

## Dear NC Members and Friends,

We are so excited to invite you on an exceptional tour of Portugal. Blessed with more than 500 miles of golden sandy beaches, vast cork forests, cobbledstone villages, soulful music, captivating cities, and warm-hearted people, this country is just as sweet and fortified as its wine.

Once the doorstep to the Iberian Peninsula, the Celts, Romans, Visigoths, Moors, and Christians all left their mark here. As we travel from Porto to Lisbon, we will experience many of these marks. Our journey includes ag-related visits to a Barrosã breeding farm, a cork plantation, Port wine cellars, wineries, salt flats, and much more. We will taste the delightful bites Portugal has to offer and overnight at beautiful and luxurious castle hotels.

We will enjoy the beautiful countryside and Lisbon's bright yellow vintage trams, Gothic cathedrals, faded pastel buildings, medieval village-like neighborhoods, majestic monasteries, and soulful Fado music.

Whether you are a history buff, an agriculture fan, or a food and wine lover, come and join us on a journey through Portuguese traditions! We hope you will come along!

Sincerely, Brenda and Dave Masek







Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888-549-1186. Space is limited.



## June 14, 2025 - Saturday

Traveling to Portugal

Our Portuguese adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Porto. Enjoy inflight entertainment and meal service as you embark on a dream vacation.

#### June 15, 2025 - Sunday Porto

Welcome to Porto! Upon arrival, we meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the city's center. We will enjoy a panoramic orientation tour of a town so pretty that it is almost unreal. The secondlargest city in Portugal will welcome you with its picturesque charm of winding streets, steep staircases, azulejo-tiled buildings, and beautiful bridges. Lunch is served in our favorite local restaurant. Take a stroll along the Douro River this afternoon to prepare for a good night's rest at our beautiful hotel, located right on the river. Dinner at the hotel before we take a good night's rest. B (during flight) | L | D

#### June 16, 2025 - Monday Minho Region - Guimarães

After an enjoyable breakfast, we will board our motor coach and head out to visit a Barrosã cattle breeding farm. Portugal is home to several native cattle breeds, each adapted to the diverse landscapes and climates of the country. Barrosã is a rustic breed from northern Portugal, particularly the Minho region, known for its high-quality meat. Lunch today is served at the farm before we take a short drive to the city of Guimarães, a UNESCO World Heritage Site considered the cradle and birthplace of the Portuguese nation. Guimarães is known for its well-preserved medieval buildings and the 10th-century Guimarães Castle with sweeping city views. We will stroll this enchanting town to see the numerous historical sites, including the convent of Santa Clara, which



today functions as the town hall. Pottery is one of the most interesting arts in the city's long tradition of purely rustic craft and has existed since the 13th century. Also, most people don't know that the Guimarães region is considered one of the most luxurious linens manufacturers. We return to Porto in the late afternoon to enjoy an evening at leisure. B | L

# June 17, 2025 - Tuesday

Porto - Douro River Cruise & Winery Visit Today, we will head out to explore the beautiful, mysterious, and captivating Porto. Figure out what makes Porto such a remarkable and special city. We will experience the Luis I Bridge, a double-deck metal arch bridge that spans the Douro River. The São Francisco church is known for its lavish Baroque interior with ornate and glorious leaf carvings. It is one of the city's most beautiful churches. Next door is the Palacio da Bolsa (the Stock Exchange Palace), a historic building, once part of the St. Francis Convent, founded in the 13th century. We will also pass by Casa do Infante, the ancient customs house and the old residence of the Kings of Portugal's senior officials. On the northern side of the Douro River is the City of Ribeira, and on the southern side is the Vila Nova de Gaia, where we will find the world-famous port wine houses. We will stop to sip and delight in the world's most famous fortified wine. Free time for lunch before we take a drive along the Douro River to a local winery. It's time to taste Portuguese wine! Later, we will embark on a private boat to cruise the river and enjoy some of the most outstanding sceneries in the world. Dinner is served at our hotel tonight. B | T | D

#### June 18, 2025 - Wednesday

towards Coimbra. Our first stop is at a local

Esmoriz - Aveiro - Coimbra We will depart Porto today and head



cooperage, where we will learn about the art and process of making casks used for wine and whisky storage. Our second stop is Aveiro, also nicknamed "Portuguese Venice," distinguished by its network of canals with colorful boats, the "moliceiros," set along the Ria de Aveiro lagoon. Aveiro is strong in salt, and we will learn about the salt harvesting traditions and the region's tight connection to the sea. An educational tour through Aveiro's salt ponds will provide you with this ancient activity's history, traditions, and secrets. Free time for lunch before we drive to Coimbra. Prior to arriving at our unique accommodation, we will make a stop to enjoy coffee and "cruzio," the local pastry made with eggs and almonds. Dinner is served at our beautiful castle hotel. B|T|D

#### June 19, 2025 - Thursday Coimbra - Tomar

Today, we will take a tour of Coimbra and its university, the oldest in Portugal (and one of the oldest in the world), built on the grounds of a former palace famed for its baroque library. It holds 60 thousand books, dating from the 16th century to the 18th century, on a wide variety of topics that can still be consulted today. Coimbra is the former capital and home to a preserved medieval old town that, to our benefit, isn't overrun by tourists. Free time for lunch. We will take a short one-hour drive to Tomar. A sleepy town at first glance, but don't let that fool you; Tomar is incredibly pretty. We will visit Tomar Castle and Convent of Christ, the area's shining jewels. Do you remember the religious, military order mentioned in the Da Vinci Code? When visiting Tomar, Dan Brown fans and history buffs interested in the Knights Templar can add to their fun by searching for Templar secrets. The convent and castle complex is a historical and cultural monument and was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in Monsaraz - Wine like nowhere Else!

#### Lisbon



1983. Our accommodation for the night is in the center of Tomar. Dinner is served, and the night is yours to enjoy this beautiful city. B  $\mid$  D

# June 20, 2025 - Friday

Olives & Cork

Today, we will tour of an olive oil-producing farm to learn about the process of extracting the finest qualities of oil. Our visit includes a tasting of the "golden drops." Our next stop is at Montado, a cork tree plantation. We will start in the forest. Cork oaks are harvested every nine years once they reach maturity. It doesn't harm the tree, and the cork bark regrows. An average of 90 to 130 Ibs of cork is harvested from each cork oak. After the harvest, the tree itself is marked and numbered so that future harvesters will know that particular tree needs nine years before it is harvested again. Free time for lunch before we head further south to Evora, where we will spend the next two nights. This museum city, whose roots go back to Roman times, reached its golden age in the 15th century when it became the residence of the Portuguese kings. Its unique quality stems from the whitewashed houses decorated with azulejos (tiles) and wrought-iron balconies dating from the 16th to the 18th century. Its monuments profoundly influenced Portuguese architecture in Brazil, and the city of Evora became a UNESCO World Heritage Site and open-air museum in 1986. Dinner is served at our unique hotel, a former convent. Welcome to Evora! B | D

## June 21, 2025 - Saturday

Evora - Wine - Monsaraz

Our day starts with a tour of Evora, including a visit to the Church of St. Francis and the Chapel of the Bones (scary? You judge!). Our lunch today is served in a very special winery. We promise you nothing but a very



unique experience. Only four places in the world still make wine this way. Our last stop is in the village of Monsaraz, probably the most beautiful monument village in Portugal: mysterious castle streets, the view over Alqueva Lake... Monsaraz is magical. And the bottom of the lake keeps yet another secret ...and we will taste it! We will return to our beautiful hotel for dinner and a relaxing evening. B | T | L | D

#### June 22, 2025 - Sunday Lisbon

After a hearty breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to Evora and head to Lisbon (a short 90-minute drive). Upon arrival, we will take a tour of the highlights of Lisbon. Visit the famous landmarks such as Rossio Square, the Baixa quarter's main squares, the grand Avenida da Liberdade, Pombal Square, and stop for pictures of Belem Tower. We will also visit the Monument of the Discoverer and Jeronimos Monastery (we will visit the church) with the tomb of Vasco da Gama. We will check into our centrally located hotel in the late afternoon. The evening is at leisure. B

#### June 23, 2025 - Monday Sintra - Cascais

After a relaxing breakfast, we will head out to visit Sintra, one of the world's most alluring towns. Enchanting palaces, historical fortifications, and enigmatic pathways occupy the hilltop and slope of this town. We will visit the National Palace, which, for more than 1,000 years, has presided over the town center. Notable for its white facade, conical chimneys, and intricately tiled chapel, this house-museum is one of Portugal's best-preserved medieval royal residences. Lunch is served in a local restaurant. We will make a stop in Cascais, the premier holiday destination of the Portuguese Riviera before we return to our hotel for an evening on our own. B | L



#### June 24, 2025 - Tuesday Lisbon

Enjoy breakfast at your own pace. We will meet to take a fun tuk-tuk ride through the historic neighborhoods of Lisbon. While the tuk-tuk is not a traditional means of transport in Lisbon, or Portugal for that matter, it is a very efficient vehicle for getting around the steep and narrow streets. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Stroll the cobblestone alleys, visit some of Lisbon's new "niche museums," explore the fashionable Bairro Alto and Chiado districts, or simply "shop until you drop." A traditional Fado show accompanies our farewell dinner. Fado is the musical expression of the Portuguese people, a melancholy set to a melody. The first fado singers, or "fadistas," were often the wives of fishermen who may or may not return from sea. We couldn't think of a more beautiful way to end our tour! B | D

#### June 25, 2025 - Wednesday Return to the United States

After breakfast, we will transfer to Lisbon airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may wish to do some last-minute shopping at the dutyfree stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B

The itinerary is subject to change.

B = Breakfast T = Tasting L = Lunch D = Dinner





Package Price:	
Per person in shared double room:	\$4,595
Per person in a single room:	\$6,295

An additional \$100 per person will apply for NCA non-members.

We offer a "Pair & Share" service. Ask us to assist with finding your roommate, if you would like to share a room.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on February 14, 2025, is non-refundable, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment (any payments after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

#### Group airfare:

Is available from Omaha and Denver. See page 5.

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 30 travelers. Should the number fall below 25, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

#### Included:

- 10 nights during the tour in Portugal at local 4- and 5-star hotels
- 10 x breakfast
- 10 additional meals (lunch or dinner) as per the tour program, including a farewell dinner with a Fado show
- Local tastings as per the tour program
- Bottled water and local wine are included during lunches and dinners
- All transportation as per the tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Full-time English-speaking professional tour guide
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones, where required
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of October 16, 2024

# To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508 Phone: 888-549-1186 GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK: https://fs28.formsite.com/vLu8mE/NECAT25/

## Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. Expect to walk between 4 and 5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is <u>not</u> recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

#### **Travel Insurance:**

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196.

#### Accommodation (final accommodation 90 days prior):

Porto: Coimbra: Tomar: Evora: Lisbon: Palacio de Freixo or similar Quinta das Lagrimas Hotel or similar Vila Gale Collection or similar Convento do Espinheiro or similar Figuera Beautique Hotel or similar

## **Excluded:**

- Airfare, see page 5
- Travel insurance
- Professional fees, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Gratuities (estimate a total of \$15 per person, per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrance fees to monuments and/or museums other those than mentioned
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

# **GROUP AIRFARE!**

We have secured a group contract and seats with United Airlines.

June 14, 2025	<b>Omaha*</b> - Chicago	8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
June 14, 2025	Chicago - Newark	12:45 PM - 4:21 PM
June 14, 2025	Newark - Porto	7:00 PM - 6:55 AM (June 15, 2025)
June 25, 2025	Lisbon - Newark	10:25 AM - 1:00 PM
June 25, 2025	Newark - Chicago	3:30 PM - 5:17 PM
June 25, 2025	Chicago - <b>Omaha</b> *	7:52 PM - 9:29 PM
*** June 14, 2025 June 14, 2025	<b>Denver*</b> - Newark Newark - Porto	9:52 AM - 3:35 PM 7:00 PM - 6:55 AM (June 15, 2025)
June 25, 2025	Lisbon - Newark	10:25 AM - 1:00 PM
June 25, 2025	Newark - <b>Denver*</b>	3:36 PM - 6:00 PM

\*Ask us for airfare from a different hometown/state (a small difference in pricing may occur).

Omaha travelers:	\$1,785 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.
Denver travelers:	\$1,950 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.

## Important notes about seat assignments, upgrades, TSA Pre-Check- & Frequent Flyer Numbers:

- Group airfare comes with seat assignments 30 days prior to departure. We cannot confirm precise seat
  numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of
  specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle seat).
- **Premium seating upgrades depending on availabilities:** *Economy Plus* (main cabin, closer to the front of the aircraft, extra leg space) can be purchased and confirmed once the tickets are issued = 30 days prior to departure. Estimate a supplement of \$600-\$900.

*Premium Economy* (wider seat with an extended recline, more legroom, improved menu, and a larger entertainment screen) can be reserved at the time of booking your trip with us. Estimate a supplement of \$3,000-\$4,000.

*Business Class* can be reserved at the time of booking your trip with us. Estimate a supplement of \$8,000-\$10,000.

- **Mileage credit** for individuals on group air contracts is not guaranteed and is subject to the rules of the airline under contract.
- **TSA Pre-Check numbers and Frequent Flyer numbers must be reported at the time of reservation.** Otherwise, each traveler must provide these numbers upon check-in on the day of departure.
- **Taxes**, fuel charges and security fees are subject to change.
- Air schedules are subject to change at the discretion of the airline.

# SECURE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!

