



LOUDOUN COUNTY SENIOR TRIPS PROGRAM



Portugal and Spain

15 Days – 14 Nights | August 26 - September 9, 2024

Charming, historic, picturesque, Portugal and Spain. A destination on many a travelers wishlist. Chock full of the medieval villages, quaint cities, and historic sites, this tour has it all!

Day One, Monday, August 26, 2024 ~ Travel Day

Depart **Cascades Senior Center** for **Dulles International Airport** to board an overnight flight to **Lisbon, Portugal**. (Meals: In-flight meal)

Day Two, Tuesday, August 27, 2024 ~ Lisbon Arrival

Arrive in **Lisbon, Portugal**, and transfer via private motor coach to **check-in** to your local hotel. The remainder of your day is free to explore the area, rest after traveling, and take advantage of the hotel's amenities. This evening, meet up with your group for an **included Dinner** at a local favorite restaurant serving authentic regional cuisine. (Meals: D)

Day Three, Wednesday, August 28, 2024 ~ Lisbon and Sintra

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning. Embark on a **City Tour of Lisbon**, one of the oldest capitals of Europe. Lisbon is a city of pastel colors and cobblestone streets, of vistas and monuments. Visit the **National Tiles Museum**, set in the former **Madre de Deus Convent**, and one of the most important Portuguese museums by the singularity of its collection, allowing a journey through the history, from 15th century to the present day. Continue with a "**Panoramic Tour**" of the city. This afternoon, proceed to the medieval village of **Sintra**, former Royal summer residence and inspiration for numerous writers and poets, such as Lord Byron who named it "the Garden of Eden". Its exceptional location at the foot of the mountain bearing his name, has been the privileged residence of princes, artists, and writers for centuries. Return to Lisbon for an **included dinner** before returning to your hotel to rest and relax. (Meals: B, D)

Day Four, Thursday, August 29, 2024 ~ Lisbon, Óbidos, Nazare, Alcobaca, and Coimbra

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning prior to checking out. Depart towards **Óbidos** and stop at a **medieval village** surrounded by the walls of its castle and where white limed houses remain. Enjoy a **Tour & Tasting of "Ginjinha"** (cherry liqueur) in a chocolate cup. Continue to **Nazaré**, a picturesque and colorful fishing town, the most traditional in Portugal. Continue to **Alcobaca** to visit its **Monastery** (UNESCO World Heritage). Continue to **Coimbra**, city of Arts and Letters, one of the oldest university cities in Europe. Enjoy **dinner included** this evening prior to checking in to your local hotel to rest and relax. (Meals: B, D)

Day Five, Friday, August 30, 2024 ~ Coimbra, Aveiro, and Porto

Enjoy **breakfast** this morning prior to checking out. In the morning, visit **Coimbra**, the city housing the oldest university of Portugal. Visit the main buildings of the **Old University**, such as the **Manueline style chapel** with its 18th century organ, and the **Senate Room, (Sala dos Capelos)**, the main room of the University, and the impressive **Library**, one of the most beautiful libraries in the world. Stroll in the oldest part of Coimbra, made of narrow streets leading to the top of the hill. Proceed to **Aveiro**, also known as "*the Venice of Portugal*", extensively crossed by canals throughout, giving the city a unique character. Enjoy a small **Boat Cruise** in a typical *moliceiro*. Continue to **Porto**, the capital of the north to your local hotel where a delicious **dinner included** awaits. (Meals: B, D)

Day Six, Saturday, August 31, 2024 ~ Porto

Enjoy **breakfast** at your hotel this morning. Today, explore **Porto**, the 2nd city in Portugal. Built on the right bank of the **Douro**, Porto offers the contrasts of a city both ancient and modern. Experience city highlights to include: the old **Ribeira District**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the **Baroque Churches**, the elegant **metal bridges**, and the famous **wine cellars**. Visit the **S. Bento Train Station**, with its magnificent *azulejos* (tiles), evoking the traditional life in the north of Portugal (rural scenes), as well as the great episodes in the history of the country. Walk through the picturesque **Ribeira District**, the historic heart of Porto. Enjoy a **Mini Cruise** on the **Douro River**, allowing you to discover the city and its bridges from a different perspective. A tour in Porto would never be complete without a visit to a **Port Wine Cellar**. Head to one of the several wine cellars on the other bank of **River Douro**, in **Gaia**, and learn about its production, storage methods, and all the secrets making this nectar one of the most appreciated in the world. A delicious **dinner is included** this evening. (Meals: B, D)

Day Seven, Sunday, September 1, 2024 ~ Porto and Douro Valley

Enjoy **breakfast included** this morning. Embark on a **Day Tour** to the **Douro Valley**, the first wine region in the world to be demarcated. Douro is well known by its landscape, abundance of vineyards, rich culture, and natural beauty. Discover the small village of **Pinhão** on the banks of the **Douro**. Its charming railway station is renowned for the beauty of its *azulejos* (tiles panels). Revel in the view from the water, on a **Boat Trip** at the heart of the **Douro Wine Region**. Visit one of the typical "*quintas*" (wine-estate), where Port and Douro wines are produced and enjoy an **included lunch** while exploring the quinta. Return to **Porto** for an **included dinner**. (Meals: B, L, D)

Day Eight, Monday, September 2, 2024 ~ Porto to Tomar

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel this morning, prior to **checking-out** and departing for **Tomar**, the former seat of the order of the **Knights Templar**. Tomar is a city of great charm for its artistic and cultural wealth, whose greatest expression is in the **Convent of Christ**, one of the chief works of the Portuguese Renaissance. Enjoy a delicious **dinner included** before checking in at your **Tomar hotel** and relaxing at your leisure. (Meals: B, D)

Day Nine, Tuesday, September 3, 2024 ~ Tomar and Fatima

After **breakfast** this morning, embark on a day of **City Touring**. Visit **Fátima**, one of the most important **Catholic shrines** in the world. Every year, it welcomes millions of pilgrims from all over the world. Discover the **Little Chapel** and the **Basilica do Rosário**, before enjoying an **included dinner** where you'll savor regional favorites. (Meals: B, D)

Day Ten, Wednesday, September 4, 2024 ~ Tomar to Marvão, Castelo De Vide, and Caceres

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel this morning prior to checking out and transferring to **Alentejo**, known for its slow way of life. Depart for the medieval, walled village of **Marvão** featuring an impressive view from the top of its hill. Discover **Castelo de Vide**, a typical village of **Alentejo**, with small white houses, winding streets, flowers, and an important Jewish heritage. Continue to Caceres, Spain for an amazing **dinner included** followed by checking in to your local hotel. (Meals: B, D)

Day Eleven, Thursday, September 5, 2024 ~ Caceres to Madrid

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel this morning prior to checking out and transferring to Madrid. Upon arrival, check-in to your local hotel before an **included dinner** at a popular location known for its exceptional cuisine. (Meals: B, D)

Day Twelve, Friday, September 6, 2024 ~ Madrid

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel. Embark on a **Guided Panoramic Tour of Madrid**, covering the principal monuments: **Calle Mayor, Plaza Mayor, Plaza de la Villa, the Royal Palace, the Cibeles Fountain, Neptune Fountain** and the **Puerta de Alcalá, Gran Vía, Paseo de la Castellana, Barrio Salamanca, Plaza de Castilla** as well as the commercial and financial areas of Modern Madrid. To end the visit, walk by the neighboring **Parque del Retiro**, one of the most famous and beautiful parks in the city. **Retiro** is full of hidden gems, like the small crystal palace, the lake with little boats and other secret spots. Enjoy **dinner** prior to seeing a live **Flamenco Show!** (Meals: B, D)

Day Thirteen, Saturday, September 7, 2024 ~ Madrid and Toledo

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel this morning. Depart for **Toledo**, one of the oldest towns in Europe and a beautiful city-museum declared as UNESCO's World Heritage site. Toledo is also known as the *"City of the Three Cultures"*, since Christians, Muslims, and Jews lived there together. It has a great artistic beauty and buildings from almost all periods in history, Arabian, Gothic, Mudejar, Renaissance, and Baroque style. With a local **Guide**, visit the inside of the famous **Primate Cathedral of Toledo**, a magnificent sample of flamboyant Gothic style. Walk through the old **Jewish quarter** with its narrow streets. Return to Madrid for **dinner included**. (Meals: B, D)

Day Fourteen, Sunday, September 8, 2024 ~ Madrid and Avila

Enjoy **breakfast included** at the hotel this morning. Visit of **Avila**, the city of Kings and of Saints, birthplace of St. Theresa of Avila. Visit the **Monastery of the Carmelites**, where you can visit the cell where **Santa Teresa** lived and the relics of Teresa and San Juan de la Cruz. Embark on a **Guided Tour** of the ancient city of **Avila**, whose architecture and culture remain the same for centuries. Return to Madrid with dinner included and the rest of your day at your leisure. (Meals: B, D)

Day Fifteen, Monday, September 9, 2024 ~ Travel Day back to Dulles International Airport

After breakfast depart for Madrid International Airport and return flight to Washington Dulles Airport
Upon arrival transfer to Cascades Senior Center via Motorcoach
(Meals: B, In-flight Meals)

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$ 7032 / \$ 7077

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: \$ 8544 / \$ 8589

Trip # 946632

Payable in 6 Installments

Tour Includes:

- Motorcoach Transportation from Cascades Center to Airport and return.
- Round trip Airfare (Coach Class)
- Private Motor Coach transportation
- Thirteen (13) Nights' Hotel Accommodation, 1 night on plane and round-trip baggage handling at hotels.
- 13 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 13 Dinners,
- Admissions and guide services as stated in the itinerary.
- Services of a professional tour director
- Gratuities for Motorcoach Driver in Portugal and Spain

Not Included:

- Airline Baggage Fee

Contact: Terry Fleming (571) 258-3050 or Sonya Haynes (571) 258-3051

Please note: This trip is for active seniors and requires extensive walking sometimes over uneven and hilly terrain and stairs. Not recommended for participants with mobility aides.

Fees are non-refundable, although a refund minus a 25% administrative fee may be issued if seat is resold. Purchase of Travel Insurance recommended.

Please note: Itinerary subject to change. If substitutions need to be made, replacement sites or venue will be comparable to original.