

Agriculture in Portugal

March 15-23, 2025

SAT MAR 15: DEPART USA [-/-/-]

- Overnight flight to Lisbon

SUN MAR 16: ARRIVE LISBON [-/-/D]

- Overview of the program and info about Lisbon and Portuguese culture along the way
- Walking tour of downtown Lisbon and its oldest neighborhoods
- Welcome dinner at local restaurant, while listening a fado performance for an introduction to traditional Portuguese music

MON MAR 17: LISBON [B/-/-]

- 24hr bus/metro tickets to Belém; learn about the history of the Portuguese Empire at sites like the Jerónimos Monastery, Tower of Belém, and the Monument of Discoveries
- Sustainable architecture walking tour, visiting emblematic buildings such as the MAAT, the Centro Cultural de Belém, and the new Museu dos Coches
- Free afternoon and evening to explore

TUE MAR 18: LISBON [B/-/-]

- Visit an NGO focused on factors such as the growing urban population, health and well-being, and the climate crisis, and learn about their project aiming to integrate agriculture into Portugal's cities, what they grow and growing methods
- Visit a national institute dedicated to agricultural research.

WED MAR 19: LISBON – ALENTEJO (2.5hrs) – ÉVORA (1hr) [B/L/-]

- Enjoy an eco-tour by electric boat along the Rio Tejo (Tagus River)
- Visit a sustainable cooperative farm in Alentejo which grows and produces more than 300 organic and artisanal foods; the project's goal is to demonstrate that "Montado," a traditional agricultural model originating in the area hundreds of years ago, is a far more efficient practice than intensive farming; learn about their inclusive, transparent, community-based model and how it thrives
- Enjoy a traditional, organic lunch on the farm
- Afterwards, continue by coach to Évora, a Unesco World Heritage site
- Take a guided tour of Évora; explore its peaceful squares, monuments, palaces, the Temple of Diana, and the Gothic and Renaissance churches, such as the Chapel of Bones (exterior views only)

THU MAR 20: ÉVORA – MONSARAZ (1hr) – ÉVORA (1hr) [B/-/-]

- Visit a cork producer to understand the production process of one of Portugal's most important exports, from harvesting to the creation of the cork product. Cork, one of the most renewable and sustainable resources on the planet, has many diverse applications - from NASA rockets to roofing to clothes to wallets, etc.
- Continue to the hilltop walled medieval village of Monsaraz for a guided walking tour and enjoy stunning views of the surrounding Alentejo plains
- Take a tour of a traditional 750 year old Alentejo farm that was recently awarded the Robert Parker Green Emblem for its sustainable efforts in wine production. See the farm's olive grove, vineyards, and vegetable gardens. Taste the olive oil, produced in the olive oil presses of this estate, and learn about winemaking with a visit to the wineries

FRI MAR 21: ÉVORA [B/-/-]

- Either to a dairy, cattle or pig farm, or visit award-winning environmentally responsible family business focused on organic products
- Free afternoon and evening to explore Évora

SAT MAR 22: ÉVORA – LISBON (1.75hrs) [B/-/D]

- Guided visit a unique agricultural conservation project, established in 1836 by royalty in one of the most important ecologically protected areas of Portugal; with 18,000 hectares of land, it contains one of the largest continuous cork oak forests in Portugal, extensive rice fields, pine forests, olive groves, and vineyards
- Take a landscape interpretation tour, passing through rice paddies, pastures, vineyards, a stud farm, and the estuary with its extensive area of marsh and mudflats that deeply influence the ecosystem; learn how this farm has supported scientific fieldwork and maintains a close relationship with several universities
 - *The stud farm currently exclusively specializes in breeding Lusitano pure breeds, a powerful Portuguese horse breed whose fame dates back to the Roman Ages, currently used in equestrian competitions.*
- Visit an NGO focusing on wildlife restoration which supports the wolf population of Portugal; visit their wolf recovery center and learn about their work to ensure the recovery of wolf packs in Portugal
- Farewell dinner at hotel or local restaurant

SUN MAR 23: LISBON – USA [B/-/-]

- Bus to Lisbon airport for group flight home