



A.M.

Keron Psillas
Divina

I am so thrilled to announce that I'll be returning to Portugal in late April of 2025. My friend and colleague, Keron Psillas, will accompany me again and share with all of us the Portugal that is true to tradition while embracing the best of the 21st century.

Portugal has such a wide variety of landscape, culture, city life, and coastal serenity... all in one tiny country. We're going to leave much of the South alone (European tourist land) and focus on the *heart* of the country from the majesty of Lisbon, the coastal allure of Cascais, the magic of Sintra, and antiquity of Tomar, 12th-century Obidos, spirit-filled Fatima, and then up to the bustling and fascinating Porto. Yes, there is much more to see, but we would like to give you a *deep* experience rather than a whistle-stop tour.

Our accommodations will include a stunning boutique hotel in Alcochete (just across the river from Lisbon), convenient to the heart of the city as well as giving us a small local village to stroll in and absorb the flavors of Old Portugal. We will enjoy a luxury hotel in Cascais at Guincho Beach that is home to a Michelin-starred restaurant, a family-run hotel in a great location in Batahla, (halfway to Porto and in the center of the three most important UNESCO sites), and finally, a luxury hotel in Porto right on the Douro. It is the most perfect spot to experience the bustle, commerce and sites of Porto and then relax at the end of the day to drink in the essence of the north.



We'll travel in a Mercedes small coach, suitable for up to 16 people. But as we are a smaller group we'll be spread out in comfort! Our longest travel time will be our trip north from Alcobaca/Batahla area to Porto at just about 2 hours.

Portugal has a richly deserved reputation for fine wines and great food. We'll sample the best of traditional Portuguese cooking but we'll pay serious attention to the new

Portuguese cuisine as well. We will sample the best (and freshest) fish, the delicious Secretos do Porco, amazing shellfish and of course, the regional pastries and 'pudims', beginning with the Pastel de Nata. We will be welcomed into our favorite places like family and leave each meal exclaiming "that was the best.....". And we won't forget about a private, luxurious Port Tasting at Graham's Cellars in Porto, or the Michelin-starred experience in Guincho.



Oh. Photography. Almost forgot! We'll have street shooting in Lisbon and Porto, landscape photography, equine photography, architecture, cultural events, and whatever else you would like! Depending on the group's wishes, we could attend a Portuguese bullfight. They do not kill the bull in Portugal, and the ballet, the choreography between the horse/rider/bull is something you should see once. Keron's cousin, Ana Batista, is the finest female bullfighter in the world...and she is stunningly photogenic. We'll visit Ana and her husband Orlando in their home to photograph their training, and then if the group decides, we'll attend a bullfight.

Great food, marvelous accommodation, gentle travel, and one of a kind experiences with true locals. What's left? OH...a traditional Fado night just near our base in Alcochete. Keron will welcome us into her home for an intimate evening of music and dining. That's how Fado music is traditionally experienced by the Portuguese, not in a club in Lisbon. So that is what we'll do too.

This is a truly bespoke tour of Portugal at the highest standard designed to have you feel the beating heart of the country as I have for many years and certainly as Keron does.

Keron and her assistant, Maria, make certain all our arrangements are seamless. You will be cared for every step of the way. We can't wait to welcome you to all our favorite places.

Highlights:

- *Casually elegant, gracious accommodation with the quiet and welcoming Portuguese manner at all our stops.
- *Fado performance and dinner in Keron's home (relax! You are at home now!).
- *Lunch at Dom Peixe right on the docks of Matosinhos.
- *Our final dinner together in Cascais right on the ocean.



From our base in Lisbon or Alcochete...

- *Lisbon with its monuments, museums, and gorgeous light. We'll explore the various neighborhoods and sample delicious fare.

- *One of a kind experiences in the Ribatejo region where Keron will open the doors to private homes, 'Quintas', and the finest breeders of the Lusitano in the world.

- *Photographing babies and mamas in the midst of the spring wildflower boom.

From our base in Cascais at Fortaleza do Guincho...

- *Enjoying the abundance in the mysterious gardens at the Quinta da Regaleira in Sintra and the 'pocket-sized' Palacio Nacional in Queluz and Convento dos Capuchos.

- *An optional day in Lisbon to visit the Gulbenkian museum or return to a favorite spot at a different time of day.

From our base in Batahla...

- *FOUR UNESCO sites... Tomar, Batahla, Obidos, and Alcobaca. Keron will offer as much or as little history as you'd like in these architectural wonders! All wildly different and full of photographic possibilities.

- *A visit to Fatima to take in an important event in the hearts of all Portuguese people, and people of the Catholic faith worldwide.

From our base in Porto...

- *Port tasting at Graham's Cellars, overlooking the Douro after a fabulous lunch at Vinum.

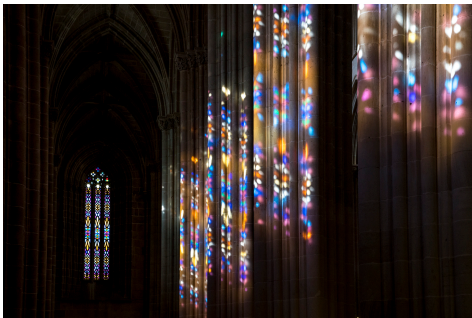
- *Walking the bustling center of Porto and the riverbanks for great street photography, making sure to visit the beautifully restored Mercado do Buhlao, and the Igreja do Carmo and

Sao Bento train station for the amazing 'azulejos' (tiles).

- *A day on the coast of Matosinhos, including our great lunch at Dom Peixe and a visit to Serra Alves Contemporary Art Museum.

- *Sunrise shoot from the King Denis pedestrian bridge over the Douro and looking into the city.

- *Tranquil evenings on the riverside terrace at our wonderful hotel and don't forget your swimsuit for the pool and marvelous spa at our Palacio on the river!





Dress code

Portugal is refined but very laid back. You will be fine in your travel clothes every day in every spot, with the exception of dining in the Michelin restaurant at Fortaleza do Guincho. If you decide to go, they ask for 'elegant casual'. For ladies, a linen blouse and slacks or dressy sweater...for gentleman, a collared shirt and slacks, no jeans or sneakers. On most days, if we are walking in the fields or gardens early, dew will make our pants and shoes wet... just fyi. Average daytime temperatures between 70-76, nighttime between 55-62. Perfect.



The Details: April 21- May 1

10 nights, 11 days, all transportation in Portugal including airport pick up and departure, all breakfasts, our welcome dinner, the Fado performance and private dinner, a final night dinner, and a special seafood lunch in Porto *are all included*. Based on 10 participants, (10 is maximum group

size) the cost per person, double occupancy will be \$6950 and single occupancy will be \$7880 per person. Deposits of \$2000 per person are due now, and fully refundable up to 150 days before the trip. After that there will be an administration fee of \$750 will be deducted. At 120 days there will be no deposit refund UNLESS we can fill your spot. Final payment due at 120 days prior to departure. Travel insurance is a requirement. We suggest "Tin Leg"...strange name, great company. See the link below. Tips to hotel staff, riders, and Fado performers are not included and are discretionary with guidance from Keron.



BUT WAIT! There is more! MAY 1-6 to the Azores!

For the first time ever, Keron and I have created a five-day extension *to the Azores!* After the scouting trip in August, Keron will confirm hotels and locations (2, maximum), but this is what we know now:

5 nights, with airfare out of and returning to Lisbon included.

We will be visiting Sao Miguel and coastal villages and parks to experience the lush, vibrant climate that makes the Azores so bucolic. Landscape, seascape, and street photography are all there for us, along with garden photography and macro work for all you botanical enthusiasts.

São Miguel is known for its stunning topography and gentle climate, earning it the nickname of “the Hawaii of Europe”.

Hot springs, mountain peaks, ocean vistas, a tea plantation, botanical gardens, gold-encrusted chapels, and small coastal villages with fresh seafood await. Whether we four-wheel up into national parks or keep to the coastlines, stunning views will come nonstop. You may want to bring a bathing suit but this one should be ‘old’ as the hot springs leave iron deposits.

As always, our accommodation will be 4-star or better with handpicked dining experiences that take advantage of location *and* cuisine.

We’ll travel in private coach with local guides as needed (for history, hiking, or general knowledge). All breakfasts are included as well as our final night dinner before returning to Lisbon the morning of the 6th day. Keron will have detailed information about connecting flights. You may choose to stay one more night in Lisbon before flying out which Keron will arrange as well.

5 day add on cost, \$4340 double or single occupancy for \$5190, (reminder, this includes airfare out and back from Lisbon, all breakfasts, guiding, and our final dinner). It does not include tips for guides, driver, or hotel staff. These are discretionary but Keron will provide guidance.



Please don't hesitate to contact Arthur or myself with any questions at all. I look forward to meeting you and sharing this lovely adventure!

Keron

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maria@keronpsillas.com

Please contact KERON who will send an invoice for your deposit. PayPal, Zelle, or Venmo all work, though Zelle is preferred for the lower fees. She will give you the information you need along with the official invoice.

Hotel Links: Please note we may have to change accommodations depending on the date of final booking for our group. The accommodation may change, *the level of service and comfort will not.*

Hotel in Lisbon or Alcochete to be determined (minimum 4-star)

Hotel Lis Batalha: <https://www.hotellisbatalha.pt/en/>

Fortaleza do Guincho: <https://www.fortalezadoguincho.com/>

Pestana Palacio do Freixo: <https://www.pestanacollection.com/en/hotel/freixo-palace>

Hotels in Sao Miguel to be determined (minimum 4-star)

Link for travel insurance: <https://www.tinleg.com/>



Daily Itinerary, keep scrolling!

Portugal, Mainland

April 21 arrival

Evening April 21, Lisbon

April 22 Lisbon

April 23 Ribatejo countryside, Fado Dinner

April 24 and 25, Central area with UNESCO sites

April 26, 27, 28, north to PORTO (port tasting, lunch on coast, city exploration)

April 29, 30, south to Cascais and Sintra

May 1, departure to US or to AZORES

AZORES São Miguel

May 1, evening arrival

May 2, coast roads and small villages

May 3, exploring Sao Miguel and Botanic gardens

May 4, Parks

May 5, whatever we missed!

May 6, departure to Lisbon, arrival 2:00 PM for later transfer to US flights

Night of May 6, optional overnight in Lisbon for those who want to depart May 7 on early US direct flights. Keron will arrange transportation, but that night is not part of our trip.

Keron and I expect this to fill very quickly if the past is any indication. (Within a week or so...). Sincerely hoping you will choose to join us on this wonderful adventure.

Arthur and Keron



