

# THE PORTUGAL GUIDE

EDITION #3

## WHICH CITY SHOULD YOU SEE?

How to make the most of  
your time in Portugal

## LEARN TO VALUE TRAVEL

Get the best bang for  
your travel buck

## TRAVEL TIPS, TRICKS & HACKS

Make traveling  
easier for you



# HI, I'M NICK

I'm here to help you get the most bang for your travel buck!

I was born in the Windy City of Chicago and I've been traveling the world since 2012. In my spare time, I enjoy photography and making inspirational travel films on [YouTube](#) for budget-minded travelers like me.

Follow along on my journey to see what I'm up to next on social media and my website, [navigatornick.com](#).

I'll show you how to value travel!

**Value traveling** is getting the most bang for your travel buck.

**-NAVIGATORNICK**

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The southern region of Portugal, the Algarve, is one of the best regions to visit in Portugal



CASTLE OF THE MOORS



LISBON

## PORTUGAL

# The best time of year to travel?

Portugal's climate and seasons have something to offer everyone. From the beaches of the Algarve to the hills of the Douro Wine Valley and the historical cities of Lisbon and Porto. The spring and fall shoulder seasons may offer travelers the best of both worlds.



**Wet Season**

## December - April

Best time for surfers

HIGH

**76**

LOW

**57**



**Dry Season**

## July - September

Best time for outdoor activities

HIGH

**82**

LOW

**63**



**Mild Season**

## Oct/Nov & May/June

Best time for budget travelers

HIGH

**79**

LOW

**61**

# PORTUGAL

## WHAT TO EXPECT

**Language:** Portuguese / España / Spanish / French

**Currency:** Euro (EUR)

**Credit Cards & ATMs:** Many Portugal shops, restaurants, and hotels accept credit cards, but not all. Definitely carry a little bit of cash on you.

**Cell Service:** If you don't have an international cell phone plan, pick up an [AIRALO eSIM](#) - Get USD \$3.00 off with code "NICK4202" when you sign up or at checkout.

**Plugs:** The plugs in Portugal are type F, the standard voltage is 230 V, and the standard frequency is 50 Hz. I recommend buying a [universal adapter](#) and using a [voltage converter](#) for hairdryers and beard trimmers.

**Food and Drinks:** Portugal has some superb gastronomy guaranteed to delight your taste buds. Among the customary specialities are the famous pastéis de nata (custard tarts), regional cheeses, bacalhau (salted cod) and a great variety of meat and seafood dishes. Portugal is most known for their Port wine, be sure to try it!

**The Arts:** Portugal is renowned for its vibrant street art culture in major cities of Lisbon and Porto.





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# CULTURE & CUSTOMS

Portugal is brimming with traditions and charming customs that you may like to experience while holidaying here to make your visit much more authentic. Portuguese are typically gentle, friendly and modest. Visitors who make the effort to learn even a few simple words or phrases such as hello (bom dia), thank you (obrigado) and goodbye (tchau) will be appreciated.

The family is central to the Portuguese way of life, and takes precedence over all other relationships, including in business. Employing family members within a business is seen as the normal thing to do in Portugal, as it makes sense to them to surround yourself with the people you know and trust the most.

The Portuguese are also concerned with appearances and with respectability. Being smartly dressed, whatever the occasion, is seen as a mark of respectability, especially amongst the older generation. It comes as something of a surprise to many visitors to Portugal to learn that mourning is on a grand scale here. Depending on your relationship to the deceased person, mourning can last several years, and some widows in rural areas remain in mourning for the rest of their lives.



## Food and Drinks

Every country has its traditions, especially when it comes to cooking! Portugal has some superb gastronomy guaranteed to delight your taste buds. Among the customary specialities are the famous pastéis de nata (custard tarts), regional cheeses, bacalhau (salted cod) and a great variety of meat and seafood dishes, as well as great wines.

## The Arts

From literature to architecture, theatre to dance, Portugal has a thriving arts scene offering an insight into Portuguese culture. Whether you are looking for music, a vibrant nightlife scene, museums or exhibitions, you will find plenty of interesting places to visit, especially in the capital, Lisbon. Have a look at the Lisbon Cultural Agenda for more detailed information about what's on.

## Festivals

Romarias (pilgrimages) are local religious festivals that honour the patron saint of a particular area throughout Portugal. If you happen to be in an area during these celebrations, be sure to check them out! Watch a solemn procession, observe the local religious gowns and absorb the pious atmosphere before taking part in the festivities that follow.

# SAFETY

Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and bag snatching, occurs. Thieves are very skilled and often work in groups. Be particularly vigilant in these public areas:

- all tourist sites and attractions
- beaches
- restaurants
- hotel lobbies
- transportation hubs, including bus and train stations

While crime occurs mostly in larger cities, thieves can strike anywhere, including in small towns popular with tourists and, in particular, towns along the coast. Be particularly careful in the greater area of Lisbon:

- Sintra and Queluz
- Costa da Caparica beaches
- Guincho beach
- Cascais
- Cabo da Roca and Boca do Inferno

Ensure that your personal belongings, including your passport and other travel documents are secure at all times. Pay attention to your surroundings, avoid wearing or carrying expensive watches, jewelry, cameras, etc. and don't carry large sums of cash. If possible, carry only the documents, cash and belongings you will need for the day; leave all other items in a hotel safe.

In Lisbon, exercise caution at all train, bus and underground stations, and particularly on electric trams numbered E28, to Castelo de São Jorge (São Jorge castle); E25, to Prazeres; and E15, to Belém.

In Porto, don't walk alone after dark, especially along the Douro River Waterfront.

If you are robbed, go to the nearest police station to report the crime and obtain a police report. There are tourist police stations in Lisbon, Porto, Praia da Rocha (Portimão) and Cascais. Local establishments, such as hotels will be able to direct you to the police station. Violent crime targeting tourists is rare in Portugal.

Theft from cars occurs. Thieves often target rental cars and vehicles with foreign license plates. Don't leave personal items and documents (especially passports) in plain sight in a vehicle.

Use secure parking facilities, particularly overnight. Ensure windows are closed and doors are locked at all times. As a precaution, remove or place items in the trunk of your vehicle before arriving and parking at your destination.

Be suspicious of anyone (other than the police) signalling you to stop on roads or highways. Thieves use this tactic to steal valuables, unattended bags and even the vehicle.

If you experience car trouble, stop at a gas station or rest stop. Be aware of your immediate surroundings and keep a careful watch on bystanders, including those who offer to help.

Official assistance and road monitoring vehicles are present on Portuguese highways. They will come to your assistance. When possible, wait for these service providers to arrive or if you are in sight of an SOS phone (which are spread along the highways), use it to call for help.

## Home break-ins

Tourists staying in rental homes have been the victims of break-ins and burglaries. Choose well-secured homes and avoid unsavoury neighbourhoods. Whether you are staying in private or commercial accommodations, make sure you lock windows and doors securely at night and when you are away.



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# WHERE SHOULD YOU GO IN PORTUGAL?!

Portugal is larger than you might expect and there is so much to see and explore in Europe's most western country.

Popular travel destinations in Portugal include **Lisbon**, **Porto**, and the **Algarve** region. Given the cost and logistics of an international flight from the USA, you're most likely to fly into Lisbon, as it offers more direct flights and options. If your budget allows, consider booking a multi-city flight, flying into one destination and out of another, to avoid backtracking during your trip.

Once you're in Portugal, Lisbon and Porto are well connected via a quick train (3 hours on the high-speed **Alfa Pendular (AP) train**) or a 1 hour flight. The Algarve is also well connected via train (4 hours) or a 1 hour flight, but once you're in the area, you will probably want to rent a car to get to the most pristine beaches and landscapes.

Below you can find an ideal 10 day itinerary. As you go through the guide, you will find more specific information about each of these areas and what to expect.

## 10 DAY PORTUGAL ITINERARY

**Day 1** - Lisbon

**Day 2** - Lisbon

**Day 3** - Lisbon -> Sintra

**Day 4** - Take the train from Lisbon to Porto

**Day 5** - Porto

**Day 6** - Porto

**Day 7** - Porto -> [Douro Valley](#)

**Day 8** - Lagos (Algarve)

**Day 9** - Lagos (Algarve)

**Day 10** - Lagos (Algarve)

### [MORE PORTUGAL ITINERARIES](#)

# BOOKING FLIGHTS

It's important to check flight prices as soon as you decide you're going to Portugal. **LIS (Lisbon International Airport)** is going to be your best bet for booking an international flight but **LPPR (Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport) in Porto** may be an option as well. Use [KAYAK.com](https://www.kayak.com) to search, compare and track flights.

Compare multiple flight options with just a click of a few buttons.

A question I get often is, "when should I book?". There's not a science to booking the right flight, at the right time. However, there are patterns to be aware of.

For example, flights May - August will always be higher, this is peak travel season. USA Holidays will also be higher. Popular festival dates will be higher. Religious holidays will be higher.

Shoulder season is the cheapest time to book (April, September, October). My favorite month to travel to Europe is September! Much of the summer crowds have gone away and the weather is still warm, but not too hot.

Generally, you should book international flights from the USA six months in advance. From UK, you should start tracking prices around four months out. Domestic flights should be booked 45 - 60+ days out.

[Search KAYAK.com now for the best flight prices](https://www.kayak.com)



# SEARCH FLIGHTS TO PORTUGAL!


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✈ From? ↔ ✈ To?

📅 Mon 10/21 📅 Mon 10/28



*Thank you for downloading and viewing  
The Portugal Travel Guide!*

# GETTING AROUND PORTUGAL

If you love the freedom of being able to come and go on your own time, renting a car in Portugal is a great option for getting outside of the big cities. **Booking a rental car allows you to have flexibility.** It also saves you time and it could save you money.

Book a rental car using [DiscoverCars.com](https://www.discovercars.com) and find yourself being able to drive to multiple cities in Portugal, including; **Douro Valley, Sintra, Lisbon, Porto, Aveiro, Coimbra, Alcobaca** and many more other beautiful cities.

When estimating your rental car costs, remember to add up tolls, fuel costs, parking fees, and charges for dropping off the vehicle in a different location, if applicable.

In some cases, it's possible to get a rental car for free with using points from your Capital One or [Chase Sapphire Preferred](#) credit card.



When choosing your rental car, consider it's size (smaller is better), the rental price and your pickup/drop off location, your top three priorities.

**Traveler Tip:** Most rental vehicles in Portugal are only offered in a manual transmission. Automatic transmissions are harder to find and they are more expensive.

If you're outside your home country and you don't know the local laws in Portugal, plan to read up on them to feel more comfortable on the road.

The **Algarve region**, specifically, is a popular destination to rent a car. There are not a lot of great public transportation options in Southern Portugal, which is why it's best to rent a car unless you are spending all your time in Faro.

Most of the dramatic landscapes and golden sand beaches are near Lagos, which is around a 1 hour drive West of Faro.

For example, If you opt for public transportation, the train will take 1 hour 45 minutes and a bus will take you 2.5 hours.



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## RENTING A CAR

If you want to avoid being stuck with a tour group, or waiting around for public transportation, I highly suggest renting a car.

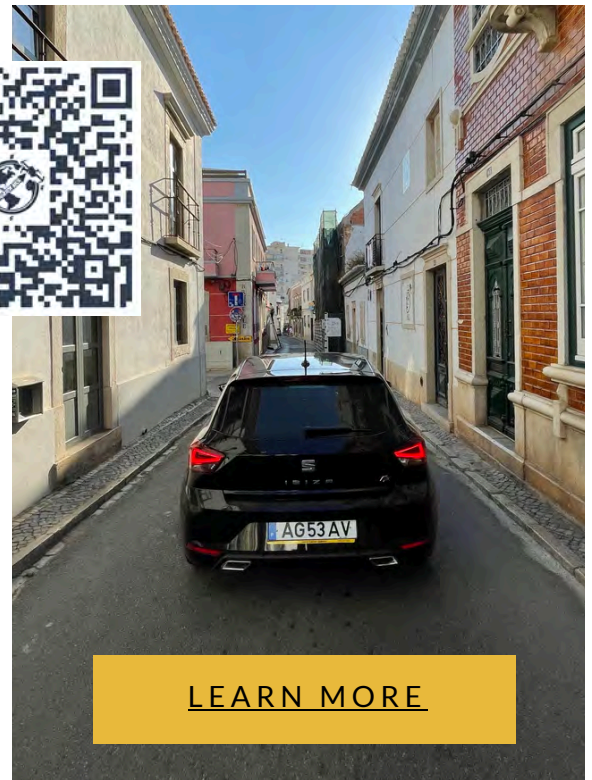
[DiscoverCars.com](https://DiscoverCars.com) offers no hidden costs, 24/7 support and 100% free cancellation.

You can compare major car brands like Hertz, Budget, AVIS, Enterprise, EuropeCar, Alamo, SIXT and many others.

Having your own ride in Portugal will let you explore its different towns, as well as the different regions of Portugal.

Pick up your car directly from the **Lisbon, Porto, or Faro** airport and off you go!

The most popular rental car in Portugal is the VW Polo, but travelers also tend to pick the Ford Fiesta and the Fiat 500. Many of the cities in Portugal have smaller roads in certain parts, which were built centuries ago. These roads often only facilitate smaller vehicles, which is why compact rentals car is so popular in Portugal.



[LEARN MORE](#)

### Estimated Pricing - USD

- Convertibles - from \$6 per day
- Station wagons - from \$6 per day
- Large cars - from \$13 per day
- Medium cars - from \$4 per day
- Vans - from \$26 per day
- Premium cars - from \$24 per day
- Small cars - from \$3 per day
- SUVs - from \$4 per day

If you plan to rent a car in Portugal, it's recommended that you get an International Driving Permit in advance of your trip. These are issued through agencies like [AAA \(US\)](#), [CAA \(Canada\)](#), the [UK post office](#), and [AAA Australia](#). Cost varies by country from about \$5 to \$25, and IDPs are valid for one year. Portugal law requires foreign drivers to carry an IDP in addition to a driver's license.



World Travel Tech Awards - World's Best Car Rental Booking Website 2022



World Travel Tech Awards - World's Best Car Rental Booking App 2022



Magellan Awards Gold Winner 2022



Travel & Hospitality Awards 2021



FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies - Top 300 Companies 2021



FT 1000: Europe's Fastest Growing Companies - Top 100 Companies 2020



Uzakrota Travel Awards - World's Leading Car Rental Website 2022

# AIRPORT TRANSFERS IN LISBON AND PORTO

Often, the first question I get is, “How do I get to the city center?”



The easiest and **best option to get to your hotel or the city center** of Lisbon or Porto, is to hire a private driver. This is because, the second you step out of baggage claim, you have somebody waiting for you with your name on a sign (and boy does that feel good!)

[Hire a private driver for Lisbon here.](#)  
[Hire a private driver for Porto here.](#)

The last thing you want to do after your long journey is to wait around for a bus, train, or a taxi driver.

The **cheapest way to get to the city center** is via the metro for both Lisbon and Porto. Single tickets run between €1.65 - £2.



Check out the [Lisbon City Transportation Pass](#) for 24, 48 or 72 hours that includes admission to 39 other attractions!



Porto has a similar transportation card called the “[Porto Card](#)”



## Other Options

Uber and Bolt are available and popular in Lisbon and Porto.

Taxis are available at all airports in Portugal if you choose so. Make sure to negotiate the price before you agree to step inside as some drivers like to take advantage of weary or unaware travelers.

# TRAINS, TRAMS, & BUSES

Lisbon and Porto have well-developed public transportation systems that include trains and trams.

## Lisbon:

1. **Trains:** Lisbon has an extensive suburban train network that connects the city center with the surrounding areas. The most notable is the **CP Urban Services**. *Rossio* and *Oriente* are major train stations.



2. **Trams:** The iconic **yellow tram 28** is a popular choice for tourists as it winds its way through historic neighborhoods. Trams 15 and 25 also cover significant parts of the city.

3. **Metro:** Lisbon Metro is a reliable and efficient way to navigate the city quickly. It has four lines that cover various parts of Lisbon. See the map on the next page.

4. **Buses:** A comprehensive bus network complements the trains and trams, reaching areas not covered by other modes of transport.

## Porto:

1. **Trains:** The suburban train network in Porto is managed by CP Urban Services. Major stations include *São Bento* and *Campanhã*.

2. **Trams:** Porto is known for the historical tram line 1, which runs along the Douro River. It offers picturesque views of the city.

3. **Metro:** The Porto Metro has six lines, providing efficient transportation within the city and connecting to the suburbs.

4. **Buses:** A network of buses covers Porto, offering additional flexibility for reaching various neighborhoods.

Both cities offer convenient travel cards or passes that can be used across different modes of transportation, making it easy for locals and visitors to explore the richness of Lisbon and Porto.



ALFA PENDULAR HIGH-SPEED TRAIN



# SETTING A BUDGET TO VALUE TRAVEL

**What is value traveling?** Value traveling is getting the most bang for your travel buck. In other words, it's about maximizing your travel expenses and valuing your experiences.

Establish a budget, even if it's a loose one.

Exploring Portugal doesn't need to be costly; it just requires a little planning to save some money. The primary expenses on your journey will typically include accommodations, activities, and airfare.

## Accommodations

For instance, certain areas of Portugal to be more budget-friendly than others.

Let's explore the concept of value travel when it comes to selecting your accommodations in Portugal.



Check out this amazing [wine barrel hotel](#) in the Douro Valley. Here, you are paying for a wonderful experience, but not the high prices of staying in a luxury hotel in Lisbon or Porto.



**It may cost you more to stay in a once-in-a-lifetime wine barrel, but you're paying for the experience.** That's what traveling is all about! Counter the wine barrel stay with booking a cheaper and more budget friendly place for the next accommodation. I wouldn't sacrifice on clean sheets and comforts, but you may want to sacrifice on amenities and location, to a certain degree.



In the end, you will notice that you will get more value for your money by splitting your time between accommodations – luxury and budget.

If you like to move around, stay in one location at least for two nights for the best experience.

*Continue onto the next page to learn more about value traveling...*

To get an idea of how much your trip will cost, research prices for airfare and activities before you make any non-refundable purchases or reservations.



## Activities

What's a great trip to Portugal without a visit to [Sintra](#)?!

You don't need to book an excursion every day, that will help with your budget too, but you could book a few throughout your stay using GetYourGuide. Here's why I love GetYourGuide!

- **100% refund policy, if plans change**
- **Skip the line tickets for main attractions**
- **Mobile vouchers - no need to print**
- **Last-minute availability**

## Airfare

Save big on airfare by going to Portugal in the shoulder seasons, March through April and September through October. The weather will be pleasant and less crowds, a perfect opportunity for an excellent getaway!

Once you've estimated your trip's flight, accommodation and activity cost, start considering the cost of transportation.

## Rental Cars

Search, save and compare -up to 70% off, of your favorite rental companies like Enterprise, Hertz, AVIS, Budget & many more over at [DiscoverCars.com](#).



## Public Transportation

You can save a bunch of money by buying a local transportation card, Hop-On Hop-Off Bus, or a City Pass.

So, when does public transportation make sense? It makes sense when you're in a major city like Lisbon or Porto, where parking is scarce.

Check out the [Lisbon City Pass](#) for [Porto City Pass](#) or 24, 48 or 72 hours!

# HOW TO SAVE MONEY IN PORTUGAL

**Try Shoulder Season.** Flights are often cheaper in the shoulder- or offseason. Peak months are May - August. Track flights with Google Flights and jump on a great deal when Google tells you to book now!

**Avoid holidays, festivals, and other large events,** unless that's the reason you're going to Barcelona! Just be aware events can inflate accommodation rates, overwhelm popular sights, and make it difficult—and costly—to get around.

**Compare midweek to weekend prices.**

Accommodations in Barcelona tend to be more affordable on the weekdays.



**Use Travel Points.** The Capital One Venture One card is a fantastic travel rewards credit card with NO fee. However, you need good to excellent credit. If you're really serious about getting into travel reward points, consider using the Chase Sapphire Preferred card.

**Take the bus or metro.** Or better yet, walk everywhere! Explore Barcelona with a public transport ticket that gives you free, unlimited access. The Hola Barcelona card offers a 48, 72, 96, or 120-hour pass. Tickets Starting at just £17. [Learn more](#)

Next, get an idea of your food budget. I'm a foodie lover, so more likely than not, I'm finding new, fun, and interesting places to check out. Some people opt to save on their food budget and hit the local market or neighborhood grocery store.

**Hungry?** You may find a really cheap and authentic meal at one of the local cafes. Avoid the really crowded and tourist areas. Look for menu's not in English and one's that say "Menu of the day". These are most likely local restaurants and you'll spend less money on your meal.

**Bring a Lifestraw** The tap water here is hit or miss so bring a reusable water bottle to save money and reduce your plastic use. LifeStraw is my go-to brand as their bottles have built-in filters to ensure your water is always clean and safe.

**What's the point of traveling if you're not experiencing new things?** Don't skimp on tour and excursion expenses though, save money using GetYourGuide. You will regret not taking a river cruise to the Douro Valley or going on a day trip to Pena Palace and Sintra.

It's a good idea to break up your excursions and line them up for at least every other day. This saves your budget and allows downtime throughout your stay. If your itinerary is jam-packed, that's not fun either.

**Note:** Restaurant tipping- If you see "service included", it means that the tip has already been included. It is only a 10% tip so you can add more for great service.

# BEST THINGS TO DO PORTUGAL!



## DOURO WINE VALLEY TOUR

From \$150 per person

### BOOK HERE

GET A ONCE IN A LIFETIME WINE TOUR EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE DOURO WINE VALLEY. A PRIVATE DRIVER (IGOR) WILL PICK YOU UP AT YOUR HOTEL AND BRING YOU OUR TO THE VALLEY TO EXPLORE WINERIES OF YOUR CHOICE. LUNCH IS INCLUDED.



## PENA PALACE & SINTRA TOUR

From \$60 per person

### BOOK HERE

DISCOVER SINTRA'S BEAUTY AND HISTORY, ITS ROMANTIC PENA PALACE, AND THE STUNNING COASTLINES OF CABO DA ROCA AND CASCAIS ON A FULL-DAY TRIP FROM LISBON.



## BENAGIL CAVES TOUR

From \$40 per person

### BOOK HERE

EXPLORE THE ALGARVE COASTLINE AND THE FAMOUS BENAGIL CAVES ON THIS 2.5H RIB SPEED BOAT TRIP FROM ALBUFEIRA. SWIM IN CRYSTAL CLEAR WATERS AND LOOK OUT FOR DOLPHINS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT.

# BOOKING YOUR ACCOMODATIONS

Once your flight is booked, it's best to start locking in accommodations.

Determine if your adventure is going to be in a centralized location, or if you decide to move from city to city or town to town. If it's the later, make sure to look at a map beforehand to determine the best routes.

Additionally, you may want to research the best roads to take to each destination. Lisbon to Porto is roughly a 3.5 hour train ride or a 3 hour car ride. Lagos, from Lisbon, is another 3 hour car ride or close to a 5 hour train ride.

If you would like to see the 3 major cities in Portugal, plan accordingly, as you will need at least 8 days. Flights are available from each city.



When searching for hotels, I prefer to use [booking.com](https://www.booking.com). Their ratings and reviews are usually spot on, the site is the easiest to navigate (over Expedia), their prices are on-point and there are plenty of options!

Browse and **heart**, or **write down** your favorite places before making the best decision. Base your final accomodation choice on location, price, features, amenities, and style... *in that order*.

Before making any kind of payment, make sure you know the cancelation policy. And if you think you need it, purchase trip cancellation insurance. Most major travel credit cards include trip protection, such as the [Capital One Venture card](#) or the [Chase Sapphire Preferred card](#).



Another reason to book using your [Capital One Venture](#) or [Chase Sapphire Preferred](#) card is collecting miles and points for future traveling. **That's right, more benefits for you!** Opening a travel reward credit card is the fastest way to gain free flights or hotel nights.

So, use those travel reward credit cards to get a jump start on your future travels. You may even get a round trip to Lisbon (or similar) for free by just using your sign-up bonus miles. I did!

Generally, hotel rooms don't give discounts but from time to time, I post 10% booking.com coupon codes on my facebook page, [HERE](#).

## Read Reviews

Reading reviews online of other travelers is a great idea before booking.

# Food & Wine Recommendations

## Bacalhau

Dry-salted cod is, without a doubt, one of the most celebrated ingredients in Portuguese cuisine. It plays a leading role in traditional dishes and is so representative that it is part of the country's identity.

## Roasted Lamb & Potatoes

Typical portuguese meal of homemade roast lamb with potatoes, just like grandma makes. Paired with cooked half-apples, tomatoes, chestnuts and topped off with orange slices.

## Pacheca Port Wine

Quinta da Pacheca, the wine hotel and one of the best estates in the Douro region was one of the first properties to bottle wine under its own label. Pacheco has been in business since 1738. Stay at their property in a [giant wine barrel](#).

## Pasteis de Nata

Crispy-crunchy pastry crust with a smooth and creamy custard filling is what awaits your bite into these traditional, world famous sweet custard tarts from Lisbon, Portugal!

## Francesinha

Pronounced (fran·suh·zeen·yuh) meaning little French woman, is a Portuguese sandwich. It's made with layers of toasted bread and assorted hot meats such as roast, steak, wet-cured ham, linguica or chipolata, over which sliced cheese is melted by the ladling of a near-boiling tomato-and-beer sauce called molho de francesinha. It's typically served with french fries.



# 📍 LISBON

Lisbon, the city of seven hills, is one of the most appealing capitals in Europe and a must-see destination. The Alentejo is a huge region, covering almost a third of the entire country, and it is home to Portugal's cork and wheat fields, as well as vineyards for mile upon mile.

Portugal's capital is one of Europe's genuinely undiscovered, and unspoiled, gems. The **Castelo de São Jorge** sits at the top of the historic Alfama district, looking down across the **River Tagus**, and the stunning **Ponte 25 de Abril** suspension bridge.

At the waterside, the historic Belém district is a tourist's delight, and is home to the historic monastery, the Contemporary Arts Museum and the Torre de Belém, not to mention the Pastéis de Belém, the original pastéis de nata pastry that is beloved by the Portuguese and visitors alike.



# LISBON'S INSIDER TIPS



## Alfama District

The Alfama district, with its narrow, winding streets, is best explored on foot. You'll discover hidden gems like quaint local bars, tiny squares, and stunning viewpoints over the Tagus River. This is the most authentic way to experience the charm of one of Lisbon's oldest neighborhoods.



## Miradouros

Lisbon is famous for its miradouros (lookout points), which offer stunning, often panoramic, views of the city's hills, rooftops, and the Tagus River. Many of these viewpoints are free to visit.

## Tram 28

Use must ride on one of the trams throughout the city, but Tram 28 is the most popular because of its scenic journey through some of Lisbon's most historic and picturesque neighborhoods, including Baixa, Alfama, Graça, Estrela, and Campo de Ourique.





# TOP 5

THINGS TO DO IN LISBON

## 1 BELEM TOWER

Visit one of Lisbon's most iconic monuments with an entry ticket to the Belém Tower. Learn more about the UNESCO-listed fortress, built at the mouth of the River Tagus to defend the city from attack. [Learn More](#)



## 2 SÃO JORGE CASTLE

Explore Saint George's Castle with entry and a self-guided audio tour on your phone in Lisbon. Discover the monumental treasures within the castle walls as you listen to powerful storytelling. [Learn More](#)



## 3 CITY TOUR WITH FOOD & DRINKS

Immerse yourself in a culinary adventure while learning about Portugal's rich culture and history on a walking tour of Lisbon. Visit local spots in Baixa to enjoy a range of drinks and petiscos. [Learn More](#)



## 4 HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS

Tour Lisbon with a 24, 48, or 72-hour bus ticket with an audio guide. Explore the city on various bus routes, hopping on or off wherever you like and discover old quarters with a digital walking tour. [Learn More](#)



## 5 LIVE FADO SHOW & WINE

Experience an intimate live Fado show with local artists in downtown Lisbon. Get an authentic look at traditional music as Portuguese guitars and classic guitars accompany the singers. [Learn More](#)



# 📍 SÃO JORGE CASTLE

Visiting **São Jorge Castle** (*Castelo de São Jorge*) in Lisbon is a must for anyone seeking breathtaking views, rich history, and a glimpse into Lisbon's ancient past. The castle, perched on a hill in the historic Alfama district, offers panoramic views of the city, the **Tagus River**, and beyond. This iconic landmark is not only a fortress but also a symbol of Lisbon's strategic and cultural significance over centuries.

The castle's origins date back to the 11th century during Moorish rule, serving as a royal residence and defensive stronghold. After the Reconquista in 1147, it became a vital part of Portugal's history, hosting royal events and witnessing key historical moments. Walking through its well-preserved ramparts, towers, and courtyards feels like a journey through time, so make sure to take a guided tour to learn about its history.

In addition to its historical allure, **São Jorge Castle** is a tranquil retreat from the bustling city below. Shaded gardens, peacocks roaming the grounds, and the chance to explore medieval walls make it an ideal destination for families, history buffs, and photography enthusiasts alike.

Add **São Jorge Castle** to your Lisbon itinerary to experience its timeless charm and unrivaled views!





THE HEART OF LISBON!

## AMENITIES

- ✓ HEATING
- ✓ TV
- ✓ MINI BAR
- ✓ TOWELS
- ✓ SOUNDPROOF
- ✓ WI-FI
- ✓ SHOWER
- ✓ SAFE

# Pousada Alfama

In the heart of Lisbon, Pousada Alfama offers an upscale retreat with a charming bar and delightful restaurant. Enjoy continental breakfast, unwind at the 24-hour front desk, and take advantage of concierge services - all while being surrounded by friendly multilingual staff.

SCAN ME



[BOOK HERE](#)

# LISBON NEIGHBORHOODS

Lisbon is divided into several clearly distinguishable neighborhoods. To really get an idea on where you want to stay, read more about traditional neighborhoods like **Baixa**, **Chaido**, **Bairro Alto**, **Alfama** and **Belém**.

Each one of these districts has its own unique vitality and essence.



**Park of the Nations (Parque das Nações)** is an area that was created for the 1998 World Expo in Lisbon. It's a modern, vibrant area, with many open spaces.



**Alfama** is an authentic fishing neighborhood located between the Atlantic Ocean and Lisbon's São Jorge Castle. It is where Fado was created. Fado is a type of Portuguese singing, that is renowned for its expressive and profoundly emotional & sad character.



**Baixa** is the liveliest and most central neighborhood in Lisbon. It was rebuilt by the Marquis of Pombal after the Great Earthquake of 1755.



**Chiado** and **Bairro Alto** are Lisbon's bohemian and alternative neighborhoods. They are separated by the square Praça Luís de Camões.



Lisbon's neighborhood **Belém** houses two beautiful points of interest, the Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower. You can also try delicious pastéis de Belém.

# WHERE TO STAY LISBON

[LEARN MORE](#)



## HISTORIC LOCATION

From \$300/night

THIS ALFAMA HOTEL PUTS YOU 0.3 MI (0.4 KM) FROM CASTLE OF SÃO JORGE AND 0.7 MI (1.2 KM) FROM ROSSIO SQUARE. YOU CAN RELAX WITH A DRINK AT THE BAR/LOUNGE, AND THE RESTAURANT IS THE PERFECT SPOT TO GRAB A BITE TO EAT. THIS UPSCALE HOTEL IS ALSO 1 MI (1.5 KM) FROM AVENIDA DA LIBERDADE AND 5.4 MI (8.7 KM) FROM BELÉM TOWER. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS ONLY A SHORT WALK



[LEARN MORE](#)



## VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$150/night

LIGHTHOUSE APARTMENTS PUTS YOU 0.6 MI (0.9 KM) FROM ROSSIO SQUARE AND 0.8 MI (1.3 KM) FROM AVENIDA DA LIBERDADE. APARTMENTS FEATURE KITCHENETTES, FLAT-SCREEN TVS, AND ESPRESSO MAKERS. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS ONLY A SHORT WALK



[LEARN MORE](#)



## BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

FANTASTIC LOCATION! 656 FEET FROM CHIADO. ROSSIO IS 1312 FEET FROM THE PROPERTY. FREE WIFI IS OFFERED THROUGHOUT THE PROPERTY. THE ACCOMMODATIONS IS FITTED WITH A FLAT-SCREEN TV WITH SATELLITE CHANNELS. THERE IS A SEATING AND/OR DINING AREA IN SOME UNITS. THERE IS ALSO A KITCHENETTE IN SOME OF THE UNITS.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$400+/night

THIS BOUTIQUE HOTEL IS SET IN ONE OF THE CITY'S ANCIENT BUILDINGS, NEXT TO THE ROMAN WALLS. THE STYLISH ROOMS AT MERCER HOTEL BARCELONA HAVE CHIC DÉCOR WITH ORIGINAL BEAMED CEILINGS AND EXPOSED BRICK WALLS. THERE IS FREE WI-FI, AIR CONDITIONING AND FLAT-SCREEN SATELLITE TV.



# Metro Lisbon

- █ Linha Amarela
- █ Linha Azul
- █ Linha Verde
- █ Linha Vermelha

Not an official diagram. Not to scale.  
 (c) Chris Smere, as of 2020/06, CC SA-BY-NC 4.0 AT



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Love the Guide?



Buy Me a Coffee!



## MAFRA

Mafra, a charming town located just 40 kilometers northwest of Lisbon, is best known for its magnificent **Palace-Convent of Mafra** (Palácio Nacional de Mafra). This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a masterpiece of Baroque architecture, built in the 18th century under the reign of *King João V*. Inspired by the king's vow to construct a grand monastery if he and *Queen Maria Ana* bore an heir, the palace exceeds expectations with its grandeur. The complex includes a palace, a monastery, an ornate basilica, and a library housing over 36,000 rare books—one of the most stunning in Europe.

The **National Palace of Mafra** showcases opulence and scale, with more than 1,200 rooms, over 4,700 doors and windows, and exquisite marble and gold details. Highlights include the two massive bell towers with a carillon of 92 bells and the intricate wood carvings of the basilica. Beyond its architectural splendor, the palace offers a glimpse into Portuguese royal history, with richly furnished royal apartments and a preserved infirmary where monks once treated patients.

Mafra is also a gateway to nature. Adjacent to the palace is the **Tapada Nacional de Mafra**, a sprawling royal hunting reserve turned into a wildlife sanctuary. Visitors can enjoy hiking trails, bike rides, or even watch native species like deer and wild boar in their natural habitat. With its mix of historical allure and natural beauty, Mafra makes for a rewarding day trip from Lisbon. Don't miss the chance to step back in time and explore this gem of Portuguese heritage!

PALÁCIO NACIONAL DE MAFRA





# SINTRA

Eighteen miles and a world away from Lisbon, it's easy to see why Sintra—with its cool, lush hills and proximity to the Atlantic coast—is where Portuguese royals used to spend their summers.

This UNESCO World Heritage site is a [popular day-trip destination by transfer or train from Lisbon](#). After seeing the 19th-century Romantic architecture, cobblestone streets, and dense forests, you'll understand why Lord Byron once referred to the town as a "glorious Eden."

**Read More:** [The Perfect Day in Sintra](#)

Pena Palace is the main attraction in the quaint town of Sintra. Inspired by German Romantic architecture, it looks like a Disney castle with its pink and yellow towers, ornamental buttresses, and cartoonish gargoyles. The interiors are equally dramatic. Don't miss the intricately carved ceilings and walls of Queen Amelia's apartments and the striking all-white reception room. If it's a nice day, purchase a combo ticket that includes access to the royal gardens.

Next to Pena Palace is the [Castle of the Moors](#). Isolated on its lofty perch, one of the peaks in the Sintra Hills, the Moorish Castle is a fortification founded in the 10th century during the period the Moors occupied the Iberian Peninsula.

Its famous walls snake across the hills with their granite blocks interlinking boulders and cliffs. Its parapet walk provides stunningly unique views out over the town, the Palace of Pena and, further in the distance, the greens of these hills contrast with the blues of the Atlantic Ocean.



# 📍 CASTLE OF THE MOORS

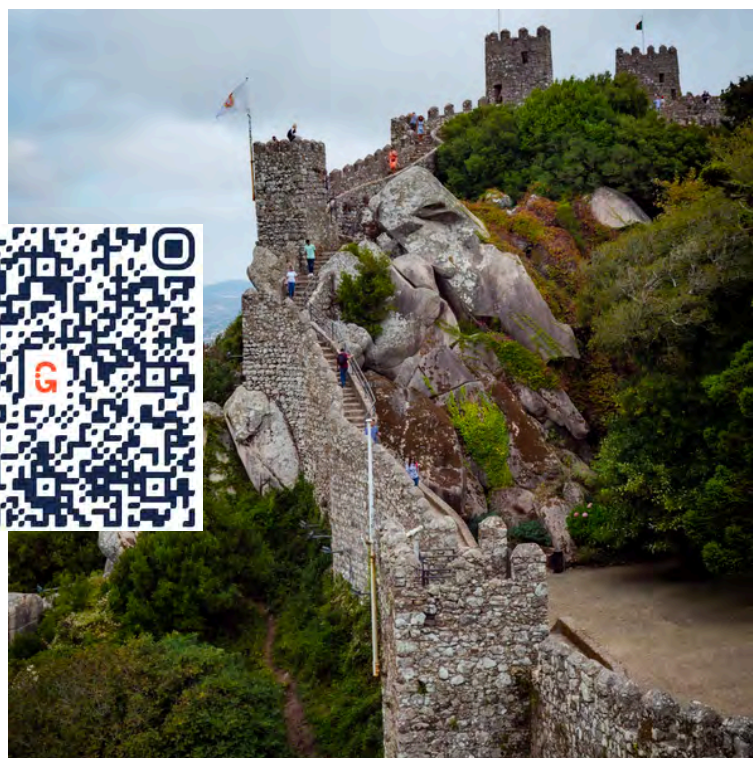
The **Castle of the Moors** (*Castelo dos Mouros*) in Sintra, Portugal, is a medieval hilltop fortress offering breathtaking views of the surrounding region. Built during the 8th–9th centuries by the Moors (Muslim rulers of Iberia), the castle was strategically positioned to defend the region and oversee the Atlantic coast and Lisbon.

**Read More:** [The Perfect Day in Sintra](#)

Originally built in the 8th–9th centuries by the Moors, this medieval fortress once served as a critical stronghold, overseeing trade routes and protecting the region. Its serpentine stone walls and towers blend seamlessly with the rugged terrain, creating an atmospheric experience that feels like stepping back in time. The castle's strategic position offers visitors sweeping views of the Sintra countryside, the Atlantic Ocean, and nearby landmarks like the vibrant [Pena Palace](#).

Nestled within the verdant **Sintra-Cascais Natural Park**, the hike to the castle winds through enchanting trails dotted with wildflowers and moss-covered rocks. For those less inclined to hike, a short bus or tuk-tuk ride from Sintra's town center can take you there. Once inside, explore the ancient battlements, climb the watchtowers, and imagine life during the Moorish and medieval eras, as uncovered artifacts like silos and cisterns reveal traces of past inhabitants.

Make your Sintra adventure unforgettable by including the **Castle of the Moors** in your itinerary on a [day trip from Lisbon](#). Pair it with nearby attractions like [Quinta da Regaleira](#) or [Monserate Palace](#) for a day steeped in history, mystery, and natural beauty.



# 10 GREAT RESTAURANTS & MARKETS IN LISBON

Lisbon's food culture is a delightful tapestry of flavors, reflecting the city's rich history and diverse influences. Traditional Portuguese cuisine takes center stage, celebrated for its emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients. From iconic dishes like bacalhau (salted codfish) to the tantalizing pastries such as pastel de nata, the culinary scene is a mosaic of savory and sweet delights. Lisbon's vibrant markets, including the historic Mercado da Ribeira, offer an immersive experience where locals and visitors alike can savor the bounty of fresh produce, seafood, and artisanal products. Additionally, the city's burgeoning food scene features a fusion of contemporary and traditional eateries, from Michelin-starred fine dining establishments to charming tasca-style restaurants, ensuring that every culinary journey through Lisbon is a flavorful exploration of Portugal's gastronomic heritage.

1. **Belcanto:** A Michelin-starred restaurant by chef José Avillez, offering a contemporary Portuguese dining experience.
2. **Taberna do Mercado:** Located in Mercado da Ribeira, this vibrant spot serves up Portuguese tapas with a modern twist.
3. **Cervejaria Ramiro:** A popular seafood restaurant known for its fresh seafood and lively atmosphere.
4. **Alma:** Another Michelin-starred gem, Alma showcases modern Portuguese cuisine with a focus on seasonal ingredients.
5. **A Cevicheria:** A trendy spot for seafood lovers, known for its ceviche and creative seafood dishes.
6. **Zambeze:** Upscale, modern spot featuring Portuguese fare with an African twist & a patio with dramatic views of the sunset.
7. **Lisboa a Noite:** Nestled in the Bairro Alto district, this restaurant combines traditional Portuguese dishes with a contemporary twist.
8. **Tascardoso:** A local favorite, Tascardoso is known for its hearty Portuguese dishes in a cozy setting.
9. **Time Out Market Lisboa:** A food hall featuring some of the city's best chefs and restaurants, offering a diverse range of culinary delights.
10. **Loco:** Led by chef Alexandre Silva, Loco is celebrated for its avant-garde approach to Portuguese cuisine, earning it a Michelin star.

Before planning your visit, I recommend checking recent reviews on Google to ensure the current status and reputation of these restaurants.



# FÚTBOL FAN?!

## PORTUGAL NATIONAL TEAM

The Portugal national football team has represented country in men's international fútbol competition since 1921.

The national team is controlled by the [Portuguese Football Federation](#) (FPF), the governing body for Portuguese fútbol. Portugal's home matches are played at various stadiums throughout Portugal, and its primary training ground and technical headquarters, [Cidade do Futebol](#), is located in Oeiras. The most famous fútboller is Cristiano Ronaldo, who also holds the team records for most caps and most goals.

## FÚTBOL STADIUM TOURS IN PORTUGAL

**Lisbon:** Discover the Portuguese passion for football on a guided tour of Luz Stadium, home to the SL Benfica Football Club, one of the most popular football clubs in Lisbon and Portugal. Retrace the footsteps of legendary players like Eusébio, Paulo Futre, and Mantorras at the museum. Walk through the field, visit the locker rooms and press room, and take a photo of yourself with the eagle mascot of Sport Lisboa and Benfica. [Learn more](#)



**Porto:** Make your way to Porto's Dragão Stadium (Estádio do Dragão) and explore the home of the Portuguese Primeira Liga football team, FC Porto. Get an entrance ticket to the museum and stadium when you exchange your voucher on arrival and benefit from audio guides available to rent in Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, German and Italian. [Learn more](#)

# LISBON TO PORTO VIA HIGH-SPEED TRAIN

The Alfa Pendular train in Portugal is a modern, high-speed train that connects major cities such as Lisbon, Porto, and Faro. These trains feature sleek and comfortable designs, offering facilities like free Wi-Fi, air conditioning, reclining seats, and onboard snacks.

First-class passengers also enjoy additional perks like access to lounges and complimentary beverages.

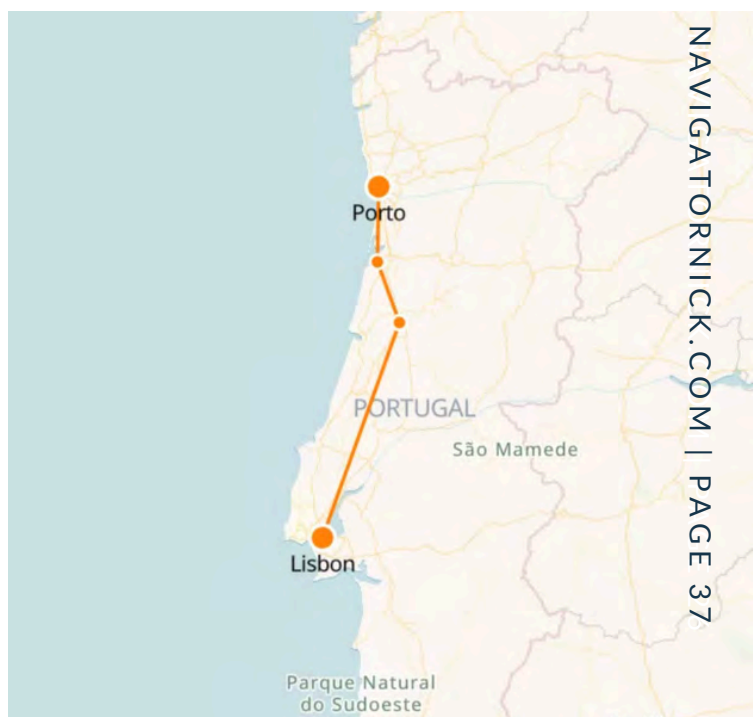
Alfa Pendular trains are a modern marvel that can transport passengers from Porto to Lisbon in around 3 hours. This route has one of the most picturesque views. Hence, taking a Lisbon to Porto train is a great way to relish Portugal's beauty.

During the journey, passengers won't have to change at any point, and the journey takes an average of 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Moreover, Porto to Lisbon train route has an extensive timetable. Thus, you can easily pick the time that suits you the best and make the most out of your trip.

- Book in advance, cheap train tickets are released by train operators prior to the journey. A typical timetable is usually announced around 12 weeks in advance, since a particular day's schedule is normally established 12 weeks in advance.
- Be Flexible, check different dates and times for cheaper [train tickets](#). Different dates and times may still offer a greater selection of discounted tickets, so keep an eye out.

[Buy Tickets](#)



# 📍 COIMBRA

Stopping in **Coimbra** during your high-speed rail journey from Lisbon to Porto is an excellent way to explore one of Portugal's most historic and vibrant cities. Coimbra, known for its prestigious university and rich cultural heritage, offers a delightful blend of history, architecture, and charm. You could spend a few hours exploring or even spend a night.

## Key Highlights for Your Stop in Coimbra:

### 1. University of Coimbra:

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the University of Coimbra is one of the oldest universities in Europe.

### 2. Old Cathedral (Sé Velha):

- A Romanesque gem dating back to the 12th century, the Old Cathedral is a symbol of Coimbra's historical importance. ([Walking Tour Tickets](#))

### 3. Monastery of Santa Clara-a-Velha:

- Explore the ruins of this 14th-century monastery located near the Mondego River, a peaceful retreat full of history. ([Walking Tour Tickets](#))

### 4. Coimbra's Riverside and Food Scene:

- Stroll along the **Mondego River** and enjoy local delicacies like **leitão à Bairrada** (roast suckling pig) or the famous **pastéis de Santa Clara** pastries. ([Food Tour Tickets](#))

### 5. Charming Streets and Fado Music:

- Wander through the medieval streets of Coimbra's old town and immerse yourself in **Coimbra-style Fado**, a soulful musical tradition often performed by students. ([Fado Tickets](#))

## Logistics for a Coimbra Stop:

- **Train Connection:** Most high-speed trains (Alfa Pendular and Intercidades) make a stop at **Coimbra-B** station. Then, you'll need to transfer to a local train for a short 5-minute ride to **Coimbra-A**, the station in the city center.
- **Time Needed:** Allocate at least 4-6 hours to explore Coimbra's main attractions.
- **Storage Options:** Coimbra-B station offers luggage storage facilities, allowing you to explore the city unburdened.

Adding Coimbra to your Lisbon-to-Porto itinerary provides a memorable glimpse into Portugal's historical and academic legacy. Let me know if you'd like more details or help planning your stop!



# 📍 PORTO

Porto is historic, charming and a foodie lovers dream. The river side town is surrounded by its captivating miradouros (lookouts) and on-trend roof terrace bars. Port wine and specifically Tawny Port wine rules the region in which it's famous for. But, here's what you'll remember most: the sound of the Douro River against the docks; the snap of laundry drying in river winds; the sound of port glasses clinking; the sight of young lovers discreetly tangled under a landmark bridge, on the rim of a park fountain, in the crumbling notch of a graffiti-blasted wall...

## Historic Porto Walking Tour

Did I say it was a foodie lovers paradise? Some of the most famous chef's in town include; Pedro Lemos, Ricardo Costa, Rui Paula and José Avillez. Not many think of Portugal as a food mecca, but it's continuing to grow and blossom into one of the very best. Locals will tell you that if you're not a wine connoisseur, find a local craft beer pub instead!

Let's talk about street art for a minute. And, the graffiti, oh the graffiti! You don't have to look very far to get a glimpse of the art scene. In Porto, art is everywhere. Although Porto's street art scene is still fairly young it has grown a lot in the past few years – mainly due to changes in government and how the city changed it's approach to street art. Whereas most graffiti and street art used to be erased as part of the “anti-graffiti brigade” just a few years back, street art today is flourishing, celebrated and encouraged. There is a much bigger support of the local government with assisting the development of a vibrant street art scene. Popular street artists such as Costah, Vhils, Mr. Dheo and Hazul had even been invited by local authorities to change and enhance the image of the city which resulted in empty concrete parking garage walls, neglected buildings and dull storefronts being changed tremendously.

Check out the cities many cathedrals, such as the Porto Cathedral, Clérigos Tower, The Carmo Cathedral, and the Sao Francisco Cathedral.



# BEST FADO SHOW



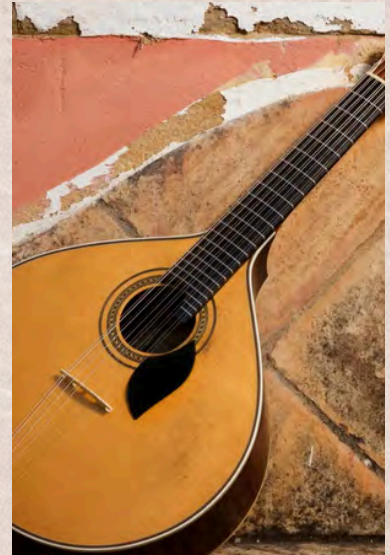
## LIVE SHOW WITH GLASS OF PORT WINE

Immerse yourself in the soulful sounds of Fado, Portugal's traditional music genre, with a live show in Porto. Experience the emotional depth and lyrical beauty of Fado performed by talented local artists in intimate settings such as traditional Portuguese taverns or dedicated Fado houses. This is a cultural immersion not to be missed.

- Be swept away by moving fado music in a historical venue with fabulous acoustics
- Learn about the origins and characteristics of traditional Portuguese fado
- Sip on a glass of Port and immerse yourself in the flavours and sounds of Porto



## TRADITIONAL FADO GUITARS



The Portuguese guitar, also called fado guitar, is a chordophone with 6 pairs of strings and a pear-shaped harmonic box.

## ENJOY PORT WINE!



Port is a sweet, red, fortified wine from Portugal. A Port Wine Glass is smaller than a regular wine glass and the serving size is 3 oz (85 ml).



# PORTO'S INSIDER TIPS

## Breathtaking Views from the Morro Garden

Located on a hillside overlooking the Douro River, the garden is a perfect spot to take in all that Porto has to offer. From here, you can take in panoramic views of the stunning cityscape, as well as magnificent sunsets that will leave you absolutely mesmerized.



## Francesinha

The Francesinha, Porto's signature sandwich, is a must-try. It's an adult version of a grilled cheese sandwich, with Pork or Steak in the middle! Kill two birds with one stone and try it at the famous **Majestic Cafe**. Pair it with a cold beer for the full experience!

## Azulejos (Ceramic Tiles)

Porto is renowned for its beautiful azulejos—traditional Portuguese ceramic tiles that adorn many of the city's buildings. One of those most popular places to spot these tiles is the **Capela das Almas** (Chapel of Souls) or the **São Bento Railway Station**.



## Livraria Lello

The famous Livraria Lello bookstore is a must-see, but it can get extremely crowded. Arrive early (right when it opens) to beat the crowds and enjoy the beautiful interior in peace. You can also buy your ticket in advance online to avoid long lines.



# TOP 5

THINGS TO DO IN PORTO

## 1 CITY TOUR BY TUK-TUK

Discover Porto with an electric tuk-tuk tour and river cruise combination ticket. Ride through the historic city center before ending your day with a cruise down the Douro river. [Learn More](#)



## 2 CLÉRIGOS TOWER CLIMB

Enjoy panoramic views of Porto from the top of the baroque Torre dos Clérigos, and climb the 225 steps of the city's iconic Bell Tower at your own pace. Marvel at the adjoining church and its intricate façade of seashells and garlands. [Learn More](#)



## 3 DOURO VALLEY WINE DAY

Take in the landscapes of the Douro Valley on this full-day trip from Porto. Taste port wine and olive oil, enjoy a traditional lunch, and relax with a cruise along the Douro River. [Learn More](#)



## 4 LIVE FADO SHOW

Sit back and relax with a glass of port as you enjoy an intimate live music show. Discover traditional Portuguese Fado music. Choose between three historic Casa do Fado venues in central Porto. [Learn More](#)



## 5 AVEIRO AND COIMBRA PRIVATE DAY TOUR

Flamenco originated in southern Spain but this show is a great taste of Andalusia. Great tapas too! [Learn More](#)



# PORTO NEIGHBORHOODS

Porto is divided into several clearly distinguishable neighborhoods. To really get an idea on where you want to stay, read more about traditional neighborhoods like **Ribeira**, **Cedofeita**, **Baixa** and **Bonfim**.



**Ribeira** is probably the most famous neighborhood in Porto, due to its picturesque houses painted in colourful tones. It is located by the riverside, right next to the beautiful iron bridge Luiz I, so it is one of the most photogenic areas in Porto.



**Cedofeita** is the trendiest neighborhood in Porto as it has an art district at Rua Miguel Bombarda, full of interesting art galleries and concept stores (particularly at Rua do Rosário). For me it is also the most romantic neighborhood to stay in Porto.

It basically consists of two hills: one around the cathedral of Porto, where the city was founded, and one where the famous Lello bookstore and the Clérigos tower are located.



The Porto **Baixa** (Downtown) is laid out around the Avenida dos Aliados (Avenue of the Allies), the city's focal point. At the top of this thoroughfare, there is the imposing Municipal Council building. At the other end, it opens onto the Praça da Liberdade (Liberty Square) where there is a statue of a mounted Pedro IV (19th c.)



**Bonfim** is not a touristic hot spot because none of the important monuments of the city are located there. However, here you can find hidden gems like the first public garden in Porto and the first public cemetery, among others.

# Metro Porto

Linhas



# WHERE TO STAY PORTO

[LEARN MORE](#)



## BUDGET ACCOMMODATION

From \$80/night

APARTMENTS FEATURES ACCOMMODATIONS WITHIN 700 YARDS OF THE CENTER OF PORTO, WITH FREE WIFI AND A KITCHEN WITH A MICROWAVE, A TOASTER, AND A FRIDGE. THE AIR-CONDITIONED ACCOMMODATIONS ARE A 5-MINUTE WALK FROM OPORTO COLISEUM.



[LEARN MORE](#)



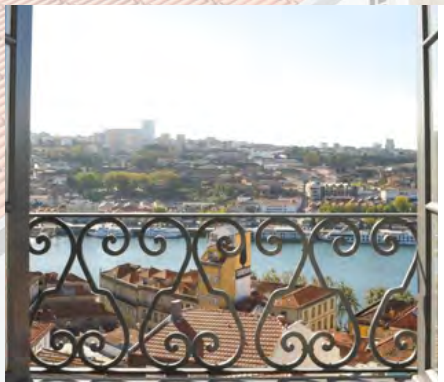
## VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$160/night

SUSTAINABLE APARTMENT IN PORTO, NEAR CLERIGOS TOWER. FREE WIFI. THE PROPERTY IS A 6-MINUTE WALK FROM PALACIO DA BOLSA, AND WITHIN 0.4 MILES OF THE CITY CENTER. AT THE APARTMENT COMPLEX, EACH UNIT HAS AIR CONDITIONING, A SEATING AREA, A FLAT-SCREEN TV WITH CABLE CHANNELS, A KITCHENETTE, A DINING AREA, AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM TOWELS.



[LEARN MORE](#)



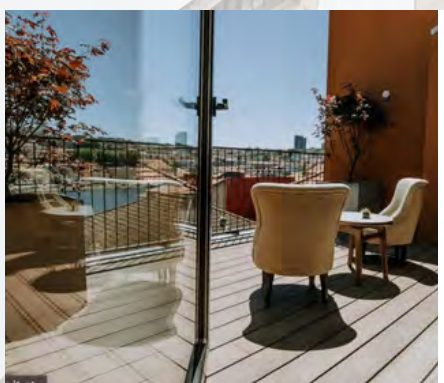
## BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$175/night

PROVIDES ROOMS INEAR SAO BENTO METRO STATION AND TRAIN STATION. FEATURING RIVER AND CITY VIEWS. FREE WIFI. HALF A MILE FROM THE CITY CENTER AND A 3-MINUTE WALK FROM PALACIO DA BOLSA. ALL UNITS HAVE AIR-CON, SEATING AREA, FLAT-SCREEN TV, KITCHENETTE, DINING AREA, AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$250+/night

EXCELLENT LOCATION IN THE CENTER OF PORTO. AIR-CON, RESTAURANT, FREE WIFI AND A BAR. THIS 4-STAR HOTEL OFFERS ROOM SERVICE AND A 24-HOUR FRONT DESK. THE PROPERTY PROVIDES AN ATM AND A CONCIERGE SERVICE FOR GUESTS. PROPERTY OFFERS A PAID AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE.



# Explore Graham's Port Lodge!

Learn about the history of the 1890 Graham's Port Lodge, the production process of Port wine, and enjoy a premium wine tasting with chocolate, cheese, and Pastel de Nata paring.

Price  
**\$37**  
/Person



## Lodge Tour

Explore Graham's  
-since 1890



## Cheese!

Cheese & chocolate  
pairings



## Wine

Taste cellar wines  
& vintage Port

## Tour Includes

- ✓ Guided tour
- ✓ Wine tasting
- ✓ Food Pairings
- ✓ Epic Views

\*Transportation not Included

## Book Now



Graham's Port Lodge  
Porto, Portugal

# 10 GREAT RESTAURANTS & MARKETS IN PORTO

Porto's food culture is a captivating symphony of flavors that reflects the city's proud culinary heritage. Renowned for its hearty and soul-warming dishes, traditional Portuguese cuisine takes center stage, with a particular emphasis on northern specialties. From the iconic Francesinha, a decadent sandwich enveloped in a spicy sauce, to the mouthwatering bacalhau à Brás, a salted codfish delight, Porto's gastronomy is a celebration of robust flavors and timeless recipes. The city's markets, such as the bustling Mercado do Bolhão, provide a sensory feast with stalls laden with fresh produce, artisanal cheeses, and cured meats. As the birthplace of port wine, Porto also boasts a thriving wine culture, with historic cellars along the Douro River inviting visitors to savor the city's liquid gold. .

1. **DOP - Degustar e Ousar no Porto:** Helmed by Chef Rui Paula, DOP is renowned for its innovative Portuguese cuisine and elegant dining atmosphere.
2. **Cantinho do Avillez:** Created by Chef José Avillez, this restaurant offers a mix of traditional and contemporary Portuguese dishes, showcasing the diversity of the country's flavors.
3. **Majestic Café:** Locals will laugh at this recommendation, but it's less about the food and more about the vibe. Belle Epoque-era cafe with ornate carved wood, mirrors & chandeliers.
4. **O Papparico:** Celebrated for its commitment to traditional Portuguese recipes with a modern twist, O Papparico is a culinary gem in Porto.
5. **Caféina:** Located in the artsy Foz district, Caféina is a chic restaurant known for its sophisticated atmosphere and a menu featuring Portuguese and Mediterranean-inspired dishes.
6. **Pedro Lemos:** Another Michelin-starred establishment, Pedro Lemos offers a gastronomic journey through Portugal's flavors, emphasizing local and seasonal ingredients.
7. **A Grade:** Tucked in the historic Ribeira district, A Grade specializes in Portuguese seafood and offers a charming riverside setting.
8. **O Gaveto:** A popular choice for seafood enthusiasts, O Gaveto is revered for its fresh catches and a laid-back ambiance.
9. **Largo do Paço:** Situated in the luxurious Casa da Calçada Relais & Châteaux hotel, Largo do Paço holds a Michelin star for its refined cuisine and elegant surroundings.
10. **Bacalhau:** True to its name, Bacalhau is a go-to place for those seeking variations of Portugal's beloved salted codfish, served in creative and delicious ways.

Before planning your visit, I recommend checking recent reviews on Google to ensure the current status and reputation of these restaurants.

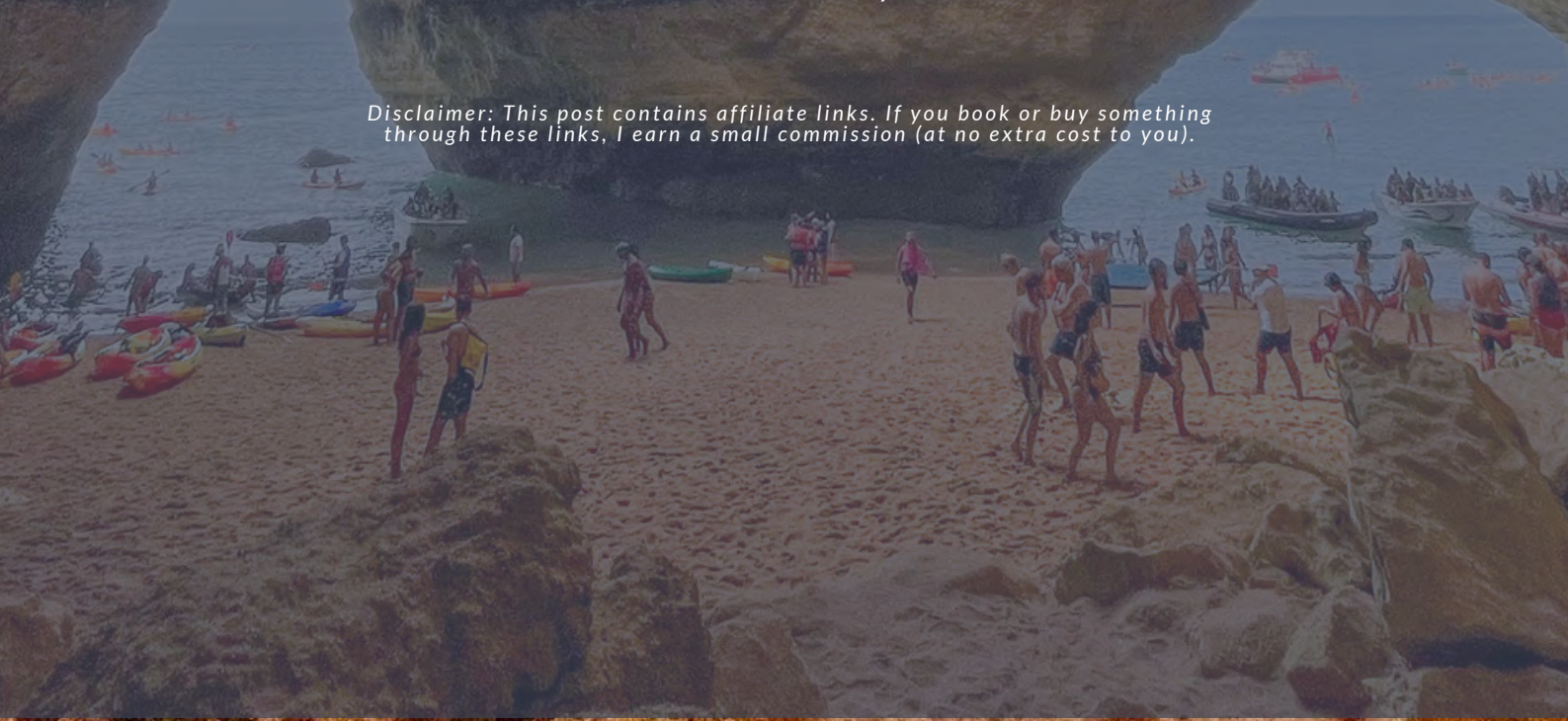
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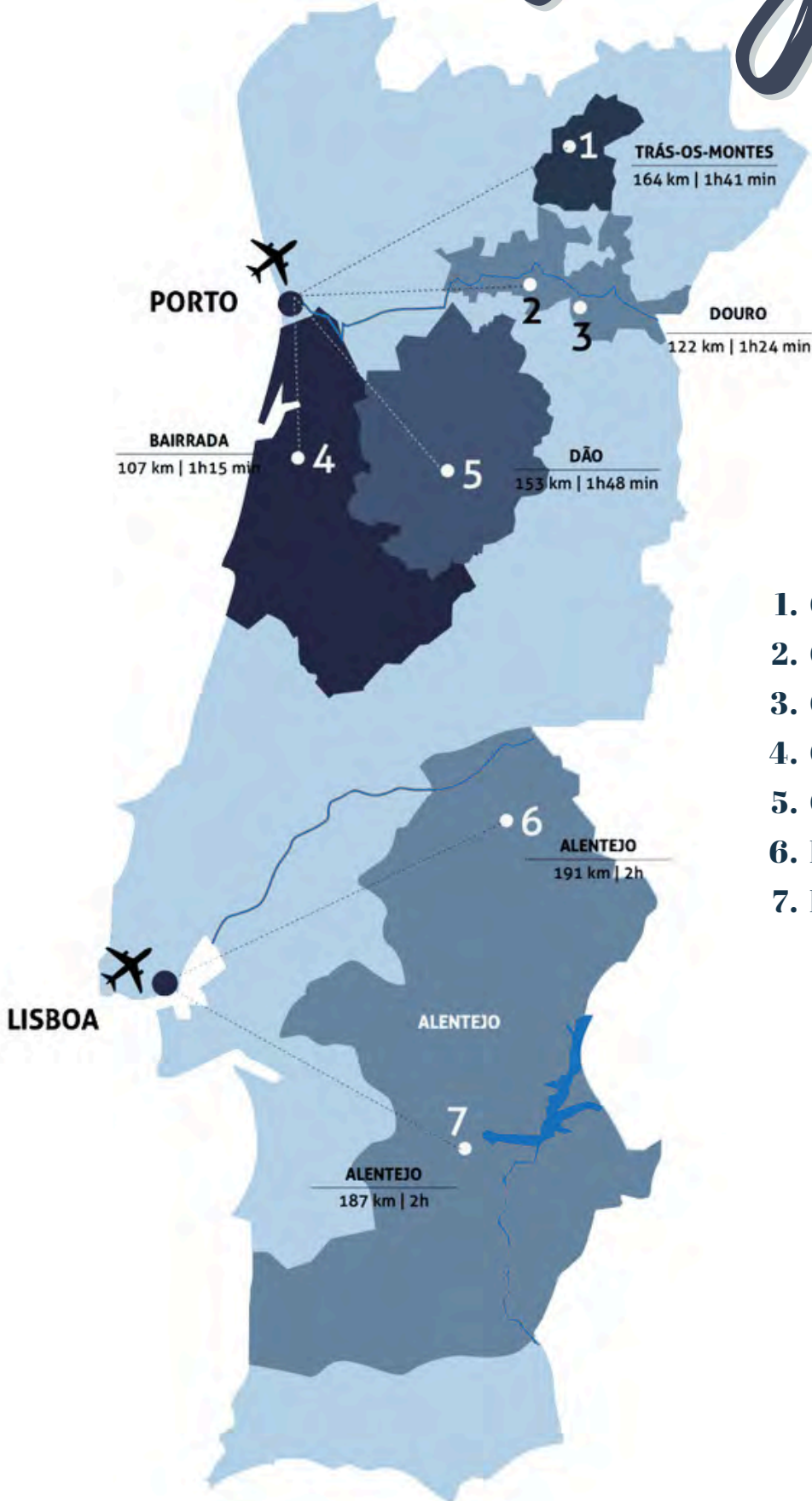
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# Portugal

## WINE REGIONS



1. Quinta Valle de Passos
2. Quinta da Pacheca
3. Quinta São José do Barrilário
4. Quinta do Ortigão
5. Caminhos Cruzados
6. Herdade da Rocha
7. Herdade do Ribafreixo

# 📍 DOURO VALLEY

The Douro River and the Douro Valley are known primarily for Port, a sweet wine that has been produced for two thousand years. The Alto (upper) Douro, also known as the Douro Vinhateiro is dominated by big placards on the hillsides bearing the names of famous Port producers such as Cockburns, Taylors and Sandeman.

The Douro Alto was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001, in recognition of the spectacular beauty of both the natural and built landscape. The hills fall steeply to the water's edge and the region becomes more and more sparsely populated as it travels inland from the coast. Local presunto (smoked hams) and chouriço (spicy sausages) are often on the menu and many of the quintas offer port and wine tasting sessions.

The Douro Valley can be a great day trip from Porto with a tour company, like [this tour here](#) that includes a river cruise and lunch! A day tour is the most popular way to see the valley, but you could extend your stay by staying the night at [the wine hotel](#). To do that, you could take a scenic train ride.

The Linha do Douro is one of Europe's great rail journeys, connecting Porto with the towns surrounding the Douro River. The one hundred and seventy five kilometer route joins the river at Mosteiro and runs alongside it for a hundred kilometers before climbing steeply and traveling around unbelievably sharp horse-shoe bends through terraces so steep harvesting them must be nearly impossible.

The Douro River was originally fast-flowing and unpredictable but the construction of eight dams in the second half of the last century has rendered it tranquil and lake-like. Before the building of the dams, wine used to be transported downriver in flat-bottomed boats called rabelos.

The 'capital' of the Douro Valley is a town called Peso da Régua, which is dominated by a huge Sandeman logo perched on top of a hill. It was here that wines were collected before being transported downriver to Porto.



#1 Tour!



# Explore

## DOURO VALLEY

### Private Tour Includes:

- Two Unique Wineries
- One Local Restaurant
- Free Pickup
- Stopping for Pictures



HELDER MELO :

📍 Porto, Portugal

ONCE IN  
A LIFETIME  
EXPERIENCE!



Limited Spots Available! Book Now and Embark on the Journey of a Lifetime!



THE HEART OF DOURO VALLEY!



*Exclusive*

# Wine Barrel Stay

## AMENITIES

- ✓ VINEYARD VIEW
- ✓ SOUNDPROOF
- ✓ BLACKOUT DRAPES
- ✓ MEMORY FOAM MATTRESS
- ✓ WI-FI
- ✓ A/C
- ✓ SAFE

Having the vineyard and the wine as its inspiration and environment, it is geared towards gastronomic and Wine tourism, combining the modern and avant-garde image with sobriety and elegance. The Wine Barrels will provide you a unique experience of contact with nature and the monumental reality of the Douro Wine Region..

SCAN ME



CHECK AVAILABILITY

# WHERE TO STAY DOURO VALLEY

[LEARN MORE](#)



## BUDGET ACCOMMODATION

From \$100/night

RENOVATED APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF THE DOURO OFFERS ACCOMMODATION IN LAMEGO. WITH MOUNTAIN VIEWS, THIS ACCOMMODATION FEATURES A TERRACE AND A SWIMMING POOL. FREE WIFI, FREE PRIVATE PARKING, AND FACILITIES FOR DISABLED GUESTS. ACCESSIBLE VIA PRIVATE ENTRANCE, ALL ROOMS HAVE AIR-CON, SOUNDPROOFING, DESK, AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$130/night

LOCATED IN LAMEGO, 1.7 MI FROM OUR LADY OF REMEDIES SANCTUARY. A BALCONY, GARDEN, AND FREE WIFI. THE LODGE OFFERS A CONTINENTAL OR BUFFET BREAKFAST. LAMEGO CATHEDRAL IS 1.9 MI, WHILE RIBEIRO CONCEIÇÃO THEATER IS 1.9 MI AWAY. THE NEAREST AIRPORT IS FRANCISCO SÁ CARNEIRO AIRPORT, 44 MI FROM PARAÍSO DOURO AL.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$165/night

TERRACE AND MOUNTAIN VIEWS, THE SPACIOUS VACATION HOME INCLUDES 4 BEDROOMS, A LIVING ROOM, FLAT-SCREEN TV, AN EQUIPPED KITCHEN, AND 3 BATHROOMS WITH A BIDET AND A SHOWER. TOWELS AND BED LINEN ARE OFFERED IN THE VACATION HOME. THERE'S ALSO A SEATING AREA AND A FIREPLACE.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$250+/night

EXCELLENT LOCATION IN THE CENTER OF PORTO. AIR-CON, RESTAURANT, FREE WIFI AND A BAR. THIS 4-STAR HOTEL OFFERS ROOM SERVICE AND A 24-HOUR FRONT DESK. THE PROPERTY PROVIDES AN ATM AND A CONCIERGE SERVICE FOR GUESTS. PROPERTY OFFERS A PAID AIRPORT SHUTTLE SERVICE.

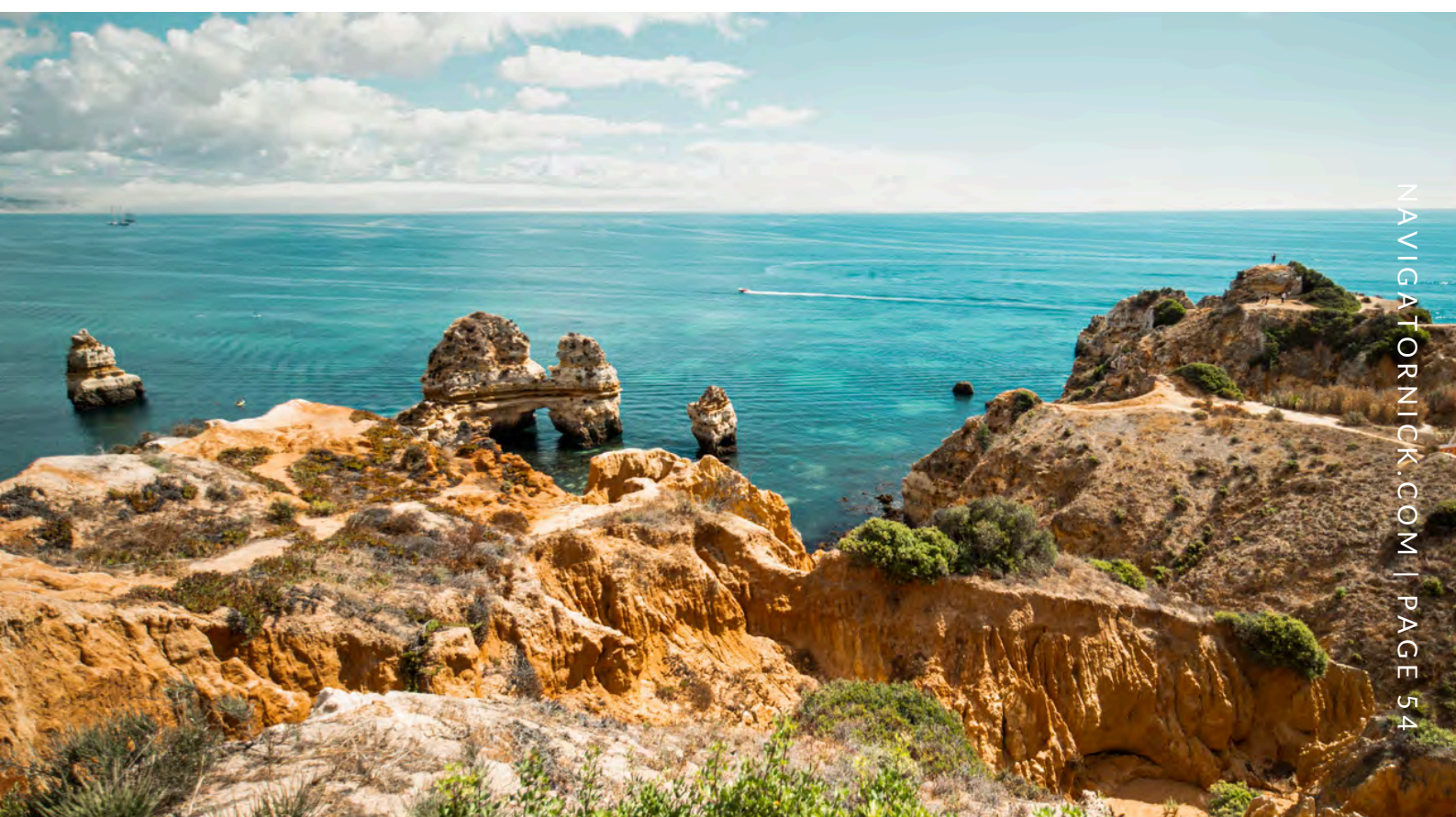


## ALGARVE

The southern region of Portugal, the Algarve, is one of the best regions to visit in Portugal with more than 133 beaches for you to discover! Stunning nature landscapes and long stretches of fine golden sand and scenic rolling grasslands but also ancient port towns such as Faro and Lagos and an inland gem of a town, Tavira.

Faro, the capital of the Algarve region is the largest among them. It features scenic old town, picturesque marina; ornate parks and plazas, kinetic atmosphere, and a wealth of food & drink options. Don't miss the old town's cobblestone alleys with its many museums, houses of worship, cafes, and stores selling ceramics. Also note that Faro boasts great beaches for you to combine sun-basking and site-seeing.

Another stop in the Algarve must be Lagos, which offers stunning beaches. These are the postcard beaches you see when you see or think of the Algarve. Check out the photo below if you don't believe me! One of the most popular sites is the Age of Discovery's marine excursions, lying along the Bensafirim River. It's here that you will uncover a hilly townscape with a maze of beautifully cobblestone streets.



# ALGARVE'S INSIDER TIPS



## Rent a Car

Public transport in the Algarve can be limited, so *renting a car* with **Discover Cars** will allow you to explore off-the-beaten-path destinations like the Monchique Mountains or the Cape of St. Vincent, the southwesternmost point of mainland Europe.



## Local Cuisine

Don't miss the Algarve's fresh seafood, especially cataplana (a seafood stew) and sardinhas assadas (grilled sardines). Visit a local market, like the one in Olhão, for a taste of regional specialties, and pair your meals with Algarvian wines.

## Hidden Beaches

After your Kayak Tour at the Bengavil Caves, head to a couple of hidden beaches. While Praia da Rocha and Praia Dona Ana are famous, look for hidden gems like Praia do Amado for surfers or Praia da Marinha, known for its dramatic cliffs and azure waters. Get there early for a peaceful experience and the best spots for sunbathing or photography.



## Epic Sunset

The most epic sunset can be found at Sagres Fortress. Tour the fort and about 45 minutes before sunset, set up a picnic with wine and enjoy the waves crashing on the cliffs below and seagulls in the distance.



# TOP 5

THINGS TO DO IN ALGARVE

## 1 BENAGIL SEA CAVE



Discover the beauty of the Benagil Caves from the water on this guided kayaking tour. Paddle along wild beaches and admire fantastical limestone formations that have been sculpted by the sea. [Learn More](#)

## 2 ATV TOUR



Head off-the-beaten-track on this exhilarating quad bike tour experience in Algarve. Ride your quad on gravel roads, mountain tracks and rocky paths as you feel the thrill of adrenaline. [Learn More](#)

## 3 DAY TRIP TO PONTA DA PIEDADE, AND SAGRES LIGHTHOUSE



Discover the Algarve with a private day tour. Visit the end of the Iberian Peninsula and enjoy a boat ride through the rock formations in Ponta da Piedade, and go to Lagos Old Town. [Learn More](#)

## 4 TANDEM SKYDIVING ADVENTURE



Free fall from up to 15,000 feet on a thrilling tandem skydive perfect for first timers. Jump with a professional instructor and get stunning views of the Algarve and coastal towns and villages as you fall back to earth. [Learn More](#)

## 5 DOLPHIN WATCHING & 2 ISLANDS TOUR



Explore the stunning coastline of the Ria Formosa Natural Park and watch dolphins in the Atlantic Ocean on this half-day tour. Discover 2 of Ria Formosa's islands: Farol Island and Deserta Island. [Learn More](#)



# ALGARVE CITIES & TOWNS

Here are some of the different areas to stay in the Algarve, each offering a unique experience:

- 1. Faro:** Faro is the capital of the Algarve and a historic city with cobbled streets and a charming old town. It's a great base for exploring the region and offers a mix of cultural and modern attractions. *It's ideal for travelers interested in history, culture, and convenient access to transportation.*
- 2. Lagos:** Lagos is a bustling town with a rich maritime history. It's known for its vibrant nightlife, beautiful beaches, and historic sites like the Ponta da Piedade cliffs. *It's ideal for those seeking a lively atmosphere, beach lovers, and those interested in water activities.*
- 3. Albufeira:** Albufeira is one of the Algarve's most popular tourist destinations, offering a lively nightlife, beautiful beaches, and a charming old town. *It's suitable for families and for those who want to stay outside of Lagos within a 10-15 minute drive.*
- 4. Vilamoura:** Vilamoura is a resort town known for its marina, golf courses, and upscale amenities. It's a more exclusive destination with luxury hotels and a sophisticated atmosphere. *Ideal for golf enthusiasts, luxury travelers, and those looking for a more upscale experience.*
- 5. Tavira:** Tavira is a historic town with a relaxed ambiance, known for its well-preserved architecture, including the Tavira Castle. It offers a more tranquil setting compared to some other Algarve towns. *Ideal for travelers seeking a peaceful atmosphere, history enthusiasts, and cultural explorers.*
- 6. Portimão:** Portimão is a coastal town known for its beaches, seafood, and the historic Fort of Santa Catarina. It's a good balance between relaxation and activities. *Ideal for beach lovers, seafood enthusiasts, and those looking for a mix of leisure and cultural experiences.*
- 7. Sagres:** Sagres is located on the western tip of the Algarve and is known for its dramatic cliffs, surfing beaches, and the historic Fortaleza de Sagres. It's a more remote and laid-back destination. *Ideal for surfers, nature enthusiasts, and those seeking a quieter, more secluded atmosphere.*

Each area in the Algarve offers a distinct experience, so choosing one depends on your preferences and the type of vacation you're looking for. Whether you're interested in history, nightlife, beaches, or tranquility, the Algarve has something to offer for every traveler.

# Kayak Adventure

- Kayak/Paddles
- Guide
- Lockers
- Waterproof Bag

**\$37/PERSON**

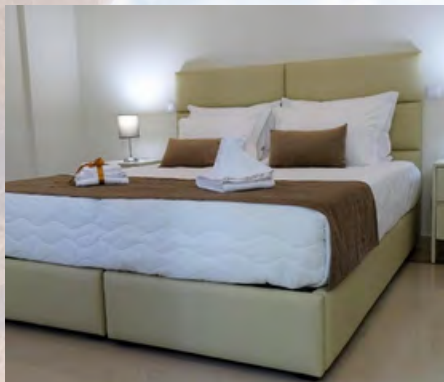


Check  
Availability



# WHERE TO STAY ALGARVE

[LEARN MORE](#)



## BUDGET ACCOMMODATION

From \$100/night

9-MINUTE WALK FROM PRAIA DA FORTE DA BANDEIRA & HALF A MILE FROM BATATA BEACH, THERE'S A PRIVATE ENTRANCE AT THE GUEST HOUSE. THE PROPERTY IS A 11-MINUTE WALK FROM MEIA PRAIA BEACH, AND WITHIN A FEW STEPS OF THE CITY CENTER. THE GUEST HOUSE WILL PROVIDE GUESTS WITH AIR-CON, FLAT-SCREEN TV, AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM WITH A WALK-IN SHOWER. FREE WIFI.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$130/night

OVERLOOKING THE PALM TREE-LINED MARINA, THIS HOTEL OFFERS A HEATED ROOFTOP POOL & AIR-CON ROOMS WITH A FURNISHED BALCONY. GUESTS CAN RELAX ON THE SPACIOUS SUN TERRACE. WARMLY DECORATED ROOMS INCLUDE FREE WIFI, SATELLITE TV, REFRIGERATOR AND COFFEE-AND-TEA-MAKING FACILITIES. PRIVATE BATHROOM



[LEARN MORE](#)



## BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$200/night

SEA VIEW OVER MEIA PRAIA, MEIA PRAIA BEACH IS A 9-MINUTE WALK AWAY. 11 MILES FROM ALGARVE INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT AND 14 MILES FROM ARADE CONGRESS CENTRE, 11 MILES FROM SANTO ANTÓNIO GOLF COURSE. FREE WIFI. FEATURES 4 BEDROOMS, A FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN WITH A DISHWASHER AND AN OVEN, AND 2 BATHROOMS WITH A HAIR DRYER.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$350+/night

AN INTIMATE GETAWAY OVERLOOKING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, BOUTIQUE HOTEL VIVENDA MIRANDA IS LOCATED IN LAGOS, ONLY A 5-MINUTE STROLL FROM THE BEACH. IT FEATURES AN OUTDOOR SPA POOL, SAUNA AND MASSAGE OPTIONS. PRIVATE BALCONIES OR TERRACES, ALL WITH PORTO DE MÓS BEACH VIEWS.



# TOP RESTAURANTS & MARKETS IN THE ALGARVE

The Algarve in Portugal is known for its rich culinary scene, featuring fresh seafood, regional specialties, and a variety of dining options. Here are some great restaurants and markets to explore in the Algarve. Exploring these restaurants and markets in the Algarve will give you a taste of the region's culinary delights and a chance to experience the vibrant local culture.

## Restaurants:

1. **O Marisquinho (Lagos):** A popular seafood restaurant in Lagos known for its fresh catch of the day. The menu features a variety of grilled fish, seafood rice, and traditional Portuguese dishes.
2. **A Vela (Albufeira):** Located in Albufeira, A Vela is a charming restaurant overlooking the sea. It's known for its seafood, grilled dishes, and a relaxed atmosphere.
3. **Vila Joya (Albufeira):** For a fine dining experience, Vila Joya is a Michelin-starred restaurant offering a gourmet menu with a focus on fresh, locally sourced ingredients.
4. **Forno Velho (Lagos):** Situated in the historic center of Lagos, Forno Velho is known for its cozy ambiance and a menu that blends Portuguese and international flavors.
5. **Restaurante Adega do Cantor (Albufeira):** Located at the vineyard of Sir Cliff Richard, this restaurant offers a mix of Mediterranean and Portuguese cuisine paired with local wines.
6. **Caniço (Alvor):** Caniço, situated on the cliffs of Alvor, provides stunning views of the ocean but the food is just OK. You are paying for the views and atmosphere.

## Markets:

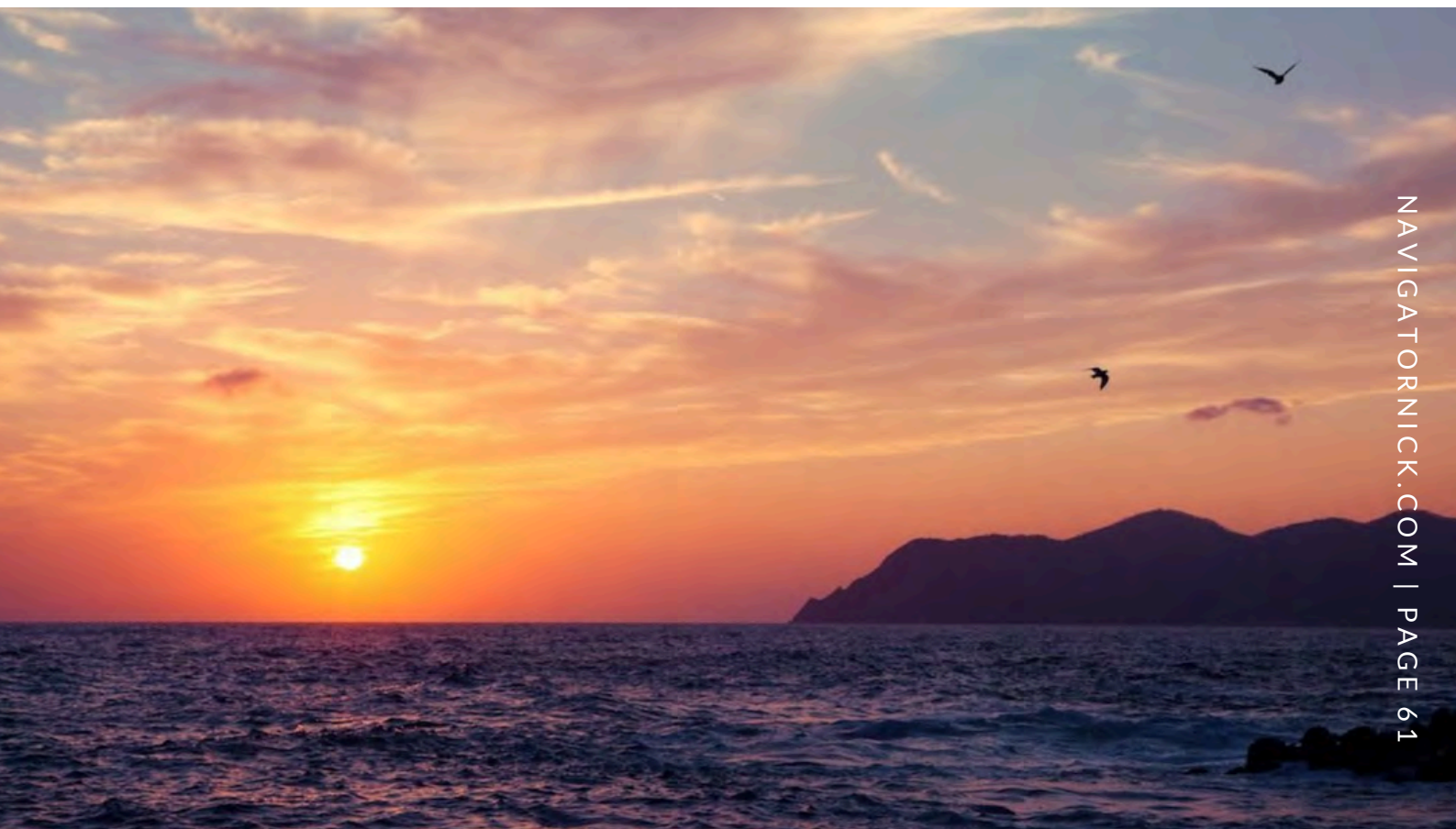
1. **Mercado de Olhão (Olhão):** Olhão's market is a bustling place where you can find fresh seafood, local produce, and traditional Portuguese goods. It's a great spot to immerse yourself in local culture.
2. **Mercado Municipal de Loulé (Loulé):** Loulé's market is a vibrant market featuring fresh produce, meats, cheeses, and handicrafts. The Moorish-style building adds to the charm of the market.
3. **Mercado Municipal de Faro (Faro):** Faro's municipal market is a lively place where you can explore stalls selling fresh produce, fish, and regional products. There are also small eateries serving local snacks.
4. **Mercado de Portimão (Portimão):** Portimão's market is known for its variety of fresh produce, including fruits, vegetables, and fish. It's a great place to experience the local flavors.
5. **Mercado de Quarteira (Quarteira):** Quarteira's market is a traditional market offering a mix of fresh produce, seafood, and local crafts. It's particularly lively on Wednesdays with an outdoor market.

## AZORES

The **Azores**, an enchanting archipelago of nine volcanic islands in the Atlantic Ocean, is one of Portugal's best-kept secrets. Located about 1,500 kilometers from Lisbon, this lush paradise offers a mix of dramatic landscapes, geothermal wonders, and vibrant cultural traditions. Known as the “*Hawaii of Europe*,” the Azores are a haven for nature lovers, with towering mountains, crater lakes, and cascading waterfalls creating a mesmerizing backdrop for outdoor adventures.

Each island in the Azores has its unique charm. **São Miguel**, the largest island, boasts iconic attractions like the twin lakes of *Sete Cidades* and the hot springs of *Furnas*, where natural geothermal energy is even used to cook traditional dishes. **Pico Island**, home to Portugal’s highest mountain, offers thrilling climbs and vineyards that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. On **Terceira**, visitors can explore *Angra do Heroísmo*, a beautifully preserved 15th-century city, while *Faial* is famous for its vibrant marina and the moon-like landscapes of *Capelinhos Volcano*.

The Azores are also a prime destination for adventure and eco-tourism. Whale watching, diving in crystal-clear waters, hiking ancient trails, and soaking in thermal pools are just a few activities that await travelers. Thanks to its commitment to sustainability, the Azores are recognized as one of the most environmentally friendly destinations in the world. Whether you seek adrenaline-pumping activities or peaceful moments in pristine nature, the Azores promise an unforgettable experience. Start planning your journey to this magical archipelago today!



# TOP 5

THINGS TO DO IN AZORES

## 1 WHALE WATCHING

Head out from Ponta Delgada on a whale-watching boat to spot some of the Atlantic Ocean's most magnificent mammals. You'll be on the lookout for minke whales, dolphins, turtles and more. A marine biologist on board will provide commentary. [Learn More](#)



## 2 ATV QUAD TOUR

Explore the Sete Cidades Crater on a quad/ATV tour, driving through mountain peaks, secondary paths, and dirt trails for stunning views of lagoons and volcanoes. [Learn More](#)



## 3 FROM PONTA DELGADA: HIDDEN GEMS OF SÃO MIGUEL

Escape the big crowds and discover amazing places in São Miguel Island away from the main tourist sights. [Learn More](#)



## 4 4 PEAKS, 4 VOLCANOES

Discover Terceira Island and the main volcanic phenomena that have formed the island and are the stage for exuberant views. [Learn More](#)



## 5 SNORKELING TOUR

Discover part of a different world under the ocean around the islet of Vila Franca do Campo on a snorkeling tour around the outskirts of the islet. [Learn More](#)



# MADEIRA

Madeira Islands, Portuguese Arquipélago da Madeira, is an archipelago of volcanic origin roughly 620 miles away from mainland Portugal. It comprises two inhabited islands, Madeira and Porto Santo, and two uninhabited groups, the Desertas and the Selvagens. The islands are the summits of mountains that have their bases on an abyssal ocean floor. Together, they form the autonomous region of Madeira. The regional capital, Funchal, is located on Madeira Island.

Madeira Island, the largest of the group, is 34 miles (55 km) long, has a maximum width of 14 miles (22 km) and a coastline of about 90 miles (144 km), and rises in the centre to Ruivo Peak (6,106 feet [1,861 metres] above sea level). The greater part of the interior above 3,000 feet (900 metres) is uninhabited and uncultivated; communities of scattered huts are usually built either at the mouths of ravines or upon slopes that descend from the mountains to the coast.

Porto Santo Island is about 26 miles (42 km) northeast of Madeira. Its main town, Vila de Porto Santo, is locally called the Vila. At each end of the island are hills, of which Facho Peak, the highest, reaches 1,696 feet (515 metres). Crops include wheat, grapes, and barley. The Desertas lie about 11 miles (18 km) southeast of Madeira and consist of three islets: Chão, Bugio, and Deserta Grande, along with the Prego do Mor off the north end of Chão Island. The Selvagens, or Salvage Islands, are three uninhabited rocks located 156 miles (251 km) south of Madeira, between the latter and the Canary Islands. The largest has a circumference of about 3 miles (5 km).



# MADEIRA CITIES & TOWNS

Madeira is known for its lush landscapes, vibrant culture, and mild climate. Here are some different areas to stay in Madeira, each offering a unique experience:

- 1. Funchal:** Funchal is the capital and largest city of Madeira, nestled between the mountains and the sea. It combines historic charm with modern amenities, featuring botanical gardens, historic sites, and a bustling marina. *Ideal for travelers seeking a vibrant urban experience, cultural attractions, and a variety of restaurants and shops.*
- 2. Camara de Lobos:** This picturesque fishing village is known for its colorful boats, charming harbor, and beautiful sea views. It offers a more relaxed atmosphere compared to Funchal. *Ideal for those looking for a quieter seaside experience, photography enthusiasts, and travelers seeking authentic charm.*
- 3. Machico:** Machico is one of the oldest towns in Madeira, with a historic center and a golden sandy beach. It's a great base for exploring the eastern part of the island. *Ideal for lovers, hikers (as it's close to Ponta de São Lourenço), and those who appreciate a laid-back coastal town.*
- 4. Santa Cruz:** Santa Cruz is home to Madeira's international airport, making it convenient for those looking to stay close to transportation. It has a charming waterfront and a mix of modern and traditional elements. *Ideal for travelers with early or late flights, those seeking a convenient location, and those who enjoy coastal walks.*
- 5. Porto Moniz:** Located on the northwest coast, Porto Moniz is known for its natural pools formed by volcanic rocks. It offers a unique landscape and is a quieter destination. *Ideal for nature lovers, those seeking relaxation, and travelers who want to experience natural swimming pools.*
- 6. São Vicente:** São Vicente is nestled in a valley and is known for its caves, mountains, and vineyards. It provides a tranquil setting and easy access to natural attractions. *Ideal for nature enthusiasts, hikers, and those looking for a peaceful retreat.*
- 7. Ponta do Sol:** Ponta do Sol is a charming village known for having one of the highest annual sunshine rates in Madeira. It features a scenic seafront and a relaxed atmosphere. *Ideal for sun lovers, those seeking a laid-back village experience, and travelers wanting a sunny climate.*

Choosing the right area in Madeira depends on your preferences, whether you're interested in city life, coastal charm, or natural beauty. Each area has its own unique character, allowing you to tailor your stay to your desired experience.



# WHERE TO STAY MADEIRA

[LEARN MORE](#)



## BUDGET ACCOMMODATION

From \$100/night

656 FEET FROM THE NEAREST BEACH WITH SEAFRONT BARS, CAFÉS AND RESTAURANTS. A FULLY-EQUIPPED KITCHENETTE AND A PRIVATE BATHROOM. OCEAN, MOUNTAIN AND GARDEN VIEWS ARE AVAILABLE AS WELL. ALL UNITS ENJOY ACCESS TO A FURNISHED PATIO, WHERE GUESTS ARE WELCOME TO ENJOY THEIR MEALS AL FRESCO.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## VALUE ACCOMMODATION

From \$150/night

A 1-MINUTE WALK FROM PORTO MONIZ NATURAL SWIMMING POOLS. ACCESS TO A SAUNA AND HOT TUB, BALCONY, FREE PRIVATE PARKING, AND FREE WIFI. THE CONDO HOTEL HAS A PRIVATE BEACH AREA, SEATING AREA, A DINING AREA, AND A KITCHENETTE COMPLETE WITH A MICROWAVE, A FRIDGE, AND A STOVETOP.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## BEST ACCOMMODATION

From \$200/night

LOCATED IN PORTO SANTO, THIS HOTEL IS ON A SANDY BEACH. IT HAS AN INFINITY EDGE POOL WITH VIEWS OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, AND OFFERS AIR-CON ROOMS AND VILLAS. BALCONY WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS. BUFFET BREAKFAST. RESTAURANT THAT OFFERS TRADITIONAL PORTUGUESE DISHES. CANOEING, HIKING, AND WINDSURFING.



[LEARN MORE](#)



## LUXURY ACCOMMODATION

From \$350+/night

A LUXURY 5-STAR HOTEL LOCATED ON CALHETA BEACH, BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS OF MADEIRA AND THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. ROOFTOP INFINITY POOL, A BUFFET AND AN À LA CARTE RESTAURANT AND FOUR BARS. ALL ROOMS AT THIS HOTEL FEATURE A SUGAR CANE THEMED DECORATION DESIGNED BY A LOCAL ARTIST.



# TOP 5

THINGS TO DO IN MADEIRA

## 1 JEEP ADVENTURE

Explore the island of Madeira on this guided jeep tour. Admire breathtaking views from Cabo Girão, see wild animals, marvel at the beauty of Seixal beach, and swim in the natural pools of Porto Moniz. [Learn More](#)



## 2 DOLPHIN AND WHALE WATCHING CATAMARAN CRUISE

Experience the ultimate dolphin and whale watching experience on our custom-built Eco-catamaran. Cruise offshore in comfort to see marine wildlife, then visit Cabo Girão for a refreshing swim. [Learn More](#)



## 3 SUNRISE HIKE FROM PICO DO ARIEIRO TO PICO RUIVO

Climb the highest mountains on Madeira on a self-guided sunrise hike. Enjoy a convenient transfer from your Funchal hotel to the start of the trail and get picked up and driven back at the end. [Learn More](#)



## 4 SKYWALK, PORTO MONIZ VOLCANIC POOLS, AND FANAL TOUR

The splendid northeast shows us the volcanic pools at Porto Moniz, Fanal Laurisilva forest one of Portugal's 7 Wonders, waterfalls, the biggest Plateau and the highest Sea Cliff of Europe at 589 mts. [Learn More](#)



## 5 HALF-DAY OFF-ROAD BUGGY TOUR

Embark on an adventurous day out with a guided half-day off-road buggy experience in the mountains of Madeira. Enjoy a 4x4 buggy ride with pickup in Funchal. [Learn More](#)



# TOP RESTAURANTS & MARKETS IN MADEIRA

Madeira, like mainland Portugal, is known for its diverse and flavorful cuisine. Here are some great restaurants and markets to explore in Madeira:

## Restaurants:

- 1. Restaurante Do Forte (Funchal):** Overlooking Funchal's harbor, Restaurante Do Forte offers a menu that blends traditional Madeiran flavors with modern culinary techniques. The terrace provides stunning views of the city.
- 2. Armazém do Sal (Funchal):** Housed in a historic salt warehouse, Armazém do Sal is known for its seafood dishes and Portuguese specialties. The ambiance is charming, with rustic décor and harbor views.
- 3. Taberna Ruel (Funchal):** Taberna Ruel is a popular spot for tapas-style dining. It's known for its creative dishes, local wines, and a cozy atmosphere. The menu often features fresh, seasonal ingredients.
- 4. Restaurante Venda Velha (Machico):** Situated in Machico, Restaurante Venda Velha is known for its traditional Madeiran cuisine. The menu includes local fish, meat dishes, and a selection of regional wines.
- 5. O Tasco (São Vicente):** O Tasco is a local favorite in São Vicente, offering a relaxed atmosphere and a menu highlighting Madeiran specialties. The menu often features local fish and traditional stews.

## Markets:

- 1. Mercado dos Lavradores (Funchal):** Funchal's Farmers' Market is a vibrant market where you can find fresh produce, exotic fruits, flowers, and local crafts. It's a sensory delight with colorful stalls and lively vendors.
- 2. Mercado de Santo Amaro (Funchal):** Santo Amaro Market is a local market where you can purchase fresh fish, meat, and produce. It's a great place to experience the daily life of Madeiran residents.
- 3. Mercado dos Agricultores (Funchal):** The Farmers' Market in Funchal is known for its focus on locally grown produce. You'll find a variety of fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products.
- 4. Mercado Municipal de São Vicente (São Vicente):** São Vicente's Municipal Market is a charming market where you can find local products, fresh fish, and handmade crafts. It provides a glimpse into the authentic side of Madeira.

Exploring these restaurants and markets in Madeira will not only satisfy your taste buds with delicious flavors but also offer a cultural immersion into the island's culinary traditions.

# MY FAVORITE TRAVEL CREDIT CARDS FOR BEGINNERS



[CLICK HERE](#)

*Disclaimer: This post contains affiliate links. If you book or buy something through these links, I earn a small commission (at no extra cost to you).*



# GATHER DOCUMENTATION

At least six months before your departure, make sure your ID and other necessary documents are in order.

**Driver's license:** Most of the time, you can leave this at home. However, if you are renting a car, you will need to show it to your agency. Also, if you lose your passport, this is a good second form of identification.

**Passport:** Applying for or renewing a passport typically takes six to eight weeks, sometimes longer. However, you can pay an additional \$60 expedited service fee to get it renewed in two to three weeks, if desired. If you plan to travel outside the U.S., you need a passport. Make sure your passport will not expire for at least six months after your trip is scheduled to end. Some countries also require passports to have one to two blank pages for entry.

**Visas:** If you're traveling to another country, you may need to apply for a tourist visa. This could require paying a visit, or sending your passport, to a foreign embassy or consulate in the U.S. Application fees typically run from \$50 to \$200. Visit the U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs to learn more.

**TSA PreCheck and Global Entry:** Travel Credit Reward Cards like the Chase Sapphire Preferred or Capital One card, give you up to a \$100 credit towards these programs.

Confused about the two programs? Here's the difference: **TSA Precheck** (\$85) puts you in a faster security line at U.S. airports.

**Global Entry** (\$100) includes TSA Precheck and adds expedited customs screening upon your return from international trips. These programs can help you zip through airport security lines.

Before you apply, give yourself a few weeks to fill out the online application and visit an enrollment center for fingerprinting and an ID check.

You must already have a valid U.S. passport to apply for Global Entry, and you must participate in an interview at a designated enrollment center. Once approved, your status lasts five years. Most interviews last about five minutes, it's very easy!



# PACKING

Each adventure requires a different packing list. If you pack last minute, you can skip this section.

**Traveler Tip:** If you're a film nerd like me, don't forget your [DJI mini drone](#) or [GoPro](#) at home! Follow this link to my Amazon store to grab the latest [GoPro Hero 12 Black](#).



If you want to pack like a pro, I highly suggest to start thinking about it an advanced. This is for a few different reasons. The most important being that you don't want to forget anything, obviously.

Speaking of packing... you won't be able to miss [this luggage set](#) at the airport.



## Packing Cubes vs. Rolling: Which is best?

A packing cube set, like [these on Amazon](#), can help you save almost as much space as folding. Plus, keep you significantly more organized. And this is why I love packing cubes. It makes my life so much easier on the road.

**Traveler Tip:** If you stick a travel size fabric softener spray bottle in a plastic ziplock bag in one of your shoes, you can use it at your destination to get out any wrinkles and keep your clothes smelling fresh.

## The Secret Packing Cube Hack

Here is what I do. I roll my clothes and pack them in my packing cubes organize by clothing garment. So the basics like pants, shirts, bedtime outfits, etc. Fill in your shoes with items like socks and place them around the packing cubes, where the gaps are. Lastly, not everything needs a packing cube. You may want to lay thick sweaters or jackets flat.

This way, **you get the best of both worlds**. The cubes keep your garments organized and rolling technique allows you to fit more inside the cube. VIOLA!



## LOST LUGGAGE...

Who ya gonna call? Ghostbusters?!

The airlines doesn't care about your lost bag, trust me! That's why I always, always, always keep an [Apple Airtag](#) in mine.

Don't have an iPhone, no problem, use [these](#) instead.

# THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL PACKING LIST

## CLOTHES TO PACK

- UNDERWEAR
- SOCKS
- BRAS
- SLEEPWEAR
- T-SHIRTS
- DRESS SHIRTS
- CASUAL SHIRTS
- JEANS
- PANTS
- SHORTS
- DRESSES
- SKIRTS
- SWEATERS
- SWEATSHIRTS
- SUITS
- SWIMSUITS
- COVER-UPS
- COATS
- HATS
- GLOVES
- SCARVES
- PURSES
- UMBRELLA
- LEISURE SHOES
- HIKING BOOTS
- SNEAKERS
- SNOW BOOTS
- DRESS SHOES
- SANDALS
- BELTS
- TIES
- JEWELRY
- COLLAPSIBLE PACK

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

- CELL PHONE
- CELL PHONE CHARGER
- MEDICATIONS
- ELECTRONIC CHARGERS
- EMERGENCY CONTACTS
- COPY OF PASSPORT
- PLUG ADAPTER
- BEACH TOWELS
- SWIMMING GOGGLES & FINS

## TOILETRIES TO PACK

- TOOTHBRUSH
- TOOTHPASTE
- DENTAL FLOSS
- SOAP
- DEODORANT
- SHAMPOO
- CONDITIONER
- HAIR BRUSH
- STYLING TOOLS
- FACIAL CLEANSER
- FACE LOTION
- SUNSCREEN
- MOISTURIZER
- CONTACT LENSES
- CONTACT SOLUTION
- SHAVING SUPPLIES
- MAKEUP
- MAKEUP REMOVER
- PERIOD PRODUCTS
- MEDICATION/BC
- NAIL FILE
- NAIL CLIPPERS
- TWEEZERS
- HAND SANITIZER
- BANDAGES
- FIRST-AID
- INSECT REPELLENT
- PAIN RELIEVERS
- VITAMINS

## TECH & CAMERA GEAR

- CAMERA
- GOPRO
- DRONE
- TABLET
- LAPTOP
- CAMERA CHARGERS
- BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

## WHAT TO PACK IN YOUR CARRY-ON

- BOOKS/E-BOOKS
- HEADPHONES
- TRAVEL BLANKET
- TRAVEL PILLOW
- EYE MASK
- EARPLUGS
- TISSUES
- LIP BALM
- DISINFECTING WIPES
- GUM
- CHANGE OF CLOTHES
- SNACKS
- EMPTY WATER BOTTLE
- IN-FLIGHT MEDICATIONS
- VALUABLES
- CAMERA
- DRONE BATTERIES
- PASSPORT/VISA/ID
- CASH
- CREDIT/ATM CARDS
- INSURANCE CARDS
- ITINERARY
- MAPS/DIRECTIONS
- GLASSES
- SUNGLASSES
- HOUSE KEYS
- HAND SANITIZER

## 3 DAY ITINERARY SAMPLE



ENJOY THE FAMOUS ATTRACTIONS OF LISBON IN 3 DAYS

## 3 DAYS IN LISBON

*Lisbon is one of the most appealing capitals in Europe, and a must-see destination. The Castelo de São Jorge sits at the top of the historic Alfama district. At the waterside, the historic Belém district, the historic monastery, the Contemporary Arts Museum and the Torre de Belém. Be on the lookout for many Miradouros (read: amazing lookouts!)*

**Day 1** - Arrive in Lisbon. Explore the Alfama neighborhood. Attractions include the Castelo de São Jorge. Take an evening food and wine tour.

**Day 2** - Visit the Torre de Belem water tower, the Padrao dos Descobrimentos, and the Mosteiro Dos Jeronimos monastery. Have a snack or lunch at The Time Out Market.

**Day 3** - Stroll down to Arco da Rua Augusta, admire the various tile houses, including Largo Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro, and hop aboard the infamous Tram 28.

*\*Alternatively, take a day trip to Sintra*

## TOUR SUMMARY

This itinerary takes you through the heart of Lisbon to see most of the main attractions that Lisbon is famous for.

CONTACT [NICK@NAVIGATORNICK.COM](mailto:NICK@NAVIGATORNICK.COM) FOR A CUSTOM ITINERARY



## 7 DAY ITINERARY SAMPLE



*A FULL WEEK IN TWO OF THE BEST CITIES IN PORTUGAL!*

## 7 DAYS IN PORTUGAL

*Lisbon and Porto are must see destinations in Europe!*

**Day 1** - Arrive in Lisbon. Explore the Alfama neighborhood and hop aboard the infamous Tram 28. Attractions include the Castelo de São Jorge. Take an evening food and wine tour.

**Day 2** - Visit the Torre de Belem water tower, the Padrao dos Descobrimentos, and the Mosteiro Dos Jeronimos monastery. Have a snack or lunch at The Time Out Market.

**Day 3** - Take a break from sightseeing in Lisbon and take a day trip to Sintra.

**Day 4** - Take the train from Lisbon to Porto. Admire the Sao Bento Train Station. Head on over to the Church of Saint Ildefonso.

**Day 5** - Cross over the Dom Luis I Bridge and visit the famous Porto winemakers like Sandman, Graham's, & Cockburn's. Then, ride the riverside cable car!

**Day 6** - Visit the Livraria Lello (famous library), Clérigos Tower, Igreja do Carmo (blue tiled church), and make your way to the Jardins do Palácio de Cristal garden.

**Day 7** - Take one last walk down the old street of R. das Flores before departing your flight home from Porto

## TOUR SUMMARY

This itinerary takes you to a lot of the famous attractions and monuments in Lisbon and Porto while not rushing your itinerary.

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## 10 - 12 DAY ITINERARY SAMPLE



*A TASTE OF ALL PORTUGAL HAS TO OFFER!*

## 12 DAYS IN PORTUGAL

**Day 1** - Arrive in Lisbon. Explore the Alfama neighborhood and hop aboard the infamous Tram 28. Attractions include the Castelo de São Jorge. Take an evening food and wine tour.

**Day 2** - Visit the Torre de Belem water tower, the Padrao dos Descobrimentos, and the Mosteiro Dos Jeronimos monastery. Have a snack or lunch at The Time Out Market.

**Day 3** - Take a break from sightseeing in Lisbon and take a day trip to Sintra.

**Day 4** - Take the train from Lisbon to Porto. Admire the Sao Bento Train Station. Head on over to the Church of Saint Ildefonso.

**Day 5** - Cross over the Dom Luis I Bridge and visit the famous Porto winemakers like Sandman, Graham's, & Cockburn's. Then, ride the riverside cable car!

**Day 6** - Visit the Livraria Lello (famous library), Clérigos Tower, Igreja do Carmo (blue tiled church), and make your way to the Jardins do Palácio de Cristal garden.

**Day 7** - Take a day trip to the Douro Valley Wine region. Taste local port wine and stomp the grapes at a local vineyard!

**Day 8** - Take one last walk down the old street of R. das Flores before departing your flight to Faro.

**Day 9** - Explore Faro, rent a car and eventually make your way to your accommodation in Lagos.

**Day 10** - Relax on the beaches of Praia de Porto Mós, Praia dos Estudantes and wade in the water at Praia da Boneca.

**Day 11** - Go for a kayaking tour of the Benagil Caves. Spend time at Marinha Beach.

**Day 12** - Depart from Lagos back home.

*\* Alternatively, fly back to Lisbon on Day 11 for a flight back home*

## TOUR SUMMARY

This itinerary takes you to four major areas in Portugal to see and taste your way through the country!

*CONTACT [NICK@NAVIGATORNICK.COM](mailto:NICK@NAVIGATORNICK.COM) FOR A CUSTOM ITINERARY*

# IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Here are some useful contacts for your holiday in Portugal:

- Emergency: 112
- US Embassy: +351 21 77 2122
- UK Embassy: +351 21 392 4000
- Lisbon City Hall: +351 21 323 6200
- Lisbon International Airport: +351 21 841 3500
- Porto International Airport: +351 22 943 2400
- Faro International Airport: +351 289 800 800

# COMMON PORTUGUESE WORDS & PHRASES

When traveling to Portugal, it's useful to know some common Portuguese words and phrases to help navigate daily interactions and show appreciation for the local culture. Here are some essential ones to get you started:

- Olá (oh-lah) – Hello
- Bom dia (boh-m dee-ah) – Good morning
- Boa tarde (bo-ah tahr-deh) – Good afternoon
- Boa noite (bo-ah noy-teh) – Good evening/night
- Adeus (ah-deh-oos) – Goodbye
- Como está? (koh-moo es-tah?) – How are you?
- Tudo bem? (too-doo behm?) – Everything good?
  
- Por favor (poor fah-vohr) – Please
- Obrigado/a (oh-bree-gah-doo/dah) – Thank you (masculine/feminine)
- De nada (deh nah-dah) – You're welcome
- Desculpe (desh-kool-peh) – Excuse me/sorry
- Com licença (kohm lee-sen-sah) – Excuse me (to get someone's attention)
  
- Quanto custa? (kwahn-too koos-tah?) – How much does it cost?
- Onde fica...? (ohn-deh fee-kah?) – Where is...?
- Preciso de ajuda (preh-see-soo deh ah-joo-dah) – I need help
- Sim (seem) – Yes
- Não (nah-oong) – No
- Fala inglês? (fah-lah een-gleh-z?) – Do you speak English?
- Bilhete (bee-lyeh-teh) – Ticket
- Comboio (kohm-bohy-oo) – Train
- Autocarro (ow-toh-kah-roo) – Bus
- Táxi (tahk-see) – Taxi
- Aeroporto (ah-eh-roh-poor-too) – Airport
  
- Socorro! (soh-koh-roo!) – Help!
- Chame a polícia (shah-meh ah poo-lee-see-ah) – Call the police
- Preciso de um médico (preh-see-soo deh oong meh-dee-coh) – I need a doctor

Learning these basic phrases will enrich your travel experience in Portugal and help you connect more meaningfully with locals. Bon voyage!