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TAILOR MADE RAIL

## Portuguese Explorer

From £1,699 per person // 16 days



Take in the best of Portugal on this sun-drenched holiday, starting out from London and travelling via San Sebastian & Vigo to vibrant capital Lisbon, pretty Porto, historic Coimbra and Faro, the gateway to the Algarve. Return with nights in Seville and Girona to break your journey.

### The Essentials

- Train travel to Portugal with a night in San Sebastian & Vigo en route to Portugal
- Porto and Coimbra, historic cities in a stunning setting
- Lisbon, the Portuguese capital majestically draped over seven hills overlooking the Tagus Estuary
- Medieval Faro, capital of the Algarve
- Return via lovely Seville and Girona in Catalonia

### What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 15 nights' handpicked hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Comprehensive directions to your hotels
- Clearly-presented wallets for your rail tickets, hotel vouchers and other documentation
- Complimentary delivery of your travel documents

### Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade hotels and rail journeys
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

## - Suggested Itinerary -



### Day 1 - London To San Sebastian

Board a morning Eurostar service today, bound for Paris. In Paris, cross to the Gare Montparnasse and take a direct TGV service to Hendaye on the Spanish border. Here, make your way to the Eusko Tren terminal (just outside the main SNCF station) where you'll catch a regional train (payable locally) across to San Sebastian. On arrival in San Sebastian, check in at the Zinema7 Hotel (or similar) for an overnight stay. If you have time, you might prefer to break your journey to San Sebastian today, either in Hendaye or Bordeaux.



### Day 2- San Sebastian To Vigo

You have a free morning in San Sebastian today to explore this beautiful beachfront city with its world-renowned restaurants. At lunchtime, return to the station for a Spanish service to Vitoria/Gasteiz. Here, change onto a service which takes you across to Spain's northwest coast and the city of Vigo. On arrival, check in for an overnight stay at the NH Collection Vigo (or similar). Again, if you have time, we would recommend breaking your journey from San Sebastian to Vigo in Santiago de Compostela or Leon.



### Day 3 - Vigo To Porto

A short journey by regional train today takes you across the On arrival, check into the Eurostars das Artes (or similar) for a 3-night stay. Straddling the Douro River, Porto is an important maritime city, one of the oldest European centres which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage site since the 1960s. Port is also well-known as the home of port wine. Vila Nova de Gaia's wine-cellars are a must-visit (and must-taste!). Also well worth a visit is São Bento station in the centre of town. Your train journeys don't start or finish here, but the ornately tiled interior makes it worth a detour.



### Day 6 - Porto To Coimbra

Just a short rail journey will bring you to Coimbra, where your home for the next 2 nights will be the Hotel Quinta das Lagrimas (or similar). Coimbra is a picturesque riverside city with a UNESCO World Heritage listed university and a fascinating history going back to Roman times. Coimbra also boasts a wonderful collection of impressive churches, serene monasteries, and vibrant cultural institutions and a tantalising choice of restaurants and cafés.



### Days 8, 9 & 10 - Lisbon

Another short rail journey today takes you into Lisbon's Santa Apolonia station. From here, make your way to the Heritage Avenida Liberdade (or similar) for a 3-night stay. Perched on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal's capital is built on seven hills, watched over by the medieval Castelo de Sao Jorge. Lisbon enchants visitors with its limestone buildings, picturesque alleyways, and an easy-going appeal that makes it a favoured destination all year round. Don't miss a tram ride up to the old Alfama district for stunning city views with a glass of Ginja.



### Days 11, 12 & 13 - Faro

It's time to continue your journey south to Faro, the capital of the Algarve. Check in for 3 nights at the Hotel Faro and Beach Club (or similar). Faro boasts a beautiful walled old town and is the gateway to the Ria Formosa Nature Park, with its tranquil islands and unspoilt beaches. Inside the city walls, you can go up to the Sé (gothic cathedral), Paco Episcopal Palace and the convent of Nossa Senhora. You can also easily access other parts of the Algarve coastline whilst you are in Faro. Popular destinations such as Portimao, Lagos and Albufeira are a short train ride away.



### Day 14 - Faro To Seville

It's time to return northwards today with a journey by air-conditioned coach to Seville. You'll arrive in time for a late lunch and check in at the Catalonia Santa Justa (or similar), within easy walking distance of the station. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure exploring Seville's orange-tree lined streets and spectacular landmarks, including La Giralda Cathedral, the beautiful Alcazar and the ornately decorated Plaza de España.



### Day 15 - Seville To Girona

After breakfast this morning, return to the station for a rail journey by high-speed AVE to Zaragoza. Here, transfer onto a connecting service taking you to the Catalan city of Girona where you check in for an overnight stay at the Cuitat de Girona Hotel (or similar). Spend the rest of the afternoon discovering this historic city with its medieval walled Old Town, which has been used as a set for many films and TV productions including Game of Thrones and Killing Eve.



### Day 16 - Girona To London

There's time for a leisurely breakfast today before you return to the station for a service through France to Paris. On arrival, transfer to the Gare du Nord for your return Eurostar back to London. Alternatively, why not extend your holiday with another night in Girona or a stop in Paris on your way home? Please call us for details and prices.

## Pricing

From £1,799 per person

Low season (November-March) from £1,699pp

High season (April-October) from £1,899pp

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel and includes seat reservations as necessary. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.