



DISCOVERING *Portugal*

A cultural exploration
in Lisbon & Porto

September 9—17, 2026

ONWARD TRAVEL ✈️
EST 2014



THE VIBRANT CITY OF LISBON

Onward Travel is thrilled to add a brand new tour in Portugal to our schedule in 2026. We'll divide our time in this special country between its two main cities: vibrant, bustling Lisbon and charming, historic Porto, both of which allow for some fantastic day trips and excursions.

The country of Portugal is small, but its cultural and historical significance is mighty. Occupying the western edge of the European continent, sandwiched between Spain and the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal is Europe's oldest nation state, established as a country in 1143. The more you learn about Portugal, the more incredible historical facts you'll uncover: for instance, wine has been produced in the Douro Valley for over 2,000 years, and Lisbon is even older than Rome as the settlement was first established by the Phoenicians in 1200 BCE!

Portugal left an indelible mark on the modern world order during the famous Age of Discovery of the 15th-17th centuries, when explorers set out upon the seas to "discover" and conquer parts of the world that were yet unknown to the West. Of course it must be remembered that colonization and exploitation went hand in hand and the repercussions of that time are still felt today. Her colonies made Portugal fantastically wealthy and the evidence remains in the extravagant architecture and monuments we will see. In addition to exploring history, our group will meet many interesting locals, experience gastronomy, wine, music and so much more! We can't wait to discover dynamic Portugal together.



IMAGINE YOURSELF...

Exploring the hills of
Lisbon in a tuk tuk

Immersed in the rhythm
and emotion of a *fado*
performance

Choosing fresh fish at
the market and then
eating it for lunch

Welcome to Lisbon

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9

- Get to know your travel group while touring Lisbon in a tuk tuk
- Toast your new friends over a delicious welcome dinner

Arrive in Lisbon by midday today and check in to Art Legacy Hotel in the heart of the Portuguese capital city's historic Baixa-Chiado neighborhood. We will meet mid-afternoon and then we're off with Andreia, the *Lisboeta* who we will be our local guide throughout our time in her native city. Andreia owns a small tuk tuk tour company and her slogan is: *Always Talkin', Always Singin', Always Smilin'*. We are going to have fun with her! Together in our caravan of tuk tuks we'll tour the hilly city of Lisbon, taking in the great views, learning some interesting history, and getting oriented geographically as we go. Of course we have to stop along the way for a first taste of that fantastic local *vinho verde* wine and a snack to go with it.

Let's take a little time to freshen up back at the hotel and then we'll set out for a delightful welcome dinner near our hotel. Toast your travel friends new and old over a lovely meal of Portuguese specialties as we get ready for the fabulous and fascinating week that awaits.

Meals Dinner

Portugal from Many Angles

DAY 2: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10

- Meet a farmer whose family has produced cork for over 180 years
- Behold the tower that once welcomed Portugal's explorers home

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel as you will each morning of the tour. Afterwards we bid the city *adeus* as we make our way via private minibus into the Alentejo region in the country's interior where we'll learn about one of Portugal's most iconic industries: cork production. Portugal produces more than 50% of the world's cork, mostly used for wine bottling, and Alentejo is the epicenter of the cork oak forests. Cork oak trees are prized in Portugal, not only are they designated as the country's national tree, it's even illegal to chop one down! Today we're going to meet a cork farmer and learn about these special trees, including how cork is harvested and processed. And then, Alentejo is famous also for its gastronomic traditions, particularly heartier fare such as pork products, cheese, and especially bread. So while we're here let's tuck into a simple but very tasty lunch on the farm.

After we leave the cork forests we are headed back to the city to explore one of its most famous landmarks, Belém Tower, and the surrounding Belém neighborhood. Andreia will meet us there to explain the history of this important area where the iconic tower stands as a strong monument to Portugal's seafaring past. Then

she'll treat us to the most famous *pastel de nata* in all the land. If you're unfamiliar with *pastel de nata* you are in for a treat, these little custard tarts are a perfect sweet snack and they are ubiquitous here.

Tonight is a free evening. For those who would like, you may stay on near Belém to visit the happening LX Factory arts complex where former industrial warehouses have been turned into art galleries, cafes, design shops and you'll find one of the most atmospheric book stores in the city.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Tradition in the City

DAY 3: FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11

- Roll up your sleeves and enjoy a hands-on pastry class
- Nosh on regional small plates during an unforgettable performance

There are so many interesting things to see and do in Lisbon and today the city is your oyster. Maybe you'd like to visit one of the fabulous art museums here, take a cruise on the Targus River, or just shop and chill and enjoy the famously good vibes.

In the late afternoon we will reconvene to swap stories about our days as we head to a nearby bakery dubbed the "Nata'lier" for a hands-on *pastel de nata* baking class. Get an apron on and get ready to bake... in the end you'll take home the skills and secrets required to make these delectable pastries yourself.

Tonight we have an exciting evening in store - an authentic *fado* show with dinner at Associação do Fado Casto. Be ready for a late night, as the experience doesn't even begin until 9pm. We'll show up a little bit early for a personal welcome and introduction from a member of the family of *fadistas* who run this temple to the quintessential Lisbon musical artform which even has a UNESCO World Heritage designation. Fado has an enchanting, melancholic sound, exploring the "untranslatable" emotion called *saudade* - best described as the feeling of deep nostalgia that is accompanied by a glimmer of joy and gratitude for living an experience that can produce such longing. This will be a truly special and memorable outing!

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

PASTEL DE NATA



Splendor of Days Gone By

DAY 4: SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

- Take in views of a colorful mountaintop storybook-style castle
- Explore the favorite holiday village of past Portuguese aristocrats

Sleep in a little bit today and then we're taking a day trip to Sintra with Andreia. Sintra is a wealthy municipality close to Lisbon, and it's one of the most famous places in Portugal for good reason. Here we'll find an eclectic collection of 19th century Romantic architectural masterpieces, as well as an 8th century Moorish castle, perched upon a mountaintop amid the scenic Serra de Estrelas.

First we'll visit the terraces and gardens of the resplendent Pena Palace, Sintra's premier destination and a real jewelbox of a complex, featuring vibrantly painted, ornate architecture that is truly unique. After we've explored this storybook castle we'll go into the village for lunch together followed by some free time to stroll and explore. Later in the afternoon, regroup to visit the Quinta da Regaleira, a manor house of impossibly elaborate construction set amid almost ten acres of fancifully designed grounds. A day spent in Sintra is a feast for the senses!

Tonight is our last evening in Lisbon and yours to enjoy as you like.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

Onward to Porto!

DAY 5: SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13

- Zip up the coast from Lisbon to Porto on the fast train
- Begin getting to know the vibrant hometown of your local tour host

Mid-morning we're catching the fast train out of Lisbon. Relax on the comfortable ride as you take in the scenic views and nosh on a packed lunch and in less than three hours you'll be in Porto.

For the next four nights we're staying in the heart of the city at a very unique hotel, the Porto A.S. 1829 Hotel. Located in a former paper warehouse cum stationer's shop, which also once housed its own bookbinding, typography and carpentry workshops, this historic property was recently renovated with an eye to the past. The legacy of the Araújo & Sobrinho Papeleria has been thoughtfully woven into the guest experience. Once we reach the city, we'll leave our bags at the hotel, in its super central and walkable location, and set out on a walking tour of charming Porto. As we wander the narrow lanes, admiring tiled and timbered exteriors, we'll be immersed in the historical significance and modern energy of this captivating place.

As the day ends, we'll check in to the hotel and enjoy a little downtime before we head out for a delicious dinner together.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Drinking in the Landscape

DAY 6: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14

- Immerse yourself in the scenery as you cruise the Douro River
- Raise a glass in the world's oldest demarcated wine region

We are leaving the city behind today for the bucolic paradise of the Douro River Valley where we'll find the blue green river snaking through vibrant green steep slopes of terraced vineyards here amid this designated UNESCO World Heritage Cultural Landscape where wine has been produced for over 2,000 years.

During our time in the Alto Douro we'll embark on a private cruise down the river, wine glass in hand, so we can watch this spectacular scenery gently unfold all around us. We will also visit a top wine estate for wine tasting and lunch. It's possible we'll take part in a harvest experience (think grape stomping) but we won't be able to confirm that until the dates are closer as Mother Nature will have the final say on when that will take place.

Return to Porto in the early evening, happy and tired, and spend a relaxing evening however you like.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch



PENA PALACE

Fish Market Immersion

DAY 7: TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15

- Stroll along the beach promenade beside the great Atlantic Ocean
- Choose fresh-as-can-be fish from the market and enjoy it for lunch

This morning we're headed to the seaside town of Matosinhos, just a short drive from Porto, where maritime culture still reigns supreme and the seafood on offer is literally as fresh as it gets. We'll begin our time there with a stop at a historic bakery, beloved since the 19th century. Enjoy a *cimbalino* (Portuguese espresso) with a *bolo de arroz* (rice cake) or *torrada* (toasted bread), a perfect introduction to Matosinhos' warm local vibe.

Then we're going to visit the Matosinhos Municipal Market, where locals barter for the freshest seafood, from sardines to octopus. Immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere, chatting with vendors and sampling Atlantic delicacies. We will choose and purchase some fish together and we're off to one of the town's famous fish restaurants where they will prepare our selection for us... a lunch to remember!

We'll finish our day in Matosinhos with a guided tour at Conservas Pinhais & Cia, an iconic canned fish factory where we'll discover Portugal's famous conserves tradition. Watch how the highest quality sardines and mackerel are hand-packed in tins, which are then wrapped in pretty paper, as they have been for over 100 years. Everyone in the group will get to wrap their own souvenir tin. We'll end our visit with a tasting of Pinhais' premium fish paired with rustic bread and local wine.

Back in the center of Porto tonight, enjoy a free evening.

Meals Breakfast, Lunch

SANTA BARBARA GARDEN IN BRAGA



Braga & a View to Remember

DAY 8: WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16

- Visit a place immortalized in one of the most famous Myths
- Raise a glass to your travel companions over a delicious dinner

Today we will visit the oldest city in Portugal and one of the main centers of Christian religious tradition in the whole of the Iberian Peninsula, Braga. A place that has retained its relevance for millennia, the history of the municipality dates back over 2,000 years to the time of the Ancient Romans and today it is one of the country's most dynamic cities with a booming tech scene attracting new residents from around the country and even the wider world.

Our first stop is the striking pilgrimage site just outside the city, Bom Jesus do Monte, a Catholic shrine which was built over a period of 600 years into the slope of Mount Espino, with its main basilica dating to the mid-18th century. You may choose to climb the 573 steps up the Stairway of the Five Senses, the grand Baroque staircase that leads to the heart of the complex, or you can ride up a funicular. Enjoy sweeping views over Braga and the surrounding region; on a clear day you can see all the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

After we've left the sanctuary we'll head to the historic center of Braga for some free time to have lunch, shop, and explore. The city is home to numerous basilicas, gardens, historical museums as well as some great restaurants and shops.

We'll be back in Porto in time for some free time there this afternoon, too, and then tonight our group will enjoy one last delightful and fun meal together at our farewell dinner - toast your group to the lovely week you've just spent together in charming and historic Portugal!

Meals Breakfast, Dinner

Adeus

DAY 9: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17

Travel home with new friends and great memories. Airport transfers will be arranged today based on travelers' schedules. Bon voyage!

Meals Breakfast

BEGINS	Lisbon, Portugal on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 Meet at 3:00 pm at Art Legacy Hotel. Arrival transfer from Lisbon Airport is included for all travelers.
ENDS	Porto, Portugal on Thursday, September 17, 2026 No activities are scheduled on 9/17. Departure transfer to Porto Airport included for travelers departing on 9/17.
SUITABILITY & MOBILITY	<u>This tour includes walking for up to 30 minutes at a time, plus stairs, uneven natural terrain (hills) and cobblestones. Travelers should be able to walk a mile at a comfortable pace.</u> If you have limited mobility, we may be able to accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	September 9–17, 2026 Double Occupancy \$4,700 per traveler Single Supplement \$965 additional <i>Contact Onward if you are interested in a room upgrade or adding extra nights.</i> <i>You are welcome to pay by credit card, a 3% surcharge applies.</i>
LODGING	Art Legacy Hotel 4 Nights <i>An elegant property with striking design elements in the heart of Lisbon's historic Baixa-Chiado neighborhood. Recipient of the Michelin Key, and with a great on site restaurant.</i> A.S. 1829 Hotel 4 Nights <i>In the very center of Porto, a newly remodeled hotel embracing the unique legacy of its location in a former paper warehouse that once featured typography, bookbinding & carpentry workshops.</i>



**The Onward
Travel
Local Host
for this trip
is *Diogo***

Diogo Vedes grew up with a spark of curiosity, inspired by a family of travelers, and began discovering new cultures and connecting with people from an early age. Since 2015, he has led small-group trips across Europe and Latin America. In recent years, he has embraced a steadier lifestyle, spending more time at home with family and renovating his grandfather's old farm in the hills of Gerês, leading tours in his home country while still journeying to remote regions such as Central Asia and Western Africa.

His most cherished place is a small traditional fishing village near his home—a simple, grounding spot where he slows down, reconnects with himself, and feels grateful for the path he walks. It reminds him that far beyond the Atlantic, there will always be another village or hidden corner waiting to offer that same sense of belonging. Diogo encourages travelers to welcome difference, stay curious, smile often, and dive wholeheartedly into new experiences. He loves working with his 35mm film camera, assembling handmade travel albums, gathering local props, noting down traditional recipes to try at home (not always successfully!), and spending time with like-minded travelers who always have so much to share about the world we live in!

Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities
- 8 nights private en-suite accommodations
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, five lunches, and four dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences planned, wine & local beverages included, of course! Plus lots of snacks and extras along the way.
- A local host to help you truly understand Portugal, and an Onward Travel host at your service throughout the tour
- Activities, tastings, classes, and tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities

Air Travel

The tour will start in Lisbon (LIS) and end in Porto (OPO). You will need to book a multi-city itinerary.

Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a “go” before booking airfare.

Contact Onward Travel for assistance booking flights.



**The Onward
Travel Tour
Director
for this trip
is *Kat***

Katerina Clauhs Dhand founded Onward Travel along with her sister, Molly, and has been hosting our tours for over a decade (hard to believe!).

Kat has lived on three continents and traveled extensively throughout the world. She especially loves to explore architecture, art, nature and wine & spirits on her tours. Kat lives in Philadelphia with her husband, they have two young children and a dog.

Please take note of the following useful information, and view more at www.onwardtravel.co/letsgo



Once Onward Travel receives your registration form, we will send you an **invoice** with instructions to pay the **deposit**.



If you'd like to purchase **trip insurance**, we suggest Travelex. For more info, call them at 800-228-9792 or visit www.travelexinsurance.com and refer to location number 32-0704.



Four to six weeks before the tour **we will mail you a packet** with a packing list, traveler directory and other useful info.



Make sure you know where your **passport** is now! For travel to Portugal it should be valid for six months beyond your return date.



Onward Travel's cancellation policy in a nutshell:

- \$250 of your initial deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 90 days and the full deposit is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 60 days and 50% of total trip fee is nonrefundable
- Cancel within 30 days and the full trip fee is nonrefundable

See the full Terms & Conditions at www.onwardtravel.co/terms

Register now!

Visit onwardtravel.co to complete the registration form and submit payment.

Space is limited to only 14 travelers.

\$1,500 deposit due upon booking, balance due by July 1, 2026.



Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests:
letsgo@onwardtravel.co
845-293-2729

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