

A Custom Designed Itinerary to

Portugal

By

IN QUEST OF THE CLASSICS

IQOTC REF: F711320

DAY 1: LISBON. Upon arrival in Lisbon you will be met by an English-speaking driver and privately transferred to your hotel by minivan. The lovely **Barrio Alto**, is a 5 star contemporary boutique hotel, reflecting a fusion of old and new. Housed within an 18th century building, the hotel is located in the vibrant Arts district. Here we include a two night stay.

DAY 2: LISBON. Today you will be met at your hotel by an English-speaking driver/guide for a half day private city tour by minivan. Lisbon is an ancient city, founded in 1200 BC by the Phoenicians who named it the "serene harbor".

In the medieval center of the city you will find the Cathedral, which was once a fortress, and the museum of Portuguese Decorative Arts. Walk through the pleasant Alfama quarter, which is the old quarter that slopes down from St. George's Castle. The cobbled labyrinth of narrow streets (some so narrow, that pedestrians must walk in single file) is one of the most colorful spots in Europe. In the western part of the city you can see the Hieronymite Monastery, founded in 1502 by King Manuel. After your tour you will be returned to your hotel for the afternoon at leisure.



DAY 3: LISBON/ SINTRA. After checking out of your hotel today, collect your rental and head to Sintra. Upon arrival in Sintra we include a two night stay at the **Penha Longa Hotel & Golf Resort**, situated in a national nature reserve. The graceful palazzo-style estate is set amongst the spectacular rolling hills, lush gardens and clear lakes of the southern Sintra Mountains. The origin of the hotel dates back to the 14th century, and nestled within the grounds is a landmark monastery which has been a frequent retreat of the Portuguese royal families and foreign dignitaries. Today the Penha Longa stands as a timeless link to five centuries of grand Portuguese estate luxury.

DAY 4: SINTRA. Enjoy a full day touring Sintra. The beauty of little Sintra, a town on the north slope of the Serra de Sintra Mountains, has been sung through the ages. The town has an enchanting setting, beneath towering trees, dense ferns and plants and flowers of every description brought by the Portuguese from all over the world. After Sintra was taken from the Moors in the 12th century, it became a favorite summer residence of the Portuguese monarchs. The imposing National Palace is located on the site of a former Moorish castle, and the whimsical Pena Palace is on the peak of the mountain, where it can be seen from as far away as Lisbon. This evening we can include reservations for a Fado dinner with folklore music in the Barrio Alto quarter. Dinner is payable direct.

DAY 5: SINTRA/ COIMBRA. After breakfast this morning drive north to Coimbra. We suggest a stop at the beautiful walled town of Obidos, with its picturesque streets and the Pousada do Castelo. Obidos is a fortified city standing like a watchtower over the landscape. It once commanded the seashore, but these days it is set 6 miles inland.

The silting up of the bay created a lagoon, which deprived the town of its military importance. The town was freed from Moorish domination in 1148 by Alfonso Henriques and was immediately rebuilt with delightful white houses and towers. Queen Isabella admired the new town so much that the King made her a gift of it and future monarchs repeated the gesture to their consorts until 1833.



From Obidos drive to Alcobaca to visit the 12th century Abbey, with the tombs of Pedro and Ines, and then perhaps lunch in Nazare, the most colorful of Portuguese fishing villages. Visit the Batalha Monastery and if time permits, take a detour to Fatima, centre of the Christian faith and a world Pilgrimage destination. From Fatima continue your drive to Coimbra. Upon arrival we include an overnight stay at the **Palace Hotel Do Bussaco**. This exquisite 5 star hotel is located in the heart of a natural woodland reserve in Bussaco and is a superb representation of The Portuguese ‘Manueline’ style of period architecture. Please note: you may not have time to visit all the suggested sights today and enjoy your visit to beautiful Coimbra. Please plan your day accordingly, to include all the sights that are of most interest to you.

DAY 6: COIMBRA/ PORTO. Drive north today about an hour and a half to Porto. Prior to checking into your hotel today, we include a buffet lunch at the Tromba Rija (wine is payable direct). Enjoy a fine selection of authentic Portuguese delicacies. After lunch we suggest a visit to the wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia district, where you can sample free tasting of the famous port wine. Later, this afternoon you may check into the **Pestana Porto Hotel**, for an overnight stay. This charming 4 star property is located in the heart of historic Porto, in Praca da Ribeira. The hotel itself is part of a group of building classified as a world heritage site. Stroll along the waterside “zona ribeirinha” and the bustling downtown and see the Roman-Gothic cathedral, Church of Cedofeita, Clerigos Tower and the Church of Sao Francisco with its gilded carvings.

DAY 7: PORTO/MESAO FRIO. After breakfast this morning, spend some time at leisure in Porto before driving to the lovely **Pousada Solar de Rede**. This magnificent, traditionally furnished Pousada affords breathtaking views over the Douro River, and rooms are all individually decorated, reminiscent of the aristocratic lifestyle of earlier times. Spend the afternoon at leisure.

DAY 8: DOURO VALLEY. This morning will be met at your hotel by an English-speaking driver for a full day tour of the Douro Wine region by private luxury vehicle.



The Douro Valley is a region of spectacular beauty. In the Upper Valley, where the port grapes grow, you’ll see small villages clinging to the valley walls. The thousands of vineyards create a wavy pattern on the steep schist slopes. Begin your day with a two hour private River Douro cruise arriving in Pinhão. From Pinhão you will be met and transferred to the Quinta do Infantado Winery for a VIP private visit. Here you will enjoy a professional wine tasting of seven premium wines. Afterwards delight in an authentic light lunch, including wine. After your lunch you will be privately transferred to the Quinta de Pacheca for a visit and tasting of five wines. You will be returned to your hotel by 5:30PM this evening.

DAY 9: MESAO FRIO/ ESTREMOZ. Travel south today to the medieval town of Estremoz. Upon arrival in Estremoz, we include an overnight stay at the **Pousada Rainha Santa Isabel**, one of the most luxurious pousadas in Portugal, originally built for Queen Santa Isabel. Magnificently restored, the palace is dotted with unique furnishings throughout and the finest décor, including museum pieces. From the palace you will find splendid views over Estremoz.

DAY 10: ESTREMOZ/ LISBON. After breakfast this morning drive back to Lisbon. Along the way to Lisbon, we suggest a stop in Evora, a wonderful Roman walled town.

Today Evora is an attractive town of Moorish character, with alleys cut by arches, brilliant white



houses with pierced balconies, tiled patios, and hanging gardens. You will see several medieval and renaissance palaces and mansions from Evora's rich past, which are a welcome relief from the Portuguese architecture. Upon arrival in Lisbon we include an overnight stay at the **Marriott Lisbon Hotel**. Conveniently situated just ten minutes away from the airport in Lisbon, the modern full service hotel offers well appointed rooms, all the modern conveniences and an exceptional staff to help you with all your needs.

DAY 11: DEPARTURE. After breakfast today you will drive to the airport in Lisbon, where you will drop off your rental in time to check in to your departing flight home.

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