Discovering Portugal for The Georgia Trust

Itinerary for VIP Clients of Georgia Schley Ritchie

**Saturday · November 7th, 2020 - Saturday · November 14th, 2020**

**Saturday · November 7th**
- Private transfer from Lisbon airport to hotel
- Check into Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisbon (3 nights)
- Welcoming drink in Lisbon Neighborhood

**Sunday · November 8th**
- Private Full-day Touring of Lisbon, Sintra & Cascais

**Monday · November 9th**
- Private Full-Day Excursion to Obidos, Alcobaça and Batalha

**Tuesday · November 10th**
- Tour of Alentejo region on route to Evora
- Check into Pousada Convento Évora (1 night)

**Wednesday · November 11th**
- Tour of Tomar City on your way to Coimbra
- Check into hotel in Coimbra (to be confirmed) (1 night)
- Check into Quinta das Lágrimas Hotel (1 night)

**Thursday · November 12th**
- Half-Day Tour: The Mystical City of Coimbra
- Private transfer from Coimbra to Porto
- Check into Hotel Infante Sagres (2 nights)

**Friday · November 13th**
- Full-Day Porto Tour including Port Wine Tasting

**Saturday · November 14th**
- Private transfer to the Porto airport
Situated on the Avenida da Liberdade in the heart of Lisbon, the elegant 5 star Tivoli Lisboa is well-recognized for its outstanding facilities and fantastic views from the privacy of the Terraco Restaurant and Bar. From here, you can unwind and look towards the Castle of St. Jorge, the city’s hills and the Tagus River, or enjoy a pause from the city at the Tivoli Cafe located in the hotel lobby. The in-house restaurant "Brasserie Flo" combines the best of traditional French cuisine with culture and theater and has a lively ambiance. Founded in 1933, the property was fully remodeled in 2008, becoming a hotel which is synonymous with style and elegance. It has a cosmopolitan feel and has long held a position of prestige amongst Portuguese hotels in the city.

A fantastic option in the summer. There's a great atmosphere here, with locals also mixing in.

There's a fun 80s style circular pool too.
After some time to relax and refresh, meet your host in your hotel lobby. Despite its easygoing lifestyle, Lisbon is full of character and contrasts. With this welcoming drink we invite you to step in Lisbon’s unique style.

The Lisbon city that we see today is none other than “Pombal’s Lisbon.” Pombal was Lisbon’s mayor in the 18th century. On November 1, 1755—All Saints Day—a terrible earthquake, measuring 9 points on the Richter Scale, destroyed most of the city after it resulted in a seaquake and several fires. Following the event, the Marquês of Pombal, Sebastião de Melo, decided to rebuild the city, trying not to focus on the resulting pain and destruction that it brought to Portugal but on the opportunity to create a new city from the ashes. This is reflected in his famous quote: “And what now? Bury the dead and feed the living.” In only one year he managed to clean the whole city and commenced work to restore it, which was completed by the beginning of the 19th century.

Lisbon’s new design was commissioned to a group of architects that focused on building a city capable of withstanding future natural disasters. Following this premise, they experimented with different building styles and techniques, trying new models. They even used marching soldiers to simulate earthquake tremors to prove the buildings could endure the impact. Not just focusing on architecture, the Marquês of Pombal also investigated some key factors that could predict such an event happening again. He polled towns all over the city to study animal behaviors, water levels in the water wells, and the number and kind of buildings destroyed. With the data, Portuguese scientists were able to develop a considerably accurate and helpful seismic program for the time.

Sunday · November 8th

Private Full-day Touring of Lisbon, Sintra & Cascais
Today, meet your private guide and driver in the hotel lobby and together you'll embark on a full-day tour starting in the bustling heart of Lisbon. The Baixa district, which was rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake, has beautiful cobbled streets named after the artisans who traded in the area. You can’t miss the famous Elevador de Santa Justa, a remarkable iron elevator built in the late 19th century and designed by Raoul Mesnier du Ponsard, a student of Gustave Eiffel. Next, you’ll head to the Alfama district—the unmistakable soul of the capital city—adorned with steep winding alleys, hidden landmark churches, echoes of Fado music and stunning views of the Tagus River. Starting in the 5th century, Alfama was inhabited by the Visigoths. Remnants of a Visigoth town wall still remain but it was the Moors who gave the district its shape and atmosphere. In Moorish times, this was an upper-class residential area. The 1755 earthquake brought down many of its mansions (and post-Moorish churches) and the district eventually became a working-class, “fisher-folk” quarter. You'll then continue to the Castle of St. Jorge, formerly a Moorish citadel. Here you can see the city of Lisbon sprawling along the banks of the Tagus River estuary. From the city’s hills, you can look toward the Atlantic, and let your thoughts run free. Following the tour, you will continue with your driver and guide to Sintra (roughly half an hour away), where your visit will start with Pena Palace.

Crowning the Sintra Mountains, as if it were a harmonious prolongation of the range itself, the picturesque and fantastic Pena Palace cannot help but to impress its visitors. This supreme example of Portuguese romantic architecture is due to the materialization of the dreams of a Prince of Bavaria, Ferdinand of Saxe Coburg-Gotha, husband of Queen Maria II. In 1839 he bought the ruins of the former Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Pena, built in 1503. He developed and enlarged them, with the collaboration of the Prussian engineer Ludwig von Eschwege, to achieve an extremely sensitive creation. Of note inside the palace is the Renaissance retable by Nicolau Chanterenne (1529-1532), the exotic richly-worked furniture, and the whole romantic atmosphere par excellence. Apart from its historical and museological importance, the palace is host to concerts of classical music, exhibitions and historical plays.

After the visit your guide will take you in the direction of the Sintra town center, where you will tour the Sintra National Palace. Made up of various constructions built over successive eras, it is one of the most important Portuguese examples of royal architecture and has therefore been classified as a national monument. Its current layout results from two phases of building works; the first one, in the reign of King John I (15th century), and the second, in that of D. Manuel I (16th century). This palace has the greatest collection of Mudéjar tiles in the country. It is topped by two large twin chimneys built over the kitchen, which have become the symbol of Sintra.

On your way back to Lisbon, you will travel along the coastal road where you will enjoy wonderful views of the Atlantic Ocean and Tagus River. You might wish to stop at Boca do Inferno and Cabo da Roca, which lie at the most western point of the European continent, boasting impressive cliffs and ocean views. Cascais fishing port, which swiftly expanded to an elegant, cosmopolitan, coastal resort, was once a stop for navigators like Columbus and Vasco da Gama. From the harbor there’s a nice view of Estoril Bay, the marina and Cascais fortress. Continuing the drive along the shore of the Tagus River in the direction of Estoril, the coast, will include holiday hotspots, great beaches and a choice of historic sights. The cosmopolitan seaside town of Carcavelos is popular for its long stretch of sandy beach and its 17th century fortress, the largest on the Tagus River. Afterwards, your private driver will escort you back to your hotel in Lisbon.
Monday · November 9th

Private Full-Day Excursion to Óbidos, Alcobaça and Batalha

Today, enjoy a full-day excursion visiting some fascinating villages. The small village of Óbidos, one of the most picturesque and well preserved in Portugal, is certainly one of the more significant wedding gifts throughout history. Still completely surrounded by its ancient walls, its whitewashed houses and colorful bougainvilleas make for a very pleasurable visit. King Dom Dinis built his massive castle here (now a Pousada) and gave the city to his wife as a wedding gift. Óbidos then became the traditional gift for Portuguese queens.

Next you may visit Alcobaça Abbey, which is one of the most important Cistercian abbeys in Europe. The layout of the church, as was current practice at that time, is formed by three naves of the same height, namely a transept of two naves and the ambulatory, which is impressive in its simplicity, grandeur and austerity.

We end the day at the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Monastery of Santa Maria de Vitória, better known as Batalha (the Battle Abbey). During a very important battle of succession in 1385, João (who would found Portugal’s most important dynasty - the House of Avis) appealed for the Virgin Mary’s help in defeating the House of Burgundy. Upon his ultimate victory just south of here, the newly crowned João I built a magnificent monument in gratitude. When your tour concludes, your private driver will escort you back to Lisbon.

Tuesday · November 10th

Tour of Alentejo region on route to Evora
Check out of your hotel and head to the heart of the Alentejo region on your way to the historic town of Évora. En route to your hotel, visit "Almendres," the pre-historic cromlech & the dolmens. The pre-historic cromlech, are referred to as Portugal's Stonehenge. Experts say that this is older than Stonehenge, dating to about 6,000 BC, and they believe each of the 95 stones represented one person, that represented their own tribe. The Great Dolmen of Zambujeiro is a megalithic monument that is considered to be one of the biggest such structures on the Iberian Peninsula.

On the road, you will also visit some Cork factories. Portugal is the world’s largest producer of cork, and 75% of the country's cork is produced in the Alentejo region. You'll stop by the village of Azaruja to visit a cork processing factory and learn how it is prepared for different uses. Beside handicrafts, cork is also currently used in many industries, including construction, aeronautics, the space industry, clothing, footwear and accessories, etc. - the sky is the limit!

The last stop of your tour for today will be in the same town you will be spending the night: Évora. You’ll explore this well-preserved city starting from the Praça do Giraldo, lined with attractive townhouses with intricate wrought-iron balconies. Make a stop at the Roman Temple of Évora, with its large Corinthian columns that date back to the reign of Roman Emperor Augustus. Next will be a visit to the Romanesque Cathedral of Évora, built in 1186, a true gem of the city and one of the most sacred sites in Portugal. Head on next to visit the Saint Francis Church with the “Capela dos Ossos,” a famous bone chapel built by 16th century monks who wished to contemplate and communicate the message of the transitory nature of life. The Romans also built parts of the city walls. The Moors and medieval Portuguese made later additions to the walls. You may also consider a visit to the University of Évora, a Jesuit college built by Henry, Cardinal King of Portugal in 1559 and one of the most photogenic sites in the city.

Check into Pousada Convento Évora
+351 266 730 070
Largo do Conde de Vila-Flor, 7000-804 Évora, Portugal

Nov 10
Check-in

Nov 11
Check-out

1 night
Duration

A wonderfully luxurious property oozing history and character. The building retains traces of its original architecture, such as courtyard cloisters. This is a beautiful and serene hotel located in the heart of Évora, perfect for those who wish to feel the local culture of the city. Expect high ceilings, golden decorations, stone floors, creamy bedding and big bath tubs. There is an excellent restaurant serving traditional fare, as well as gardens and a swimming pool. A great choice for couples and families. The staff are welcoming and friendly, much like everyone in Alentejo!
Wednesday · November 11th

Tour of Tomar City on your way to Coimbra

After check out, meet your private driver and head to Coimbra. On your way to Coimbra, you’ll be touring Tomar. The Former headquarters of The Order of the Knights Templar has not just a great and charismatic charm but also an amazing artistic and cultural wealth. Tomar is, without doubt, the jewel in the crown of Central Portugal. It is a magical city bursting with handsome architecture and historical significance. Tomar is home to some of Portugal’s most significant historic sites. The Convento de Cristo was the managerial and administrative center for the Templar Knights and subsequently for the Order of Christ. Henry the Navigator planned most of his New World explorations from this location in the 15th Century. It was justifiably designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 for its significance in Portuguese history and Christian culture. Built in the 12th century, the Convento de Cristo matches the charola, a Templar chapel. In this convent you will also notice a mixture of artistic trends making it unique: the Renaissance portal, the spaces connected for Templar rituals, the symbolism of the Chapter Hall’s window and the impressive Cloister.

While there also check out the Castle of Tomar. Created out of inspiration by Holy Land fortifications, it was the most advanced military set up of the country. In the 16th century, King Manuel I ordered it to be restored, turning the castle into a Chancel. This restoration is what you see today and is responsible for the site earning World Heritage Site Status.

Check into hotel in Coimbra (to be confirmed)
Check into Quinta das Lágrimas Hotel
+351 239 802 380
Rua António Augusto Gonçalves, 3041-901 Coimbra, Portugal
http://www.quintadaslagrimas.pt/

Nature, charm, history, elegance, experiences... this is the essence of Quinta das Lágrimas (Estate of Tears). For centuries a private sanctuary that welcomed Kings and Emperors, the Quinta das Lágrimas Hotel is now open to all those that appreciate the art of fine living.

Thursday · November 12th

Half-Day Tour: The Mystical City of Coimbra

Stop en route to Porto to stretch your legs and enjoy a tour of the ancient city of Coimbra. Long ago, this site was occupied by the Celts, but the process of Romanisation brought a great cultural transformation to this region. The presence of the Romans is still visible in the various archaeological remains housed at the Museu Nacional Machado de Castro, built over the cryptoporticus of the Civita Aeminium, the forum of the Roman city. After them, between 586 and 640, came the Visigoths, who
after the name of the town to Emínio. In 711, it became a Moorish and Mozarab city. In 1064, the city was conquered by the Christian Fernando I of Castile and governed by the Mozarab Sesnando. Coimbra was the capital of Portugal during the Middle Ages, but it was the Renaissance that transformed the city into a place of knowledge, when Dom João III (1521-57) decided to move the University to the city on a definitive basis, whilst at the same time numerous colleges were created to provide an alternative to the official form of teaching. A centre of learning, par excellence, the University of Coimbra was founded in 1290 and is one of the oldest in Europe, and was classified World heritage site by UNESCO; this classification includes also the Uptown and Sofia Street.

Private transfer from Coimbra to Porto

Check into Hotel Infante Sagres
+351 223 398 500
Praca D.Filipa de Lencastre, 62, 4050-259 Porto, Portugal
https://www.infantesagres.com/en/

Nov 12
Check-in

Nov 14
Check-out

2 nights
Duration

This beautiful hotel gets his name after Prince Henry the Navigator, initiator of the Age of Discovery and the early Portuguese voyages of exploration. The Infante Sagres opened up for the first time in 1951 by the entrepreneur and philanthropist Delfim Ferreira with the intention of endowing the city with a luxury hotel on a par with the finest in Europe. Housed in a listed building, it contains a wealth of decorative features, such as exquisite ironwork, carved wood detail and magnificent stained glass panels from the workshop of Ricardo Leone.

After an extensive renovation the hotel reopened in 2018 keeping a stylish ambience, personalised service and unique blend of timeless elegance and contemporary sophistication with a Vogue café in the lobby, the first in Europe.

A wonderful choice for those looking for an elegant and centrally located hotel.
**Friday · November 13th**

You will start by exploring the city’s old quarter, “a masterpiece of mankind’s creative genius” according to UNESCO, who has recognized the area as a World Heritage Site. On the banks of the Douro river, you can visit the city’s churches and monuments. You will also have time to visit the Stock Exchange Palace or Palácio da Bolsa. The large, ornate neoclassical building built in the 19th century reflects the city’s status as a major commercial center. You will tour the Hall of Nations and the Arab room among many others.

Another must-see is the landmarked neo-gothic Lello & Irmao Bookstore. Before heading in, take in the fascinating entrance. The magnificent façade is formed by a broad arch with its two painted figures representing Art and Science. This spectacular 19th century store features wooden benches with leather upholstery, wooden bookcases and a highly-ornamental staircase leading to the upper level. You will also tour the Fundação de Serralves, one of the highlights of Portugal for art lovers. Located on the outskirts of the city, the foundation’s museum exhibits works by contemporary artists, including Richard Serra, Ed Ruscha, and Gerhard Richter. Pritzker-winning Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza designed the museum.

It’s now time to cross the river to Vila Nova de Gaia where you will learn the history of the famous Port wine and the wine making process. The drink known as Port became popular in England at the end of the seventeenth century. The locally produced wine was found to travel better by ship when brandy was added. There are more than 40 varieties of grapes, picked in September in the special harvest known as “vindima.” You will tour a cellar with your expert guide and you will learn about the differences between the various styles of ports such as the Vintage, The Single Quinta Port, LVB (Late Bottled Vintage), and Crusted Port among others.

**Saturday · November 14th**

**Private transfer to the Porto airport**

Check out of your hotel this morning after breakfast and meet your private driver for a transfer to the Porto airport. Begin your journey home. Safe onward travels and adeus Portugal!