

WHAT IUGA MEMBERS SHOULD NOT MISS IN PORTUGAL.

Suggestions for tours outside Lisbon by Liana Negrao and Teresa Mascarenhas:

1. Cascais and Sintra. You can visit both during your stay in Lisbon. Cascais is a very cosmopolitan village with nice beaches around it. Sintra is a romantic village with castles, villas and surrounding forests. Lord Byron used to live in this village and many famous people have spent their summer holidays here, including Portuguese royalty.

2. Northern Lisbon. You can drive in the direction of Coimbra (200 Km from Lisbon), staying in different places along the way, depending on the time you have. I have recommended below some places and hotels to visit on the way to Coimbra (see Internet links for more information):

- Mafra (monastery)
- Ericeira (famous beach for surfing)
- Campo Real Golf Resort and Spa (Resort in Turcifal)
- Praia d'El Rey Marriott Golf & Beach Resort (Resort in Óbidos)
- Óbidos (nice walled village)
- Alcobaça (monastery)
- Nazaré (small village and beach)
- S. Pedro de Muel (small village and beach)
- Batalha (monastery) (near Leiria)
- Figueira da Foz (nice town with a big beach)
- Coimbra (old University, roman city ruins 15 Km apart)
- Quinta das Lagrimas Hotel (Coimbra)
- Pousada Sta. Cristina (Hotel between Coimbra and the roman ruins)

- www.portugalvirtual.pt/_tourism/costadeprata/coimbra/ptindex

- www.turismodecoimbra.pt

- www.mosteirobatalha.pt

- www.quintadaslagrimas.pt

3. Eastern Lisbon. You can drive towards Évora (140 Km from Lisbon), staying in Évora where there are many nice hotels. The landscape is completely different and here you can visit the wineries.

- www.portugalvirtual.pt/_tourism/plains/evora/ptindex

You can drive around 120 Km towards the north and visit two nice villages; Castelo de Vide and Marvão. Marvão is lovely, placed on the top of a hill and you may wish to stay in a nearby charming hotel

- Pousada de Sta. Maria. It's a small village but well worth a visit.

4. Southern Lisbon. You can drive south towards Albufeira (260 Km from Lisbon) where there are a lot of nice hotels and beaches to enjoy the sun. The south coast of Portugal is very popular in summer time but June isn't too over crowded - actually I think it's the best time to stay in Algarve! Albufeira is a very nice town, keeping some of the old atmosphere of the local area. You could go to Faro (the capital of the Province), which has a nice old town, or Lagos, another picturesque town which has the most beautiful beaches in Algarve.