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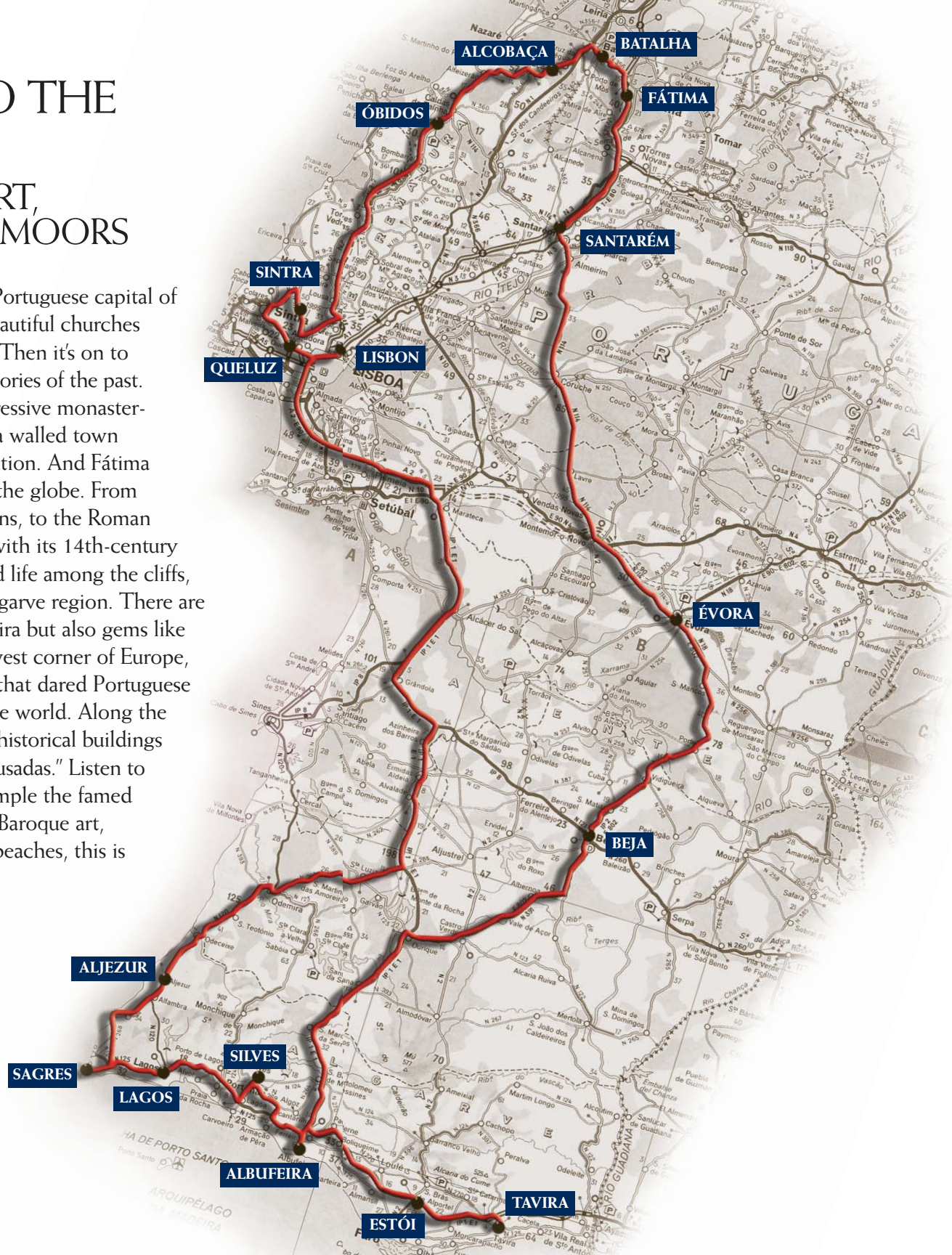


**Lisbon to the Algarve**  
Pousadas & Port, Monasteries & Moors



# LISBON TO THE ALGARVE: POUSADAS & PORT, MONASTERIES & MOORS

THIS JOURNEY BEGINS IN the Portuguese capital of Lisbon, with its lively cafés, beautiful churches and maze of charming streets. Then it's on to Queluz and Sintra to see the glories of the past. Two of the country's most impressive monasteries lie ahead, as does Óbidos, a walled town that's a masterpiece of preservation. And Fátima draws the faithful from across the globe. From there, you head across the plains, to the Roman remains at Évora, and to Beja with its 14th-century castle. Travel south to the good life among the cliffs, grottoes and beaches of the Algarve region. There are lively tourist towns like Albufeira but also gems like Silves and Estói. At the southwest corner of Europe, there is Sagres and the waters that dared Portuguese navigators to set sail around the world. Along the way, you can sleep in restored historical buildings that have been turned into "pousadas." Listen to traditional "fado" music and sample the famed port. For anyone interested in Baroque art, Moorish castles and secluded beaches, this is a perfect journey.



# LISBON TO THE ALGARVE

*(Mileage is estimated from each preceding city or site. Before you begin your trip, please note: For space reasons, we could not provide the most detailed map with this brochure. We recommend the use of Michelin Map #740 Portugal in conjunction with this guide.) To order Michelin maps, call 1-800-223-0987.*

**LISBON AIRPORT**— Lisbon's Portela Airport is about 20 minutes from the city, a convenient place for starting your Portugal adventure.

**LISBON**— Lisbon is one of Europe's most compact and delightful capital cities. The Moors were here for some 300 years and they left their mark in the intricate layout of the area called the Alfama. In the oldest sections of town, there are pastel-colored houses on the little alleys, a counterpart to the city's 18th-century center, where wide boulevards are set off by black-and-white mosaic cobblestone sidewalks. If your tastes run to art-nouveau buildings and the famous blue-and-white painted and glazed ceramic tiles known as "azulejos," you'll be in heaven. Don't miss a chance to visit the Castelo de São Jorge, atop one of the city's highest hills. From here the views are magnificent. Art lovers note that the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian houses the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian and the adjacent Centro de Arte Moderna. At night, wander the Bairro Alto, where you can hear haunting "fado" music and have dinner in one of Lisbon's intimate restaurants.



7 miles

**QUELUZ**— The Pálio Nacional de Queluz was the summer palace of the kings of Portugal in the 18th century. This pale yellow baroque structure, filled with an important collection of furniture, paintings, tiles and decorative arts, is a delight to tour. Just as lovely is the series of rambling gardens with lakes, fountains and allegorical sculptures. Don't be surprised if you encounter bewigged children and women in flowing period costumes on the grounds. They're part of the living history of Queluz.

8 miles

**SINTRA**— This hillside town, filled with decaying villas and surrounded by lush vegetation of ferns and bougainvillea, is like something out of a paperback romance. Indeed, Lord Byron called Sintra a "glorious Eden." The town was wrestled from the Moors by Crusaders back in 1147. Later, it became a summer resort for Portuguese royalty. Sintra's centerpiece is the Pálio Nacional, with its famous pair of oversized chimneys. Parts of the structure date back to the 14th century, Gothic and Moorish styles prevail, and the "azulejos" inside are among the most beautiful in Portugal. The Sala dos Arabes is noteworthy for its marble fountain and 15th-century Moorish tiles. And the Sala dos Brasões has ceiling panels that depict the coats-of-arms of Portugal's noble families. You should also save time to visit the Castelo da Pena, which dominates the town from a mountaintop. This 19th-century architectural pastiche of minarets, Gothic arches and Renaissance cupolas is best for the views it offers over Pena Park. Sintra has more palaces, churches and even a toy museum, so plan to take your time here.

58 miles

**ÓBIDOS**— This medieval walled town, with its whitewashed houses, well-tended gardens and window boxes, is one of the prettiest in Portugal. Legend has it that King Dinis gave Óbidos to his wife, Isabella, as a gift in 1228. Walk the

ramparts of this royal present, looking down at Óbidos' red-tiled rooftops and gardens. The Igreja Santa Maria has wonderful 17th-century blue "azulejos" lining its walls, and the chapel contains paintings by Josefa de Óbidos, one of the few known women painters of the 16th century.

24 miles

**ALCOBAÇA**— The monastery known as Mosteiro de Santa Maria is Alcobaca's main attraction. Inside lie the tombs of King Pedro I and his true love, Inês de Castro. When you've finished your tour, adjourn to one of the sidewalk cafés outside, shop for Alcobaca's trademark blue-glazed pottery, and sample its peaches and cherries, said to be the best in Portugal.

13 miles

**BATALHA**— Batalha's monastery, the Mosteiro de Santa Maria da Vitória, is designed in splendid Gothic and Manueline style. The latter refers to a style named after Manuel I, with symbolism and ornaments drawn from the voyages of the great Portuguese navigators of the 15th century. Think ornate maritime-inspired decoration, with Moorish elements and heraldic motifs. Its construction was due to one Dom João, Master of the Order of Avis and illegitimate son of Pedro I. Going into battle against the Castilian king, Juan, he vowed to raise a monastery to the Virgin Mary if the Portuguese won. They did, he became king, and this splendid edifice is the result. In the Founder's Chapel, you can see the tombs of Prince Henry the Navigator, as well as that of João I and his English queen, Philippa.

11 miles

**FÁTIMA**— Fátima is world-famous as a pilgrimage site because of reported sightings of the Virgin Mary in the early 20th century. The town takes on a great fervor when religious pilgrims flock here on May 13 and October 13. At those times, the central square, which is larger than St. Peter's in Rome, can welcome as many as 75,000 people. In quieter times, you can ponder the miracle and visit the neo-classic basilica in the square and the chapel called Capelinha das Aparições.



36 miles

**SANTARÉM**— The central town of the Ribatejo region, Santarém is known for the church of São João de Alporão, which is Romanesque Gothic and has a fascinating archeological museum. At the church of Nossa Senhora da Graça is the tomb of Pedro Alvares Cabral, the discoverer of Brazil.

74 miles

**ÉVORA**— The capital of Alto Alentejo, Évora is a living museum and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are 16th- and 17th-century houses on virtually every street, with cobblestones and many Moorish arches. The outstanding sight is the Temple of Diana, a Roman structure from the 1st or 2nd century A.D. The whitewashed town is worth exploring at a slow pace, to appreciate its history, its churches and its winding streets.

50 miles

**BEJA**— Julius Caesar founded Beja, which the Romans called "Pax Julia." The town rises like a pyramid above the surrounding wheat fields, and the highlight is the castle, Castelo de Beja. It was built by King Dinis in the early 14th century on the ruins of a Roman fortress. The best historic site in town is the 15th-century Convento de Nossa Senhora da Conceição, a hybrid of the Gothic and Manueline styles. There are fine "azulejos" here that date back to the 16th century.

104 miles

**TAVIRA**— You've reached the Algarve, and Tavira is one of its most delightful sights. Straddling the Ségua and Gilão Rivers, the town is graceful. There are narrow streets, houses with decorative chimneys and

doorways, and a plethora of towers and domes and minarets. It should enchant churchgoers, since it has some 23 houses of worship. If you choose to visit just one, make it Igreja da Misericórdia, a 16th-century gem built near Tavira's seven-arched Roman bridge. Then park yourself at one of the cafés along the riverfront for a long lunch.

#### 19 miles

**ESTÓI**— Located inland from the Algarve Coast, Estói is on the map for its 18th-century palace, the Palácio do Visconde de Estói. The Rococo-style palace, which evokes Versailles for some visitors, has been dubbed the "Queluz of the south."

#### 25 miles

**ALBUFEIRA**— This is the St. Tropez of the Algarve, a bustling cliff-side town and a former fishing village. Travelers of all ages, as well as artists, have claimed it as their own bit of paradise. It has steep streets, with villas up and down the hillside. In some ways, it resembles northern African towns, which, of course, lie just across the water. There's a sickle-shaped beach, grottoes and a bluff that separates the strand used by sunbathers from the beach where brightly painted fishing boats lie. Shopping, dining on fresh-caught sardines and the earsplitting nightlife are major pursuits.

#### 15 miles

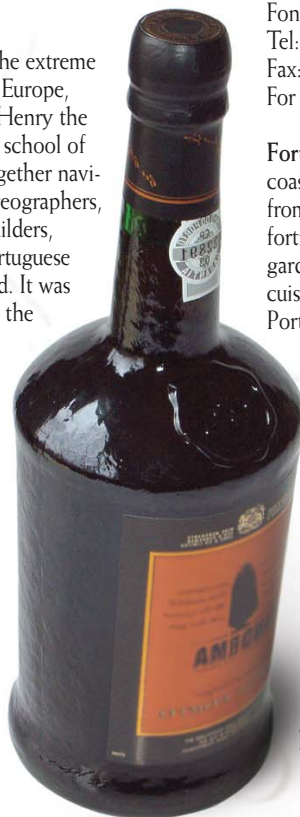
**SILVES**— The seat of Muslim culture in the south before it fell to the Crusaders, Silves' history comes alive at the Castelo de Silves. From here, you can look out on the tile roofs of the village houses and down the narrow cobblestone streets. Pop into the 13th-century former cathedral of Silves, the Sé, which was built in the Gothic style and is considered one of the most important religious monuments in the Algarve. Just outside of town is a 15th-century stone lacework cross known as the Cruz de Portugal, a much-revered object.

#### 21 miles

**LAGOS**— Lagos was allegedly founded by the Carthaginians and later captured by the Romans in the 5th century B.C. The Moors arrived in the 8th century and held onto it until 1189, when the Portuguese claimed it. Though it was largely rebuilt in the 18th century, vestiges of all these past residents remain. The darker side of the city is reflected in the Praça da Republica, which was the slave market. Don't be put off by the rather austere façade of the church known as the Igreja de Santo António. The reward lies inside, a riot of gilt baroque carving. When you gaze at Lagos' famed harbor, note that it was from here that Vasca da Gama sailed on his voyage of discovery in 1499. Then relax at any one of Lagos' pleasant cafés with "cataplana," the classic Algarve dish of clams and sausages. And take the time to travel less than a mile from town to the rock formations and beaches at Ponta da Piedade, the Point of Piety. With its sea caves, arches and sea stacks, the scenery is among the most dramatic on the Algarve.

#### 20 miles

**SAGRES**— Located at the extreme southwestern corner of Europe, Sagres is where Prince Henry the Navigator launched his school of navigation, bringing together navigators, cartographers, geographers, scholars, sailors, and builders, setting the stage for Portuguese exploration of the world. It was his foresight that led to the eventual voyages of Magellan, Columbus and Vasco da Gama. Enjoy the sheer cliffs of Sagres, which provide dramatic hiking terrain, as well as its nearly two dozen beaches. Further on, the last promontory is known as Cabo de São Vicente, where a light-house stands on the site of a 16th-century convent.



#### 27 miles

**ALJEZUR**— If you wander down the old streets with whitewashed walls and brightly painted trim, you'll find yourself at a 10th-century Moorish castle. Walk along its walls and towers for spectacular views over the Atlantic. After this journey around Portugal, you're entitled to do nothing more than lie in the sun at Arrifana, a spectacular beach surrounded by high cliffs.

#### 157 miles

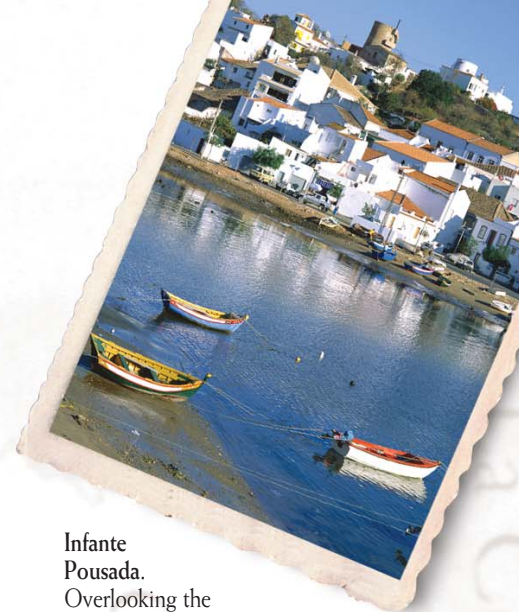
**LISBON AIRPORT**— Lisbon's Portela Airport has direct flights back to the United States. Or consider lingering another night or so in lively Lisbon.

#### HOTELS

**The Four Seasons Hotel—The Ritz Lisbon.** Within walking distance of the historic old town, this landmark hotel has great views of the city and the Tagus River from atop one of Lisbon's seven hills. Many rooms have balconies overlooking the city, and alfresco dining at the Varanda Restaurant is a treat. Rua Rodrigo da Fonseca, 88, Lisbon.  
Tel: 351-21-381-1400  
Fax: 351-21-383-1783  
For reservations in the USA: 800-332-3442

**Fortaleza do Guincho.** Located on the coast west of Lisbon and a short drive from Sintra, this renovated 17th-century fortress overlooks the sea. There's a winter garden, balconied rooms and inspired cuisine with both regional French and Portuguese influences. Estrada do Guincho, Cascais.  
Tel: 351-21-487-0491  
Fax: 351-21-487-0431  
For reservations in the USA: 800-735-2478

**Romantik Hotel Vivenda Miranda.** Set on a cliff above the Atlantic, this idyllic hotel still has the comforts of an aristocratic 17th-century family home. The restaurant serves the best local seafood and products from its own organic farm. Porto de Mos, Lagos.  
Tel: 351-282-763-222  
Fax: 351-282-760-342



#### Infante Pousada.

Overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, this modern pousada was built in the local architectural style. Seafood from the fishing village of Sagres is the culinary highlight. Sagres.  
Tel: 351-282-62-02-40  
Fax: 351-282-62-42-25  
For reservations in the USA: 800-223-1356

**Castelo Pousada.** This pousada inhabits a building that served as both a Moorish fort and then a palace. Atmospheric rooms are outfitted with antiques. Óbidos.  
Tel: 351-262-95-50-80  
Fax: 351-262-95-91-48  
For reservations in the USA: 800-223-1356

**Pousada do Mestre Afonso Domingues.** This pousada is located opposite the Mosteiro de Santa Maria da Vitória. It's a good base for exploring Batalha and neighboring Fátima. Batalha.  
Tel: 351-244-76-52-60  
Fax: 351-244-76-52-47  
For reservations in the USA: 800-223-1356

#### DINING

**Pap' Açorda.** You'll find great Portuguese cooking and a hip scene at this Bairro Alto legend. The namesake "açorda," by the way, refers to a dish of mixed bread and garlic that's served with prawns. Rua da Atalaia 57, Bairro Alto, Lisbon.  
Tel: 315-21-346-4811  
Fax: 315-21-342-9705

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