

American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Tour #2 (6 nights / 8 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service to Porto, Portugal

Day 2

Porto

(D)

Arrive in Porto

Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via panoramic tour of Porto's highlights including a Duoro River Cruise. As seen from the river, the architectural forms of the city of Porto emerge majestically. It is a dazzling landscape, unique in the world

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Porto is a charming riverside community whose historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is full of graceful bridges, baroque cathedrals and romantic 16th- through 19th-century buildings set among narrow cobbled streets

Day 3

Porto

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Half-day sightseeing in Porto including a visit to Porto Cathedral. Porto's austere fortress-like cathedral is where Prince Henry the Navigator was baptized and where King John I married the English Princess Philippa of Lancaster in the 14th century. The outstanding Gothic cloisters are covered with magnificent blue and white tiles from the 18th century. There are great views from the terrace over the rooftops of Old Porto

Also visit the Stock Exchange. This pompous 19th-century building with a vast Neoclassical façade is the former stock exchange that was built to impress. Inside it could be mistaken for a royal place. It is now "the grand reception room" of the city where heads of state and other luminaries are received on a visit to Porto

Lunch, on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Porto / Coimbra / Lisbon

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Coimbra for a visit to the University. The University of Coimbra is one of the oldest in Europe. Founded in Lisbon by King Dinis in 1290, it was finally transferred to Coimbra in 1537, occupying the buildings of the medieval royal Palace. Visit the beautiful and unique library

Impromptu performance at the University

Lunch, on own

Continue to Lisbon

Evening dinner and overnight



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

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 5 **Lisbon** **(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

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

Lunch, on own

For choirs only: participate/sing in Mass at Jeronimos Monastery

Evening dinner and overnight



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

Breakfast at the hotel

Excursion 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

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

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Portugal

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 7 **Lisbon / Obidos / Queluz** **(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

Continue to Queluz to visit the magnificent Palace and Gardens. The Versailles-like palace is the country's finest example of Rococo architecture

Return to Lisbon for Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 8 **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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