THE TRAVEL CLUB presents…

Portugal & Its Islands
April 17 – 29, 2020

For more information contact
THE TRAVEL CLUB
(617) 338-1111
lobo@newventureboston.com

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Day 1: Friday, April 17, 2020 Overnight Flight Travel through some of Portugal’s most beautiful regions. Experience Lisbon, the Azorean island of St. Michael, and the island of Madeira.

Day 2: Saturday, April 18, 2020 Lisbon, Portugal - Tour Begins Your adventure opens in Lisbon where Old World traditions still thrive. Experience medieval towns, coastal villages, Portuguese cuisine, regional wines and folkloric entertainment. Tonight, meet your fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Sunday, April 19, 2020 Lisbon - Sintra - Cascais - Estoril - Lisbon Set out on a tour of Lisbon featuring the Moorish Alfama Quarter, Jeronimo’s Monastery (UNESCO World Heritage site), the Monument to the Discoveries, and the Tower of Belem (UNESCO). Later, explore the town of Sintra (UNESCO), the summer residence of Portuguese kings for six centuries. Enjoy a visit of the National Palace. Continue to the coastal resorts of Cascais and Estoril on the Portuguese Riviera. This evening, indulge in Portuguese cuisine and wine while local artists perform the traditional Fado. (B, D)

Day 4: Monday, April 20, 2020 Lisbon - Fatima - Nazare - Obidos - Lisbon Travel to the “Silver Coast,” a region of sleepy villages, vineyards and age-old castles. We visit three distinct villages, each with its own cultural character. Begin in the pilgrimage town of Fatima. Discover the beauty of the famous basilica and see the magnificent Batalha Monastery (UNESCO). Continue to Nazare, a seaside community named for a small wooden statue of the Virgin Mary that arrived here in the 4th century. Then it is on to picturesque Obidos, where white-washed houses are guarded by a hilltop castle. (B)

Day 5: Tuesday, April 21, 2020 Lisbon - St. Michael, Azores - Ponta Delgada To the Azores! Fly to St. Michael, the largest of the nine volcanic islands that form the Azorean archipelago. A brief walking tour of Ponta Delgada’s town center highlights the Portas da Cidade (The City Gates), Saint Christ’s Church, St. Sebastian Church, and the seashore promenade. Later, gaze at the twin lakes of Sete Cidades (Seven Cities). Composed of two lakes inside a volcanic crater, it is the island’s most popular national park. From the edge of the crater, one lake appears blue (reflecting the sky) and the other looks green (reflecting the ground). This afternoon it’s your choice! You can take a leisurely hike inside the crater of Sete Cidades and admire the pristine Bay of Silence -OR- you may prefer to explore the interpretation center of Sete Cidades followed by free time in the town’s center. Our day concludes with a magnificent view of the coastal village of Mosteiro. (B, D)

Day 6: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 Ponta Delgada - Terra Nostra Botanical Park - Furnas Valley Today it’s your choice! You may take a stroll through the Terra Nostra Botanical Park, home to the world’s largest collection of camellias -OR- you can choose to rest and relax in the park’s mineral rich thermal water pool.* In Furnas Valley, experience a cozido das furnas lunch in which meat and vegetables are stewed in the heat of the volcanic earth. Afterward, explore Caldeiras das Furnas, the town’s famous hot springs area. The day comes to a close at a tea plantation where you will learn about timeless methods of production. (B, L)

Day 7: Thursday, April 23, 2020 Ponta Delgada - Optional Tours - Cooking Demonstration The morning is yours to explore Ponta Delgada or perhaps take an optional tour… maybe you will choose to swim with dolphins, take a whale watching boat trip, or kayak and hike around Sete Cidades. Later, discover the secrets of Azorean cuisine during an interactive cooking demonstration at one of the island’s most popular restaurants. Your evening finishes with an incredible dinner. (B, D)

Day 8: Friday, April 24, 2020 Ponta Delgada - Lagoa do Fogo - Ribeira Grande - Nordeste Delve into the art of hand-painted...
ceramics during a studio visit. Next, take in the beautiful vistas of the mystical Lagoa do Fogo (Fire Lake). Journey to Ribeira Grande, known for its historic 16th- and 17th-century buildings. See City Hall, the Church of Our Lady, and the eight-arch bridge, a symbol of the town. Visit a family-owned liqueur shop to taste some of the local liqueurs. Continue to the highest part of the island, Nordeste. Here, explore the natural beauty and famous waterfalls of Ribeira dos Caldeirões. A pineapple plantation is our final stop of the day, where an expert leads you through the farm’s greenhouses.

Day 9: Saturday, April 25, 2020 Ponta Delgada - Funchal, Madeira - Monte
Fly to Madeira. The “Pearl of the Atlantic” boasts a subtropical climate, majestic mountain ranges and volcanic caves. Stop in Monte, perched on the hills overlooking scenic Funchal. Visit the Botanical Garden of Madeira with its collection of more than 2,500 plants from all continents. Discover Madeira’s history during a panoramic tour of Funchal’s plazas, Colonial mansions, 15th-century cathedral and the local market. (B)

Day 10: Sunday, April 26, 2020 Funchal - Câmara de Lobos - São Vicente - Porto Moniz
We begin our day with a visit to Câmara de Lobos, a traditional village and picture-perfect bay. Along mountain roads, pass banana plantations and vineyards en route to the world’s second-highest cliff, Cabo Girão. Stop in São Vicente, a charming agricultural town with dramatic views of the coast. In the lively fishing village of Porto Moniz, enjoy free time for a swim* (weather permitting) in the natural volcanic pools. (B)

Day 11: Monday, April 27, 2020 Funchal - Ribeiro Frio - Santana
Set out on a winding trip through the mountains to Pico do Arieiro, the island’s third-highest point. Then it’s your choice! At Ribeiro Frio (Cold River), explore the natural beauty of a trout farm - OR - join an exhilarating levada walk** and follow the paths that run along the water channels that flow through the mountains. Continue to Santana, a village of small triangular homes thatched with straw. Visit a family-owned embroidery shop and meet local artisans who offer a first-hand look at their delicate craft. Then, it’s time to sample some world-famous Madeira wine. Celebrate with a traditional dinner known as espetada. Folk dancers and music entertain as you feast on a favorite local dish cooked over an open fire. (B, D)

Day 12: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 Funchal - Lisbon
Board your flight and return to the metropolitan energy of Lisbon. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Later, bid “adeus” to Portugal during a farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 13: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 Lisbon - Tour Ends
Your tour ends today. (B)