

# Cycling Safaris

## Portugal Castles & Wine 2024

### Self Guided Tour

245-267 km / 7 nights / 8 days

The Castles and Wine bike tour lives up to its name. Most nights will be passed either in a castle or an old convent, now beautiful charming hotels.

Along the way, the great ancient city of Évora, world heritage site, and small fortified hamlets will tell the stories of wars with moors and Spain. The border is right there on the other side of Alqueva, the biggest artificial lake in Europe.

The loveable Alentejo people, at first shy, the Mediterranean typical gastronomy along with the wonders of cork, marble, olive oil and other crafts will enrich your experience. And the wine... well come and judge for yourself...



All this in safe backroads with some easy bits off the asphalt riding, with us by your side

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### **DAY 1 Saturday Arrival Day to Arraiolos**

Arrive to Arraiolos, a medieval village with a beautiful castle, optional transfer from Lisbon Airport for €75.00. A chance to check into your hotel and relax for the afternoon. At 6 p.m. there is a briefing of your bike tour.

#### **Day 2 Sunday Arraiolos Route - Cycling from Arraiolos to Évora. 30 / 45 kms**

Total ascent: 400 mts / Difficulty: medium on rolling terrain, some dirt roads.

The bike tour starts cycling through Arraiolos village with its rich historical centre. Climb to the castle, one of the few round shaped in the peninsula, and conquer its unforgettable views from there.

On the way to Évora its time to visit the Fita Preta winery, located in a medieval property with a 14<sup>th</sup> century's palace, recently restored after several years left to abandonment. A lot of prized wines here! Or, alternatively, an aromatic herbs farm, where you will taste delicious teas, honey and olive oil. Distance: 30 km if you sleep in Évora. 45 km if you sleep at our guesthouse.

### Day 3 Monday

### Megalithic Route - Cycling around Évora

45 kms

Total ascent: 500 mts / Difficulty: medium : flat terrain, some dirt roads.

A more demanding climb in the end can be avoided with a transfer if you stay at our farm.

If you are intrigued by the evolution of our kind, puzzled by the enormity of some Neolithic constructions or wondered about the magical meaning of some pre historical sites, than this bike tour day is for you. Our Cycle includes visiting the biggest dolmen and one of the most important cromlech in Europe with over 5000 years of history



The ride finishes in Évora, where you will have the chance to wonder around and get immersed in this ancient pre-roman settlement. One of the highlights will be the visit to the surreal XIII century bone chapel.

### Day 4 Tuesday

### Valley of the Degebe River - Cycling from Évora to Reguengos de Monsaraz. 50 /57km

Total ascent: 500 mts Difficulty: medium on undulating roads

Leaving Évora toward the rising sun a more barren landscape unfolds. The cycle takes you between olive groves to reach the small and traditional village of Nossa Sr<sup>a</sup> de Machede. After a pause for a cold drink or coffee you can a visit to an old working leather factory.

After lunch, the mysterious castle of Valongo will provide shade while it unveils its Roman past. A calm ride through easy backroads sets the tone to the day's final destination. Before dinner a visit to a local distinct winery where the scent of the brewing clay pots fills the air with the ancient knowledge that makes great wine.



### LUXURY OPTION

You may cycle 10 kms more and stay at [Herdade de S. Lourenço do Barrocal](#), a charm country hotel with an architecture prize. Having dinner there you may try the wine and olive oil done by the estate. If you chose this option we recommend that you stay for 2 nights, and we will adapt your cycling route to Monsaraz.



**Day 5 Wednesday Conquest of the Castle of Monsaraz**

**35 km**

Total ascent: 380 mts Difficulty: easy+, except the climb to Monsaraz  
Terrain: flat roads, with one ascent to the castle

Today's destination is the fortified village of Monsaraz, an important stronghold in the defence of Portugal, just by the border with Spain.



On the way you can visit the famous pottery village of S. Pedro do Corval, where you can see the men making magic with the clay, transforming it into beautiful pots and plates, and the ladies painting them with flowers in an impressive speed.

Then with Spain in sight lunch by the biggest artificial lake in Europe, the Alqueva dam reservoir. Then it's time to conquer the castle, use all your energy to climb up to Monsaraz! Your hotel is either just by the city walls or inside, either option really nice. See the sunset from the tower!

**Day 6 Thursday The Sanctuary Route - Cycling from Monsaraz to Vila Viçosa.**

**50 kms**

Total ascent: 680 mts Difficulty: medium : undulating, with some climbing

The day's ride will lead to the marble capital of Portugal and one of the biggest in Europe. The marble triangle will mark the landscape for the next bike tour days. The so called white gold is the main economic driver of the region. Its richness is a constant presence in the wide streets and tall buildings.

A visit to an impressive fortified sanctuary with an interesting tale will close the morning. Then a rare sight over distinct coloured lagoons finishing with accommodation in an aristocratic convent.

**Day 7 Friday The Marble Route - Cycling from Vila Viçosa to Estemoz.**

**35 kms**

Total ascent: 680 mts Difficulty: easy + undulating, with some climbing

It is possible to cut out some of these climbs by paying a small extra fee the luggage transfer will be done in a van that can pick you and the bikes up along the way.



Today's cycle is soft so you can take this opportunity to taste some local delicacies: Petiscos (Snacks). From tavern to tavern the journey will delight all your senses!

The rest of the day can be spent enjoying the wonderful views until you arrive at Estremoz, the final destination of the journey.

Your journey will not be over until you climb up to the marble Donjon tower of the castle where you stay overnight!

## Day 8 Saturday Departure

Time to head home – optional transfer to Lisbon Airport for €75.00

### 2024 TOUR PRICE

#### High Season – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October

Based on a **minimum of two** travelling

€1,295 per person sharing

€1,955 for single occupancy

#### High Season – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October

Based on a **minimum of four** travelling

€1,125 per person sharing

€1,785 for single occupancy

\*If you are travelling outside the high season you will apply for a discount of €145 per person sharing or €385 single room discount

### 2024 TOUR DATES

Saturday arrival as standard, non Saturday arrivals are possible for an €110.00 supplement per person

### WHAT TO BRING

- Comfortable cycling clothing – shorts, shoes, gloves etc
- A set of light waterproof clothing suitable for riding
- Hat, sunglasses and bathing suit
- Personal cycle helmet if you prefer but helmets are included in bike rental

### WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 7 nights accommodation with breakfast
- 24 hour phone support
- Daily baggage transfer
- Daily riding notes & map
- Basic repair kit
- Transfers back to the farmhouse accommodation ( if staying there ) from Megalithic Tour

**Not included:**

€110 - 21 Speed Hybrid Bikes (helmet, carry bag and rear support rack on all bikes)

€210 - E-bike rental (on request only)

€55 - GPS rental

€15 - Phone rental, calls not included

Airport transfer to first hotel: €100 per person (price for minimum of two people)

Airport transfer from last hotel: €130 per person (price for minimum of two people)

## BIKES



Bikes are not included. For the rental rate of €110 you are provided with hybrid-type tourist bicycles from Trek with conventional handlebars and with triple chain ring and easy-to-change 24 gear ratios for comfortable and easy cycling.

Hybrid bikes will carry a pannier bag, useful for carrying money, documents, camera and lots of other useful items which may be needed close at hand. They are also equipped with a rear luggage rack and a bike helmet

In addition, all cycles are equipped with basic tool/repair kit

E BIKES are available for a €210 supplement



**FOCUS**

**CUBE**



**FOCUS AVENTURA 1.0**

**CUBE TOURING HYBRID ONE 400**

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Arrival points

Lisbon Airport is the closest airport. Its possible to book airport transfers:

Airport transfer to first hotel: €100 per person (price for minimum of two people)

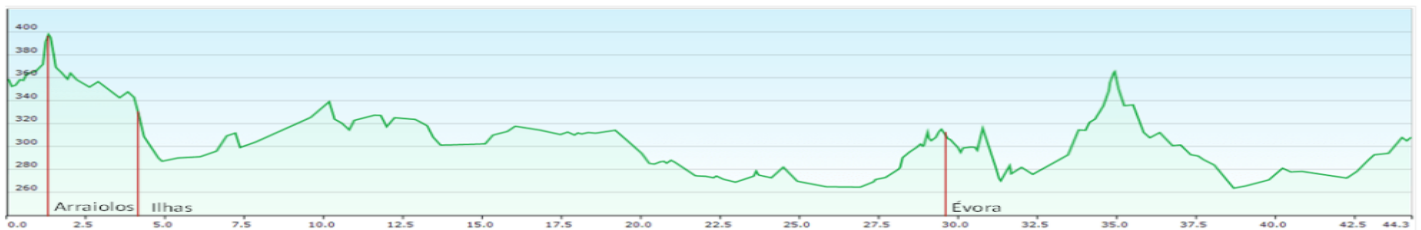
Airport transfer from last hotel: €130 per person (price for minimum of two people)

### Terrain / Gradients

Portugal is not flat. Terrain is undulating and at times flat, however distances are not excessive.

## PROFILES

### 1st cycling day from Arraiolos to Évora



Altitude gain: 400 mt/ 1938 ft

Total Distance: 30 km or 45 km

Level: medium

### 2nd cycling day Megaliths (from Évora to Évora)



Altitude gain: 579 mt/ 1899 ft

Total Distance: 49 km/ 30 mi

Level: medium

### 3rd cycling day from Évora to Reguengos



Altitude gain: 517 mt/ 1696 ft

Total Distance: 48.1 km/ 29 mi

Level: medium

### 4th cycling day from Reguengos to Monsaraz



Altitude gain: 417 mt/ 1368 ft

Total Distance: 31.6 km/ 19 mi

Level: easy plus

### 5th cycling day from Monsaraz to Vila Viçosa



Altitude gain: 671 mt/ 2201 ft

Total Distance: 48.2 km/ 29 mi

Level: medium

### 6th cycling day from Vila Viçosa to Estremoz



Altitude gain: 315 mt/ 1033 ft

Total Distance: 31,2 km/ 19 mi

Level: easy plus