



# Portugal for Solo Travelers

9 days | 11 days with Lisbon extension

Tucking into Portugal's signature pastry pastéis de nata is a lot more fun with new friends by your side. A feast for every sense, Portugal beckons you with colorful architecture, crashing waves, mouthwatering cuisine, and the bittersweet sounds of fado. We've curated this trip especially for solo travelers with immersive group experiences—like bonding in a hands-on cooking class—and time to recharge on your own. If you've been waiting for someone to take the plunge with, we've got you covered with a whole lot of friends you just haven't met yet.



## Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in a private room at handpicked hotels
- 7 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 cooking class
- 1 food tasting
- 5 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Porto's central market
- Douro riverfront
- Stock Exchange Palace
- Coimbra
- Évora's Chapel of Bones
- Sagres Fortress
- Jerónimos Church

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills.

## Group size

15–28

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Porto today.

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## Porto → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Porto

*Included meals: dinner*

Welcome to Portugal! After settling into your hotel, get to know your Tour Director and fellow group members at a mixer before enjoying a welcome dinner. Linger over a glass of port wine, swap stories, and get ready to share the trip of a lifetime.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Porto

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Navigate Porto's narrow streets and old-world architecture like a true tripeiro, or local resident, as you follow your city guide. Keep an eye out for azulejos—the intricately painted tiles that adorn church facades, train stations, and many other delightful nooks and crannies.

- Pass citywide icons, such as Liberty Square's ornate neoclassical buildings and Carmelitas Church's fanciful Baroque and Rococo influences.
- Make friends with the Baroque-style Clérigos Tower—you'll be able to spot this soaring steeple as you traverse Porto. Use it as your North Star.
- Break for coffee and a sweet treat at a local cafe. Whether you gravitate toward another custardy pastéis de nata—a flaky and flavorful custard tart—or the heftier, doughier Portuguese croissant, Porto's pastries are not to be missed.
- Peruse the stalls at one of Porto's bustling markets, where farmers sell fresh produce and flowers and fishmongers peddle the day's fresh catch.
- Wander through the tiny, medieval, riverside lanes of the Ribeira district and let your eyes dance across the candy-colored facades of its buildings.

- Take a scenic drive through waterside neighborhoods and along the Douro riverfront. Watch for fishing boats on the water and churches tucked along the cobblestone streets.

The best views of Porto are from the waters of the Douro. If you opt into this afternoon's cruise, you'll drift by hillside villas and under ancient bridges, ending with a guided tour of a port wine cellar (complete with a tasting, of course). Not joining the cruise? Spend your free afternoon uncovering the architectural and culinary treasures of the Ribeira district and try to hunt down a francesinha. This hearty, tomato sauce-soaked take on the French croque monsieur is a Portuguese specialty.

+ Douro River Cruise & Port Wine Cellar Visit

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## Évora → 1 night

### Day 4: Évora via Coimbra

*Included meals: breakfast*

Drive south from Porto, stopping to explore Coimbra on a guided walking tour of the city. Home to the country's first university, this slightly under-the-radar area is the fourth-largest population center in Portugal and dates to pre-Roman times. Monuments that tell the story of Roman and Moorish occupation stand alongside manicured parks and gardens. Coimbra University houses a flourishing botanical garden and the Joanina Library, filled with tomes that date to the 16th century. Around the city, narrow medieval streets twist and turn between ochre-colored buildings, virtually untouched by time. After exploring, head to your hotel in Évora, a town nestled into the thicket of cork groves that dominates the Alentejo Region. Settle into your room and prepare for a day among the walled city's Roman ruins.

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## Algarve Region → 2 nights

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Évora & transfer to the Algarve Region

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Before making your way to the sun-soaked Algarve, follow a local guide through the streets

of UNESCO-recognized Évora, one of Europe's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Its streets, paved with cobblestones, are culturally protected and cherished by locals. Look all around you for the yellow trim that decorates Évora's buildings—local lore promises the color offers protection from evil spirits.

- Take in the region's whitewashed homes and intricate tilework and make it your mission to uncover as many azulejos as possible. While some are grand displays, others are hidden in plain sight, just waiting to surprise you.
- Pass the remains of the Roman Temple, its 14 Corinthian columns standing solemnly, their capitals mostly still intact.
- Prepare for an encounter with the macabre when you enter the Capela dos Ossos—the Chapel of Bones—a 16th-century chapel lined with the skulls and bones of the interred.
- Learn about cork production with a tour of the Alentejo Cork Factory. Portugal exports more than half of the world's cork supply, making this product of the cork oak tree essential to Portugal's economy.

Continue to the beach-lined Algarve Region and sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 6: Lagos, Sagres & Cape St. Vincent

*Included meals: breakfast*

Discover the white-sand beaches framed by dramatic golden coastal cliffs, and small settlements of the Algarve Region, southern Portugal's beachy haven. You'll visit the seafaring towns of Lagos and Sagres. Between long stretches of sand, the gentle sway of fishing boats, and jagged rock formations that dot the water, you may find the coastal breeze sweeps you off your feet. Let it.

- Enter Sagres Fortress and admire windswept views of the water stretching to the horizon. The area was once considered the end of the earth—the last explored point of the ancient world before it plunged into the uncharted Atlantic.

- Relish the drama of dizzying cliffs that plunge

into the Atlantic at Cape St. Vincent, the southwestern most point of mainland Europe. You're now standing where many explorers stopped, so take a moment and relish in your solo travel boldness.

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## Lisbon → 2 nights

### Day 7: Transfer to Lisbon & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know the alluring Portuguese capital on a tour with a local guide. Roam historic neighborhoods adorned with pastel buildings while a gentle Atlantic breeze whispers over cobbled streets and plaintive notes of fado music fill the air.

- Admire views of the city from the green expanse of Eduardo VII Park, then pass through the Praça Marquês de Pombal: a massive plaza and roundabout with a soaring statue noting Lisbon's reconstruction following a devastating earthquake in 1755.
- Continue to the Mouraria district—Lisbon's historic Moorish quarter, brimming with street art and a buzzworthy food scene.
- Discover the city's maritime heritage at the Monument to the Discoveries and Belém Tower—paragons of Portuguese Gothic architecture made with local limestone.
- Walk through the Chiado theater district to neighboring Baixa, passing by its elegant shops and quirky cafes.
- Ride on one of the city's cheerful yellow trams—known as remodelados—that have become icons of the city since entering service in 1873.

Discover the meaning of saudade—the crossroads between nostalgia and longing— by adding an evening fado show to your itinerary, featuring Portugal's traditional music. Prefer to spend the evening on your own? Ask your Tour Director for a recommendation or grab one of your fellow solo travelers and head to the Graça district for a panoramic view of Lisbon from an uphill perch. You can also begin (or end) your night out with a punchy Lisbon specialty: taking a shot of ginjinha, a sour cherry liqueur. + Fado Show & Dinner

### Day 8: Free day in Lisbon & cooking class

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Vividly hued architecture and impossibly perfect gardens greet you in Sintra should you choose to add this special excursion to the former

playground of Portuguese royalty. If you prefer to spend the day setting out on your own, explore the green expanse of Parque Florestal de Monsanto, a massive swath of protected forest right inside the city limits.

This evening, roll up your sleeves to take part in a cooking class, where you'll learn how to make a traditional Portuguese appetizer, dinner, and dessert. Then, enjoy local wine, paired with the food you made, during a farewell dinner. + Sintra

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## Flight Home

### Day 9: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or, if you're trying to delay feeling the melancholy of saudade yourself, extend your trip and stay in Lisbon for a few more days. Stroll the labyrinthian streets of Alfama, join locals for a home-cooked meal, or join a day trip to a storybook medieval town.

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## + Lisbon extension

Whitewashed buildings. Red-clay roofs. Yellow trams crisscrossing the cityscape. In Lisbon, there's treasure around every corner. Spend a few more days exploring the city at your leisure or add excursions to dive deeper into the culture alongside a local guide.

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## Lisbon → 2 nights

### Day 9: Free day in Lisbon

*Included meals: breakfast*

Today, we've curated a pair of activities that dive into pillars of Portuguese culture: religion and cuisine. Opt into the guided tour of Tomar and Fátima to marvel at the fortified 12th century home of the Knights Templar and a famous Christian pilgrimage site.

For dinner, enjoy Lisboaeta hospitality with an option to join a home-hosted meal bursting with authentic flavors.

If you're relishing your free day in Lisbon on your own, escape to the terraced lawns of the Jardim do Torel, a hidden garden just calling for a packed picnic lunch. You can also make your way to the maze-like, hillside streets of Alfama, Lisbon's oldest district.

+ Religious Heritage of Tomar & Fátima  
+ Lisbon Home-Hosted Dinner

### Day 10: Free day in Lisbon

*Included meals: breakfast*

Lisbon is already the stuff of dreams, but if you'd like to add a fairytale ending to your last full day in Portugal, be sure to add the day trip to Óbidos and Nazaré to your itinerary. These rustic villages are ripped from the pages of a medieval storybook and lie just an hour's drive from Lisbon.

If you're spending your free day choosing your own adventure, consider tram-hopping your way around the city one last time.

You and your fellow solo travelers have come to the end of your journey—but the beginning of many future friendships. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ Old World Portugal: Óbidos, Nazaré & Batalha

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## Flight Home

### Day 11: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/PO6](https://goaheadtours.ca/PO6) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Douro River Cruise & Port Wine Cellar Visit

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (3.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Float along the beautiful Douro, the Iberian Peninsula's third-longest river. Take in scenes of Porto's vibrant waterfront and the historic city of Vila Nova de Gaia, home to the region's centuries-old port wine warehouses. As you cruise, you'll drift under five of the river's most iconic Old-World bridges, passing colorful hillside villas and traditional rabelos (flat-bottomed boats) along the way. Back on shore, pay a visit to one of Porto's most prestigious wine cellars. During the guided tour, learn about the long history of port wine, as well as the ins and outs of its production and warehousing. Then, sit down to taste three of the cellar's world-famous vintages.

## Day 7: Fado Show & Dinner

\$145CAD/\$155CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Spend your evening at a Lisbon tavern listening to fado. Derived from the Latin word fatum—meaning “prophecy” or “fate”—fado is Portugal's national musical treasure. Fado's traditional theme is “saudade”—a word that doesn't quite translate to English but conveys a sense of both nostalgia and longing. Dinner is included during this memorable musical evening. Please note: This excursion typically ends around 11pm.

## Day 8: Sintra

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (5.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

The poet Lord Byron called UNESCO-listed Sintra the most beautiful town in the world. Today, it's a popular weekend escape for Lisboetes, but it was once the playground of Portuguese royalty. Get a glimpse of regal life during a guided tour of the 19th-century, Romanticist Pena Palace. Take a bus and a mini-train up to this mountaintop site, which boasts picturesque gardens and sweeping views of the Portuguese countryside. After your tour, you'll have free time to stroll through Sintra and view the town's colorful villas, small shops, and impeccably manicured gardens. Then, enjoy beautiful coastal vistas of the Portuguese Riviera as you drive back to Lisbon.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 9: Religious Heritage of Tomar & Fátima

\$135CAD/\$145CAD\* (9 hours, departs in the morning)

Enjoy a short drive to Tomar, where you'll take a guided tour of the city's UNESCO-listed church, the Convent of Christ. This 12th-century site served as a fortress for the Knights Templar and features eight cloisters, which were built between the 15th and 16th centuries. Then, transfer to Fátima, where you'll explore this religiously significant town—most widely known for the story of three young cousins who saw apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1917. After that, the village became a pilgrimage

site and has drawn Christians for decades. Enter Jacinta and Francisco's House, home of two of the children, and visit the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. Later, enjoy free time to grab lunch, shop at stalls selling religious articles, and explore on your own.

### Day 9: Lisbon Home-Hosted Dinner

\$125CAD (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local in their home in Lisbon to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Lisboeta. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Portuguese culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

### Day 10: Old World Portugal: Óbidos, Nazaré & Batalha

\$189CAD/\$199CAD\* (9.5 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Escape the hustle and bustle of Lisbon and spend the day relaxing by the sea in the medieval villages of Óbidos, Nazaré, and Batalha. Picturesque cobblestone streets and color-trimmed buildings make up romantic Óbidos, where you'll pay a visit to the Church of Saint Mary to admire its colorful ceiling paintings and 17th-century tiles. You'll also have the chance to view the medieval Castle of Óbidos, known as one of the Seven Wonders of Portugal. Next, journey to the fishing village of Nazaré for lunch and spectacular coastline views. Spend some time looking out on Nazaré's brightly colored fishing vessels before continuing to Batalha, where you'll enter the UNESCO-listed monastery before making your way back to Lisbon.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)