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Fwd: Portugal Rachel

1 message

Jessica James <jessicamjames92@gmail.com>

Wed, May 10, 2023 at 10:01 PM

To: Doli Campbell <doli.campbell@gmail.com>, Emerson Mann <Emersonhmann@gmail.com>, Evan M <evan.mann.92@gmail.com>, bpm1973 <bpm1973@aol.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <rboots14@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 8, 2023 at 7:31 PM

Subject: Fwd: Portugal

To: Jessica James <jessicamjames92@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rachel Boots <rboots14@gmail.com>
Date: September 26, 2022 at 10:40:17 PM EDT
To: Mseidman16@gmail.com
Subject: Portugal

Hey Megan,

Here's where we went and some tips along the way! I really enjoyed Portugal, but did think it was nice to be there during harvest season (Sept / early Oct) and we were there early enough in Sept. that it was still warm enough to swim. I'm sure April is nice too though!

- Redeye flight into Porto
- Drove around Porto -- arrived early enough and on a Sunday that the streets were empty and the parking was free, allowing us to easily find street parking
- BRUNCH AT ZENITH -- get the pancakes. There will likely be a line, but it moves fast and its worth it. Their slogan is "brunch all day everyday" so it won't matter which day you go!
- Then we drove to Quinta de la Pacheca and stayed in the wine barrel
- We scheduled a wine tasting and harvest tour (which includes the grape stomping). I actually found the easiest / fastest communication with them to be over instagram because their website was not super helpful for booking tours, reserving dinner and breakfast. Dinner is not included but the restaurant was good and convenient since its on site; but breakfast is included and its really good!
- The second day we drove another 1 hour east to Pinhao and stopped at these quintas: Tedeo, Carvalhas. Carvalhas required reservations for tastings but we were able to buy a glass and sit outside. There's a TON of other quintas along the drive that you can stop at but it seemed like they required reservations which I didn't have and some of them would randomly close for the lunch hour.
- Douro Vintage was the boat company we used for a private 1.5 hour tour that leaves from Pinhao. It was pricey but worth it.
- Make sure to make dinner reservations in Pinhao -- the only two good restaurants are Veladouro (closed on Mondays) and Quinta de la Rosa. We didn't have reservations and so we went to LVB79 and it was the worst meal of the trip.
- We stayed at Quinta da Silval; booked with points and it was really cheap.
- The third day we reserved GoOnBike, a bike tour company that rents out electric bikes including a predetermined GPS route. We did the Sao Leonardo route which took us up to this awesome

overlook, but its a very intense ride. I had my padded bike shorts on and still was feeling it the next day. The bike trip took most of the day and then we had an amazing lunch at Aneto & Table, it's in the brown "riverside" building in town. Again recommend reservations, even for lunch. We lucked out with a table but they were turning a lot of people away.

- This region all speaks English very fluently. After these few days we then drove north to the Vihno Verde region which is a little less touristy... here we stayed at the ruin which I highly recommend! It's in the middle of nowhere but its so cheap (we paid a total of \$300 for all three nights) and you can swim in the stream or walk to a waterfall swimming hole only 20/25 minutes away. Very nice spot to unwind. https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/3068586?source_impression_id=p3_1664245889_enfy!9ZOmuJ9%2FhIR
- From this location, we did a few "half day" trips. We went to the Palace Belergio (?), but wouldn't recommend stopping there. Then we went to Quinta Soalheiro -- very nice. Again, we pre-reserved the tour and requested an english guide. We then drove down to Ponte de Lima which is the oldest town in Portugal and walked around just to see it.
- Our flight home had a 9 hour layover in Lisbon so we rented scooters and tried to hit all the touristy spots.
- I was glad we had a car to go at our own speed for most of the trip but beware, most of hte rental cars are automatic only and the roads are TIGHT!

Sorry for the brain dump, hope it helps. I think the best parts of our trip were the accommodations and the bike ride tour. Otherwise, I'm sure I could've done more research on the best quintas and restaurants and made reservations at them all (IE Ponte de Lima has some michelin star restaurants that would've been cool to try) but I did enjoy the places we went -- I don't think you can go bad when the wine there tastes so good. Safe travels!

-Rachel