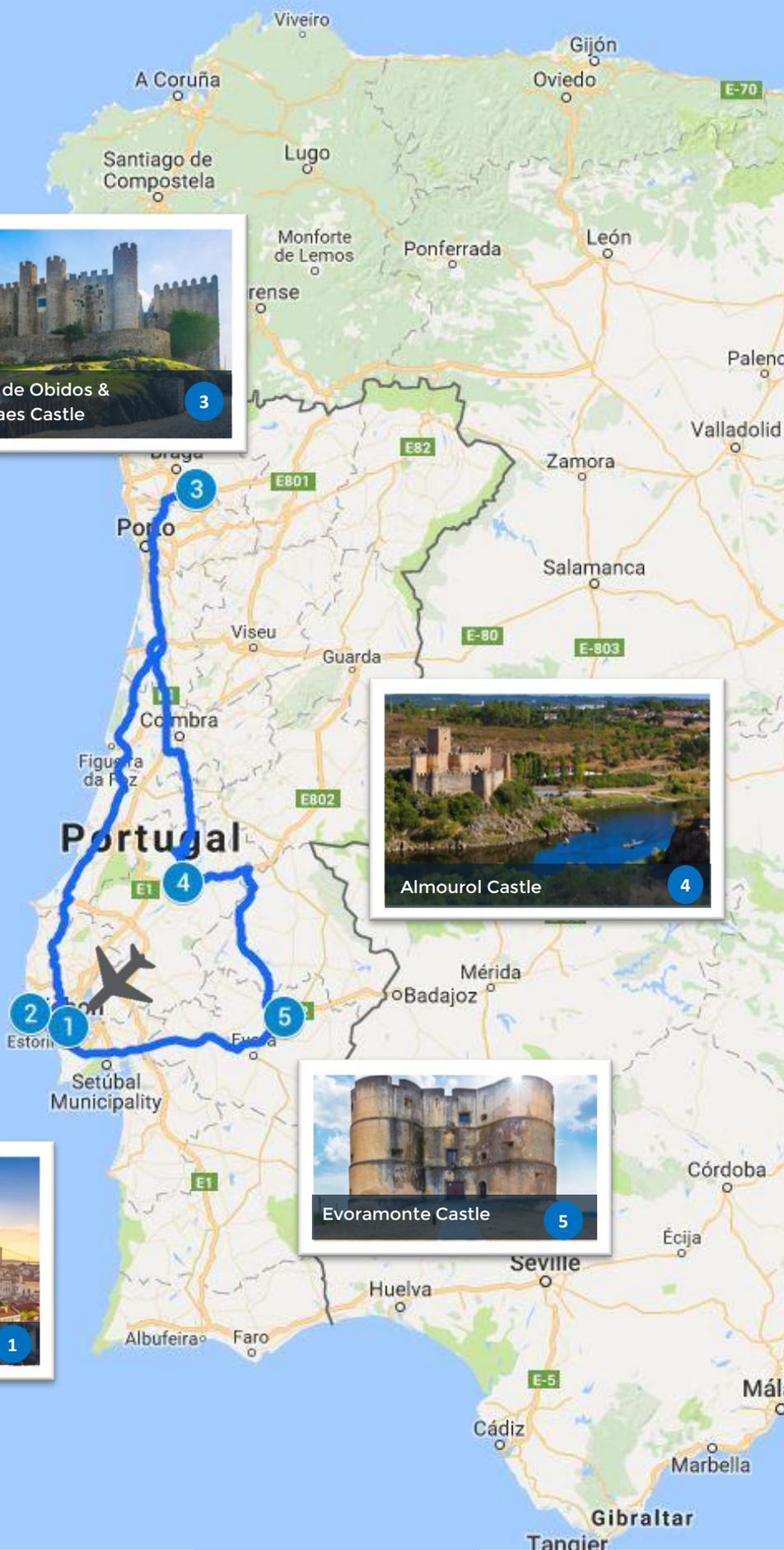




DRIVE TO DISCOVER
PORTUGAL
BEST THINGS TO DO
IN PORTUGAL:
LISBON & BEYOND
BY CAR





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Lisbon to Sintra	25 miles	1 hour
Sintra to Guimaraes	241 miles	3 hours 48 minutes
Guimaraes to Almourol	179 miles	2 hours 57 minutes
Almourol to Lisbon	131 miles	3 hours 46 minutes
Total Distance Covered:	576 miles	

Portugal is rapidly emerging as one of the hottest destinations in Europe for North American travelers. The US Dollar is strong there, and in Portugal you can take in breathtaking historic landmarks and points of interest for a fraction of the cost of some nearby countries. On this road trip from Lisbon you'll discover some of the best things to do in Portugal, starting in its capital city, and discovering historic landmarks, castles, and ancient cities along with the immensely beautiful Portuguese countryside.

TO/FROM: Lisbon Airport

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

1. Things to do in Lisbon

The city of Lisbon is a dynamic, thriving cultural mecca, and offers many historic landmarks, restaurants, and museums which rival those found in any city in Europe. While there is plenty to see and do in Lisbon, we recommend visiting Jeronimos Monastery, a UNESCO world heritage site. This gothic monastery offers a glimpse into the history of Lisbon and visitors will marvel at the craftsmanship which was possible when the monastery construction began in 1501.

2. Lisbon Area Castles - Pena Palace

Belem Tower is one of the most popular points of interest in Lisbon, and it's a must-see stop on any trip to this fantastic city. This UNESCO site played a significant role in Portuguese maritime discoveries, and it's a striking structure right on the water at the mouth of the Tagus river, making it the ceremonial gateway to Lisbon.

Pena Palace (*Palacio da Pena*), a UNESCO site, is named as one of the seven wonders of Portugal, and will be an amazing backdrop to epic photos you'll want to frame the moment you get home.

3. Castelo de Obidos & Guimaraes

Castelo de Obidos (pictured above) is a well-preserved medieval castle in the municipality of Obidos, and we think it's especially fitting to explore this fortified settlement first thing in the morning when the city is just beginning to stir. It's a great place to stretch your legs and explore the castle and city before continuing north along the Portuguese coast.

From Castelo de Obidos, continue north via the A17 toward Porto. This drive will offer you amazing views of the coast, and the rolling Portuguese hillsides. It's just over 2 hours to Porto by car, and there are numerous well-reviewed restaurants in Porto where you can enjoy lunch and a glass of wine overlooking the ocean. While in Porto check in to your hotel where you'll spend the night, then zip north on the EI for your final stop of the day: Guimaraes Castle.

4. Almourol Castle

The Convento de Cristo is a stunning monastery in the civil parish of Tomar, a 2-hour drive south from Porto. The Roman Catholic structure dates to 1118, and is an amazing site to explore by foot after you park your Portuguese rental car.

From the Convent, zip a few miles southeast to Almourol Castle, a stunning landmark on a small island set in the middle of the serene Tagus River. Considered one of Portugal's landmarks which is most emblematic of the Knights Templar, Almourol Castle offers a unique glimpse of the history of central Portugal, and serves as a stunning backdrop for photographs that will make you long to return to Portugal once your trip is at an end.

5. Evoramonte Castle

Day 5 of your driving tour of the best things to do in Portugal begins in Gaviao, where you'll explore the Castle of Belver, which overlooks the Tagus River. Constructed during the middle ages, this is an amazing site to explore by foot, and allows you to really get a workout in preparation for the next leg of your trip.

From Belver Castle, head south to Evoramonte Castle in Estremoz, a structure which dates to 1160. Located in the beautiful Alentejo region of Portugal, this final castle on your Portugal road trip from Lisbon offers the opportunity to reflect on the varied and evolving history of Portugal as a nation - its maritime ties and the rule of Moors and Christians - before enjoying a stunning 2-hour drive west on the A6 to return to Lisbon.

Driving Portugal on a round-trip road trip from Lisbon, exploring the historic castles of this beautiful country is a unique and memorable itinerary. While Paris, Rome, and London may get all the headlines, this road trip from Lisbon to the Douro River Valley, returning through the stunning Alentejo region offers the unique opportunity to tour some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe on a budget.