



ESSENTIAL PORTUGAL



A man with a friendly expression, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt under a dark grey zip-up jacket, stands in front of a blurred cityscape featuring several domes and spires under a clear sky.

ESSENTIAL PORTUGAL

8 DAYS CAPPED AT 20 GUESTS

Join us for a journey from Portugal's second largest city, Porto, followed by a visit to wine country in the Douro Valley and then to the magical university town of Coimbra. We'll end our tour in one of the world's great cities for walking and dining — Lisbon — where we'll stay nearby at Portugal's best resort in Sintra.

DATES AND PRICES

September 19–26, 2020 \$4995

Prices are based on double occupancy.
Single Supplement: \$999



THE RUDY MAXA DIFFERENCE

What's included in Rudy Maxa's Tours:

- Welcome package with luggage tags, tour information, and a personal gift from Rudy Maxa
- An exclusive experience with a small group (maximum of 20 guests)
- Rudy Maxa's Expert team led by his Group Director will make your trip carefree, seamless, and magical. In addition to the team traveling with you, known and approved local guide hosts with extensive knowledge about their home town will be showing you around.
- Your choice — freedom to choose from multiple excursions and programs
- All tours, admissions, and entertainment
- Airport arrival meet and greet with transportation to the first host hotel
- Upscale, handpicked hotels inspected and approved by Rudy Maxa's team
- All meals, including an upscale restaurant for dinner every night inspected and approved by Rudy Maxa's team
- Luggage Butler Service – Leave your bags in your hotel room in the morning and find them waiting in your room at your next hotel.
- Transportation between cities in smaller luxury vehicles, high speed trains, or by air
- All gratuities



PORTO



DAY 1: WELCOME TO PORTO

Your MaxaTours team will arrange for complimentary transfer from Porto International Airport to our host hotel, a luxury property nestled in an 18th-century castle. In the late afternoon, we'll offer a tour briefing before walking through historic Porto whose granite walls and narrow streets are perched dramatically above the Douro River.

Our welcome dinner will be at a traditional restaurant, O Fado, named after fado, a genre of Portuguese music known for its longing lyrics and tunes.

Meals included: Welcome dinner at O Fado

Hotel: Pestana Palácio do Freixo 5*



DAY 2: PORTO

Enjoy a morning tour with our local guide through the historic center of Porto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Douro River is the city's centerpiece, lined with 58 storehouses of famous wine houses that have held the valuable wines from region since the 19th century. You may know some of their names of local ports such as Taylor's, Sandeman, Ramos Pinto. While known obviously for port, Porto is also a lively city of bistros, shops, and flower-bedecked homes.

We'll walk to the cais da Ribeira with its brilliantly colored, 18th-century homes and visit the Sao Francisco Church as well as the old stock exchange, the Palacio da Bolsa, with its stunning, glass-covered entrance and breathtaking rooms.

After lunch, you may take an optional take an optional ride on a traditional Rabelo Boat, a flat-bottomed wooden boat that was used for years go bring wines from the Douro Valley to the wine houses of Porto.

Or you may spend the afternoon on your own shopping or exploring Portos' charming and winding alleys and admiring its architecture.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Dinner at Restaurante Campo Alegre / Compadre

Hotel: Pestana Palácio do Freixo 5*

DAY 3: DOURO VALLEY

Enjoy a morning tour with our local guide through the historic center of Porto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Douro River is the city's centerpiece, lined with 58 storehouses of famous wine houses that have held the valuable wines from region since the 19th century. You may know some of their names of local ports such as Taylor's, Sandeman, Ramos Pinto. While known obviously for port, Porto is also a lively city of bistros, shops, and flower-bedecked homes.

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DAY 4: DUORO RIVER CRUISE AND COIMBRA

The importance and beauty of the Douro River cannot be exaggerated, and this morning we'll take a cruise along the river. After lunch, we'll head to the town of Coimbra, home to a preserved medieval village and a university known for its baroque library.

Meals included:

Breakfast, lunch and dinner
Dinner at A Cozinha da Maria

Hotel: Hotel Quinta Das Lagrimas 5*

**DAY 5: COIMBRA**

Our local tour guide will show us Coimbra and its University's Johannine Library that's constructed on the ruins of a medieval prison. After lunch, we'll take a ride along the coast and stop at the formidable Peniche Fortress or perched on a peninsula that juts into the Atlantic Ocean. Its breathtaking views allowed armies to ward off enemies since the 16th century.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Dinner will be served at Sunitra in the heart of Sintra.

Hotel: Penha Longa - A Ritz Carlton Resort 5*

DAY 6: SINTRA – CREATE YOUR DAY...

Option 1

Play a round of golf at our resort's 27-hole, championship golf course and/or visit the hotels spa — your green fees are covered by MaxaTours — and the rest of the day is on your own.

Option 2

Take an early-morning drive to the easternmost point of mainland Europe, Cabo da Roca, and enjoy a breathtaking view of the coast and its light house as the sun rises. We'll stop for the regional pastry specialty, a Portuguese custard tart, *pastel de nata*, at a local bakery before returning to our hotel for a hearty breakfast.

We'll head into the nearby historical town of Sintra where a guide will show you the epic Pena Palace, a perched castle that permits a view of Lisbon on a clear day. You may also visit the Moorish Castle down the hill from the Pena Palace Walk down the hill to the Moorish Castle.

Option 3

If you'd like to get a head start on visiting Lisbon (which we do with a guide the next day), we'll send you via Uber into the capital city, about a 25-minute drive from our hotel depending on traffic. There you can explore on your own by foot and perhaps take a lunch at one of the world's most interesting food courts, Time Out, near the waterfront and main train station. We can suggest a couple of good restaurants for dinner in Lisbon, as well, or you may return to join us for dinner in Sintra.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch (except for those going in to Lisbon this day on their own), and dinner.

Dinner will be served at Incomum in Sintra.

Hotel: Penha Longa - A Ritz Carlton Resort 5*





DAY 7: LISBON

Today we head to Lisbon to join our local guide who will show us some of the city's famous sites that may include St. Georges Castle, a citadel begun by the Romans 2,000 years ago that looks over the city; the Belem Tower on the waterfront that's famous for representing about four different kinds of architecture in one tower; Tram 28, a yellow streetcar that climbs a short but very steep hill that links the older, upper part of town (the Alfama neighborhood) with the more modern downtown.

And, as usual, we'll continue our quest for the best *pastel de nata* in town.

Lunch will be in Lisbon.

Our farewell dinner will be a specially prepared, Michelin experience presented by our resort luxurious resort.

Hotel: Penha Longa - A Ritz Carlton Resort 5*

DAY 8: DEPARTURE

Start your journey home from Lisbon as the tour concludes.

- * Restaurants and Hotels are subject to change to equal or better
- * Rudy Maxa will personally join all or parts of all journeys in 2019





CONTACT US

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