



Lisbon



The Algarve



Évora

LISBON & THE ALGARVE

September 19-29, 2021

Day 1

This afternoon, take the train from the station near your hotel to the royal hilltop town of Sintra, one of the oldest towns in Portugal set in thick forest, lush vegetation, and fragrant flowers. For an overview, take a guided tour of this picturesque town by horse-drawn carriage. Then enter some of its colorful and historical palaces, castles, and convents walking from the top of the hill down to the train station, stopping for lunch along the way. (B)

[Hotel Avenida Palace](http://www.hotelavenidapalace.pt) (2 nights) www.hotelavenidapalace.pt

Day 2

Spend a leisurely day on the “Portuguese Riviera”, the golden-sand beaches near Lisbon. Take a short train ride from the Lisbon waterfront station to the beachfront town of Estoril, best known as a one-time playground for the rich and famous and home to Europe’s largest casino. Walk along the sandy beaches and dip your feet into the Atlantic. Then stroll the seafront promenade to the fishing village of Cascais. Wander the cobbled streets packed with little shops and seaside cafés. Enjoy a late lunch/early dinner at a beachfront restaurant before taking the train (or taxi) back to Lisbon. (B)

Day 3

Check out of the hotel this morning, take a taxi to the airport, and pick up your group’s rental car. Drive south along the stunning Portuguese coast to The Algarve, Portugal’s southernmost province bordered by the Atlantic to the south and west. Arrive in the charming Algarve village of Salema in the afternoon. Fronting a fine sandy beach, Salema is at the end of a small road between the rugged southwest tip of Europe, Cape Sagres, and the city of Lagos. This simple fishing village has three beachside streets lined with small shops and restaurants. A long, broad, gorgeous beach with powder-fine sand is framed by steep vivid yellow cliffs. Check into your home for the week, a spacious villa perched on a hill with views of the sea and stairs to the beach. Enjoy dinner in town with the locals or visit the nearby market for ingredients to prepare dinner in the kitchen of your villa. (B)

[Salema Beach Villa](http://www.salemabeachvillage.com) (5 nights) www.salemabeachvillage.com

Days 4 – 7

Plan each day with your friends while having breakfast on the terrace of the villa. Explore the local area by foot and the outlying areas by car. Activity suggestions:

- Visit the local market to stock up on provisions for the week.
- Explore Salema: the whitewashed Old Town and traditions of the local fishermen
- Reserve a lounge chair and bamboo sunshade for a day on the beach
- Rent a kayak, stand-up paddleboard, boogie board, raft, etc.
- Hike on scenic paths that go along the beach and through countryside villages.
- Drive west to Sagres, the extreme southwestern corner of Europe where Henry the Navigator launched the Age of Exploration.
- Drive east to Lagos, an ancient port city, with an historic Old Town and a large shopping section selling local pottery, ceramics, clothing, antiques, and fresh produce.
- Explore ancient fishing villages along the coast and quaint traditional villages inland.
- Relax at the pool or on the terrace of your villa overlooking the sea.

Day 8

Depart Salema for Évora, one of the most beautiful Portuguese cities. It is often described as an open-air museum with its wealth of architectural styles from Roman temples to 17th-century houses. Cobblestone and labyrinthine streets, squares with bubbling fountains, whitewashed houses with tile patios, and Moorish-inspired arches characterize the town. After checking into your central hotel, walk to the Roman Temple dedicated to the goddess Diana. Dating from the 1st or 2nd century, it is a light, graceful structure with 14 granite Corinthian columns topped by marble capitals and a symbol of the city. Walk through the garden for a view of the Roman aqueduct and the surrounding countryside before choosing a restaurant to enjoy a traditional Portuguese dinner.

Albergaria do Calvario (2 nights) www.adcevara.com

Day 9

Spend the day leisurely exploring Évora on your own. Begin at the main square, the city's marketplace during the Moorish period and the city's central gathering place today. Visit the following sights: the imposing Church of Santo Antao; remnants of the Roman Wall which once surrounded the ancient city; a 17th century house and museum built on a Roman foundation; the Roman Arch that was once the city's main gate, the Museum of Évora; the Tribunal of the Inquisition; the glorious Cathedral; and the main shopping street since the Roman era. (B)

Day 10

After a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, depart Évora for the Lisbon Airport. Turn in the rental car and then taxi to the nearby ultramodern Myriad Hotel with riverviews, a park, and walking paths. Meet your friends in the evening for an *Adeus* to Portugal celebration. (B)

Myriad Hotel (1 night) www.myriad.pt

Day 11

Depart the hotel for the airport and your flight home.

\$2650 per person includes:

All accommodations and meals stated in the itinerary
Luxury car rental + insurance