HeartCycle Bicycle Touring Club JEWELS OF PORTUGAL 2022

Dates: Arrival strongly suggested for Saturday, May 7, 2022, or earlier. Tour

commences Sunday, May 8, and runs through Friday, May 20, 2022

Leaders: Janet Slate (coordinator); **SAGs**: two experienced and knowledgeable guides

provided by touring company along with air-conditioned support vans

Miles: Approximately 407 miles (average 45 mi/day) with 27,000 vertical feet of

climbing in 9 days of riding (that's an average of _3,000 ft/day)

Rating: Intermediate-Advanced

Riders: 18

Price: \$5,200 double occupancy if 12-18 riders (or \$5,550 if 8-11 riders). Deposit

\$800 at registration. Balance due by January 8, 2022. Single supplement fee additional \$825 (only have three singles available due to small hotel size in

one of the towns).

Cancellation: Before December 9, 2021, \$75 fee; December 10, 2021–January 8,

2022, 50% of deposit; after January 8, 2022, no refunds. Travel insurance is

strongly advised.



OVERVIEW

A 13-day fully supported and guided tour, this tour consists of 9 riding days, 2 free days, and 2 travel days. The 407-mile route is through central Portugal, starting in Évora, cycling north, west, then south, ending in Cascais.

We have contracted with a local touring company who has the expertise to show us the "jewels" of Portugal. Personal accident insurance and liability insurance are provided by tour company. Travel to Lisbon to commence the tour; transportation to and from the airport or pickup at your Lisbon hotel is included.

Bicycles are included in the price of the tour. Choices are as follows:

- CUBE Attain GTC SLT Disc Carbon road bike (with Shimano Ultegra components, <u>CUBE Bikes</u>),
- Scott Sportster hybrid bicycle (Scott hybrid bicycles), or
- Bosch e-bike (extra 200 Euro fee) (<u>Hybrid eBike powered by Bosch eBike</u>).

The touring company includes a jersey and water bottles too.

The route enables us to experience the landscape and culture, cycling on low traffic roads and visiting places of historic interest. Some of the sites we visit can only be done through a guide service.

The tour includes 12 breakfasts, 10 dinners including wines, cheeses and desserts, and daily energy bars, nuts, fruits, and water. Lunch is at your own expense, although the guides will take us to cafes en route.



ITINERARY

<u>Sunday, May 8</u>. The touring company will meet us at a selected location in Lisbon and/or the Lisbon airport for a 1-hr, 30-min drive from Lisbon to Évora, the capital of Portugal's south-central Alentejo region, where they will give us a briefing about the tour. Lodging for 2 nights will be in a modern 5-star hotel located inside the city walls: <u>M'AR De AR Aqueduto - Historic Design Hotel & Spa</u>



Monday, May 9. Free day to explore Évora, a UNESCO World Heritage site. <u>Évora</u>

Tuesday, May 10. 41 miles, 2170 ft of elevation gain. Cycle through a cork-oak forest and vineyards. Tour a cork processing plant. Demonstration at a small pottery factory in Redondo. Lodging in a convent built in 1182 with impressive collection of 18th century Portuguese tile mosaics and converted to 4-star hotel: Hotel Convento de São Paulo

Wednesday, May 11. 29 miles, 2200 ft of elevation gain. Cycle the marble and wine region of Alentejo; visit Joao Portugal Winery and tour a marble mine. Lodging in Vila Vicosa, the "capital of marble," in a 5-star hotel:

Alentejo Marmòris Hotel & Spa

Thursday, May 12. 52 miles, 3310

ft of elevation gain. Cycle past farms and vineyards, through small villages. Lodging in a 14th century monastery converted to a luxury hotel: <u>Hotel Pousada</u> Mosteiro de Crato

<u>Friday, May 13</u>. 27 miles, 2400 ft of elevation gain. Visit Roman ruins at Ammaia. Cycle to a medieval small town near the Spanish border. Lodging in an 18th century manor house, designated a national monument: <u>Casa Amarela</u>

Saturday, May 14. 65 miles, 4200 ft of elevation gain. The longest day of the tour is through rolling countryside.

Lodging in a 4-star hotel in a rural area: <u>Hotel Segredos de Vale Manso</u>



<u>Sunday, May 15</u>. 42 miles, 3120 ft of elevation gain. Cycle through Fatima, a destination for pilgrimages, visited by several popes. Visit a limestone cave. Lodging for 2 nights will be in a 4-star hotel located close to the monastery in Batalha: <u>Hotel Lis Batalha</u>

Monday, May 16. Free day to visit a 14th century monastery and museums in Batalha. Batalha Monastery

<u>Tuesday, May 17</u>. 49 miles, 3020 ft of elevation gain. Cycle to the coast to one of Portugal's best-preserved medieval towns, Obidos. Lodging in a 4-star hotel near the historic center: <u>Josefa d'Óbidos</u>

<u>Wednesday, May 18</u>. 50 miles, 2820 ft of elevation gain. Cycle along what's called the Silver Coast, north of Lisbon. Lodging in a 5-star hotel in the countryside: <u>Dolce CampoReal Lisboa Resorts</u>

<u>Thursday, May 19</u>. 52 miles, 3940 ft of elevation gain. Continue cycling south along the coast where surfing is popular to Cascais. Lodging in a 3-star hotel: <u>Hotel Baía</u>

<u>Friday, May 20</u>. Depart after breakfast for the 45-min drive to Lisbon airport. Option to stay in Lisbon to do more exploring on your own and visit other parts of Portugal.

TOUR COORDINATOR

For questions contact: Janet Slate, <u>jslate@ultrasys.net</u> (303) 683-6128

