

UNFORGETTABLE PORTUGAL

TOUR DAYS:

11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS

TOUR DATES: Departure Edmonton

27 Sept. - 2020

TOUR PRICES :

Per person on a twin sharing basis

C\$3599

Single Supplement

C\$990



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TOUR LODGING INFO: 10 Nights Hotel

Accommodation will be provided on a twin sharing basis

LOCATION	NIGHTS	SUPERIOR HOTELS
Lisbon	03 Nights	Hotel Olissippo Marques de Sa
Fatima	01 Night	Hotel Santa Maria
Porto	02 Nights	Hotel Holiday Inn Porto Gaia
Douro	02 Nights	Hotel Regua Douro
Porto	02 Nights	Hotel Holiday Inn Porto Gaia

(If any of the above mentioned hotels are not available we will provide a similar alternative)

TOUR ITINERARY:**DAY 01 - 27 Sep: DEPARTURE EDMONTON**

Make your own way to the international airport for your overnight flight to Lisbon.

DAY 02 - 28 Sep: LISBON ARRIVAL (-/-/-)

Welcome in Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal. On your arrival at the airport, you will be met by our local representative and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Overnight in Lisbon

DAY 03 - 29 Sep: LISBON (B/-/-)

Breakfast buffet at the Hotel. Lisbon is the capital and the largest city of Portugal. We can start to discover Belém. Here, you will admire the Belém Tower, one of the most expressive monuments of Lisbon, followed by the well-known Monastery of Jerónimos, considered one of the most beautiful monuments of Portugal. Then, we proceed to "Praça do Comércio" directly to Alfama, the Fado district. We continue to downtown, up to "Marquês de Pombal", passing by the famous Liberdade Avenue. The remaining day is at your leisure. Overnight in Lisbon

DAY 04 - 30 Sep: LISBON (B/-/-)

Enjoy the day at leisure or book the optional full day tour. Overnight in Lisbon

Optional Tour: Full day visit to Sintra, Roca Cape and Estoril - C\$145 per person SIC

Departing from the Capital, we will discover the surroundings of Lisbon. We will start with Sintra. Sintra is a place full of magic and mystery, where Nature and Man have combined in such a perfect symbiosis that UNESCO has granted it World Heritage status. Here, we will visit the emblematic Pena Palace and we will walk through its romantic streets and gardens. Then, we will proceed to the westernmost point of Europe, named Roca Cape. This is the place where the land ends and the sea begins and it's about 140 meters above the sea. With breathtaking views, it's the Portugal's most iconic geographic landmarks.

Along the coast, we will pass through one of the most famous surfing beaches, the "Boca do Inferno" ("Mouth of Hell"). We will also discover the charming Cascais, place where the river meets the ocean, yet a vibrant Atlantic resort of the royal family. The combination of maritime leisurely charm, strategic position and location close to Lisbon made it a favorite residence of the kings and other nobles. And before our return to Lisbon, we will admire the fantastic Casino of Estoril and its marvelous gardens.

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES :

- International flights from Edmonton
- 10 nights' accommodation at listed hotels or similar
- Daily buffet breakfast
- 02 lunches in local restaurant in Douro Region and Ponte De Lima
- Deluxe tourism motorcoach for services as per your itinerary.
- English speaking assist for Airport transfers
- English speaking throughout guide
- Local City Taxes
- Entrance fees in: Alcobaça Monastery, Batalha Monastery, Santa Clara a Nova Monastery in Coimbra, Lamego Cathedral, St John of Tarouca Monastery, Solar de Mateus House & gardens
- Visit & wine tasting of Port Wine Cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia
- Full Day cruise w/ lunch in Douro River
- Visit & tasting in a wine Farm in Douro
- 02 Dinners at Hotel in Douro
- 02 Lunches at local restaurants on Day 8 & 9
- 1 hour Douro river cruise from Pinhão
- Whispers (headphones)

DAY 05 - 01 Oct: Obidos - Alcobaca - Nazare - Batalha - Fatima (B/L/-)

Today, we will cross a landscape full of windmills and fruit trees through the west coast and we will arrive in Obidos. This pretty town, freezing its appearance somewhere in the middle ages, is a national monument and has been carefully preserved. It's a vibrant tourist destination, with many festivals and events that attract people from all over the world. Its castle stands out and its medieval streets invites a visit. After Obidos, we will visit Alcobaça, which is the home of the first and largest gothic church in Portugal.

Then, we will proceed to the traditional town of Nazaré. This fishing village is more than just a place to catch record-breaking waves: it's a great destination for food, views, relaxation and to feel the true Tradition of Portugal. We will admire its impressive beach, the fishermen and their wives working with the fresh fish, its old streets and the famous "Sítio", with breathtaking views. We will continue to Batalha, where we will visit the Monastery of Santa Maria de Victoria, a masterpiece of the gothic architecture.

And our day will end in Fátima, one of the most popular Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world. The Pope Francis will visit this charming and blessed place next year, where it is believed that three local shepherd children reported the apparitions of the Virgin Mary, in 1917. We will get in touch with its spirituality and will discover the holiness of the place.

Overnight in Fatima

DAY 06 - 02 Oct: COIMBRA - AVIERO - PORTO (B/-/-)

This day will start with a visit to Coimbra, a town full of History and the place considered the intellectual and cultural center of Portugal. Famous for being the "Student's City", here we can listen the music of Fado singed by male students, who want to exalt the love and the pride for this city. At the highest point of the city, we will find the prestigious University of Coimbra, one of the oldest in the world with its majestic baroque library. We will stop at the Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Nova, in the center, we will admire the exclusive ceramic of Coimbra.

We will continue our trip to Aveiro, city of the canals, known as the "Portuguese Venice". This small town captures our attention with its marvelous and traditional "moliceiros" boats, natural ponds and elegant Art Nouveau buildings. It is a peaceful and colorful town, with interesting History and traditions. We will stroll through these gorgeous streets and

we will also have free time to taste the famous and delicious “ovos moles”, a typical sweet made with eggs. Continue to Porto.

Overnight in Porto

DAY 07 - 03 Oct: Porto (B/-/-)

Departure: 09h00 a.m. During this morning, we will explore the emblematic city of Porto. This second largest city in Portugal is also the capital of Northern Region. It is a fascinating place, with breathtaking natural beauty, UNESCO sites, culture and tradition, but it is also contemporary and artistic.

Here, we will admire the historic centre, the Clerigos Tower, São Bento Railway Station and its extraordinary tiles, the centennial Cathedral, Lello Bookshop and much more. Along the Douro River, you will see the colorful houses, the Luís I Bridge and the Ribeira square. Our tour will end with a visit to a famous Port Wine Cellars with a fantastic Port Wine tasting. And take the rest of this day to explore this elegant city by yourself.

Overnight in Porto

DAY 08 - 04 Oct: PORTO - PESO DE REGUA - Douro Valley (B/L/D)

Our trip through the Douro Valley will begin with a cruise departing from Porto. Today, we will head to the town of Peso da Régua. On board, we will try a hearty breakfast alongside the riverbanks of Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia. During the cruise, we will admire the incredible natural landscapes and two magnificent dams: the Crestuma-Lever Dam (sluice rises 32m) and Carrapatelo Dam (sluice rises 50m). And this last dam is superb: it has the largest floodgate in Europe. We will also enjoy a delicious lunch on board.

In the afternoon, we will reach the town of Peso da Régua, in the heart of the Douro Valley. Here, our guide will give us a warm welcome and we will visit one of the most famous wineries in the Region, where we will learn more about the wine production, enjoy amazing views and taste the delicious and unique Port Wine. Then, our guide will transfer us to our Hotel.

Dinner at the Hotel and overnight in Douro Valley

DAY 09 - 05 Oct: LAMEGO - UCANHA (B/L/D)

Today, we will visit the city of Lamego. An overview through this cultural capital of the Douro Region immediately tells us that this is a small town, but elegant, historic and very charming. We will start with the monumental Shrine of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. Located in the center of the city, it's one of the most important places of pilgrimage in the country. Built on a hill, this sanctuary offers sublime views over the city. For the energetic travelers of our group, they can choose walk down its staircase. The others can go by bus. At the end of this visit, we will have the opportunity to taste the famous “Secrets of Lamego”: traditional flues, typical cheeses, “Bôla” (bread with meat) and Douro wine.

We will continue our trip through the main avenue of Lamego and we will achieve the Cathedral, with noble and magnificent cloisters. The morning will end with a transfer to the village of Ucanha and we will lunch in a typical restaurant of the Region. In the afternoon, we will visit the St. John of Tarouca Monastery, the first Cistercian monastery in Portugal. This trip will end with a transfer to our Hotel and a typical dinner from this Region.

Overnight in Douro Valley

DAY 10 - 06 Oct: PINHAO - MATEUS - PORTO (B/L/-)

Today, we will proceed exploring the best sites of the Douro Valley. The sublime village of Pinhão will be waiting for us. We will have an overview of the village, where the bridge and the Railway Station stand out. Here, we will enjoy a lovely small cruise from Pinhão to Romaneira (and return to Pinhão). It's a 1 hour' cruise, through inaccessible landscapes by car, and we will navigate in a traditional "Rabelo" Boat (the old and typical boat of the Douro River).

Next is Vila Mateus, home to the world-famous rosé wine. Mateus is a village which owes its fame to the manor Solar de Mateus, considered to be a perfect example of Portuguese Baroque and "the most fantastic country house in Portugal", world-famous for being featured on the label of Mateus Rosé wine. Although the Mangualde family still live there, parts of it are open to the public. Inside the palace there are magnificent wood ceilings as well as valuable furniture, carpets, paintings and silverware, and an interesting porcelain collection. However, the beauty of the gardens actually surpasses that of the Solar de Mateus, among the most beautiful in Europe, with box hedges, statues and the ancient tunnel formed by topiaried thuya is a work of art; the trees allow scarcely any light to enter. We will try an authentic and old lunch from this land. After lunch we will proceed back to Porto.

Overnight in Porto

DAY 11 - 07 Oct: PORTO (B/-/-)

Enjoy the day at leisure or book the optional full day tour.

Overnight in Porto

Optional tour: Full day tour visiting Guimaraes and Braga - C\$135 per person SIC

Your Guimarães and Braga day trip begins with meeting your professional guide in Porto. On your way to your first stop, get familiar with Portugal's fascinating history. Listen to your informative guide explain interesting anecdotes that dates all the way back to the Romans. When you arrive at your first stop, the city of Guimarães, get out of your transportation and stretch your legs. Soon you'll see why Guimarães was anointed as a UNESCO World Heritage city. Surrounded by the scenic ancient Minho wine region and a 10th-century castle, this is an ideal place to start your Portugal history lesson. See the Dukes of Braganza Palace and then move on to the historic monuments in the city center. Savor a delicious two-course lunch of fish or meat at an authentic Portuguese restaurant. Then, it's onward to Braga, a city founded by the Romans. Today Braga is known as the City of Archbishops due to its multitude of religious monuments. When you reach Sameiro Sanctuary, listen to your guide illuminate its history as you gaze upon the church of Our Lady of Sameiro. Visit the Bom Jesus do Monte sanctuary in Tenões and walk up a monumental stairway to reach the pilgrimage church with panoramic views of Braga at the top. Save some time to explore Braga's historic downtown core, where Portugal's oldest Christian city began. Admire the Baroque fountains, ruins, and buildings and monuments that pay tribute to Jesus Christ. Then continue back to Porto where you tour ends.

DAY 12 - 08 Oct: PORTO (B/-/-)

After the breakfast, you will be transferred to Porto airport for your flight home.

END OF OUR SERVICES