



Evora, Portugal **April 23 - 29, 2017**

The trip begins and ends in Evora, Portugal. You can fly to Lisbon then take the train to Evora, a journey of 1.5-2 hours. After the minimum of 10 reservations is reached we will advise you to make your air travel reservations. We will meet at the Hotel ADC (Albergaria Do Calvario) in Evora.

Trip Start: April 23, 2017 – Hotel ADC, Evora, Portugal

Trip Finish: April 29, 2017 – Hotel ADC, Evora, Portugal

Trip Length: 7 days, 6 nights

Trip Cost: \$2,600 per person sharing a room

\$2,850 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, and tips.)

Day by Day Overview

Sunday, April 23 - Arrive in Evora, take a taxi from the train station and check in at the Hotel ADC (Albergaria do Calvario). The trip officially begins with a welcome reception in the Hotel patio at 6:30PM followed by a buffet dinner at the hotel at 7:30PM.

Lodging: Hotel ADC (Albergaria do Calvario)

Travessa dos Lagares, 3

<http://adcevara.com/>

Monday, April 24 - Megalithic Trail. We take a bus from the hotel this morning to the Megalithic trail. Our walking takes us through a Holm Oak and Cork Oak Forest. This area is dotted by impressive granite boulders which, over 6,000 years ago, were used to build burial sites and magical cult sites. We will visit the Dolmen of Zambujeiro...the biggest in Europe, the Cromlech of Almendres, the Menir of Almendres and the Church of Mitra. Transport back to our hotel. Distance today: 8 miles; Elevation: mainly flat with a few small hills.

- Picnic lunch together
- Dinner together.

Tuesday, April 25 - Evora town tour. Today we have a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage city of Evora. We will visit the historical center of this walled city. Evora was an important trading and religious center which is reflected in its buildings and monuments: The Roman temple (the best preserved Roman structure on the Iberian Peninsula), the Se Cathedral (the ancient religious seat of Portugal), Capela Dos Ossos (the chapel of bones) and the main square of Evora which was the site for deaths in Spanish Inquisition of the 16th century. As we are already in the town center you are on your own for lunch and a free afternoon.

- Lunch and dinner on your own.

Wednesday, April 26 - Castelo de Valongo. Today, enjoying gorgeous views along the way, we walk along the lovely river, Degebe. Our destination is the surreal castle of Valongo. Surrounded by vineyards, the castle was built in 1283 and is now a National Monument. The castle is not open. After our picnic lunch we visit the winery of Ervideira for an unusual experience of wine tasting (<http://www.wonderfulland.com/ervideira/>). Not to spoil the surprise for you, but a blind tasting is part of the challenge! Distance today: 8 miles; Elevation gain 500 ft.

- Picnic lunch and dinner together.

Thursday, April 27 - Monsaraz. Today our destination is the medieval fortified village of Monsaraz. Sitting high on a hill and near the border with Spain, its white houses with red tile roofs can be seen from quite a distance. Our walk takes us on tracks gradually climbing to the village gates. Monsaraz is car free, has narrow streets and tiny village squares. It has remains of a castle, a bullring and many interesting shops and cafes. The views from Monsaraz of the surrounding landscape is spectacular. We will visit the village then have free time to walk around on our own or shop.

On our return to Evora we have a stop in Sao Pedro do Corval to visit a very unique pottery shop. Several generations of one family have been the potters here to the present. You may find a souvenir piece here or try your own hand a making a souvenir! Distance today: 7 miles; Elevation gain 450 ft.

- Picnic lunch together.
- Dinner on your own.

Friday, April 28 - Silver Water Aqueduct. This morning we walk along the town aqueduct. It was built in the 16th century to solve water shortages in the city. Our route is through beautiful scenery of the Alentejo plain with its small farm holdings. At lunch time we arrive to our guide's farm and are treated to a gourmet picnic lunch! Afterwards we are returned to Evora for last shopping and preparation tomorrow's departure. Return by bus to our hotel. Distance today: 6 miles; Elevation is mainly flat.

- Picnic lunch and farewell dinner together

Saturday, April 29 - Breakfast and departure.

Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.

Flight and Airport Info

Getting to Evora—Fly from the U.S. to Lisbon, Portugal. Evora is connected to Lisbon by the Lisbon-Evora intercity rail route. There are 3 trains in both directions on the weekends and 4 Monday thru Friday. A single ticket costs about €13 and the journey time is 1 hour 35 minutes. [For a complete guide to the Lisbon Evora train service, including time table please click here.](#)

If you are joining the Lisbon city tour add-on we stay at the Hotel Lisboa Plaza which is nearest the Sete Rios Station. There will be time to buy your ticket once you are in Lisbon. The current train schedule departs Lisbon at 9:50 a.m. and arrives in Evora at 11:25 a.m. This gets you there in ample time to check into your room and get settled, explore the town, have a tapas lunch (I can pre-arrange & each person will pay their own) and have some time to rest before our 6PM meeting. It is only a 15-20 minute walk from the train station to the hotel, however considering you have luggage, I think taking a taxi is best.

Getting to Hotel Lisboa Plaza - If you are taking the 3 day pre-trip extension in Lisbon - in front of the Lisbon Airport is the Aerobus to the City Center. You can buy the ticket on the Line 1 bus (3-4 Euro). Avenida Liberdade stop is less than 5 minutes' walk from Hotel Lisboa Plaza. The bus takes about 20-30 minutes from the Lisbon airport to the Avenida Liberdade stop. You can also take a taxi from the airport (about \$30 depending on time of day/traffic). <https://www.aerobus.pt/en-GB/Home-2.aspx>

Weather: Mild spring weather with some possible rain. Daytime temps are low 70's F and nights are low 50's F.

Helpful Websites:

Hotel in Evora: <http://adcevora.com/>
Evora information: <http://www.evora-portugal.com/index.php>
Train: <http://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en/train-times>

Reading:

The Portuguese—Barry Hatton (non-fiction) - 2011 (excellent!)

Rick Steves Guide and the Lonely Planet Guide -- travel guides with good information

Skylight - Jose Saramago (fiction) - 2014

Isabella: The Warrior Queen—Kristin Downey (historical fiction) -2014

I have read positive reviews on the following titles, but I have not read the books. I will continue to look for good reads on Portugal. Please share with the group any good titles you find.

The Return of the Caravels and The Inquisitor's Manual - Antonio Lobo Antunes (fiction) - 2003

Night Train to Lisbon—Pascal Mercier (fiction) - 2008

Raised from the Ground—Jose Saramago (fiction) - 2013

Childrens Section of your local library offers good books on Portugal; Henry the Navigator, Vasco de Gama. (I am suggesting this as I don't find adult books very available on the explorers.)