

# Portugal

## April 2026



## Come Discover Portugal

From April 14 to April 25, 2026, join Reed and me for what will be a unique opportunity to visit Portugal. Portugal is famous for its breathtaking coastline, historic palaces and tasty food, including port wine. Reed and I have created an itinerary that we hope you will appreciate. It is based on a trip Reed made to central Portugal in 2024, and on a scouting trip I made in April 2025. We will discover highlights from northern and central Portugal, as well as the island of Sao Miguel in the Azores.

## Our Mentor



The group will be led by renowned photography instructor Reed Hoffmann. His career has spanned more than four decades, the first two of those working at newspapers in the Midwest, South and Eastern U.S. Reed began teaching in the '90s with a class on photojournalism at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Managing his paper's conversion to all-digital in 1997, he was then asked to speak at conferences around the country about that process. In 2000 Reed left his last newspaper and spent the next few years helping dozens of news and other organizations around the country convert to digital. Now based in Kansas City, he divides his time between assignments and teaching photography. His corporate clients have included USA Today, The New York Times, The Associated Press, Getty Images, NBC, Children's Mercy Hospital, EPA, Reuters, NCAA Photos, Nikon, Lexar, Lowepro, Best Buy, Blue Pixel, Eco-Challenge and Mark Burnett Productions. In 2002 he also began a long career teaching the Nikon School of

Photography, creating and teaching the classes and managing the instructors through 2018. Every year Reed leads many hands-on photography workshops, ranging from weekend treks in the U.S. to two-week trips abroad. Reed has received several industry honors, being named a Nikon Legend Behind the Lens, a Lexar Pro Elite photographer and a Microsoft Icon of Imaging. More information can be found at <http://reedhoffmann.com/> and <https://www.instagram.com/reedhoffmann/>.

## Highlight Photo Tours



My name is René Bastien, the founder of Highlight Photo Tours. The company has been in operation since 2018. Together with Reed, we have offered trips to many locations in Canada, the USA and Europe. This includes workshops in Quebec City, Nova Scotia, the Canadian Rockies, the province of Newfoundland, Hawaii's Big Island, Croatia-Slovenia-Venice, and Ireland. I also offer on demand trips in Montreal and Ottawa, Canada.

# Itinerary

The itinerary will start in Porto. We will drive down the Atlantic Coast and make our way to Lisbon. We will spend a few days discovering the city and its surroundings. Then we will be off to the Island of Sao Miguel, in the Azores. The itinerary covers many types of landscapes and typical Portuguese scenes, revealing what makes this country unique! The itinerary may change because of weather, or as we make surprising and wonderful discoveries.

Let's start with your first Portuguese lesson.

- Farol means lighthouse
- Miradouro means viewpoint

## April 14. Day 1, Arrival in Porto

There will be no planned activities today. Rest, relax, take a walk and enjoy life! We will hold a group dinner to officially start the workshop.

## April 15. Day 2, in Porto



Figure 1 Barrels of Port Wine

In the morning, we will discover areas of Porto such as Jardins do Palacio do Crystal, various viewpoints of the city and the Douro River, and street art.

After lunch, we will visit the oldest port wine distillery, named Real Companhia Velha. The visit will include a tour of the caves, as well as a tasting of 5 different ports.

In the evening, we will continue to explore Porto.



*Figure 2 Porto, on the Douro River*

### April 16. Day 3, in Porto

Highlights will include Largo da Pena Ventose, the Crystal Palace Gardens, and more. We will do a food tour at the end of the afternoon, to discover the variety of Portuguese food. Finally, we will take the Gaia cable car to the Monastery of Serra do Pilar, for an amazing view of the city at sunset.



*Figure 3 Sunset on Porto*

### April 17. Day 4, on the road to Obidos

This will be our first day on the bus. We will be making our way southwest, discovering parts of the Atlantic coast. Our first stop will be in the lagoon city of Ria de Aveiro, famed for its canals and the Sé Cathedral.

We will then drive and visit the Batalha Monastery, a Unesco World Heritage Site.

We will stop in the resort town of Nazare, to discover the beach scene (fishing boats, fish drying racks).

The last stop of the day will be in Obidos where we will explore the town's famed medieval castle.



Figure 4 Ria de Aveiro



Figure 5 Obidos



*Figure 6 Nazare*



*Figure 7 Batalha Monastery*

#### April 18. Day 5, on the road to Lisbon

We will start the day early to take a ferry to Berlengas Island. The island is famous for its fort and lighthouse. After a quick lunch in Peniche, we will head to the Royal Building of Mafra, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will then make our way to Lisbon, our base for the next few nights.

#### April 19. Day 6, to Evora

We will make our way to the Castle of Evoramonte, a striking example of 16<sup>th</sup> century military architecture. We will then continue on to Evora, which has roots dating back to the Roman times. We will take in Roman ruins, Renaissance architecture, and typical Portuguese tiles in a beautiful city. Back in Lisbon, we will go on a sunset cruise on the Tagus River, taking in the sights of Lisbon from a completely different perspective.

## April 20. Day 7, to Sintra

Today we will visit many famous sites close to Lisbon. We will start with the National Palace of Pena in Sintra, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will make our way back to Lisbon and visit the Torre de Belem. We will go on one of Lisbon's famed cable cars, the Bica-RS Paulo, followed by a visit of Lisbon Castle. In the evening, we will catch a fado performance; fado is a Portuguese musical genre characterized by its melancholic melodies and lyrics.



Figure 8 Torre de Belem



Figure 9 Palace of Pena

## April 21. Day 8, to the Azores

Today will be our last morning in Lisbon. We will visit the weekly flea market, then make our way to visit Sé Cathedral. We will take a midday flight from Lisbon to Ponta Delgada, on the island of Sao Miguel. We will then check into our hotel in Ponta Delgada and have a free evening to settle in and/or explore.

## April 22. Day 9, in Sao Miguel

We will start exploring some of the wonders of the volcanic island of Sao Miguel. We will visit the Gorreana Tea Plantation. We will then stop at Lagoa del Fogo. We will plan to have lunch at the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel to sample the famous Cozido da Furnas. We will explore the beautiful city of Furnas. On our way back, we will stop in the fishing village of Vila Franca for a few photos, then make our way back to Ponta Delgada.



Figure 10 Vila Franca



Figure 11 Furnas

## April 23. Day 10, in Sao Miguel

We will travel to the western side of Sao Miguel today. This will include many stops to see the Sao Miguel aqueduct, Miradouro do Cerrado das Freiras, Miradouro da Vista do Rei, Farol da Ferraria, Porta do Diabo and the Miradouro das Cumeiras.



*Figure 13 Farol da Ferraria*



*Figure 12 Sao Miguel Aqueduct*

#### April 24. Day 11, in Sao Miguel

We will head toward the Northeast side of Sao Miguel on our last day of the trip. We will see the Miradouro da Ponta do Sossego, Farol do Arnel, Miradouro do Pico da Barrosa, and finally make our way back toward Furnas, stopping for waterfalls on the way. We will have our farewell dinner in Ponta Delgada.



*Figure 14 Farol do Arnel*



*Figure 15 Sossego*

#### April 25. Day 12, return home

It is now time to return home, or wherever else your travels may take you.

# More Details

## Requirements

The level of activity is expected to be easy to moderate, with many stops to take in the scenery and get those great shots!

Comfortable, quick-dry walking/trekking boots are recommended. Proper rain gear should be close by, especially in Sao Miguel.

## What to Expect

Tap water is fine to drink, as in most of North America. Current is 50 Hertz/220 V, which most laptops and battery chargers are usually compatible with; please check your devices for compatibility in advance. You will need an adaptor to plug in; Portugal uses type F plugs, the same as most of mainland Europe. Cell coverage is good, but it tends to drop outside of main roads.

Our hotels have free WiFi and breakfast is included. Our hotels will be:

- In Porto: The Pestana Porto (3 nights)
- In Obidos: The Literary Man hotel (1 night)
- In Lisbon: The Lumen Hotel (3 nights)
- In Ponta Delgada: The Grand Hotel Açores Atlantico (4 nights)

Portugal mainland time in April is GMT. This means Portugal is 5 hours ahead of New York City. The island of Sao Miguel in the Azores is at GMT-1, so 4 hours ahead of New York City.

Portugal uses the Euro. As a rule, you can pay with Visa and MasterCard at almost every store and restaurant. However, make sure you have some Euros with you, for tips and some of the shops out of the major centers may only accept cash. You can exchange funds in most cities and ATMs are readily available in the cities.

Many airlines offer direct flights to Porto (airport code OPO) from North America: Tap Air Portugal, United, Azores Air, Air Canada and others serving Boston, Newark, Toronto and other major airports. There are some direct flights from Ponta Delgada (airport code PDL) to the USA, though most of the flights will go through Lisbon.

## Photo Gear

Reed will provide you with details as we get closer to our departure.

## Contact Information

René's cell phone: 613-276-4763 and email [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com)

Reed's cell phone: 913-568-8444 and email [reed@reedhoffmann.com](mailto:reed@reedhoffmann.com)

# Pricing

- All prices are in US\$. Please inquire if you would like to pay using a different currency.
- Price is US \$6,975 per person, taxes included. Single occupancy is an extra US \$1,200.
- Payment through Stripe (Visa, MasterCard, with a link provided in the invoice I will send) or wire transfers.
- Deposit of US \$1,500 required to reserve your seat.
- The deposit is refundable until December 31, 2025.
- Balance required on invoicing by January 1, 2026. No refund after December 31, 2025, as we engage funds on your behalf. This is one key reason why we require you to purchase travel insurance.
- Minimum of 4 attendees required for the workshop to be confirmed. Maximum 12 attendees.

## What is Included

- All guide and photo instructor services.
- All lodging, double occupancy, from April 14 to April 25, 2026, breakfast included.
- One flight from Lisbon to Ponta Delgada (economy class).
- Photo reviews and critiques from your mentor.
- All in-country transportation with the group in our bus. It will be Class C air-conditioned coaches.
- Park fees.
- We will provide bottled water while in the vehicle.
- Farewell dinner.

## What is Excluded

- Flights to Porto (airport code OPO) and from Ponta Delgada (airport code PDL).
- Visas if required (you will need a valid passport).
- Extended stays at our initial hotel in Porto, or in our last hotel in Ponta Delgada, can be arranged on request at your cost.
- All hotel incidentals.
- All lunches and dinners, and all beverages, including alcoholic beverages (the final dinner is included).
- Airport transfers from Porto airport, and to Ponta Delgada airport.
- Participants are required to purchase their own travel insurance, that will cover their costs if it becomes necessary for them to cancel after payment, or to return home in case of a medical emergency.
- Additional/optional excursions not listed in the itinerary.
- Gratuities for the drivers and hotel staff. I will collect tips for the mainland bus driver on our last day in Lisbon. I suggest cash, and €75.

## How to Book a Seat

To reserve seats, please send me an email at [rbastien@highlightphototours.com](mailto:rbastien@highlightphototours.com) and I will send you a link to pay the deposit.