be at your leisure. Join the group for dinner at the hotel.

Day Fourteen:

Evora

Meals: B

Enjoy a leisurely morning resting or exploring the area on your own. In the afternoon the group will go about 20 minutes outside of Evora to the area of **Azaruja** to visit the **Arte em Cortica** for a tour. Portugal is the largest producer of cork in the world and this is a family owned cork factory. This is a real glimpse at the centuries old industry that encompasses far more than wine corks. There are many unique products available in their shop.

Day Fifteen:

Evora – Lagos

Meals: B, D

Travel south to the **Algarve** region, the beautiful southern coastline of Portugal. There are sandy stretches as far as the eye can see, framed by golden cliffs and small coves sheltered by the rocks. The ocean is every shade of blue and mostly calm and warm. Our destination is the port city of Lagos, lying on the bank of the **Rio Bensafirim**. The old town has pretty cobbled lanes and picturesque squares and churches that are enclosed by 16th century walls. Beyond the walls is a modern sprawl and some fabulous beaches. Check in to the hotel for a three night stay and enjoy some leisure time before dinner with the group.

Day Sixteen:

Lagos

Meals: B

Today is a free day to relax at the hotel or explore Lagos on your own. Your tour guide can help with recommendations.

Day Seventeen:

Lagos – Portimao – Silves – Lagos

Meals: B, D

The group will visit the city of **Portimao**, the largest city in the western Algarve. Traditionally a centre for shipbuilding, sardine fishing, and fish processing, it is now mostly focused on tourism and leisure. It has a beautiful scenic promenade that leads to the quaint tree lined plazas of the old town. Included will be a boat excursion to the sea caves (subject to availability). Next, travel a little ways inland to **Silves**, a historic town that was originally the ancient capital of the Algarve. This is a charming, quiet town with a well-preserved and restored massive Moorish Castle that the group will visit. Cobble lanes around the castle lead to a gothic cathedral and a small archaeological museum.

Day Eighteen:

Lagos – Olhao

Meals: B, D

Continue along the Algarve's southern coast to the still unspoilt whitewashed fishing town of **Olhao** for a three night stay. The harbour is busy with weathered fishermen some of whom get as far as Morocco in their boats. This explains the Moroccan architectural influence in the town. The old town is rich in architectural delights with houses adorned with multi-hued, decorative Portuguese tiles, ornate balconies, crumbling facades, and cascading bougainvillea. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to relax or explore. Join the group for dinner at the hotel.

Day Nineteen:

Olhao

Meals: B

Today enjoy a day of rest and relaxation or take the opportunity to explore this beautiful town on your own. Your tour guide will have recommendations of the many beautiful local sights.

Day Twenty:

Olhao

Meals: B, D

Today enjoy a day of rest and relaxation or take the opportunity to explore this beautiful town on your own. Your tour guide will have recommendations of the many beautiful local sights. Join the group for dinner at the hotel.

Day Twenty-One:

Olhao – Lisbon

Meals: B, D

Start the return journey north to Lisbon as the Portugal adventure draws to a close. Upon arrival at the hotel check in and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to relax or to revisit some of your favourite spots or do some last minute shopping. Tonight the group will join together for a farewell dinner at a local Fado restaurant, a fitting end to the Portugal Holiday!

Day Twenty-Two:

Lisbon – Vancouver

Meals: B

Depart Lisbon mid-morning with many memories, photographs, souvenirs, and new friends. Arrive in Vancouver and return to your point of origin by taxi.