



Portugal Uncovered

Classic Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 2

Porto – Viana do Castelo – Gerês National Park – Douro Valley – Coimbra – Caldas da Rainha – Évora – Lisbon

Join us on this exhilarating journey from colourful Porto, rising theatrically up the banks of the Douro River, to the ornately cobbled streets of the capital Lisbon. Along the way, sample Portugal's mouth-watering cuisine and world-class wines, and experience the rich musical traditions of Fado. Witness sweeping Atlantic vistas, arid mountain sierras and immaculately manicured vineyards, while discovering castles, cathedrals, monasteries and many other legacies of Portugal's golden past.

- Discover the colourful backstreets and hidden squares of Porto
- Soak up the beauty of the Douro Valley
- Explore the rural paradise of Alentejo
- Journey through Lisbon's most characterful districts on an infamous No. 28 tram

TOUR MAP



PORTUGAL UNCOVERED TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, customary tipping, early check in or late check out and other items not specified on the itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS:

These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Portugal on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully inclusive basis, so you'll travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

PHYSICAL LEVEL 2:

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights. 'Portugal Uncovered' is rated as a physical level 2 tour. A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances. Walking or other activities such as cycling will be at a gentle pace and will involve straightforward terrain.

- On most days, there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time
- Throughout the tour, you will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats without assistance
- On day 5 you will walk 10 kilometres in approximately 3 hours

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 14 days in duration including overnight international flights in both directions as this is the most likely flight option from New Zealand. Please note, some flights may depart and arrive on Day 2.

Travellers booked on 'Land Only', the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if arriving/departing on the start and conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre and post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours. Please email your international flight times to info@wendywutours.co.nz so we can arrange your transfers accordingly.

Join the tour on Day 2 in Porto and end the tour on Day 13 in Lisbon. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure. An informal Welcome Dinner will be held on Day 2 of the itinerary. If you miss this due to your arrival time, all information will be provided to you at breakfast the following morning.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Arrival in Porto

Meals: D

Fly to the vibrant and colourful city of Porto, on the Douro River estuary in northern Portugal. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your city centre hotel ahead of this evening's welcome dinner and briefing.

Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure to start soaking up the culture of Porto's picturesque city centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Destination Information

Porto – Located in northern Portugal, vibrant Porto is the country's second-largest city and it sits along the Douro River. It is the world's only producer of Port, after which the city is named.

Day 3: Discover Porto

Meals: B, L, D

Porto is a city best explored on foot and today we discover its most famous monuments and some of its hidden secrets on a comprehensive walking tour. You will take in the sights of the beautiful Carmo and Carmelitas churches as well as the bell tower of Clérigos Church, Porto Cathedral, and São Bento Railway Station, the most interesting monuments in the area. Along the way your guide will tell you about the politics, religion, traditions, gastronomy, wines, and local customs of Porto. You will also enjoy a tasting of Portugal's famous traditional pastry.



After lunch in a traditional taverna, continue to one of Porto's oldest port cellars, where you will learn all about the wine after which the city is named, and sample three different vintages, before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

Destination Information

Carmelitas and Carmo Churches – Appearing as one magnificent-sized church, the Carmelitas church (built for the nuns) and Carmo church (built for the monks) are in fact separated by one of the world's narrowest houses. Built in the 17th and 18th centuries respectively, these ornate churches are constructed in Baroque and Rococo architectural styles. Later, in 1912, the impressive Carmo Church was adorned with an impressive panel of ornate blue and white tiles depicting scenes from the foundation of the Carmelite Order and Mount Carmel.

Clérigos Church and Tower – The Clérigos Church and its iconic tower which stands over the city was built in the 18th century from marble and granite. The imposing 75-metre-high tower was once the tallest in Porto and has become a symbol of the city.

Porto Cathedral – Located in the historical centre of Porto, the cathedral is one of the city’s oldest monuments, and displays various architectural styles due to being renovated and rebuilt over the centuries.

Pasties de Nata – A traditional Portuguese pastry made with an egg custard filling and often dusted with cinnamon.

Day 4: Via Guimarães and Braga to Viana do Castelo

Meals: B, L, D

Depart Porto this morning, heading north to the historic town of Guimarães and enjoy a walking tour through its UNESCO-listed medieval centre to the castle, known as the birthplace of the kingdom of Portugal, and to the colossal Palace of the Dukes.



Pause for lunch in one of the city’s medieval squares before continuing to Braga, Portugal’s religious heart, to visit the Bom Jesus do Monte complex. This neoclassical church sits at the top of an elaborate 17-flight stairway.

Continue to Viana do Castelo, a port city famous for its fresh seafood and often called the ‘Jewel of the Costa Verde’. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant.

Destination Information

Guimarães – A picturesque city rich in history packed with medieval streets and bustling squares which have been well-preserved, adding to the city's charming feel.

Braga – Renowned for its Baroque architecture, Braga is home to Portugal's oldest cathedral, Se de Braga, which dates back to 1089.

Viana do Castelo – A port city famous for its fresh seafood.

Day 5: Viana do Castelo to Gerês National Park

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, discover the fabulous Manueline, Renaissance, Baroque and Art Deco architecture of Viana do Castelo on a guided walking tour, then drive to the historic town of Ponte de Lima with its famous medieval bridge.



Enjoy a traditional lunch in the town square and then continue to Quinta do Ameal, a wine estate dating back to 1710 in the heart of the Vinho Verde region. Here you can visit the cellar and learn about its fully organic wine production, with tastings of some of the estate wines, accompanied by appetisers in the tasting room with views across the vineyard, or in the garden if the weather permits. Continue to your hotel on the western edge of the Gerês National Park.

Destination Information

Gerês National Park – Teeming with flora and fauna and mountains cloaked in greenery, Gerês is Portugal's first and only national park. Rivers, streams and waterfalls cut through the countryside and nestled amongst the landscapes you will find perfectly preserved historical villages abundant with granite buildings.

Day 6: Explore Gerês National Park and drive to Douro Valley

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will experience the wild natural beauty and diversity of Gerês National Park. Transfer to the park entrance and enjoy a relaxed and gentle-paced walk to see crystal-clear streams, hidden waterfalls and peaceful lagoons. Take the opportunity to swim, if you like, in the refreshing waters after a picnic lunch at the water's edge.

Please note this walk covers a distance of 10 kilometres, taking approximately 3 hours.



Next continue to the attractive town of Vila Real, pausing to visit the baroque masterpiece Mateus Palace, before driving south into the scenic Douro Valley region to your hotel overlooking the famous terraced hillsides.

Destination Information

Vila Real – A town on a hilly landscape, clinging to a headland far above the Corgo River and home to the Mateus Palace, which to this day is still owned by a noble Portuguese family.

Douro Valley – A picturesque riverbank region in central-northern Portugal spanning over 600 kilometres. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is the oldest wine region in the world famous for its terraced slopes and being the producer of Port and world-class wines.

Day 7: Douro Valley

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, drive to the lovely town of Pinhão in the heart of the Douro Valley. Here, board a historic Rabelo boat, sampling local Porto wine as you take a relaxing cruise upstream on the Douro River, flanked by wineries on both riverbanks.

Next, step aboard a local train and enjoy a scenic rail trip along the Douro River to the town of Peso da Régua. Continue by road to a local family-run winery in the Douro Valley. Here enjoy a leisurely tour of the vineyard and learn about the wine making process, while sampling some of the wines. Return to your hotel for some time at leisure.



Destination Information

Pinhao – This charming town with a laidback pace is situated in the centre of the Douro Valley, surrounded by vineyards, hillsides and river scenery. The town's train station isn't to be missed, decorated with blue and white tiles depicting historic scenes of the Douro Valley.

Day 8: Via Aveiro to Coimbra

Meals: B, L, D

Today head south from the Douro Valley and drive to Central Portugal to explore the beautiful city of Aveiro, a former great seaport. Nowadays the city is crossed by canals navigated by colourful traditional boats. Explore the streets of the historic centre of Aveiro and why not try the famous traditional speciality – ovos moles (“soft eggs”)!



After lunch in a local restaurant, continue to Coimbra for a guided walk through the university town's historic centre, a multi-coloured collage of buildings spanning nearly a millennium. Stroll through the narrow streets, gardens, convents and monasteries before reaching the beautiful university campus which sits atop the town.

Destination Information

Aveiro – Frequently referred to as the ‘Venice of Portugal’, the city of Aveiro is famed for its canals and vibrant gondola-like Moliceiros boats.

Coimbra – This multi-coloured city is known as the city of the students because it was here that the first university in Portugal was created, which nowadays is the oldest and one of the most important in the country.

Day 9: Via Tomar, Nazare and Obidos to Caldas da Rainha

Meals: B, L, D

Depart Coimbra this morning, first visiting the town of Tomar. Admire the UNESCO-listed Convent of Christ while learning about the history and legends of the Templar Order and the Christ Order.



Next, visit the two nearby monasteries, also UNESCO-protected: first, the 14th-century Monastery of Batalha, with its flamboyant Gothic architecture, then the earlier 12th-century Alcobaça, with its remarkable early Gothic façade.

After a seafood lunch in the traditional fishing village of Nazare, head to the medieval, walled town of Obidos. Try some of the sweet cherry liqueur known as ginja, served in an edible chocolate cup, and soak up the atmosphere of the cobbled paths and tiny medieval houses. Browse the handicraft stores along the quaint and narrow streets before continuing to your hotel in Caldas da Rainha.

Destination Information

Tomar – The small town of Tomar is the last Templar town to be commissioned and is considered one of Portugal's finest historical jewels.

Nazare – A traditional fishing village famous for its big wave surfing and seafood.

Óbidos – A picturesque medieval town in Portugal, known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and cobblestone streets. The town is surrounded by ancient walls and offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside. Óbidos is also famous for its annual chocolate festival and charming artisan shops selling local handicrafts.

Caldas da Rainha – Often just known as Caldas, the city is renowned for its creativity and the areas clay-rich soils make it home to an abundance of pottery shops, selling vibrant and intricately painted glazed pottery.

Day 10: Caldas da Rainha to Évora

Meals: B, L, D

Depart Caldas da Rainha this morning and drive south into the Alentejo region. Here you will explore a family-run cork farm, set in a rural paradise of rolling hills, cork forests, olive groves and vineyards.

Continue to Evora and wander through the UNESCO-listed city centre, dating back to Roman times, and admire the sweeping views from the roof of the cathedral.



Destination Information

Evora – The historic capital of the Alentejo region, the city of Evora is brimming with Roman ruins and Gothic churches, with its well-preserved old town centre still partially enclosed by medieval walls. Evora also boasts quaint, narrow alleyways and squares along with great traditional food and wines.

Day 11: Via Sintra to Lisbon

Meals: B, L, D

This morning drive to Sintra and visit the historic heart of this fabulously romantic 19th-century town, with its ornate and vividly painted villas and palaces, set in luxuriant parks and gardens. The whole area is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Continue to Lisbon and enjoy a relaxing cruise along the Tagus River by sailing boat.

This evening you will experience the emotion of Fado, the evocative, haunting and deeply traditional Portuguese music. Guided by your Fado singer, discover some of the traditional Fado haunts of Old Lisbon, and visit a Fado House, where you will enjoy an incredible live performance and be transported to another world. Enjoy dinner this evening in one of Lisbon's Fado bars.



Destination Information

Lisbon – Mainland Europe’s westernmost capital city, famed for its ancient ruins, vibrant yellow trams and cobbled alleyways. The 25 de Abril Bridge, stands as an iconic infrastructure in the city, with the suspension bridge closely resembling that of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco.

Day 12: Lisbon and Belém

Meals: B, L, D

Set out on an action-packed final day, starting aboard our fleet of electric tuk-tuks for an enjoyable ride from Lisbon to Belem, passing by the river and watching the bustling city life. Explore a host of Belém’s famous monuments and legacies of Portugal’s golden age of exploration.



Head back to Lisbon and continue your explorations with a guided walking tour of Lisbon’s beautiful historical centre and a visit to the Orient Museum, before boarding your private ‘No. 28 Tram’. These tiny, colourful trams date back to the 1930s and the No. 28 route takes you through the oldest and most picturesque districts of Lisbon.

End the day with farewell dinner at a rooftop restaurant with views across the city and the river.

Destination Information

Belem – One of Lisbon’s western districts and the historic location of Lisbon’s shipyards and docks, leading to the discovery of important trade routes. These trade routes brought wealth to Portugal, aiding the funding and construction of the impressive Jeronimos monastery, which sits in the heart of Belem.

Orient Museum – Located in a 1940s warehouse on the waterfront, the Orient Museum tells the story and history of Portugal’s power and presence in Asia and the influence of the East on Portugal’s culture.

Day 13-14: Departure

Meals: B

Transfer to Lisbon airport for your flight home returning to New Zealand the same or following day.

Please note: Only breakfast is provided on the group’s day of departure.



PORTUGAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

VISAS:

New Zealand passport holders currently do not require a visa to enter European Union. Your passport needs to be valid for at least six months beyond your intended return date to New Zealand.

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate; Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Your travel consultant will inform you if any changes are applicable prior to your departure.

The European Union's new Entry/Exit System (EES) has been introduced across the Schengen area. As part of this, non-EU passport holders may be required to provide biometric details (fingerprints and/or a photo) when entering or leaving. There is no cost and no need to complete anything in advance.

On your first visit, you may need to register at a self-service booth before border control. This process may increase waiting times. Children aged 11 and under will not have fingerprints taken. Your EES registration will remain valid for 3 years.

INSURANCE:

We strongly recommend that you take out a policy as soon as you pay your deposit. Wendy Wu Tours cannot in any way be made liable for any additional cost incurred by the customer on any tour due to the customer not having adequate travel insurance.

We also encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the original

EATING IN PORTUGAL:

Portugal is home to an incredibly rich food and wine history. Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from dinner on the day of your group's arrival until breakfast on your day of departure. Please refer to your travel guide for more information on Portuguese cuisine, including information for travellers with restricted diets.

Please inform us of any allergies and/or special dietary requirements at time of booking

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Portugal. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone.

If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. However, minibuses may be used for smaller groups (under 10 passengers).

TIPPING POLICY:

Tipping in Portugal is customary for some services, though it isn't obligatory. Services where it's customary to tip are restaurants / tavernas, tours, hotel personnel and delivery people. If you feel you have received an excellent service, please feel free to tip at your discretion.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portage is not included on our tours in Portugal. You will therefore need to be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

EXCHANGING CASH:

The unit of currency in Portugal is the Euro. ATMs are common across Europe and we recommend using an ATM inside a bank where possible. Most major credit cards are widely accepted across Europe, though please bear in mind the charges of your provider.

Debit cards are also widely accepted but may have a limit to the amount of cash you can withdraw – consult your bank about this before travelling.

PERSONAL EXPENSES AND OPTIONAL TOURINGS:

Personal Expense - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

Optional Tours - May be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits and if seats are available.

Please ensure you have additional funds available if you feel you may wish to participate in any extra activities. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide, participation and tipping for optional excursions is completely at your discretion.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your Doctor or Health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful

www.safetravel.co.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.co.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice including a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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