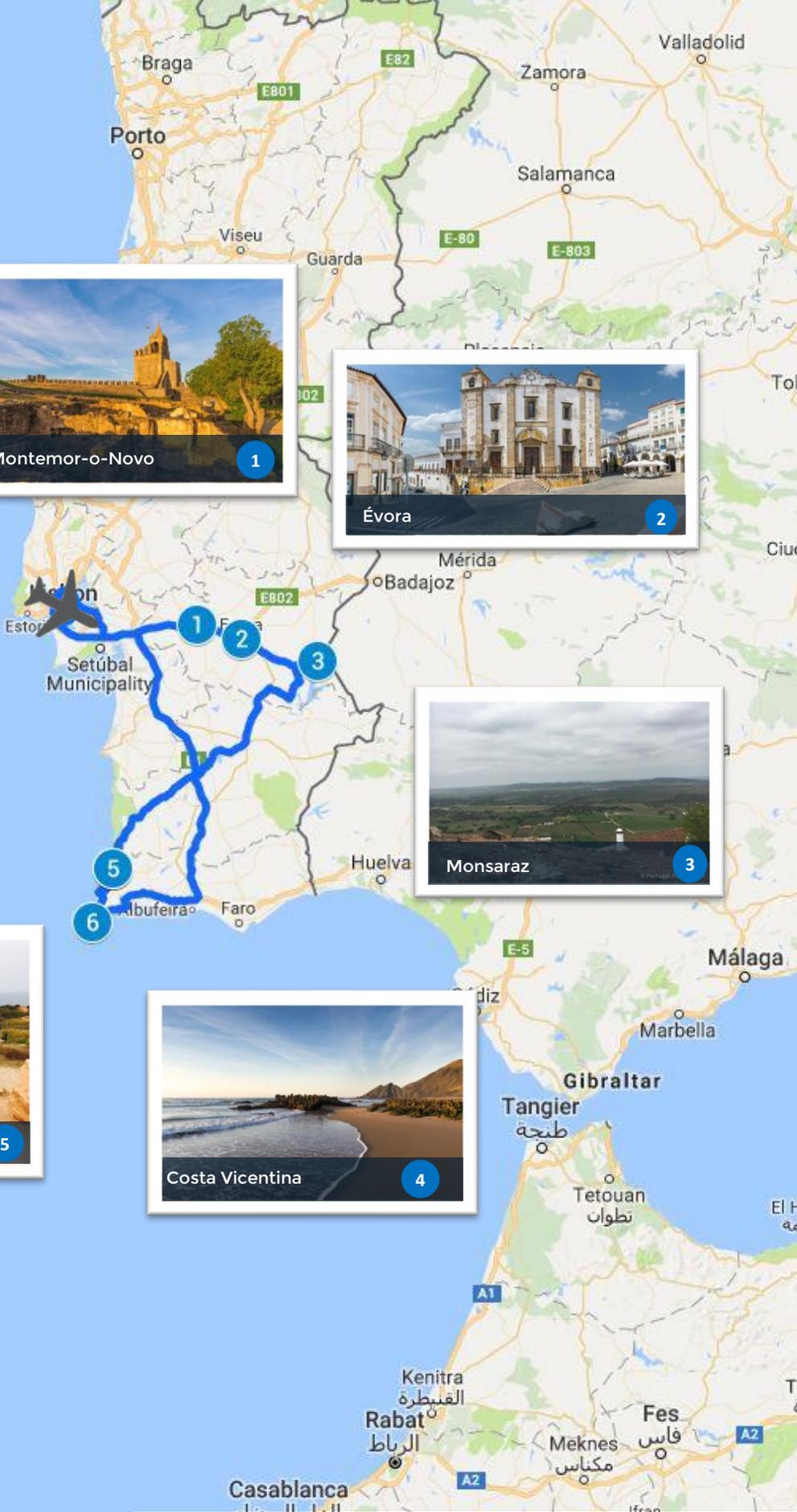
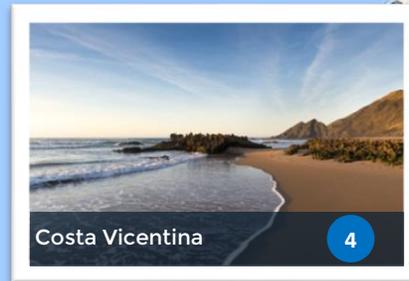
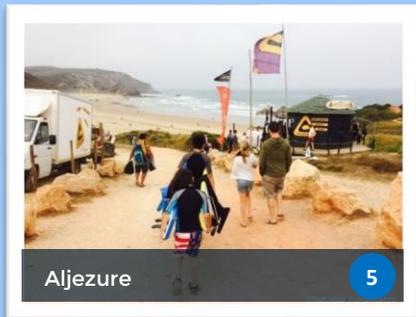
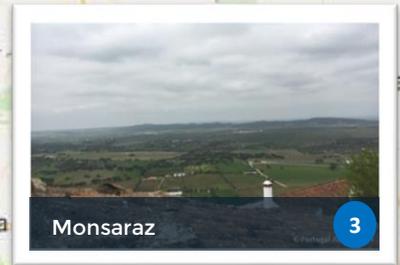




DRIVE TO DISCOVER PORTUGAL

VISIT PORTUGAL WITH KIDS: A FAMILY ROAD TRIP ITINERARY





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Lisbon to Montemor-o-Novo	63 miles	1 hour 5 minutes
Montemor-o-Novo to Evora	19 miles	30 minutes
Evora to Monsaraz	33 miles	52 minutes
Monsaraz to Costa Vicentina	130 miles	3 hours
Costa Vicentina to Aljezur	14 miles	27 minutes
Aljezur to Sagres	23 miles	35 minutes
Sagres to Lisbon	198 miles	3 hours
Total Distance Covered:	481 miles	

Guest Blog Series - We've asked travel experts to create the best European road trips itineraries. This guest blog post is written by Jayme Simoes of the travel blog, [Portugal Adventures](#). Read on to find out where he recommends you do when you visit Portugal with kids.

This year we took the family on a spring road trip from Lisbon to Portugal's Alentejo province. We are a new England family; mom, dad, 2 boys 15 and 10. We go to Europe every 12-18 months - have traveled through Greece, Spain, Italy, and Portugal. My family is Portuguese and I speak the language - so we usually spend time in Portugal on our trips. The idea was to take a 7-day road trip and see some sites that would inspire the boys, while not driving too far each day as to cut down on any complaining.

For this trip, we picked up our [Portugal car rental](#) at the Lisbon airport and got on our way. I was plenty surprised at the airport to be given a Renault Mégane - kind of like a French GTI compact sports wagon with a six-speed transmission and a lot of power. Its generous trunk held more than all of our baggage and its deep sporty seats held all of us quite well. The Mégane broke loose on the A6 highway easily, reaching speeds of 140 KPH, it seemed to have an endless well of power and tons of torque. The car glided through curves, local roads and up mountains.

TO/FROM: Lisbon Airport

In this road trip guide, you'll begin and end your journey at Lisbon's airport.

1. Montemor-o-Novo

Our first stop was the former royal castle town of Montemor-o-Novo. This was once the winter retreat of Renaissance kings, and today its massive ruined castle sits high above the pretty town. The kids marveled at the vineyards and olive groves - and enjoyed exploring the crumbling walls.

2. Évora

Évora is a museum-city with a still-standing Roman temple, located close to the Cathedral. The kids were fascinated and crept out at the São Francisco Church with its Capela dos Ossos, a chapel walled with human bones. We hung out at the Praça de Giraldo with 16th-century arches, an aqueduct, exploring the winding streets around the center. Of course, we parked our car just inside the city gates and did the rest on foot.

3. Monsaraz

We spent the night at Monsaraz, climbing up the ancient road to the walled hilltop town that has guarded the border with Spain for centuries. This is an inviting and beautiful medieval village, with a castle and fortifications to challenge all comers.

Today the walls are more welcoming to the Spanish, and the kids loved exploring the cobblestone streets, climbing the ruined walls, and dining on roast lamb and pata negra pork. The local wine was outstanding (kids did not try that...). The fun surprise for the kids was that the inside of the castle had been converted into a Harry Potter-esque bull ring. Not only did we get to see how you can make a bullring in a medieval castle, but also enjoyed the views of the vast Alqueva Lake in the distance, and of the sweeping plains of the Alentejo.

4. Costa Vicentina

The Costa Vicentina is a response to the over building that took place in some Algarve towns in the 1980s - the idea was to set aside a stretch of coast for miles and miles and not allow any modern development. Not unlike the Adirondacks, the Costa Vicentina is not frozen in time but lives in a smart balance of history and nature. The natural park runs all the way from Sines into the Algarve.

5. Aljezur

Next stop, Aljezur. Great name, and not on most people's must-visit list - but it should be. The boys took a surf lesson - and the beach had to be one of the most inviting beaches I have ever seen - imagine sandy dunes, pine-topped sea cliffs, and no buildings or anything but a café and dirt parking lot. The water seems to roll in flat for a mile making it the perfect place to learn to surf.

6. Sagres

Next, we went to [Martinhal Beach Resort & Hotel](#), a seaside hotel designed for families - here one of its "cool" factors is that the hotel offers surfing for kids and families. It is set in Sagres, a very cool town with the right mix of beach, places to eat, history and views. After a couple of days, we set course, the three hours back to Lisbon - it was a great trip! We had climbed walls, seen cork forests, tried an uncured olive, met a goat or cow, and saw lots of old bones. The Alentejo, a great road trip for families!

Jayme and his family often travel to Europe spending a lot of time exploring Portugal. When he's not traveling, Jayme manages client accounts and directs strategy & marketing efforts for Louis Karno & Company, an agency that he founded. He also contributes to the [Portugal Adventures](#) blog.