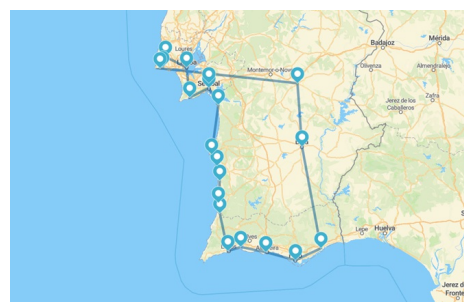




Portugal, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

The Algarve Route and the Lisbon Coast

Portugal has so much to offer the visitor eager for new experiences. From the capital of Lisbon, with its Torre de Belém and its Jerónimos Monastery, to the stunning towns and coastal resorts dotted throughout this fascinating road trip. One of these unique places is Albufeira, a fishing village with beaches lapped by an intense turquoise sea. A jaw-dropping natural beauty, just like Tavira and its island, which can only be reached by boat. You'll also enjoy nature in privileged eco-environments such as the Sudoeste Alentejano Nature Park, where hundreds of species live in freedom to the delight of visitors. And you'll want to stay and live in Portimão forever, thanks to its fantastically laid-back atmosphere. A tranquillity that also reigns supreme in Sines, where you can learn about the life and figure of Vasco da Gama. The trip will also take you to magical places such as Porto Covo, a former fishing village that has undergone some development in recent years and now draws in tourists from all over Europe thanks to its peaceful atmosphere and excellent cuisine. The truth is that the food is amazing everywhere you go in Portugal. The coastal area is famous for its seafood and fresh fish, such as swordfish, cod or octopus. The country is also a leading wine producer. During this jam-packed road trip, you'll get the chance to savour the local wines wherever you go. The final jewel in the crown of the tour is Cascais, an oasis of luxury and fun. You'll be surprised by its pocket-sized palaces and you'll love strolling around its harbour and admiring the views from its majestic cliffs.



Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - FARO - ALBUFEIRA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Faro and rental car pick-up. Faro is the capital of the Algarve and the most visited resort, thanks to its airport. That said, it's a truly unique town. Even though it's a sun-and-sand destination, winter tends to be its busier season. That's because it's a university city and the student population dwindles when the academic year comes to a close. Depending on the time your flight lands, you'll have more or less time to explore the town. So, make a list of priorities and remember that you'll be coming back here at the end of your trip. Must-sees in Faro are the yachts and luxury boutiques in the marina; the Manuel Bivar golden mile for some retail therapy; and the old town to stretch your legs before heading off to Albufeira. About forty-five kilometres separate both locations via the A22, a comfortable and quiet road where you can drive non-stop to your destination. Albufeira is a fishing village, created on the rocks of Punta Baleeira in the west and famous for its beaches lapped by turquoise waters. Despite the boom in tourism, its cute old town still retains its essence and life. Among its shops and whitewashed houses you'll find a marvellous cave that leads to one of the town's beautiful beaches. It's worth taking a stroll to the Fort of São João, as from here you'll get the best views of Praia dos Pescadores, an Instagram-worthy image with fishing boats perched on the sand alongside tourists sunbathing. Must-see monuments in Albufeira are the Archaeological Museum, the São Sebastião chapel, or the Museum of Sacred Art, but the main pulls here are the beautiful beaches. Some are backed by rock walls, others are nestled under pine trees and red hills, and others are vast sandy beaches. Basically, they come in all shapes and sizes. Some of the most popular are Gale, Coelha, Baleeira and Falesia... One of our favourites is Praia do Castelo, a stunning natural enclave that is a kaleidoscope of rocky cliffs, verdant pine groves and sparkling blue waters. Overnight stay in Albufeira.

DAY 2 · ALBUFEIRA - PORTIMÃO - LAGOS

And if the beaches of Albufeira seemed to have been plucked from a postcard, just wait and see what's to come in Lagos. Today we recommend a stop-off between the start and the end of your journey: Portimão. This is a city full of contrasts looking out to sea and which will welcome you with open arms. Although it's located in a tourist area, Portimão offers plenty of peace and quiet for some well-deserved relaxation. Our recommendations for a bit of sightseeing? You can enjoy pleasant strolls along the banks of the River Arade or around the historical quarter. After a brief pause, you can resume your journey to Lagos, located half an hour to the east. This is perhaps one of the most beautiful places in the whole area, as it has managed to fuse tradition with tourism. It's surrounded by ancient walls that look out to sea. Stroll around its cute cobbled streets full of charm and explore its harbour and gardens... It's also worth visiting the Forte da Ponta da Bandeira, a 17th-century fort with a drawbridge that houses exhibitions on the great discoveries made by Portuguese sailors in the 15th and 16th centuries. And continuing with the history of Lagos, the Mercado des Escravos, the former slave market dating from 1444 and located in the Praça Infante Dom Henrique, is a veritable showcase of the old town. If you want to enjoy a pleasant walk along the rugged coastline, head to the trails that start in Burgau, which offer stunning views of the local beaches and mountains. As for beaches, the Meia Praia will fulfil all your dreams: fine white sand, crystal-clear waters and plenty of space for everyone. And the night is still young here in Lagos. So, round off the day savouring a delicious dinner at one of the waterfront restaurants. Overnight stay in Lagos.

DAY 3 · LAGOS - ODECEIXE - SUDOESTE ALENTEJANO NATURE PARK - ZAMBUJEIRA DO MAR - VILA NOVA DE MILFONTES - PORTO COVO - SINES

Today is a good day to spend some time on the road. Head north on the N120, which doesn't run along the coast but does have several exits that will take you to the sea or other fantastic places. The turn-offs at Aljezur, the M502-2 and the CM1124 are some of the most important. Two other attractions await you en route: the Sudoeste Alentejano and Costa Vicentina Nature Park and Porto Covo. The park is simply stunning. Cliffs, eagles, storks, otters and perfectly-preserved scenery are what it's famous for, but its beaches are also well worth a visit. Vila Nova de Milfontes and Almogrove (to the north) or Praia do Amado (to the south) are some examples. Another place we recommend is Odeceixe, Portugal's very own version of the 1970s hippy Ibiza. Quite a significant naturist movement started out here and to some extent still persists, so it has escaped the onslaught of mass tourism. If you set foot in Odeceixe, it will be to experience peace and quiet, silence and at-oneness with nature. It's perfectly combinable with the beaches that we mentioned above, but if you're not planning to make any significant stops en route, you can always take a quick dip at Zambujeira do Mar, with its cliff-sheltered beaches, or at the wonderful Praia da Ilha or Praia de Sao Torpes before reaching Sines. All these beaches are famous for the quality of their waters, their popularity with surfers, their stunning views and their spectacular sunsets, as you're on the westernmost coastline of the Iberian peninsula. Porto Covo is another must-visit on this road trip. Like the vast majority of former fishing villages, it's one of those places that has reinvented itself and become a visual delight. Some of its buildings are immaculately whitewashed with deep blue outlines, while its main square is one of the most wonderful you'll find in the whole of Portugal. It is simplicity yet perfection at the same time. You'll love strolling around it, popping into its small temple and lapping up the laid-back lifestyle, as the locals do. Porto Covo is a town that embraces the sea and, therefore, very popular as a summer resort for the Portuguese, while for the rest of the year it experiences a fairly stiff Atlantic breeze. Local cuisine is another of the main attractions of this region. Fresh fish and seafood are the staples of the local diet, although a good 'pasteis de nata' (custard tart) is the perfect ending to any meal. Twenty minutes to the north is Sines, but you'll definitely want to spend some more time on the road. It's a never-ending spectacle and you'll undoubtedly stop off on innumerable occasions to take pictures of the cliffs and the landscapes. In itself, Sines is a delightful little town famous for being the birthplace of the world-famous sailor and explorer Vasco da Gama. He was the greatest exponent of Portuguese colonialism when he arrived in India, so Sines pays tribute to him with various attractions. In fact, one of its statues presides over the most famous castle in the city. It's a walled fortress and, although it doesn't preserve all its outhouses, you can visit what could well have been Vasco da Gama's abode. He was probably born here, which is why it's now a museum showcasing the most intimate details of his childhood. The architecture in Sines is very similar to that of Porto Covo, with dazzlingly whitewashed houses outlined by a very intense blue. If you still have time, make sure you visit the Matriz Church. If not, leave it for tomorrow because it's well worth seeing. Although Sines isn't on the typical tourist circuit, it does have a wide range of bars and restaurants that will keep you entertained for the evening. Overnight stay in Sines.

● DAY 4 · SINES - COMPORTA - SETÚBAL - PALMELA - SESIMBRA (OPTIONAL:FERRY CROSSING FROM TROIA TO SETÚBAL)

Ahead of you is a gentle day on road but with two major attractions: Setúbal and Sesimbra. But we suggest turning off the main road and driving all day along the A26-1, a secondary road that will first take you towards Comporta. This is a haven for anyone seeking an unspoilt and quiet beach. Imagine a huge expanse of sand where you could quite easily be all by yourself soaking up the sun without a care in the world. No music, no noise, nothing but you, the waves of the sea and the rays of the sun caressing your skin. If you have time, we propose an optional ferry crossing from Troia, a stunning development located on the Troia Peninsula. What's so magical about it? That the ferry will whisk you over to Setúbal in just fifteen minutes. And you can usually spot dolphins during the crossing. (Note: Ferry trip not included. Ask in advance whether your rental company lets you take a car on a ferry, check the times and book your tickets in advance). If you prefer, you can opt for an alternative route entirely by road that will take you just over an hour. Setúbal is a fairly large city with lots of things to see and do. To start, you can drive straight up to the Fort of São Filipe. From the castle you'll enjoy panoramic views that give you a good idea of the city's layout. You can then head to the Doca dos Pescadores port, home to dozens of azure boats and the arrival point for the country's best fish and seafood. That's why the local restaurants are said to be the most fantastic in the whole of Portugal. Under this premise, it might be a good idea to consider having an early lunch and setting off for Sesimbra later. Among the variety of dishes, we recommend you try the deep-fried choccos: simply outstanding! Another idea is to drive over to one of the major wineries in the local area. Portuguese wine is in fashion at the moment and there's nothing better than loading up the boot with a few bottles. If you choose to stay in Setúbal, explore the old town, walk down Avenida Luisa Todi or stroll through Albarquel Urban Park. And before leaving, you really shouldn't miss the Mercado do Livramento. Closed on Mondays, but every other morning this market is a real hotbed of activity. You definitely won't be disappointed! Before heading off for today's final destination, make sure you try and visit Palmela, in the Sierra de Arrábida. If we had to highlight two of the jewels in its crown, they'd be the Castle of the Military Order of Saint James of the Sword and, of course, the local wines. This region is famous throughout the country for the quality of its wines, so it's a great place to visit a winery or simply buy a bottle as a souvenir of your trip. On the other side of Arrábida Nature Park is Sesimbra. This is a popular holiday destination for people from Lisbon, so it's perfectly prepared for tourism, even though it's more focussed on locals. This translates into a host of amenities, beautiful beaches and a very pleasant atmosphere. As in Setúbal, you can head up to the Castelo to see the city in all its splendour. Admission is free. On your way down, you can cool off in the Laguna de Albufeira, a small lake ideal for children. The following proposal is also recommended. Cabo Espichel is the perfect place to marvel at a spectacular sunset. It has a lighthouse from which you'll get to see the sun like few other places in the world. What's more, you can observe some dinosaur footprints here. You can round off the day savouring a plate of octopus or swordfish, two of the local signature dishes. Overnight stay in Sesimbra.

DAY 5 · SESIMBRA - LISBON

Make sure you wear some comfortable shoes today, because when you arrive in the Portuguese capital, you'll need them due to the many cobbled streets and steep slopes. Set across seven hills is this city dotted with magical music, cute trams, delicious cuisine and very cosmopolitan people. Its main symbol is the Torre de Belém, a hexagonal tower that together with the Jerónimos Monastery were built to commemorate the discovery of maritime routes to India. Unsurprisingly, both are among the most photographed sights in the city as they are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. You'll soak up the most authentic atmosphere by strolling around the historical Alfama district, the oldest in Lisbon and home to medieval streets and a Romanesque cathedral. In Santa Catalina, you can amble through its labyrinthine streets and watch locals hanging out on their balconies. If you want to take home the best souvenirs of the capital, you should definitely head over to the Chiado district and visit its stores. And don't miss the amazing views of the city. There are several viewpoints, such as Santa Catalina (overlooking the river and the Ponte 25 de Abril) or Senhora do Monte (views of the castle, the city centre and the Mouraria district). Another must-visit in Lisbon is the Castle of São Jorge, built by the Visigoths in the fifth century, although it has been restored to recover its original splendour. Or you could visit the neighbourhood of La Baixa and walk along Avenida da Libertas, the most important in the city. Around here there are three squares that you're bound to love: Praça dos Restauradores, Praça do Rossio and Praça do Comércio. As you're driving, you can pop over to the Parque das Nações, which hosted the famous Expo 98. It is a pedestrian zone full of modern buildings on the northeast bank of the river. The main attraction here is the Oceanarium, one of the largest aquariums in Europe, with more than 25,000 animals that will capture the attention of kids and adults alike. There are many leisure and entertainment options in the city, so select the ones you most fancy and plan your day well. Overnight stay in Cascais.

DAY 6 · LISBON - SINTRA - ESTORIL - CASCAIS

Leaving Lisbon behind is less arduous when the destination is Sintra, one of the most beautiful places in the whole country. It's only half an hour away, along the A3 and the A37, although that time may increase during the morning or evening rush hours. From the village, you will find a path that leads to the dense and leafy Sierra de Sintra where on one of its hills, the colourful "Palacio da Pena" (Pena Palace) stands out, a fairytale palace painted with bright colours and considered one of the main exponents of the Portuguese romantic architecture. Check the opening hours and leave enough time for the visit it deserves. Two hours tends to be the average stay among visitors. When you finish, return to the car and head towards Estoril, just fifteen minutes away on the A16. It's home to many attractions, including the world-famous racetrack. If you're a lover of motorcycling, you'll know that one of the most important races in the Moto GP season is held here, and it also used to be home to a Formula 1 grand prix. If you're there at the right time, make sure you get a ticket and enjoy the experience. It's wonderful watching the riders fight for victory and hearing the roar of the engines as they whizz past you lap after lap. Besides the GP track, another of Estoril's landmarks is the Chalet Barros, a majestic castle-like villa that towers over Tamariza Beach. It's located opposite the internationally-famous Casino, which is an all-round marvel starting from the garden itself. You could actually walk along a path to tonight's destination, but it's definitely more convenient to cover the journey by car. The beauty of Cascais dates back several centuries, when the wealthiest Lisbonites discovered the place and ordered the construction of their second homes: magnificent mansions and villas that today are still a major attraction. Once there, you can take a stroll by the yachts moored in the bay or around the Palace of the Citadel of Cascais and the Santa Marta lighthouse. Another of its highlights is the old town. You can't miss its cobblestoned pedestrian streets and the allure typical of the old quarters of all Portuguese cities, but with the added attraction that Cascais was a fishing village before it was a city as such. Slightly further to the west, you can peer off the steepest cliffs in the area. They're called the Devil's Mouth, so you can get an idea... You can drive or even walk there, as they're not too far out from the city centre. You can spend the rest of the day on the beach (Praia do Guincho), one of the favourites of people from Lisbon. As you'll see, Cascais isn't very big, but don't be fooled by its size. Major events are held here, such as the Cascais Cool Jazz Festival (throughout July) or various golf tournaments, an increasingly popular sport in the area. At night, nothing better than going to a fado restaurant, where you can dine accompanied by traditional Portuguese music. Overnight stay in Cascais.

● DAY 7 · CASCAIS - ÉVORA - BEJA - TAVIRA (OPTIONAL FERRY CROSSING TO ILHA DE TAVIRA)

It's your penultimate day in Portugal, so time to head back towards the Algarve, specifically Tavira. It's a journey of just over three hours, but we recommend doing it non-stop to make most of your time either in Cascais or in Tavira. That's if you decide to drive on the E1, a two-lane motorway that will let you cover the 330 kilometres that separate both locations in a short time. The other option is to take the A6 to Évora and head down on the E1 to Beja and Tavira. If you choose this second route, you should bear in mind that Évora boast a stunning aqueduct (the Água de Prata) and some beautiful city walls. It has a very cute old town, including a Roman temple dedicated to the goddess Diana, although its most visited sight is undoubtedly the Capela dos Ossos. This is a chapel built and decorated entirely with human bones exhumed from the city cemetery. Beja also has a walled old town but it's much less crowded. Here everything happens more slowly, almost as if time has come to a standstill. In fact, if you go and see the Castle of Beja, you'll think that even the hands of the clock have gone backwards. It's also lovely to stroll through Praça Diogo Fernandes or to visit the Cathedral of Beja. Whichever option you choose, the plan is to finish the day in Tavira. Of course, you choose the road you want and how often you stop off en route. What's for sure is that when you arrive at today's last stop, you'll want to stretch your legs after several hours behind the wheel. You can explore the surroundings of the Church of Santa Maria do Castelo or head up to the Castle of Tavira. However, if you fancy some beach time on your last day in Portugal, then you're in luck. You can only get there by ferry, but we promise you it's well worth it. The Ilha de Tavira is a pocket-sized island off the coast famous for its white sands and turquoise waters. You'll have to leave the car at the car park and pay the ferry ticket (two euros return). It's well worth it. You can eat there because there are a dozen or so bars with some great food on the menu. If you choose to explore the town itself, make sure you see the Igreja da Misericórdia and the Praça de la República, and also cross the River Gilao over the Roman Bridge. You'll see that everything is very laid-back here. Service is very relaxed in the restaurants, the locals are very calm when walking or driving, and the shops are a haven of peace and quiet but all this has an explanation. Tavira, along with other Portuguese cities, is a member of the Slow Cities movement. It signed up in 2008 and the experience has been so positive that life is still ever so laid-back in the town. Overnight stay in Tavira.

● DAY 8 · TAVIRA - FARO - CITY OF ORIGIN

On your last day in Portuguese lands, bear in mind the time of your flight home. This will decide when you should leave Tavira and head to Faro. Think that almost 40 kilometres separate both locations and, although the A22 is two lanes in both directions, there might be some traffic jams if it's high season.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Albufeira.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Albufeira.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lagos.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lagos.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sines.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Sines.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Cascais.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Cascais.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tavira.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tavira.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Algarve direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Faro



Albufeira



Portimao



Lagos



Odeceixe



Zambujeira do Mar



Vila Nova de Milfontes



Porto Covo



Sines



Comporta



Setúbal



Palmela



Sesimbra



Lisbon



Sintra



Estoril





Cascais



Évora



Beja



Tavira



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- Suggested ferry trips are optional and not included in the final price. If you intend to take the car on a ferry, please let the rental company know at the time of pick-up to receive authorisation. Depending on the terms and conditions in the rental contract and the company you choose, you might be charged a fee payable at the destination.