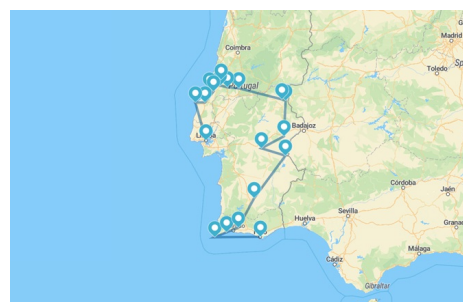




Portugal, 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Charms of Portugal

Come and join us on this amazing road trip through southern and central Portugal. You'll start off around Faro and Cabo de São Vicente, the westernmost point of continental Europe, and you'll end up strolling around Lisbon to the rhythm of fados. In between, a universe of sensory pleasures. From charming villages with whitewashed houses to medieval castles that still recall the arduous battles fought there. You'll also come across laid-back villages off the beaten track but still brimming with history. Or even prehistory, as you'll have the chance to visit stone circles, ancient tombs and even a chapel built with bones extracted from the cemetery of Évora. You'll also get to savour Alentejo wine or even map out your own wine route through the wineries of the area. And let's not forget the local cuisine, booming in recent years thanks to its quality raw produce and increasingly innovative creations. And then there are all the sweet treats, ranging from the Belém cakes to piñonatas. As for architectural treasures, you'll get to marvel at the Castelo dos Templários and the Convento de Cristo in Tomar and the Monastery of Batalha. These just are two must-dos, with others including a spot of shopping in Leiria or a visit to the quarries of Vila Viçosa to see how one of the world's most in-demand marbles is extracted. More amazing plans? Visit the spiritual city of Fátima and unwind at one of the healing spas of Castelo de Vide. And this is just an appetiser of the trip. Discover Portugal from behind the wheel!



CULTURAL

FAMILIES

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Dublin, Shannon, Cork

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - FARO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Portugal.

Arrival and rental car pick-up.

You'll have the rest of the day at your leisure to explore Faro, 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. Must-sees in Faro include the marina, with its gleaming yachts and luxury stores, as well as the huge letters of the city logo name that in recent years have become the obligatory photo for visitors. The old town is another place where you can enjoy a pleasant stroll, either along the Rua da Boavista and its colourful buildings or along the elegant Largo da Sé, which leads to the cathedral. This is a must-visit, especially its chapel made of human bones, which is similar to the one you'll find in Évora in two days' time, and the views offered by its tower. From up above, you can marvel at all the grandeur and beauty of Faro. A great option for some food and an after-dinner stroll is the Jardim Manuel Bivar, the golden mile of Faro, which is teeming with shops, bars and restaurants.

Overnight stay in Faro.

● DAY 2 · FARO - SAGRES - LAGOS

You can spend the first few hours of the day soaking up the charms of Faro. When you're ready, set off for Sagres, which we recommend doing non-stop, as you'll get to see places like Lagos and Silves later in the trip. A total of 116 kilometres separate Faro from Sagres, so reckon on an hour's drive along the ever-comfortable A22. Sagres is simply outstanding. Experiences such as walking on Cabo de São Vicente make the trip more than worthwhile, with its jaw-dropping cliffs lashed by huge waves, ideal for surfing. In fact, a good way to spend the morning could well be signing up to a private class to learn how to ride the waves. The three most popular beaches in Sagres are Mareta, Baleeira and Praia do Tonel, ranked in order of where you'll find the smallest waves to the largest waves. Another attraction of Sagres is its fort, but you'll find it immediately if you head to Cabo de São Vicente and visit its lighthouse. At the end of your visit, head back along the N125 to Lagos. If you have time, take a detour out to the Ponta da Piedade, a natural rock formation of extreme beauty. What's more, you can walk right out to the tip of the headland. And from here you'll get some excellent photos of Mother Nature at her best. Once in Lagos, park somewhere in the centre and have a wander through the old town. Enjoy a leisurely stroll between the walls of the Castelo dos Governadores and around the market stalls at the marina. Don't forget to photograph the quirky sculpture of King Sebastian (when you see it, you'll know why) and have a refreshing drink in the Praça Luís de Camões. Casa do Prego and Restaurante dos Artistas are the two must-visit restaurants, so it's advisable to book a table in advance if you decide to eat here.

Overnight stay in Lagos.

● DAY 3 · LAGOS - SILVES - CASTRO VERDE - REGUENGOS DE MONSARAZ - ÉVORA

Once you finish your breakfast in Lagos, it'll be time to head off towards Silves. You won't even need forty-five minutes to get there if you take the A22 to Junction 6, where you should turn off onto the 124-1. Silves stands on the River Arade and is the first inland stop on this road trip, so you'll soon notice a difference from everything you've seen so far. For example, whitewashed houses protected by a fortress on top of the hill in a scene from a picture postcard. Parking here is simple, so leave your car behind and discover everything that Silves has to offer. The perfectly preserved castle and the cathedral are its two most striking landmarks. Keep in mind that there are eighty kilometres from Silves to Castro Verde (the next stop of the day), so plan your time well. You'll be heading even further away from the coast, which you'll instantly notice in the landscape. It will still be a lush green, but it will keep on changing as you head deeper into the immense plain surrounding Castro Verde. This is a laid-back town, with almost 5,000 inhabitants, where peace and nature are the name of the game. Don't be surprised to see a good deal of the locals chatting on benches in a plaza or simply whiling the hours away. It's pure tranquillity. And then back on the road! You'll arrive in Reguengos de Monsaraz after driving for an hour and a half. This is home to some of Portugal's most prestigious wineries. If you're a wine or cava buff, then this is the place for you. Map out your own wine route and take advantage of having a car to load up the boot with a few bottles. If you prefer, many wineries will send the bottles back to your home address. Reguengos de Monsaraz is also famous for its prehistoric remains. The Outeiro, Telheiro and Orada stone circles will make you think about many things, such as how these monoliths got here and for how many millennia the Iberian Peninsula has been populated. Here is also a great place for savouring the great wines and a hearty Alentejo pork dish. When you've had a good lunch, you can set off on the last stretch of the day. The N256 will take you to your destination in about half an hour. 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. 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 4 · ÉVORA - VILA VIÇOSA - MARVÃO - CASTELO DE VIDE

Onward journey to the heart of the country, stopping off in the village of Vila Viçosa, just seventy kilometres from Badajoz, Spain. You'll feel like you're wandering through an open-air museum. And that's all down to the prolific marble industry in these parts. Only just around Vila Viçosa, there are 160 quarries extracting premium-quality marble that is highly renowned across the world. So much so that your first contact with the village could well be a quarry, where you'll get a first-hand view into how this rock is extracted. The other local industry is olive cultivation and processing. The oil produced in the area is highly coveted both in Portuguese homes and in the kitchens of the country's most renowned chefs. As you're walking around town, you'll see how it's full of olive trees growing in fertile land. As for sights, don't miss the Palácio Ducal, the Praça da República square and the Museu do Mármore, a museum where you learn all about the secrets of marble. When you finish your visit to Vila Viçosa, you'll have a drive of 100 kilometres up to Marvão, hailed one of the most beautiful villages in the whole of Portugal. You'll see why as you pass through the Serra de São Mamede Nature Park and make out the profile of the town on the horizon. It's a tiny village, with barely six hundred inhabitants, but it cherishes quite a few surprises. The first one can be seen from afar. It's the walled Castelo de Marvão, peering out to infinity at all times. So much so that on a sunny day you can even clearly make out Cáceres in the distance. The fortress is surrounded by the gardens of the Santa María church, which also dominates the village. You can leave the car on one side of the wall, very close to the Convento de Nossa Senhora da Estrela, so you can stroll around the entire site. The convent is in a good state of repair and all of it is open to the public, including the vault-shaped cistern that used to supply water to the village. Afterwards, take a leisurely stroll around the centre of Marvão, which is home to more than a dozen 16th- and 17th-century buildings well worth a look at. The first attraction you'll come across is the Fonte de Vila fountain, followed by the Pelourinho (pillory) and the Casa do Governador (Governor's house). It's a good idea to eat here before setting off for Castelo de Vide and its surroundings. The distance between both locations doesn't even reach ten kilometres, so it'll be a quick journey. Your first stop in Castelo should be the castle, after which the town is named. Its walls are almost trapezium shaped, revealing the Torre de Menagem (keep), which is smaller than the ones found in neighbouring towns. In fact, Castelo de Vide is small but simply oozes charisma. It's very photogenic and you'll soon be snapping away at its arches, column heads and vaults. Very close to the castle is the Jewish Quarter, which was built in the thirteenth century and inhabited until the fifteenth century, when the Jews were expelled. You can still see the Synagogue today, which has been turned into a museum. Then you can cross the village by walking past the Town Hall and onto Praça Dom Pedro V, where you'll have access to three churches in just one block. Another way of getting to know Castelo de Vide is through its many archaeological remains. The best known are the Anta dos Coureiros necropolis and the Meada standing stone, both located to the north of the village. The presence of dolmens and standing stones in the area is so important that a Megalithic Interpretation Centre has been opened up to let visitors know all about the secrets and mysteries of these constructions. But Castelo de Vide is also famous for yet another reason: its spas. Can you just picture a calming afternoon at a spa featuring waters with healing powers? Well, it's possible here. And to end, we recommend heading up to the Nossa Senhora da Penha chapel with your camera in hand. Take advantage of the fading light to photograph the town from a different perspective. For dinner, take note of these two very typical local dishes: sarapatel (a spicy meat stew) and boleimas (apple and cinnamon turnover). Overnight stay in Castelo de Vide.

● DAY 5 · CASTELO DE VIDE - TOMAR - FÁTIMA - BATALHA - LEIRIA

It's time now to leave the Alentejo behind to explore other areas of Portugal. Today you'll travel to the west, specifically to Tomar. 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 today (rivalling the Monastery of Batalha), so you should set aside at least two hours for this visit. Entrance costs around six euros. You can see Manueline jewels such as 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 to cool you off for the rest of the journey. Afterwards, you could set off for the Aqueduto dos Pegoes, a feat of engineering with the same vitality today as when it was built in 1593. This aqueduct is six kilometres long and reaches thirty metres at its highest point. You can then stroll around the chapels and churches in the heart of the city. The church of Santa Maria do Olival, São João Baptista and Capela de Santa Iria are the best-known. When finished, jump back into your car and head towards Fátima, just thirty minutes away from here. 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. The most popular souvenirs are obviously those dedicated to the Virgin. You can take advantage of the many restaurants to have lunch here before leaving for Batalha, the penultimate stop of the day. There are only twenty kilometres between the two towns. Set aside at least two hours to visit the Monastery of Batalha. It's truly amazing. Both Gothic and Manueline in style, it was built as a promise after an epic battle, but which over the centuries has become a major landmark. The fusion of architectural styles is because its construction extended over two centuries and the influences would change depending on the constructions trends at the time. Highlights include its chapels, its stained glass windows, its magnificent dome and, above all, the Capelas Imperfeitas, seven roofless chapels only accessible from the outside. If you liked the Manueline details, make sure you pop into the Igreja Matriz church, located on Largo da Misericórdia, to admire its atrium. The last stop of the day is the enchanting Leiria, a shoppers' paradise. Praça Rodrigues Lobo, Praça de Sant'Ana, the Castle district and the banks of the River Lis are the main shopping areas. Our favourite is Praça Rodrigues Lobo, because it's also full of bars and restaurants for a well-deserved break afterwards. Overnight stay in Leiria.

● DAY 6 · LEIRIA - NAZARÉ - ALCOBAÇA - ÓBIDOS - PENICHE

Take advantage of the morning to visit the Castle of Leiria, which awaits you behind its rocky walls and its abundant trees. Inside, you can saunter through its garden and take a look at the Nossa Senhora da Pena church before leaving for Nazaré. Just thirty-seven kilometres away is this resort 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. 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. Leave the ocean behind and head inland towards Alcobça, home to the Mosteiro de Alcobça, 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! When you've finished with everything, get back on the A8 for thirty minutes until you reach Óbidos. The first image you'll see is that of a walled town. 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. It'll probably be lunchtime by now, so look for a place you like and set off on a journey through the local culinary delights. 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! There's no better place to round off the day than in Peniche. Its attractions are Cabo Carvoeiro and the Forte de Peniche. If you arrive before sunset and with enough energy, these are two great destinations to start. Dinner should really be fish, the signature dish in this area. After dinner you can take a stroll through the historic quarter. Overnight stay in Peniche.

● DAY 7 · PENICHE - LISBON

You can choose between heading to Lisbon or taking a trip to the island of Berlengas, a spectacular nature reserve. Or you could even spend the morning sunbathing on Medao Grande beach while watching the surfers ride the huge crashing waves. Whatever your choice, at some point you'll have to make the return trip to Lisbon. Set aside an hour and a half to get to the Portuguese capital. Make sure you wear some comfortable shoes, because you'll need them due to the many cobbled streets and steep slopes here. 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 from the hilltops. 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 Lisbon.

● 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 Faro.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Faro.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lagos.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lagos.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Castelo de Évora.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Castelo de Vide.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Castelo de Vide.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Leiria.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Leiria.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Peniche.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Peniche.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Lisbon.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Lisbon.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

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

Destinations Visited

Faro



Sagres



Lagos



Silves



Castro Verde



Monsaraz



Évora



Vila Viçosa



Marvão



Castelo de Vide



Tomar



Fatima



Batalha



Leiria



Nazaré



Alcobaça





Óbidos



Peniche



Lisbon



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.