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Silver Coast and Golden River: Art, Architecture & Culture of Portugal 2025

5 SEP – 22 SEP 2025

Code: 22527

Tour Leaders Dr Maria de Lourdes Riobom, Inge Pullar

Fitness Level

Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

Explore Portugal's distinctive history while staying in heritage hotels, visiting museums, Renaissance & Baroque palaces, gardens, medieval castles, Roman monuments & Palaeolithic rock art.

Overview

With Dr Maria de Lourdes Riobom, explore the distinctive history of fascinating Portugal, adjacent to but so different from Spain. Maria will be assisted by ASA tour manager, Inge Pullar.

- In Lisbon visit outstanding museums including the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, Museu de Marinha and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and its Centro de Arte Moderna (CAM).
- Visit the royal summer retreats at Sintra – the Palácio Nacional featuring some of Portugal's finest geometric *azulejos* (glazed tiles), and the fanciful Palácio de Pena in the hills above.
- Explore Roman Portugal: the Temple of Diana at Évora; the elaborate mosaic floors at the archaeological site of Conímbriga; the imposing theatre and amphitheatre of Mérida; and NARC – displaying remnants of a Roman sardine factory dating from the 1st century AD.
- Enjoy a private visit to Fábrica Alentejana de Lanifícios producing traditional heirloom blankets detailed with motifs and colour palettes inspired by Alentejo's architecture.
- Visit Monsaraz, Marvão and Castelo de Vide: three hilltop towns with medieval castles that defended the frontiers between Christian Portugal and Muslim territory.
- Tour the historic University of Coimbra, including the glorious high Baroque Joanina Library.
- Encounter the intricate Portuguese Flamboyant Gothic style during visits to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Alcobaça and Batalha Monasteries.
- At the pilgrimage site of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios ascend the monumental stairway, one of the greatest works in Portuguese rococo style, decorated with *azulejos*, urns and fountains.
- Explore the legacy of the Knights Templar: visit their Castle at Almourol and the huge complex of Convento de Cristo at Tomar.
- Visit the Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa, a UNESCO World Heritage site containing more than a thousand Palaeolithic rock art depictions of animals and human figures.
- Journey through the Douro Valley: visit the 18th-century manor house of Solar de Mateus and enjoy a wine-tasting at the 17th-century Quinta de Aveleda.
- End in Porto, with its UNESCO World Heritage quayside on the river Douro, from which it exported its famous fortified wine. Enjoy a farewell meal at the award-winning Graham's English Port Lodge.
- Sample Portugal's fine cuisine at local restaurants and wineries including the beautifully restored organic farming estate of São Lourenço do Barrocal in Alentejo.
- Experience the charm of the Convento de São Paulo – a converted 10th-century monastery with *azulejos* – and the Hotel Quinta das Lágrimas – a historic palace with extensive gardens.

Overnight Lisbon (5 nights) • Redondo (2 nights) • Marvão (2 nights) • Tomar (2 nights) • Coimbra (2 nights) • Lamego (2 nights) • Porto (2 nights)

Testimonial

A highly appealing tour, with informative lecturers and outstanding visits, in congenial company. It was a great delight to visit many historic sites, architectural masterpieces and spectacular art collections and museums. The cities and towns were of exceptional interest. The whole tour can be most enthusiastically commended. John, VIC.

Leaders

Dr Maria de Lourdes Riobom

PhD in Education Sciences/Art History from the University of Seville, Spain and a Master's degree in Contemporary Art History from the New University of Lisbon. Maria first joined ASA as a lecturer for Portugal in 2016.

Maria de Lourdes Riobom obtained a Master's Degree in Contemporary Art History from the New University of Lisbon and a PhD in Education Sciences/Art History from the University of Seville, Spain. She was a history teacher from 1976 to 1990. From 1990 to 2014 she worked at the Education Department of the National Museum for Ancient Art, where she was the head curator from 2007 to 2014, curating some exhibitions and working with different audiences. She directed a project with young offenders and does teacher training at the museum. Since 1990 she has also been an Art History Professor at IADE - Creative University, Lisbon. She is an INSEA (International Society for Education through Art) member and as such participated in several congresses where she presented different papers. She has participated in several CIANTEC (Congresso Internacional em Artes, Novas Tecnologias e Comunicação) congresses in Brazil, presenting papers about museum education. Maria has also been on several PhD juries in Portuguese and Brazilian universities, and is regularly a member of scientific committees at different congresses. Maria first joined ASA as a lecturer for Portugal in 2016.

Inge Pullar

Inge Pullar is an experienced tour manager who has travelled extensively through Europe, Asia and the Americas. She speaks several languages, including fluent Dutch and intermediate German, French and Spanish.

Inge Pullar has extensive experience leading tours in Europe, the USA and Australia, including several Contemporary Architecture Tours for ASA. She studied History of Society at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam and undertook Art History subjects at University College London and Cultural History subjects at Leiden University. Inge has travelled widely in Europe, North-, Central- and South America, South East Asia, Japan, The Pacific and Australia and speaks several languages, including fluent Dutch and intermediate German, French and Spanish. Since 2017 Inge has managed ASA tours to Spain, Morocco, Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores), France, United Kingdom and Japan.

Combine this tour with

Cultural Landscapes of the Midi-Pyrénées & the Dordogne 2025
23 SEP – 8 OCT 2025

Venice: Jewel of the Adriatic 2026
25 SEP – 8 OCT 2026

Along the Via Egnatia: Macedonia, Albania and Corfu 2025
27 SEP – 14 OCT 2025

Andalucía: Cultural Landscapes of Southern Spain 2025
23 SEP – 10 OCT 2025

Itinerary

The following itinerary lists a range of museums and other site visits which we plan to visit. Many are accessible to the public, but some require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches and dinners featuring the best of Portugal's cuisine, indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

Lisbon - 5 nights

Day 1: Friday 5 September, Arrive Lisbon

- Tour commences at 2.00pm in the foyer of the Heritage Lisboa Plaza Hotel
- Welcome Meeting
- Castelo de São Jorge (Castle of St. George)
- Sé Catedral de Lisboa (Church of Santa Maria Maior)
- Welcome Dinner

Meeting Point: The tour commences at 2.00pm in the foyer of the Heritage Lisboa Plaza Hotel.

Lisbon owes its historical prominence to its magnificent natural harbour. The city lies on the north bank of the Tagus River (Rio Tejo), approximately 13km from its mouth. At this point the river is almost two miles wide. It is spanned, on the west side of the city, by the long 25 de Abril Bridge. Just east of the bridge, the Tagus suddenly broadens into a bay eleven kilometres wide called the Sea of Straw (Mar de Palha), which lies on a strategic sea route and serves as a busy port, handling much of Portugal's and Spain's exports and imports.

After our welcome meeting we visit the Castle of St. George and the Lisbon Cathedral. The castle is

intimately linked to Lisbon's history, as it is here that the Phoenicians are purported to have founded the first settlement. On this salient position, successive citadels became Roman, Islamic and Christian centres of power. The Castle, which overlooks Lisbon on all sides, is surrounded by a wild garden from which there are views over the city's roofs and bell towers.

Lisbon's cathedral, the Church of Santa Maria Maior, is one of the major examples of Romanesque-Gothic architecture in the city. Although it was originally built in the 12th century, there were later additions from the 13th and 14th centuries and some less significant work in the following centuries. It has undergone several restorations since the 1755 earthquake.

This evening we enjoy a Welcome Dinner at one of Lisbon's fine local restaurants. (Overnight Lisbon) D

Day 2: Saturday 6 September, Lisbon

- Mosteiro dos Jerónimos
- Lisbon Museu de Marinha
- Lunch at restaurant Versailles
- NARC: Núcleo Arqueológico da Rua dos Correeiros

This morning we tour the district of Belém by coach, visiting Jerónimos Monastery, a masterpiece of Manueline architecture, and the Torre de Belém ('Tower of Bethlehem'), the robust fortress built to protect the mouth of the Tagus. Belém derives its name from the great church and monastery of the Hieronymite friars (Mosteiro dos Jerónimos), dedicated to St. Mary of Bethlehem. It is a fine example of Manueline architecture, a blend of late Gothic and Renaissance elements that was very popular in Portugal in the 16th century. The church attached to the monastery is unique in the boldness of its vaulted roof which is supported by decorated columns that fan out as they meet it. It is richly ornamented with the navigation symbols that characterise the Manueline style. The tombs of Vasco da Gama and Camões, Portugal's great national poet, are in the church. The monastery was begun in 1502 by Boytac (Boitaca), an architect of French origin, and was not finished until the end of the century. Four other architects worked on the project, their styles passing from the Gothic through the Renaissance to the Baroque.

The 'Age of Discovery', during which the explorers of Europe sailed around Africa to Asia and across the Atlantic to the Americas, was led by the Portuguese. Superior navigation techniques and ship-building skills allowed Portugal to monopolise the newly discovered trade routes, bringing the country tremendous wealth and power. This morning we visit the Maritime Museum in Lisbon, one of the most important museums of its kind. Here we discover some of the models, maps, globes and artefacts that illustrate the glories of Portugal's maritime history.

We drive back to the city centre to visit NARC, a remarkable archaeological site hidden under the Millennium BCP bank headquarters. The layers of ruins dating from the Iron Age were discovered in 1991 and have been designated a National Monument. We descend a series of tunnels to view the remnants of a Roman sardine factory dating from the 1st century AD. Highlights include a Roman mosaic dating to the 3rd century, numerous *frigidaria* and fish-preservation tanks, and a Visigoth burial site with a remarkably preserved 30-year-old male skeleton. (Overnight Lisbon) BL

Day 3: Sunday 7 September, Lisbon

- Museu de Lisboa
- Torre de Belém and Padrão dos Descobrimentos (exterior)
- Lunch at restaurant Comptoir Parisien

- Museu de Arte Antigua
- CIAN – Murais Almada Gares Marítimas Centro Interpretativo

We start the day with a visit to the Museu de Lisboa, a museum dedicated to the history of Lisbon, from prehistoric times to the modern day. The museum is housed in various buildings across Lisbon, and we visit the Pimenta Palace in Campo Grande. This 18th-century summer palace framed by the remains of an old manor house presents the city's development as well as temporary exhibitions. The Museu de Lisboa has a vast collection of paintings, sculptures, maps, historical documents, and other artwork.

The five-storey Torre de Belém was originally located at the centre of the Tagus. It now forms a type of small architectural peninsula jutting into the river (which has changed course). Built in 1515 to guard the entrance to Lisbon, it was erected in the Manueline style by Francisco de Arruda. Girt by a cable carved in stone, it has a stern Gothic interior but exhibits North African touches on its turrets and crenelations. Renaissance arches form its windows.

The Museu Nacional de Arte Antigua is housed in the 17th-century Palace of the Counts of Alvor and has an important collection of Portuguese works from the 15th and 16th centuries and Flemish and German paintings (Cranach, Memling, Hieronymus Bosch, Mabuse, Holbein, etc.). There is also a fascinating group of 16th-century Japanese screens depicting the activities of the Portuguese in Japanese waters, and a small but excellent collection of Spanish paintings of the Golden Age including Velázquez and Zurbarán.

Next we visit the Murais Almada Gares Marítimas Centro Interpretativo dedicated to the mural paintings that the artist Almada Negreiros (1893-1970) made for the Maritime Stations of Alcântara and Rocha do Conde de Óbidos. The buildings were designed by the architect Porfírio Pardal Monteiro and built in the 1940s. The Interpretation Centre tells the story of the paintings and the context in which they were created and of the artist and his work in the city of Lisbon. (Overnight Lisbon) BL

Day 4: Monday 8 September, Lisbon

- Guided tour of the Gulbenkian Foundation Park and Buildings
- Exhibition Adriana Varejão and Paula Rego in dialogue
- Afternoon at leisure

Calouste Gulbenkian was a Turkish Armenian who derived his great wealth from the five percent commissions he took for selling Iraqi oil. He lived much of his life in Lisbon and donated most of his fortune and his collection to create a museum and foundation.

We explore the Foundation Park and Buildings with a guided tour that highlights the relationship between the architecture and the landscape that surrounds it. The architectural complex of the Gulbenkian Foundation was built during the 1960s and it is an exceptional project, in terms of size and technical competence, which were decisive factors in its classification as a National Monument.

We then visit the new exhibition *Adriana Varejão and Paula Rego in dialogue* showcasing the works of Paula Rego (1935-2022) and Adriana Varejão (1964), two artists from different generations. By revisiting their themes and creating new narratives, the exhibition explores the intersection of their artistic practices. Varejão's pioneering post-colonial perspective, alongside Rego's politically charged exploration of the private and public spheres, offers a unique lens through which to examine the history of women across diverse geographies, sparking broader reflections on contemporary issues.

The afternoon is at leisure for you to further explore Lisbon. You may choose to visit the Museu-Escola de

Artes Decorativas (Museum of Decorative Arts) with its interesting display of furniture and tapestries from the 16th to 19th centuries.

In the evening, you might want to experience Portugal's haunting traditional Fado music, considered the country's musical treasure and involving a singer accompanied by two guitarists. The songs are usually soulful and sad, about love and loss or things that were never accomplished. (Overnight Lisbon) B

Day 5: Tuesday 9 September, Lisbon – Sintra – Lisbon

- Palácio de Pena, Sintra
- Palácio Nacional de Sintra

Today we drive to Sintra where we begin with a visit to the Palácio de Pena, a palace constructed on the site of an Hieronymite monastery founded by Manuel I in 1509. To this was added an extraordinary 'Gothick-Baronial' fantasy palace in the 19th century. You will see parts of the old monastery, the palace that took its place, and the 19th-century additions to it.

The Palácio Nacional, nestled in the verdant Serra de Sintra, was the summer retreat of the Portuguese Royal family. Founded sometime before 1415, it was largely constructed in the 15th and 16th centuries. Its external profile is dominated by the two extraordinary conical chimneys of its distinctive kitchens. Within, we visit these kitchens, as well as royal apartments separated by small courtyards with pretty fountains and decorated with very beautiful *azulejos, artesonado* (Islamic wooden panelling), polychrome ceilings and wood panel inlays. (Overnight Lisbon) B

Redondo - 2 nights

Day 6: Wednesday 10 September, Lisbon – Cabo Espichel – Sesimbra – Redondo

- Cabo Espichel: Pedra da Mua and Lagosteiros Dinosaur Footprints
- Santuario de Nossa Senhora do Cabo Espichel
- Lunch at leisure in the coastal town of Sesimbra

This morning we depart Lisbon for the Setúbal Peninsula. Known for its breathtaking natural beauty, the peninsula boasts pristine sandy beaches, rugged cliffs and crystal-clear waters. One of the most notable landmarks in the area is Cabo Espichel, a dramatic headland that offers panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean. Cabo Espichel is home to a historic sanctuary and a picturesque lighthouse which adds to its charm and allure.

Pedra da Mua and Lagosteiros dinosaur footprints are two fascinating geological sites. Pedra da Mua footprints are a set of fossilized dinosaur footprints preserved in the coastal cliffs and dating from the late Jurassic. Within the tracks are a total of nine different dinosaur pathways, with an estimate of 37 individual animals, mostly four-legged Sauropods. On the other hand, Lagosteiros is an impressive rock formation that resembles a giant footprint, perched on a hilltop overlooking the stunning coastline. Dating from the Cretaceous, the tracks belong to two-legged Theropods. These two sets of prints are separated by a distance of less than 500 metres but span a time of almost 50 million years.

We then drive to the charming coastal town of Sesimbra, nestled between the stunning Serra da Arrábida mountains and the Atlantic Ocean. There will be time at leisure to explore the town's historic centre; its narrow streets feature colourful houses with traditional Portuguese architecture. Overlooking the town is the medieval Castelo de Sesimbra which offers panoramic views of the town and the surrounding coastline.

In the afternoon we drive through the Alentejo region to Redondo where we stay two nights in the Convento de São Paulo. This former monastery dating back to 1182 feels more like a grand private home than a hotel. Backed by a heavily wooded hill, it faces an idyllic view of gently rolling hills covered with groves of lemon, olive and cork trees. The *convento* is decorated with 50,000 *azulejos*, the largest private collection in Europe. Each room is attractively decorated with antiques. The restaurant serves produce and meat fresh from the *convento's* own farm. (Overnight Redondo) BD

Day 7: Thursday 11 September, Redondo – Évora – Reguengos de Monsaraz – Monsaraz – Redondo

- Évora: Roman Temple of Diana, Cathedral, Casas Pintadas & Convent of the Loíos' Friars (Pousada dos Loíos)
- Fábrica Alentejana de Lanifícios, Reguengos de Monsaraz
- Walled town of Monsaraz
- Dinner at São Lourenço do Barrocal

In the 15th century Évora had a population of 25,000 souls. Its present citizenry numbers only about 34,000, reflecting the fact that it is one of the least 'developed', and therefore most pristine, of Portugal's historic cities. Favoured by the Romans, it became a Muslim city from 715 AD until captured by a Christian knight, Geraldo sem-Pavor (Gerald the Fearless), in 1166. It was an isolated Christian bastion until 1211 when it again fell to the Muslims. It was recaptured by Joâo I in 1382 and thenceforth became a royal residence. We visit the Roman Temple of Diana and several other monuments, including the Cathedral (begun 1186, possibly on the site of a mosque), the Roman aqueduct and the 16th-century Casas dos Pintadas decorated with unusual wall paintings of exotic animals. We also visit the Pousada dos Loíos, formerly the convent of the Loíos' friars, which contains several Gothic-Manueline and Renaissance elements, and one of the most perfect Portuguese *Mudéjar* (Islamic) portals of the 16th century.

The Alentejo region has a rich textile tradition and is well-known for producing wool since the 16th century. Alentejo woollen blankets were initially used to protect shepherds from the cold and later became an essential household item. Due to their magnificent patterns and colour combinations they are now used as bed throws or rugs and are sought after by many collectors. Fábrica Alentejana de Lanifícios, located in Reguengos de Monsaraz, was founded at the end of the 19th century. It won awards in international exhibitions in the 1950s and, since 1975, is in the hands of Mizette Nielsen, a dedicated Dutch entrepreneur. Her factory, which we visit, is the last to make these covers, exclusively using Portuguese wool and old semi-manual looms.

We drive to the picturesque medieval walled town of Monsaraz, perched high above the River Guadiana and overlooking the frontier with Spain. The town was an important strategic fortress which was constantly under siege by the Moors. In 1232, King Sancho II definitively retook the citadel and town, placing it under the control of the Knight Templar who had supported him. The Knights were obligated to establish a garrison that would protect the border. There will be time at leisure to explore its narrow streets lined with white-washed houses which lead to its well-preserved 14th-century castle. From the ramparts you can gaze east over the Guadiana to neighbouring Spain, or west across the great plains of the Alentejo.

Tonight we dine at the beautifully restored farming estate of São Lourenço do Barrocal. Its charming white-washed buildings sit within vast stretches of organic vineyards, ancient olive groves and wildflower meadows. Officially certified as an organically working farm, the restaurant's menu features traditional Alentejo cuisine showcasing locally sourced ingredients and regional specialties. (Overnight Redondo) BD

Marvão - 2 nights

Day 8: Friday 12 September, Redondo – Elvas – Mérida – Marvão

- Aqueduct of Elvas
- Mérida: Roman Theatre, Amphitheatre, Bridge and Aqueduct
- Museum of Roman Art, Mérida

Over the next few days we explore Portugal's frontier with Spain visiting grand Roman ruins and small towns dominated by castles that were frontier posts guarding against Hispanic incursion.

This morning we make a brief stop at Elvas to see the extraordinary Aqueduto da Amoreira, a massive aqueduct supplying much needed water to the town, which was begun in the 15th century. So vast was this construction that it took over 124 years to complete. It is 8 kilometres long and comprises 843 arches up to 30 metres in height.

We then cross the border into Spain to visit Mérida, the capital of Roman Portugal when it went by the name Emerita Augusta. Here we will see very well-preserved ruins from this age – a theatre with an elaborate *scaenae frons* (stage building) dating to 16BC, the amphitheatre dating to 8BC, the Roman bridge over the Guadiana River, its 60 spans forming the longest surviving bridge from ancient times, and the important aqueduct that supplied this growing city.

Whilst in Mérida we also visit the Museum of Roman Art whose architecture deliberately echoes the sturdy brick construction of the Romans with arcades of semi-circular arches. It houses the artefacts found over the centuries of excavation in and around the town. (Overnight Marvão) BD

Day 9: Saturday 13 September, Marvão – Castelo de Vide – Marvão

- Town and Castle of Castelo de Vide
- Town and Castle of Marvão

Today we continue our exploration of the Portuguese frontier. First, we drive to Castelo de Vide, situated on a spur of the Serra de São Mamede. Castelo de Vide is a town of old mansions and has a well-preserved medieval *Judiaria* (Jewish quarter). It also has a fine castle.

After lunch we return to Marvão. Its Castle stands over eight hundred metres above sea level on one of the highest points in the Serra de São Mamede. This rugged escarpment forms a natural point of defence, to which access can only be gained from the east, the direction in which the citadel's dependent village has spread inside defensive walls. From Marvão the Portuguese could watch the nearby frontier and the Spanish town of Valencia de Alcántara, from where invading forces would frequently set out. The castle and its walls are well preserved, with superimposed layers from different periods. For example, several sections of the wall, the Romanesque doorway of the keep (Torre de Menagem), the Gates of Treason (Portas da Traição), and a small cistern, all remain from the 12th century. At this time the region was taken from the Muslims by Don Afonso II. At the end of the 13th century the fortifications were improved and strengthened, seen in the pointed-arch gates and the town wall. In the 15th and 16th centuries the various entrances were reinforced, and the keep took on its present structure. A large cistern was also built, a necessity in times of siege. The other fortified gates, the Porta de Rodão, Porta da Vila, Porta do Fortim and Porta da Rua Nova were built later, in the 17th century. These were part of a campaign to reinforce defences during the Wars for the Restoration of Independence fought between Portugal and Spain (1640-68). (Overnight Marvão) BD

Tomar - 2 nights

Day 10: Sunday 14 September, Marvão – Vila Nova de Barquinha – Almourol – Tomar

- CITA: Almourol Templar Interpretation Centre
- Templar Castle of Almourol
- Convento de Cristo, Tomar

We begin today with a visit to CITA, the Almourol Templar Interpretation Centre in Vila Nova de Barquinha, which offers visitors a glimpse into the history of the Knights Templar.

The castle of Almourol, which has a tall central keep surrounded by curtain walls and nine towers, can only be reached by boat. Situated on an islet in the middle of the river Tagus, Almourol was built by the Knights Templar in 1171 and served as a stronghold during the Reconquista. Its romantic setting has given rise to legends of enchanted Moorish women and captured princesses saved by itinerant knights.

Next, we drive to the vast Templar Convento de Cristo at Tomar. In 1157 Gualdim Pais, Grand Master of the Templars, was awarded the site of Roman Nabantia for his services against the Muslims. He built a fortress and church there but moved to an adjacent hill and here withstood a Muslim attack in 1190. In 1314 the Templars of Portugal were transformed into a new Order, the Order of Christ, thus avoiding the dissolution and persecution suffered by Templars elsewhere in Europe. Tomar became the headquarters of the Order of which Henry the Navigator became Grand Master between 1417 and 1460. In the early 16th century Joâo III transformed the Order into a monastic brotherhood, necessitating further construction. The huge complex today is built around six great cloisters. At its heart is the Charola, the sixteen-sided chapel of the Templars, a typical centrally-planned Templar church which, like its counterparts everywhere, is a free imitation of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The complex has a good collection of Flemish paintings, interesting tombs, and fine architectural detailing. Its treasure, however, is its very famous, highly decorated central window. (Overnight Tomar) BL

Day 11: Monday 15 September, Tomar – Alcobaça – Tomar

- Cistercian Abbey of Alcobaça
- Afternoon at leisure in Tomar

This morning we visit the Cistercian Abbey of Alcobaça, arguably the greatest medieval architectural complex in Portugal. Its huge central church is typically Cistercian, being modelled upon the motherhouse of Cîteaux (Burgundy). The complex has several very fine late medieval royal tombs, a great kitchen with a massive chimney (like those of the Palace of Sintra), a fine refectory and the excellent sculpture collection of the Portuguese royal house. Its Gothic architecture is graced with a number of beautiful Manueline additions.

We then return to Tomar where the rest of the day is at leisure to explore the historic centre of this small town. The Nabão River provides a picturesque backdrop for a leisurely walk or a relaxing boat ride. (Overnight Tomar) B

Coimbra - 2 nights

Day 12: Tuesday 16 September, Tomar – Batalha – Conimbriga – Coimbra

- Dominican Monastery of Batalha
- Conimbriga Roman Site

This morning we visit Batalha, site of a famous Dominican monastery founded and built by King Joâo I to commemorate his victory over the Spanish at Aljubarrota on the 15th of August 1385, which assured his accession to the throne. The monastery built to celebrate this Portuguese victory is extraordinary. From the 15th century are the church, the founder's chapel, chapter house, two cloisters, and an octagonal chapel behind the apse. The pantheon of Portuguese kings was completed in the 16th century. Of particular note are the west front, with its innumerable sculptures ('Christ in Majesty'; statues of the Evangelists, and saints), and fine Flamboyant-Gothic window. The profile of the complex is dramatised by extraordinarily intricate Flamboyant-Gothic entablatures, with a mass of detailed tracery and a vast number of small pinnacles. The interior is high and narrow, like Alcobaça.

After lunch, we head to the remarkable Roman archaeological site at Conimbriga. Here we view some of the most-beautiful mosaic pavements preserved *in situ* in all of Europe. This site is still being excavated and continues to reveal treasures of ancient Portugal. We walk the Roman streets past houses and public buildings that give an indication of the importance and wealth of this Roman province. (Overnight Coimbra) BD

Day 13: Wednesday 17 September, Coimbra

- Botanical Garden of the University of Coimbra
- Museu Nacional de Machado de Castro
- Old University, Coimbra
- Old Cathedral, Coimbra

Coimbra was taken from the Muslims in 872 and returned to the Caliphate between 987 and 1064 It became the capital of Portugal between 1139 (when Afonso Henriques was crowned) and 1385. It was the seat of Portugal's only university a number of times between 1308 and 1537, after which it became its permanent home (until the Republic). The city is made up of a lower and upper town. In the upper town, or old city, we visit the Botanical Garden as well as the Museu Nacional de Machado de Castro, then sections of the old university, of which the most imposing part is the University Library, a magnificent High Baroque ensemble in the 'Joâo Quinto' style (1716-1728). We also visit the Romanesque Old Cathedral, one of the finest Romanesque churches in Portugal (founded c.1162), with an elaborate Gothic retable (c.1508) and a cloister (1218) in the Cistercian style. (Overnight Coimbra) BL

Lamego - 2 nights

Day 14: Thursday 18 September, Coimbra – Viseu – Lamego

- Museu Nacional Grão Vasco, Viseu
- Mosteiro de São João de Tarouca
- Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, Lamego

Today we journey north and our first stop is the city of Viseu. Nestled in the heart of Portugal's central region, it is known for its rich history, architectural beauty, and as a regional economic hub for the surrounding wine industry. Here we visit the Grão Vasco Museum which houses an impressive collection of Portuguese art from the 16th and 17th centuries including works by local-born Vasco Fernandes, aka Grão Vasco (the Great Vasco; c 1475–1543), one of Portugal's seminal Renaissance artists.

After lunch we drive to Tarouca to visit its abbey. This was the first monastery of the Cistercian Order to be founded on Portuguese territory in the 12th century, on a site that had a longstanding monastic tradition. This is clearly shown by the fact that the monastery itself is dedicated to St. John, whereas the vast majority

of Cistercian abbeys of the 12th century were dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The countless endowments received (the first of them being made by the first king of Portugal, D. Afonso Henriques) ensured that the monastery enjoyed great prosperity in the 12th and 13th centuries, possessing a vast estate in the north and centre of the country and becoming the motherhouse of various monasteries in the north of Portugal. After the suppression of the religious orders in 1834, it became a parish church.

We then journey to Lamego and visit one of the country's most important pilgrimage sites, Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. The twin-towered, 18th-century church is reached via a grand zig-zagging stairway. Considered one of the greatest works in Portuguese rococo style, this monumental staircase is decorated with blue and white *azulejos*, urns, fountains and statues. (Overnight Lamego) BD

Day 15: Friday 19 September, Lamego – Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa – Lamego

- Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa: UNESCO World Heritage site
- Museum of the Archaeological Park
- Penascosa rock art site

The Parque Arqueológico do Vale do Côa, a UNESCO World Heritage site, contains more than a thousand rock art depictions of animals and human figures. Discovered in 1991, this is the largest outdoor collection of Palaeolithic images and the only known place where rock art from the Upper Palaeolithic through to historical times is found together. Following a visit to the park's museum, we drive out to the Côa Valley in all-terrain vehicles to explore the archaeological sites of Canada do Inferno and Penascosa.

The first rock art site was identified at Côa in 1991. Penascosa is a hill forming a natural amphitheatre on top of the river. The slope presents 36 engraved outcrops, 30 of them with Paleolithic motifs, of which five can be visited. (Overnight Lamego) BLD

Porto - 2 nights

Day 16: Saturday 20 September, Lamego – Penafiel – Porto

- Solar de Mateus, Vila Real
- Lunch at Quinta da Avelada, Penafiel

Today we drive through the Douro Valley, exploring this famous historical wine-growing region as we travel to Porto. We drive first to Vila Real where we encounter the Solar de Mateus, the most famous 18th-century manor house in Portugal, not least because it appears on the rosé wine label we all know! The palace, with its white walls relieved by an extravagance of stone façade decoration and extraordinary pinnacles, is an excellent example of Portuguese Baroque architecture. It is surrounded by water, gardens, tree-covered walks, a beautiful balustraded stairway, formal box-planted terraces and allegorical statues. Inside are magnificent carved wooded ceilings, precious furnishings and artwork.

Quinta da Aveleda, whose estate dates from the 17th century, is one of the main producers of *vinho verde* in the country and enjoys an unusual built heritage surrounded by beautiful gardens. We enjoy lunch before touring the vineyard and historical garden. (Overnight Porto) BL

Day 17: Sunday 21 September, Porto

- São Bento Station – tile panels painted by Jorge Colaço
- Casa do Infante (purported birthplace of Henry the Navigator)

- Palacio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange Palace)
- Time at leisure – optional visit to Lello Bookshop
- Tour of Cockburn's Port Lodge
- Farewell Dinner at Vinum Restaurant – Graham's Port Lodge

Porto, also called Oporto, is the capital and port of the Porto district. The city lies 3kms from the Douro's mouth. Porto is Portugal's second largest city and is the commercial and industrial centre for the zone north of the Mondego River. The city lies chiefly on the river's north bank, with the older district on a hill to the east. The red-tiled warehouses of the town of Vila Nova de Gaia, where vast quantities of port wine are blended and stored, dominate the south bank. The Douro River is spanned by the Dom Luís I Bridge, built in 1881-85 by the French engineer Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, with one of the largest arches in Europe; by the Maria Pia Bridge (1876-77), carrying the Lisbon railway line; and by the Arrábida Highway Bridge, which had the world's longest arch when it was completed in 1962. Porto was the Portus Cale of Roman times when it became a flourishing settlement on the Douro's south bank. The nomadic Alani tribe later founded the city of Castrum Novum on the north bank. The Visigoths took possession of the site in about 540 AD but yielded in 716 to the Muslims. In 997 the Christians recaptured Porto, which for a time became the capital of the counts of Portucalense during Muslim rule in southern Portugal. The Muslims again held the city briefly, but in 1092 it was brought finally under Christian domination. In the 14th century the city became an important port. Henry the Navigator was born there in 1394.

We begin our exploration of the city with a walk to the São Bento Railway Station, which was built in 1900 by architect José Marques da Silva and designed in the French Beaux-Arts architectural style. It is decorated with 20,000 azulejo tin-glazed ceramic tiles depicting Portugal's royalty, warfare and transportation history along with landscape, ethnographical and allegorical scenes that were painted in blue and white by the artist, Jorge Colaço, over an 11-year period between 1905 and 1916. This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of this important azulejo painter's birth. Above the monochromatic tiles are two friezes; one of stylised flowers in blue, gold and white, and the other a polychromatic depiction evoking the history of the road in Portugal. The railway station obtains its name from a Benedictine monastery that once occupied the site back in the 16th century but was destroyed by fire in 1783. It had been rebuilt but then was torn down in the 19th century to make way for the expanding railway system.

We then transfer to the Cais de Ribera, the city's stunning old port district, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Casa do Infante (Prince's House), also known as the Alfândega Velha (Old Customs House). It was built in the 14th century as a customs house and mint, although its present condition derives mostly from its 17th-century remodelling. The name Casa do Infante comes from a popular belief that Henry the Navigator was born here in 1394. The medieval customs house (1354) was constructed under Alfonso IV who intended, by charging dues on goods carried by ships navigating the Douro, to reduce the income and therefore the power of the Bishop of Oporto. The original complex included a mint, storage house and living quarters for employees. Alterations since the 15th century have greatly altered its original structure, which once consisted of two high towers linked by a courtyard. In 1677, under Pedro II, it was virtually rebuilt. The inner courtyard was retained, but its towers were greatly reduced in height, while its street façade gained two extra storeys, with a large staircase leading to the living quarters on the second floor. The storage houses were also greatly enlarged at this time. The façade gained another storey in the 19th century and now houses a city museum. Archaeologists have not only been able to reconstruct the medieval building but have also found vestiges of a Roman edifice under it. A Roman mosaic floor is now on display.

The nearby Igreja de Sao Francisco (Church of Saint Francis), established by the Franciscan Order around 1244 is the most prominent Gothic monument in Porto, being also noted for its outstanding Baroque inner decoration. A fire, caused by the siege of Porto in 1832, destroyed the old cloisters. In its place was built

the Stock Exchange Palace (Palácio da Bolsa), which we visit afterwards. Classified as a National Monument since 1982, it holds the headquarters of the Porto Commercial Association. Its spare Neo-classical façades give no hint of its Arabian Hall within. This vast extraordinary orientalist fantasy of a room designed by Gustavo de Sousa is sheathed in gold patterned and intricate arabesques. The core of this building is said to have been initiated by Afonso IV as the Royal Treasury Office. It was expanded in the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries when storeys were added and its façades enriched.

There will be time at leisure and you may wish to visit the nearby Livraria Lello & Irmão, a historic bookshop with an interior decorated primarily in the Art Nouveau style with Gothic Revival features. An ornate staircase dominates the ground floor and rises to a second-floor gallery under a splendid stained-glass skylight. Wooden bookshelves line the walls and intricately carved ceilings recall a bygone era. Tickets to visit the bookshop can be obtained from a nearby kiosk and the cost refunded on the purchase of a book!

In the late afternoon, we meet up again and cross to Vila Nova Gaia where we shall take a tour of Cockburn's Port Lodge. Here we shall learn about the port trade, sample a drop of this famous local wine. We transfer to one of the major port lodges of the city, Graham's English Port Lodge, to dine in the award-winning Vinum Restaurant & Wine Bar, which enjoys spectacular views of the Douro and the city of Porto. (Overnight Porto BD

Day 18: Monday 22 September, Porto

- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Porto after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Porto Airport. B

Accommodation

A special feature of this tour is our stay in several heritage hotels. ASA has selected 3- to 5-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

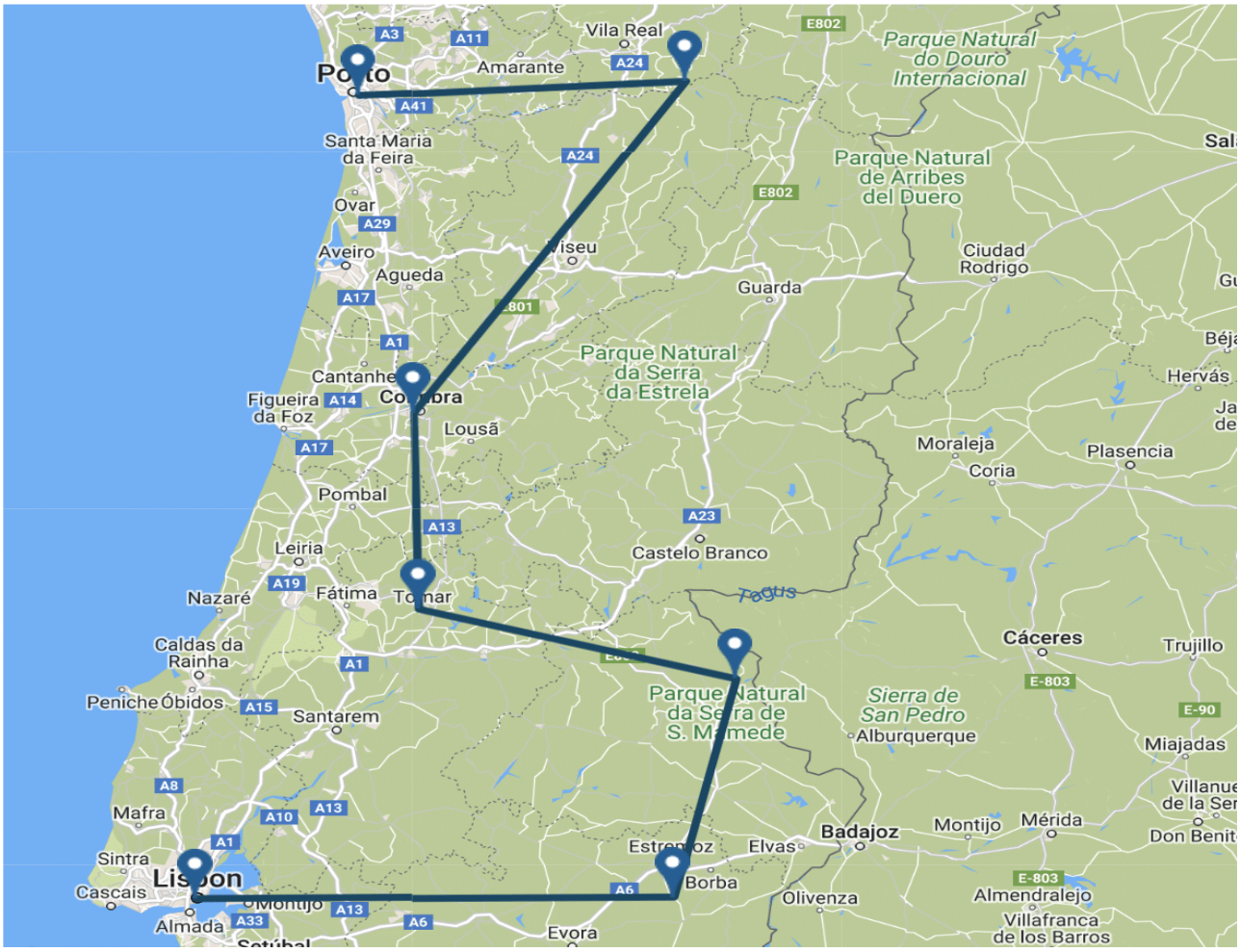
- Lisbon (5 nights): 4-star Heritage Lisboa Plaza Hotel – a boutique hotel located in the historic centre of Lisbon just off the Avenida da Liberdade. www.lisbonplazahotel.com
- Redondo (2 nights): 4-star Convento de São Paulo – a former monastery founded in 1182, which feels more like a grand private home than a hotel. Set against a heavily-wooded hill, it presents an idyllic view of gently-rolling hills with groves of lemon, olive, and cork trees. The *convento* has extraordinary decoration consisting of 50,000 *azulejos* (glazed tiles), the largest private collection in Europe. The restaurant serves produce and meat fresh from the hotel's own farm. www.hotelconventospaulo.com
- Marvão (2 nights): Pousada do Marvão – set by the 13th-century walls of an unspoilt medieval hamlet. The pousada is housed in two medieval buildings and enjoys beautiful views across the Alentejo plains towards Spain. www.pousadas.pt
- Tomar (2 nights): 4-star Hotel dos Templários – a modern and comfortable hotel located a short distance from the historic centre. https://hoteldostemplarios.com-hotel.com
- Coimbra (2 nights): 4-star Hotel Quinta das Lágrimas – a historical palace, beautifully renovated and situated within a 12-hectare garden, close to the university town. www.quintadaslagrimas.pt
- Lamego (2 nights): 4-star Douro Castelo Hotel – Located in Lamego, a hidden gem on the slopes of the Douro, this hotel offers stunning views of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies. www.dourocastelohotel.com
- Porto (2 nights): 5-star Hotel Infante Sagres – a pink Neoclassic palace of the 1950s located one block from Porto's main thoroughfare and 800m uphill from the river. The hotel's elaborate common rooms take their historic cues from their 18th-century antiques, exquisite blue Chinese porcelain vases, ornate gilded ceilings, and tiled floors adorned with elaborate Tabriz rugs. Illuminated by Italian stained-glass panels, the lobby staircase winds up to a lounge replete with richly-carved furniture, a sea of sofas, a regal fireplace and an 18th-century Gobelins tapestry. www.hospes.com/en/infante-sagres-porto/

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a single occupancy throughout the tour. In all hotels on this tour, this will be a double/twin room for single occupancy. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

Tour Map


Vila Real
Amarante
Santa Maria da Feira
Ovar
Aveiro
Agueda
Viseu
Guarda
Parque Natural do Douro Internacional
Parque Natural de Arribes del Duero
Ciudad Rodrigo
Parque Natural da Serra da Estrela
Cantanhede
Figueira da Foz
Lousã
Pombal
Leiria
Fátima
Nazaré
Caldas da Rainha
Peniche
Óbidos
Santarem
Castelo Branco
Moraleja
Coria
Plasencia
Hervás
Cáceres
Trujillo
Parque Natural da Serra de S. Mamede
Sierra de San Pedro
Alburquerque
Miajadas
Badajoz
Montijo
Mérida
Elvas
Borba
Olivenza
Almendralejo
Villafranca de los Barros
Evora
Mafra
Sintra
Cascais
Almada
Tagus
A3
A11
A24
A41
A29
A17
A1
A14
A13
A19
A23
A15
A8
A10
A6
A33
E802
E801
E-803
E-90

Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD $12,680.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 September 2024

AUD $12,880.00 Land Content Only

AUD $2590.00 Single Supplement

Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 4-5-star hotels
- Buffet Breakfast daily; lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Tour handbook
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Lisbon, Porto-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance

Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level

Level 2 - Intermediate

For people with energetic lifestyles and very good mobility

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to six hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular pace, some days for at least 5-7km, visiting many sites and towns that are built on steep hills and involve uphill walking. This includes the historic centres of Lisbon, Castelo de Vide and Marvao which have steep, narrow cobblestone streets that can only be accessed by foot.
- keep up with the group at all times.
- negotiate challenging historic sites which may include several flights of stairs, this particularly applies to visits to monasteries and several museums.
- stand for one to two hours during visits to galleries and museums without the need to sit.
- contend with a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels.

Fitness Levels
Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability

to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

Booking Conditions

ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD $1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Reservation Application

TOUR NAME _____

TOUR DATES _____

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other _____

FIRST NAME _____ Preferred FIRST NAME _____

MIDDLE NAME _____ SURNAME _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ COUNTRY _____ POSTCODE _____

TEL. (AH) ( ) _____ TEL. (BH) ( ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

Date of birth __/__/____ GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

Passport

Number _____ Expiry date __/__/____ Nationality _____

☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

Covid Certificate

☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date __/__/____

☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion _____

Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products

☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts

☐ Other _____

Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address _____

Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person MUST be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name _____ Relationship to Traveller _____

Address _____

TEL. (AH) ( ) _____ TEL. (BH) ( ) _____ Mobile Tel: _____

EMAIL address _____

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Medical Information

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at **www.asatours.com.au**
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. www.traveldoctor.com.au tel:1300 658 444; www.travelvax.com.au tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

	YES	NO
1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?	◯	◯
2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?	◯	◯
3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?	◯	◯
4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?	◯	◯
5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?	◯	◯
6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?	◯	◯
7. Can you administer your own medication?	◯	◯
8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour?	◯	◯

Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

	YES	NO
1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

	YES	NO
1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

Do you carry an epipen?	◯	◯
3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

_____

Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

	YES	NO
1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?	◯	◯

If yes, please specify

_____

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

_____

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?	◯	◯

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

Diabetics: You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?	◯	◯
Are you insulin dependent?	◯	◯
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.	◯	◯

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
   a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
   b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
   c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
   d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of $500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of $1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of $1000.00 is non-refundable.**

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

**$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.

UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form

☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

ASA CULTURAL TOURS

Payment Form

Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 _____

Name of Traveller 2 _____

I have enclosed a payment to the value of $ _____ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel
- ☐ Tour Deposit
- ☐ Balance of Payment
- ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit
- ☐ Travel Insurance
- ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) _____

International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- *via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate*
- *via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg.Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.*

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

Australians Studying Abroad bank details

Bank	ANZ
Branch	420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic
Swift Code	ANZBAU3M
BSB	013-423
Account No	3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. _____

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

_____

Date Money Transferred _____

Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number _____

Expiry Date _____ Security Code (CVC) _____

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ)

_____

Cardholders Name _____

Cardholders Billing Address _____

_____

Postcode _____

State _____ Country _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Cardholders Signature

_____

AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD
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