



EUROPE

2025

PORTUGAL



Portugal offers an incredible mix of rich history, scenic landscapes, vibrant cities, and stunning coastlines while the slower pace of life in smaller towns provides an authentic, relaxing experience. Known for its warm Mediterranean climate, friendly locals, and world-class food and wine, Portugal is a top destination for travellers looking for both relaxation and adventure. Whether you're interested in culture, food, outdoor activities, or simply relaxing on a beach, do it your way with a holiday designed just for you.

Top Destinations in Portugal

Lisbon

Known for: Historic neighborhoods, fado music, and colorful architecture.

What to do:

Explore the historic Alfama district with its winding alleys and viewpoints like Miradouro de Santa Luzia.

Visit the Belém Tower and the Jerónimos Monastery, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Ride Tram 28 through the city's narrow streets.

Visit LX Factory for its trendy shops, restaurants, and art galleries.

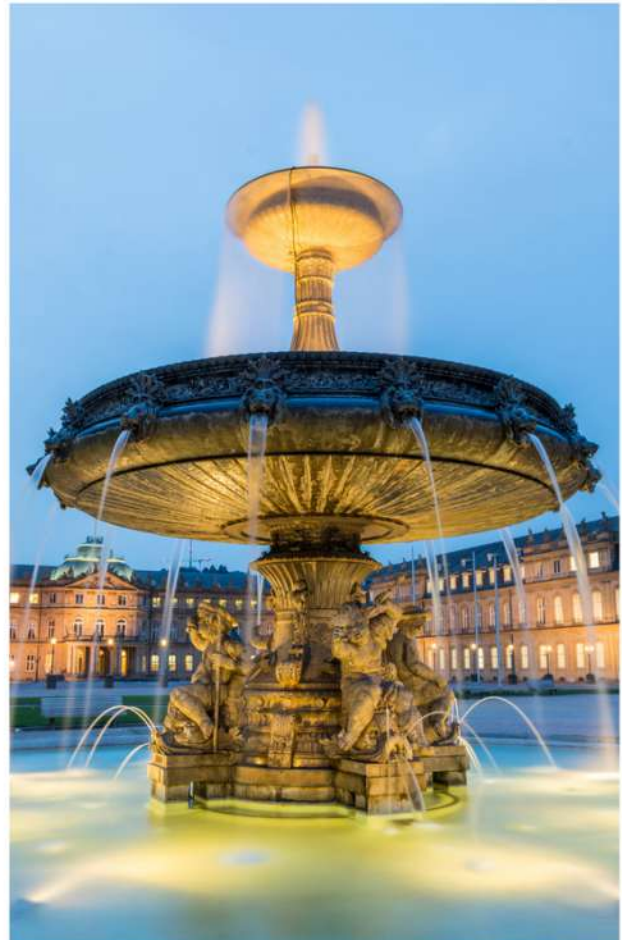
Try the famous Pastéis de Belém, a traditional custard tart, from the original bakery.

Porto

Known for: Port wine, river views, and historic charm.

What to do:

Wander through the Ribeira district, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with colourful houses along the Douro River.



Sintra

Known for: Fairy-tale palaces and lush, green landscapes.

What to do:

Visit the colourful Pena Palace, set atop a hill with stunning views of the countryside.
Explore the mysterious Quinta da Regaleira, with its gardens, grottoes, and the famous Initiation Well.

Wander through Sintra National Palace and admire its Manueline architecture.

Hike or take a tuk-tuk to Moorish Castle for panoramic views of the area.

Spend time in Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, perfect for hiking and nature lovers.

Madeira

Known for: Lush landscapes, hiking, and year-round warm weather.

What to do:

Hike along the famous levadas (irrigation channels) through forests, mountains, and valleys.

Visit the capital, Funchal, and explore its charming streets and botanical gardens.

Take a cable car ride to Monte Palace and enjoy breathtaking views.

Try Madeira wine and local delicacies like espada com banana (black scabbardfish with banana).

Enjoy the island's rugged coastline and volcanic beaches, or go dolphin and whale watching.



Azores

Known for: Volcanic landscapes, hot springs, and outdoor adventures.

What to do:

Visit São Miguel Island and explore Sete Cidades, a massive volcanic crater with twin lakes.

Relax in the thermal waters of Furnas or explore the natural hot springs of Caldeira Velha.

Hike to waterfalls, explore volcanic caves, or take a whale-watching tour.

Experience the rugged beauty of Pico Island and climb Portugal's highest peak, Mount Pico.

Explore the charming town of Angra do Heroísmo on Terceira Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Coimbra

Known for: Its historic university and medieval charm.



Visit Livraria Lello, one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world.

Explore Clérigos Tower and enjoy panoramic views of the city.

Tour the famous Port wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia and enjoy tastings.

Take a Douro River cruise to see the city's bridges and beautiful landscapes.

The Algarve

Known for: Stunning beaches, rugged cliffs, and crystal-clear waters.

What to do:

Relax on the golden beaches of Praia da Marinha, Praia do Camilo, or Praia da Falésia.

Explore the dramatic sea caves, including the famous Benagil Cave.

Take a boat tour to spot dolphins and explore hidden coves.

Visit the historic town of Lagos or the charming fishing village of Tavira.

Enjoy the lively nightlife and restaurants in Albufeira.





What to do:

Visit University of Coimbra, one of the oldest universities in Europe, and explore its stunning Joanina Library.

Wander through the medieval Old Town and visit the Sé Velha (Old Cathedral).

Stroll through the beautiful Botanical Garden.

Experience fado de Coimbra, a traditional style of Portuguese music unique to the city.

Take a day trip to the Roman ruins of Conímbriga, one of the largest and best-preserved Roman sites in Portugal.

Évora

Known for: Roman history, whitewashed buildings, and cork trees.

What to do:

Visit the Temple of Diana, a well-preserved Roman temple in the heart of the city.

Explore the eerie Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones), decorated with human bones and skulls.

Wander through the beautiful Sé de Évora (Évora Cathedral).

Take a trip to nearby Almendres Cromlech, a megalithic stone circle older than Stonehenge.

Sample local wines and cuisine, including Alentejo pork and regional cheeses.



Portuguese Culture and Experiences

Cuisine

Seafood: Portugal is known for its fresh seafood. Bacalhau (salted cod) is a national dish with hundreds of different preparations. Grilled sardines, caldo verde (kale soup), and cataplana (seafood stew) are must-try dishes.

Pastéis de Nata: These delicious custard tarts are a must in any bakery or café.

Wine: Enjoy world-famous Port wine in Porto and Vinho Verde in the Minho region. The Douro Valley is a great place to visit vineyards and taste local wines.

Fado Music: This soulful music is part of Portugal's cultural heritage. You can experience fado in intimate restaurants in Lisbon or Coimbra.

Festivals and Traditions

Carnival: Celebrated in February or March with parades and vibrant costumes, especially in Madeira and Loulé in the Algarve.
São João Festival (Porto): A lively festival in June with fireworks, music, and street parties.

Festa de São António (Lisbon): A celebration of St. Anthony with street parades, grilled sardines, and neighborhood parties.
Festa dos Tabuleiros (Tomar): A grand festival held every four years, where women carry large trays of flowers on their heads through the streets.

Best Time to Visit Portugal

Spring (March to May): Mild temperatures and blooming flowers make it a great time to explore cities and countryside. The crowds are smaller, and the weather is pleasant.

Summer (June to August): Hot and dry, ideal for beach holidays, especially in the Algarve. However, popular destinations like Lisbon and Porto can get crowded during this time.

Autumn (September to November): Another excellent time to visit, with cooler temperatures and fewer tourists. The vineyards in the Douro Valley are particularly beautiful in autumn.

Winter (December to February): Mild winters, especially in the south. It's the perfect time for a city break or to visit the Algarve without the summer crowds.



10 Day Sample Itinerary of Portugal

Day 1



Arrive in Lisbon
Morning: Arrive in Lisbon and check into your hotel.
Afternoon: Explore the Alfama district; visit the São Jorge Castle for panoramic views of the city.
Evening: Enjoy dinner in Bairro Alto, known for its vibrant nightlife. Try some fado music at a local restaurant.

Day 2



Explore Lisbon
Morning: Visit Belém to see the Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower. Don't forget to try the famous Pastéis de Belém.
Afternoon: Explore the MAAT (Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology) and take a stroll along the Tagus River.
Evening: Head to the Chiado district for dinner, where you can find a mix of traditional and modern Portuguese cuisine.

Day 3



Day Trip to Sintra
Morning: Take a short train ride to Sintra (about 40 minutes).
Visit the colourful Pena Palace and the Moorish Castle for stunning views.
Afternoon: Explore Quinta da Regaleira and its mystical gardens.
Evening: Return to Lisbon and enjoy a relaxed dinner in the Alfama district.

Day 4



Lisbon to Porto
Morning: Take the train to Porto (approximately 3 hours).
Afternoon: Check into your hotel and explore the Ribeira district, walking along the Douro River.
Evening: Enjoy dinner at a riverside restaurant and try some local francesinha (a traditional sandwich).

Day 5



Explore Porto
Morning: Visit the Livraria Lello, one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world, and the Clérigos Tower.
Afternoon: Tour the famous Port wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia and enjoy tastings.
Evening: Take a Douro River cruise to see Porto from the water and enjoy the sunset.

Day 6



Porto to the Douro Valley
Morning: Rent a car or take a tour to the Douro Valley, known for its stunning vineyards.
Afternoon: Visit a local winery for a tour and tasting, and enjoy a traditional lunch with scenic views.
Evening: Return to Porto for dinner or stay overnight in the Douro Valley.

Day 7



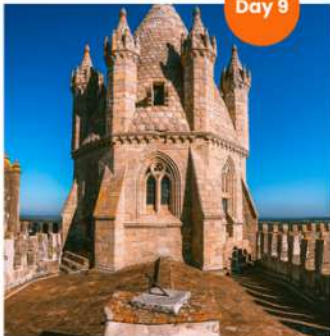
Porto to the Algarve
Morning: Travel to the Algarve region (you can fly from Porto to Faro or drive, which takes about 5-6 hours).
Afternoon: Check into your hotel and relax on the beach (consider Praia da Marinha or Praia do Camilo).
Evening: Dine in Lagos or Albufeira, where you can find a mix of restaurants and nightlife.

Day 8



Explore the Algarve
Morning: Take a boat tour to see the Benagil Cave and explore the stunning coastline.
Afternoon: Visit the charming town of Tavira, known for its historic architecture and beautiful beaches.
Evening: Enjoy dinner at a seaside restaurant, sampling fresh seafood dishes.

Day 9



Algarve to Évora
Morning: Drive to Évora (approximately 2 hours).
Afternoon: Visit the Roman Temple of Évora and the Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones).
Evening: Stroll through the old town and enjoy dinner featuring regional Alentejo cuisine.

Day 10



Évora to Lisbon
Morning: Spend the morning visiting any remaining sites in Évora or take a short trip to Almendres Cromlech, a megalithic stone circle.
Afternoon: Return to Lisbon (approximately 1.5 hours by car).
Evening: Enjoy a farewell dinner in Lisbon, perhaps in the Cascais area or with a view of the 25 de Abril Bridge.