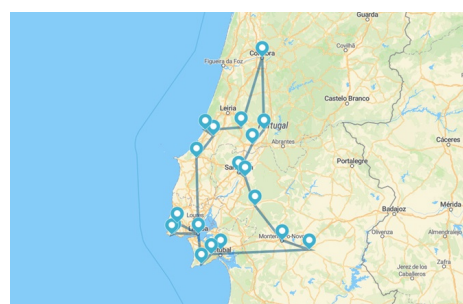




Portugal, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Maneline Art Route

History and art are two parameters to measure the grandeur of a country. And Portugal simply oozes history and art wherever you go. That's why we've hand-picked for you the best places that showcase Maneline art. This style, so typical of the Portuguese 16th century, has elevated dozens of buildings across the country to the category of 'treasures'. In Lisbon and its surroundings you'll find a great representation of all this. Two well-known examples are the Torre de Belém and the Jerónimos Monastery, although there are many more. Another must-see on the tour is Óbidos, a magnificent walled city. Inside the walls is the Paço dos Alcaldes palace, with two quintessentially Maneline windows and a fantastic door. After a seaside sojourn in Nazaré and a visit to spiritual Fátima, you can then head to Coimbra, a privileged Portuguese city that boasts an extensive repertoire of Maneline art. The New Cathedral, the Monastery of Santa Cruz and the Casa de Sub-Ripas are just some of the treasures that await you. Portuguese art also filters into its cuisine and its music, which will constantly accompany you on this cultural tour dotted with unique sights such as the Templar Castle and the Convent of Christ, both in the town of Tomar. It's truly spectacular and, of course, also hosts several samples of Maneline art. A must-visit! As are Santarem and Évora, delectable places for strolling around and admiring Portugal's late Gothic art. And the final destinations are Sesimbra and Setúbal, where blue azulejo tiles will mark the path of Maneline art. If you don't know much about the origin and characteristics of this ever-so-special style, take note: Maneline art is typical of sixteenth-century Portugal, when Late Gothic mutated into an architectural style of its own. Buildings started to sport previously unimaginable features, the majority related to marine life or mythical creatures, which soon gained prestige for their refined elegance.



CULTURAL

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - LISBON

Flight departure from the city of origin to Lisbon and rental car pick-up. Get ready to discover Lisbon, the beautiful capital of Portugal! Set across seven hills, just like Rome, is this city dotted with magical music, cute trams, delicious cuisine and very cosmopolitan people. You can't miss its main landmarks: the Belém Tower and the Jerónimos Monastery, declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO and the two most photographed icons in the city. To really get a taste of the city of Lisbon, we recommend the historic Alfama neighbourhood, where you'll come across the most authentic atmosphere of the Portuguese capital, and the neighbourhood of Santa Catalina, where you'll end up taking dozens of photos while you wander around its maze-like streets full of balconies and gossiping neighbours. If you want to take home a great memory in the form of a souvenir, the best option is to head over to the Chiado neighbourhood and mooch through its range of shops, where you'll find lots of 'Roosters of Barcelos', the must-buy for many tourists. For this first night, we suggest a funicular ride up to the Bairro Alto district for a relaxing dinner. Our recommendations for eating out? You can try typical dishes such as feijoadas (stew of beans with beef and pork) or migas à alentejana (fried breadcrumbs with pork). And for dessert, some pinhoadas (honey and pine nut candies) or pastéis de Belém (egg custard tarts). Overnight stay in Lisbon.

● DAY 2 · LISBON AND THE REGION (ESTORIL - CASCAIS - SINTRA)

It's advisable to start out early to squeeze as much as possible out of the experiences offered by this fascinating road trip. Today you'll be discovering Lisbon and its surroundings. The first thing is to have a good Portuguese breakfast: a cup of espresso coffee with cream accompanied by a custard tart, the national dish when it comes to sweet treats. There are three cities near Lisbon that are well worth a visit. You can choose between Estoril, Cascais and Sintra. Estoril is less than thirty minutes away from Lisbon and boasts many attractions. 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. 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. Meanwhile, Cascais is ten minutes further west from Estoril, so it shouldn't take much more than forty-five minutes to get there from Lisbon. 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. 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 spend the rest of the day exploring this quaint fishing village or simply unwinding on the beach (Praia do Guincho), one of the favourites of people from Lisbon. But don't let the size of the town fool you. 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. If you have time, you can extend today's trip to Sintra, just twenty-five kilometres from the Portuguese capital. It's a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was frequented by Portuguese monarchs and has since ancient times been inhabited by dreamers, writers, artists, musicians, and bohemians. Take a leisurely walk through its labyrinthine streets, full of shops and charming establishments. From the town you'll find a road that leads into the dense and leafy Sierra de Sintra, where one of its hills is crowned by the colourful Palacio da Pena, a fairytale Manueline palace considered one of the main exhibits of Romantic architecture in Portugal. A pleasant excursion through a natural environment of great beauty will take you to Quinta da Regaleira and the gates of "Castelo dos Mouros" (Moors Castle) and the colossal "Pozo Iniciático" (Initiation Well), an inverted tower that goes up to 30 meters underground. (Note: From this town, you can take a tram ride to "Praia das Maçãs" - Apple Beach). Once back in Lisbon, catch the funicular to have dinner in the Bairro Alto and try some of the typical dishes such as feijoadas (stew of beans with beef and pork) or migas à alentejana (fried breadcrumbs with pork). And for dessert, some pinhoadas (honey and pine nut candies) or pastéis de Belém (egg custard tarts). They'll please even the sweetest tooth. Overnight stay in Lisbon.

DAY 3 · LISBON - ÓBIDOS - ALCOBAÇA - NAZARÉ - FÁTIMA

Set off as early as you can, as there's a very intense day ahead. In total, just over two hundred kilometres and four unforgettable stops await you. Off we go! The first stop is Óbidos. Cross the walls and you'll discover one of the most beautiful old quarters in the country. It's like a fishing village without the sea. The façades and the streets are very well maintained. Must-sees include the azulejo-adorned Porta da Vila gate, which leads onto Rua Direita, the best way to get to Paço dos Alcaldes palace, the Manueline jewel in the crown of Óbidos. Pay attention to its two windows and one of its doors. They're located on the second floor, where the mayors of the region used to reside. If it's still relatively early when you've finished your lunch, you can always head over to Laguna del Mar, a small lake that has become a popular spot for bird-watching and water sports. If it's a bit later in the day, though, you could always round off your trip to Óbidos with a glass of Ginja Óbidos, a sour cherry liqueur. Watch out, though, it's sometimes served in very large glasses! Forty kilometres northbound on the A8 will take you to Alcobaca, home to the Mosteiro de Alcobaca, which was founded by the Cistercian Order and sports one of the fundamental elements of Manueline art: dry trees. As soon as you're in front of them, you'll recognise them immediately. Before leaving, ask about the grave of Inês de Castro and ask someone to tell you the tear-jerking story about her. When you've finished, you can treat yourself to a glass of local wine in the Praça 25 de Abril. There's nothing Manueline in the town centre, but there is a building that you'll love. It looks like a cartoon creation or a fairytale fantasy, but it's actually the City Hall. Pop over to Praça João de Deus Ramos and see what we're talking about. You'll be pleasantly surprised! Twenty minutes from here on the IC9 is Nazaré. It's synonymous with sun, sand and waves - the biggest in the world in fact. Leading surfers have taken them on and christened Nazaré the surfing capital of the world. But it's not all about 30-metre-plus waves, as there's also a beach in Nazaré for those who just want to cool off in the water. If you're visiting Nazaré out of beach season, then read on because there's a lot to choose from. You can visit its fishing port, with its whitewashed houses, and watch the sale of freshly-caught fish. And don't miss the views provided by the funicular to the upper part of the city, and in particular the Mirador de Suberco viewpoint. The vista from here is outstanding. After taking the obligatory photos, it'll be time to depart for today's final destination: Fátima. This is one of the best-known places in the Catholic world for being where the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children. Since then, it has become THE place of pilgrimage for any believer travelling around Portugal. The true must-visit is the Cova da Iria, the place where the Virgin appeared. Bear in mind that if you go on the 12th and 13th of May or October, her first appearances are commemorated, so it's usually heaving with people. In fact, up to 100,000 pilgrims flock here from all over the world with flowers and candles to honour the Virgin. The basilica was built in 1953 and, since then, it has been commonplace to see devotees crossing the square on their knees in penance. The Capela das Aparições also tends to get very crowded, as this is where the Virgin appeared to the three young people. Two of them, Francisco and Jacinta, were declared saints in the year 2000 and are buried right here. To accommodate all these crowds, Fátima is perfectly prepared with a huge range of bed and breakfasts, restaurants and shops. Overnight stay in Fátima.

DAY 4 · FÁTIMA - COIMBRA

Today will take you to Coimbra, hailed the Oxford of Portugal as it has a lovely atmosphere with lots of students everywhere. Not surprisingly, as this is home to the oldest university in Portugal and one of the first ever in Europe, founded in 1290. Come and experience student life for a day. You'll find it at Pátio das Escolas, with its well-known and much photographed clock tower. Inside, you really should visit one of its hidden jewels: the Biblioteca Joanina, a library with more than 300,000 old books and outstanding ceiling frescoes. Remember to look up! And when it comes to Manueline art, Coimbra is one of the major flag-bearers. Around the campus are several very prominent examples. You can start at the New Cathedral and stop at its Manueline baptismal font. Other must-sees include the cloister of the Mosteiro da Santa Cruz or the archivolt of the main façade of the Casa de Sub-Ripas, probably the most beautiful of all the Manueline monuments in the city. Somewhat further away, on the Rua do Correrio, is a house known as the Casa dos Alpins. You'll have to drive there as it's quite far out from the centre. It dates from the sixteenth century and the façade looking onto the Rua do Correio is Manueline style. When you've marvelled at all its splendour, cross over the Mondego River again and park up relatively close to the Rua da Sota area, as this is a wonderful spot for dinner. Food here is excellent and the atmosphere after dark is great fun. If you have time, stop off at a bar where they sing fados, Portugal's musical genre par excellence. Those of Coimbra are different from those of Lisbon, as tradition here dictates that men should sing them. Fados were initially how men would flirt with women, singing serenades under their windows. A unique type of music that you can only hear in this city. Overnight stay in Coimbra.

● DAY 5 · COIMBRA - TOMAR

The A13 is one of the best toll roads in all of Portugal. It's definitely worth the money if you want to get to Tomar without many distractions. If you prefer to take a secondary road and stop off en route, the non-toll N110 is a great choice and passes by some wonderful villages. Standing on the River Nabão, Tomar boasts a Templar past, which you can notice as soon as you see the Castelo dos Templários and the Convento de Cristo. This architectural complex is the most spectacular you'll see on the whole trip, so you should set aside at least two hours for this visit. Admission costs just six euros, a more than reasonable price judging by the amount of things you can see. Among them a Manueline jewel: the chapterhouse window of the Convent. If you're there in summer, the heat can get quite overbearing. But don't worry, there is a solution. Just fifteen minutes across town from the castle is a municipal swimming pool, where for a small fee you can enjoy a refreshing dip. Afterwards, you could have a bite to eat before setting off for the Aqueduto dos Pegoes, a feat of engineering that was built in 1593. This aqueduct is six kilometres long and reaches thirty metres at its highest point. You can spend what's left of the afternoon strolling around the chapels and churches in the heart of the city. The churches of Santa Maria do Olival, São João Baptista and Capela de Santa Iria are the best-known. Our special recommendations? Take advantage of your visit to have a drink at the Café Paraíso. Its affordable prices and generous portions will make you smile. Another suggestion is to see what's on that day, as there might well be an important cultural or musical event. Overnight stay in Tomar.

● DAY 6 · TOMAR - TORRES NOVAS - SANTARÉM - ALMEIRIM - CORUCHE - MONTEMOR-O-NOVO - ÉVORA

There's a big day ahead today, as by the evening you'll have visited no less than six locations, all of them closely linked to Manueline art. The first one is Torres Novas, twenty-eight kilometres away. Famous for its towels, this beautiful town on the River Almonda is nestled in the heart of the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Nature Park. You can visit its hilltop castle, stroll around the abundant Roman ruins evoking the city's historical past or take a walk through Praça 5 de Outubro. This grandiose square is full of pavement terraces where you can enjoy the first coffee of the day. And then you can engage in some time travel back to the Jurassic period. There are dinosaur prints here that date back to 175 million years ago. When you've completed your journey to the past, you can head on towards Santarem. We know that you'll be dying to see all the marvels hidden in this delightful town. That's why we've prepared a three-kilometre tour for you that includes most of the sacred art and religious architecture in Santarem, nicknamed the Gothic capital of Portugal. You can do it either by car or on foot - you decide. It starts off at the 14th-century Fonte das Figueiras, which represents one of the few examples of Gothic civil architecture in the country. Then, along Calçada das Figueiras, you'll reach the Convento de São Francisco. Conservation works permitting, you can take a walk around its cloister, one of the best examples of Manueline art in Santarem. Treat yourself to some of the sweet treats on sale at the Convent and then head to the next attraction: the Jardim da República garden. Stroll along its paths and admire the central sculpture (the Boy and the Goose) before arriving at the Praça do Município and the Palácio Eugénio Silva ou dos Meneses, named after the family that built and owned it until 1954, when it entered into the public domain. It's a sober and elegant building that was designed and built at the end of the 17th century. One block away is the Municipal Market, a place where you can enjoy the smells and colours of the excellent local produce. You could always buy some fruit for a snack to offset the cakes that you had this morning! At the end of the visit to the market, head over to the Catedral de Nossa Senhora da Conceição and the Diocesan Museum, which adjoin one another. Both buildings and the Marquês Sá da Bandeira statue are the beginning of Rua Serpa Pinto, one of the main thoroughfares of the town centre. Then you'll come across the Praça do Visconde Serra do Pilar and the Igreja de Santa Maria de Marvila church, which features an exceptional Manueline portico. And not only that, because this temple, founded by the Templars, also houses some of the Manueline symbols par excellence: the fleur-de-lis, the armillary sphere and coats of arms. Rua Serpa Pinto then turns into Rua de São Martinho, where you'll find the São João de Alporão church and the Torre das Cabaças (also known as the Clock Tower), which will reward you with panoramic views of the city. When you finish the tour, head to a restaurant for lunch. There are two types to choose from: those specialising in freshwater fish from the nearby River Tagus, and those who base their menu on beef from the local livestock pastures. Either option is good. Of course, don't forget to wash your food down with some of the exceptional local wines. With a satisfied stomach, you can get back to the road and head towards Évora. The road is very comfortable and the 121 kilometres separating the two cities will literally fly by. Mainly because we recommend three stop-offs before arriving in Évora. They are Almeirim, Coruche and Montemor-o-Novo. Almeirim boasts an impressive heritage, starting with the São João Baptista parochial church, the Quinta da Alorna palace or the Pazo dos Negros portico. It's also home to some exquisite gardens and parks, such as the Jardim da República or the Jardim das Portas do Sol. The next stop is Coruche, the paradise of rice. Here you'll see mile after mile of rice fields, irrigated with water from the River Sorraia. The most visited sights in the town are its churches. The most outstanding are the Nossa Senhora do Castelo, the Igreja de São Pedro and the Igreja de Santo António. Finally, without leaving the IC10, you'll reach Montemor-o-Novo. You'll probably get here mid-afternoon, so you should try to set off for Évora with enough time for some thorough exploring. But for now you're in Montemor-o-Novo, where highlights include its medieval castle, the Convento da Sudação and the Convento de São Domingos. At the end of your visit, take the A6 and in just half an hour you'll arrive in Évora. Start your time here at the Água de Prata aqueduct and visit the city walls, followed by a gentle stroll around the old quarter. A good starting point is the Roman Temple of Évora dedicated to the goddess Diana. It's in an exceptional state of repair and you'll get to admire its Corinthian columns in great detail. After this, head to the Cathedral of Évora along the Largo do Marquês de Marialva. As well as admiring its façade and its interior, we seriously recommend a trip up to the roof to enjoy some panoramic views of the city. They're pretty hard to beat. Once back on the cobbled streets, make your way over to the Capela dos Ossos. But only if you're not of a squeamish character, as this is a chapel built and decorated entirely with human bones exhumed from the city cemetery. Choose whatever you fancy for dinner, but don't forget to try a good Alentejo wine. You're in the heart of the Alentejo, which is synonymous with good food and fine wine, so enjoy it! Overnight stay in Évora.

DAY 7 · ÉVORA - PALMELA - AZEITÃO - SESIMBRA

133 kilometres away and 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. This translates into a host of amenities, beautiful beaches and a very pleasant atmosphere. But before arriving, we recommend stopping off at two places: Palmela and Azeitão. Palmela is famous for its majestic Castelo, which is in turn the heart and soul of the Order of Santiago. In a way, strolling through the old town will remind you slightly of Évora, but without any tourists around. You can visit the Gothic-style Igreja de Santiago, the ruins of the Igreja de Santa Maria or some of the local wineries. The most famous are these of José Maria da Fonseca, Balcalhoa Vinhos de Portugal and Quinta de Alcube. All of them are great options for picking up a bottle of local wine to take home as a souvenir. When you finish your stay in Palmela, you can return to the N379 road in the direction of Azeitão. We love the gardens of José Maria de Fonseca and the house of the Quinta da Bacalhoa family here, without forgetting the local sheep cheese, of course. Make sure you buy some of this cheese to try later on, or you could pick up an azulejo tile as a souvenir. There's an artisan factory at which each tile is hand-made with outstanding dexterity. When you're finished, you can head towards Setúbal and straight up to the Castelo to see the city in all its splendour. Admission is free. It's only a five-minute drive to the top, but if you fancy walking up to the castle, it'll only take you thirty minutes. It is a straightforward and very popular excursion, which will let you breathe in the fresh air of Sesimbra and enjoy the castle and its surroundings in a different way. Inside the castle you'll find a temple, the city's Manueline jewel in the crown. It's adorned with blue azulejos, which gives it a unique personality and superlative beauty. On your way down, you can cool off in the Laguna de Albufeira, a small lake ideal for children. At lunchtime, savour some seafood or fresh fish at any restaurant washed down with a glass of Azeitão wine. The best seafood restaurants are in the fishing neighbourhood. 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 8 · LISBON - CITY OF ORIGIN

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 Lisbon.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lisbon.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Fatima.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Fatima.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Coimbra.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Coimbra.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Tomar.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Tomar.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Évora.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Évora.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Sesimbra.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Sesimbra.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

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

Destinations Visited

Lisbon

Estoril

Cascais

Lisbon



Lisbon



Sucubeis



Sintra



Óbidos



Alcobaça



Nazaré



Fatima



Coimbra



Tomar



Torres Novas



Santarem



Almeirim



Coruche



MontemorNovo



Évora



Palmela

Azeitão



Sesimbra



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 the 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.