

Comfortable Hiking Holidays

Hike an adventure. Rest in Comfort.

Trip Itinerary: Portugal - 1 Holiday

March 9 to 21, 2020

- Day 1** BEM-VINDO AO PORTUGAL!
- Day 2** INHOSPITABLE COAST
Introducing the formidable western coast of Portugal. From Malveira, dirt tracks lead us over the hills as we get our first glimpse of the coastline. Then a lovely balcony walk puts us side-to-side with the Atlantic as we make our way to Guincho Beach. From here, we walk along the rocky coast all the way to Casa Guia, Boca do Inferno and eventually back to Cascais! (Light-moderate, 16 km)
- Day 3** HIKE OF THE BARKING DOGS
Beginning again in Malveira but going in a completely different direction, inland and away from the coast, passing through the local communities of Janes and Zambujeiro, until we arrive at Quinta do Pisao, a working farm with horses, goats, vegetable gardens and beautiful walking paths. (Moderate, 15 km)
- Day 4** DAY OF LEISURE
Here is your chance to go exploring. You could hang around Cascais or visit the historic town of Sintra. Alternatively, Lisbon is only a short train ride away.
- Day 5** CABO DA ROCA
Cabo da Roca is a wild and rugged headland that marks the most westerly point of mainland Europe. Here begins our day. This circular hike will take us first to Praia de Adraga, and then along the cliff tops to the staircase leading down to Praia Grande. Our trail then heads inland through the towns of Almocageme and the picturesque Ulgueira before returning to Cabo da Roca for one last breath of sea air. (Moderate, 14km)
- Day 6** SITES OF SINTRA NP
We begin at the Santuario da Peninha for spectacular views over the entire Sintra coastline. From here, we follow dirt tracks to the Convento dos Capuchos, originally built in 1560 to house friars who lived an incredibly cramped and spartan life. Then to Monserrate Palace - one of the most beautiful architectural and landscaped Romantic creations in Portugal. The hike continues in the direction of Pena Palace for a lovely ending descending along the picturesque Via Sassetti into the outskirts of Sintra. (Moderate-challenging, 12 km)
- Day 7** TRANSFER DAY - CASCAIS TO LAGOS
- Day 8** CABO SAO VICENTE
The Rota Vicentina is Portugal's west coast long distance trail, the last 14km of which go from Vila do Bispo to Cabo Sao Vicente, Europe's south-westernmost point. The cliffs are monumental and the views outstanding. (Light-moderate, 14 km, all exposed, windy)
- Day 9** SEVEN HANGING VALLEYS
Formed over millions of years, the cliffs along this coast dominate the Algarve's landscape with caves, grottoes, secluded bays and huge sink holes providing some of the most spectacular scenery around. The trail begins in Praia de Marinha and ends in Vale Centeanes. This hike is the quintessential Algarvian experience! (Moderate, 7 km, undulating)

Day 10

DAY OF LEISURE

Lagos is a historic and lively city and worth exploring. It is steeped in history, and the variety of historical monuments and buildings reflect this.

Day 11

MOUNT FOIA

At an elevation of 902m, Mount Foia is the highest mountain in the Algarve. Our starting and ending point is the mountain village of Monchique. At the outskirts of Monchique is the ruins of the Convento Nossa Senhora do Desterro, and at the top of Foia is an artisan market, showcasing the areas handicrafts and outstanding views of the surrounding mountains. (Moderate-challenging, 10 km, 345m ascent & descent, options available)

Day 12

BURGAU TO LAGOS

One last coastal hike! A dirt trail connects the town of Burgau to Praia da Luz, like a red carpet over the steep hills; you'll be charmed by the amazing views of the ocean and the landscape. More trail, more cliffs, more amazing views until we reach the Ponta da Piedade, considered THE finest natural feature in the Algarve. (Moderate, 15 km, not vertiginous)

Day 13

TCHAU PORTUGAL!