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“THE GRAND TOUR OF LUSITANIA / PORTUGAL”

15 days, from Tuesday, April 9, to Wednesday, April 24, 2024

A thorough exploration of Portugal, Spain's lesser known but beautiful and fascinating small neighbour, from the northern region of Minho and the country's wine capital, Porto, via the old university town of Coimbra, the great shrine of Fatima, the picturesque Alentejo region, and the world-famous Algarve, important historically since this is where Portugal's worldwide expansion got under way, to the beautiful capital, Lisbon and its scenic surroundings, including Cabo da Roca, the European mainland's westernmost point. This tour features no less than nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, first-class hotels, excellent food, and fine wines; it is offered in collaboration with Guelph Arts Council and is conducted by Jacques Pauwels, PhD, author of 'Beneath the Dust of Time: A History of the Names of Peoples and Places' (London, 2009) and many other books published in ten languages.

Tour price, from Toronto and based on double occupancy: \$5,995 (CAD)
“Land only” from/to Lisbon Airport April 10-24: \$4,895 -- Single room supplement: \$1,100

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Tuesday, April 9: Late evening departure on Air Canada's non-stop flight from Toronto to Lisbon.

Day 2 – Wednesday, April 10: Late-morning arrival in Lisbon, where we will be met by a private tour coach to take us north to **Obidos**, the best preserved and most picturesque medieval town in Portugal, where we will stop

for lunch and a short visit. Then we continue northward to **Nazare**, a famous fishing village with a long beach popular with surfers. Check into the centrally located first-class/four-star hotel Praia (<https://www.hotelpraia.com/en/Homepage>) and free time to settle in. There may still be time for a walk on the beach or in the old town before dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.

Day 3 – Thursday, April 11: After breakfast, short drive inland to the town of **Batalha**, site of a decisive battle, fought in the year 1385, where a Portuguese victory secured the small country’s independence from neighbouring Spain. Visit to the impressive Gothic monastery that was built to commemorate the great victory and is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-attractions/batalha>). In the afternoon, scenic drive, sometimes along the coast and sometimes inland, past the great city of Porto, to the northernmost periphery of Portugal, a region known as Minho. Our destination is **Caminha**, a fortified town situated on the estuary of the Minho River, which constitutes the border with Spain. Dinner and overnight in the first-class Hotel Porta do Sol, overlooking the river and Spain on the other side (<https://hotelportadosol.com/en>).

Day 4 – Friday, April 12: A full day of sightseeing in **Minho**, an area of outstanding natural beauty with mountains, river valleys, and a dramatic Atlantic coastline known as the Costa Verde or “Green Coast”. Our program will include most if not all of the following: the village of **Ponte de Lima** with its long medieval bridge; the historic towns of **Guimarães**, Portugal’s first capital, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-city-guides/guimaraes-guide>), and **Braga**, the country’s ecclesiastical centre, whose Bom Jesus do Monte church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-attractions/bomjesus>); **Citânia de Briteiros**, one of the most important protohistoric archeological sites of the Iberian Peninsula; and a scenic ride back to Caminha along the coastal road. No group dinner this evening, which means an opportunity to try traditional seafood specialties such as cod and grilled sardines, with shellfish as a (sometimes considerably pricier) alternative!



The Cock of Barcelos

The legend goes that a Galician pilgrim, en route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, was wrongly arrested for a crime in Barcelos (in Minho region) and sentenced to hang. En route to the gallows, the pilgrim was escorted to the magistrate’s house to make one final plea. The judge and his friends were sitting down to a roast dinner, at which the pilgrim proclaimed “as surely as I am innocent, that cock will crow if I am hanged”. Up rose the bird from the table and the pilgrim was saved. This tale of the “Cock of Barcelos” has become a real Portuguese emblem, and you’ll see the symbol all over the country, from the ubiquitous rooster-shaped ceramic figures to images reproduced on tea-towels and ornaments. We hope to find time to briefly visit Barcelos on day 3 or 4.

Day 5 – Saturday, April 13: Departure from Caminha after breakfast. We head for **Porto**, Portugal's second major city, perched on the banks of the Douro River; the old town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is the cradle of



Portugal's independence. The country was in fact named after the Latin name of this city, *Portus Cale* (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-city-guides/ribeira-porto>). After a panoramic sightseeing tour and some free time to enjoy lunch, shop, visit museums, and/or explore the city on your own, we head inland, following the Douro River upstream, to the town of **Lamego** in the heart of the Port wine country. Dinner and overnight in a traditional hotel, a former winery, the Vascondes de Varzea. (<https://www.hotelruralviscondesvarzea.com/en>).

< *Bridge across the Douro in Porto*

Day 6 – Sunday, April 14: A full-day exploration of the scenic Douro Valley wine country, yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site, with visits to a “quinta” or winery owned by the world-famous firm of Sandeman, a scenic boat tour on the Douro River, and a visit to Casa de Mateus, the magnificent palace - and lush gardens! - associated with the world-famous wine of the same name; a wine tasting is also included. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Today, group lunch OR dinner.



The Douro Valley wine country

Day 7 – Monday, April 15: This morning motor south to the **Buçaco Forest**, an ancient, walled arboretum boasting more than 250 tree and shrub species, including huge centenarians and exotics introduced by Portuguese mariners; the forest is featured on UNESCO's tentative list of World Heritage Sites (https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Bu%C3%A7aco_Forest). On to **Conímbriga** for a visit to the impressive ruins of a major Roman settlement, with a forum, paleo-Christian Basilica, baths, aqueducts, etc. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Con%C3%ADmbriga>). Then we arrive in **Coimbra**, an ancient city which is home to the most famous university in the Portuguese-speaking world and, founded in 1290, one of the oldest in Europe, and now ranked as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-attractions/velha-universidade>). Our local city tour will focus on this venerable institution, and particularly its fabulous library. Dinner and overnight in the first-class Hotel Tivoli Coimbra (<https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/tivoli-coimbra>)

Day 8 – Tuesday, April 16: Departure from Coimbra after breakfast. Drive south to **Fatima**, the town where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared before three peasant children in 1917, for a look at the impressive sanctuary and time for lunch. Continue into the **Alentejo**, a vast region whose name means “beyond the Tejo [i.e., Tagus]

River”. This is Portugal’s garden, featuring huge cork plantations, wheat fields, and vineyards. Our destination is the picturesque town of **Evora**, situated close to the Spanish border. Dinner and overnight in the first-class Évora Olive Hotel, situated in the heart of the beautiful historical city centre (<https://www.artsoulgroup.com/evoraolivehotel/en>).

Day 9 – Wednesday, April 17: Morning walking tour of old Evora, already an important city when Portugal, then known as Lusitania, was ruled by the Romans, whose memory is conjured up by the remains of city walls and baths as well as the ruins of what must have been an impressive temple; the town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-city-guides/evora-guide>). Also short sidetrip to view the extraordinary prehistoric site of Os Almendres, where no fewer than 92 megaliths are sprinkled on a hillside. Return to the hotel and rest of the day free to shop or explore Evora on your own. No group dinner this evening.

< *Roman temple in Evora*



Day 10 - Thursday, April 18: Departure from Evora after breakfast. We motor southward to the **Algarve**, southern Portugal’s world-famous coastline, sprinkled with historical fishing villages, picturesque towns, and seaside resorts. Our destination is the small resort of Alvor, situated on the banks of the estuary of the Alvor River and boasting one of the largest sandy beaches. Accommodation in a four-star hotel overlooking the beach just outside the small resort of Alvor, the Pestana Dom João II

(https://www.pestana.com/en/hotel/pestana-dom-joao?gclid=CjwKCAjwwb6lBhBJEiwAbuVUSjDYLgt8Zdheauuslif0Pza5zfOIKa0o9eqoGCAewd3XU17jib1mEhoC4CcQAvD_BwE) Hopefully we will arrive early, so there will be time for a walk on the beach or into the town before dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.

Day 11 – Friday, April 19: Few tourists visiting the Algarve know that this part of the country also happens to be the starting point of Portugal’s great discoveries and subsequent worldwide expansion, truly amazing for a relatively small country. This morning we visit the place where much of this accomplishment was orchestrated under the auspices of Prince Henry the Navigator, namely the town of **Sagres** with its fishing village, beaches, fortress, and **Cape Saint Vincent**. Return to the hotel after lunch and afternoon at leisure.



The resort of Alvor, on the Algarve

Day 12 – Saturday, April 20: Departure after breakfast. Drive to seaport of **Setubal**, where we stop for lunch and will hopefully have an opportunity to visit the impressive medieval Monastery of Jesus. In the afternoon we cross the estuary of the Tagus River via the impressive 2 km-long Bridge of 25 April, reminiscent of San Francisco’s

Golden Gate, and arrive in Portugal's magnificent capital, **Lisbon**. Our home here will be the first-class/four-star Jupiter Lisboa Hotel (<https://www.jupiterhotelgroup.com/en/page/lisboa/jupiter-lisboa-hotel-lisbon-hotels.6634.html>). Today, group lunch in Setubal OR dinner in Lisbon.

Day 13 – Sunday, April 21: After breakfast, panoramic sightseeing tour of central Lisbon, with the Castle of Sao Jorge and the Cathedral in the picturesque old Alfama District, and the Baixa or “downtown,” a network of squares and avenues constructed after the infamous earthquake of 1755, which levelled most of the Medieval city; one of the attractions here is the Elevador de Santa Justa, an elevator in the Jugendstil, built around 1900 to connect the Baixa and Chiado Districts. In the afternoon we continue our sightseeing program with a thorough visit to the historic neighborhood of Belém, situated along the Tagus River. The prime attraction of this UNESCO World Heritage Site is the grand Jeronimos Monastery, constructed in the early 16th century and financed with profits generated by the spice trade. It is a fine example of so-called “Manueline” architecture, inspired by the Medieval Gothic tradition, the new ideas of the Renaissance, and the great voyages and discoveries of the Portuguese in that era. Belem's other great monument is the Belem Tower, symbol of the city. Finally, a visit to Belem would not be complete without a visit to the local pastry shop that is the birthplace of a world-famous delicacy known as Pastéis de Nata or Pastéis de Belem! Dinner in a typical restaurant.

Pastries in Belem >

Day 14 – Monday, April 22: Full-day excursion to the sophisticated Atlantic coastal resorts of **Estoril** and **Cascais**, plus **Sintra**, a wonderful little town that was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site on account of its 19th-century Romantic architecture (<https://www.portugalvisitor.com/portugal-city-guides/sintra-guide>), and **Cabo da Roca**, a rocky cape rising almost 150 meters above the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, the westernmost point of mainland Europe. Return to Lisbon in late afternoon and evening at leisure. No group dinner.



< The Lighthouse at Cabo da Roca

Day 15 – Tuesday, April 23: Morning visit to the Gulbenkian Museum, located close to our hotel, one of the world's finest private art collections, with works ranging from ancient Egypt to the 20th century, by masters such as Rubens, Rembrandt, Turner, and Degas. Afternoon free to explore Lisbon

on your own or shop, for example in the nearby famous department store, El Corte Ingles. This evening, our final group dinner will be accompanied by a performance of traditional Fado songs!

Day 15 – Wednesday, April 24: After breakfast, transfer to the airport and return flight to Toronto with Air Canada, departing around 1 PM and arriving around 4PM.

Tour price, from Toronto and based on double occupancy: \$5,995 (CAD)
“Land only” from/to Lisbon Airport April 10-24: \$4,895 -- Single room supplement: \$1,100

Included in the tour price are:

- Return flight Toronto-Lisbon with Air Canada, including one checked suitcase;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy, in 4-star/first-class hotels; the supplement for a single room (mostly a “double for single use”) is \$1,100;
- Breakfast daily and all but two dinners, sometimes including wine;
- Overland transportation by private coach;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned;
- Gratuities for the bus driver and local guides.

Not included are:

- All items of a personal nature;
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- Travel Insurance, available upon request.



Fado music

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book _____ seat(s) on the "THE GRAND TOUR OF LUSITANIA / PORTUGAL" from April 9th-24th, 2024.
Offered in collaboration with the Guelph Arts Council

I wish to book on **group flights** _____ **OR land only** _____.

(If booking land only please send the office a copy of your flight details).

Please be prepared to pay a deposit of **\$1000 per person and insurance premium** (if taken) at time of registration.
Balance is invoiced no later than 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 3 MONTHS
AFTER TOUR TO BE SENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.

PASSPORT NAME(S):

Please indicate the appropriate title: (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

Please indicate the appropriate title: (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

Surname _____ First _____ Middle(s) _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth")

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

If traveling alone, is a *single room required*? YES NO

If sharing, please indicate your bed preference: twin (2 beds) double (1 bed)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: We find the earlier a request is made, the more success we have in filling it, so please list any dietary requests, allergies, any special physical needs or frequent flyer numbers etc., here. We cannot ensure requests made 30 days or less prior to departure will be possible.

INSURANCE: Please call the office for premiums then record it on application and add premium to deposit.

I /we would like to purchase (please check-off plan & provide quoted rate) *or* Decline Insurance _____

All-Inclusive _____ Non-Medical _____ Other _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

PAYMENT: Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel, e-transfer to tours@pauwelstravel.com, or credit card

Amount Paid: _____ Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Security Code: _____ Signature: _____

"I/we agree to the terms and conditions attached to the program, have indicated our insurance choice, indicated any special requests and included payment."

Date _____ (Signature) (s) _____

Date _____ (Signature) (s) _____

Please forward this completed and signed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.

15 Egerton Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 4L4

Tel: 519-753-2695/1-800-380-3974 – Fax: 519753-6376 - Email: tours@pauwelstravel.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$1000.00 is required at the time of registration. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form. Please note to avoid excessive merchant fees, we have made the decision to process deposits only once we have guaranteed a tour. Once the departure is guaranteed, we will contact you to confirm and process deposits.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service, or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply: 90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost 60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following: 1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. 2. I know that tour programs include walking and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potentially hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity. 3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold

harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This release also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour. 4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both. 5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director. 6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group. 7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved; I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting. 8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered. 9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT GROUP AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases, it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, we are not able to offer advanced seat selection. It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking, so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff. If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!