



PORTO, LISBON & MADEIRA

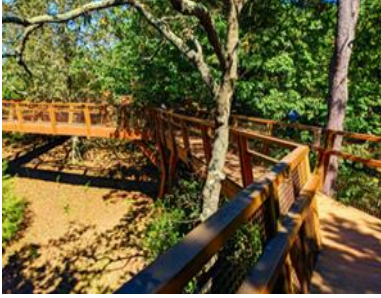
DAY 1: PORTO

Welcome to Porto! Transfer to your hotel. Check-in as soon as your room becomes available and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner on your terms. Suggestions can be provided. Overnight in the hotel.

DAY 2: PORTO.



Breakfast in the hotel. Today join a guide to visit the São Bento Train Station and Cathedral (exterior), and drive to Carmo Church (exterior), Clerigo Church (exterior) and Lello Bookshop (exterior). After an overview you will join your driver to take us to the Serralves Foundation. Composed of two buildings in a spectacular park, the original building was a project designed by the Portuguese architect José Marques da Silva. It is an elegant Art Déco building with magnificent gardens designed by French architect Jacques Gréber surrounding it.



The new Foundation building was designed by the great Portuguese Architect, Alvaro Siza Vieira. You will walk through the foundation's beautiful Park to see its sight-specific sculptures by Oldenburg, Serra, among others. Lunch on your terms during your tour in the Serralves Foundation Cafe.

Dinner on your terms. Overnight in the hotel. *Let us know if you are interested in adding a food tour this evening (not included). Porto, Portugal, offers a vibrant culinary scene that can be best explored through its diverse food tours. We highly recommend food tourism to introduce you to local cuisine and culture.*



DAY 3: PORTO/ DOURO VALLEY/ LOUSADA/ PORTO.



After breakfast you will depart by luxury vehicle to the lovely town of Vila Real, where you enter the magnificent Douro Valley, whose landscape of vines and vineyards is inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites. The landscape of the Douro is very much a part of its history and heritage with terraces

shaped by man almost as if it were a series of gardens. Farm lunch included today. This meal will be a very local and memorable experience.

After your visit to the winery and lunch, you will continue to the town of Lousada and Casa de Juste, a charming country home and farm of the Guedes family. On arrival you will enjoy welcome coffee with owners, Ana & Fernando Guedes. The Guedes are a prominent family of Northern Portugal and owners of Sogrape, one of the biggest wine companies of the country also with presence in Spain, Chile, Argentina, and New Zealand. Fernando is an active member of the Portuguese association of historic gardens.



After a stroll through the lovely garden and farmland you will take part in a Gardening workshop (subject to availability, a similar activity can be arranged). Creating your own little keepsake masterpieces to take home. Return to Porto. Dinner on your own this evening.

DAY 4: PORTO/ SANTO TORISO/ BRAGA/ PORTO.



After breakfast you will depart by luxury vehicle to visit Quinta do Casal, the private home and camellia garden of Manuel Gil. You will be welcomed by Manuel Gil and his sister Clara, both camellia experts. Coffee and refreshments will be hosted. (Quinta means country property in Portugal and Argentina). This visit is subject to availability due to Manuel Gils

concerns of his harvest time and will have to work around his schedule. Should it not be available, your visit will be replaced with a comparable Quinta and garden. To be advised in final itinerary.

Head to Braga, an important city on the pilgrimage route. With a visit to the Quinta of Mario and Paola Sequeria in the Tibaes, the gallery, and its wonderful park and gardens with site-specific sculpture. Lunch on your terms. After a tour of the Baroque Church, garden, and beautiful staircase of the Bom Jesus del Monte, one of Portugal's most important shrines on the Portuguese St. James Way. Return to Porto. Dinner on your own this evening.



Day 5: PORTO/ SANTAR/ LISBON



After breakfast and check out, depart with your driver to the wine-producing village of Santar in the wine region of Dao. Here Spanish top landscape architect Fernando Caruncho is doing his first Portuguese project. Located at the heart of the Dão Wine region, Santar is a small village of 1000 inhabitants, known for its beautiful manor

houses and centuries-old palaces.

It offers a unique combination of religious and noble architecture, terroir, wonderful natural landscapes, and winemaking traditions. It is also home to a constellation of magnificent historical gardens which have been restored and united under a single landscape plan designed by the celebrated Spanish landscape architect Fernando Caruncho. Lunch on your terms. After lunch you will visit Caruncho's new community gardens and delightful vineyards, the palace's historic Baroque Garden, and explore the village.



From Santar, continue to Lisbon. Dinner on your own.

DAY6: LISBON/ ALENTEJO/LISBON



After Breakfast depart towards the Alentejo. On arrival enjoy a visit with wine tasting. Lunch today at the "Quinta do Esporão" (or similar) with local Olive Oil Tasting.

Following lunch, visit a local "Montado" and get to know all the stages of the cork productions. Explore a cork oak estate through the Montado ecosystem. Learn about cork harvesting, holm oaks, and traditional livestock like the black pig. Return to Lisbon. Dinner on your own.



DAY 7: LISBON / SETUBAL / LISBON



Finish your breakfasts and join your driver for a scenic ride across the Tagus to the Azeitao region surrounding the town of Setubal. Visit the gardens of Quinta da Bacalhoa (entrance included), one of the oldest and most beautiful Gardens of Portugal.

Based on a simple pattern of geometric squares, the gardens are fashioned out of carefully manicured boxwood - a living sculpture that requires a lot of maintenance but works well in this very arid climate. (There are no flowering plants since they require plenty of water.) The remarkably ornate garden is



arranged around a central fountain. Each parterre displays a different boxwood pattern, and each has a distinct meaning: an "R" at the center of one symbolizes rei, which means king of Portugal. Topiaries in the form of slender obelisks punctuate the courtyard garden and add height and interest when viewed at eye level. The space exudes a calm elegance that provides an artful counterpoint to the home's simple geometric forms. A tall yew hedge surrounds the garden on three sides, giving the area a peaceful seclusion. Just beyond the courtyard gardens stands a stately orange grove. The orange tree is evergreen in this climate, and here, planted in an area that's lower than the pavement, you always see a canopy of green. In Portugal where land is scarce, having function as well as form is a critical design and philosophical principle.

After your visit you will visit an Azulejo/Tile workshop and have a tasting of Bacalhoa wines at its winery (included). Lunch on your terms.



Return to Lisbon crossing the impressive Ponte Vasco de Gama, Europe's longest bridge. You will explore the impressive face lift of the Tagus Estuary over recent years. Start by the grounds of the EXPO 2008 with its building by Santiago Calatrava (Oriente Train Station) and Alvaro Siza. Dinner on your terms. Overnight in the hotel.

DAY 8: LISBON / QUELUZ / LISBON.



Departing after breakfast, your first visit is the Gulbenkian Foundation's Museum and Gardens (entrance included). The museum was especially designed for selected exhibits from the private collection of the late Calouste Gulbenkian, Armenian oil tycoon. The park was designed by the landscape architects Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles and António Viana Barreiro in close collaboration with Alberto Pessoa, Pedro Cid and Ruy Athouguia who were architects of the buildings of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. This wide-ranging museum collection covers various periods and areas: Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Islamic and Oriental art, old coins and European painting and decorative arts. The phrase "only the best" accurately defines the criteria by which Gulbenkian was guided, and the passionate affection he developed for the objects. Lunch on your terms.



Continue to the Palacio do Marquês da Fronteira. This is an outstanding garden, a place of real harmony and beauty that reflects the ideals of the Italian Renaissance. The decorative profusion of azulejos collected here provides a special surprise – the polychromatic paintwork mixing the picaresque with the humorous to impressive effect. The fountains and baroque sculptures of the garden make it one of the most interesting examples of its kind from the 18th century, and something not to be missed. It is still privately owned by the Mascarenha family.

Built in the 17th century, its rooms have exceptional decorative tile work, frescoes panels, and oil paintings. The famous Hall of Battles has been called the Sistine Chapel of tile work. We will visit the formal gardens with fountains, statues, and more examples of the finest tile work. This palace is one of the most important showpieces of Portuguese decorative art and one of the best examples of Portuguese Baroque gardens. Return to your hotel in Lisbon. Dinner on your own.

DAY 9: LISBON / SINTRA / LISBON



Joining your driver after breakfast to head to the Sierra of Sintra today. On arrival visit the “Quinta da Regaleira”. Lunch on your terms. After sightseeing continue in Queluz, visit the Gardens of the Palace (included). Dinner on your own.

DAY 10: LISBON- LISBON AIRPORT

After breakfast and check out you will be transferred from your Lisbon Hotel to the Lisbon Airport. Here you will board your flights to Funchal. On arrival, meet your driver to take you for refreshments and snacks (to be purchased directly on your own) before continuing to Monte Palace by cable car.

After reaching the superb viewpoint at Funchal, you will begin your tour of the Monte Palace Gardens, a beautiful botanical garden showcasing a wide variety of flora and fauna from around the world. The garden's highlights include two oriental gardens, a collection of African sculptures, and a large collection of exotic plants, such as azaleas and camellias. Additionally, the garden offers stunning views of the surrounding area, including the city of Funchal and the Atlantic Ocean. Afterwards, you can enjoy an optional Toboggan (in supplement). Dinner on your terms.



DAY 11: FUNCHAL/MADEIRA.



After breakfast you will join your driver for a full day tour to visit Botanical & Quinta do Arco Rose Gardens. This exclusive tour showcases the best of Madeira's botanical wonders, featuring a visit to the renowned Botanical Gardens and Quinta do Arco Rose Gardens. As we venture into the Botanical

Gardens, prepare to be mesmerized by a breathtaking collection of exotic flora from around the world. Discover rare plants, towering trees, and cascading waterfalls, all harmoniously blending to create a serene oasis of tranquillity. Lunch on your terms.

Continuing your botanical adventure, you make your way to the illustrious Quinta do Arco Rose Gardens. With over 1,500 species of roses, this beautiful garden is one of the top five rose gardens in Europe. Throughout the tour, your knowledgeable guide provides fascinating insights into the history, ecology, and conservation efforts behind these botanical treasures. Dinner on your own this evening.



DAY 12: FUNCHAL/ FUNCHAL AIRPORT / LISBON



After breakfast and check out you will transfer to the Funchal Airport for your return flights to Lisbon. Guests book their own air, no flights, international or domestic have been included. We are happy to assist you with finding the right flight for your excursion and providing you with a booking agents contact. On arrival in Lisbon, make your way to your hotel. A final day in

Lisbon for some souvenirs shopping in Chiado. Lunch and Dinner on your terms.

DAY 13: LISBON - LISBON AIRPORT

Breakfast in the hotel. Make your own way to the airport. Services end.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

The total estimated price for the proposed itinerary (total cost may fluctuate based on time of year you are traveling, contact us to discuss)

4 star Hotels / Based on 2 PAX is \$ 9,555.00 per person

4 star Hotels / Based on 4 PAX is \$ 6,670.00 per person

OR

5 star Hotel Porto / Based on 2 PAX is \$ 10,115.00 per person

5 star Hotel Porto / Based on 4 PAX is \$ 7,315.00 per person

Accommodation includes breakfast. (**city taxes of between 2-5 Euro per person per day will be charged locally upon check out of each hotel)

4-star Hotels (or similar to those mentioned below) with large double-bedded (or twin for shares where possible) rooms, inclusive of breakfast

Porto: Hotel Turim Port - <https://turimoporto.hotelsporto.net/en/>

Lisbon: Hotel Portobay Marques - <https://www.portobay.com/en/hotels/lisbon-hotels/portobay-marques/>

Funchal: Hotel Next - <https://hotelnext.pt/>

5-star Hotels (or similar to those mentioned below) with large double-bedded (or twin for shares where possible) rooms, inclusive of breakfast

Porto: Vila Nova de Gaia <https://www.hilton.com/en/locations/portugal/vila-nova-de-gaia/>

or Hotel Boeira Garden <https://www.boeiragardenhotelporto.com/>

Lisbon: Hotel Portobay Liberdade <https://www.portobay.com/en/hotels/lisbon-hotels/portobay-marques/>

Funchal: Hotel Next - <https://hotelnext.pt/>

THIS PRICE INCLUDES:

Bed and Breakfast from the night of the 1st day till breakfast of the 13th day

Private Car/van according to the program

Local Tour guide according to the program

Entrance fees according to the program:

Visits, 1 Farmhouse Lunch, and 1 Quinta Lunch and tastings according to the program

THIS PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Travel insurance. (Sterling Tours Ltd recommends clients to subscribe a personal traveler's insurance). - Tips (guides and drivers)

Any other expenses not mentioned in the paragraph "Price includes".

CITY TAXES (Please let us know if you want to include in the invoice or if it will be paid directly on site by clients)

Lisbon and surroundings: 4 Euro/pax/night

Porto: 3 Euro/pax/night

Vila Nova de Gaia: 2,5 Euro/pax/night

Flights from the USA or Europe, tips to your driver/guide and guides and anything not mentioned above

All communications costs, hotels taxes and fees are also included and the services of our professional travel experts on the ground are available to you 24/7 days a week throughout your trip.

BOOKING: The proposal is subject to availability and can be considered year-round. The price is subject to change based on currency fluctuation and the time you are traveling. This price is a fair estimate, and we look forward to discussing your interest in the tour. To book we require a 30% deposit which is non-refundable as required to pre-book all services. We accept payments by credit card, check or by bank transfer. The balance of your trip would be due by 90 days prior to travel. We suggest taking out travel insurance with your local broker or online provider.

FLIGHTS: Guests are responsible for their own flights purchased separately. We are happy to assist you with suggestions and have an air booking agent who is happy to assist you.