

A PORTUGUESE PANORAMA



OCTOBER 17TH - 26TH 2024

This tiny country, squeezed between Spain and the Atlantic Ocean, has a long and proud history of fierce independence. Traditional farming and fishing communities continue unchanged beside bustling and cosmopolitan cities. Mountainous landscapes, untouched by time and modernization, stand in curious juxtaposition above the jet-setting coastal resorts.

We begin and end in the capital, Lisbon. A city with a vitality, variety and a pulse like none other. Turning north, we visit the picturesque town of Obidos, originally an important port town. Continue to Tomar and visit the magnificent Convent of Christ before arriving in the fascinating city of Oporto. Nearby Bom Jesus do Monte takes us to the extraordinary 18th-century religious sanctuary which takes the form of a giant stairway. Moving into the Douro valley, the heart of port country, visit traditional “quintas” where we taste the sweet fortified wine that enjoys a worldwide reputation. As we leave northern Portugal and the magnificent mountain range “Serra da Estrela,” we exchange snow-capped beauty for the rolling sun-baked plain of the Alentejo. Our destination is the enchanting city of Evora which flourished in the Middle Ages as a center of learning and the arts and which gained international recognition in 1986 when it was declared a World Heritage Site. Returning to Lisbon, we drive to the wooded hillside town of Sintra, just to the north of the city, for visits to two elegant royal palaces.

Join Discover Europe on an unforgettable sojourn into the very heart and soul of ancient Portugal.



PALACE OF SINTRA

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$ 4690**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 980**

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 6 dinners
- GUIDES:** DISCOVER EUROPE tour director throughout, local guides in Lisbon, Oporto and Evora
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH - Evening departure from your chosen US gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18TH - Upon arrival in Lisbon you'll be met for the short transfer to your city center hotel. There will be time to rest from the flights before you begin to explore the neighborhood. This evening, a dinner party at the hotel welcomes the group to Portugal. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LISBON**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH - Panoramic sightseeing this morning with a local guide introduces this fascinating city; from the grand neo-classical buildings of the Baixa district to the narrow cobbled alleys of the Moorish Alfama quarter, we'll experience the rich variety of the city. We'll stop for visits to the Castelo de Sao Jorge, a hilltop fortification with magnificent views over the city and the Tagus River, Belem Tower and the exquisite Monastery of Jerónimos. The afternoon is free for independent exploration. Visit the National Tile Museum in the cloisters of the splendid Madre de Deus Church to view Portugal's traditional "azulejos", take the Santa Justa Elevator, created in 1901 by Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame) to the elegant Chiado district or explore the Botanical Gardens. This evening, we experience the husky beauty of "fado", Portugal's traditional music, as we have dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LISBON**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH - Turning north, we make our first stop in the enchanting medieval walled town of Óbidos. We'll visit the simple church of Santa Maria before continuing to Tomar for a visit to the Convent of Christ, founded in 1162 by the Grand Master of the Templars. Seldom visited by tourists, this massive building retains its sense of dignity and antiquity. Its Manueline embellishments, a unique style of Portugal, are some of the finest surviving examples. We head north to our hotel in the dazzling city of Oporto, where we will have dinner at hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: OPORTO**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21ST - Morning sightseeing of the city with a local guide includes the Cathedral District, the riverside quarter of Ribeira and the civic and shopping centers of Central and Baixa. This afternoon, an excursion to Portugal's most spectacular religious sanctuary, "Bom Jesus do Monte." The 18th century giant baroque stairway was designed to lead up to the small shrine, the church of Bom Jesus. We return to Oporto for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: OPORTO**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND - We tour port country today as we travel due east through the Douro Valley. We'll stop at traditional "quintas" to sample the different varieties. The panoramic views of the terraced mountains upon which the grapes grow are spectacular. Turning south, we enter the Serra da Estrela, the "star mountains". The area is a designated nature reserve and the traditional lifestyle of the indigenous shepherds still survives here. Our destination is the Pousada Serra da Estrela, where a log fire and stunning views over the snow-capped mountains greet us. Dinner tonight will be at the pousada. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: OLIVEIRA**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD - We continue further south, along the border region, making a first stop at the extraordinary Jardim Episcopal in Castelo Branco. The garden's 18th century layout is conventionally formal; its surprise lies in the many statues found throughout. The bishop's palace now houses a museum, which displays primitive art, 16th century tapestries and a wide range of archaeological finds. Continuing our route south, we arrive at the medieval walled city of Evora which rises mysteriously from the Aletejan plain. Dinner is at our city center pousada this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: EVORA**



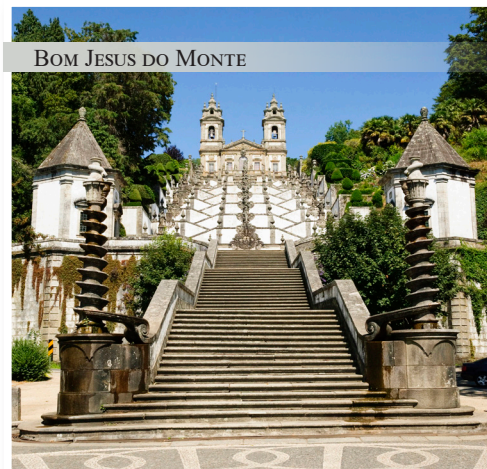
PALACE OF PENA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24TH - A walking tour with a local guide this morning introduces Evora and the architectural and cultural treasures which fill its tangled web of streets and alleyways. This afternoon is free for individual exploration...shop for handicrafts along Rua 5 de Outubro, browse through the city museum, or experience the bustle of the Praca do Giraldo, Evora's main square. The evening is free as well to sample one of the city's justifiably famous restaurants. **(B) OVERNIGHT: EVORA**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25TH - Returning to Lisbon today, we explore the coast north of the city—the beautiful hill town of Sintra and the palaces which dot the wooded hills. Visit both the National Palace and the Palace of Pena before time in the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Cascais. A farewell dinner at our hotel brings the trip to a memorable conclusion with time to share memories and laughter. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LISBON**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH - Return transfer to Lisbon Airport for your transatlantic flights back to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **D** - dinner



BOM JESUS DO MONTE

SCAN THE BELOW QR TO REGISTER FOR THIS TOUR!

