

WCMA PORTUGAL TOUR - SEPTEMBER 2024



DESCRIPTION

From Lisbon to the north of Portugal, through the Douro Valley region our small group navigates the gentle charms of this country rich in history, blessed with natural beauty, and well-versed in hospitality.

Centuries of vineyards, wine and timeless Port traditions along an enchanting "river of gold"... white-painted quinta estates lined with terraced vineyards... Lisbon's treasures from the Age of Discovery and beyond...

Portugal has a mild climate, 3000 hours of sunshine per year and 850 km of beautiful beaches bathed by the Atlantic Ocean. In this country which keeps the oldest borders of Europe, you will find a great variety of landscapes, numerous leisure activities and a very rich and unique cultural heritage where tradition and modernity blend together in perfect harmony.

This is a country with an exceptional range of different landscapes just a short distance away, lots of leisure activities and a unique cultural heritage, where tradition and modernity blend together in perfect harmony. Its superb cuisine, fine wines and hospitable people make this a tourist paradise of the highest quality.

We have designed this tour to enjoy the best of the country while also learning about the dairy industry of Portugal, visiting some of the cheese plants of the country.

ITINERARY

01 TRANSFER TO CHICAGO AIRPORT AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT	(SEP 27th)
02 ARRIVAL TO LISBON	(SEP 28th)
03 LISBON	(SEP 29th)
04 LISBON	(SEP 30th)
05 LISBON	(OCT 1st)
06 LISBON - DOURO VALLEY	(OCT 2nd)
07 DOURO VALLEY	(OCT 3rd)
08 DOURO VALLEY - OPORTO	(OCT 4th)
09 OPORTO	(OCT 5th)
10 OPORTO-LISBON AIRPORT (DEPARTURE) - ARRIVAL TO CHICAGO O'HARE - TRANSFER TO MADISON	(OCT 6th)

DETAILED TOUR

01 TRANSFER TO CHICAGO AIRPORT AND FLIGHT **(SEP 27th)**

Meet up in WCMA offices in Madison and coach transfer to Chicago International airport. Check-in and fly directly to Lisbon airport.

02 ARRIVAL TO LISBON **(SEP 28th-Saturday)**

After arriving in Lisboa (as the locals call the city) and meeting our guide and driver, we will drive to our Lisbon hotel. We will have a vicinity walk around our "barrio" (neighborhood) to find out about what's around and you have time for your first Portuguese meal. After checking-in, there will be time to relax.

At 7pm in the evening, we will celebrate our *Welcome Dinner* at a local restaurant where we will taste some of the diverse flavors and unique culinary traditions of the Portuguese kitchen.

Accommodation at Turim Saldanha Hotel. B&B. (Bed and breakfast)

03 LISBOA

(SEP 29th)

This morning, we will learn the history and culture of Lisbon from a local guide while enjoying a panoramic bus tour, combining the visit of the famous area of Belem and some viewpoints of the city to finish around Alfama, Lisbon's oldest district that was spared destruction in the earthquake of 1755 and Baixa District, one of Lisbon's liveliest neighborhoods. We stroll the maze of cobbled streets lined with colorful homes and see the local people as they go about their daily lives, walking through some historic shops.

Belem with its iconic Belem Tower (UNESCO) and the Monument to the Discoveries. Witness the façade of the 16th-century Jeronimos Monastery* (UNESCO) and learn about the importance of this iconic monastery. This was also the launchpad of multiple journeys during the 14th- and 15th-century Age of Discovery, when Portuguese sailors were the world's leading explorers.

Lisbon is Portugal's capital and the hub of a multifaceted area that appeals to different tastes and senses. In a city that has been influenced by many different far-off cultures over time, there is still a village feel in each historic district.

Later, there will be time for your own discoveries or just relax at our hotel. We will end the day on a Lisbon sunset cruise, enjoying a very special atmosphere as the monuments are presented in a totally different light from the rest of the day, offering a scene worthy of a picture postcard.

Accommodation at Turim Saldanha Hotel. B&B. (Bed and breakfast)



04 LISBOA - SINTRA

(SEP 30th)

After breakfast we will leave the city North of Lisbon to visit a cheese plant in *Malveira da Serra*. We will see how the famous “queijo fresco”, a fresh enzymatic curd cow milk cheese, is made and will have the chance to interact with our Portuguese colleagues from the plant.

Later, we will be entertained by a scenic coast drive towards the beaches of Guincho and the Mouth's Hell rock formation before stopping in the former fishing village of Cascais for a walk. There will be time for your lunch in this picturesque town. It was in the second half of the 19th century, when sea bathing became a popular activity, that Cascais was given the impetus that transformed it into a very fashionable summer resort.

We will drive up to the town of Sintra giving you the chance to visit the Middle Ages Royal Palace, one of the iconic palaces of Sintra, closely linked to the history of Portugal, was used by Portuguese nobility. It has a rich and unique decoration of Tiles (Azulejos), or simply stroll around the steep pedestrian streets of the old town.

Accommodation at Turim Saldanha Hotel. B&B. (Bed and breakfast)

05 LISBOA - AZEITAO

(OCT 1st)

Today we will drive to the other side of the Tagus River to discover the beautiful area of Serra da Arrábida and the town of Azeitão, famous for its local sheep cheese, a PDO called “Queijo de Azeitao”. The town is an unknown paradise of palaces, villas, tiles, and wines only 40 minutes from Lisbon.

Commonly called only “Azeitão” this gooey cheese is made in small and very artisanal cheese plants with only raw sheep milk, thistle rennet and salt.

We can make an optional short visit to a small “home-made” tile factory to learn about “azulejos”, the iconic Portuguese tiles. Learn about it with a local tile worker, he will teach you this ancient local art.

There will be time for lunch in the fisherman's beach of Sesimbra, a famous beach town with fish and seafood restaurants by the waterfront. The brave ones can take a bath in the cold Atlantic waters!

Then, come back to Lisbon by the Serra da Arrabida Road and Setubal which has spectacular views of the ocean among other things and crossing the 7,6 miles long Vasco Da Gama famous bridge.

The rest of the day will be for your own discoveries, as it's our last day in Lisboa.

Accommodation at Turim Saldanha Hotel. B&B. (Bed and breakfast)

06 LISBON - SEIA - DOURO VALLEY

(OCT 2nd)

We pack and check out from our hotel to travel to the Douro Valley, on a leisurely drive towards the interior of the country, driving close to Serra da Estrela, the highest peak in mainland Portugal, with its endless landscapes and glacial lagoons

The Douro Valley, ever since the ancient Romans first cultivated grape vines here in the third century, this mountainous region has been a wine-growing powerhouse, especially known for port wine. Today, this region - one of the oldest wine-producing areas in the world - is not only a popular travel destination, but also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On our way to the Douro Valley, we will drive 270 north to our final destination, driving through rural Portuguese

landscapes and stopping in Seia for lunch and visiting another cheese plant. This time we will see an automated cheese plant that produces sheep and cow milk cheese and whey cheese in portugese called “Requeijão”. This plant produces about 160,000 pounds of milk a day.

We will keep driving North to arrive at our destination today, to check-in in our Douro Valley hotel.

Accommodation at Vila Galé Douro. B&B. (Bed and breakfast)



07 DOURO VALLEY

(OCT 3rd)

A full day in the Douro Valley area. We will have a relaxed morning after breakfast. We will drive to one of the most beautiful wineries of the Douro Valley, to enjoy a guided tour at Quinta da Pacheca and, of course, tasting their wines. Later, we will drive to Lamego village, to explore the coziest town of the Douro Valley, there will be time for lunch.

Lamego enjoyed a period of great prosperity in the eighteenth century when the city produced the so-called "fine wine" that later gave rise to the world famous Port wine. It is a very ancient city, having been raised to a bishopric by the Visigoths, under the name of Lamecum, in the seventh century. The fact that Lamego is situated so close to the banks of the river Douro means that there are a variety of walks and tours offering remarkable panoramic views over the extensive valleys planted with the vineyards.

Early in the afternoon, we will visit a semi-automated cheese plant in the Lamego area. This cheese plants transforms around 200,000 pounds of cow, sheep and goat milk a day, into different formats and sizes cheeses.

To finish the day, we'll get to see the Douro Valley from a different perspective: we will savor a Douro River cruise, enjoying views of the rolling hills, terraced vineyards, and Portuguese countryside as they pass you by. Port wine exclusively originates on the terraced vineyards that crawl up alongside the Douro on *quintas* (wine farms).

Accommodation at Vila Galé Douro. B&B. (Bed and breakfast)

08 DOURO VALLEY - PORTO

(OCT 4th)

After breakfast this morning, we will check out and travel ninety miles to our last destination: the city of Oporto.

After a vicinity walk around the hotel to familiarize with the area, you will have time for lunch before meeting up with our Porto local guide for a private guided tour of the second largest city of Portugal.

Oporto, known for its rich history, one of Europe's oldest cities, as well as the settlement that gave Portugal its name (when the town was known as *Portus Cale* in the ninth century), multiple bridges spanning the Douro River, and as the home of port wine. Highlights of our panoramic city tour include the medieval city center - a UNESCO site - and the baroque Clérigos Church with its signature bell tower.

Once we check into our hotel, enjoy time to rest or begin your independent discoveries of the city. Perhaps you want to cross the famous arched bridge carrying low-level road & a high-level metro line between Porto & Vila Nove de Gaia.

Accommodation at Porto Wine Books Hotel. H.B. (Bed and breakfast)



09 PORTO

(OCT 5th)

Being Saturday and near to the end of our adventure, today there will be time for your own discoveries or relax for your last shopping in the city. The remainder of the day is free to explore this fascinating city as we wish, perhaps to walk *Bolhão Market*, by far the most famous market in Porto, and its oldest one. Opened since 1914, the market has been a constant in the lives of people from Porto.

You may desire to wander the narrow-cobbled streets of the medieval Ribiera (riverside) district – or to stroll the broad boulevard and public square of Praça de Liberdade, flanked by imposing buildings and trendy boutiques.

We dine together tonight, at 7pm, our *Farewell Dinner* in a local restaurant to celebrate another successful WCMA international tour in Europe.

Accommodation at Porto Wine Books Hotel. H.B. (Bed and Breakfast)

10 PORTO - LISBON AIRPORT - DEPARTURE

(OCT 6th)

Our Portuguese tour comes to an end today. After an early breakfast, we will head by bus south to Lisbon airport for our late morning flight back to Chicago and motorcoach to Madison.

****** End of our services ******

PRICES PER PERSON

LAND SERVICES:

Based on a group 25 - 29 pax: **4.820 €**

Based on a group 30 - 35 pax: **4.510 €**

** The price of the combined trip has been calculated based on the exchange rate as of March 21, 2024 with respect to the US dollar, as well as the price of transportation derived from the cost of fuel, fees and taxes included in the contract. If the fluctuation of the currency exchange rate exceeds 8% both upward and downward, it will be applied to the tariff. If the price increase is more than 8%, the traveler may cancel the contract. In no case will any increase be applied in the 20 days immediately prior to the start date of the trip.*

Single room supplement: 1.590 €

Note: In the event that the accommodations offered on this route are full on the date of reservation, Rift Valley will provide an alternative of at least the same category as originally planned.

OPTIONAL Flight Ticket upgrade to Business: To be consulted.

OPTIONAL Insurance upgrade: 270€*

***Up to 50.000€ of medical assistance. Up to 5.000€ of tour cancellation. Repatriation of the assureds.**

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Hotel accommodations for 8 nights
- International flights
- Direct round-trip air from Chicago to Portugal
- Round-trip motorcoach from Madison to Chicago O'Hare
- All transportation included in the itinerary
- Daily buffet breakfast (8)
- Welcome and Farewell group dinners
- English speaking tour guide throughout tour
- Local guide in Porto and Lisbon
- Private Douro Valley Rabelo boat tour
- 4 technical visits to dairy plants
- Lisbon sunset river cruise
- Douro Valley winery visit with wine tasting
- Learning and discoveries by your tour guide
- All taxes on included items
- Gratuities on all group meals
- Porterage at hotels for 1 piece of luggage
- First Class Motorcoach
- City Taxes
- Basic travel insurance (Medical care up to 3.600€ and repatriation)

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:

- Visa if necessary.
- Lunches and dinners that are not specified.
- Tips and gratuities.
- Any service not specified as Included.
- Insurance upgrade to cancellation insurance.

REGISTRATION FORM:

[REGISTRATION FORM](#)

PAYMENT CALENDAR:

15th April at latest 50% of the services (based on 30-35 travelers, that is 2255€)

15th June 30%

20th July the final payment (20%)

Any questions related to the tour or to the payments please contact both jaumetours@gmail.com and teresa@rift-valley.com

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Starting from the 30th April to 14th June, in case of cancellation the 70% of the tour price will be refunded.

From 15th June to 19th July, in case of cancellation only 20% of the tour price will be refunded.

Starting from 20th July, in case of cancellation the 100% of the tour price won't be refunded.

All cancellations must be made in writing and are subject to a 75€ Rift Valley service fee



LEGAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

IMPORTANT NOTES

Rift Valley carefully designs each of the routes it offers, tailoring them to the needs of its travelers at all times. However, due to the particularities of the country, these routes and sites may undergo variations. Shifting weather conditions, the state of road networks, though infrequent, may modify both the schedules and routes slated.

HEALTH AND VACCINES

No particular vaccines are required.

Face masks & hand sanitizer: The use of face masks is not required, unless dictated by local regulations. Hand sanitizer will be available to all travelers throughout the trip, however travelers can bring their own from home, if preferred.

SAFETY

Rift Valley will request the necessary contact details of all its travelers in order to react quickly in the event of any incidents that may arise during their journeys.

For more information: <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/Paginas/inicio.aspx>

TRAVELERS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

People with Reduced Mobility who wish to receive accurate information on the suitability of the trip in light of their special needs, and its characteristics, so as to assess the possibility and feasibility of contracting it, should notify the organizing agency or, where appropriate, the retail agency, of this situation, so that the pertinent information can be provided to them.

As per EC Regulation 1107/2006, a Person with Reduced Mobility is understood as any individual whose ability to participate in the trip is impaired for reasons of physical disability (sensory or locomotive, permanent or temporary), intellectual disability or deficiency, or any other type of disability; or due to their age, and whose situation requires special attention and the adaptation of the service made available to other participants on the trip to meet their needs.

RESPONSIBILITY

We are convinced that this trip will be an unforgettable experience for travelers, an intense learning and cultural exchange process, and an exciting immersion in Iberian culture and society.

Rift Valley believes that it is its responsibility, as an agent of tourism, to promote values such as respect (cultural, social and environmental) and harmonious interaction with local populations. These values must prevail on all its trips.

Rift Valley must also ensure that its trips do not negatively impact the countries visited or their populations.

PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING

In accordance with (EU) Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation), the client accepts that the personal data that he or she reports in this document, as well as that which may be provided in the future for the same purpose, will be collected and processed by the agency RIFT VALLEY EXPEDITIONS, S.L., domiciled in Sabadell, Barcelona (Spain). This data has been collected by the agency in order to provide the client with pre-contractual information, in accordance with the General Law for the Defense of Consumers and Users, and other complementary laws.

The processing of personal data is legitimately carried out in accordance with the articles of the General Data Protection Law:

- 6.1. a) The client gave his/her consent for the processing of his/her personal data for one or multiple specific purposes.
- 6.1. b) The processing is necessary for the execution of a contract to which the individual concerned is party, or for the application, at his/her request, of pre-contractual measures.

The party in question may exercise the rights recognized in the GDPR and, in particular, those related to data access, rectification, cancellation and opposition through a message sent to the registered office of the Agency, at the address indicated, specifying "Data Protection" in the Subject line.

Data retention: We will keep your personal information for as long as there exists a contractual, pre-contractual and/or commercial relationship with you, or until you exercise your right to suppress, cancel and/or limit the processing of your data.

STANDARD INFORMATION FORM FOR PACKAGE TRAVEL CONTRACTS

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the consolidated text of the General Law for the Defense of Consumers and Users, and other complementary laws, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2007 of 16 November.

Therefore, you will enjoy all the rights that apply to package travel within the framework of European Union regulations. RIFT VALLEY EXPEDITIONS, S.L. will be fully responsible for the proper execution of the package trip as a whole.

In addition, as required by law, RIFT VALLEY EXPEDITIONS, S.L. has insurance guaranteeing the reimbursement of payments made to it, and, if transportation is included in the trip, to ensure your repatriation in the event of its insolvency.

Main rights under the consolidated text of the General Law for the Defense of Consumers and Users and other complementary laws, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2007 of 16 November:

- Travelers will receive all essential package travel information prior to entering into the package travel contract.
- There will always be at least one company agent responsible for the proper execution of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travelers are given an emergency telephone number, or the details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organizer or, where applicable, the travel agent.
- Travelers may transfer the package to another person, provided they give reasonable notice and, where appropriate, pending payment of additional expenses.
- The price of the package may only be increased if specific expenses arise (for example, a rise in fuel prices) and this is expressly stipulated in the contract. In no case may the price be increased 20 days or fewer prior to the start of the package trip. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the original package price, the traveler may terminate the contract. If the organizer reserves the right to increase the price, the traveler will be entitled to a price drop if the corresponding expenses decrease.
- Travelers will be able to terminate the contract without penalty and receive a full refund of all payments made if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, change significantly. If the business agent responsible for the travel package cancels before it starts, travelers will be entitled to a refund of the payments made and, where applicable, compensation.
- Under exceptional circumstances (for example, in the event that there are serious security problems at the destination that may affect the package) travelers may terminate the contract before the start of the package trip without paying a penalty.
- In addition, travelers may terminate their contracts at any time before the start of the package by paying an appropriate and justified termination penalty.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of it cannot be provided, suitable alternative formulas must be offered to the traveler at no additional cost. Travelers may terminate the contract without paying any penalty in the event of the non-execution of the services when this substantially affects the content of the travel package, and when the organizer and/or, where relevant, the retailer, fail to solve the problem.
- Travelers will also be entitled to price reductions and/or compensation for damages in the event of the non-execution or improper execution of the travel services in question.
- The organizer and the retailer must provide assistance to the traveler if he or she encounters any difficulties.

If the organizer or retailer becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. In the event that the organizer or, where applicable, the retailer, becomes insolvent after the start of the travel package, and this includes transportation, repatriation of the travelers will be guaranteed. RIFT VALLEY EXPEDITIONS, S.L. has taken out an insolvency protection guarantee with AXA SEGUROS GENERALES (Insurance). If services are denied due to the insolvency of RIFT VALLEY EXPEDITIONS, S.L., travelers may contact said entity or, where appropriate, the competent authority.

Consolidated text of the General Law for the Defense of Consumers and Users and other complementary laws, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2007 of 16 November (<https://www.boe.es/buscar/act.php?id=BOE-A-2007-20555>).

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE TRAVEL PACKAGE CONTRACT

One can view the general conditions on our [website](#).