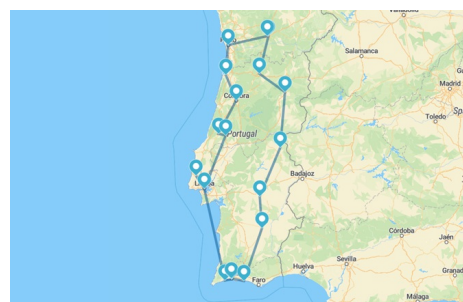




Portugal, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

From the Tagus Valley to the Douro Valley Route

Come and savour the best of Portugal from the banks of the Tagus to the Douro. You'll start off in the capital Lisbon, a beautiful city spread across seven hills and where the tram is one of its most charismatic means of transport. Discover its most emblematic sights, its fascinating culture, its seafaring history and its romantic fados. Porto, the second largest city in the country, is also famous for fados. Get ready to enjoy an intense journey on which you'll discover some of the inland treasures of Portugal: magnificent castles such as Beja and Castelo de Vide; palaces such as Mafra; the Jewish Quarter of Belmonte; and medieval cities such as Vila-Real and Évora. The latter is also the second city of Portugal with the most national monuments (after Lisbon). Thanks to your rental car, you'll arrive to the beautiful Dão area to see its vineyards and taste its wines in Viseu, where you can also buy the best handicrafts in the region. Portugal is culture, but also coast. So, there's nothing better than enjoying a couple of days on the Algarve surrounded by nature and picturesque villages oozing tradition and history, such as Portimão and Lagos. Switch off from the stress of work on stunning beaches like Albufeira or Praia da Rocha! Portugal is also packed with curiosities just waiting to be discovered. The country has its very own Venice, aka the romantic coastal town of Aveiro. And also its version of Oxford in Coimbra, the former capital of the country and home to the oldest Portuguese university. Not forgetting its own Lourdes in Fatima, a world-famous pilgrimage site and one of the most religious cities in the country. A truly unique trip that fuses history, culture, fun, beaches, nature and cuisine. Discover the most authentic Portugal on this outstanding tour.



FAMILIES

URBAN

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: London

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - LISBON

Flight departure from the city of origin to Lisbon and rental car pick-up. Get ready to discover Lisbon, the beautiful capital of Portugal! By the way, we recommend wearing comfortable footwear because you'll come across lots of cobbled streets and steep slopes. Set across seven hills is this city dotted with magical music, cute trams, delicious cuisine and very cosmopolitan people. Its main symbol is the Torre de Belém, a hexagonal tower that together with the Jerónimos Monastery were built to commemorate the discovery of maritime routes to India. Today these two monuments, declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, are two of the most photographed sights in the city. You'll soak up the most authentic atmosphere by strolling around the historical Alfama district, the oldest in Lisbon and home to medieval streets and a Romanesque cathedral. In Santa Catalina, you can amble through its labyrinthine streets and watch locals hanging out on their balconies. If you want to take home the best souvenirs of the capital, you should definitely head over to the Chiado district and visit its stores. And don't miss the amazing views of the city. There are several viewpoints, such as Santa Catalina (overlooking the river and the Ponte 25 de Abril) or Senhora do Monte (views of the castle, the city centre and the Mouraria district). Another must-visit in Lisbon is the Castle of São Jorge, built by the Visigoths in the fifth century, although it has been restored to recover its original splendour. For this first night, catch the funicular to have dinner in the Bairro Alto and try some of the typical dishes such as feijoadas (stew of beans with beef and pork) or migas à alentejana (fried breadcrumbs with pork). And for dessert, some pinhoadas (honey and pine nut candies) or pastéis de Belém (egg custard tarts). Overnight stay in Lisbon.

● DAY 2 · LISBON - MAFRA - LISBON

Less than an hour from Lisbon is Mafra. It is home to the 18th-century National Palace of Mafra, the most important monument of the Portuguese Baroque movement. Not only is there the palace, but also a convent, a basilica, a pharmacy and a hospital, which certainly makes it different from any other palaces you may have seen. One of the most spectacular rooms is the library, which houses more than 40,000 books! If you happen to have read the novel "Baltasar and Blimunda" by Nobel prize-winner José Saramago, the name of the palace will ring a bell as the plot unfolded here. Mafra is also the site of a National Park, created in the eighteenth century for the palace to obtain firewood and for the king's personal enjoyment. Very close by is Ericeira, a charming fishing village, popular for surfing and perfect if you want to enjoy some beach time before returning to Lisbon. If you arrive in time back in the capital, you can pop over to the Parque das Nações, which hosted Expo 98. It is a pedestrian zone full of modern buildings on the northeast bank of the river. The main attraction here is the Oceanarium, one of the largest aquariums in Europe, with more than 25,000 animals that will capture the attention of kids and adults alike. For dinner tonight you could try one of the city's typical dishes: cod (bacalhau in Portuguese). But do it at a restaurant in La Alfama or the Barrio Alto where you can listen to the most romantic fados in the capital while savouring delicious culinary creations. Overnight stay in Lisbon.

DAY 3 · LISBON - ALGARVE (LAGOS - PRAIA DE ROCHA - PORTIMÃO)

Today, it's time to bid farewell to Lisbon to set off for southern Portugal. The Algarve awaits! A privileged area packed with nature, beaches and picturesque villages brimming with tradition and history. The perfect opportunity to sit back and relax in a truly spectacular natural light. Our first stop will be Lagos, about 3 hours along the A2 motorway. Lagos is perhaps one of the most beautiful resorts in the area, harmoniously combining tourism and tradition. It's surrounded by ancient walls that look out to sea. Stroll around its cute cobbled streets full of charm and explore its harbour and gardens... It's also worth visiting the Forte da Ponta da Bandeira, a 17th-century fort with a drawbridge that houses exhibitions on the great discoveries made by Portuguese sailors in the 15th and 16th centuries. And continuing with the history of Lagos, the Mercado des Escravos, the former slave market dating from 1444 and located in the Praça Infante Dom Henrique, is a veritable showcase of the old town. If you want to enjoy a pleasant walk along the rugged coast, head to the trails that start in Burgau, which offer stunning views of the local beaches and mountains. A half-hour drive away is Portimão, which despite tourism retains the essence of a town with a genuine Portuguese soul. One of its most characteristic attractions is a stroll along the banks of the River Arade. This resort is also home to the famous Praia da Rocha, renowned for its nightlife, and also some beautiful stone towers that decorate its two kilometres of golden sands. It boasts all kinds of services and more than the odd surprise. In the westernmost area, there are pocket-sized coves with turquoise waters, perfect for anyone who wants a little more privacy. To see it in all its splendour, head up to the viewpoint in Cala dos Castelos. There's also another viewpoint at the fort of Santa Catarina, a castle from 1621 that was built at the gates of the estuary to protect the area from corsair attacks. Overnight stay in Portimão.

DAY 4 · ALGARVE (PORTIMÃO - ALBUFEIRA) - BEJA - EVORA

About 40 minutes' drive from Portimão is the fishing village of Albufeira, created on the rocks of Punta Baleeira in the west and famous for its beaches lapped by turquoise waters. Despite the boom in tourism, its cute old town still retains its essence and life. Among its shops and whitewashed houses you'll find a marvellous cave that leads to one of the town's beautiful beaches. It's worth taking a stroll to the Fort of São João, as from here you'll get the best views of Praia dos Pescadores, an Instagram-worthy image with fishing boats perched on the sand alongside tourists sunbathing. Must-see monuments in Albufeira are the Archaeological Museum, the São Sebastião chapel, or the Museum of Sacred Art, but the main pulls here are the beautiful beaches. Some are backed by rock walls, others are nestled under pine trees and red hills, and others are vast sandy beaches. Basically, they come in all shapes and sizes. Some of the most popular are Gale, Coelha, Baleeira and Falesia... One of our favourites is Praia do Castelo, a stunning natural enclave that is a kaleidoscope of rocky cliffs, verdant pine groves and sparkling blue waters. After enjoying a morning on the beach, head back to the car for a two-hour drive to Beja, a laid-back town untouched by tourism with a beautiful walled centre and easy access. The journey to Beja is also fantastic, cutting its way through wheat fields backed by a golden sea which then give way to swathes of olive and oak groves. This is also a wine-producing area, so as you can imagine, you can't leave without tasting its wines. Park the car for a few minutes and stroll through the cobbled streets of its historic quarter, admiring its houses painted in the typical white of the region and decorated with Moorish azulejos and chimneys. One of its main attractions is its medieval castle, whose 40-metre tower is the highest in the country. Get your camera out and photograph the best views of Beja from above. Then head to the lively Praça da República and visit its most emblematic landmarks, such as the Igreja de Santiago, the Cathedral, the Igreja de Santo Amaro or the Regional Museum. Take advantage of your visit to Beja and buy some so-called convent sweets, specifically pão de rala, a typical pastry made with almonds and pumpkin. If you drive north for another hour you'll reach Évora, one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Portugal and perfect for delving into its past. In fact, it's the second city of Portugal with the most national monuments (after Lisbon). Seeing them all will take up the whole day, so plan your time well. Three of the must-see places are the Sé Cathedral, the Roman Temple of Diana and the Aqueduto da Água de Prata. They are all perfectly preserved and a reflection of the history of Évora, but if there's one truly curious monument in the town, it's the Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones). Don't forget to take a stroll around its walled Arabic quarter, as it has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Évora is also a lively university town, so it is always full of life, people and great restaurants where you can try out local specialities such as porco à alentejana (marinated pork with clams). Overnight stay in Évora.

DAY 5 · EVORA - CASTELO DE VIDE - BELMONTE - VISEU

Today, you'll leave Evora to explore another of the medieval treasures of Portugal: Castelo de Vide. This is a fortified village located at the foot of an olive-blanketed mountain in the Serra de São Mamede Nature Park. One of its main attractions is its fourteenth-century castle, from which you can enjoy outstanding views. The townspeople used to live within the castle walls, and to this day still some of the houses are still inhabited. Nearby you'll find the Jewish Quarter, a nucleus of narrow streets with flower-covered whitewashed houses and Gothic doorways running through the most picturesque neighbourhood of Castelo de Vide. It also has a museum and the oldest synagogue in the country. Nearby are other megalithic treasures such as Anta dos Coureiros and Menhir da Meada, the highest standing stone on the Iberian Peninsula. This town is also famous for the mineral waters that flow out of its fountains, so don't hold back from refreshing yourself in one of them. Take the A23 for a couple of hours and you'll arrive in Belmonte, perched upon the beautiful Monte da Esperança. It is crowned by a castle that once belonged to the family of Pedro Álvares Cabral, the discoverer of Brazil in the year 1500. Eye-catching features include the keep, the amphitheatre and the Manueline-style window. But besides being the birthplace of Álvares Cabral, Belmonte is known for its large Jewish community that has lived here since the beginning of the 20th century. All the details of its history are exhibited at the Jewish Museum of Belmonte. If you want to further explore the history of Portugal, this town is also home to the Museum of Discoveries, a small but very educational and entertaining space which uses sounds, tools and games to explain the Portuguese discoveries and colonies of yesteryear. Don't forget to visit the Cabrais Pantheon and the Centum Celas tower. Although if you prefer a trip back to the Middle Ages, it's best to go to Belmonte when the medieval fair is being held. The town is filled with music, traditional costumes, falconers and stalls. About an hour's drive along the A25 is Viseu, another beautiful medieval town located in the Portuguese countryside, this time in the Dão region. This area is characterised by its many small-scale vineyards. Take advantage of the visit to taste arguably the best red wines in the country. Its old town is very well preserved with its winding cobbled streets, beautiful gardens and the lively Praça da República, the focal point of all celebrations. The best views are from the 13th-century cathedral, as it's the highest point in the town. Here you'll also find important works of art by one of the most emblematic Portuguese artists of the Renaissance, Grão Vasco. You can see them at the museum that bears his name. As for shopping, this is a good place to buy handicrafts. Anything from wicker baskets to embroidery, fabrics, black pottery, iron goods... In Viseu you'll see that the price of handicrafts is cheaper than in other areas of the country. Take advantage and pick up a souvenir of your trip! Overnight stay in Viseu.

DAY 6 · VISEU - MATEUS - VILA REAL - PORTO

Viseu was the birthplace of Vasco Fernandes, a famous 16th-century painter, and also a landmark of sacred art and religious architecture, as proved by the numerous churches that adorn the historic quarter. The Cathedral of Viseu is an excellent starting point to visit the town. In the Atrium of the Cathedral, one of the main attractions of the old town, you'll also find museums, the Igreja da Misericórdia, the pillory and the Paseo dos Cónegos. Here it's not uncommon to find black granite, typical of the region, contrasting with the immaculately white façades of buildings. Then onward to the Rossio, where you can leisurely admire green spaces, or walk along the stretches of defensive wall built by King João I and finished during the reign of King Afonso V, beyond the Portas dos Cavaleiros and Porta del Soar. Next destination will be Mateus, where a must-visit is the Mateus Palace, famously depicted on bottles of Mateus rosé wine. It's a Baroque mansion from the 18th century, considered to be one of the most elegant manor houses in Europe. Then on to the town of Vila Real, where highlights include its quaint old town, dotted with picturesque old churches. The main landmarks of are found on and around Avenida Carvalho Araújo: the Palace of the Marquises of Vila Real, also known as Casa do Arco, with its beautiful Manueline twin windows; the Cathedral of Vila Real; the house of Portuguese sailor Diogo Cão Escudeiro, explorer of the west coast of Africa between 1482 and 1486; the town hall and the old cemetery of the city, with the Igreja de São Dinis and the Paróquia de São Brás. Take a walk around the cemetery gate on the right to enjoy the sweeping views over the gorge of the Corgo and Cabril rivers from the Mirador de Trás-do-Cemitério viewpoint. Other interesting churches in the town are the Igreja de São Pedro, the Igreja de Misericórdia and the Igreja Clérigos, also known as Capela Nova. Next stop after Vila Real will be Porto. Overnight stay in Porto.

● DAY 7 · PORTO - AVEIRO - COIMBRA - BATALHA - FATIMA - LISBON

After having some 'pasteis de nata' (typical custard tarts) and a good 'café pingao' (coffee with a dash of milk) for breakfast, it's time to get on the road. Say goodbye to Porto, because today you'll be driving in the direction of Aveiro, a small town known for its beautiful canals that will remind you of European cities like Amsterdam or Venice. In fact, here they have their own gondoliers called Moliceiros. Explore this stunning town by sailing along its canals! This way you'll be able to admire the former fishermen's houses and all the major landmarks. After your romantic experience on the water, take a stroll around its streets to see treasures such as Jardim do Rossio, the Convento de Jesus, which today houses the Museum of Aveiro, and the Sé Cathedral. The beauty of Aveiro lies not just in its canals, but also its beaches. You'll find two here. Praia da Barra is known for having the second tallest lighthouse in Europe. Pretty impressive, we must say. Meanwhile, Praia da Costa Nova is home to a host of colourful striped houses. Less than an hour from Aveiro is Coimbra, known as the "Oxford of Portugal", as it has a lovely atmosphere with lots of students everywhere. Not surprisingly, as this is home to the oldest university in Portugal and one of the first ever in Europe, founded in 1290. Come and experience student life for a day. You'll find it at Pátio das Escolas, with its well-known and much photographed clock tower. But Coimbra isn't just a university city. It was once the capital of Portugal, so it still retains many monuments reminiscent of its splendour, such as the Mosteiro de Santa Clara-a-Velha, the Convento de São Francisco, the Casa Museo Bissaya Barreto or the Igreja da Santa Cruz. You can see some of them by taking a stroll around the old town, brimming with colourful buildings under the watchful eye of the River Mondego. Back on the road. If you drive an hour south on the A1 you'll arrive in Batalha, another inland treasure of Portugal. It's famous for being the site of the Battle of Aljubarrota against the Castilians, which was the key to creating the Golden Age of Portugal. Another landmark that recalls part of its history is the Mosteiro de Santa Maria da Vitória, of a flamboyant Gothic style but with Manueline details of the 15th and 16th centuries. Take a stroll around the cloister and discover the so-called Imperfect Chapels. It's definitely worthwhile, we promise you. Thirty minutes away on the A1 is our next stop, Fatima, one of the best-known places in Catholicism for being where the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children. Since then, it has become THE place of pilgrimage for any believer travelling around Portugal. Overnight stay in Lisbon.

● DAY 8 · LISBON - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lisbon.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lisbon.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Portimao.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Portimao.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Évora.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Évora.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Porto.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Porto.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Viseu.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Viseu.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Insolvency protection.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Lisbon direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Algarve direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Porto direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.

Destinations Visited

Lisbon



Mafra



Lagos



Praia da Rocha



Portimao



Albufeira



Beja



Évora



Castelo de Vide



Belmonte



Viseu



Mateus



Vila Real



Porto



Aveiro



Coimbra





Batalha



Fatima



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.