

Literature For All Of Us **Portugal ADVENTURE**

October 2 - 12 2019



Pictured: View of Lisbon, Portugal

Day 1: Tuesday, October 2, 2018: Depart for Portugal

Today you will depart for Lisbon. TAP Air Portugal, a member of Star Alliance, has a new non-stop flight from Chicago to Lisbon.

Day 2: Wednesday, October 3: Arrive in Lisbon

Participants traveling on the non-stop TAP Airlines Flight will be met on arrival at Lisbon Airport in the morning and transferred to our city center hotel. Today you will have the opportunity to get acclimated on your own. You may choose to take a walk in one of the neighborhoods or head to one of the interesting museums (Gulbenkian Art, Ceramic Arts or the Berardo Collection Museum).

This evening we will gather for a welcome dinner at the Gremio Literario, the premier literary club where the panoramic views from the club look over the illuminated city.

Overnight: Lisbon (D)

Day 3: Thursday, October 4: Lisbon

Today, we will get to know the city during our guided full day walking tour of some of Lisbon's friendly neighborhoods. Known as the city of seven hills, Lisbon has layers of history dating to occupation by the Phoenicians, the Romans, the Visigoths and the Moors. We will visit the heart

of the city, Rossio Square. We will see the Lisbon Cathedral, with history dating back to the 12th century, and admire views of St. George's Castle, a Moorish fortification, while catching a stunning panorama over the city from the Miradouro da Senhora do Monte lookout. We will visit 3 neighborhoods during the day: The Alfama, the Baixa and the Chiado. In the Alfama, we will have the opportunity to visit the Roman ruins and explore Lisbon's most charming neighborhood with winding medieval alleys. In the Baixa we will visit the Livraria Bertrand (the oldest bookstore in the world still selling books) and the elaborate Brasileira café where the famous writer Fernando Pessoa spent time. We will also stroll the streets of the Chiado which was home to many famous Portuguese artists in the beginning of the 20th century and now boasts traditional shops and cafés. We will also visit the Jose Saramago Foundation which is housed in a 16th century building spectacularly restored to create a modern home for the works of this literary giant.

Overnight: Lisbon (B)



Pictured: A beautiful side street in Lisbon with tilework

Day 4: Friday, October 5: Excursion to Sintra and Cascais

After breakfast, we will travel out of the city to the mystical hills of Sintra, dotted with fairytale palaces and extravagant villas. First inhabited by the ancient Romans worshipping the cult of the moon, then by the Moors who fell in love with the lush vegetation, and then by the Portuguese aristocracy who built extensive residences, Sintra was called “glorious Eden” by Byron when he visited during his grand tour in 1809. Explore this beautiful hillside town and visit the magical Quinta de Regaleira villa. We will Impressive ocean-side cliffs of Cabo da Roca, the most western point of the European continent. From there we will enjoy some time at leisure in seaside village of Cascais, a small fishing village turned luxurious resort town on the *Portugal Riviera*. Then, we will head back to Lisbon.

Overnight: Lisbon (B, L)



Pictured: One castle in Sintra

Day 5: Saturday, October 6: Lisbon

After breakfast, we will head to Belem, the city's monument district where we will visit 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the stunning 16th century Jeronimos Monastery, and the Belem Tower on the bank of the Tagus River. Lisbon's iconic Belem Tower, the symbol of the Age of Discovery was the starting point for many of the great Portuguese voyages of exploration. We will visit Jeronimos Monastery built to commemorate Vasco da Gama's voyage to India. Enjoy a short stop at the Monument to the Discoveries, celebrating the influential 15th-16th century Portuguese *Age of Discovery* before being transfer back to the city for an afternoon at leisure to explore on your own. Or, you may choose to remain in Belem for lunch on your own, and visit the Belem Cultural Centre which hosts an arts complex which was originally controversial for its striking modern architecture. Nearby is the LX Factory, a series of old warehouses transformed into a hub of creative activities.

Tonight, we will attend a Fado performance with dinner this evening, taking in the profoundly melancholy feel of this ancient tradition. Fado refers to the national song style of Portugal and is deemed of cultural importance to Lisbon and therefore protected by UNESCO.

Overnight: Lisbon (B, D)

Day 6: Sunday, October 7: Evora

After breakfast we will depart Lisbon for our next adventure heading west to the Alentejo region of Portugal. We will visit the fine Neolithic stone formations at Almendres Cromlech where 95 standing stones form two large stone circles, once part of a ceremonial site dedicated to a celestial religion. The first stones were laid in 6,000 BCE and the site was in continual use until 3,000BCE—older than the Stonehenge formation. We will then continue to the town of Évora, a museum-city with Roman roots, and is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. We will visit the 2nd century Roman temple, the Roman city walls expanded by the Moors and medieval Portuguese, and the Capela dos Ossos, a famous chapel built of skulls and bones by 16th-century monks who wished to contemplate and communicate the message of the transitory nature of life.

We will then arrive at the Torre de Palma Wine Hotel where we will have the opportunity to take enjoy the property (swim, walk, drink a glass of wine or simply relax) before a delicious group dinner that will highlight the specialties of the region.

Overnight: Alentejo Region, Monforte (B, D)

Day 7: Sunday, October 8: Alentejo Region

This morning we will enjoy the unique surroundings and offerings of the hotel at our leisure. After breakfast you can walk to the ruins of the Roman villa located on the property to see the remnants of the walls and mosaics which are still being excavated. Karen Thomson will offer a book discussion in the morning (text to be determined later). The hotel may also offer biking, walking, swimming, cooking class, horseback riding, and falconry, depending on interest.

In the afternoon, we will head to either the medieval village of Marvao or Estremoz. Marvao is considered one of the prettiest in Europe. Set on a high granite escarpment, the village is surrounded by almost intact 13th century walls, and has breathtaking 360° views over some of the picturesque parts of the country. Or, we may visit the nearby town of Estremoz, a town so rich in the natural production of marble that even the doorsteps, pavements and cobblestones are made out of marble. We will then return to the hotel in time to watch the sunset and enjoy a delicious group dinner at Torre De Palma Wine Hotel.

Overnight: Alentejo Region, Monforte (B, D)



Pictured: Some of the mosaics available for viewing at the Roman Villa at Torre de Palma

Day 8: Monday, October 9: Tomar, Coimbra

Today we make our way through the countryside as we drive north toward Porto. First, we will stop in Tomar to see the spectacular Convento de Cristo, the headquarters of the legendary Knights Templar. The magnificent building was added to over the centuries and is now a mix of elaborate Gothic, Manueline, and Renaissance architecture. Our next stop will be a visit to Coimbra, home to one of the world's first universities. We will tour the University Library, one

of the world's finest, housing a collection of 300,000 ancient books displayed around an extravagant display of gilt. Then, we will visit the ornate Capelo di São Miguel and the Graduate's Hall, once used as an examinations room. Arrive in Porto at the end of the day.

Overnight: Porto (B)



Pictured: Paintings from inside the Convento de Cristo

Day 9: Tuesday, October 10: Porto

Spend the morning on a guided tour discovering the gorgeous city of Porto. The historic center, designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, is built along the hillsides overlooking the mouth of the Douro River, is over a thousand years old and a delightful warren of narrow, twisting streets. Here serene Neo-Palladian buildings sit side by side with lavishly gilded Baroque churches. We will receive a guided tour of the splendid and lavishly decorated neoclassical Palacio da Bolsa.

Enjoy a port wine tasting at one of the city's fine port cellars. The afternoon is yours to explore the city independently. If you like modern art, the Museu Serralves is excellent, and worth a visit. Or, you can go to the beautiful Lello Bookstore which is said to be one of JK Rowling's inspirations for the Harry Potter series. You may also choose to take a boat tour or simply enjoy walking around the city.

Overnight: Porto (B)



Pictured: The Porto waterfront

Day 10: Wednesday, October 11: Douro Valley

The Douro Valley is an exceptionally picturesque landscape of terraced hillside vineyards, patches of woodland, and charming little villages. This is home to some of the world's oldest vineyards. The area visiting the picturesque towns of Amarante and Regua. In each area we will discover something wonderful. In Amarante, we will visit the historical center. In Regua, we will take a walk along the river. We will be treated to a locally inspired farewell lunch at the estate of a Douro wine producer and return to Porto at the end of the day.

Overnight: Porto (B, L)



Pictured: the Douro Valley

Day 11: Thursday, October 12: Depart Porto

Transfer to the Porto airport for departure flights. (B)

TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): US\$4650* (Including \$1000 donation to Literature for All of Us)
Single Supplement: US\$1200

Tour Cost Includes:

- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing on selected flights
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in hotel listed (or similar if unavailable)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 4 dinners)
- Water, coffee, tea, and wine with lunches and dinners
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guides and all activities described
- Port wine tasting
- Douro Valley wine estate wine tasting
- Entrance fees to sites visited with the group
- Transportation by comfortable air-conditioned coach
- Bottled water in the vehicle during excursions
- Special welcome and farewell dinner with wine/beer included
- All gratuities (for guides, drivers, hotels, restaurants) and taxes
- A full time national guide accompanying the group

Tour Cost does not Include:

- International Airfare
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Travel insurance
- Additional arrangements required due to an emergency or unexpected situation

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Four-star, centrally located hotels in the cities plus two nights at the charming Wine Hotel.

- **Lisbon:** Hotel Avani Avenida Liberdade

www.avanihotels.com/en/lisbon

- **Allentejo Region:** Hotel Torre de Palma Wine Hotel

www.torredepalma.com/en

- **Porto:** Villa Gale Porto Ribeira

www.vilagale.com/br/hoteis/porto-e-norte/vila-gale-porto-ribeira

For more information, please contact Lissa Karron, Travel Planners International at

847-422-3026 or lissakarron@att.net