



Travel News from Portugal

February 2024



The Portuguese Way of Saint James – Coastal Way

The Coastal Way of the Portuguese Saint James pilgrimage, nestled in the tranquil north of Portugal, offers a journey like no other. This is where the warm embrace of local communities elevates historic sites and enhances the natural beauty of the landscape. With each step, a gentle sea breeze accompanies you, infusing your mind with resilience, testing your body, and propelling you closer to your spiritual destination.

This remarkable path spans 138 kilometers and guides pilgrims through nine municipalities in the *Porto e Norte* region: Porto, Matosinhos, Maia, Vila do Conde, Póvoa de Varzim, Esposende, Viana do Castelo, Caminha, Vila Nova de Cerveira and Valença.

These nine stages, each with varying distances, have been thoughtfully designed to align with the points of interest found in these regions, allowing pilgrims the flexibility to tackle them day by day or group multiple stages together.

Notably, Portugal's Routes of Santiago de Compostela have earned a place on the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Centre. They stand as a testament to Portugal's significant contribution to Europe's most famous pilgrimage, benefiting from their physical proximity to Compostela and the extensive road network of the peninsular Northwest.

For those who have already explored the traditional routes, we invite you to embrace a new adventure, a pilgrimage route along the Atlantic Coast of Portugal. Discover more about the Coastal Way Path [here](#), and embrace this truly spiritual awakening journey.



Become an Alentejo Expert! The e-learning programme, besides free, is also fun

The Alentejo Academy is a programme that will help you gain knowledge about this authentic region of Portugal, as well as its tourism products. Explore our modules, test your knowledge with our quizzes, and become an expert in selling Alentejo!

There are five modules on topics related to the region, and each module, shared weekly, ends with a series of practical questions to test your knowledge. Long in now for [+ info](#)



Join Visit Portugal at Fiets en Wandelbeurs in Utrecht and Ghent

With a pleasant climate all year round, walking or cycling around Portugal is one of the best ways to explore places you might not discover otherwise.

That's why we couldn't miss the opportunity to exhibit at Fiets en Wandelbeurs in Utrecht (23rd - 25th February) - stand 3.C.40, and in Ghent (2nd & 3rd March) - stand E.28. At both fairs, you'll find representatives from Alentejo, Algarve, Azores, Center of Portugal, and Madeira. We hope to see you there!



Getting married in the Algarve: New Wedding Guide

Nestled along Portugal's southern coast, the Algarve region is a captivating wedding destination. With its Mediterranean charm, abundant sunshine, and year-round mild climate, Algarve sets the stage for turning your wedding dreams into reality.

Imagine your special day against the backdrop of 200 kilometers of pristine beaches, where the Atlantic Ocean stretches to the horizon and the sun paints a breathtaking masterpiece as it sets. To the west, the iconic Cape St. Vincent near Sagres and the Costa Vicentina host Europe's most renowned sunset, while to the east, secluded beaches embraced by vibrant cliffs and crystal-clear waters await. For an intimate experience, Ria Formosa's hidden islands, reachable only by boat, offer the perfect location for your celebration.

What truly sets Algarve apart as a wedding destination is the comprehensive resource offered to you. Our [Algarve Wedding Guide](#) not only highlights the advantages of Algarve as a top wedding location but also provides invaluable information to transform your dream wedding into a reality.

In the guide, you'll discover the best wedding venues, showcasing the main hotels and locations where weddings can take place. Each venue boasts its unique charm and offerings, ensuring that you find the perfect setting for your special day.

Additionally, the guide offers detailed insights into the legal requirements for marrying in Portugal, including the necessary documents, simplifying the process of planning a destination wedding in this region.

Discover the most captivating spots in this dreamy destination and embark on your unforgettable wedding adventure. Your journey of love starts now.



Two new Hotel Openings in 2024: The Lince Santa Clara and Carvoeiro Gardens

This year, Portugal has already welcomed a few new additions to its hospitality scene, promising unforgettable stays and world-class experiences. Let us share with you two of them!

[The Lince Santa Clara](#)^{*****} A contemporary hotel with a fascinating past. Located in the heart of Vila do Conde, at the intersection of the calm waters of the Ave River and the greatness of the ocean, stands the hotel that now lives within the historic Santa Clara Monastery.

[Carvoeiro Gardens](#)^{****}, located only a short 2-minute drive from Carvoeiro village center and within walking distance of fantastic beaches and popular restaurants, Carvoeiro Gardens is the new green heart of Carvoeiro.



Handkerchief of Love

Curiosity: The handkerchief of Love - A Romantic Tradition from Portugal

In the heart of Viana do Castelo (Porto and Northern Portugal), lies a romantic tradition known as the "Handkerchiefs of Love". Originating probably as far as the 17th century, this enchanting tradition involves young ladies meticulously embroidering handkerchiefs with their deepest feelings. These exquisite handkerchiefs became a canvas for verses of love and intricate designs like doves and flowers.

The handkerchief served as a symbol of conquest. Once it found its way into the hands of the beloved man, using it in public marked the beginning of a romantic relationship. Conversely, keeping it hidden signified a decision against initiating an amorous bond.

The Handicrafts of Love continue to inspire and are a beautiful souvenir from the North of Portugal, for sale in many of the local traditional markets.