

Grand Tour of Central Portugal PO16

Lisboa - Alentejo - Estremadura - Coimbra - Planalto - Porto

The best kept secret of Portugal, the Centro region. From mountains to the coast through history and culture, always blessed with great wine and delicious food.

Caminos

by Casas Cantabricas

Summary

All the highlights of Central Portugal, from Lisboa to Porto, in one two-week tour.

Crammed with World Heritage Sites from beginning to end the tour crosses several major wine regions and offers wonderful regional cuisine, from the ocean and the land, at every stop.

From the surf-washed Atlantic coast to the high mountains and plains of the interior to the dramatic gorge of the Douro Valley you will discover an area of outstanding beauty and delightful contrasts.



Your Route

Tour Highlights:

- Lisboa, Coimbra & Porto – the 'big three' Portuguese cities
- Historic Évora and the potterie and vineyards of the Alto Alentejo
- World Heritage in Estremadura Batalha, Alcobaça & Tomar
- Discover the Planalto – histori fortress towns on the border with Spain
- Porto – Old Town, Ribeira history and wine
- Stunning scenery, gastronom and wines

Travel Tips

Fly to Porto or Lisboa from most airports in the UK. Please ask us for more information.

Rent a car and enjoy the hidden gems this region has to offer.

Please consult for travel options



Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room *	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Porto or Lisboa		
1	Day 1 & 2	Lisboa	Lisboa	HLIS1 Classy, charming guesthouse in the heart of Lisboa, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	20mins from Lisboa airport
2	Days 3 to 5	Alentejo	Évora	HEVO1 Delightful hotel within city walls of historical Évora, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	1hr 50mins
3	Day 6 & 7	Estremadura	Batalha	HBAT1 Stylish hotel with view of magnificent monastery, 1 x Double with varanda	2hrs 20mins
4	Day 8 & 9	Coimbra	Coimbra	HCOI3 City hotel in the heart of Coimbra, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	1hr
5	Days 10 to 12	Planalto	Castelo Rodrigo	HPLA1 Medieval charm with pool near the Spanish border, 1 x Superior room (tree series 2 sharing)	2hrs 40mins
6	Day 13 & 14	Porto	Porto	HOPO2 Elegant, baroque castle hotel in Porto, 1 x Standard double - Castle (2 sharing)	2hrs 40mins
			Departing Porto or Lisboa		20mins to Porto airport

* Double room (2 sharing) can be either double or twin bedded. If you have specific requirements, please let us know.

Your Itinerary

What the tour includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class hire car for the duration
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map and regional guidebook
- Our own regional guide and Vamoos travel app
- NB Flights not included

If you would like to book this itinerary please call us at your earliest convenience.

If, on the other hand, you require further help or information or wish to investigate alternatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

Stage 1



Region: Lisboa and around

Hop a tram and explore Portugal's exciting capital
Rossio square and train station
Skip out to Sintra with its palaces and castles
Beaches of Cascais & Aldeia do Meco
Bar hop in Bairro Alto, dine in style in Chiado
World Heritage Mosteiro dos Jerónimos – a Manueline delight

Classy, charming guesthouse in the heart of Lisboa

Sleep like a king in this beautifully renovated neo-Moorish palace on the first floor of a 19th century building overlooking the Praça do Principe Real, one of Lisboa's loveliest and leafiest squares by the Botanical Gardens. The stunning, sunny rooms, looking onto either square or gardens, have original frescoes, azulejo tiles and ornate moulded ceilings, themed after the fascinating life of King Don Pedro V. Though termed a guesthouse, ...[Read More](#)



Stage 2



Region: Alto Alentejo

World Heritage Évora, Roman ruins, medieval walls
Alentejo wines, Portugal's finest
Hilltop fortress towns of Monsaraz, Marvão and Castelo Vide
Pottery towns among the vines El Corval and Redondo,
"Marble towns" of Vila Viçosa and Estremoz
World Heritage Elvas with its magnificent Roman aqueduct

Delightful hotel within city walls of historical Évora

Tucked inside the medieval city walls near the aqueduct, in the enchanting and fascinating city of Évora with its vast array of historical sights, this 16th century olive mill is now a delightful small, elegant and friendly hotel. With well-appointed spacious, modern rooms, lovely sitting areas with just the right blend of antique and contemporary furniture, a pleasant garden patio and many original parts of the building still intact, the ret...[Read More](#)



Stage 3



Region: Estremadura and Ribatejo

The magnificent monasteries of Batalha and Alcobaça
São Martinho do Porto a little pearl set on a string of surf washed Atlantic beaches
The Convent at Tomar, delightful, historic city of the Templars
Escape to the Sierras de Aire y Candeeiros Nature Park – riddled with caves
Explore medieval Óbidos with its famous white houses

Stylish hotel with view of magnificent monastery

Set in a residential area above the town of Batalha, with its astonishingly beautiful C14th Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitoria, this delightful, family run hotel with great amenities including a swimming pool, small gym and even an art and craft's shop, will embrace you at once with its informal and relaxing atmosphere. The hotel is light, bright and colourful with a modern, elegant design and the owner's original paintings and objects d'art ...[Read More](#)



Stage 4



Region: Coimbra and around

Coimbra University - stunning buildings, stunning views
Sé Velha, Portuguese Romanesque at its finest
Take in a fado show - Coimbra style of course
Jewish Quarter - especially magical by night
Roman ruins at Conimbriga

City hotel in the heart of Coimbra

This three-star, family run, city hotel is ideally located in central Coimbra just a short walk from the old town, the riverside and the university. Nearly all the rooms offer wonderful views to the city and the breakfast room and roof-top terrace have one of the best views Coimbra has to offer. The staff are exceptionally helpful and friendly and will go out of their way to make sure you feel at home from the moment you enter and get the ...[Read More](#)



Stage 5



Region: Planalto-Fortress towns

Visit the fortress towns of the Planalto – Trancoso, Almeida, Marialva, Castelo Rodrigo...
Paleolithic rock-art in the Coa Valley – 5000 petroglyphs – some 22000 years old!
Sample the local wines and olive oils of the Beira Alta
Visit the Faia Brava nature reserve with wild horses, cattle and large birds of prey
Explore the Douro International Nature Park
Pop over the border to Spain's Ciudad Rodrigo or even Salamanca

Medieval charm with pool near the Spanish border

In a privileged position in the tiny walled village of Castelo Rodrigo, with the eponymous castle looming large, this delightful guest house is a treasure and makes the perfect base from which to discover the historic fortress towns of the Planalto, once Portugal's first line of defence against the Castilian and the Moor. The guest-house is housed in three buildings, each lovingly restored and decorated with great taste and each with its own...[Read More](#)



Stage 6



Region: Porto

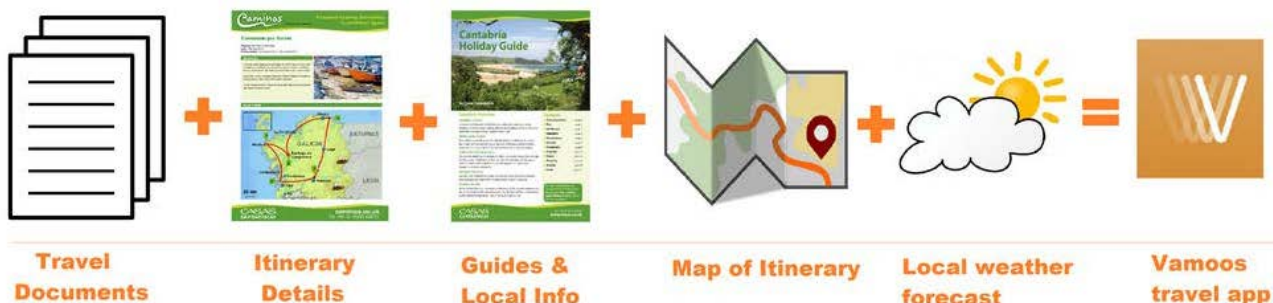
Ribeira, Porto's fascinating historic centre, a World Heritage site
Cross the impressive Dom Luis I iron bridge to the Port Wine Lodges
Art for all from finest museums to simple galleries
Walk the lanes, sail the river, live and breathe Porto
Ferry to Afurada and the golden beach of Estrela

Elegant, baroque castle hotel in Porto

This gorgeously romantic, Baroque castle, full of character, set in its own beautiful gardens, is the perfect base to visit historic Porto. Built in 1887 as a private house, this listed building with its imposing tower is wonderfully atmospheric and, being set on a vantage point, commands lovely views of the city. The location is excellent - fairly near the centre (a twenty minute walk) with on site parking and the metro just a short walk a...[Read More](#)



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Travel paper-free with Vamoos

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This is a paperless system which allows you to keep all of your important travel documentation and key information in one place and carry it with you wherever you go.

Configured for iPhone and Android, for use on both tablets and mobile phones.

In the app you will find:

- your itinerary
- your letters and receipts
- your ferry voucher / car-hire voucher as applicable
- point to point directions
- regional guides to the areas you will be visiting
- a general food and vocab guide
- a map with each hotel geo located
- directions to find each hotel (embedded within the map)
- local weather forecast

Also, if you have any other travel documents that you'd like to load to the application you can send them to us and we'll load them on there for you.

What our clients say...

"We loved your Vamoos app - it really enhanced our pre-holiday planning and meant we had everything at our fingertips without having to have WiFi during the trip. The detail provided was exceptional. Everyone should use it!" Client 2018

"I particularly liked the use of Vamoos app to provide all the holiday information including off-line maps & travelling directions so we always had this to hand." Client 2018

"We particularly liked the Vamoos app which placed all our holiday information - and more at our fingertips" Client 2018