

Pousadas of Portugal



TRIP OVERVIEW

Join us on this fascinating tour which takes you from the cobbled streets of Lisbon to the verdant Douro valley, admiring thundering waterfalls and charming medieval villages. Undoubtedly the biggest highlight of this tour is staying in the beautiful Pousadas, buildings of historic significance lovingly restored to luxurious hotels and for you to enjoy.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Portugal. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 1: UK to Lisbon D

Depart London on your direct flight to Lisbon where you will be transferred to your Pousada.

If you have booked the Lisbon pre-tour extension your representative will arrange the pick-up times with you to begin your main tour.

Day 2: Lisbon B

Following breakfast, you will enjoy a tour of Lisbon, Portugal's capital and Europe's second oldest city. Admire the impressive Abril Bridge, a suspension bridge connecting Lisbon to the municipality of Almada on the left bank of the Tagus River and one of Lisbon's most notable landmarks. Continue to the UNESCO listed Belem Tower, arguably one of Lisbon's most iconic symbols, the tower was built as a defensive fortress on the orders of King Manuel I. The intricate carved stone of maritime motifs honours the navigators who departed from the waterfront to chart unknown lands some 500 years ago. Your tour concludes at the S. Jorge Castle, a Moorish castle which stands majestically on a hilltop above Lisbon. Climb the towers and meander along the ramparts for the most breath-taking views of the city or simply enjoy this oasis of calm and relax in the gardens.

Day 3: Lisbon B

Today is at leisure in Queluz, wander around the National Palace admiring its historical gardens which are one of the most remarkable examples of the harmonious link between landscape and palatial architecture in Portugal. Alternatively, you can embark on the optional excursion to Arrabida National Park, a glorious protected area covered with pines offering stunning landscapes, golden beaches and chalk cliffs. Perched on the hills is a dazzling 16th-century Franciscan monastery surrounded by five hilltop monasteries once used for solitary meditation.

Day 4: Lisbon to Crato B/D

Following breakfast this morning you begin your journey towards Crato. Stopping en route at the beautiful city of Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where you will enjoy a guided city tour. Check in at your Pousada and the rest of your day is at leisure to unwind. Originally a 14th-century convent, Pousada do Crato has operated as a castle, a Palace, and is now a modern luxury hotel.

Day 5: Crato B/D

Today's tour takes you to Cratos surrounding areas. Delight in the medieval charm of Castelo de Vide, walk the cobbled streets and admire the

whitewashed houses whilst enjoying the tranquillity of the Jewish Quarter where time seems to have stood still. Continue to the 14th-century castle which affords incredible views of the town and neighbouring landscapes. Later today you will visit Marvão, a dramatic medieval hilltop walled village housing one of the best-preserved castles in Portugal dating back to the 13th century. The views of the wild rocky landscape from the castle towards Spain are truly breathtaking.

Day 6: Crato to Viseu B

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before travelling through Portugal towards Viseu. On arrival in Viseu, check into your Pousada and relax for the rest of the day.

Day 7: Viseu B

Today enjoy a full day excursion to explore charming Viseu. Start your day by admiring the famous 17th-century Cathedral built around a Romanic construction. A majestic facade delimited by two tall bell towers welcomes you once you reach the churchyard. Continue to the old town of Viseu, meander through the traditional small streets, paved with granite flagstones, view the traditional classic houses, decorated with shields bearing coats of arms and admire the 3rd century Roman Wall of Viseu.

Day 8: Viseu to Geres B

Following breakfast, you will travel north to Geres, stopping in beautiful Porto before you reach your destination — a true highlight of the tour. Here, explore the city sights on a guided tour before visiting a port wine house for a tour and tasting of the region's famed drink. Check in at your pousada which boasts a unique, mountain-top location in the heart of Portugal's only national park and offers spectacular views. Spend the remainder of your day enjoying the serenity of this mountainside retreat.

Day 9: Geres B

Today is at leisure or enjoy an optional excursion on a picturesque river cruise, from Régua to Pinhão where you can marvel at the beautiful scenery. Alternatively take the optional excursion to the historic cities of Braga and Guimarães.

Day 10: Geres B/D

Explore the beauty of the Geres National Park, Portugal's only national park. A vast area which hugs the border between Portugal and Spain. Throughout your day you can admire thundering waterfalls, towering cliffs, deep ravines, traditional villages and castle remains. Return to your pousada for tonight's farewell dinner.

Day 11: Porto to London B

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight back to the UK.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Portugal. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share, please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner where applicable will be taken in local Portuguese restaurants. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Lisbon you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Windsor Travel, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Windsor Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Windsor Travel

Address: Rua Ataíde Oliveira nº 67 A 8000-220 Faro, Portugal

Contact number: 00351 289 897 660

E-mail: bookingfaro@windsortravel.ws

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Portugal. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Tour Guides

This is an escorted tour, meaning the you will have the services of an English speaking guide for arrival & departure transfers and excursions on day 2, day 5 and day 10 offering you first-hand knowledge.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Currency Exchange

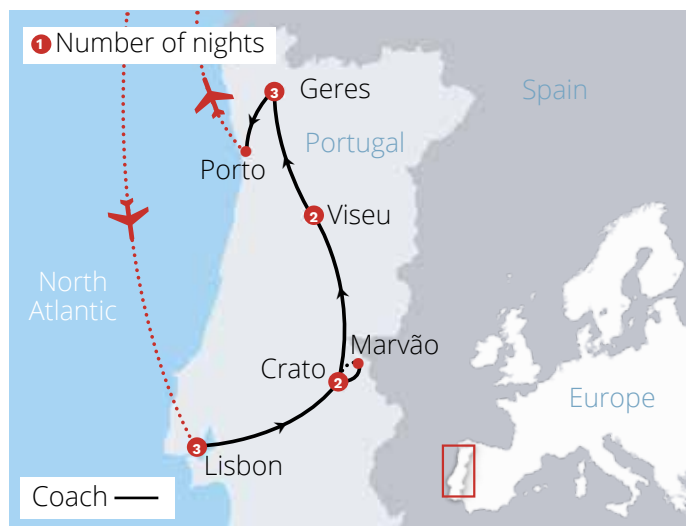
The currency in Portugal is the Euro. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 15, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 15 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.



Emergency contact information

Please find below the 24 hour emergency contact details for **Windsor**

Travel:

00351 915694774

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to the local conditions.

Tipping

It is at your customary/discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately €2 per person per day. This is a total of €22 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the beginning/end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Pousada's of Portugal is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit.

American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday

Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger/spare batteries
- A plug adaptor - the voltage is 220 V
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars

- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

FLIGHT INFORMATION

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

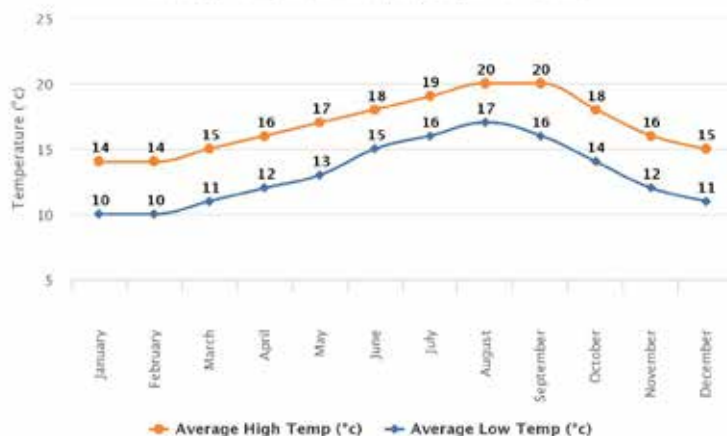
Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

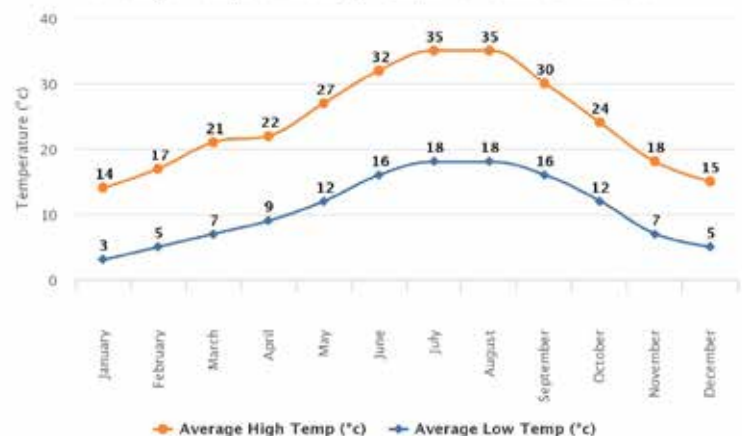
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

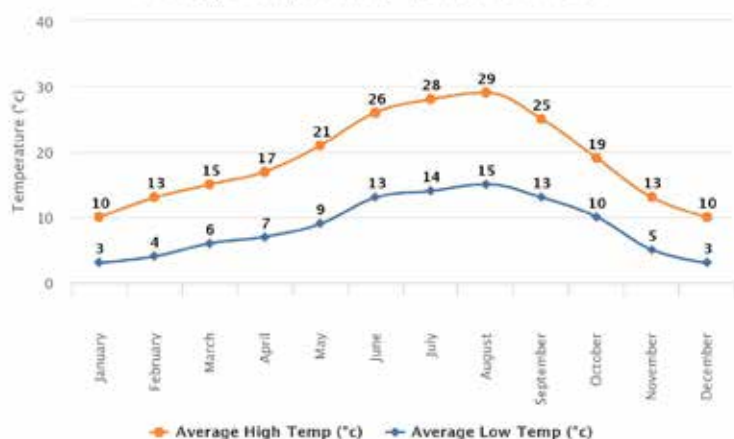
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Lisbon



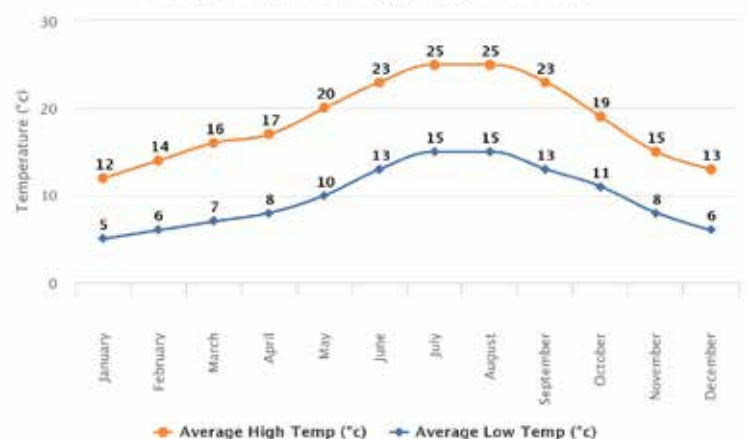
Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Crato E Martires



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Viseu



Average Temperature (°C) Graph for Amares



Lisbon City Stay Pre-Tour Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Mainland Europe's westernmost capital, Lisbon both inspires and fascinates. Its waterfront location, temperate climate and union of modern vibrancy and historic charm make it a great place to spend a few days. Stroll through the antiquated streets, or take a tram ride to the hilltop Moorish castle for views over the Atlantic. Your 2 night stay in Lisbon is the perfect way to begin your tour of Portugal.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Lisbon.

Hotel

Your stay in Lisbon will take place at one of the following hotels (depending on date of travel):

4★ Hotel Mundial on a Bed & Breakfast basis.

Located in downtown Lisbon, with the historical St George's Castle in the background and Rossio Square just a short walk away, the Hotel Mundial is well located for exploring the attractions of Lisbon.

Facilities include 2 restaurants, a rooftop bar and a premium winehouse bar.

All 350 rooms are comfortable and decorated in a classic style with air-conditioning, satellite TV, hairdryer, minibar, safe and FREE Wi-Fi.

Hotel information - Praça Martim Moniz 2 - 1100-341, Lisbon, Portugal
 Contact number: 00351 218 842 000

5★ Hotel Porto Bay Liberdade on a Bed & Breakfast basis.

Situated in Rua Rosa Araújo, 60 metres from Avenida da Liberdade, this hotel is located right in the city centre and is a pleasant walk from the main tourist attractions.

Facilities include 98 rooms, indoor pool, gym, spa, sauna, Turkish steam bath, restaurant and 2 bars (some facilities may be at a fee).

Hotel information

Rua Rosa Araújo 8, 1250-195 Lisboa, Portugal

Contact number: 00351 21 001 5700

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases, laundry service and souvenirs, plus lunch, dinner and drinks.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Lisbon is not escorted by a tour guide, your time will be free to explore the city. All internal transfers are included and your representative will advise pick up times for your main tour.

Please note

This extension takes place before your main tour.



Hotel Mundial



Hotel Porto Bay

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Porto City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Enjoy a 2-night stay in Porto. Enjoy this free time to explore the areas stately bridges, medieval Ribeira (riverside) district, narrow cobbled streets and cafes or immerse yourself in the charm and beauty of the area.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Porto.

Hotel (2 nights)

Your stay in Porto will take place at the **4★ Vila Galé Porto** on a Bed and Breakfast basis.

Located in the heart of Porto, a ten-minute walk from the famous shopping street of Rua de Santa Catarina, the Vila Galé Porto hotel is just 100 metres from the metro station Campo 24 de Agosto which allows you easy and quick access to anywhere in the city. Vila Galé Porto offers two restaurants and two bars. On the top floor, you will find the spa, where you can swim in the indoor pool, relax in the hot tub or exercise in the gym. All rooms offer a telephone, free Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, LED cable TV, mini-bar, safe (at a fee) and hairdryer.

Hotel Information

4★ Pestana Douro Riverside Hotel

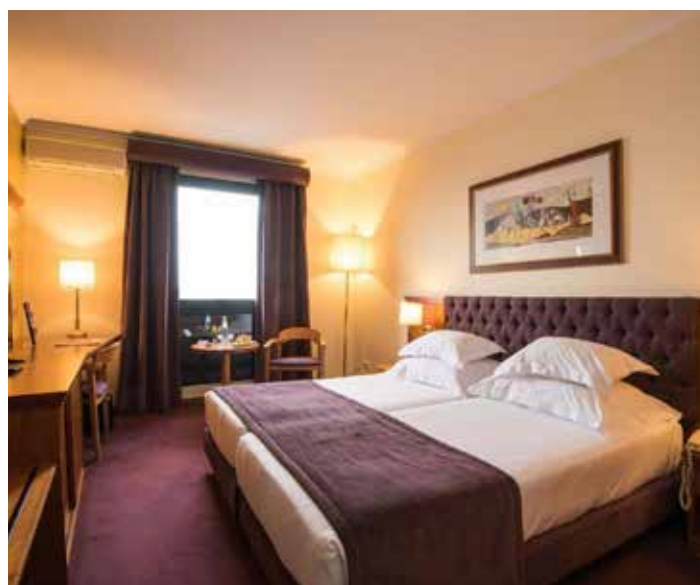
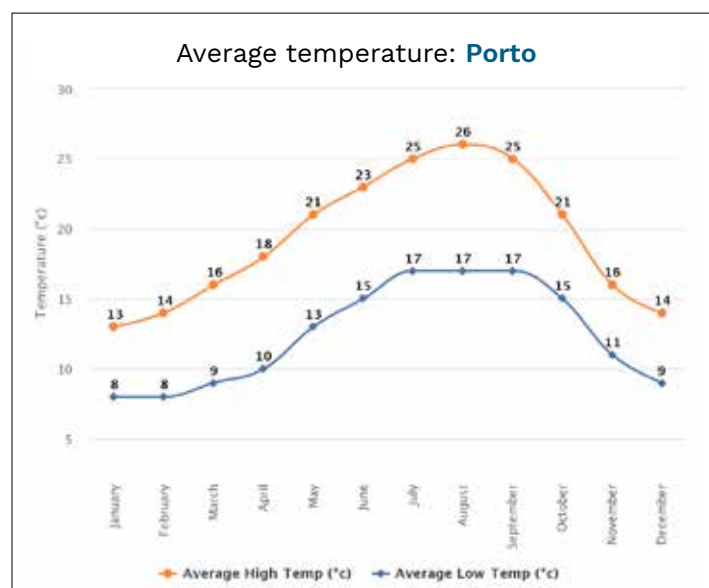
Address: Av. Escritor Costa Barreto nº60, 4420-445 Porto, Portugal
Tel: 00351 22 976 1100

Tour Guides

Your stay in Porto is not escorted by a tour guide and your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any meals not included, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs and drinks.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**