

LISBON TO MADEIRA

Coastal Charms and Island Allure



JANUARY 25TH - FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025

This tour offers a wonderful opportunity to visit two extraordinary regions of Portugal renowned both for their natural beauty and their historical significance. Our time together begins in Lisbon, one of Europe's most ancient cities. Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, and North African Muslims ("Moors") all laid claim to Lisbon over the centuries, before Portuguese authority was finally asserted in the late 12th century. Our adventure in Lisbon will highlight, among other places, the Moorish quarter of Alfama and the Castelo de São Jorge, an eleventh-century fortress built to defend the Moorish possession; the Torre de Belém, a sixteenth-century edifice that stands as a monument to Portuguese overseas expansion (of which Madeira itself is a prime example); the wonderful Baixa section, and the palaces of Sintra.

Our adventure then continues in Madeira, the "island paradise" first settled by the Portuguese in the 1420s. Our time there will be filled with a number of scenic tours of the island, visits to several well-known gardens, including the Botanical Gardens, opportunities to wander small fishing villages in the northern parts of the island, and occasions to sample the fortified wine for which the island is famous.

At a relaxed pace, with wonderful meals, first-class hotels, and a panorama of magnificent seaside views, it's a winter getaway not to be missed!



PENA PALACE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (<i>no airfare inc</i>):	\$ 5690
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 1390

Airfares are available from many US gateways. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- FLIGHTS:** Round trip economy class flights between Lisbon and Madeira including all taxes, luggage fees and charges
- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 1 high tea, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Fully qualified Discover Europe guide throughout the tour
Local guides for sightseeing and excursions as required
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH - Departure from your chosen US gateway. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26TH - Your arrival in Lisbon will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After free time to unpack and relax, your tour guide will lead a walking tour of the neighborhood. Tonight we will gather for a welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LISBON**

MONDAY, JANUARY 27TH - Panoramic sightseeing this morning, with a local guide, introduces this fascinating city; from the grand neo-classical buildings of the Baixa district to the narrow cobbled alleys of the Moorish Alfama quarter, you'll experience the rich variety which is Lisbon today. We'll stop for visits to the Castelo de Sao Jorge, a hilltop fortification with magnificent views over the city and the Tagus River, Belem Tower and the exquisite Monastery of Jeronimos. The afternoon is free for independent exploration. You may wish to visit the National Tile Museum in the cloisters of the splendid Madre de Deus Church to view Portugal's

traditional "azulejos," take the Santa Justa Elevator, created in 1901 by Gustave Eiffel (of Eiffel Tower fame) to the elegant Chiado district or explore the Botanical Gardens. The evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LISBON**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28TH - Today, we explore the coast north of the city: the beautiful hill town of Sintra and the palaces which dot the wooded hills. First we'll visit the National Palace before spending time in the cosmopolitan seaside resort of Cascais, where lunch is included. We return to Lisbon, stopping at the Palace of Pena for a visit en route. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: LISBON**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH-This morning we transfer to Lisbon Airport for the short flight to Madeira. On arrival, we'll check in at our hotel and have time to settle in and have some lunch before an afternoon tour. 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 before we gather again for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MADEIRA**



PALACE OF SINTRA

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH - An all-day excursion around the island explores the astonishing range of landscapes, from subtropical to volcanic. We begin by heading west to Camara de Lobos, where Winston Churchill came to paint, stopping at the Henriques & Henriques Vinhos winery for a wine tour and tasting, then on to Cabo Girao, the highest sea cliff in Europe and second highest in the world, surrounded by beautifully terraced farmland. Continuing on, we'll visit Ribeira Brava's 16th-century church and its lively seafront market before proceeding through Serra de Agua to Boca de Encumeada for a view of both the north and south coasts of Madeira. We'll stop here for lunch and to admire the views before descending to Porto Moniz, a colorful fishing village on the very northwest tip of the island. We'll wind our way back along the coast road to the hotel, where the evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: MADEIRA**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31ST - This morning we head to the northern coast, stopping for a leisurely walk along one of the most attractive levadas (man-made canals) for which Madeira is famous—the Ribeiro Frio—and admire some of the stunning scenery. Continuing on to the historic village of Santana, we'll explore its lovely old streets. In the afternoon we'll return to Funchal in time for high tea at Reid's Hotel, our charming, old-world luxury hotel; the rest of the day and evening are free. **(B, T) OVERNIGHT: MADEIRA**



MADEIRA

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST - The island's beauty is showcased 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. The afternoon is free to discover Funchal at your leisure. You may choose to simply roam the city, or set a destination like the Mercado dos Lavradores museum with its splendid collection of silver and antiques. Alternatively, the Museum of Natural History features marine-type species and geological samples. For a true taste of Madeira, don't miss the Mercado dos Lavradores, a colorful, high-energy, open-air market where you can buy any of the island's specialties from fresh fish and vegetables to exotic flowers and local crafts. You may also wish to visit Patricia & Gouveia for beautiful embroidery and a tour of its upstairs "factory," or duck into the Casa do Turista for a bit of shopping. This evening we'll have dinner at A Seta, a local favorite, for a taste of authentic espetada (huge swords of beef shishkabob) and a fado performance, the hauntingly sad folk music of Portugal (schedule permitting). **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: MADEIRA**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND - The spectacular orchid display at Quinta da Boa Vista, five miles above Funchal, has received numerous awards, most notably from the Royal Horticultural Society. From here we continue on to the glorious Monte Palace Gardens in the fashionable hill town above Funchal. Those who wish to, may return to town via the famous toboggans, operated by skillful professionals! Late this afternoon we return to Funchal Airport for the short flight back to Lisbon. In the evening we'll gather for our farewell dinner at our hotel near the airport, convenient for our departing flights the following morning. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LISBON AIRPORT**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD - Morning transfers to the airport are included for your return flights to the USA. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

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