

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Portuguese Riviera

Wednesday, September 19 – Wednesday, September 26, 2012

Christopher Columbus set sail for the New World under the aegis of Portugal, though you'll wonder why he ever left as you discover the beauty and riches of the "Portuguese Riviera." Estoril is hailed as the "Playground of Kings" and you'll walk in royal footsteps at the **Palace of Queluz** and the medieval castles of **Sesimbra**. Explore the heart of **Lisbon** in Rossio and Alfama, and drink in the Old World culture in Azeitao, a small village nestled in the mountainous Arrabida region where vintners have been creating sweet moscatel wine for centuries. The **Arrabida Mountains** are also home to a Natural Park, pristine beaches and dazzling limestone mountains. Scenic fishing villages dot the coastline and stops include **Cascais** and **Sintra**, both offering stunning views that haven't changed since Columbus pulled up anchor 500 years ago. Surrounded by all this beauty and culture, we're still not sure why he left! You'll be hard-pressed to leave as well.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled Air France flights from Boston to Lisbon via Paris
- Six nights' four star hotel accommodations: Hotel Eden Estoril, Estoril
- Breakfast daily
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Wine tasting
- Lunch on full-day Arrabida excursion
- Farewell dinner with folklore show at hotel
- Escorted round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local guide during excursions

Rates

\$1,969 per person double occupancy
\$2,349 single reservations
Includes round-trip airfare and \$370 fuel surcharge. Add \$130 for air taxes and fees. Fuel surcharge, taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300

Features

Half-day guided panoramic tour of Lisbon, half-day guided excursion to Queluz, Sintra and Cascais, full-day guided excursion to Arrabida including wine-tasting in Azeitao, Sesimbra's Castle and Pousada do Castelo in Palmela

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on Air France overnight flight to Paris. Enjoy dinner with wine on board.

Day 2: Flight from Paris to Lisbon

Arrive in Paris and board your connecting flight to Lisbon. Upon arrival at the Lisbon airport you'll transfer, by private motorcoach, to the four-star **Hotel Eden Estoril** in Estoril. Upon arrival enjoy a welcome drink. The remainder of the day and evening is at leisure.

Day 3: Lisbon

After breakfast you depart for a half-day motorcoach tour of Lisbon. Drive down Liberty Avenue to Rossio, the very heart of the city. Visit Alfama, the oldest and most picturesque of the city's quarters.

Here it is still possible to see Roman and Arab remains, two of the most dominant civilizations in Lisbon's past. From Saint George's Castle, which can be seen from almost anywhere in the city, you will get a splendid overview of the city and river. Your coach will motor along the river to Belem where you visit Jeromimo's Monastery. This monastery, dedicated to the Belem Virgin, is usually referred to as the "jewel" of the Manueline style. This exclusive Portuguese style combines architectural elements from the Gothic and Renaissance periods. Return to the hotel and the remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure. **(B)**

Day 4: Queluz – Sintra – Cascais

This morning begin your half-day excursion with a visit to The Palace in Queluz. Frequently compared to Versailles Palace in France, this opulent palace was begun in 1747 and is surrounded by luxurious Palace gardens with Baroque fountains, statues and places for recreation. Next you journey to the magical walled town of Sintra which is as an UNESCO World Heritage site mainly due to its 19th - century architecture. Essentially romantic in character, this town was poetically described by Lord Byron as "this glorious Eden". You'll have time to walk the pathways through the historic town and visit the Royal Palace. Before returning to Estoril you'll see Cascais, a formerly quaint fishing village that has become a popular seaside resort that was favored by European nobility and kings in the early 20th century. Today it is a colorful cosmopolitan town with elegant pedestrian streets, luxurious villas, fashionable shops, restaurants and bars. Return to the hotel. Afternoon and Evening are at leisure. **(B)**

Day 5: Arrabida

Today enjoy a full-day excursion to Arrabida. Cross the bridge over the Tagus River and admire the magnificent view of Lisbon. South of the river is Arrábida, famous for its outstanding natural beauty and nature reserve which is home to flamingos and dolphins. Visit the small village of Azeitao located in the beautiful mountain area and visit the wine cellars and have a taste of muscatel wine. This sweet wine is produced only in this part of the country. Next is Sesimbra, which retains much of its fishing village atmosphere. View the village from the Sesimbra Castle. Lunch is included today at a local restaurant. Continue on to the Arrabida Mountains, a unique natural park created to preserve the natural elements. Enjoy a stop at the Pousada de Castelo in Palmela, nestled within the village castle. Located on top of an imposing hill, it affords one of the most impressive panoramic views in the area. Return to hotel for an evening at leisure and overnight **(B, L)**

Day 6: Day at leisure in Estoril

Enjoy breakfast this morning and the day is all yours to do you own sightseeing, shopping or to relax on the Riviera. **(B)**

Day 7: Day at leisure in Estoril – Farewell Dinner

Enjoy breakfast and have another free day in Estoril. This evening regroup with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner **(B,D)**

Day 8: Return flight to Boston

Transfer this morning by motorcoach to the Lisbon airport for your return Air France flight to Boston via Paris. **(B)**

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid Passport for travel with at least 6 months' validity. Passports are the responsibility of each 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.