



# Barrington Community School

presents

## A Portuguese Panorama

March 27 - April 4, 2009

with an optional extension to Madeira

**P**ortugal : land of startling contrasts. This tiny country, squeezed between Spain and the sea, has a long and proud history of fierce independence. Its traditional agricultural and fishing communities continue unchanged beside its bustling and cosmopolitan cities. Its mountainous landscapes, untouched by time and modernization, stand in curious juxtaposition above the jet-setting coastal resorts.

We begin and end in Lisbon, a city with a vitality and pulse like none other, from the chic shops of Chiada to its ancient Moorish quarter, the Alfama, to the planned elegance of the Baixa district. Turning north, we visit the picturesque town of Obidos, originally an important port before the river silted up. We continue to Tomar and visit the magnificent Convent of Christ before arriving in the fascinating city of Oporto. Also, an excursion to nearby Bom Jesus do Monte, the extraordinary 18th-century religious sanctuary which takes the form of a giant stairway, literally an ascending spiritual journey.

Taking leave of the coast, we journey east into the heart of port country, the Douro valley. We'll visit a traditional "quinta" where we can taste the sweet fortified wine that enjoys a worldwide reputation. The thousands of narrow terraces, on which the vines grow, have been chiseled out of the steep river banks and remind us of the centuries of backbreaking labor which this region has endured and which continues, largely unchanged, today.

As we leave northern Portugal and the magnificent mountain range "Serra da Estrela," we exchange snow-capped beauty for the rolling sun-baked plain of the Alentejo. On our return to Lisbon we'll take an excursion to the enchanting city of Evora which flourished in the Middle Ages as a center of learning and the arts and which gained international recognition in 1986 when it was declared a World Heritage Site.

This spring, steal away and join Barrington Community School Director, Sandi Tinyk and Discover Europe's Gavin Miller, for a sun-drenched adventure in Iberia's forgotten corner.



Lisbon's Belem Tower



Madeira

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Boston departure:	<b>\$3880</b>
Land only (no airfare included):	<b>\$2950</b>
Single supplement:	<b>\$590</b>

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Round trip air from Boston to Lisbon. All airport taxes and customs charges included.
- Hotels:** 7 nights accommodation in first-class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary, including transfers from Barrington to Logan Airport.
- Meals:** Continental breakfast daily, 3 dinners, 1 Fado dinner.
- Guides:** Sandi Tinyk and Discover Europe's Gavin Miller. Local guide for Lisbon sightseeing.
- Expenses:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Complete travel insurance including cancellation coverage.

The cost of the **Madeira Extension** is **\$1690** per person, double occupancy (single supplement: \$390). This includes: Round trip airfare Lisbon-Funchal, 3 nights hotel accommodation, 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners, local guides, entrance fees, ground transportation and insurance

**For further information & registration please contact:  
Sandi Tinyk at the Barrington Community School  
(401) 245-0432**



**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.** Private coach transfer from Barrington to Logan Airport for your evening transatlantic departure. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Plane**

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.** Your morning arrival in Lisbon is met by Discover Europe's representative and you are transferred to your city center hotel. After time to unpack and relax from the flight there will be an opportunity to begin exploring the neighborhood. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(D)** **Overnight: Lisbon**

**Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.** This morning there will be a panoramic tour with a local guide. We'll see the city from the grand neo-classical buildings of the Baixa district to the narrow cobbled alleys of the Moorish Alfama quarter. We'll stop for visits at the Castelo de Sao Jorge, a hilltop fortification with magnificent views over the city, Belem Tower, and the exquisite Monastery of Jeronimos. The tour will end at the Gulbenkian Museum. The afternoon and evening are free. **(B)** **Overnight: Lisbon**

**Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.** Leaving Lisbon, we make our way to the enchanting medieval walled town of Obidos, which was a wedding gift from King Dinis to his new wife Isabel. After time for lunch, we'll continue north. Pausing to stop at the shrine of Fatima, we go to the city of Coimbra, home of the oldest university in the country. Originally founded in Lisbon in 1290, it moved permanently to Coimbra in 1537. We travel further north through the Beiras region of Portugal. Skirting around the city of Oporto, we head for our Pousada in Guimaraes. This historic town was the birthplace of Afonso Henriques, the man responsible for driving the Moors out of Lisbon in 1147; he effectively became the first king of Portugal and made Guimaraes his capital. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Guimaraes**

**Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.** Today we explore the Douro Valley. This is the wonderfully fertile region that stretches inland from Portugal's second largest city of Porto on the coast. Our first stop will be at the pilgrimage site of Bom Jesus do Monte, a spectacular stone staircase built in 1723 leading up to a chapel on the top of the hill. We'll take a short river cruise and stop at a vineyard to taste the local delicacies – Port, of course, and the lovely local white wine, which is often very slightly sparkling, known as Vinho Verde. The evening is free. **(B)** **Overnight: Guimaraes**

**Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.** Today we begin to head back south, winding our way past the steeply terraced vineyards of the spectacular Serra da Estrela ("star mountains"). We end up in Castelo Branco where we visit the extraordinary Jardim Episcopal with its 18th-century garden of statues and adjacent bishop's palace housing a museum which displays primitive art, tapestries and a wide range of archaeological finds. Dinner at our hotel this evening. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Castelo Branco**

**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.** We will travel through Estremoz, which looks out from its hilltop over groves of gnarled olive trees with a stop at the Museu Municipal to see their display of archaeological items including a parade of bonecos, the charming pottery figurines for which Estremoz is famous. Continuing our route south, we arrive at Evora. A brief walking tour introduces the town and the architectural and cultural treasures which fill its tangled web of streets and alleyways. The town was a center of learning and arts as well as a popular residence of Portuguese kings and was officially recognized in 1986 as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. We continue to Lisbon for a free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Lisbon**

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.** This morning we explore the coast north of the city: the beautiful hill town of Sintra and the palaces, which dot the wooded hills. We'll visit both the National Palace and the Palace of Pena before spending time in the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Cascais. We return to our hotel in Lisbon for a farewell dinner complete with *Fado*. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Lisbon**

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.** Morning transport to the airport for returning flights to the U.S. Alternatively, you could choose to extend your stay with 3 days on the island paradise of Madeira. **(B)** **Overnight: Home**

#### **Optional Madeira Extension:**

**Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.** This morning you bid farewell to your recent travelling companions and transfer to Lisbon Airport for the flight to Funchal on Madeira. You will be escorted to the Savoy Hotel, a stunning, five-star oceanfront resort and spa, where there will be time to unpack and relax. In the evening we'll gather for a welcome dinner at the hotel. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Madeira**

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.** Madeira's beauty unfolds on a morning visit to Quinta do Palheiro. Garden enthusiasts will adore this superb estate, owned by the Blandy family, and the surrounding Blandy's Garden, one of the most beautiful parks on Madeira. On the hillside north of Funchal, we'll admire the Botanical Gardens, with their elaborate terracing and splendid variety of exotic flowers, vegetables, and herbs, providing a comprehensive introduction to the island's flora. In the afternoon we'll explore the city itself, beginning with a visit to the Museum of Sacred Art, a former bishop's palace with an extensive collection of Flemish masterpieces from the 15th and 16th centuries. We'll also tour the magnificent Cathedral Se, dating from the 1400s. Our day concludes with a Madeira tasting at San Francisco Adega du Vinho on Avenida Arriaga. Free evening. **(B)** **Overnight: Madeira**

**Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.** This morning we take a drive through the spectacular Cloud Forest, five miles above Funchal. From here we continue on to the glorious Monte Palace Gardens in a fashionable hill town. Those who wish to, may return to town via the famous toboggans, operated by skillful professionals! There will be time to relax and freshen up at the hotel before we gather for our farewell dinner. **(B, D)** **Overnight: Madeira**

**Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.** Morning transport to Funchal Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)** **Overnight: Home**

Key to included meals:  
**B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner