



Portugal

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Ti-Natércia (p897)
- ➔ Mercado da Ribeira (p897)
- ➔ A Eira do Mel (p906)
- ➔ Cafe Santa Cruz (p911)
- ➔ Flor dos Congregados (p917)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Lisbon Destination Hostel (p894)
- ➔ Casa do Príncipe (p896)
- ➔ Moon Hill Hostel (p900)
- ➔ Canto de Luz (p916)
- ➔ 6 Only (p916)

Why Go?

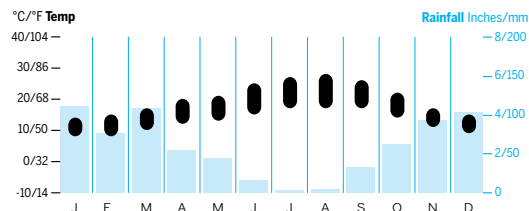
With medieval castles, frozen-in-time villages, captivating cities and golden-sand bays, the Portuguese experience can mean many things. History, terrific food and wine, lyrical scenery and all-night partying are just the beginning.

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 river views, rattling trams and tangled lanes hiding boutiques, new-wave bars and a seductive mix of restaurants, fado (traditional Portuguese melancholic song) clubs and open-air cafes.

Beyond the cities, Portugal's landscape unfolds in all its beauty. Stay 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: 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 Alfama (p902)**
Following the sound of fado spilling from the lamplit lanes of this enchanting old-world neighbourhood in the heart of Lisbon.
- 2 Tavira (p903)**
Taking in the laid-back charms, before hitting some of the Algarve's prettiest beaches.
- 3 Coimbra (p910)**
Catching live music in a backstreet bar in this festive university town with a stunning medieval centre.
- 4 Sintra (p900)**
Exploring the wooded hills, studded with fairy tale-like palaces, villas and gardens.
- 5 Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês (p920)**
Conquering the park's ruggedly scenic trails.
- 6 Lagos (p904)**
Enjoying heady beach days in this surf-loving town with a vibrant drinking and dining scene.
- 7 Porto (p913)**
Exploring the Unesco World Heritage-listed city centre, sampling velvety ports at riverside wine lodges.

