

EVENTS THAT WORK

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Joint Meeting of the IOBC/WPRS
Lisbon, 20 to 25 January 2019



Alentejo

Marvão, Castelo de Vide, Portalegre
& Alter do Chão

First Day – Marvão & Castelo de Vide

Anyone you know in Marvão is sure to say that we are at such a high point that you can see the backs of birds flying. And it's quite true. Just climb the Castle and enjoy the immense landscape. This medieval village, protected by walls, is one of Portugal's treasures. You are welcomed and feel an inexhaustible tranquility. We get to know Marvão through its narrow streets and picturesque corners, the Manueline pillory, the Gothic windows and the wrought-iron balconies.

We shall visit the small Gothic convent of Senhora da Estrela and the churches of Santiago, Espírito Santo and Santa Maria. In this last one, the Municipal Museum is installed, where we can learn more about the history of this picturesque locality. Since it was conquered by Christians in 1116, until the wars of the Restoration of Independence between Portugal and Spain in 1640, it came to be considered the "most unconquerable stronghold in the whole kingdom."

From Marvão we will travel to Castelo de Vide, where we will be surprised by the castle surrounded by white houses that stands out in the landscape. But the biggest surprise is inside the village, where we find one of the best preserved jewish 'quarters in Portugal. We are easily enchanted by the charm of the medieval setting. We shall visit the old synagogue, now a museum, and stroll through the maze of streets. Then we'll go up to the castle.

In the end of the day, we arrive to Portalegre, where we will sleep.

Second Day – Portalegre & Alter do Chão

Portalegre was a prosperous and rich city in the 17th and 18th centuries due to the investment in the textile industry and is still known today for this tradition.

While strolling through the city, we see many palaces and monuments that recall the past golden ages, such as the Castle and the Cathedral.

After lunch, departure to Alter do Chão, a Portuguese village that grew up around a 14th century castle with towers with battlements, which rise on a magnificent central square. From the top of the tower we can enjoy a beautiful panoramic view over the village and the olive groves that surround it.

To the north of the castle, in the square, you will find a sixteenth-century marble fountain framed by elegant columns whose classic capitals support a beautiful entablature. A stroll through this quiet and peaceful village will allow you to discover other monumental fountains, as well as baroque churches and palaces.

This municipality is one of the main centers of creation of the *Lusitano* horse; there we can find the *Coudelaria de Alter*, founded in 1748. There are 800 hectares of a stunning landscape property.

We will take horse riding lessons or horse riding to see the foals and the mares grazing, to visit the stables and the Museum, where you can learn all about the creation of the national horses. (More activities under consultation)

One moment that cannot be missed: the emblematic "exit of the *eguada*", daily moment in which all the mares go out to the pasture.

Return to Lisbon.

Price per person: € 240,00

Price per person applicable to a minimum of 15 people, including:

Transportation, interpreter guide, expenses with driver and guide, highway tolls, taxes, fuel, 2 lunches, accommodation and entrance in Coudelaria de Alter.

First Day – Marvão & Castelo de Vide



Second Day – Portalegre & Alter do Chão



Oeste

Mafra, Óbidos, Nazaré, Fátima & Tomar

First Day – Mafra, Óbidos & Nazaré

Filled with sun and good weather, the West region is a constant box of surprises that offers you a little of everything: fascinating museums and monuments, delicious sea-food cuisine, places full of history and some of the best surf destinations in the world.

We will start with Mafra, where one of the most magnificent monuments in the world can be found: the National Palace of Mafra, also known as Mafra Convent. This monumental work is constituted by a basilica, a convent and still a palace, being the most important fruit of the Portuguese baroque. The two chimes and six organs make up a unique collection all over the world, and its Library is considered the most beautiful in the country, containing more than 38,000 volumes, many of which are rare works.

At lunchtime, to comfort the stomach, there will be flavors for all palates: cheeses and sausages, fish stews and roast suckling pig, or honey and conventional sweets are some of the options, which can be accompanied by the wines of the regions demarcated.

After lunch, we will continue our journey to Óbidos, a charming village that has a wonderful historical center, surrounded by walls, composed of a labyrinth of cobbled streets and whitewashed houses, decorated with geraniums and bougainvillea. Walking under the walls offers a very pleasant time for visitors.

We will then go near the sea, where we will encounter the fishing village of Nazaré, a neighborhood by the sea where we can taste good fish and a bathing beach. Known by surfers from all over the world, we walk along the seafront to find the elevator that takes us on a scenic trip to the Sítio da Nazaré, where there is a viewpoint with a privileged view of the village, the beach and the Atlantic Ocean

Second Day – Fátima & Tomar

On the second day of the tour, we will visit Fatima. Located north of Lisbon, near the city of Leiria, its fame as a place of pilgrimage has transformed this city into one of the most sought after destinations in Portugal, attracting thousands of curious pilgrims and visitors every year. It is one of the most esteemed religious centers in the world, where the three little shepherds allegedly witnessed the apparition of Our Lady on May 13, 1917. We will visit the Basilica and Chapel of the Apparitions, which functions as the heart of the Shrine. It was built where Our Lady of Fatima appeared to the little shepherds.

We will have lunch in a local restaurant, and then we will discover Tomar, former headquarters of the Order of the Templars, Tomar is a city of great charm, for its artistic and cultural wealth. The maximum exponent is in the Convent of Christ, one of the most important works of the Renaissance in Portugal.

We will visit the Convent with attention to discover some details, such as the representations in the Renaissance portal, the particular Symbology of the Manueline Window of the Chapter Room, the architectural details of the Main Cloister and the dependencies linked to the Templar rituals. Free time.

Return to Lisbon.

Price per person: € 240,00

Price per person applicable to a minimum of 15 people, including:

Transportation, interpreter guide, expenses with driver and guide, highway tolls, taxes, fuel, 2 lunches, accommodation and entrance in Mafra Convent and Tomar Convent.

First Day – Mafra, Óbidos & Nazaré



Second Day – Fátima & Tomar



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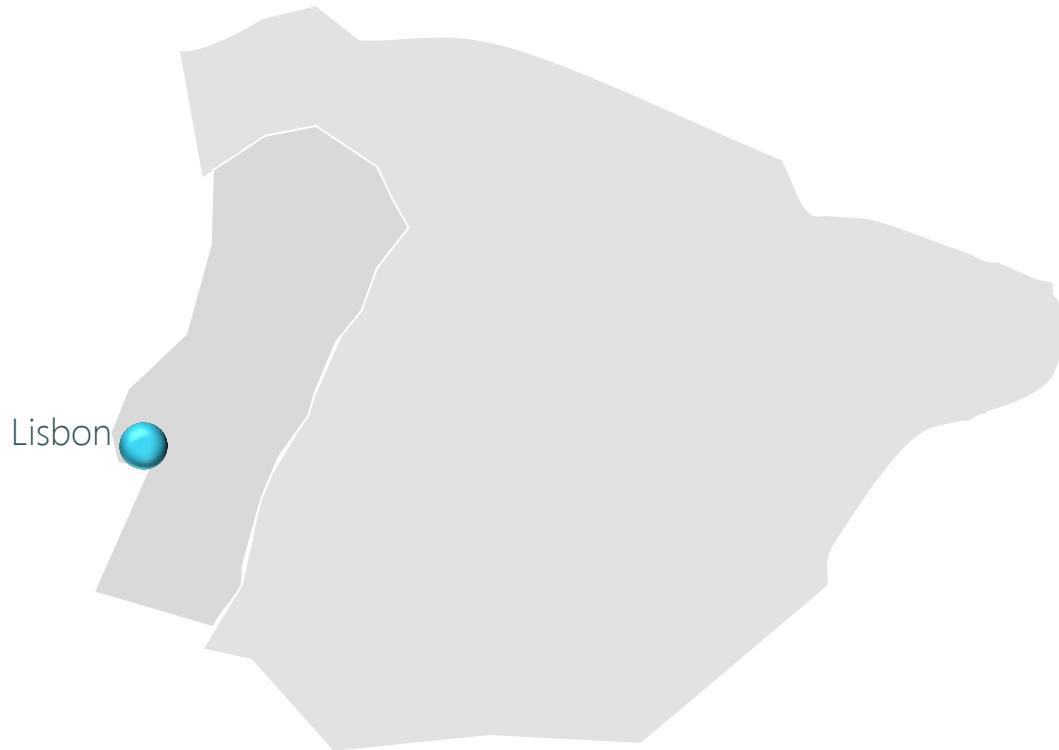
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