

# PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

YOUNG ALUMNI TOUR 2020



## BE PART OF THE TRADITION

JUNE 20 - U.S. DEPARTURE DATE

JUNE 21 - LAND TOUR START DATE

JUNE 28 - RETURN HOME

BASE LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$ 1,795



MSU Alumni Association  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State Young Alumni? The Michigan State Alumni Association young alumni travel program offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

Travel with young alumni and friends of peer institutions, ages 22 - 35. These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the Michigan State alumni family. They are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 40 years of experience in the young professional travel market. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about our young alumni travel program, please contact us by emailing our tour operator, AESU, at [alumni@aesu.com](mailto:alumni@aesu.com) or call 800-638-7640.

Sincerely,



Regina Cross  
Director of Alumni Travel  
MSU Alumni Association



## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance. Your Alumni Association offers travel insurance. Please visit this web site for information or to purchase insurance: <https://select.travelinsure.com/>

# PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

9 DAYS

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## PLACES VISITED:

Lisbon - Sintra - Sines - Algarve Coast - Coimbra - Porto

## ABOUT THE TRIP:

Encounter Portuguese traditions in Porto's beautiful historic old town and cross the bridge into Vila Nova de Gaia for a tasting of the famous port wine. Go biking in the Douro Valley wine country and discover lush river valley vineyards that lie beneath the hilltop castles. Meander up one of Lisbon's lofty hills to the Alfama neighborhood or take famous Tram 28 to discover the capital city's tiny neighborhoods with baroque streets and dazzling statues. Venture south to the famed Algarve with its stunning coastline views for some beach time and watersports. Portugal is still a bargain, but a destination on the rise and now is the time to go!



## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

The 9-day land package includes:

- 7 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- \* 7 continental breakfasts \* 4 specialty dinners: Welcome dinner in Lisbon, Beach BBQ in Algarve, Dinner of local specialties in Porto, Portuguese farewell dinner in Porto \* Guided tours in Lisbon, Sintra and Porto with a local historian \*
- Admissions: Pena Palace and Quinta da Regaleira in Sintra \* Lello Bookstore in Porto \* Vila Nova de Gaia Port Wine tasting in Porto \* Beach yoga class in Lagos

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome orientation \* Guided tour of Lisbon capital of Portugal and UNESCO World Heritage Site \* Historic Alfama quarter \* Belem district \* Discoveries Monument \* Tram 28 \* Fado clubs \* Portuguese cuisine \* Fishing towns \* Costa Alentejana \* Cabo de São Vicente, Europe's southwestern-most point \* Algarve beaches \* UNESCO World Heritage town of Sintra-Vila \* Initiation Well \* Fairytale castle Pena Palace \* UNESCO Heritage university town of Coimbra \* Port wine tasting in Vila Nova de Gaia \* Lello Bookstore, inspiration for Harry Potter books \* UNESCO World Heritage city of Porto ... and much more!



# PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

## ITINERARY

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### DAY 1 - FLIGHT TO PORTUGAL

Today, we embark on our overnight flight to Lisbon, capital of Portugal.

Meals: In-flight

### DAY 2 - LAND TOUR START DAY: LISBON

The history and traditions of Lisbon and New World discoveries will be unveiled on our afternoon walk with a local historian. Delve into the city's historic Alfama quarter, rich with Moorish tiled buildings and narrow cobblestone alleyways. Walk through the Belém district from where sailing ships once set forth to find unknown lands. Admire the Discoveries Monument honoring Henry the Navigator, who led Portugal's expeditions into the New World in the 15th century; then marvel at the UNESCO World Heritage site, Jerónimos Monastery. Tonight we meet fellow travel companions at our welcome dinner and discuss our journey ahead.

Meals: In-flight, Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome cocktail, dinner and orientation, Walking tour of Lisbon guided by a local historian, Discoveries Monument, Belem district, Historic Alfama quarter, Jeronimos Monastery

### DAY 3 - LISBON - SINTRA

Enjoy a free morning or consider a guided canoe or kayak tour of Lisbon's waterfront. Paddle past Catalazete's Fortress, São João das Maias' Fortress, Giribita's Fortress and St. Bruno Fortress. In the afternoon we visit Sintra, a fairytale-like town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Streets are lined with pastel colored houses surrounded by lush hills that roll down to the Atlantic along the coast. Some of the must-see sights are the colorful Pena Palace, built in the Romanticism style; the Gothic Palácio Nacional; and the ancient walls of Castelo dos Mouros, perched high above the city. Visit the Quinta da Regaleira estate containing an extensive and enigmatic system of tunnels. Its 'Initiation Well' is a steep 27-meter staircase that leads directly underground and connects with other tunnels via a labyrinth of underground walkways. Upon return to Lisbon, enjoy your evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Afternoon excursion to Sintra, Guided tour of Sintra palaces with local historian, Admission to Pena Palace and Quinta da Regaleira, Initiation Well

Optional activity: Canoeing/kayaking

### DAY 4 - LISBON - SINES - ALGARVE COAST

During free time this morning, consider a ride on Tram 28 that takes you through some of the city's most prominent neighborhoods to see popular attractions such as St. George's Castle. The funicular railway travels up steep hills of the old town for more exploration of Alfama's winding streets past charming shops, cozy restaurants, exotic gardens and traditional Fado clubs. This afternoon we start our journey south along the coast to the famous Algarve region.



# PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

## ITINERARY

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We stop in Sines, an old fishing town and the birthplace of the explorer Vasco da Gama. Relax by the water or join us on an optional horseback ride across meadows, dunes and coastal forests on the Costa Alentejana. Afterwards, we continue south to Sagres Fortress with breathtaking views over the steep cliffs, and all along the coast to Cabo de São Vicente, southwestern-most point of mainland Europe, before we arrive at our beach hotel..

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Portugal's Alentejo region, Cabo de São Vicente, Sagres Fortress, Spectacular coastline views

Optional activity: Horseback riding

### DAY 5 - ALGARVE BEACHES

The alluring coast of the Algarve receives much attention for its spectacular cliffs and sun-kissed beaches. It offers endless opportunities for adrenaline seekers and water sports fans, as well as those in pursuit of relaxing on the beach. The delightful inner Algarve features quaint castle towns and villages, flower-covered hillsides and amazing hiking trails. We will start our day with a yoga class on the beach. Then, design the remainder of the day depending on your energy level: kayaking, surfing, hiking or swimming are just some of the options available. Tonight we share stories of this day's adventures at our very own BBQ beach party.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Breathtaking cliffs, caves and beaches of Algarve, Beach yoga class, Beach party & BBQ

Optional activities: Watersports, Hiking, Ocean cave kayaking, etc.

### DAY 6 - ALGARVE COAST - COIMBRA - PORTO

We start our drive north to Portugal's second largest city, Porto. En route, we visit Coimbra, located in the heart of the country. Coimbra has been the medieval capital for over 400 years and is the oldest university city in the country. Tour the university grounds, which UNESCO has placed on its list of World Heritage sites, and climb the tower for a birds-eye view of the city. Visit Pátio das Escolas courtyard, the Chapel of São Miguel with an imposing Baroque organ, and the Joanine Library featuring over 300,000 works dating from the 16th to the 18th centuries arranged in beautiful gilt-covered bookcases. We arrive in Porto for a welcome dinner of Portuguese delights

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Scenic drive to northern Portugal, Coimbra University, Pátio das Escolas courtyard, Chapel of São Miguel, Welcome dinner of Portuguese delights

### DAY 7 - PORTO

Our local historian takes us on a discovery of Porto this morning. The town center is one of Europe's oldest and registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire monuments such as the Luis I Bridge, Porto Se Cathedral, Torres, Igrejados Clerigos, Avenida dos Aliados, and the interior designs of Sao Bento train station. We end our tour at the famous Lello Bookstore.



# PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

## ITINERARY

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Even if you are not interested in books, you don't want to miss this exquisite 1906 neo-Gothic construction, with its carved plaster resembling wood and stained-glass skylight. Its intricately wrought, spiral staircase was supposedly the inspiration for 'Grand Staircase at Hogwarts' in the Harry Potter books, which JK Rowling partly wrote in Porto while working here as an English teacher from 1991 to 1993. Vila Nova de Gaia, considered the port wine capital, is just across the Douro River. Lodges of the historic port wine producers are strung along the waterfront with their caves, aging tanks, and tasting rooms. After some free time, join us for a tour and tasting of this delicious, sweet red wine.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [Guided morning walking tour of Porto with a local historian, Porto town center, Luis I Bridge, Sao Bento train station, Lello Bookstore admission, Vila Nova de Gaia, Port wine tasting](#)

### DAY 8 - PORTO

Take today to further explore Porto and its surroundings on your own, or join us on an optional all-day bike ride through the Douro Valley vineyards. Ride through historic villages and along UNESCO world heritage terraced vineyards to experience the traditions of this region. Visit a wine cellar, taste some of the best port and Douro wines, and enjoy a hearty lunch. We return to Porto with some time to relax before our farewell dinner and opportunities to listen to Portugal's soulful national soundtrack: Fado music.

Meals: [Breakfast](#), [Dinner](#)

Inclusions: [Porto town exploration, Portuguese farewell dinner](#)  
Optional Excursion: [Full-day Douro Valley biking excursion with wine tasting](#)

### DAY 9 - TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast our land program ends and we bid farewell to our new-found friends and fellow adventurers.

Meals: [Breakfast](#), [In-flight](#)

Inclusions: [Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare](#)

Your trip includes the services of a private tour director for the duration of the land tour. All services charges and local taxes are included. Thank your tour director and driver with a gratuity at the end of the tour (suggested amount \$4-5 per day for tour director and \$2-3 per day for driver.) They will do their very best to make this trip the most memorable and best time of your life.



# PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

## HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located or have easy access to public transportation. Many have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms and roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged a single supplement of \$465 will apply.



## ACTIVITY LEVEL 2: MODERATE

Standing and walking for extended periods of time during city tours, museum visits, and/or outdoor activities. Walking over sometimes difficult terrain (e.g. cobblestones, city hills, stairs without handrails, absence of elevators, climbing aboard buses or trains with high steps.) Appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives and are comfortable participating in moderate activities.

Please Note:

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into our activity level ratings. You should take into account your stamina when traveling long distances and/or with multiple flight changes. Also, you must be able to handle your luggage independently throughout the itinerary.

## TOUR DIRECTORS

We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major European universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.



**“THE TOUR  
EXCEEDED MY  
EXPECTATIONS.”**

- past traveler

# BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

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**EXCLUSIONS:** These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$4-5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to \$300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 35% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 50%. Cancellation within 15 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE:** All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS: In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU's liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at [www.aesu.com](http://www.aesu.com).

# MSU DISCLAIMER

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The MSU Alumni Association (the 'Association') is not the Tour Operator.

The Association is not responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control.

The Association acts only as agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the Association shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention or other causes beyond its control.

The Association shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure; in which case the entire payment may be refunded without further obligation on its part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour.

Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all of the conditions set forth above.