



Traditional Portugal: The Face of Old Europe (Space is Subject to Availability)
Sept. 28, 2012 – Oct. 7, 2012 (10-days)

Enjoy this wonderful travel experience led by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte with a personal narrative from Kurt Waldhausen, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany to North Carolina who was born and raised in Lisbon, Portugal.

UPDATE: Please confirm if you are interested in participating in this trip to Portugal. Upon confirmation, you will be invoiced the complete trip amount. **Space is subject to availability.** Please contact Ljubomir (L.J.) Stambuk, president of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via e-mail at lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org for additional information.



Friday, September 28, 2012

Depart Charlotte via [US Airways](#) nonstop to Frankfurt with Lufthansa connection to Oporto (Porto), Portugal.

Depart Charlotte at 4:45 p.m. on Sept. 28th. Group will arrive at Porto at 10:45 a.m. the following morning, Sept. 29th.

Appropriate meals served in flight.

Saturday, September 29, 2012

Arrive in Oporto (Porto)
Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Photo on the Left: Porto

Source: Steven Christopher George

At the mouth of the Rio Douro, the hilly city of Porto presents a jumble of styles, eras and attitudes: narrow medieval alleyways, extravagant baroque churches, prim little squares, and wide boulevards lined with stately beaux-arts edifices.

Porto's historic centre is the Ribeira district, a UNESCO World Heritage zone of winding lanes, zigzagging staircases and tiled churches peering around every corner. Old traditions live on as *tripeiros* (Porto residents) mingle before old storefronts, on village-style plazas and in the old houses of commerce where Roman ruins lurk beneath the foundations.

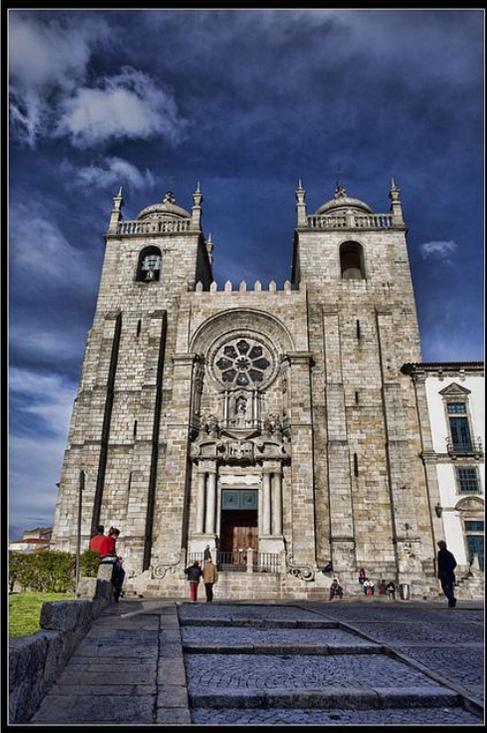
[Read more from Lonely Planet](#)



Upon arrival in Porto, the group will transfer to the [Yeatman Hotel and Spa](#), lauded as one of the best luxury hotels in Europe. Overlooking Porto, the hotel is discreet by being cleverly designed over just 5 floors on low rise terraces. [Photos: Yeatman Hotel and Spa.](#)

Photo Above: View from Yeatman Hotel and Spa

With just 80 or so rooms the whole property is spacious, roomy light and airy with stunning views of Porto and the Douro from every point. Every room has an ample terrace and each is tastefully decorated, with wonderful marble bathrooms and large comfortable beds. Additionally, the hotel has the only Michelin starred restaurant in the Porto area and the biggest wine cellar in Portugal, which guests can visit by appointment. (Source: Trip Advisor)



In the afternoon, enjoy a half-day city sightseeing tour of Oporto including the Cathedral, the Stock Exchange Palace and a short cruise on the Douro River. After the tour, visit one of the famous wine cellars, Taylor's Port Cellar, in Vila Nova de Gaia for a tasting of the famous fortified wine (Port) and a tour, followed by a **complimentary welcome dinner** in the cellar's restaurant Barao de Fiadgate.

Photo on the Left: The Porto Cathedral, Sé do Port

Source: [Flickr](#) (By [Michal Porebiak](#))

Sunday, September 30, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Full day of touring in Northern Portugal today begins with a visit to Braga. Known as the Rome of Portugal, Braga's compact centre is packed with splendid baroque churches. Baroque churches, and the

clamoring of their bells, are a constant reminder of who's in charge here. Indeed, Braga has been a religious power centre since the conversion of the Visigoths in the 6th century. Its cathedral, built in the 12th century as Portugal was still being wrestled from the Moors, is the oldest in Portugal. [Read more from Lonely Planet.](#)

Included touring sites are the Braga Cathedral and the Bom Jesus do Monte, with its famous Baroque



stairway that climbs 381 feet.

Photo Above: Bom Jesus do Monte.

Source: [Concierge.2C](#) @ Wikipedia Commons

After independent lunch, travelers will continue to Guimaraes.

Photo to the Left: Guimarões Castle

Source: [Flickr](#) - By [AurÃ©lie San Juan](#)

The historic town of Guimarões is associated with the emergence of the Portuguese national identity in the 12th century and the birthplace of the first king of Portugal, Afonso I. This UNESCO World Heritage site has been declared the [European](#)



[Capital of Culture in 2012.](#) Visit the impressive 10th century Guimaraes Castle and the medieval Palace of the Dukes of Braganza, dating back to the 15th century.

Return to Porto independent dinner and overnight.

Monday, October 1, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Full day at leisure to take one of two offered optional tours or continue exploring Porto and the Douro River area.



OPTION 1: Full day excursion to Spain and Santiago de Compostela, dating back to the 4th century. This beautiful city is reputed to be the burial site of the Apostle Saint James.

Photo on the Left: Santiago de Compostela Cathedra

Source: [Flickr](#), by [Claudio Saavedra](#)

The Cathedral is the destination of the important medieval 9th century pilgrimage route, the Way of St. James. The Old Town is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After independent lunch, visit the beautiful port city of Viana do Castelo, dating back to the 13th century. This was one of the main ports for the departure of many Portuguese explorers. The town is known for being the most folkloric in the country.

OPTION 2: Full day excursion to the pilgrimage city of Fatima and the Marian shrine of Our Lady of Fatima built to commemorate the religious events of 1917 when three children reported several apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

Return to Porto for independent dinner and overnight.

Optional Dinner: Dinner at O Paparico' Restaurant in Porto, voted the # 1 restaurant in Porto by Trip Advisor

Photo on the Right: Our Lady of Fatima



Source: [Flickr](#), by [Joel Santos](#)

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, head south toward [Coimbra](#), the capital of Portugal during the "High Middle Ages". Established in 1290, it is one of the oldest universities in continuous operation in the world, the oldest university of Portugal, and one of its largest higher education and research institutions.

Photo on the Left: Coimbra **Source:** [Best Coimbra](#) website

Pay a visit to the famous Joanina Library, a Baroque library built in the 18th century, containing over 250,000 volumes.



Complimentary lunch included.

After lunch, continue sightseeing in Tomar, one of Portugal's historical jewels and the last town to be commissioned by the Knights Templar, in the late 12th century. It was a center of Portuguese expansion under Henry the Navigator. Visit the Castle and Convent of the Order of Christ, the main monument of the town and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Visit the town of Nazare, a beautiful coastal town with a combination of fishing villages and beach resorts serve as a backdrop for tourists visiting the town. The old town is tucked up against honey-coloured cliffs at the north end of the beach. A funicular climbs to the cliff's edge, affording sweeping views as well as access to Promon-tório do Sítio, the town's original site. Spend the night in Nazare at the [Hotel Miramar](#) with stunning views over the town and a short walk to the town center.

Photo on the Left: Nazare

Source: [Flickr](#) by [Ganika](#)

Evening free for independent dinner.

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Begin the morning with a panoramic sightseeing tour of the village of Nazare, reported to have the nicest beaches in Portugal. Go up to the old town for views of the beach and countryside.

Photo Below: Batalha Monastery of Santa Maria de Vitoria

Source: [Flickr](#) by [Estrelas E Limóns](#)



Continue down the coast to the town of Batalha and the [Batalha Monastery of Santa Maria de Vitoria](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the greatest Gothic masterpieces in Europe.

Group breaks for independent lunch.

After lunch, the next stop is the town of Alcobaca and the massive Monastery of Santa Maria, inaugurated in 1252 containing the tomb of King Peter I.

Late afternoon, arrive in Lisbon and check in at the [Hotel Fontecruz Lisboa](#), a chic boutique design hotel, in the heart of the city.

Evening free for independent dinner.

Thursday, October 4, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Morning guided city sightseeing tour of [Lisbon](#) including the magnificent Jeronimos Monastery, built in the 1500's and the final resting place of Vasco da Gama. The Cloisters are considered among the most beautiful in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next stop is the Belem Tower, the city's icon and a symbol of the Age of Discovery and also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Lunch and afternoon are at leisure to explore Lisbon on your own.

Photo to the Left: Belem Tower
Source: Steven Christopher George

There are several important museums worthy of a visit – the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, the Bernardo Museum, the Ancient Art Museum and the Tile Museum, among others. Cascais is famous for specialty shops filled with handmade Portuguese handicrafts.

Free evening - Dine at leisure in one of Lisbon's many fine restaurants and explore the city at

night.

Friday, October 5, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Lisbon and the surrounding area. The first stop is the town of Sintra, highlighted by the Palacio Nacional, the best preserved medieval Royal Palace in Portugal.

Photo to the Right: Palacio Nacional in Sintra
Source: [Flickr](#)

In the 19th century Sintra became the first centre of European Romantic architecture. Ferdinand II turned a ruined monastery into a castle where this new sensitivity was displayed in the use of Gothic, Egyptian, Moorish and Renaissance elements and in the creation of a park blending local and exotic species of trees. Other fine dwellings, built along the same lines in the surrounding *serra*, created a unique combination of parks and gardens which influenced the development of landscape architecture throughout Europe. (Source: UNESCO webpage)

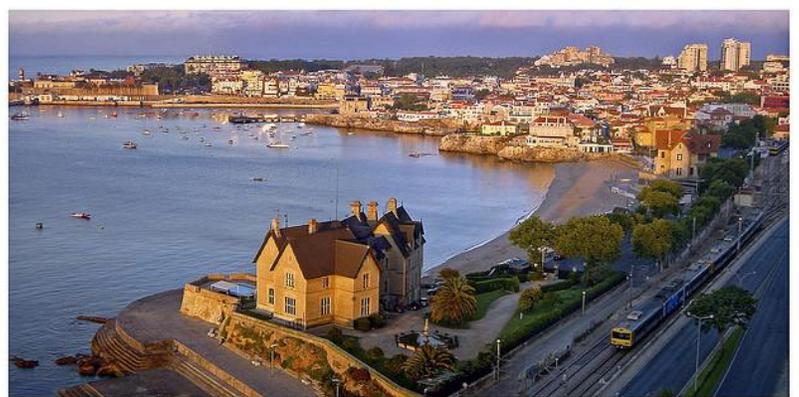
Group breaks for independent lunch.

The next stop is Estoril, a famous and popular beach resort with Europe's largest casino. Basking in a pleasant temperate climate all year round, the Estoril coast offers visitors a variety of cultural and leisure activities. The golden triangle Estoril-Cascais-Sintra is the scene of numerous international sporting events such as the Portugal Golf Open and the Estoril Tennis Open and international motor and motorcycle races.

Photo to the Right: Cascais
Source: [Flickr](#)

Continue to the town of Queluz to visit the Queluz National Palace, one of the last Rococo buildings to be designed in Europe. This former residence of the monarchy is now a museum and used only for state occasions.

The final stop today will be Cascais, a coastal town that was used as a resort for Portugal's royal family until the early 20th century – now a popular vacation spot for the Portuguese.



Optional Dinner: Dinner at a seaside restaurant along the famous and scenic Guincho Beach near Cascais.

Return to Lisbon.

Saturday, October 6, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.



Enjoy a full day at leisure in Lisbon to explore or take an optional tour to Evora.

This full day tour to one of Portugal's most beautiful, important and ancient cities will include visits to the Roman Temple of Evora (Diana Temple) dating back to the 1st century, the Cathedral of Evora built in the 13th and 14th centuries, one of the most important Gothic monuments of Portugal and the Church of St. Francis, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture featuring the Chapel of Bones, totally covered with human bones.

Evora is a UNESCO World Heritage City.

Photo on the Left: Roman Temple of Evora

Return to Lisbon via the world's largest cork oak growing region. Portugal accounts for about 50% of the total cork production in the world and the Mediterranean type climate of Portugal is immensely conducive to its growth. Stop by and learn about the growing process.

This evening, join fellow tour members for a complimentary farewell dinner and a performance of Portuguese Fado (soul music of Portugal).

Photo on the Right: Portuguese Fado performance



Sunday, October 7, 2012

Start your day with a complimentary breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for Lisbon Airport for [US Airways](#) flights to Charlotte at 10:45 a.m. Arrive in Charlotte at 4:15 p.m. with a connecting flight in Philadelphia.

Welcome Home!

PLEASE NOTE: Additional optional choice programs and meetings may be added, as they become available.

If you have questions regarding the trip, please contact Ljubomir Stambuk at lstambuk@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7760.

PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(**Additional \$820 for single occupancy**)

20 Travelers

\$3492

25 Travelers

\$3321

30 Travelers

\$3185

Travelers must be members of good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you would like to become a WACC member, please contact Danielle Cobos, Program and Membership Manager via e-mail at dcobos@worldaffairscharlotte.org or call 704-687-7757 or go to our [website](#) and sign-up online. Individual membership begins at \$50.

OPTIONAL TOURS

Optional Tours	15 Travelers	20 Travelers	25 Travelers	30 Travelers
Santiago De Compostela	\$120	\$100	\$85	\$75
Fatima	\$120	\$100	\$85	\$75
Evora	\$120	\$100	\$85	\$75

Please note that reservations for this trip are limited and confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis. A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure your reservation within 5-day business days of confirmation. **Final payment is due immediately upon confirmation of participation.**

In addition, air/government taxes and fuel surcharges will be billed at prevailing rate at the time of billing.

***Air taxes (current rate):** \$169

* **Fuel surcharge (current rate):** \$496

* All rates are based on the exchange rate of 1 Euro = \$ 1.33 USD. Fluctuations in this rate downward or upward can result in adjustment of price.