

# Porto – Lisbon Pretour & Marathon Experience

02–12 October 2026

Running Fellowship of Rotarians



## Fellowship, Friendship & Portugal – A Shared Rotary Experience

This special journey has been designed by Rotarians for Rotarians, combining international fellowship, cultural discovery and sporting spirit. Set against the backdrop of Portugal's most inspiring cities and landscapes, the pretour offers the perfect environment to strengthen Rotary connections while experiencing history, hospitality and shared moments along the way.

From the riverside charm of Porto to the vibrant hills of Lisbon, participants travel together as a community – exploring UNESCO World Heritage sites, medieval towns, Atlantic coastlines and legendary wine regions, all leading up to the iconic Lisbon Marathon. Whether running, supporting or simply enjoying the atmosphere, the sense of fellowship remains at the heart of the experience.

Portugal enchants with its warm light, blue skies, melodic Fado music and a proud maritime heritage. Historic trams climb steep alleyways, golden beaches stretch along the Atlantic, and monumental monasteries tell stories of explorers who once shaped the world. This pretour is not only a journey through Portugal, but a shared Rotary memory.

**From Porto's riverfront to Lisbon's finish line — one journey, one Fellowship, one unforgettable run. The pretour ends where every runner wants to be: at the start line, together.**

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### Highlights at a Glance

- Explore **Porto**, one of Europe's oldest cities, famous for port wine, riverfront charm and baroque architecture
- Cruise through the spectacular **Douro Valley**, a landscape of terraced vineyards and rolling hills
- Discover **Guimarães**, the birthplace of Portugal, and **Coimbra**, home to one of Europe's oldest universities
- Walk in the footsteps of the Knights Templar in **Tomar**
- Visit iconic monuments such as **Batalha Monastery**, Óbidos, Belém Tower and Jerónimos Monastery
- Experience the energy of **Lisbon** and take part in one of the most scenic marathons in the world

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## **Destinations & Sightseeing Experience**

### **Porto – Tradition Meets Modernity**

Set at the mouth of the Douro River, Porto charms visitors with its colorful riverside houses, historic merchant quarters and vibrant cultural scene. Wander through the atmospheric Ribeira district, admire the grandeur of the Stock Exchange Palace with its spectacular Arab Hall, and enjoy a tasting in one of the world-famous port wine cellars. Cafés such as the legendary Café Majestic and architectural gems like Livraria Lello complete the experience.



### **Minho & Guimarães – The Cradle of a Nation**

Travel north into the lush green Minho region, known for its traditions and refreshing Vinho Verde wines. In Guimarães, often called the birthplace of Portugal, medieval streets and the impressive Palace of the Dukes of Bragança bring early Portuguese history vividly to life.

### **Douro Valley – Vineyards & River Landscapes**

One of Portugal's most breathtaking regions unfolds along the Douro River. Enjoy a scenic train journey followed by a river cruise, passing dramatic vineyards, historic wine estates and impressive river locks – a relaxing and unforgettable way to experience the heart of Portugal's wine country.

### **Aveiro & Coimbra – Canals and Knowledge**

Aveiro, often called the “Venice of Portugal,” delights with colorful boats and coastal charm. In Coimbra, once the capital of Portugal, history and academic tradition meet. The

legendary University of Coimbra and its magnificent baroque library are among the intellectual treasures of Europe.

### **Tomar – Legacy of the Knights Templar**

In Tomar, history becomes tangible. Visit the remarkable Convent of Christ, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important monuments of Manueline architecture. The town’s Templar heritage, Jewish quarter and sacred architecture reveal a powerful chapter of European history.

### **Batalha, Nazaré & Óbidos – Gothic Masterpieces and Coastal Life**

Marvel at the Monastery of Batalha, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. In Nazaré, experience authentic fishing traditions and dramatic Atlantic views from the clifftop Sítio. Óbidos, a perfectly preserved medieval town, enchants with its castle walls, cobbled streets and whitewashed houses.

### **Lisbon – City of Light and Discoveries**

Portugal’s capital spreads across seven hills overlooking the Tagus River. Explore Alfama’s narrow lanes, panoramic viewpoints at São Jorge Castle, and the monumental district of Belém, home to Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower and the Monument to the Discoveries. Lisbon combines imperial history with a lively modern atmosphere, making it one of Europe’s most exciting cities.



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### **Lisbon Marathon & Half-Marathon – A World-Class Running Experience**

The EDP Lisbon **Marathon** (on Saturday, October 10, 2026) is internationally acclaimed as one of the most beautiful marathon courses in the world. Running along the Atlantic coast and the Tagus River, the route offers spectacular sea views, iconic bridges and a grand finish at Praça do Comércio – one of Europe’s most impressive squares.

For Rotarian runners, it’s more than a race: it’s the moment our pretour comes together in a shared goal. The city’s energy builds throughout marathon weekend — expo buzz, start-line excitement, cheering supporters, and that unforgettable feeling of crossing the finish surrounded by friends who understand the journey behind every kilometer.



And for those who prefer a shorter distance, the Lisbon **Half Marathon or 8K** (on Sunday, October 11, 2026) equally offers race-day magic, iconic scenery and vibrant atmosphere — an ideal option to be part of the event and enjoy the fellowship experience.

Whether you run the marathon on Saturday, or the half marathon or 8K on Sunday — or support from the sidelines —the weekend becomes a true Rotary celebration: encouragement, applause, group photos, shared meals and stories, and a collective sense of achievement that stays with you long after Lisbon.

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### **An Unforgettable Combination**

The pretour combines cultural depth and scenic beauty with sporting excellence. It is ideal for travelers who want to experience Portugal beyond the surface – rich in history, flavors, landscapes and unforgettable moments – all leading up to a truly iconic marathon event.

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### **Accommodation**

- Hotel Ipanema Porto\*\*\*\*, 02. - 06.10.26

This elegant, modern 4-star hotel is located in the Massarelos district, roughly halfway between the Casa da Música concert hall in the north and the Palácio de Cristal gardens in the south.

- Hotel Aeminium by Meliá\*\*\*\*, 06.-07.10.26

Hotel Coimbra Aeminium, Affiliated by Meliá is situated on a hilltop in Coimbra, only 100 meters from the University Hospitals. Once a week, the bar of the hotel offers live music.

- Hotel Vila Galé Collection, Tomar, 07. - 08.10.26

The Vila Galé Collection Tomar consists of two historic and restored buildings – the former Santa Iria convent and the former girls' school – which are connected by a restored passageway and themed around the Knights Templar.

- Hotel Fenix Lisboa\*\*\*\*, 08.-12.10.26

This non-smoking hotel is located in the centre of Marquês de Pombal and offers soundproofed rooms with a flat-screen TV and picturesque views of the city.

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### **Day-by-Day Program (preliminary)**

#### **Day 1 (Fri. October 02) Arrival in Porto**

Individual arrivals at Porto airport and transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Porto.

## **Day 2 (Sat. October 03) Explore Porto**

Half-day city tour of Porto. Porto is one of the oldest cities of the Iberian Peninsula and lies at the mouth of the Douro River. It has its origins in the settlements "Porto" and "Cale". From the composition of Porto et Cale was after the era Portocale - the original form of "Portugal". In the 12th century, Porto developed into a major commercial and port city. The gray houses that stretch up to the river, the typical market and the inhabitants stick to the tradition of the old Porto and show a lively difference to today's Porto with the skyscrapers, the wide avenues and the green parks.

## **Day 3 (Sun October 04) Porto and Minho**

In the morning we will do a half-day trip to Minho province. Historically, the Minho, as a former part of Castile, forms an ethnic and cultural entity with Galicia, which is still recognizable today in linguistic commonality as well as in the similar gastronomy. This area is the land of "Vinho Verde", a tasty and digestible wine with low sugar and alcoholic content. We visit Guimarães, the cradle of the Portuguese nation, where we visit the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, a grand feudal building in gothic-norman style. Return to Porto. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Porto.

## **Day 4 (Mon October 05) Douro cruise and train journey**

Train and boat Régua - Porto with lunch on board. Departure from the hotel to the train station São Bento. 09.00 hrs departure by train along the Douro River - arrival in Régua at 11.10am 11.30 am - Embarkation and start of navigation on the river along the fascinating river landscape of the Rio Douro. During the journey, lunch will be served. You pass the barrages Carrapatelo (35 m) and Crestuma-Lever (14 m). Arrive in Porto at 18.30 and transfer to the hotel.

## **Day 5 (Tue October 06) Aveiro, Winery Alianca and Coimbra**

Today you leave Porto and first visit the lagoon city of Aveiro. Then continue to Anadia to visit the Aliança winery and its Underground Museum; Wine tasting and lecture. Continue to Coimbra. Dinner and overnight at the hotel in Coimbra

## **Day 6 (Wed. October 07) University of Coimbra and Tomar**

Today you will visit the city of Coimbra. It was founded by the Romans, resisted barbarian invasions, was reconquered by the Christians in the 11th century, and then resurrected.

In the first period of the monarchy, it became the capital of the kingdom, with the university, founded in 1290, making it one of the oldest universities in Europe, made its world fame. You will first visit the university with its historical library. In three baroque and interconnected main halls, you can admire the approximately 120,000 volumes on shelves. Afterwards drive to Tomar.

### **Day 7 (Thur October 08) Batalha – Nazaré – Óbidos – Lissabon**

Leaving Tomar, we will visit Batalha, where you will visit the 14th-century Monastery of Saint Mary of the Victory, one of the most important monuments of the Gothic style in Portugal. The most famous is the unfinished chapel, which takes its name from their condition - not completed. Then drive to Nazaré, a typical fishing village also known and popular as a seaside resort. At the beautiful beach we can still see fishermen laying out their nets to dry. Located at the foot of a cliff, the town consists of two parts: Pederneira, the old town and Sítio, located on the 100 m high cliff, from whose vantage point you have a wonderful view of the town and the beach and you can either take a cable car or can reach over a street. Before you reach Lisbon, visit Óbidos, a listed town.

### **Day 8 (Fri October 09) Lisbon with Belém**

In the morning we will visit the capital of Portugal, built on seven hills. It has a privileged location in the western part of Europe on the Tejo estuary, Portugal's largest river. Lisbon is a city of contrasts, where old and new meet. You will start the city tour by visiting the São Jorge Castle, located on the highest of the eastern city hills and offering a beautiful view of Lisbon. In the castle you will find battlements, old cannons and fountains with running water. Afterwards, a short walk through the old town of Lisbon, the Alfama, will be made. The runners will also have to make their way to the Marathon Expo for BIB pickup.

Pasta-party at the Hotel Fenix.

### **Day 9 (Sat. October 10) One of the most beautiful races in the world - Marathon**

EDP Lisbon **Marathon** is considered as one of the most beautiful races in the world and acclaimed by international media such as the Forbes Magazine, the Huffington Post and American Express. Starting in Estrada N6-7 at Carcavelos, and finishing at Praça do Comércio, the EDP Lisbon Marathon course is 100% sea and river side, providing to the runners spectacular views along the race. The EDP Lisbon Marathon is an official race of the International Athletics Federation (IAAF) calendar and it's becoming a top

international race, attracting elite athletes and thousands of foreign runners from all over the world. Overnight at hotel in Lisbon.

### **Day 10 (Sun October 11) Half-Marathon & 8K run Day**

The EDP Lisbon **Half Marathon** is one of Europe's standout half marathons — fast, iconic, and packed with atmosphere. A signature highlight: the course famously starts on the 25 de Abril Bridge and finishes by the Jerónimos Monastery in Belém, delivering a truly unforgettable “Lisbon-only” race moment. Alternatively, a **8K run** is also available on Sunday.

Common **farewell dinner** in Lisbon in Restaurant Varanda on top of Hotel Mundial with nice views to Castelo Sao Jorge, 3-courses Menu incl. white and red wine, mineral water and coffee.

Overnight at hotel in Lisbon.

### **Day 11 (Mon October 12) Departure from Lisbon**

Individual departure.

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#### **Pricing:**

#### **Lisbon Marathon “Porto to Lisbon” 02. – 12. October 2026**

Double room per person 2.415 EUR\*

Single room per person 3.159 EUR\*

There is a minimum number of participants of 15 persons agreed for the pretour.

#### **Lisbon Marathon October 2026 “Lisbon only” 09. – 12. October 2026**

Double room per person 445 EUR\*

Single room per person 705 EUR\*

Customers can withdraw from the trip after booking against payment of cancellation fees. We recommend the conclusion of a travel cancellation insurance. This trip is restricted for people with reduced mobility. Please ask for more details in this case.

Organizer: OLIMAR - an organizer brand of lth AG - link to hotel AG, Bürglistr. 8, CH-8002 Zurich

**OLIMAR**



\* NOTE: Registration for the races (marathon, half-marathon or 8K is not included and each participant must separately and individually register to the respective race, if desired