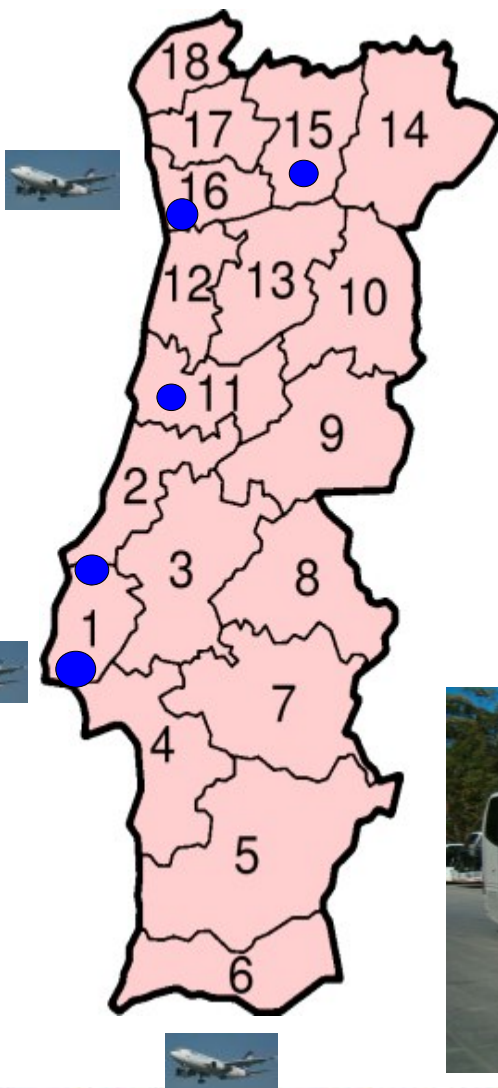


PORTUGAL ESCORTED TOUR

1. Lisboa
2. Leiria
3. Santarém
4. Setúbal
5. Beja
6. Faro
7. Évora
8. Portalegre
9. Castelo Branco
10. Guarda
11. Coimbra
12. Aveiro
13. Viseu
14. Bragança
15. Vila Real
16. Porto
17. Braga
18. Viana do Castelo



Day 1 - Lisboa

Arrival transfer from Lisboa airport to the Hotel in Lisboa. Day at leisure. This evening you might wish to experience an optional "Dinner Fado Show" .

Day 2 - Lisboa-Estoril-Cascais-Cabo da Roca-Lisboa

Morning tour of the historic Belem district of Lisbon and then on to the coastal cities of Estoril and Cascais, once the summer residences of aristocrats and now attracting an international clientele to its elegant hotels, casino and shops. Then on to Cabo da Roca (Cape Roca), the westernmost point of continental Europe. Lovely, wooded Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is your location for lunch (optional). Perched high above Sintra is the Pena Palace, a 19th century eclectic mixture of architectural styles. Entrance is included. The view from the terraces encompasses the Atlantic to the Tejo river. On another peak are the ruins of an 8th century Moorish castle. Return to Lisbon for a tour of this European capital from its fishing village beginnings to its modern cosmopolitan present. Optional "Fado" dinner show this evening or enjoy one of Lisbon's many fine restaurants. Overnight accommodation at Hotel in Lisboa. BD

Day 3 - Lisboa-Evora-Marvao-Castelo de Vide-Belmonte

Depart Lisbon this morning, heading east to the Alentejo region, characterized by sweeping plains, cork trees, wheat fields, vineyards and almond orchards. Look for the many walled cities and castles perched on the isolated hills. The most famous is Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you will have time to walk the narrow medieval streets and have lunch in one of its many restaurants (lunch not included). Continue to Marvao, a walled city set atop a 3,000 foot peak near the Portuguese-Spanish border. From the ramparts you can see the military value of this outstanding site during the long border disputes between these two countries. Then on to beautiful Castelo de Vide, an ancient village and spa with a delightful Jewish Quarter that invites strolling through its colorful cobblestone streets. Continue north to medieval Guarda, located in the eastern foothills of the Serra da Estrela. Accommodation in Guarda at Hotel. BD

Day 4 - Guarda-Viseu-Lamego-Vila Real-Regua

Tour Guarda this morning. Guarda's name means "protector" which recalls that it was the main stronghold of the region guarding the border. Medieval castles and fortresses are dotted throughout the region. Visit the cathedral, begun in the 14th century, a blend of Portuguese Gothic known as "Manueline" and Renaissance styles. On to Viseu, an important agricultural and crafts center where you will have free time for lunch (lunch not included). Continue your journey to Lamego, near the Douro River Valley. Visit the famous Nossa Senhora do Remedios Sanctuary, a beautiful 18th century Baroque building. On to Vila Real, an important city in the Port Wine producing area. Visit the Solar de Mateus. This beautiful Portuguese Baroque manor house is famous throughout the world as the label for Mateus wine and is a testament to the wealth generated by the region's Port wine industry. Its gardens are as delightful as the manor. A stop at a winery in Peso da Regua will highlight the port wine tradition in this area. Accommodation in Regua. BD

Day 5 - Regua-Porto

An option to cruise (March to October only) the Douro River today as far as Porto. View the terraced vineyards where the famous Port wine grapes flourish and traverse locks as you sail downstream. Lunch is included on the cruise. If you choose not to cruise, or for Nov-Feb tours, you will continue to the charming town of Amarante, considered one of Portugal's prettiest. Free time for lunch (not included) before continuing to Porto for some leisure time in the city center. At the end of the afternoon rejoin the participants who have cruised the river and arrive at your hotel. Dinner this evening (included) will be in the historic, riverside Ribeira district. Accommodation in Porto. BD

Day 6 - Porto-Guimaraes

This morning includes a comprehensive tour of Porto's historical center including Igreja de Sao Francisco (St Francis Church) with its intricately carved interior covered with gold. A visit to the Palacio da Bolsa, Porto's Stock Exchange, to see Arabian Hall, a pastiche of Granada's Alhambra decorated in stained-glass windows, arabesques and carved woodwork in imitation of Moorish stucco. Cross the Douro River to Vila Nova de Gaia, home of the Port wine lodges, for a tour and tasting. Time for lunch (not included) before returning to Porto. In the afternoon you will visit the historical north area of the city and have free time for shopping or more sightseeing on Santa Catarina Street. Then on to where the Douro River meets the Atlantic and the area where this ancient city was born, Miragaia. Afterward, you're off to Guimaraes, "cradle" of Portugal. Accommodation in Guimaraes. BD

Day 7 - Guimaraes-Braga-Coimbra

Tour the historic center of Guimaraes, 12th century birthplace of the Portuguese Nation. Sao Miguel Castle, its large keep encircled by crenellated walls and towers, was first built to deter attacks by Moors and Normans in the 10th century. On to Braga, a city with a long history as a religious center and home to the sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte. The sanctuary's incredible Baroque staircase cascades down the side of a mountain. A lunch of northern Portuguese cuisine is included today. Continue to Coimbra, an ancient university city on the banks of the Mondego River. Accommodation in Coimbra. BD

CENTRUM & SOUTH OF PORTUGAL

Departure
from Lisbon Airport or from a Hotel

PRICE P/PAX - DOUBLE - SINGLE		
ABR - OUT -	836 €	- 971 €
NOV - MAR -	809 €	- 939 €

Special prices for groups of:
30 persons 40 persons 50 persons

