

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary **Portugal** *Lisbon, Estoril Coast and Algarve* *Friday, March 9 – Sunday, March 18, 2012*

Some of the world's great explorers, like Prince Henry the Navigator and Christopher Columbus, set sail from Portugal to seek out new lands—yet when you discover the beauty and charm of Portugal's "Silver Coast," you'll wonder how they could have ever left. Stroll through the resort towns of Estoril and Sintra; visit the scenic coastline of Cascais and the sleepy villages of Obidos and Nazare; relax on the beautiful beaches of the Algarve and visit a centuries-old winemaker. Your trip ends with one night in Lisbon.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Lisbon
- First-class accommodations: four nights Cascais, three nights Algarve, one night Lisbon
- Fourteen meals: eight breakfasts, six dinners
- Round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring

Rates

\$2,275 per person double occupancy

\$2,249 per person triple occupancy

\$2,559 for single reservations

Add \$230 for current air taxes and fees. Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$200. Although not required we recommend purchasing the waiver. Purchase must be made at the time of booking. Passport required.

Features

Cascais, Sintra, Estoril, Folkloric Fado Dinner Show, Obidos, Nazare, Fatima, Lisbon, Jeronimo's Monastery, Evora, Algrave, Cape St. Vincente, Lagos, Azeitao

Trip Planner

Day 1 Overnight Flight

Days 2-5 Hotel Vila Gale Cascais, Cascais

Days 6-8 Dom Joao II, Algarve or Hotel Delfim Algrave

Day 9 Marriott Lisboa Hotel, Lisbon

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Portugal - a historic land of great explorers - is waiting for your own exploration. Discover ancient castles, Roman ruins, groves of lemon and almond trees, quiet whitewashed villages, and kind, gentle people.

Day 2: Cascais, Portugal

Your tour begins today in Cascais, your home for four nights and a beautiful resort town on the "Portuguese Riviera." The mansions scattered about Cascais hint at its history as a haven for exiled European royals and nobility. Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a welcome dinner.

Today dinner will be included.

Day 3: Cascais - Sintra - Estoril - Cascais

Begin your day exploring the picturesque towns surrounding Cascais. Visit the magnificent Baroque Palacio de Mafra, a palace, basilica and monastery. Next, visit the town of Sintra, a UNESCO World

Heritage site and the favorite summer residence of Portuguese kings for six centuries. Hugging the beautiful shoreline, continue on to Estoril, a scenic coastal resort where you can stroll amongst the many specialty shops filled with Portuguese handmade crafts. An entertaining evening awaits you during dinner where you'll savor excellent Portuguese cuisine and delicious local wine. Local artists will perform traditional folkloric dances and songs, including the Fado, plaintive songs of longing accompanied by the viola, a Portuguese string instrument shaped like a mandolin, and by the guitarra.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 4: Cascais - Obidos - Nazare - Fatima - Cascais

Travel to Portugal's beautiful "Silver Coast," a spectacular region filled with sleepy villages, rich vineyards and age-old castles. After a short lesson on the Portuguese language, proceed to picture-perfect Obidos, where white washed houses are held snug by medieval city walls. Continue to Nazare, a beautiful coastal fishing village. Later, visit Fatima, the world-famous Marian pilgrimage site.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 5: Cascais - Lisbon - Cascais

This morning, enjoy a city tour of Lisbon highlighting the Moorish Alfama Quarter. See the 16th century Jeronimo's Monastery (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Monument to the Discoveries, which honors intrepid Portuguese explorers and their patrons. The impressive Belem Tower, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, features carved rope and balconies that stand watch where great navigators once set forth. Later today, enjoy leisure time in Cascais. Stroll its narrow cobblestone streets, walk the wide beach promenade or shop for ceramics, lace, filigree, hand woven works and tapestries.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 6: Cascais - Evora - Algarve

Travel through beautiful Portuguese countryside and stop in historic Evora, a UNESCO World Heritage site, known as the "Museum City of Portugal." Inside this medieval walled city lies a 2nd century Roman temple to Diana. Then, journey south to the famous Algarve on the pristine Atlantic coast.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 7: Algarve

The entire day is yours to experience the beautiful Algarve. Geraniums, camellias and oleanders grow alongside fig, orange and almond trees while brightly colored fishing boats bob on the seas. Protected by hills to the north and warmed by the sea, the Algarve's mild climate and beautiful beaches attract vacationers from all over Europe.

Today breakfast will be included.

Day 8: Algarve - Cape of St. Vincente - Lagos - Sao Bras de Alportel -Algarve

In beautiful Cape of St. Vincente, 200 foot cliffs plunge into the Atlantic at the most southwesterly point of Europe. View its quaint landscape as you travel to the historic resort town of Lagos, where the famous voyager, Prince Henry the Navigator, began his explorations. Stroll the streets of this charming

town during leisure time. Later, travel to the historic town of Sao Bras de Alportel for a visit to a local cork museum. Learn about the many uses of cork and its importance to the local economy. Your day concludes with a lovely dinner.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 9: Algarve - Azeitao - Lisbon

Return to Lisbon, Portugal's capital set on seven hills overlooking the Tagus River. Stop en route to visit Azeitao, a charming agricultural village known for red wine, olive trees and beautiful country estates. Visit a family-run shop that demonstrates how azulejos, the famous hand-painted Portuguese tiles, are made. **Then enjoy a tour and tasting of local wines when you visit a centuries-old wine maker.** Later, bid "adeus" to Portugal during a dinner celebrating the end of a wonderful tour.

Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

Day 10: Lisbon - Tour Ends

Today breakfast will be included.

Optional Excursions for Sunny Portugal

Plan Ahead, Reserve Now!

Add a touch of personalization to your vacation by selecting from our well-researched list of options. And now, you can reserve your options in advance of your tour! Availability is limited and reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. Payment must be received no later than final payment..

City: Algarve- Coastal Cruise with Algarvian Cave Expedition and Dinner \$130.00

Set forth on your own Age of Discovery on the two-masted Caravela Santa Bernarda. This reconstructed ship recalls Portugal's golden days of sail and exploration. Enjoy an afternoon cruise departing from the historical harbor of Portimao, sailing along the Rio Arade. Sail by Ferragudo, a typical Algarvian fishing village full of tiny, colorful boats. Enjoy the unusual maritime view of two medieval forts. Continue along the amazing coast for breathtaking views of the majestic rock formations for which the Algarve is known. If you choose, set sail in smaller boats and glide into the grottos of the famous Algarvian caves. Celebrate your discoveries during a dinner in a local Portimao restaurant, savoring delicious Portuguese cuisine.

This excursion is subject to operation depending on weather conditions. Also due to weather conditions, this excursion may operate in the morning (lunch will be included instead of dinner) instead of the afternoon.

Your transportation is included. Please note a minimum of 15 passengers is required.

Duration: approximately 4.5 hour(s).

Proof of Citizenship: *US citizens require a passport with at least six months' validity past the date of return.. Passports are the responsibility of the traveler.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.*

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*