

**WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST**  
Travel Solo Together

# PORTUGAL

A Journey of Discovery

with Women of the Midwest!

September 29 - October 10, 2026



Dear Women of the Midwest,

We are off to Portugal—for the sixth time! Imagine more than 500 miles of golden beaches, endless cork forests, storybook cobblestoned villages, gentle weather, holy miracles, soulful music, captivating cities, and warm-hearted people ... this country is as sweet and fortified as its wine.

Portugal is a land of contrasts and home to some of Europe's most opulent architecture. Once the gateway to the Iberian Peninsula, the Celts, Romans, Visigoths, Moors, and Christians all left their mark for future generations to admire. As we travel from Porto to Lisbon, we will encounter many of these legacies. And, as always, our journey includes the country's signature delights: a Francesinha sandwich class in Porto, a Port wine cellar visit, wine tasting along the Douro River, Ginjinha (cherry liqueur) tasting, Aveiro salt, and creamy, crunchy pastries.

We will delight in a filigree workshop and visit a treasured bobbin lace school to discover a tradition that began prior to the 18th century. Leave room in your suitcase for favorite azulejos tiles; these are just some of the charming souvenirs you will want to bring home.

Lisbon is where we close our journey—a coastal seaport climbing steep hillsides with sweeping views and known for its colorful cityscape. It is Europe's second-oldest capital (after Athens) and also where Europe begins. Bright yellow vintage trams, Gothic cathedrals, pastel buildings, medieval quarters, and grand monasteries await. Lisbon is lively and serene, always echoing the soulful, melancholic strains of Fado.

Whether you are a history buff, culture lover, food and wine enthusiast, or simply seeking awe-inspiring natural beauty, Portugal will show you how to live life to its fullest!

Come, join me—solo or two-by-two—travel with girlfriends, make new friends, even share a room with someone new; we will introduce you ahead of time!

Sincerely,  
Lora Black  
Ambassador, Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888-549-1186. Space is limited.

## A Window to Porto



## Tomar Castle - Convent of Christ



## Obidos Walled City



### September 29, 2026 - Tuesday

Traveling to Porto, Portugal

Our wonderful and life-inspiring journey begins as we take an overnight flight to Porto. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your dream vacation.

### September 30, 2026 - Wednesday

Porto

Welcome to Porto! Upon arrival, we meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the city's center. We will enjoy a panoramic orientation tour of a town so pretty it feels almost unreal. The second-largest city in Portugal welcomes you with picturesque charm—winding streets, steep staircases, azulejo-tiled buildings, and graceful bridges. Lunch is served in our favorite local restaurant. Stroll along the Douro River this afternoon to prepare for a good night's rest at our beautiful hotel, located right on the river. Dinner at the hotel before we say good night.

B (during flight) | L | D

### October 1, 2026 - Thursday

Porto

We head out to explore beautiful, mysterious, and captivating Porto. We will discover what makes this city remarkable. One neighborhood you will love is the Ribeira World Heritage Historical Center, located on the south hillside. In 1809, when Napoleon's troops invaded, they marched to Ribeira to close the southern access. The population panicked and rushed to the old floating bridge—just a set of small skiffs lashed together. It could not hold the weight and collapsed, causing many casualties. At the Alminhas monument, locals still place candles in memory of those who lost their lives. We will experience the Luis I Bridge, a double-deck metal arch spanning the Douro River.

The São Francisco church is famed for its lavish Baroque interior with ornate golden leaf carvings, one of the city's most beautiful churches. Next door is the Palacio da Bolsa (the Stock Exchange Palace), once part of the St. Francis Convent, founded in the 13th century. We will also visit Casa do Infante, the ancient customs house and residence of Portugal's senior royal officials. All goods entering the Douro, especially from Venice and Northern Europe, were stored here. On the north side of the river is Ribeira, and on the south side is Vila Nova de Gaia, where we will find the world-famous port houses and pause to sip Portugal's most famous fortified wine. Then, a hearty lunch awaits! Together with our chef, we will create a true Porto specialty: the Francesinha sandwich. We will enjoy the result with a chilled beverage, dessert, and coffee. The remainder of the day is yours to wander and savor Porto at leisure. B | T | L

### October 2, 2026 - Friday

Workshops: Sardines - Filigree

After breakfast at the hotel, our day begins with a visit to a cannery factory, where you'll enjoy a hands-on activity—wrapping your own can—and a tasting lunch of regional specialties. No trip to Portugal is complete without a sardine experience: Portuguese sardines are renowned worldwide for their rich flavor and quality, preserved through centuries of artisanal canning traditions. In the afternoon, we step into the art of filigree, introduced to the Iberian Peninsula in the 8th century by Arab migrants. While Spain's tradition faded, Portugal perfected and preserved it. At the workshop, you will learn the intricate techniques and create your own little filigree gem to treasure. We return to Porto in the evening for leisure time. B | L

### October 3, 2026 - Saturday

Guimarães - Wine

Today, we set out for Guimarães, the cradle of Portugal and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This enchanting town is celebrated for its remarkably well-preserved medieval architecture and cobble streets that will transport you back in time. The 10th-century Guimarães Castle, with sweeping city views, stands as a proud symbol of the nation's beginnings. We will also see the elegant convent of Santa Clara, now housing the town hall, and learn how pottery has been part of the city's rustic traditions since the 13th century. Few know that Guimarães is also one of the world's most luxurious producers of fine linens—a testament to its enduring artistry. Enjoy free time for lunch at a local café before we continue into the countryside to visit a winery surrounded by scenic vineyards, learning about the art of Portuguese winemaking before savoring a tasting of fine local vintages. We return to Porto in the evening for a restful night at leisure. B | T | D

### October 4, 2026 - Sunday

Aveiro - Coimbra

Our journey continues southbound as we drive to Aveiro, often called the "Portuguese Venice," distinguished by its canals and colorful boats, the moliceiros, set along the Ria de Aveiro lagoon. We will embark on our private moliceiro to explore the waterways and see the picturesque fishermen's houses, followed by a hands-on workshop of Aveiro's famous sweets. Aveiro is also rich in salt, and we will learn about its harvesting traditions and enduring connection to the sea. An educational tour through the salt ponds will reveal the history, traditions, and secrets behind this ancient activity. Free time for lunch before we continue to Coimbra. Prior to arriving at our hotel,

## Traditional Bobbin Lace



we will tour Coimbra and its university, the oldest in Portugal and among the oldest in the world, built on the grounds of a former palace famed for its baroque library and 18th-century bell tower. Coimbra, once Portugal's capital, is also home to a preserved medieval old town. Dinner is served at the hotel tonight. B | T | D

### October 5, 2026 - Monday

Fátima-Tomar-Nazaré-Alcobaça-Óbidos After a delicious breakfast, we continue our exciting journey. Our first stop is Fátima, a central Portuguese town home to the Sanctuary of Fátima, a Catholic pilgrimage site. The Capelinha das Aparições marks the spot where the Virgin Mary appeared in 1917. We will also visit the Basílica de Nossa Senhora do Rosário with its golden angels. Next, we arrive in Tomar, a sleepy town at first glance—but incredibly pretty once explored. Then we walk uphill to Tomar Castle and the Convent of Christ, the town's shining jewels. Do you remember the religious order mentioned in the Da Vinci Code? Dan Brown fans and history buffs alike can search for Knights Templar secrets here. It's time for a seaside break in Nazaré. We'll enjoy a leisurely late lunch and—if you like—dip your toes in the Atlantic Ocean. On the way to Óbidos, we pause to admire the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Alcobaça Monastery. We end the day in Óbidos, spending the night just outside its medieval walls. Cobble streets, winding staircases, ramparts overlooking windmills and vineyards, and whitewashed houses draped in bougainvillea create an enchanting setting. The local sweet Ginjinha (cherry liqueur) will ensure a restful night. B | T | D

### October 6, 2026 - Tuesday

Peniche - Sintra - Lisbon

## Lisbon Tram



Today's route leads to our final destination, Lisbon, where we will spend four nights. On the way, we stop at one of Portugal's largest fishing ports, Peniche. In addition to fishing, Peniche is known for the art of bobbin lacework, traditionally performed by women while men were at sea. A visit to a lace school is a highlight of this trip. Watch as nimble hands dexterously crisscross cotton bobbins so quickly it seems impossible to follow, gradually creating delicate white lace. The ladies, chatty yet precise, transform the seeming "chaos" into intricate designs. Once common across Portugal, bobbin lacemaking is now rare, yet remains one of the country's finest traditions. Free time for lunch. Next, we visit Sintra, one of the world's most alluring towns. Enchanting palaces, historic fortifications, and winding pathways crown this hilltop retreat. We explore the National Palace, which for more than 1,000 years has presided over the town center. With its white façade, conical chimneys, and intricately tiled chapel, it is among Portugal's best-preserved medieval royal residences. Finally, we arrive in Lisbon. We will gather for dinner tonight. B | D

### October 7, 2026 - Wednesday

Lisbon

After a relaxed breakfast, we set out on a full-day tour to soak in the sights, sounds, and spirit of Lisbon. The city hums with vintage trams, tiled facades, and lively squares. We will visit Rossio Square, the Baixa quarter's main squares, the grand Avenida da Liberdade, and Pombal Square, and pause for photos at Belém Tower and the Monument of the Discoverers. We also visit Jerónimos Monastery (entrance to the church included) with the tomb of Vasco da Gama. Last, but not least, we explore one of our favorite museums, the Tile Museum, housed in a former convent and home to

## Crunchy, Creamy Pastel de Belém



an expansive collection. Along the way, we savor Portugal's iconic pastry, the creamy, cinnamon-dusted pastel de Belém. Time for a leisurely lunch is included. Dinner at the hotel concludes the day. B | T | D

### October 8, 2026 - Thursday

Lisbon

This morning, we meet for a fun tuk-tuk ride through one of Lisbon's historic neighborhoods. While the tuk-tuk is not a traditional means of transport in Portugal, it is an efficient way to navigate the steep, narrow streets. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Stroll cobblestone alleys, visit Lisbon's new "niche museums," explore the fashionable Bairro Alto and Chiado districts, or simply shop until you drop. B | T

### October 9, 2026 - Friday

Lisbon

Today is yours to enjoy and explore Lisbon, or join an optional full-day excursion to Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage city rich in Roman and medieval treasures. It also includes a visit to a traditional cork farm, where we learn about one of Portugal's most iconic industries. In the evening, a candlelit Fado show accompanies our farewell dinner. Fado is the musical soul of Portugal, melancholy woven into melody. The first fadistas were often wives of fishermen who might never return from sea. We couldn't imagine a more beautiful way to end our journey. B | D

### October 10, 2026 - Saturday

Traveling home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Lisbon airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. Enjoy some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across The Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B | Meals during flights. (The itinerary is subject to change)



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 888.549.1186

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website [www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys](http://www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys)

**OPTIONAL EXCURSION:**

Évora: **\$160 PP**  
(minimum 10 participants)

**Package Price:**

Per person in a shared double room: \$4,895  
Per person in a single room: \$6,295

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required at registration and can be paid by ACH (Automated Clearing House), check, or credit card. The balance is due on June 22, 2026, is non-refundable, and can be paid by ACH, check or credit card. When using a credit card for final payment a 3.5% processing fee applies as assessed by the credit card processing company. Checks must be received in our office at least 100 days before the tour's departure date. If you book within 100 days of departure, ACH or credit card payment is the required payment method.

**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

Register by April 29, 2026: Receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

*This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.*

**Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4**

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. Expect to approximately 5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

**Travel Insurance:**

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

*Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196.*

**Group airfare:**

Will become available by the end of November 2025.

**Accommodation** (final accommodation 90 days prior):

Porto:	Palacio de Freixo or similar
Coimbra region:	Conimbriga Hotel do Paco or similar
Obidos:	Villa d'Obidos or similar
Lisbon:	Figuera Beautique Hotel or similar

**Included:**

- 10 nights at local 4- and 5-star hotels
- 10 x breakfast
- 10 meals (lunch or dinner) as per the tour program, including a farewell dinner with a Fado show (water and local wine included)
- Local tastings as per tour program
- All transportation as per the tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Full-time English-speaking professional tour director
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Headphones, where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, September 29 - October 10, 2025
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of September 9, 2025

**B = Breakfast, T = Tasting, L = Lunch, D = Dinner**

**Not Included:**

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees for your second checked bag. Your first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned
- Gratuities to guide and driver (estimate \$15 p/day total)
- Professional fee, \$100 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



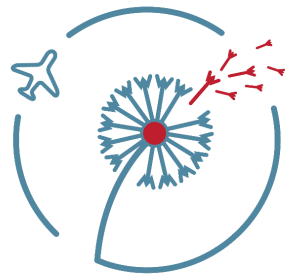
**WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST**

Travel Solo Together

A wholly-owned division of Executive Travel

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour found at <https://executivetravel.com/eti-home/escorted-tours/>

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## WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026:

### Discover Timeless Évora – A Journey Through History and Charm

Treat yourself to a delightful day exploring the heart of Portugal's Alentejo region, where history, culture, and beauty intertwine.

Our optional excursion takes you to **Évora**, a captivating city whose roots reach back to Roman times. Chosen as a royal residence in the 15th century, Évora blossomed into one of Portugal's most important cultural centers – and today, its well-preserved old town is proudly listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Stroll at your own pace through its picturesque, cobble streets lined with whitewashed houses adorned with charming details. Discover magnificent landmarks such as the **Roman Temple of Diana**, the imposing **medieval walls**, the **Cathedral**, the graceful **Graça Church**, and the extraordinary **Chapel of Bones** inside São Francisco Church/Saint Francis Church.

After this inspiring walk, enjoy **free time to savor lunch and browse lovely local shops** – perfect for finding unique gifts or souvenirs.

In the afternoon, we'll visit a traditional **Cork Factory** just outside Évora. Here you'll gain a fascinating glimpse into one of Portugal's most celebrated crafts: the transformation of cork from bark to beautiful, practical creations.

This memorable day combines culture, leisure, and discovery – all at a comfortable, unhurried pace – before returning to Lisbon.

**Price: \$160 per person, including private motor coach and licensed tour guide.**

*The tour will run with a minimum of 10 participants. Your registration is binding; however, if the minimum number is not reached, Women of the Midwest will issue a full refund before the final payment date.*



**We offer group airfare with United Airlines:**

September 29, 2026	Omaha* - Houston	6:00 AM - 8:25 AM
September 29, 2026	Houston - Newark	1:35 PM - 6:10 PM
September 29, 2026	Newark - Porto	9:50 PM - 9:45 AM (September 30, 2026)
October 10, 2026	Lisbon - Newark	10:25 AM - 1:20 PM
October 10, 2026	Newark - Chicago	3:20 PM - 5:07 PM
October 10, 2026	Chicago - Omaha*	7:52 PM - 9:29 PM

**\$1,650 per person including taxes and fees, economy class.**

\*We are happy to assist with airfare from a different airport than Omaha. Reach out to get your quote. If you travel from a different airport, we aim to have you meet your fellow travelers at Newark Airport on September 29 and return from Lisbon around the same time as the rest of the group on October 10.

Individual additional transfers may be necessary if meeting the main group is not possible. We can assist (there could be an additional cost).

**Important notes about seat assignments, upgrades, TSA Pre-Check- & Frequent Flyer Numbers:**

- Group airfare comes with **seat assignments 30 days prior to departure**. We cannot confirm precise seat numbers earlier than 30 days prior to your departure and therefore cannot guarantee the availability of specific seating on the aircraft. We do our best to honor your preferences (window, aisle seat).
- **Premium seating upgrades - depending on availabilities:**
  - Economy Plus* can be purchased and confirmed once the tickets are issued = 30 days prior to departure. Estimate a supplement of \$400-\$800.
  - Premium Economy* can be reserved at the time of booking your trip with us. Estimate a supplement of \$3,000-\$4,000.
  - Business Class* can be reserved at the time of booking your trip with us. Estimate a supplement of \$6,000-\$8,000.
- **Mileage credit** for individuals on group air contracts is not guaranteed and is subject to the rules of the airline under contract.
- **TSA Pre-Check numbers and Frequent Flyer numbers must be reported at the time of reservation.** Otherwise, each traveler must provide these numbers upon check-in on the day of departure.
- **Taxes**, fuel charges and security fees are subject to change.
- **Air schedules** are subject to change at the discretion of the airline.

**SECURE YOUR AIRFARE WHEN SIGNING UP!**

