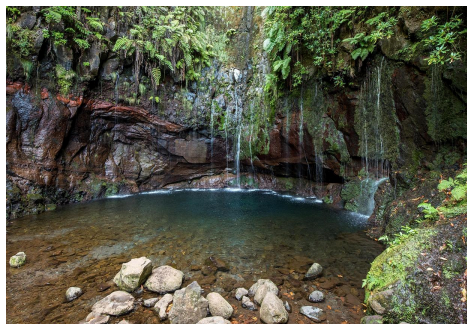


Travel with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte

Discover Portugal: A Voyage Filled with Culture, Coastlines, and Enchantment

*****Optional 3-Day Extension to the island of eternal spring, Madeira Island*****



October 1st - October 12th, 2025

Optional 3-day extension to Madeira Island (October 12th - October 15th, 2025)

All accommodations are top-of-the-line hotels. All breakfasts, three (3) lunches, and seven (7) dinners are included in the cost of the trip.

Prices for the trip and Madeira Island can be found on Page 23.

A nonrefundable deposit of \$1,000 is due as soon as possible to secure your seat for the trip.
(Deposits are refundable until April 30th, 2025)

Full nonrefundable payment is due by August 1st, 2025.

Space is limited, and deposits are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. We will continue to accept deposits as long as space is available on the trip. Contact Jeff Knight at Knight Travel for airfare quotes at jknight0675@gmail.com. We do have a group block available. Info provided on page 23.

Please contact Madison NeeSmith at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte via [email](#) or call 704-687-7758 if you have any questions or require additional information about the trip.

Why Travel to Portugal?

Natural Beauty: Portugal is home to stunning landscapes that range from the golden beaches of the Algarve to the lush greenery of Madeira Archipelago and the Azores. The Douro Valley, with its terraced vineyards along the river, and the rugged mountains of Serra da Estrela offer some of Europe's most picturesque scenery.

Rich Culture and History: Portugal's rich cultural heritage can be explored in historic cities like Lisbon and Porto, which boast beautiful architecture, iconic landmarks, and vibrant traditions. From the medieval streets of Sintra to the UNESCO-listed cultural treasures in Évora, there's always something to discover. The country's past is also steeped in seafaring adventures, with exploration and maritime history forming an essential part of its identity.

Wine and Gastronomy: Portugal is a haven for food lovers, offering a distinctive cuisine with flavors deeply influenced by its Mediterranean and Atlantic roots. From seafood dishes like bacalhau (salted cod) to delicious pastries such as pastéis de nata, every meal is a celebration. Portugal is also famed for its wine, particularly Port wine from the Douro Valley, as well as Vinho Verde and Madeira wines.

Safety and Stability: Portugal is known for its political stability and reputation as one of the safest countries in Europe. With low crime rates and a welcoming atmosphere, it is a wonderful destination for tourists. The country ranked 4th out of 163 in the Global Peace Index for 2023, making it a secure and pleasant place to explore.

Adventure Sports: Portugal's diverse landscapes make it a fantastic destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Surfers flock to its world-renowned beaches along the Atlantic coast, while hiking trails in regions like Madeira and the Azores offer stunning views. Cycling along the Douro River or exploring the rugged hills of the Alentejo region are also popular activities.

Portugal offers a blend of breathtaking natural beauty, rich history, delicious food, and a welcoming, peaceful environment. Whether you're exploring ancient castles, savoring world-class wines, or enjoying outdoor adventures, Portugal is a captivating destination that promises an unforgettable experience for every traveler.

Day 1: Wednesday, October 1st, 2025

Charlotte/Madrid/Porto

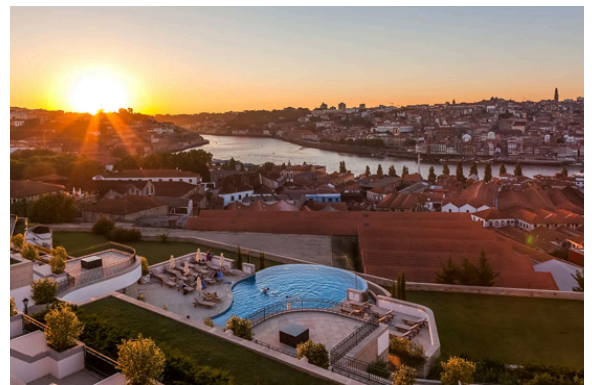
Depart from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport via American Airlines from Charlotte, connecting to Iberia Airlines in Madrid, then departing for Porto, where you will arrive the next morning (overnight flight). **Time-appropriate meals and in-flight services will be provided.**

Day 2: Thursday, October 2nd, 2025

Porto

You will arrive in Porto mid-morning and be welcomed to the vibrant and historic city of Portugal. After clearing Portuguese customs, you will meet our expert tour guide and old friend, Stefan Aquelino, who has traveled with us a few times. He will aid in your transfer to your hotel.

For the next three nights, you'll stay at [the Yeatman Hotel](#), in Porto, a luxury wine hotel and spa with spectacular views of the UNESCO World Heritage City and the Douro River. The cellars of the Yeatman house one of the most comprehensive collections of Portuguese wines. The hotel partners with many of Portugal's finest producers, which sponsor individual rooms where intriguing pictures and objects provide insights into each winery's unique history and add a



discreet, individual accent to each room.

The Yeatman Hotel - [Watch online \(YouTube\)](#)

“The Yeatmans, who entered the Port trade in 1838, were among the most distinguished and enterprising of the Port families. Their descendants maintain this tradition as owners of three of the most famous Port companies.

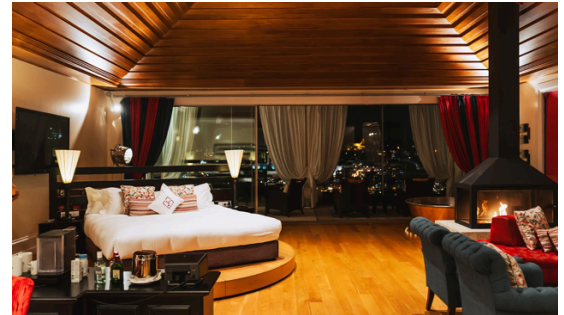
In 2006 the opportunity arose for another high-profile project, a landmark luxury hotel in a stunning location overlooking the historic centre of Oporto. Named The Yeatman, in celebration of the family's historic link with the city, it draws on its owners' expertise in both fine wine production and luxury hotel management to become one of the world's leading wine hotels.

Opened since August 2010, it became Porto's address of choice, the hotel that defines the city.” (Source: The Yeatman Hotel website)

Take some time to settle in and recover from the trans-Atlantic journey.

In the late afternoon, after your free time, join your group to tour the iconic 300-year-old [Taylor’s Wine Cellar](#), dedicated entirely to the production of Port wine. This is followed by a tasting of three wines. Enjoy your welcome dinner at the [Barao de Fladgate](#) in a spectacular location on the grounds of the Taylor’s Wine Cellar (both the Taylor’s Wine Cellar and the restaurant are right next door to the Yeatman Hotel).

- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight in The Yeatman Hotel (Porto)**



[Photos: The Yeatman Hotel \(Link\)](#)



[Photo: Taylor’s Port \(Link\)](#)

Day 3: Friday, October 3rd, 2025

Porto/Douro Valley

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

After breakfast overlooking the city, you'll set out on a full-day tour of the Douro Valley with a local guide. You'll begin touring by motorcoach through the Douro Wine Region Valley, the oldest demarcated wine region in the world. Driving along the Douro River, past picturesque viewpoints and through charming villages, you'll admire the breathtaking landscapes and vistas.

Stop in the village of Cambres at the Quinta da Pacheca, one of the prestigious and recognized wineries in the Douro Region, dating back to the 16th century, an incredible property of over 75 hectares of vineyards. Here, a locally sourced **lunch is included** as you enjoy a winery tour.

After lunch, proceed to probably the most picturesque village in the Douro Valley, Pinhao where we board a private 1-hour cruise on the Douro on a Rabelo boat, a traditional Portuguese wooden boat used for centuries to transport people and cargo on the Douro River.

As you head back to Porto, your final stop will be at the [Quinta do Seixo](#), dating back to the 17th century, to enjoy a tour and tasting while enjoying the magnificent landscape.



[Photo: Svetlanatravel Portugal Wine Douro Vineyard Pixabay](#)



[Photo: Maczhhb Rabelo Boat - Pixabay](#)

“It occupies the spurs and slopes of a mountain, one side of which bounds the Douro, and the other the Rio Torto valley. Scattered over the heights above are the white cottages of the village of Valença, the vineyards of which produce a considerable quantity of first-class wine. The buildings of the Quinta do Seixo, which are entered through an imposing gateway, surmounted by the armorial bearings of its owner, are very extensive. The casa is both commodious and well arranged, and has a certain air of pretension about it, while the lagares and the adega are on a scale proportionate to the extent of the surrounding vineyard.” ([Source: Salt of Portugal](#))

Once back in Porto and at The Yeatman, enjoy an independent evening and dinner. Perhaps you might want to try the [Yeatman Gastronomic Restaurant](#) with 2 Michelin Stars.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Lunch included**
- **Independent dinner**
- **Overnight in the Yeatman Hotel**



[Photo: Maczhhb Douro Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photos: The Yeatman Hotel \(Link\)](#)

Day 4: Saturday, October 4th, 2025

Porto/Braga/Guimarães

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

This morning, you will depart from your hotel and embark on another full-day excursion to Braga and Guimaraes Castle. As you venture out of Porto, you will begin your scenic journey with Braga, the religious power center since the 6th century.

Braga is the oldest city in Portugal and one of the world's oldest catholic cities. Highlights of the visit include the [Braga Cathedral](#), the oldest cathedral in Portugal and the [Bom Jesus do Monte](#), a notable example of a Christian pilgrimage site with a monumental stairway that climbs up about 381 feet. The stairway has 17 landings and you are welcome to climb it or you can take the Elevador de Bom Jesus.

Lunch is included at a local restaurant as a group.

After lunch, you will embark to the medieval city of Guimarães and the 10th century [Guimarães Castle](#) with its sweeping views of the area. Guimarães is a beautiful city generally regarded as the birthplace of Portugal and the castle is considered one of the most iconic in appearance in the world.

"The Guimarães Castle is widely recognized as the closest one to the origins of Portugal and it presents a surprising infrastructure on many levels. First of all due to its origins, which are singularly unclear. It is safe to say that we are dealing with a count's edifice, fruit of the charismatic Countess of Portucale Mumadona. As the castle is not



[Photo: Braga Castle \(Portugal\) - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: UNESCO World Heritage Convention](#)



[Photo: JoseCosta Guimarães Castle - Pixabay](#)

mentioned in a detailed document, dated of 950, that divided goods between the Countess and her children, we can conclude that, at that time, it did not yet exist. But by the end of that year, the castle is mentioned in a donation to the Guimarães Monastery. Hence, it is recognized as of count's foundation in the second half of the 10th century. Countess Mumadona herself declared, in a parchment dated of 968, that she had the castle built in order to protect the previously mentioned Monastery against "Gentile" attacks (referring probably to the Normans). This primitive castle, embedded within the granite outcrops, was probably made out of wood and there are few traces left of it."

Afterwards, the group will return to Porto for another free evening and dinner on your own. There are so many fine restaurants to choose from in the city.



[Photo: Porto Portugal - Pixabay](#)

- **Breakfast included**
- **Lunch included**
- **Independent dinner**
- **Overnight in the Yeatman Hotel**

Day 5: Sunday, October 5th, 2025

Porto/Aveiro

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

Following your final breakfast at the Yeatman Hotel, you will journey through the city of Porto with a local guide. Your excursion will include wine-tasting and time for a lovely independent lunch. After lunch, you will continue to [Aveiro](#), the Venice of Portugal, due to its canals navigated by colorful Moliceiro Boats (much like Venetian gondolas) used to transport seaweed for fertilizer.



[Photo: Porto Portugal - Pixabay](#)

Enjoy a short cruise on one of these magnificent local boats, followed by a city tour of Aveiro.

“Aveiro has a number of buildings in Art Nouveau style that are worth seeing. Many are situated along the main channel, but there are some off the beaten track and in other locations. The location of the buildings is indicated in a guide available at the Tourist Office and you can get to know this style even better in the Museum dedicated to it.” ([Source: Visit Portugal](#))

A highlight of your day will be a dessert workshop where you will make and enjoy the local Portuguese pastry delicacy, Ovos Moles de Aveiro.

You will then head back to your new hotel that you will stay at for one night, the centrally located and historic [MS Collection Aveiro Palacete de Valdemouro](#), where we will enjoy an included group dinner.

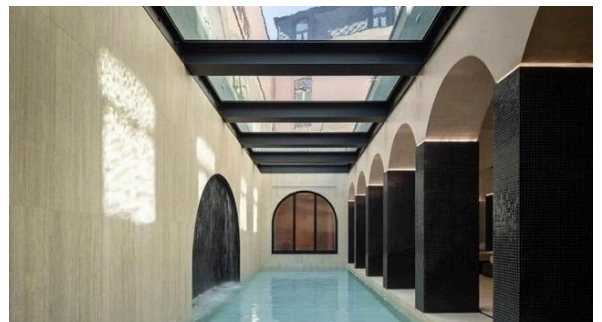
- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight at the MS Collection Aveiro Palacete de Valdemouro**



[Photo: Aveiro Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: Susan Connolly - Portugal Exposure](#)



[Photo: MS Collection Aveiro Palacete de Valdemouro \(Link\)](#)

Day 6: Monday, October 6th, 2025

**Aveiro/Coimbra/Óbidos/
Santarem/Lisbon**

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

After breakfast at the hotel, we will have a full day of historic and charming towns enroute to Lisbon. The first stop is Coimbra, the former capital and the home to a preserved medieval old town and one of the oldest universities in Europe. There, you will enjoy a guided tour including entrance to the baroque library, the [Biblioteca Joanina](#).

"The Baroque Library is the best example of Portuguese Baroque and is considered to be one of the richest European libraries. It is also known as the Joanina Library in honour and memory of King John V, who authorised its construction and whose portrait, painted by Domenico Duprà, distinctly dominates the space inside the Noble Floor.

Construction on the Baroque Library was completed in 1728. It functioned as the University Library from 1777 until the first half of the 20th century.

It holds 60 thousand books, dating from the 16th century to the 18th century, on a wide variety of topics that can still be consulted today." ([Source: University of Coimbra](#))

Afterwards, there is time for an independent lunch and exploration around the town. The group will then head to Óbidos, one of the most Instagrammable and arguably the most beautiful cities in Portugal. There will be time for independent exploration through the cobblestone streets and a visit to the [Óbidos Castle](#). This is the place to enjoy a Ginjinha, a cherry-flavored



[Photo: Falco Coimbra Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: University of Coimbra - Biblioteca Joanina](#)



digestif that is often served in a chocolate cup.

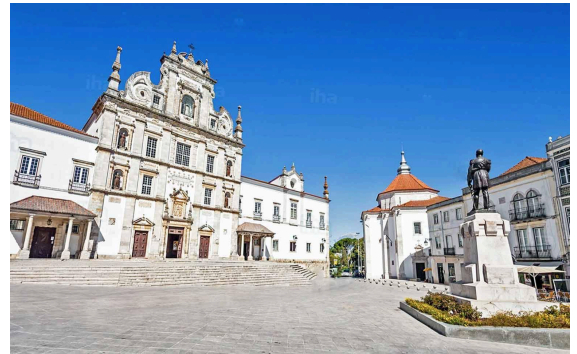
The final pitstop will be in the town of Santarem, the most Gothic town in Portugal. This is where you once again have time to independently explore the beauty the town has to offer.

Late that afternoon, you will arrive at the largest city in Portugal and its capital, Lisbon. You will head to your hotel for the next two nights, the [Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon](#), a luxurious 5 star hotel in the center of Lisbon.

After time to freshen up, you will join the group for a delicious dinner at the hotel.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight at the Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon**

[Photo: buettler Obidos Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: Portugal Travel Guide](#)



[Photo: Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon \(Link\)](#)

Day 7: Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

Lisbon

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

After breakfast, you will travel throughout the city of Lisbon on a full-day guided tour.

Lisbon is known for its food and restaurants, so the morning will be devoted to a three-hour walking tour of its local markets and local restaurants with a sampling of Portuguese favorites such as a pork sandwich with beer,



[Photo: SZimmermann DE Lisbon Portugal - Pixabay](#)

codfish cake with green wine, and Pastel de nata with ginjinha.

Once your **included lunch** is complete, your afternoon will be dedicated to touring the city of Lisbon with a focus on the [Belem Tower](#).

"The Belém Tower, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of Lisbon's most striking monuments and the icon of a country historically moulded by its proximity to the ocean and its maritime discoveries of new worlds." [Read More](#)

After your tour, you will return to the hotel in the late afternoon for an independent dinner and evening. There are numerous excellent restaurants to try. The hotel concierge can offer some recommendations to assist you. Additionally, this is a wonderful opportunity to experience Fado, Portugal's traditional music - [listen here](#).

- **Breakfast included**
- **Lunch included**
- **Independent dinner**
- **Overnight at the Four Seasons Hotel Ritz Lisbon**



[Photo: Flensshot Belim Tower - Lisbon Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: SLPix Lisbon Portugal - Pixabay](#)

Day 8: Wednesday, October 8th, 2025

Lisbon/Évora/Beja/Faro

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

Today, you will depart from Lisbon and head southeast towards the sunny coast, the Algarve, Portugal's southernmost region.

As you travel through Portugal's agricultural center with its groves of olives, citrus, and cork groves, you will discover beautiful gems along the way. Your first stop is Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, due to its Roman and Moorish



[Photo: Metropolitaneando Algarve Portugal - Pixabay](#)

past. There, you will enjoy a guided tour including a [Roman temple](#), the [12th-century cathedral](#), and [Giraldo Square](#).

“Judging by the calm, welcoming surroundings, one easily sees why this city, which dates from the Roman era, was chosen by the kings of Portugal in the 15th century to serve as their residence, a fact that contributed to its development and cultural importance in the following centuries. It was in fact due to Évora’s long history and its urban centre, typical of the 16th to 18th centuries, that has been preserved to our days that lead UNESCO to classify the city as a World Heritage site.” ([Source: Visit Portugal](#))

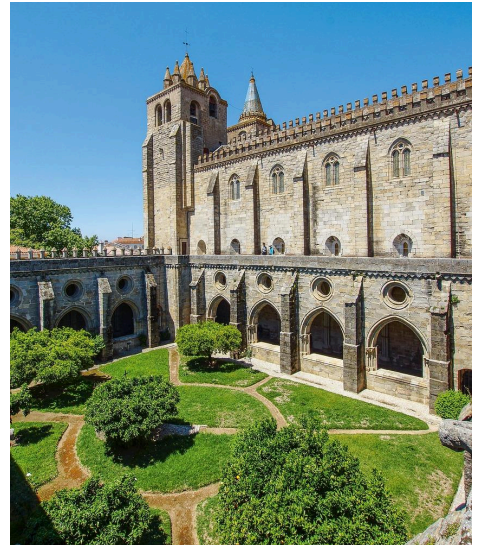
You will have time for an independent lunch before you continue on your journey. The next stop is [Beja](#), which is situated on a 900 ft. hill with commanding views over the vast plains of the Baixo Alentejo.

“The lovely city of Beja just oozes charm. Its cobblestone streets haphazardly lead in many different directions, much worse than in Boston. Who would have thought that was even possible? Fortunately, in Beja, you can WALK everywhere—to work assignments, to dinner, for coffee, to the bus station, to its many attractions.” ([Source: Destination Now](#))

After some independent free time to explore the beauty Beja has to offer, you will arrive in Faro, the group’s next hub. You will stay at the [Pousada Palacio de Estoi](#), a restored 18th-century palace, for the next three nights.

“In the heart of the Algarve, Faro is known for its quaint streets, local charm, and has all the makings of a small town with an extra-large personality. Overlooked at times, Faro is definitely worth a visit if you’re looking to experience a less-touristy version of the beautiful Algarve.” ([Source: Hayley on Hiatus](#))

After some time to settle in, you will join the group for a



[Photo: franky1st Evora Cathedral Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: Ze Eduardo Penedo - Beja Portugal - Portugal.com](#)



delicious dinner in the hotel.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight at the Pousada Palacio de Estoi**



[Photos: Pousada Palacio de Estoi \(Link\)](#)

Day 9: Thursday, October 9th, 2025

Faro/Algarve Coast

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full day of touring the Algarve Coast with a local guide. You will explore by boat one of the most famous attractions in Portugal, [the Ponta de Piedade](#), a group of rock formations along the coastline of Lagos. Afterwards, you will have time for an independent lunch.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a tour in [Praia da Rocha](#), a charming beach town and [Carvoeiro](#), another lovely coastal gem.

“Surrounded by spectacular natural scenery, dramatic cliffs, and beautiful beaches, this popular resort town has everything you could want when seeking a relaxing getaway.” ([Source: Reinvigorate.com](#))

On your way back to Faro, you will venture to the charming town of Almancil and its spectacular church, the [Igreja de São Lourenço](#). This church is one of the Algarve’s main cultural treasures.

“Built in 1730, it miraculously survived the Great Earthquake



[Photo: Ponta de piedade Portugal - Pixabay](#)

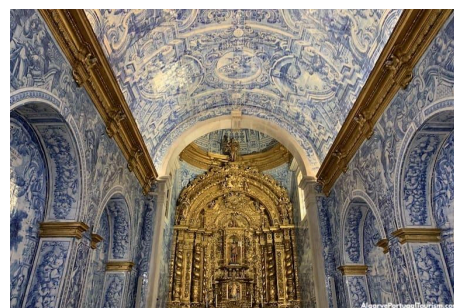


[Photo: Praia da Rocha - Algarve Tourist](#)

of 1755, which destroyed practically all of Algarve (it is said that only five tiles fell from the ceiling). While it looks like an ordinary Portuguese church from outside, its interior is an outstanding example of European baroque and tile art, and considered a masterpiece of Portuguese art.” ([Source: Algarve Portugal Tourism](#))

You will then return to the hotel in the late afternoon for an independent dinner and evening.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Independent dinner**
- **Overnight at the Pousada Palacio de Estoi**



[Photos: Igreja de São Lourenço - Algarve Portugal Tourism](#)

Day 10: Friday, October 10th, 2025

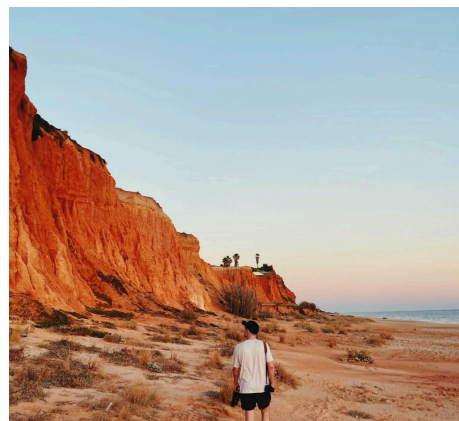
Faro

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

After breakfast, embark on a half-day guided tour of Faro, the capital of the Algarve. The old town, with its cobbled streets and cathedral, can be traced back to the Paleolithic era.

“Throughout the centuries, Faro has been influenced by Romans, Moors, and Christians, each shaping the city’s cultural and architectural fabric. This confluence of influences is evident in the city’s diverse architectural styles, from Moorish arches to Gothic facades, showcasing Faro’s rich cultural mosaic.” ([Source: Explorial](#))

After the tour, you will enjoy an independent lunch and time to explore Faro on your own.



Later that afternoon, you will join the group for a sunset cruise, followed by a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight at the Pousada Palacio de Estoi**



[Photos: Beatriz - Faro Portugal - Explorial](#)

Day 11: Saturday, October 11th, 2025

Faro/Lisbon

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

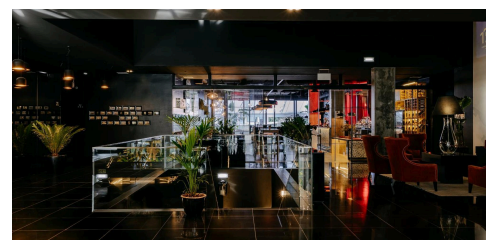
After breakfast, you will depart from Faro for an overnight stay in Lisbon so that you can begin your flight home tomorrow.

Your hotel will be the [Fontecruz Lisboa](#) and you will have the rest of your day and evening to explore Lisbon on your own. This could be a good time for you to ride the Tram 28, which passes through many tourist sites and traditional neighborhoods as it winds through the historic city.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Independent dinner**
- **Overnight at the Fontecruz Lisboa**



[Photo: Julius_Silver - Lisbon Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photos: Fontecruz Lisboa \(Link\)](#)

Day 12: Sunday, October 12th, 2025

Lisbon/Madrid/Charlotte

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

This morning, we will have a bagged breakfast before departing for Lisbon Airport to check in for your flight home to Charlotte.

Time-appropriate meals are served in-flight.

WELCOME HOME!

Optional 3-Day Extension to Madeira Island

Day 11: Saturday, October 11th, 2025

Faro/Lisbon/Funchal

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

This morning after breakfast, depart the hotel in Faro to drive to the Lisbon Airport via motorcoach. You will board an afternoon flight on TAP Air Portugal at 4:45 pm and will arrive in Funchal Madeira at 6:25 pm.

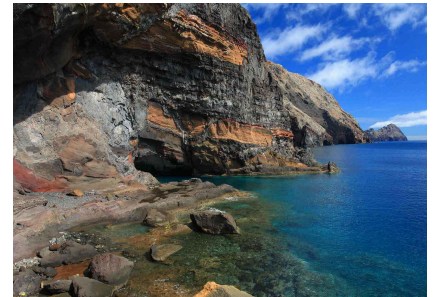
Welcome to the Madeira Archipelago!

"This archipelago consists of the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo, the only inhabited islands, and also the Desertas and Selvagens islands, important nature reserves. From the subtropical climate to the hospitality of Madeira's people, the culture, the gastronomy and the exuberance of nature, there are many reasons to come and discover this paradise destination.." (Source: [VisitMadeira](#))

Once you collect your luggage and proceed to your private motorcoach, you will depart for your hotel for three nights, the five-star [Funchal Savoy Palace](#).

"Unique in its values, the hotel offers exclusive and unforgettable experiences to its visitors. With individually created areas within the property, Savoy Palace offers the atmosphere of a boutique hotel and is guaranteed to satisfy everyone's tastes. Taking inspiration from the lush landscapes and elaborate traditions of Madeira Island, the resort pays homage to the island and its unique characteristics." (Source: [Savoy Palace](#))

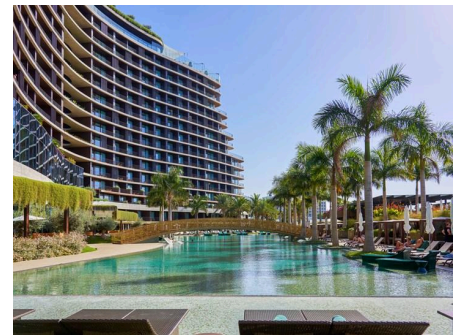
After check-in, you will have time to relax and enjoy an independent dinner.



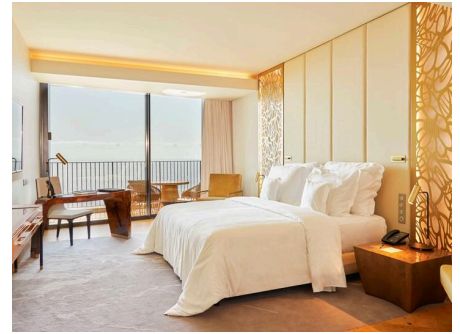
[Photo: Madeira and Porto Santo -Visit Madeira](#)



[Photo: GerdWellner - Funchal Portugal - Pixabay](#)



- Breakfast included
- Independent lunch
- Independent dinner
- Overnight at the Funchal Savoy Palace



[Photos: Savoy Palace \(Link\)](#)

Day 12: Sunday, October 12th, 2025

Funchal/Porto Moniz

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

Today, you are officially welcomed to the [island of Madeira](#), getting its namesake due to its wine and natural beauty. This island is volcanic, green and rugged, with high cliffs and pebbly beaches as well as natural tide pools. This gem is a nature lover's paradise off the coast of Portugal. This extension is all about nature and adventure!

"The archipelago benefits from an extremely pleasant subtropical climate, recording mild temperatures all year round. In addition, the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo are bathed by crystal-clear, warm waters. Due to the influence of the warm Gulf of Mexico current, sea temperatures vary between 18 °C and 22 °C." [\(Source: Visit Madeira\)](#)



[Photo: jackmac34 - Madeira Portugal - Pixabay](#)



[Photo: franky1st - Madeira Portugal - Pixabay](#)

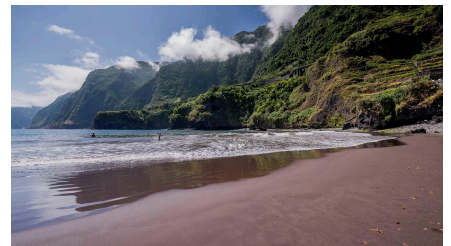
After breakfast at the hotel, you will embark on a full day unforgettable Jeep tour with off-road driving to [Porto Moniz](#), a scenic point with natural pools formed by volcanic rock.

Journey through Ribeira Brava and Paul de Serra to the island's western side via off-road paths with time to enjoy the natural pools at Porto Moniz.

There, you will have time to discover the scenic valleys, mountains, plateaus and coastal landscapes of the island's Southwest Region. Additionally, while there you will have time for an independent lunch.

Take some time to have a leisurely stroll along the esplanade of hidden fishing villages before returning to the hotel in the late afternoon for a group dinner at the hotel.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight at the Funchal Savoy Palace**



[Photos: Porto Moniz - Visit Madeira](#)

Day 13: Monday, October 13th, 2025

Funchal

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

Start your day by having breakfast at the hotel and then enjoying a half-day guided tour of [Funchal's old town](#) which dates back to the 16th century. During your adventure, you will stop by the [Mercado dos Lavradores](#) (Farmer's Market) which dates back to 1940.

Additionally, you will take a scenic cable car ride to Monte with its amazing views including the church of King Charles. Your ride down is one of the most unusual in the world - you will take a Madeira style basket slide (toboggan) back



[Photo: Funchal Old Town - European Best Destinations](#)

to town, guided by traditionally dressed men.

“Ride down the toboggan in the traditional basket sledges which date back to the early 19th century where they were used as a means of transport by the local residents who wanted to travel quickly from the village of Monte to the city of Funchal.” ([Source: Madeira Best](#))

Return to the hotel for an independent lunch and a free afternoon to explore the town of Funchal at your leisure.

At night, join your group for a farewell dinner at the restaurant Nini, or a similar establishment.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Dinner included**
- **Overnight at the Funchal Savoy Palace**



[Photo: Mercado dos Lavradores Funchal Portugal - Visit Madeira](#)



[Photo: Madeira Toboggan Ride - Madeira Best](#)

Day 14: Tuesday, October 14th, 2025

Funchal/Lisbon

Breakfast is included at the hotel.

After breakfast in the hotel, you will have a free morning for packing, shopping or sightseeing before departure for the Funchal Airport. Once at the airport, you will depart on the TAP 1690 flight which departs at 2:25 pm and arrives at the Lisbon Airport at 4:10 pm.

You will spend the night at the four-star hotel, [Melia Lisbon Airport](#) which is only 300 yards away from Terminal One or there is a free shuttle.

If you want to go to Lisbon, a taxi or Uber should be around



[Photo: fotosvanHugo - Lisbon Portugal - Pixabay](#)

15 euros each way. You will also have an independent dinner and evening.

- **Breakfast included**
- **Independent lunch**
- **Independent dinner**
- **Overnight at the Melia Lisbon Airport**



[Photo: Melia Lisboa
Aeroporto \(Link\)](#)

Day 15: Wednesday, October 15th, 2025

Lisbon/Madrid/Charlotte

You will depart very early from the hotel on an independent basis if using group air. The Iberia 540 flight will depart from Lisbon at 6:35 a.m. and arrive in Madrid at 9:00 a.m. There, you will connect to the nonstop American Airlines flight 749 which will depart Madrid at 1:00 p.m. and arrive back in Charlotte at 4:10 p.m.

Time-appropriate meals are served in-flight.

WELCOME HOME!

LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY*

Single occupancy rate available for \$2,900.00

All accommodations are top-of-the-line hotels. All breakfasts, three (3) lunches, and seven (7) dinners are included in the cost of the trip.

Min. 15 Travelers	Min. 20 Travelers	Min. 25 Travelers	Min. 30 Travelers
\$9,125.00	\$8,255.00	\$7,525.00	\$7,195.00

AIR TRAVEL:

Please contact Knight Travel for air travel pricing at jknight0675@gmail.com. There is a discounted group block available for the flights (for the whole trip plus extension to Madeira Island - October 1st - October 15th) which includes fare, fuel, and tax for \$1,075.00 (separate price from the trip price). The group block requires a minimum of 10 people. If you are interested in the group block flights, Jeff needs to know by June 1st, 2025. Additionally, you still have the option to book your own flights and/or upgrade to business or first class. If you need help, please contact Jeff directly.

MADEIRA ISLAND EXTENSION - PRICE PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Itinerary subject to change

Single occupancy rate available for an additional \$875.00

Min. 10 Travelers	Min. 15 Travelers	Min. 20 Travelers	Min. 25 Travelers
\$3,145.00	\$2,915.00	\$2,510.00	\$2,375.00

Travelers must be members in good standing with the World Affairs Council of Charlotte. If you are not a member, please contact mneesmit@charlotte.edu or call 704-687-7758. [Click here](#)

for information on WACC memberships. Please note that all WACC memberships at the Family level and below are fully tax-deductible. World Sponsor level memberships and above offer valuable benefits and additional tax deductions

- **A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to secure your place on the trip. Since they are first-come, first-served, we will accept deposits until the trip is full. These deposits will only be refundable until April 30th, 2025.**
- **The final full payment is due by August 1st, 2025.**
- If you are traveling alone but would like a roommate, please let us know as soon as possible, and we will work on matching you with another traveler.
- Business or First Class air travel is available. If you are interested in an upgrade, please contact Jeff Knight (jknight0675@gmail.com) as soon as possible.
- Please note that a 3.5% processing charge will be added to all payments via American Express, and a 3% processing charge will be added to all other credit card payments due to a travel agency requirement. **There is no additional charge if you pay by check.**
- Checks should be mailed to "World Affairs Council of Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd, CHHS 227, Charlotte, NC 28223."