

Adventure Travel
4x4 Expeditions
Consultancy
Training



OneLife Adventure

www.onelifeadventure.co.uk

Portugal Explorer

7th – 18th May 2018

This once mighty nation ruled the waves, its great explorers, Vasco de Gama and Henry the Navigator, pushing the boundaries of the known world. Before this, Romans, Moors and Celts all left their marks on the countryside. Gold, slaves and spices poured into Portugal, its empire elevating it to a position of huge global power. Like now however, its fortune reversed and soon an impoverished Portugal looked to England for support, its Princess Catherine of Braganca marrying King Charles II. This started a long association with the English, which port and tourism are testament to today. This is your chance to explore beyond the Algarve and Porto however, as we'll travel from Capo de Sao Vincente, Europe's most SW point, to Braganca in the mountainous NE corner against the Spanish border. This journey must be Europe's longest green lane, our recce trip clocked up 1200km with 90% of it off tarmac!

Starting on the high cliffs overlooking the Atlantic we climb through the Serra de Monchique, heading steadily NE, inland through the Alentejo plains, home to tough black bulls, cork oak, olives and grassland. This area has changed little, its remote villages, decorated white, with *azulejos* murals, home to ancient, black clad, widows watching time slowly pass by. Old border tensions with Spain have resulted in fortified villages clinging to hilltops, these impressive fortifications at the front of military technology, the SMART weapons of their day.

Forging north, we cross the great Rio Tejo, marking the change from the plains to the mountains. Onward to the Rio Duro, where vines march up steep cliffs, before being fermented to one of Portugal's greatest exports and shipped to Porto. Pushing into the northern mountains we come to a timeless forgotten corner of Europe, mules are still used daily to plough tiny fields marked by huge granite boulders carved by Neolithic man. Through out the trip, bird life is plentiful, imperial eagles to bright orioles and the curious hoopoo, while deer, boar and wolves still roam in the north. Warm weather is guaranteed and you'll experience a green land, full of early summer flowers.





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Summary

Start point	Sagres, SW Portugal.
Finish point	Braganca, NE Portugal
Number of days	12 days, 12 nights - meet evening of 6 th May
Approx. distance	1200 kilometres
Road conditions	Mixture of gravel, rock tracks and local roads.
No' of vehicles	Maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adult guests plus our support vehicle.
Accommodation used	Accommodation will be mainly in good standard campsites with toilet/shower facilities but we will use some wild camps in the wonderful Portuguese countryside.
Specialist equipment - vehicle	A well maintained and serviced 4x4 vehicle fitted with basic underbody protection. A CB radio must be fitted. Tyres of All Terrain or Mud Terrain tread patterns are most suitable. Front and rear recovery points and a basic set of recovery equipment (strop and 2 shackles) is essential, along with a spade. A winch is not essential and additional fuel cans are not needed. A vehicle fridge/coolbox is useful for cold drinks and keeping food fresh.
Specialist equipment - camping	Either roof or ground tents are suitable. You will need good quality sleeping mats if using ground tents, along with sleeping bags. You should bring your own chairs, table, stove, pans, cutlery and utensils. Clothing can be light as the days will be hot especially in the south. However you should bring some warm and windproof outer wear for the mountain peaks in the north. Protection from the sun and UV is needed.
Passport	Required.
Visa	Not needed for citizens of the EEU.
Health	No special requirements beyond small first aid kit and EHIC – European Health Entitlement Certificate (available from UK Post Offices).
Cost of living	Comparable to the UK. You will be able to withdraw Euros from ATM's and credit cards are widely accepted.



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Weather

Warm and sheltered in the inland but it can be cool up on the mountains, snow may be present on the high Northern peaks. Occasional storms in the Atlantic can bring cloud and rain to the far SW.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average daily temp												
Max °C	15	16	18	19	22	25	27	28	26	22	17	15
Min °C	8	9	10	11	13	16	17	18	17	15	11	9
Rainfall mm	110	111	69	64	39	21	5	6	26	80	114	108

Food and Shopping

Great seafood in the SW is countered with traditional pork and game dishes in the North. There will be plenty of opportunities to eat traditional dishes in country restaurants. Food is readily available even in small villages on a daily basis. Meals can be cooked individually or communally, the choice is yours and we will co-ordinate and assist you with food purchasing while in country.

Schedule and Pace

The route and timings are not fixed, we will be free to break journey, stop and explore, as you desire. We aim to be in the campsite by 17.00 on most days to allow us to relax and enjoy the experiences of the day. The daily distances driven vary due to the terrain and ground conditions but a typical day of 140 km will be 2-3 hours driving in the morning, 1 hour for lunch and then a further 2 hours driving. There will be two rest / non driving days during the trip when you'll be free to explore or rest as you choose, additionally there will be time to visit major sites and attractions on our route.

Outbound shipping

The crossing from Dover to Calais is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. You are free to specify your own preferred dates and times and this route will give you the option of enjoying France and Spain on the way down. We can also offer an option to take a Brittany Ferries crossing from Portsmouth/Plymouth to Santander at additional cost, please contact us for a quote. This is a cost effective option, saving the diesel cost, tolls and a long drive down.

Note – While this section of the expedition is unsupported by OneLife Adventure, we are happy for you to join us as we drive down to the starting point of the trip – perfect while you get used to driving “on the wrong side”! Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.

Inbound Shipping

The return crossing from Calais to Dover is made by ferry and is included in the expedition price. Again, you are free to break the return journey and specify the ferry dates and times allowing you to extend your holiday as you choose.

Note – As for the outbound journey, this section of the expedition is also unsupported by OneLife Adventure but again you are welcome to join us for the return. Accommodation, meals and refreshments you take during this transit stage are not included.



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Cost

- £999 per person for the first 2 adults (based on 2 sharing) **inclusive of Dover Calais ferry crossings**. Ask us for a quote for Brittany Ferries, we credit you the Channel crossing, you simply pay the difference.

The expedition price includes **flexible return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais, all campsite/accommodation costs, full backup and guiding from the support team.**

- ***If one adult and one under 16 only then the price is for 2 adults.***
- ***Under 16's - £175 each.***
- ***Adult single supplement, add £350.***
- ***For each additional adult up to a maximum of 4 per vehicle, add £225***
- ***Your fuel, food, snacks, drinks and personal spending are not included.***



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THIS
EXPEDITION
PLEASE CONTACT US**

NUMBERS ARE LIMITED – maximum of 6 vehicles or 12 adults!

OneLife Adventure Expedition Rating System

PORTUGAL EXPLORER



Easy, short driving days, suitable for families and drivers with basic off road driving skills.



Easy camping with occasional wild sites interspersed by sites with facilities, no technical needs, suitable for families and young children.



Higher off road content, moderate driving days, suitable for families and medium off road driving skills.



50%+ wild camping, some technical needs, suitable for families and young children used to camping.



Longer days occasionally and high content of off road driving, recoveries likely and moderate levels of off road skills needed.



80% wild camping +, weather or environment requires some technical clothing/equipment, suitable for experienced families with older children.



Long days and long distances are the norm, likely to encounter severe hazards and will require teamwork to succeed, experienced drivers.



Extreme weather (hot, wet or cold), will require extensive technical equipment, irregular meals and physical discomfort will be the norm! Success is achieving the destination – Camel Trophy style.



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