



Portugal

Includes ➔

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Sagres.....	894
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Belcanto (p886)
- ➔ Botequim da Mouraria (p895)
- ➔ DOP (p905)
- ➔ Fangas Mercearia Bar (p900)
- ➔ Restaurante O Barradas (p893)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Memmo Alfama (p885)
- ➔ Gallery Hostel (p904)
- ➔ Nice Way Sintra Palace (p890)
- ➔ Duas Quintas (p893)
- ➔ Albergaria do Calvario (p895)

Why Go?

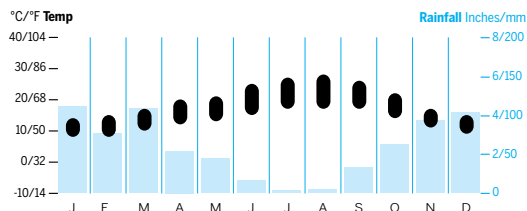
With medieval castles, frozen-in-time villages, captivating cities and golden-sand bays, the Portuguese experience can mean many things. History, terrific food and wine, lyrical scenery and all-night partying are just the beginning.

Portugal's cinematically beautiful capital, Lisbon, and its soulful northern rival, Porto, are two of Europe's most charismatic cities. Both are a joy to stroll, with gorgeous river views, rattling trams and tangled lanes hiding boutiques and vintage shops, new-wave bars, and a seductive mix of restaurants, fado (traditional Portuguese song) clubs and open-air cafes.

Beyond the cities, Portugal's landscape unfolds in all its beauty. Here, you can stay overnight in converted hilltop fortresses fronting age-old vineyards, hike amid granite peaks or explore medieval villages in the little-visited hinterland. More than 800km of coast shelters some of Europe's best beaches. You can gaze out over dramatic end-of-the-world cliffs, surf Atlantic breaks off dune-covered beaches or laze on sandy islands fronting the ocean.

When to Go

Lisbon



Apr & May Sunny days and wildflowers set the stage for hiking and outdoor activities.

Jun–Aug Lovely and lively, with a packed festival calendar and steamy beach days.

Late Sep & Oct Crisp mornings and sunny days; prices dip, crowds disperse.

Portugal Highlights

1 Follow the sound of fado spilling from the lamplit lanes of the **Alfama** (p887), an enchanting old-world neighbourhood in the heart of Lisbon.

2 Take in the laid-back charms of **Tavira** (p892), before hitting some of the Algarve's prettiest beaches.

3 Catch live music in a backstreet bar in **Coimbra** (p899), a festive university town with a stunning medieval centre.

4 Explore the wooded hills of **Sintra** (p889), studded with fairy-tale-like palaces, villas and gardens.

5 Conquer the trails of the ruggedly scenic **Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês** (p909).

6 Enjoy heady beach days in **Lagos** (p892), a surf-loving town with a vibrant drinking and dining scene.

7 Explore the Unesco World Heritage-listed centre of **Porto** (p901), sampling velvety ports at riverside wine lodges.

