

Cycling Safaris

Portugal Castles & Wine 2025

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. A chance to check into your hotel and relax for the afternoon. At 6 p.m. there is a briefing of your bike tour.

Accommodation – your choice between:

[Pousada de Arraiolos](#), built in a wonderful 16th century convent, with swimming pool, 2 kms from Arraiolos
[Casa do Plátano](#), a very charming guest house in the village centre

Day 2, Sunday: Arraiolos Route - Cycling from Arraiolos to Évora 30 / 45 kms total ascent: 486m

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 14th 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.

Wine tasting at Fita Preta Winery – 35 € (then bike 6 kms to our farm or 12 kms to your hotels in Évora)

Distance: 30 km if you sleep in Évora. 44 kms if you sleep at our guesthouse

Difficulty: easy + to medium, Terrain: rolling terrain, some dirt roads.

Accommodation:

[Monte do Serrado de Baixo](#), our lovely guesthouse, with swimming pool

[Hotel Mar de Ar Muralhas](#), 4*, in Évora historical center, with swimming pool

PREMIUM OPTION

You may upgrade your stay to the 16th century recovered convent, [Hotel Mar de Ar Aqueduto](#)

Day 3, Monday: Megalithic Route - Cycling around Évora

49 kms / Total ascent: 579m

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.

Distance: 49 kms, if you sleep in Évora. Also, 49 kms, if you slept at our guesthouse, with a transfer at the beginning of the day.

Total ascent: 579 mts

Difficulty: medium

Terrain: flat terrain, some dirt roads. A more demanding climb in the end that can be avoided with the transfer when you sleep at our farm.

Accommodation: in same hotel.

Day 4, Tuesday: Valley of the Degebe River - Cycling from Évora to Reguengos de Monsaraz. 50 /57km

Total ascent: 314 m

Most of the day is along a brand-new cycling lane, very peaceful and away from traffic.

On some sections our track leaves the ecotrail so that you can enjoy quaint little villages and local cafés. But you can skip those exits if you prefer to take a picnic and enjoy the pure nature. The ecotrail is very flat and it will be a very easy ride.

At the traditional village of Nossa Sr^a de Machede you can visit a local leather artisan.

After a pause for a cold drink or coffee continue until the mysterious castle of Valongo, which will provide shade while it unveils its roman past...

From here continue on the ecotrail, take the asphalt road or go on an adventurous dirt track.

You can choose to book a visit to a local distinct winery where the best wine still stages in clay pots!

Distance: 50 km (if you slept in Évora) or 58 kms (if you slept at our guesthouse)

Difficulty: medium

Terrain: undulating roads

Accommodation: [Solar de Alqueva](#), with swimming pool

PREMIUM OPTION

You may cycle 10 kms more and stay at [Herdade de S. Lourenço do Barrocal](#), a charming 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

31 km / Total ascent: 417m

Today's bike tour destination is the fortified village of Monsaraz, an important stronghold in the defense of our nation just by the border with Spain.

On the way we will 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!

Difficulty: easy+, except the climb to Monsaraz

Terrain: flat roads, with one ascent to the castle

Accommodation: [Casa Dona Antónia](#), a charm bed&breakfast in the medieval castle or [Retiro de Monsaraz](#), just by the castle, with swimming pool



Day 6 Thursday: The Sanctuary Route - Cycling from Monsaraz to Vila Viçosa 61 kms / Total ascent: 859m

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. The picnic lunch and the visit to an impressive fortified sanctuary with an interesting tale will close the morning. Then a rare sight over distinct colored lagoons finishing with accommodation in an aristocratic convent.

Difficulty: medium

Terrain: undulating, with some climbing

Accommodation: [Pousada D. João IV](#), built in a convent, with swimming pool or [Solar dos Mascarenhas](#), a charming boutique hotel built in a manor house, with swimming pool

PREMIUM OPTION

You may also upgrade to the [5 stars Marmoris hotel](#), where you will find all sorts of marble applications in the architecture and decoration.

Day 7 Friday: The Marble Route - Cycling from Vila Viçosa to Estemoz. 33 kms / Total ascent: 315m

Today's bike tour ride is soft so take this opportunity to taste some local delicacies: Petiscos (Snacks).

From tavern to tavern the ride will delight your senses. The rest of the day will be spent in contemplation and admiration until the doors of Estremoz, the final destination of the journey.

The journey will not be over until you climb up to the marble Donjon tower of the castle where you will sleep!

Total ascent: 315 mts – possible to cut out some of these climbs even on a self guided tour – 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.

Difficulty: easy +

Terrain: undulating, with some climbing

Accommodation:

[Pousada Rainha St^a Isabel](#), built in a palace, with swimming pool or [Pateo dos Solares](#), a charm boutique hotel built in a palace with swimming pool

Day 8 Saturday Departure

Time to head home – optional transfer to Lisbon Airport

Important note:

If you want an easier grade experience, please request to do the Bike Tour in the opposite direction (Wine and Castles). You will have more down hills and you can finish with more time to visit the great UNESCO city of Évora or even have a rest day from cycling, enjoying the city and your lovely hotel.

2025 TOUR DATES

All year round. Saturday arrival as standard, non Saturday arrivals are possible for a €110.00 supplement per person.

2025 TOUR PRICE

Tour price if traveling between 1st April – 31st October:

€1405 per person sharing (based on minimum of 2 people)

€1215 per person sharing (based on minimum of 4 people)

€815 single room supplement

Tour price if traveling between 1st November – 31st March:

€1230 per person sharing (based on minimum of 2 people)

€1040 per person sharing (based on minimum of 4 people)

€480 single room supplement

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation in double room with breakfast
- Navigation App with maps, route instructions and history notes
- 24h phone support
- Personal accident insurance
- Luggage transfer
- Basic tools
- Transfer back to our farm from Megalithic tour (if you sleep at our farm)
- VAT tax
- Souvenir
- Portugal Best Cycling jersey

Not Included in tour price:

- Airport transfers
- Tour guide
- Bicycle, helmet, back rack and pannier or similar
- Lunches and Dinners
- 2 Wine tasting at wineries
- Entrance fee at Bones Chapel, in Évora
- Entrance fee at Évora's Cathedral
- Entrance fee at Vila Viçosa's Ducal Palace

Bike rental cost:

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

€215 - E-bike rental (on request only)

€50 - GPS rental

€10 - Phone rental, calls not included

OTHER INFORMATION

Arrival points

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

Airport transfer to first hotel: €110 per person (price for minimum of two people)

Airport transfer from last hotel: €140 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 €215 supplement

 FOCUS

 CUBE



FOCUS AVENTURA 1.0



CUBE TOURING HYBRID ONE 400

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

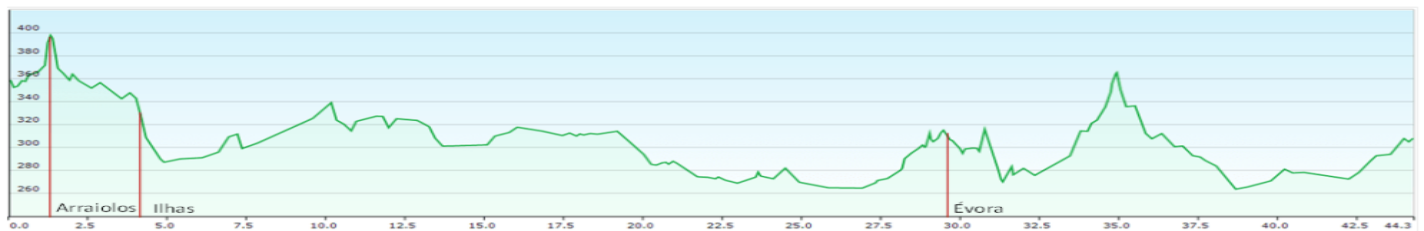
ELEVATION CHART

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

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