

Portuguese Castles Private Tour



Garden of Europe with a Glorious Past

Let us enjoy splendid cities and medieval towns, castles and historic places which have unique stories to tell. Adventurers, seafarers, enormous wealth and discoveries which changed the view and the knowledge of the whole world forever.

Beautiful architecture reflecting glorious times and importance of this country at the western edge of Europe. The landscape and scenery ranges from almost tropical to breathtaking cliffs and romantic but wild beaches.

Delicious seafood and produce from the fertile soils and good climate make the Portuguese dishes so special and tasty! The wines are of excellent quality, not only the famous port wine but also the heavy red wines, the refreshing vinho verde and fruity rose wines accompany them gracefully!

Get ready to discover the country of discoveries, kings, castles and monasteries in their unique style. Listen to the Portuguese music and enjoy the friendliness and warmth of the Portuguese people, which certainly belong to the best hosts in the world!

Map



Itinerary

Day 1 – DEPARTURE

Board your flight from home to Lisbon, Portugal.
 This itinerary assumes this to be an overnight flight.
 Air fare independently arranged.



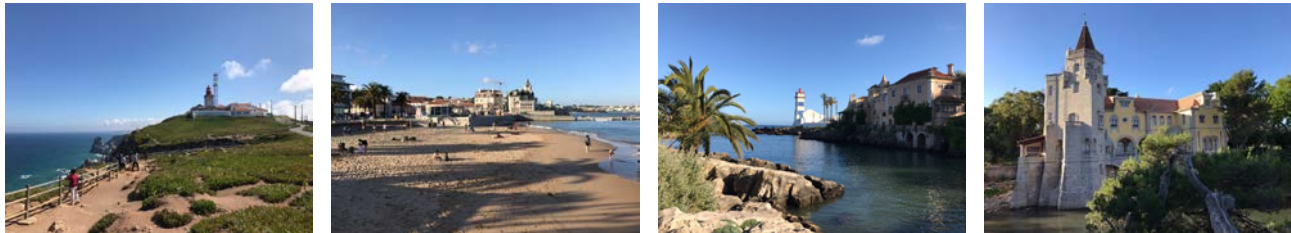
Day 2 – WELCOME TO PORTUGAL

Arrival in LISBON, Portugal. Today you will meet your tour director and drive directly to your hotel in SINTRA. Enjoy dinner tonight at your beautiful hotel, and afterwards take an evening stroll with your guide in the heart of the old royal summer resort.

> Your tour includes: Transfer from airport to hotel, three-course welcome dinner with menu choices, one beverage, and coffee or tea after, overnight in Sintra hotel

Day 3 – SUNSHINE COAST, LISBON

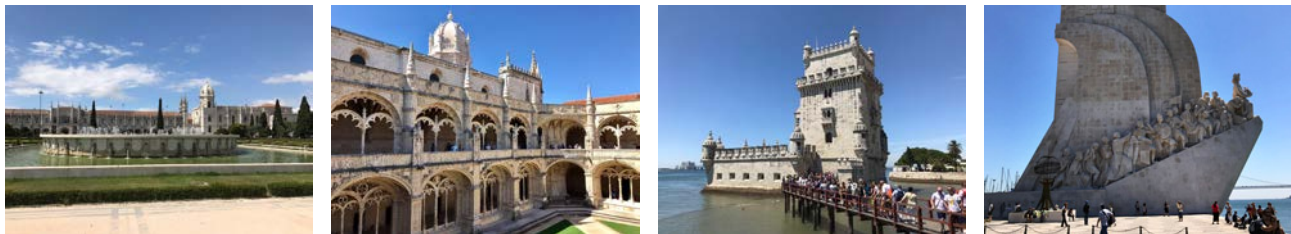
In the morning we will go from Sintra to Lisbon along the SUNSHINE COAST (costa do sol), visiting Cabo da Roca, the wild coast of Guincho, and the elegant seaside resorts of Estoril and Cascais.



In LISBON we will visit the famous Jerónimos monastery and the Belem Tower, witnesses of the seafarers and captains who started from here to discover new worlds. A city tour of Lisbon will bring us to the famous places in the town – St. George Castle, the Alfama district, and the streets and squares of the baroque part of the city (baixa pombalina). Here you find the best coffee shops and restaurants and a wide variety of beautiful shops and stores. Enjoy a little free time to relax, discover and enjoy the Portuguese capital on your own.

Tonight we will return to Sintra to sleep a second night in the hotel.

> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, entrance fees, three-course dinner, hotel in Sintra



Day 4 – SINTRA, ÓBIDOS

After breakfast, in SINTRA we will visit the Palacio Nacional de Sintra (Paço Real), dating back to the 14th century. We enjoy the fresh and green surroundings of the summer residence of the Portuguese kings with exotic trees, vineyards and magnificent seaside views. Then we will drive up to the eclectic palace of Ferdinand II Coburg-Gotha, husband of the Portuguese Queen Mary II. We will only look at the fancy palace, built in the 19th century, from the outside.

Then we carry on to the beautiful medieval city of ÓBIDOS, with its original protective town walls from the 12th century and lovely white houses. Time to have a nice walk and to stroll around the narrow streets where nowadays painters and other artists make their living and contribute to the unique atmosphere of the place.

In Óbidos we stay in an historical hotel for one night.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, palace entrance, three-course dinner, hotel in Óbidos*



Day 5 – ALCOBAÇA, BATALHA, NAZARÉ

This morning we leave Óbidos. Today we will visit the most impressive monasteries in the center of Portugal. Both places, Alcobaca and Batalha are of highest historical importance, reflecting Portuguese policies and the importance the small country had from the 14th to the 18th century.

ALCOBAÇA is a mighty monastery in the pure gothic style of Citeaux, housing the tombs of the famous lovers Pedro I and Inês de Castro. Alcobaca is also the hometown of very beautifully decorated ceramics, which copy the designs of the mosaics from the Roman villas in Conimbriga nearby.

In the afternoon we continue to BATALHA, the monastery and church built in memory of the great victory of Portugal against Spain in 1385. King John I and famous contemporaries, including Henry the Navigator, are buried here, and we can see the most beautiful and elaborated “manuelinic” artwork in the incomplete chapels.



Then we continue directly to NAZARÉ, a traditional and picturesque village where still today fishermen and -women wear their traditional clothes. We will stay here for two nights, so there is enough time to enjoy the beautiful beach and the lively village with excellent seafood restaurants and the old fish market.

Dinner will be in a seafood restaurant at the seaside.

> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, Alcobaca and Batalha entrances, three-course dinner, hotel in Nazaré

Day 6 – COIMBRA, TOMAR

Today we visit the university town of COIMBRA, the romantic academic heart of Portugal, with the second oldest university in the world. We visit the historic university buildings and have a look at the fortress-like cathedral of the city.

After lunch in the city we head towards the former monastery-fortress of the Temple knights in TOMAR. The order of the temple knights was dissolved by the Pope at the beginning of the 14th century but, instead of disbanding it, the order in Portugal changed its name to the Knights of Christ and continued in existence as an important motor for overseas discoveries.

After the visit to the castle we return to Nazaré for the night. Dinner on your own tonight.

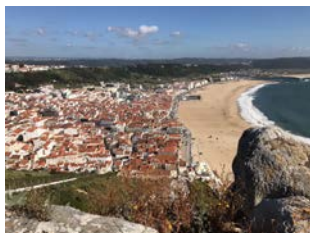
> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, university and monastery entrances, hotel in Nazaré

Day 7 – PORTO

From Nazaré we start our journey to the north of the country for a visit to the second biggest city of Portugal. PORTO has always been and still is the city of trade and commerce with a very British lifestyle and attitude. We will have a guided city tour to enjoy the historical city center and the old quarter of the "alfandega", the customs area, which is now under UNESCO World Heritage protection. We will see the river Douro and learn about one of the most famous products from Portugal, growing at the banks of this river. Port wine is specially matured and processed in Vila Nova da Gaia at the other side of the river. We will learn about this, visiting one of the wine cellars and having an interesting and delicious tasting experience.

After dinner we stay overnight in Porto.

> Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, guided city tour, wine cellar visit and tasting, entrances, three-course dinner, hotel in Porto



Day 8 – LISBON

We return to Lisbon on the highway. After arrival and check-in at our hotel in the city center, we make another city tour to other parts of the city.

In the evening we will enjoy our farewell dinner in a Fado restaurant, where we learn about the very special music of Portugal and the traditions around and the feeling of "saudade". In the old "Alfama" quarter, we will find a place uniting the musical experience with a beautiful environment and delicious Portuguese food.

> *Buffet breakfast, door-to-door transportation, city tour, farewell dinner with entertainment, hotel in Lisbon*

Day 9 - RETURN

After breakfast a transfer to Lisbon airport to reach your homebound flight.



> *Buffet breakfast, transfer to Airport*

Cost and Date Information

- Tour includes:
- all features as per itinerary, departure guaranteed,
 - 7 breakfast buffets,
 - 6 three-course dinners, each including one drink and coffee or tea,
 - accommodation for 7 nights,
 - door-to-door transportation,
 - reservation fees, entrance fees, and local guide fees, and
 - the services of the Tour Director and Driver throughout the tour.

All castle visits include inside tours with experienced guides and plenty of time on your own.

There are no hidden extras.

This tour is offered on the following basis:

Tour prices are for the **land segment** only. Air fare is not included.

Prices are in U.S. dollars, based on double occupancy.

Private Tour:	2 persons (minimum)	US \$ 3,349 per person
	4 persons	US \$ 2,999 per person
	6 persons (maximum)	US \$ 2,882 per person

For single and Triple Occupancy rates please contact us.

A child 8 to 16 years old sharing a room with two adults receives a 30% reduction.

A deposit of US \$ 300 per person is required to secure a reservation.

Personal expenses, lunches and gratuities for the driver-guide and local guides are not included.

This private tour is offered on a year-round basis, apart from scheduling conflicts.

Contact us with your preferred dates and specific requirements:

castles.office@yahoo.com

You can phone or write if you prefer. Full contact information is provided below and on the European Castles Tours website:

www.europeancastlestours.com .

Final payment is due 45 days before departure.

Five weeks before departure you will receive a detailed information package with lots of travel tips and information about places we will visit.

Participation in Astrid Baur Travel tours is conditional on acceptance of the Astrid Baur Travel **Terms and Conditions** posted on the Reservations page of www.europeancastlestours.com .

Cancellation Policy

If notice of cancellation is received more than 45 days prior to tour start, the deposit will be retained.

Otherwise:	31 to 45 days prior to tour start:	20 % of total price
	15 to 30 days prior to tour start:	35 % of total price
	8 to 14 days prior to tour start:	50 % of total price
	1 to 7 days prior to tour start:	75 % of total price
	Departure day and later:	100 % of total price

The deposit will be applied against any cancellation charge.

Contact Information

Would you like to talk to passengers from previous tours? Let us know.

We will be pleased to answer questions you may have, and very pleased to take your reservation.

Astrid Baur, Tour Director

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