

A Cook's Tour presents: Taste of Portugal & Andalusia

September 5–16, 2020

Portugal has gained a reputation as among the most enchanting and interesting of European destinations for its beauty, culture, food and wine. Because it is a bit off the beaten path, it has not shared the spotlight that it deserves. On the westernmost frontier of Europe it has a prominent place in history but for most of the last century was an after thought for tourists. No more! From the bustling port city of Porto in the north to cosmopolitan Lisbon in the middle there are treasures to enjoy at each turn.



This tour will focus on three important regions:

Porto: Famous for its fishing and shipping, dating back to Roman times. In the 16th Century, the English encouraged the development of the “Port” wine trade, which put the city on the map and brought significant opportunities for trade. Today the city is at the center of promoting the delicious fortified Port wine throughout the world and is home to dozens of “Port Houses”. It is also at the center of the vibrant fishing industry and famous for its sardines in olive oil.

Douro Valley: One of the most beautiful wine valleys in the world. The steep slopes on each side of the Douro River produce the luscious grapes for Port and other vintage varieties. This Unesco World Heritage site is among the prettiest in Europe.

Lisbon: Among the prettiest cities in Europe, it is rich in history and culture. The center of a vibrant culinary culture and the repository of much of the country's history. Its hills and grand boulevards are a treasure. Its monuments and unique museums rank with the best in Europe. Simply put, it's a great city!

Seville (Spain): On the Andalucian Plain, is a short distance from Portugal but a 'world' away. Seville is home to many Moorish gardens and architectural sites. A vibrant city of fountains, parks and beautiful tiled buildings. The weather is warm and the 'café' scene inviting whether it be Tapas or White Table Clothes.

Tour Schedule

September 5-8: Porto & Douro Valley

Includes:

- Panoramic City Tour
- Day trip to Douro Valley
 - o Visit the dramatic Sandeman Port Estate with lunch included.



Porto Batalha



Palacio Vilapanes

- o A cruise on the river.
- o Visit with a 'small, rather eccentric Port producer.
- Porto Fish Market for lunch that was swimming this morning.
- Graham's house of Port cellar tour and dinner with matching wines.

3-nights at hotel NH Collection Porto Batalha see:

<http://www.nh-collection.com/hotel/nh-collection-porto-batalha>

At the top of the Batalha area and pedestrian mall, this stylish new hotel is spacious and comfortable.

September 8-12: Lisbon

Includes:

- Private transfer by chartered bus.
- Wine visit enroute to the famous "Luis Pato" winery for a tasting and "roast suckling pig" lunch.
- Panoramic Lisbon Tour
- Culinary Tour of Ribera Mercedado with Portugal Food critic and cookbook author.
- Historic cultural walking tour.
- Private Cooking lesson at Cooking Lisbon
- Day trip to Sintra with guided Pena Palace tour and seaside lunch

4-nights at hotel Heritage Liberdade see: <http://www.heritageavliberdade.com> This four-star boutique hotel is in the center of stylish Liberdade Avenue. It's surrounded by restaurants and high end shops and is consistently rated as one of the finest in Lisbon.

September 12-16: Seville

- Guided tours:
 - o Seville City and the Alcazar
 - o Cordoba and the incredible "Mezquita"
 - o Market tour
 - o Paella making class
 - o Plaza de Torros Tour (Bull Ring)
- Four nights at Hotel Palacio Vilapanes in the center of Seville, <http://palaciovillapanes.com/en/>

Tour includes:

- Local English speaking guides throughout
- Escorted by "David Iverson"
- 6 Dinners

- 6 Lunches
- Breakfast daily
- Wine with all meals, except breakfast
- Transfers from beginning in Porto to ending in Seville
 - o Private bus in Portugal and Seville
 - o Flight between Lisbon and Seville

Not included:

- Elective transfers for non scheduled activities
- Room upgrades



Cost per person: \$4459

Single add: \$1200

- **Reservation:** by return email to david@acookstour.com and \$500 per person

Deposit to:

**A Cooks Tour
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