

CULTURAL WALKING ADVENTURE

Portugal

Lisbon, Douro Valley & Porto

CLASSIC JOURNEYS
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



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*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

Douro Vineyards and Alentejo Villages

This is how it feels to be royalty. Funded by centuries of discovery and empire, Portugal has more regal grandeur than any other country we know. Of course, the great cities of Lisbon and Porto are rich with imperial landmarks. Portugal has more hours of sunshine a year than any other European country, perfect for exploring. You'll taste the country's treasured port wines on walks in the mountainous vineyards where they're born. On a glorious coastal trail, you'll face the churning surf that Henry the Navigator conquered to explore Africa and the New World. And you'll come face to face with the Portuguese people from cork artisans to winemakers. You'll get a true feel for the unique tempo and personality of this kingdom by the sea.

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

→ INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

→ WINE ON US

In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner, compliments of Classic Journeys.

→ PERFECT PAIRINGS DINNERS

A special dinner prepared by one of our favorite chefs with a procession of wines tailored to each course.

→ PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths. At your option, up to 2 to 4 hours of walking per day, with a mini-van in support.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS ITINERARIES MAY BE SUBJECT TO SLIGHT CHANGES, HOTEL SUBSTITUTIONS, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS.

DAY 1 »

LISBON

Meet in Lisbon on the banks of the Tagus River, and your week of Portuguese revelations starts immediately. It is, for instance, regarded as the oldest city in Europe. And, though other countries may be better remembered for their empires, Portugal led the Age of Discovery, and vast colonial wealth flowed to the kingdom. The proof is in the grand landmarks everywhere you go, such as St. George's Castle. It's perched atop Lisbon's highest hill and offers both jaw-dropping views and historical milestones of the city. The castle served as a fortification for the Romans, Visigoths, and Moors, who turned it into a royal palace before it was eventually taken by Portugal's first king, Afonso Henriques.

Lisbon is one of the great cities to explore on foot at eye level, as it's a maze of streets, alleys, lanes, steps, squares, and courtyards. And the Alfama district is like a small village within the city, where everywhere you turn is a postcard view with tile panels, street art, pastel colors, fountains, arches, potted plants, orange trees, clotheslines, and beautiful river vistas. Exploring with your guide, you'll feel as if you've stepped back in time with a well-connected friend as you connect with the authentic soul of Lisbon.

MEALS: D OVERNIGHT: LISBON

DAY 2 »

PENA NATIONAL PALACE

The Sintra region was long a favorite site for royal retreats, estates and castles. The most stellar example is Pena National Palace. Its soaring jumble of red, ocher, and pink towers is an iconic image of Portugal and it's the most visited site in the country. 'Only with Classic Journeys', you'll experience this treasure of the Romanticist style without the crowds that descend on it daily because we've secured special access to explore it before it's open to the public.

Look west from the sandy beaches of Portugal, and there's nothing but Atlantic between you and North America. And these Atlantic waves have shaped the limestone cliffs that provide footpaths with exceptional views. There's no better way to put yourself in the footsteps of 15th century explorer Vasco da Gama and the poet Camões before they set sail to India than on a morning walk overlooking the sea.

Midday, you'll arrive in Cascais. For over a century, it was an ultra-exclusive playground for Lisbon aristocrats. Spain's royal family cemented that reputation when they chose it as a home-in-exile during Franco's rule. Now the town has added a decidedly hip element to its vibe and is known for the quality of its art and galleries. On a walk through the town, you can also admire the local catch brought in daily by the expert fishermen who have sailed these waters for centuries. Our insider tip is to visit one of your guide's favorite local spots to try the innovative Mediterranean fusion cuisine and sushi platters. After lunch, there's time to explore before making your way inland to the Alentejo region not far away.

MEALS: B,D OVERNIGHT: ÉVORA

DAY 3 »

ÉVORA

Évora dominates the Alentejo plain. With its outstanding beauty, the town is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. You'll see why this treasure has so much to offer, not only historically and culturally, but also gastronomically, on a walk through the historic center.

Beforehand, enjoy a nature walk along the Aqueduct de l'Agua de Prata. The 16th century marvel channeled water through a complex set of structures that included long tunnels, deep valleys and most impressively, over massive stone aqueducts. The clever design meant that the water from the river could flow unassisted into the Praça do Giraldo, the main plaza of Évora.

This afternoon, you'll visit a working cork factory with your new friend, Joaquin. Later, visit with our friend Eduardo and his family at their organic winery for an 'Only with Classic Journeys' experience - a wine tasting and gourmet al fresco dinner in their vineyard. While there, Eduardo shares how they shepherd their land to create a diversified ecosystem that follows the historic calendars and methods used during Roman times and includes raising heritage Portuguese animals like Garvonesas cows, Rafeiro Alentejano mastiffs, and Alentejano pigs that all add to the quality of their soil, their vines, and ultimately their wines. As Eduardo explains, the pigs get fat on the acorns from the cork trees. The cows graze the fields. And the dogs herd... and sleep in the sun! For you, it adds up to an unforgettable night.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: ÉVORA

DAY 4 »

ALENTEJO

The Alentejo region has been dubbed both the Provence and the Tuscany of Portugal. It's a reasonable oversimplification when attempting to explain the similarities among the three spectacular regions. You may prefer to simply adore Alentejo for its charms that include wheatfields, cork oak forests, wildflower meadows, white-washed villages, and the well-tended footpaths that allow for immersive explorations on foot.

You know Stonehenge. And likely you've heard that quite a few people visit it on any given day. So, you might have wondered what it would be like to have it to yourself. Happily, you can have that sort of experience with us today, as you visit the finest Neolithic stone formation on the Iberian Peninsula. The 95 standing stones of the Almendres Cromlech form two large stone circles that were once part of a ceremonial site dedicated to a celestial religion in 6,000 BC.

If we invited you on a walk through thousand-year-old olive trees, with cinematic views of a whitewashed village and its castle backed by mountains, to meet with a mad scientist who makes small batch olive oil on the estate founded by his grandfather, would you join us? When you do, you'll meet our good friend, Joao, who along with his family, still picks the olives by hand and processes them on the day they are gathered to conserve all the properties of the oil. It's a huge commitment that allows them to handcraft award-winning small batch extra virgin olive oil with notes of tomato and dried fruit, and a slightly spicy finish. Joao is incredibly personable and passionate, and he opens his heart and home to us as he walks us through the steps, even teaching us the professional way to taste the oil.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: ÉVORA

DAY 5 »

MARVÃO / SERRA DA ESTRELA

Today connects two magnificent regions of Portugal - the Évora area east of Lisbon with the Douro River valley east of Porto. That means the day is nicely divided into manageable sections, leading to a memorable series of visits that allow you to taste, touch and explore the best of Portuguese culture.

As you approach through cork and chestnut trees, and past Lilliputian settlements with flower gardens and low stone walls, the medieval village of Marvão looks like a fairytale mirage. Happily, it's very real and strategically perched atop a mountain ridge. At certain twists and turns, you'll catch cinematic glimpses of its terracotta roofs and whitewashed walls. But nothing quite prepares you for the dramatic arrival: a giant stone wall, up to 10 feet thick in parts, edges the perimeter of the town, encircling its ancient castle and picture book cottages. Wander the cobblestone lanes. And make sure to join your guide along the top of the stone walls for spectacular views of the Alentejo region's scrubby, sunbaked plains. Turn to the east and Spain is just 10 miles away. Look west past expansive, wheat-colored fields and green-and-granite hills to Lisbon.

Walking on the slopes of the Serra da Estrela mountains, you still see shepherds taking care of their flock, spending their days from sunrise to sunset going up and down the hill. It's an old vocation that's hard to find elsewhere but still prevalent in this part of Portugal. The Bordaleira breed of sheep munch happily on the thistle that grows so well on this land. On a 'Only with Classic Journeys' visit to a husband-and-wife shepherds on their simple quinta, you see how this benefits you directly in providing the milk they use to make some of the finest cheese in Portugal.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: DOURO VALLEY

DAY 6 »

DOURO VALLEY

This morning, board a traditional Portuguese Rabelo boat that for centuries transported people and goods along the Douro River. You'll make your way up one of the most beautiful stretches of the river, taking in sweeping views of its world-famous terraced vineyards.

Happily, the vineyards are not just a cinematic backdrop to your cruise, they're also your destination this afternoon. As you enjoy a jaw-droppingly beautiful walk through the vineyards with a winemaker at an acclaimed quinta, learn how they graft the vines, plant the terraced vineyards with horse and plow, and trim and harvest the grapes by hand. Your walk leads to an exploration of the winery and a tasting of the acclaimed wines accompanied by a delicious picnic of local specialties.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: DOURO VALLEY

DAY 7 »

PORTO

Once an outpost of the Roman Empire, Porto is steeped in tradition - including the fact that it gave its name to Port wine. Nowadays, the medieval city is also undergoing an architectural renaissance. Old World icons, such as the baroque Torre dos Clérigos bell tower that helped the city earn UNESCO status contrast beautifully with contemporary buildings by Pritzker Prize-winning architects. New boutiques are transforming historic streets, and row houses are being brought back to life.

The key to visiting Porto is knowing your way in so that you sequence what you're seeing, and how you're seeing it. Join your guide on a fascinating walk starting at Vila Nova de Gaia, just across the river. This is the shaded side and so the English wine makers had their cellars here for storage before shipping the port wine to England. As you explore on foot at eye level, you'll see the majestic Ribeira boats, the soaring Dona Maria Bridge with its iconic steelwork designed by Gustave Eiffel, and the hills of Porto. You may want to wander through the city's most famous market, the almost 200-year-old Mercado do Bolhão. Order your favorite ice cream and explore the colorful, noisy market that carries every imaginable type of fruit and vegetable, olives, Portuguese specialty cheeses, homemade breads, deserts, fish, poultry, and meats. And don't miss the flower ladies. This afternoon, part company back in Lisbon.

MEALS: B

Tour Hotels



[The Ivens](#)

A show of colonial Portuguese sophistication and style, this Chiado neighborhood hotel boasts inspired rooms, artistic touches, and a lively jazz club.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



[Convento Do Espinheiro](#)

With its fascinating history and authentic charm, Convento do Espinheiro is a 15th-century convent, considered a national monument, where important nobles throughout history helped shape Portugal's destiny.

NIGHTS: 3 nights



[The Vintage House Hotel](#)

The hotel enjoys an idyllic and tranquil riverside location at Pinhão in the heart of the Douro Valley. The Douro is one of Europe's oldest and most beautiful wine regions, a breathtaking landscape enjoying UNESCO World Heritage status.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Lobby of The Ivens Hotel**
START CITY: **Lisbon**
START TIME: **1:30 PM**

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Downtown Lisbon**
END CITY: **Lisbon**
END TIME: **6:00 PM**