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## GEEO ITINERARY

Portugal 7/5/2024

**Day 1: Lisbon Arrive in Lisbon at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. We recommend arriving a day early if you have the time so that you can better explore this world-renowned city.**

Arrive in Lisbon at any time. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, and to give you more time to explore the city, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Lisbon at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jetlag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Lisbon before and/or after the trip. Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

**Day 2: Lisbon (B, D) Take an orientation walk. Explore Lisbon as you wish for the rest of the day. In the evening enjoy a Fado night and traditional Portuguese dinner in one of Lisbon's oldest neighborhoods.**

Enjoy an orientation walk of Lisbon. The rest of the day is free for exploration. See our optional activities section further below for our suggestions on what to do with your time. If you have already explored Lisbon on the previous day, you could opt to take a day trip to Sintra in the foothills of the surrounding mountains. In the evening, enjoy a Fado (Portuguese folk music) performance and traditional Portuguese dinner in one of Lisbon's oldest neighborhoods.

**Day 3: Lisbon/Coimbra (B) Travel to Batalha. Visit the historic Batalha Monastery with free time to wander the grounds. Continue to the medieval capital of Portugal, Coimbra.**

Leave Lisbon behind and head north to the small hill town of Batalha. We visit the Batalha Monastery, which was built to commemorate the victory of the Portuguese over the Castilians at the battle of Aljubarrota in 1385. The elaborate, Gothic-style architecture of this UNESCO site is considered to be one of the masterpieces of the region. Afterwards, if time permits, make a stop in the medieval town of Óbidos. If you're interested in visiting this town during your tour of Portugal, we recommend waiting to make arrangements for a day tour to Óbidos until Day 4. We then continue to the medieval capital of Portugal, Coimbra. Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by private vehicle

**Day 4: Coimbra (B) Enjoy a free day to explore Coimbra. Opt to visit the famous Coimbra University, explore the winding streets and the riverfront filled with restaurants and bars.**

Enjoy a free day to explore Coimbra. Explore the winding streets and the riverfront filled with restaurants and bars. Opt to visit the famous Coimbra University, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2013 (and also the inspiration for Harry Potter's Hogwarts). Portugal's most prestigious university, the University of Coimbra is a must-see landmark. The Joanina Library (Biblioteca Joanina) is one of the most ornate libraries in the world with its breathtaking frescoes, intricate carvings and gold-leaf touches. Also in Coimbra you will find Conimbriga, the best-preserved Roman ruins in Portugal. If you feel you have the time, you can opt for a day trip to the Templar city of Tomar.

**Day 5: Coimbra/Porto (B) Continue to the historic and vibrant coastal town of**

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## **Porto in the morning, and take an orientation walk upon arrival.**

Continue to the historic and vibrant coastal town of Porto in the morning, and take an orientation walk upon arrival. Set aside the Douro River, Portugal's second city is one of the most interesting destinations in Europe. With its Medieval architecture, it's Dom Luis I Bridge and Art Nouveau cafes, there's something for everyone. Approximate travel time: 1.5 hrs by train

## **Day 6: Porto (B) Enjoy a free day in this UNESCO World Heritage city. In the evening, enjoy a visit to the port wine cellars and tasting.**

Enjoy a free day to explore Porto. Opt take a cruise down the Douro Valley, or explore the city which gained UNESCO World Heritage designation in 1996. Head down Allias Avenue to see the French-inspired buildings. Bargain at the Bolhão Market. Wander the city's World Heritage-listed Ribeira district, visit São Francisco church, the palatial former 19th-century stock market Palácio de Bolsa or head to the Clerigos Tower for a panoramic view of the city. We will finish off the day with a tour of the cellars of the region's famed export, Port wine. Learn about the art of Port making and the processes that render its rich taste. Indulge in a tasting and raise a glass to a day well spent. Saúde!

## **Day 7: Porto (B) Depart Porto at any time.**

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Porto at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Porto, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEQ programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEQ will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEQ program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book.