

American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Tour #1 (5 nights / 7 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Lisbon, Portugal

Day 2

Lisbon

(D)

Arrive in Lisbon

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach

Enjoy a half-day guided tour of Lisbon including Eduardo VII Park (a formal, landscaped park with a magnificent vista of the entire city), Castelo de Sao Jorge (the castle in the heart of the city), the Sé (the main cathedral which was once a fortress), Belem Tower, and entrance to Jeronimos Monastery, including its Cloisters and its Igreja de Sta Maria de Belem, which houses a Cross of the Holy Order, a statue of Prince Henry the Navigator and the tomb of Vasco da Gama

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Lisbon is one of Europe's most visually striking capitals, built on a series of hills with scenic vistas from every angle. The almost constant presence of sunshine and the River Tagus transforms the Portuguese capital into a mirror of a thousand colors - highlighting the city's unique architecture and beauty. Lisbon's history spans back thousands of years. You will find streets filled with heritage monuments, and characteristic neighborhoods where the city first developed and can still be experienced at its most genuine level

Day 3

Lisbon

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

For choirs only: Participate/Sing in Mass at Jeronimos Monastery

Lunch, on own

Afternoon excursion along the scenic "Coast of the Sun." Explore little fishing villages and white sand beaches on one of Europe's most westerly outreaches. Pass through Estoril where the "Casino do Estoril" stands. Continue to Cascais which highlights "Boca do Inferno" and the magnificent panorama of the Bay of Cascais and its coast. Continue along the coast, passing the famous Guincho beach, to Cabo da Roca (the most western point of Europe)

Return to Lisbon for dinner and overnight

Day 4

Lisbon / Obidos / Sintra

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Obidos with time to explore within the walled city. The gorgeous historic centre is a labyrinth of cobblestoned streets and whitewashed houses livened up with dashes of vivid yellow and blue paint

Lunch, on own



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Continue to Sintra for a guided tour including entrance to the Royal Palace. Sintra is nestled at the foot of the southern slopes of its Serra. It is a haven of peace and quiet amid many trees. For six centuries it was the country's monarch's favorite place of residence. Sintra's "cultural landscape" was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1995

Return to Lisbon

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 5 **Lisbon / Queluz** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning excursion to Queluz to visit the magnificent Palace and Gardens. The Versailles-like palace is the country's finest example of Rococo architecture. The palace is located in a cobbled square, with a statue of Queen Maria I and the former Royal Guard building facing it. One of the highlights inside is the grandiose but elegant Throne Room, once the scene of splendid balls and banquets, lined with mirrors and adorned with crystal chandeliers and gilded statues

Lunch, on own

Return to Lisbon for some time at leisure

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 6 **Lisbon / Evora** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Full-day excursion to Evora, one of Portugal's finest and most delightful towns. It is a true open-air museum with a large number of wonderfully preserved monuments and buildings of public interest that led UNESCO to protect it as a World Heritage Site. Évora's narrow, winding lanes lead to striking architectural works: an elaborate medieval cathedral and cloisters; the cinematic columns of the Templo Romano (near the intriguing Roman baths); and a picturesque town square, once the site of some rather gruesome episodes courtesy of the Inquisition

Lunch, on own

Return to Lisbon

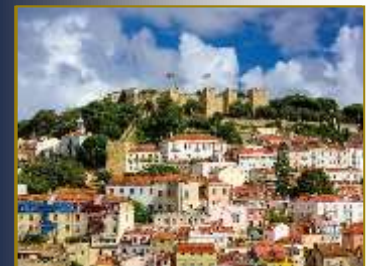
Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 7 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Lisbon's airport for return flight



This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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