

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Portugal

Lisbon, Douro Valley & Porto



“

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

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.

DAY 1 »

LISBON

- [Lisbon's maze-like streets, discovering hidden gems in the Baixa and Alfama districts](#)
- [Savor innovative Mediterranean fusion cuisine at a local favorite restaurant](#)

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 around the city, from St. George's Castle perched atop the hill to the intricate architecture in the buildings and monuments around the city.

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. Make your way to the Baixa district and through the Alfama district, which 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 as you connect with the authentic soul of Lisbon. Tonight, enjoy dinner at one of your guide's favorite local spots, sampling the innovative Mediterranean fusion cuisine and sushi platters..

MEALS: D

OVERNIGHT: LISBON

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

CASCAIS

- [Trek along the scenic coastal path to Cascais, marveling at rugged Atlantic vistas](#)
- [Explore Alentejo's picturesque countryside, concluding at your charming whitewashed hotel](#)

Embark on a breathtaking coastal journey as your expert local guides unveil the treasures of their homeland. Begin with a scenic walk from Boca do Inferno to the charming town of Cascais, where rugged Atlantic beauty meets lush Portuguese landscapes. As you traverse the coastal path, marvel at vibrant wildflowers carpeting the cliffs and graceful seabirds soaring overhead. Your guide will bring to life the rich maritime history of the area, pointing out ancient ruins and picturesque fishing villages that dot the coastline.

Reaching Cascais, immerse yourself in its fascinating evolution from an aristocratic haven to a hip artistic hub. Stroll through the town's winding streets, where centuries-old mansions stand alongside contemporary art galleries. Pause to watch local fishermen bring in their daily catch, a timeless tradition that speaks to the town's enduring connection to the sea.

As the afternoon unfolds, embark on a picturesque countryside walk along ancient footpaths, winding through sun-dappled olive groves and past gnarled cork oak trees. Your path follows rolling hills dotted with wildflowers, offering panoramic views of the Alentejo landscape. As you approach your hotel, catch glimpses of its whitewashed walls and red-tiled roofs peeking through the cypress trees. On arrival, you're greeted with glasses of sparkling vinho verde, Portugal's refreshing "green wine." Thanks to Classic Journeys' Invisible Check-In service, your luggage awaits in your room, allowing you to immediately explore the manicured gardens or take a refreshing dip in the pool as the sun sets.

As evening descends, make your way to the historic wine cellar for a memorable dinner. Here, surrounded by centuries-old stone walls, you'll savor regional specialties paired with locally produced wines.

MEALS: B,D

OVERNIGHT: ÉVORA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

ÉVORA

- [Explore UNESCO-listed Évora, walking along the 16th-century Aqueduct de l'Agua de Prata](#)
- [Savor wines and gourmet dinner at an organic vineyard, learning about sustainable farming practices](#)

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.

Later, accept an invitation to an organic winery for an 'only with Classic Journeys' experience for a wine tasting and gourmet al fresco dinner in the vineyard. While there, learn how the locals 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. These processes, which were passed down generation to generation, add to the quality of their soil, their vines, and ultimately their wines. Sip on some samples while hearing tales of how 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 evening.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: ÉVORA

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

ALENTEJO

- Explore Alentejo's diverse landscapes, from cork forests to ancient olive groves
- Learn olive oil production and tasting techniques from a passionate artisanal producer at a tasting among his 2,000 year old trees

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 memorable explorations on foot.

Continue on foot through the rolling countryside to a family-owned cork and cactus farm. You'll be welcomed onto their estate to explore the picturesque orchards and groves, which have been passed down for generations. See first-hand their commitment to biodiversity and sustainable farming techniques, which are rooted in their agricultural heritage. Pausing from your nature walk, join them to sample the prickly pears and sip their locally-sourced wine.

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

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

MARVÃO / SERRA DA ESTRELA

- Explore medieval Marvão, walking ancient walls with panoramic Alentejo views
- Learn traditional cheese-making at a family quinta in 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 this 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 along your route.

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.

Stretch your legs on a walk along the slopes of the Serra da Estrela mountains, where you can still see shepherds taking care of

their flock, spending their days from sunrise to sunset going up and down the hills. 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. Here you'll get an 'only with Classic Journeys' visit with a family at their simple quinta (countryside home). Enjoy learning about sheep's milk and the process they use to make some of the finest cheese in Portugal, then savor a fresh sample.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: DOURO VALLEY

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

DOURO VALLEY

- [Walk terraced vineyards with a winemaker, learning traditional viticulture techniques](#)
- [Cruise the Douro River on a traditional Rabelo boat, admiring UNESCO-listed landscapes](#)

Immerse yourself in the heart of Portugal's wine country as you embark on a cinematic walk through scenic vineyards with a local winemaker at an acclaimed quinta. Your host reveals the secrets of traditional viticulture as you traverse terraced slopes, learning firsthand about vine grafting, hand-plowing, and the meticulous process of trimming and harvesting grapes. This 'only with Classic Journeys' experience offers intimate insights into the passion and craftsmanship behind Douro's world-renowned wines.

Your journey through the vineyards culminates at the winery, where you'll savor a tasting of their acclaimed wines paired with a mouthwatering picnic of local delicacies. Sample the region's famous Port wines, from a crisp white Port to a rich, aged Tawny, alongside robust reds made from indigenous grape varieties like Touriga Nacional and Tinta Roriz. For lunch, savor regional specialties such as smoked meats, artisanal cheeses, olive oil-drenched bread, and seasonal fruits, all sourced from nearby farms and producers.

In the afternoon, step aboard a traditional Rabelo boat for a private cruise along the Douro River. As you glide through one of the most picturesque stretches of the valley, marvel at the sweeping panoramas of terraced vineyards that have shaped this UNESCO World Heritage landscape for centuries. This unique perspective allows you to fully appreciate the harmonious blend of nature and human ingenuity that defines the Douro Valley.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: DOURO VALLEY

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

PORTO/ PENA PALACE

- [Explore Porto's historic Vila Nova de Gaia, discovering its Port wine legacy](#)
- [Experience an exclusive after-hours 'only with Classic Journeys' private visit to Pena National Palace](#)

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.

After, you'll end your week on a high note when you explore Sintra, 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. You, on the other hand, enjoy an exclusive 'only with Classic Journeys' after hours visit that allows you to explore the Romanticist masterpiece without the usual crowds, providing a truly magical end to your Portuguese adventure.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

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

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	2.5	2.5	2.5
Day 2	2	2	2
Day 3	2	3	4
Day 4	3	4.5	5
Day 5	1.5	2.5	4
Day 6	2.5	5.5	7
Day 7	1	1	1

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Lisbon, Porto, and Evora; as well as well-maintained countryside and coastal trails; and terraced vineyard and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain with some elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of The Ivens Hotel
CITY: Lisbon, Portugal
TIME: 1:30 PM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lisbon
CITY: Lisbon, Portugal
TIME: 8:00 PM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 5 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.
- ▶ **WINE ON US**
In many regions, we uncork wonderful local wines at every dinner on us.
- ▶ **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.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.