



PORTUGAL TOUR JUNE 13-24, 2024

FULL ITINERARY, HOTEL INFO, PRICING AT [PERFORMING ARTS REVIEW TRAVEL](#)

Participants arrive in Lisbon throughout the day on Thursday, 13 June, and transfer individually by underground, aerobus or taxi (not included in land package) from Lisbon International Airport or train/bus stations to Hotel Roma

First Full-Day Lisbon 14.06

Orientation breakfast at the hotel with our English-speaking tour guide will be followed by a visit to the “**Baixa**” (**downtown**) heart of the city. Destroyed by the earthquake and tsunami of 1755, it was later rebuilt by **Marquês de Pombal**, who designed a uniform, rectilinear architecture for the city center, and whose statue dominates **Parque Eduardo VII** in the heart of downtown. We will

walk through **Alfama**, one of the oldest quarters of the city, observing its architecture as well as the sounds and smells of old Lisbon. Adjoining the Alfama district are the old quarters of **Mouraria** and **Castelo**, where we will visit the **Castelo de São Jorge**, one of the most emblematic Crusader monuments of Lisbon, situated on the city's highest hill. The castle was built in the 10th and 11th centuries, when Lisbon was an important Moorish port. In 1147, the **first king of Portugal, Dom Afonso Henriques**, conquered both the castle and the city from the Moors. Our walk will continue to **Chiado** an elegant trading area these days, but once a famous meeting place for intellectuals such as **Fernando Pessoa, Almada Negreiros** and **Eça de Queiroz** at the end of the 19th century.

The **Carmo** area of Lisbon, next to the Chiado, has some of the most fascinating historical sites in the city, including the **Convent and Church of Carmo** and **Largo do Carmo** which was the site of important events in the 1974 revolution. We will visit the **Basilica Nossa Senhora dos Mártires** where we may gain permission to play the **pipe organ built in 1791 by António Xavier Machado e Cerveira**, considered one of the most remarkable of several Portuguese Baroque organ builders. We will continue to **S. Pedro de Alcantara**. This 'miradouro' in Portuguese is located at the top of the **Glória funicular** route close to one of the many entrances to **Bairro Alto**. From here, we will be able to see magnificent views of Lisbon, especially **St. George's Castle** and the **Graça** area. We will enjoy **our welcome dinner together at the fascinating Restaurant Museu da Cerveja**, with its fascinating Portuguese beer museum, overlooking the historic Tagus River, the longest on the Iberian Peninsula, which empties into the Atlantic at Lisbon.



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Half-Day in the historic Belém district of Lisbon 15.06

We will enjoy breakfast at the hotel, then travel by coach with our English-speaking tour guide along the Tagus riverbank to the **Belém district of Lisbon**, to enjoy the **Manueline architecture of Portugal's age of empire** and exploration, and visit the **Jerónimos Monastery, Navy Museum, Carriage Museum** and on the banks of the Tagus, the iconic **Tower of Belém** with its **Monument of Discoveries**. To top off the day, we will make a stop at the famous old bakery "Confeitaria Belém Antiga" which has been in business since 1837. Their secret formula for these delicious pastries is kept in a locked place. Afterwards, **we will travel by coach to the heart of Lisbon's urban life, Rossio Square**. Like attending the theater, if you sit down for a glass of wine and a light bite in one of the numerous street cafes in the square, you are in the front row of a world stage. The rest of the afternoon and evening is at leisure.



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Free-Day - parades, street vendors, fado dancers – Lisbon's Sardine Festival 16.06

After breakfast at the hotel the day is free. **Today is a holiday in Lisbon, many monuments and businesses are closed, but street celebrations, neighborhood food stalls, Fado clubs, and restaurants make for a happy mélange of activity.** Enjoy a walk through the city and breathe the celebratory atmosphere that is lived here year-round, but particularly during this special holiday festival. **People from every neighborhood parade down Avenida da Liberdade**, filling this major boulevard with colorful characters in costume, Portuguese folk music ensembles, and throngs of spectators spilling into the narrow back streets, particularly in **Alfama**, but also **Graça, Bica, Mouraria** and **Madragoa**. In the Mediaeval squares and alleyways, people eat cabbage soup and grilled sardines, **singing and dancing the whole nightlong**. Another highlight is the **Procession of St. Anthony**, which leaves from the Church of Santo António in Alfama, near the Cathedral where the saint was born in 1193. Overnight at the hotel in Lisbon.



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Free-Day and special Dinner 17.06

Today will be best spent resting, after the long night in the Arraial St. António! **We will gather for dinner together at the amazing rooftop Restaurant Zambeze, with spectacular views of Lisbon City.** Overnight at Hotel in Lisbon.



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Full-Day Road Trip by minibus to Porto 18.06

After breakfast at the hotel in Lisbon we depart by minibus with our Portuguese-speaking tour guide for Portugal's **second largest city Porto**, with a **side trip to the historic university city of Coimbra**, where we will have time to explore the town, including its statue dedicated to the city's unique version of Fado. We will enjoy **lunch at Restaurant O Trovador** where we will be serenaded by some of the city's finest Fado musicians. Later, we will visit the **Church and Monastery of Santa Cruz**, one of the most beautiful buildings in the country, where **we will have a close look at its stunning Baroque organ**. We will visit **Casa da Guitarra** to see the vast array of traditional Portuguese guitars archived there and explore the splendid and **historic library and auditorium at the University of Coimbra**. From the university terrace, we will have a magnificent view of the city and the Mondego River Valley, before continuing to Porto. Overnight at Hotel Black Tulip in Porto.



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Full Day in Porto 19.06

After breakfast at the hotel, we will enjoy a **walking tour of the ancient city**, taking the tram to the historic center with our English-speaking tour guide. During our walk, we will experience the narrow Medieval streets of this UNESCO World Heritage City on the Douro River firsthand and discover not only the classic highlights of the metropolis, but also its hidden beauties. At noon, **we will hear the Baroque pipe organ at the Clérigos Church** with its magnificent Baroque tower. We will have the opportunity to chat with the organist who might allow one or two qualified participants to briefly play the instrument. We will enjoy lunch afterward at Restaurant Chez Lapin in the oldest **Ribeira District** close to the river Douro. After taking the subway back to our hotel, we will visit **Casa da Música**. Some participants may enjoy taking advantage of a ticket discount for a 4pm performance at Porto's Casa da Música. The evening will be free. Overnight at the hotel in Porto.



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Full Day Douro River Valley Cruise, tasting and lunch 20.06

After breakfast at the hotel in Porto, we start a **minibus day trip to the Douro River Valley** with our English- speaking tour guide. We will enjoy **lunch at the Quinta da Avesada Winery** with typical food and wines from this area, **followed in mid-afternoon by a two-hour cruise on the Douro River between the villages of Pinhão and Tua** before returning to Porto. Overnight at hotel in Porto.



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Day Trip by minibus to Guimarães and Braga 21.06

After breakfast at the hotel in Porto we will travel by minibus to visit the historic city of **Guimarães**, which is also known as **the cradle of Portugal** and holds a special place in Portuguese hearts. It was here, from the castle's high walls that Alfonso Henriques (King Alfonso I) defeated the armies of his mother Theresa Countess of Portugal in 1128 and became the first King of Portugal. We will visit the historic center of the city, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its exceptionally well-preserved buildings. We will visit the Duke's Palace (**Palácio dos Duques**) and the **Castle São Mamede**. We will stop in at the **Oliveira do Castelo Church** to see an amazing pipe organ from the first half of the 19th century (1831-1841), the last expression of the Galician-Portuguese current of the Iberian organaria. We've asked for permission for some in our group to play the instrument. Afterwards, we will have a walk through the Medieval streets. **In the afternoon, we will continue towards Braga**, an important religious center of the 6th century CE, where we will have **lunch at Restaurant Cozinha da Sé**. We will visit the imposing **Sanctuary of Bom Jesus de Braga** where those seeking their exercise for the day, can climb the stairway which leads to the impressive sanctuary - 17 levels of steps, adorned with symbolic fountains, allegoric statues, and other decorations in Baroque style. At the top, a breathtaking panoramic view of the city of Braga before returning to Porto. Overnight at hotel in Porto.



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Return to Lisbon by minibus with stops in Fátima and Mafra 22.06

After breakfast at our hotel in Porto, we will leave this unforgettably beautiful and historic city for our return journey by to Lisbon. Our first stop will be **Fátima** for a short sightseeing tour of **one of**

Europe's most important religious sites. We will see the **Pilgrimage Chapel** and the **Basilica de Nossa Senhora do Rosário**, with a chance to see, perhaps play, the **amazing pipe organ there**, built in 1951 by the Italian company Fratelli Ruffatti. It is **the largest instrument of its kind in Portugal, with 90 registers and around 6,500 pipes.** We will continue to **Mafra** to tour the former royal monastery and palace. A building of superlatives - **the largest palace and monastery complex in Portugal.**

The historic organs of the **Basilica of the Mafra Palace** are a **set of six pipe organs**, unique in the world, designed and built at the same time, to play together (dated from 1806 and 1807). The request is in, for permission get personal with these organs. **Back in Lisbon, we will stay at our familiar home, Hotel Roma.**



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Full Day in Sintra 23.06

After breakfast at our hotel in Lisbon, **we will take the train for a day-long visit to the fairy tale palaces and gardens of Sintra.** We will take the tourist train to visit **Pena Palace** and the **Castle of the Moors.** We will enjoy a **light lunch at Restaurant Taverna Trovadores.**

A visit to **São Martinho Church** in Sintra to have a look and listen to its pipe organ, will cap the day. **We will return to Lisbon for our farewell dinner at a typical Fado dinner club, Adegado Machado.**



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Departure Day 24.06

After breakfast at the hotel participants transfer from the hotel to the airport/train by taxi or Metro (not included in land package).