

Our Portuguese Escapade

15 -30 June 2024

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We meet in Auckland and fly up in the sky
And 17 hours later we land in Dubai

North up to Lisbon our last leg takes us
The interminable customs queue almost breaks us

In Evora we learn about the bark of cork trees
Bags and purses and shoes – yes please!

Wine tasting on the terrace is most pleasant indeed
Then it's time for lunch and an almighty feed

On to the Algarve along fab roads we drive
It's Brazilian BBQ night and some of us jive

In Sagres we get up close to the sea
And our boat ride in Lagos fills us with glee

We then head back to Lisbon where our hotel is great
The rooms, staff and food, we truly do rate

Through the modern part of the city we wander
We eat, drink and shop; there's no time to squander

On the city tour, up and up we head
Thank God for the lifts or we'd all be dead!

We scoff custard tarts and gaze at the Tower of Belem
And by now the churches all look the same!

The Palace in Sintra leaves our jaws on the floor
And the fabulous township has us wanting more

We have free time to spend in the afternoon
And as night falls we see the gorgeous full moon

There's plenty of emotion at the Fado show
Some really like it, others say "no"

It's farewell to Lisbon with Obidos first stop
After tasting cherry cups we've got time to shop

We view Nazare beach from above and below
And then off to a shady café we go

Lunch is tasty and the water is cold
And in the local shoe shop, Sally strikes gold

In Fatima we watch pilgrims walk on their knees
While we wander about with relative ease

Coimbra's a lovely old university town
With terrain that requires us to go down down down

In Porto our guide Patricia we thank
And make our way down the river bank

The Gil Eanes is compact and oh-so-sleek
It'll do very nicely for the coming week

The festival starts; fireworks light up the sky
And then in our narrow cabin beds we lie

The staff are friendly and the meals are fine
We sample all sorts of Portuguese treats as we dine

The Douro Valley never ceases to amaze
We see and do plenty throughout these days

We cruise and snooze and enjoy the quiz
We sip wine and cocktails and a bit of fizz

There's dancing and singing as well as the shows
And throughout it all the tawny port flows

We see palaces and churches and have beers in squares
And the souvenir shops sell us their wares

We go up and down locks and lounge in the sun
And chatter and laugh and have all sorts of fun

The vineyards are striking and stretch for miles
And the hillside buildings come in all sorts of styles

In Salamanca we get a taste of Spain
It's a long day that ends in the lounge bar again

Time on board cruising is very relaxing
But the cobblestone walking can be kinda taxing

The colours are lovely in tones of green
A nice setting to reflect on all the wonders we've seen

Then it comes time to farewell our crew
And take a final look at the beautiful view

In Aveiro Catarina shows us around
It's a city where boats and bright colours abound

Our adventure's complete and it's time to fly home
Except for those who have more places to roam

It's been a trip full of friendship, sightseeing and fun
Our tour of Portugal is now over and done

The country is awesome, this we do know
And with special memories, home we do go



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