



Portugal Uncovered

Classic Tour | 14 Days | Physical Level 1

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

Small in size but rich in history, extravagant architecture and spectacular landscapes, Portugal punches well above its weight to earn its place as one of Europe's most rewarding travel destinations. 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.

- Discover the colourful backstreets and hidden squares of Porto, past merchants' houses and historic churches, finishing at one of the city's oldest port wine cellars to learn about and sample some port wines
- Soak up the beauty of the Douro Valley by historic Rabelo boat, then experience a scenic train ride along the river and visit a local family-run Quinta to enjoy a vineyard tour and tasting
- Explore the rural beauty of Alentejo, with a visit to a centuries-old cork farm buried in the rolling landscapes of cork forests, olive groves and vineyards
- Take a privately-chartered No. 28 tram through Lisbon's most characterful districts, then change the pace with an electric tuk-tuk ride to Belém and sunset boat cruise up the Tagus River

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 1:

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 1 tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Occasionally, you will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats without assistance

Of course, our National Escort 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.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1-2: Arrival in Porto

Meals: D

Fly overnight to the vibrant and colourful city of Porto, on the Douro River estuary in northern Portugal. 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.

**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. Along the way your guide will tell you about the politics, religion, traditions, gastronomy, wines, and local customs of Porto. 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.

**Day 4: Via Guimarães and Braga to Viana do Castelo**

Meals: B, L, D

Head 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 a monumental 17-flight stairway. Continue to Viana do Castelo, often-called the 'Jewel of the Costa Verde', to sample the fresh seafood for which the town is famous.



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. Finally drive to your hotel on the western edge of the Gerês National Park.

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

Meals: B, L, D

Today you will experience the wild natural beauty 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 lakes. Take the opportunity to swim, if you like, in the refreshing waters after a picnic lunch at the water's edge. Then continue to the attractive town of Vila Real, pausing to visit the baroque masterpiece Mateus Palace, and finally drive into the scenic Douro Valley region to our hotel overlooking the famous terraced hillsides.

**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 for a relaxing cruise 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 coach 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 later to your hotel for some time at leisure.



Day 8: Douro Valley to Coimbra

Meals: B, L, D

Today head south from the Douro Valley to the wildlife-rich hills of the Serra da Lousã. Here explore some of the region's schist villages, built almost entirely of schist and surrounded by wooded hills. Sample talasnico, a local pastry made with honey, chestnuts and almond, along with local cheeses and wines. Continue to Coimbra for a guided walk through the university town's historic centre, a multi-coloured collage of buildings spanning nearly a millennium.

**Day 9: Coimbra to Caldas da Rainha**

Meals: B, L, D

First visit the small town of Tomar, the last Templar town to be commissioned and considered one of Portugal's finest historical jewels. Admire the UNESCO listed Convent of Christ while learning about the history and legends of the Templar Order and the Christ Order. Visit 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. Enjoy lunch at the traditional fishing village of Nazare, famous for its big wave surfing, then head to the medieval, walled town of Obidos. Here, try some of the sweet cherry liqueur known as ginja and soak up the ambience of the cobbled paths and tiny medieval houses .

**Day 10: Caldas da Rainha to Évora**

Meals: B, L, D

This morning head south to the Alentejo region. First visit a working cork farm, set in a rural paradise of rolling hills, cork forests, olive groves and vineyards, with the occasional medieval fortress or abandoned chapel. Learn about cork farming along with all the other farm activities, plus the local fauna and flora. At the farmhouse you will enjoy a tasting of the delicious wines produced here. Later arrive at Évora and set out on a walking tour of the town. Explore the UNESCO listed city centre, which dates right back to Roman times, and climb to the roof of Évora Cathedral to admire the view of the city and its surroundings.



Day 11: Via Sintra to Lisbon

Meals: B, L, D

First 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.



Later in the evening, having checked in at your city centre hotel, set out on a walking tour to 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.

Day 12: Lisbon and Belém

Meals: B, L, D

Set out on an action-packed final day with a guided walking tour of Lisbon's beautiful historical centre, then board 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. Next, all aboard our fleet of electric tuk-tuks for an enjoyable ride from Lisbon to Belém, passing by the river and watching the bustling city life. Explore a host of Belém's famous monuments, legacies of Portugal's golden age of exploration, before ending the day with a relaxing journey back to Lisbon along the Tagus River by sailing boat. Finally, enjoy a farewell dinner at a rooftop restaurant with views across the city and the river.

**Day 13-14: Depart Lisbon**

Meals: B

Transfer to Lisbon airport for your flight home returning to New Zealand the 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.

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. The choice of restaurants on 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. We aim to bring you the meals and dishes described in the itinerary above but cannot guarantee this as changes may be necessary from time to time for operational or other reasons.

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 let us know of any dietary restrictions or allergies when booking your tour.

**PLEASE INFORM US OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS
AT TIME OF BOOKING**

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers between destinations. Roads in Europe are extremely well maintained and are comparatively smooth.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information, however your local guide will confirm this in destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible, however due to limited schedules some flights may require an early departure or late arrival.

PORTERAGE:

Please be aware that portering 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.

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.

ACCOMMODATION:

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. 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 may exist between New Zealand and Europe. All group tour hotels have private bathroom facilities and air conditioning where needed. 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.

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.

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.

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.govt.nz

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

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

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

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 along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

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.

Updated: Jun 2023