



Dear *Travel Friend*,

November 2024

Join us in September 2025 for *Lisbon and the Explorers of Portugal!*

Over five days we'll immerse ourselves in the city of Lisbon and this beautiful, small country that changed the course of world history.

Our program will start in the Portuguese capital, Lisbon, with its cobblestone streets, fortified castles and the historic home of mariners who launched European exploration of the world. We'll stroll through Lisbon's colorful plazas and hilltop fortresses, taste delicious Portuguese cuisine—complemented by the world-renowned Porto wine—and wander through the neighboring port cities. Portugal's small size and the wealth of nearby historical sites and natural wonders make Lisbon a perfect base for our program. We'll take advantage of easy public transportation on the metro, trams, trains and buses to see outlying towns, the surrounding countryside and some spectacular scenery along the Atlantic coast.

The brief stay in Lisbon will give you a fun immersion in a smaller city before or after you travel in Spain or the rest of Europe. As always, we will meet you as you arrive in Lisbon, at the local airport or train station and will be with you throughout your stay. We have a full, fun itinerary but one that offers you the time and freedom to explore on your own. Sit in a sidewalk café and watch the passersby, stroll through a park or along the river, go window shopping or relax at the hotel. Our schedule benefits from end-of-summer temperatures but without the crowds of the peak season.

We want you to explore, relax and enjoy the rich culture around us. We are excited for you to join us in Portugal!



Mark & Karl

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Lisbon and the Explorers of Portugal

September 14-19, 2025



Saturday, September 13

Program participants depart the United States for Lisbon.

Sunday, September 14

Flights arrive at the Lisbon (Humberto Delgado) airport. The program conductors will meet everyone as they arrive at the airport and escort people to the lodgings in the central part of Lisbon. Transportation to the hotel is included in the program cost. Portugal is five hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Time.

We'll spend the rest of the day relaxing or taking some walks near the hotel or using Lisbon's metro and trams for some short trips around the city. This evening we'll enjoy a one and a half-hour scenic cruise on the Tagus River and dinner out. City transit passes for the duration of the program and the Tagus River cruise are included in the program cost.

Hotel for all nights of the program is in central Lisbon.



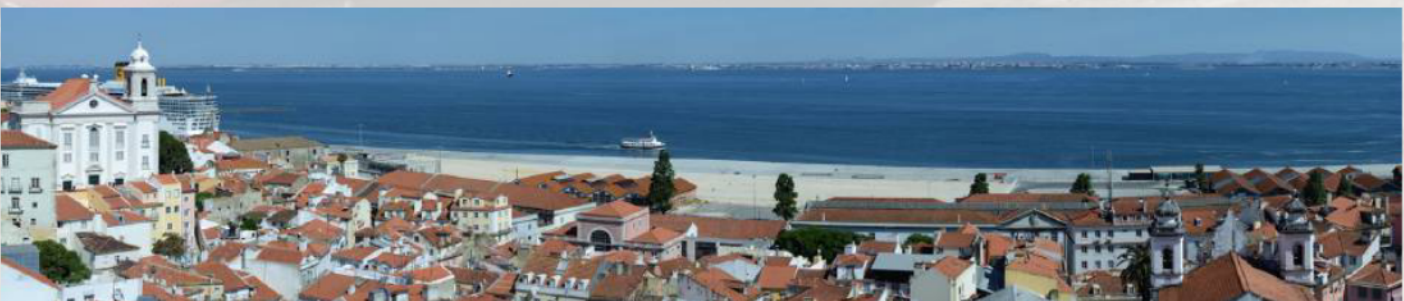
Monday, September 15



A self-serve breakfast is provided this and each morning of our stay. We start our explorations with a two-hour guided tour in the central part of this quaint, historic city. We'll stop at the lovely Commerce Square on the banks of the Tagus River, site of the royal palace until the great earthquake of 1755, and walk through the cobblestone streets in the Old Quarter. We'll pause for lunch nearby and hop on one of the trams for the Castle of São Jorge, where explorer Vasco de Gama was received by the king on his return from the Indian Ocean. We'll visit the Lisbon Story Centre, the new museum on the waterfront that offers a good summary of the city's history. This afternoon we'll enjoy a refreshing drink and Portuguese specialties at one of the many local cafés and eateries. Dinner out this evening.

Tuesday, September 16

Today we'll take a nearby tram for the west side of the city, for the Monastery dos Jeronimos, a jewel of gothic architecture, and enjoy an audioguided tour (self-paced with audio recordings) through the adjacent Santa Maria de Belém church. We'll visit the nearby Torre de Belém (Bethlehem Tower), a medieval guard tower sitting in the river, and climb the stairs for a view of the river near its confluence with the Atlantic Ocean. This evening we'll look for a live performance of fado music. Fado is a plaintive, yearning vocal music accompanied by strings that is considered Portugal's most emblematic musical form.





Lisbon in the late afternoon. Dinner near the hotel.

Wednesday, September 17

After breakfast we'll take a one-hour train ride west to the picturesque city of Sintra, the home of palaces that once belonged to the Portuguese royalty and nobility. We'll visit one of the most important sites—the Quinta da Regaleira, with its extensive gardens and lakes—and walk down the curious "Initiation Well" with its carvings referring to the orders of medieval knighthood. We'll enter the nearby Monserrate Palace before returning by train to

Thursday, September 18

This morning we'll take a one-hour train ride along the Tagus River to Cascais, a picturesque fishing port on the Atlantic coast, then a short bus ride to the small town of Azoia. We'll visit the lighthouse at Cabo da Roca, the European continent's westernmost point, and take a picnic lunch to enjoy the breathtaking view of the cliffs and the Atlantic Ocean. Those who wish—conditions permitting—may walk down to Ursa Beach and dip their toes in the water. We'll take the bus back to Cascais for a sunset dinner by the sea, then the train back to Lisbon in the evening.



Friday, September 19

The program coordinator will be available to shuttle you today to the airport for your return home or for the flight to Madrid for the Treasures of Spain program, or to the train station to continue your journey elsewhere in Europe.



Fees and payments

Fee for the five-night Explorers of Portugal program is \$1950.00 per person, in a double-occupancy room. The fee includes:

--Five nights double-occupancy lodging in tourist or superior-tourist class lodgings in Lisbon, Portugal with self-served continental breakfast each day.

--Round-trip in/out transportation from the Lisbon airport or train station to the Lisbon hotel, local Lisbon transit passes for the metro, trams and buses, and regional round-trip trains and buses to Sintra, Cascais and Azoia.

--Entrances for the Tagus River cruise, Lisbon guided walking tour, Castle of São Jorge, Lisbon Story Centre, Monastery dos Jeronimos, Santa Maria de Belém Church, Torre de Belém, Quinta da Regaleira palace and gardens and Monserrate Palace.

--Gratuities to drivers and hotel staff.

Fee does not include airfare, meals or entrances not specified in the program, or travel insurance.

Supplement for a single room is \$650.00.

Payments are due on the following schedule:

March 1, 2025	\$ 500 due
May 1, 2025	\$1450 due (plus \$650 single-room supplement if applicable)

Payments should be made to River Plate Seminars through one of the following:

Bank wire transfer:

Chase Bank
Orlando, Florida
account: 105 987 770
routing number: 021000021
attn: Mark McMeley

U.S. Mail:

Mark McMeley
River Plate Seminars
1001 Brynlor Lane
Orlando, Florida 32818

Zelle:

321-977-1389

For further details about the program, contact us at the website, address or numbers below.



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