

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

2023 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: JUNE 10, 2023 | LAND TOUR START DATE: JUNE 11, 2023
RETURN DATE: JUNE 18, 2023

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$1,885



START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State young alumni?

The Michigan State Alumni Office young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, 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.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to MSU. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 45 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator AESU Alumni World Travel by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/msu and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,



Regina Cross
Regina Cross
Director of Alumni Travel
MSU Alumni Office



Visit our website
WWW.AESU.COM/MSU
for more details and to book



TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance. Your Alumni Association offers travel insurance. Please visit this website for information or to purchase insurance:

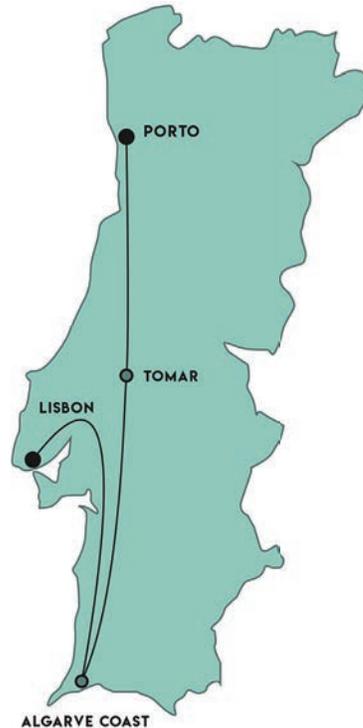
<https://my.travelinsure.com/spartans>

PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

9 DAYS

PLACES VISITED:

LISBON | ALGARVE COAST | TOMAR | PORTO



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 7 nights superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
 - Tuk-tuk discovery tour of Lisbon
 - Guided tour of Porto with local historian
- Ground transportation by private air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
- Airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 11 meals: 7 continental breakfasts, 3 specialty dinners, 1 lunch

Activities & Admissions

- Tuk-tuk discovery tour of Lisbon, capital of Portugal and UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Historic Alfama quarter
- Cabo de Sao Vicente, Europe's southwestern-most point
 - Breath-taking Algarve beaches
 - Morning beach yoga class
- Port wine tasting in Vila Nova de Gaia
- Lello Bookstore, inspiration for Harry Potter books
 - UNESCO World Heritage city of Porto

PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

ITINERARY

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.

DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO PORTUGAL

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

Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 - LISBON: LAND TOUR START DATE

The history and traditions of Lisbon and New World discoveries will be unveiled on our afternoon discovery tour of Lisbon aboard a 'Tuk-Tuk' – a motorized three-wheeler. Explore the oldest areas of the city, iconic monuments and get breathtaking views from the top of some of the city's famous Seven Hills. Delve into the city's historic Alfama quarter, rich with Moorish tiled buildings and narrow cobblestone alleyways. Later, you may find yourself walking 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 join 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, Tuk-Tuk discovery tour of historic Lisbon, Historic Alfama quarter, Discoveries Monument honoring Henry the Navigator, Belem district, Jeronimos Monastery, UNESCO World Heritage Site

DAY 3 - LISBON

Enjoy a free day today to explore Lisbon on your own. Maybe 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. Consider joining our optional excursion to 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: Lisbon city sights

Optional activity: Sintra excursion



PORTUGAL ADVENTURE

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DAY 4 - LISBON - ALGARVE COAST

This morning, we start our journey south along the coast to the famous Algarve region. We stop en route for 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 continue 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, southwestern-most point of mainland Europe, 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: Kayaking



DAY 6 - ALGARVE COAST - TOMAR - PORTO

We start our drive north to Portugal's second-largest city, Porto. En route we visit Tomar, a charming Portuguese town. During the 12th century it was the religious center for the Knights Templar, a secretive and powerful religious order based in the Convento de Cristo. Today it is one of Portugal's finest national monuments. See beautiful Almourol Castle on the banks of the Rio Tajo which was used by the Knights Templar as a strong hold on the frontier between the Christians and the North African Moors. After lunch, we continue north and arrive in Porto. Enjoy a free evening to explore the city.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Inclusions: Scenic drive to northern Portugal, Town of Tomar, Tapas lunch, UNESCO World Heritage site Convento de Cristo, Almourol Castle



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, Igreja dos Clerigos, Avenida dos Aliados, and the interior designs of Sao Bento train station. We end our tour at the famous Lello Bookstore. 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 the '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.



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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, UNESCO World Heritage Site, 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 excursion through the Douro Valley vineyards. Hop on a bike and 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: live Fado music.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Porto town exploration, Portuguese farewell dinner

Optional Excursion: Full-day Douro Valley excursion including bike ride, wine tasting and lunch



DAY 9 - TRAVEL HOME

After breakfast our land program ends and we bid farewell to our newfound friends and fellow adventurers.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS



Hey Explorers!

This journey is carefully designed for those looking to discover historic places, taste delicious foods, take in stunning views of coastlines, awe at medieval structures and listen to local rhythms. Discover Lisbon by tuk-tuk, go horse-back riding on the beach, get an adrenaline rush while cave kayaking at the Algarve Coast and enjoy a bike ride in the Douro wine country. Dive into Portuguese culture and set sail for an amazing adventure.

This trip has been carefully designed and features fantastic inclusions and highlights.



For a glossary of these key aspects, visit: www.aesu.com/aspects-awt

ACTIVITY LEVEL



LEVEL 4: MODERATE/ACTIVE

This trip features a full and active itinerary sometimes at a fast pace and offers activities with higher intensity.

For more details, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major 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.

HOTELS

Our hotels offer superior tourist class accommodations, with private bathrooms. Hotels are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$585 applies. 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 the single supplement will apply.

“ **BEST TRIP EVER. I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AND MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS – WHICH MADE IT EVEN BETTER.** ”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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 \$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; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, 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. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

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. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND 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 land 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, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, 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, 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 the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. 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. The Operator 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.

UNIVERSITY DISCLAIMER

Travel Disclaimer

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office) is not the Tour Operator. The MSU Alumni Office is not responsible for the changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or motor coach transportation and 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 MSU Alumni Office acts only as an agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes to 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 MSU Alumni Office shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention or other causes beyond its control. The MSU Alumni Office 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 postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's physical or mental 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 the conditions set forth above.