

## Chapter 1 : Getting Around in Portugal | Frommer's

*The best travel idea you can have for is \*drumroll\* a Portugal road trip along the coastline! It's time to start the engines and explore the most idilic landscapes of this beautiful country! I've decided to create this road trip guide because all the conversations I have about my country.*

Request Quote Description Looking for a journey to the soul of Portuguese history and culture? Whether you choose a superior room, a traditional pousada or something in between, these are eight nights you will spend dreaming of the most naturally beautiful, historic, spiritual and delicious experiences Portugal has to offer.

Day 2 – Explore the Alentejo Countryside: The whitewashed towns of the southern plains will give way to walled hilltop villages nestled in rocky terrain. Continue to Estremoz , a hilltop town overlooking groves of olive trees. Area quarries produce the second largest quantity of fine marble in the world and have supplied European artists and architects since Roman times. Up next is the gem-like 12th century village of Sortelha with fortifications offering panoramic views of the wild countryside. He discovered Brazil in and was the first explorer to reach four continents. Therefore much of Belmonte displays the subject of his family crest: Continue to Guarda where you will spend the night. Just to the east of Braga, is Bom Jesus do Monte , a spectacular Christian pilgrimage site with an extraordinary Baroque staircase cascading feet down a hillside. Another option is to visit Ponte de Lima and continue to coastal Viana do Castelo , where you can park and explore the winding streets on foot. Situated on the north bank of the Douro River and close to the ocean, Porto has a storied history with tales of Romans, Moors, crusaders, overseas colonies and gastronomical achievements. Many of them are open for touring and tasting. Porto is renown for its unique and mouth-watering food and drink. The ancient city center is home to Roman ruins, Romanesque cathedrals and the old maze-like streets of the Moorish quarter. Stay the night in this historical center. Your last stop before Lisbon should be Obidos , the charming walled village with classic whitewashed houses and cobblestone streets. Seat Alhambra, VW Transporter or similar. Please contact for automatic rental car rates. Not Included in Car Hire: Toll Device - It can be rented for 1. This coverage can be purchased directly at car rental desk. We can hold your land reservation while you book air. Once you confirm your air itinerary we can then proceed with collecting a deposit and confirming your land portion Cancellation Policy Cancellation 45 to 22 days prior to departure: What do I do next? Hotels shown are for reference only. We reserve the right to change hotels based on availability, group size or other factors. Should alternate hotel be required, it will be of same or better rating. Comfort Hotels Marvao - Boutique Hotel Poejo Situated only 5 km from the medieval village of Marvao, this boutique hotel in Alentejo features elegant rooms decorated with local crafts and paintings. An extensive breakfast buffet is served daily and an indoor pool is located meters from the hotel. The air-conditioned rooms and suites have a minibar, safe, seating area, cable or satellite TV, free WiFi and a wardrobe. The full bathroom includes a hairdryer, bathrobe, slippers and free toiletries. Guests can relax under an umbrella at the terrace or play a board game. Sporty guests can take long walks in the neighboring Serra S. Free private parking is available on site. Castelo de Vide is 15 km away, while Portalegre is 25 km away from the hotel. The elegant rooms at the Grande Hotel do Porto include a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, a minibar and a private bathroom with a bathtub tub and shower. With a romantic atmosphere, D. Pedro II Restaurant is in a restored ballroom. It serves authentic Portuguese cuisine prepared with local ingredients. Guests can admire panoramic Porto views from the terrace, train in the fitness room or relax with a massage. Convenient facilities at the Grande Hotel do Porto include laundry services, babysitting services and currency exchange. They come equipped with a safety deposit box and a minibar. Maria is decorated in warm colors and offers panoramic city views. It serves a buffet breakfast and seasonal Mediterranean cuisine. The Piano Bar serves a selection of beers, wines and refreshments. The hotel also a boasts a large fitness center. It offers indoor and outdoor swimming pools and an extensive spa area. All rooms at Hotel Lusitania have modern furnishings which include air conditioning and satellite TV. Free wired internet is available in all rooms. The Health Club offers a gym and water sports, as well as a tennis court and football pitch. Lusitania Hotel is 1. Lisbon - Marques de Pombal Hotel Hotel Marques de Pombal is a superior four star hotel featuring

individually decorated rooms with floor-to-ceiling paintings and free internet, this 4-star hotel is located on the Avenida da Liberdade. Marques de Pombal Metro Station is 50 feet away. A well-equipped gym with professional trainers is featured at Hotel Marques De Pombal. Guests can relax in the Finnish sauna and in the hammam, or request treatments at the beauty salon. Lisbon-themed black-and-white pictures decorate the rooms of Marques De Pombal Hotel. Flat-screen TVs and iPod docks can be found in each room, and some rooms offer a view over the boulevard. Restaurant Blu serves a range of international dishes, and guests can enjoy an after-dinner drink at the adjacent bar. An extensive breakfast, including rolls, fresh fruits and hot dishes, is served daily. Santo Antonio is a great choice for travelers interested in monuments, history and architecture. Its modern rooms feature a flat-screen TV with satellite and paid movie channels. All bright rooms at Tivoli Coimbra feature large windows, a sitting area and a minibar. Breakfast can be delivered to the rooms or enjoyed in the dining room. Nearby Rua da Sofia offers public transportation options connecting to other parts of Coimbra. It offers an outdoor pool, nearby golf facilities and free parking. At Casa da Calçada guests can enjoy local specialties with an international touch at the restaurant. The hotel is located less than one hour from both Porto and the Douro Valley. Francisco de Sa Carneiro airport is also less than one hour away and the hotel provides a private shuttle service. Decorated in a modern style, the spacious, soundproofed rooms have a inch, flat-screen satellite TV, seating area and minibar. The marble private bathrooms include underfloor heating. All rooms feature free WiFi access. Breakfast is served each morning at the VIP Lounge, which also serves drinks and light snacks. It has rooftop views over the Douro River and over Porto. Guests can try quality Japanese cuisine at the Goshō restaurant. Casa da Musica and Francos metro stations are both less than a minute walk from the hotel. Porto International Airport is 8. Lordelo do Ouro e Massarelos is a great choice for travelers interested in city trips, food and riverside walks. All rooms have private bathrooms, have cable TV and air conditioning. The restaurant has panoramic views of the town. There are many activities to enjoy when staying at Pousada de Marvão, including fishing, hiking and exploring the medieval town. Coimbra - Quinta das Lagrimas Quinta das Lagrimas, a small luxury hotel is located in a historic medieval setting. The Quinta features botanical gardens and a state-of-the-art spa with views across Coimbra. Palace Rooms, that once accommodated the Duke of Wellington, and Garden Rooms overlooking the botanical garden. Spa Rooms include a hydrotherapy bath tub and boast stunning views of the Quinta das Lagrimas outdoor surroundings. Dine al fresco whilst enjoying selected local wines from the cellar. Bamboo Garden Spa provides a range of luxury treatments and beauty therapies, and there is a library filled with thousands of ancient books. Free on-site car parking is available. This 5-star luxury hotel features a rooftop bar with panoramic Lisbon views. It includes an outdoor round pool and 2 restaurants. Guests can enjoy a massage. The top-floor restaurant prepares international cuisine, and features a wine list with over selections and panoramic views. The restaurant Brasserie Flo Lisbon on ground floor serves French meals and the hotel provides valet parking service. The carefully furnished rooms have flat-screen TVs with satellite channels and a sitting area with velvet seats. Some rooms overlook the courtyard or Avenida da Liberdade. Avenida Metro Station is ft away. Coracao de Jesus is a great choice for travelers interested in cathedral, beach walks and cleanliness.

### Chapter 2 : Driving Routes in Spain - 12 Road Trips - Totally Spain Travel Blog

*Even so, I was determined to get a car so that I could take road trips around the country and quickly got used to the oddities of driving in Portugal. If you're considering buying or renting a car in Portugal, read on for practical driving tips that should prepare you for driving on Portuguese roads calmly and confidently.*

This will be difficult, I thought. After a few hand gestures here and there, we finally checked into our room in Lisbon. I had no idea what Portugal would be like. All I knew was that the famous world navigator who discovered the Philippines, Ferdinand Magellan, was from Portugal his naval ship was sponsored by Spain and that Macau was a former Portuguese colony. Jon and I decided to spend some time in January in the warmer countries, so we headed south to Spain and Portugal. After almost 2 weeks in Spain, we spent 5 days in Portugal. Our itinerary included Lisbon, Sintra and Porto, three of the most well known tourist spots in the country. Despite such a short stay, we fell in love with Portugal; keep reading to find out why! The language barrier did not put us off from exploring the beautiful capital. Lisbon captured our hearts with its unique and beautiful architecture. Rows of colourful houses line up along the sloping streets. There are also plenty of pastelerias bakeries around Lisbon that serve delicious treats. The popular being the custard tarts or pasteis de nata which is similar to the Portuguese egg tarts you find in Macau. There is an old funicular which allows you to go up the hill towards to the plaza overlooking the city. Across the streets there is an occasional tram that passes by. It is one of the most charming sights in town. The tram goes to the different districts in Lisbon and truly creates a unique atmosphere. My most memorable moment in Lisbon was the day before my birthday. The castle itself was not glamorous but the selling point of this place was the view. Jon and I shared a toast with the two glasses of Portuguese wine and watched the magnificent sunset drop over the rest of Lisbon.

## Chapter 3 : 2 weeks driving around Portugal - Portugal Forum - TripAdvisor

*Answer 1 of 6: We are going to drive around Portugal Oct 1 - Oct 14 this year. We will have 4 days in Lisbon before/after this drive. I am interested in anyone else's similar experiences.*

One thing that had really changed was the restaurant scene in Tavira. The couple I mention in the second report are new and very good. So I think you will eat well in Tavira. The lack of crowds made things very easy – we just drove right to the center of the town we were visiting and easily found a parking place. In the summer, we were told, the population swells by a factor of about 2. Day 1 – Drove from Lisbon to Loule and went to their Saturday market. Nothing hugely spectacular, but the market building itself is nice kind of a mozarabic motif and we did buy some home made piri-piri hot red pepper spice, cheese, figs, and chorizo. From Loule, drove to the church at Almancil. Tavira is a very pretty riverside town near the ocean. We enjoyed walking around a lot – be sure to walk over the southernmost bridge to see a really pretty view of the town and harbor. The hotel is modern and functional, but the location in town is really good. We bypassed the row of restaurants on the river and found the Avenida Restaurant walk up into the Praca Republica and turn left. Very crowded but not a tourist in sight, small, unpretentious, but delicious food – try the tuna in some local agua-ardiente firewater made from a berry. It was one of their specialties and just delicious. Day 2 – Drove from Tavira on the east end of the Algarve to Sagres, on the west end. We stopped along the way in Silves old Moorish stronghold, a castle built out of really red local rocks, some nice old parts of town. We parked there and then walked for a couple of hours on the incredibly beautiful beach – lots of strange rock formations, long stretches of sand, all very clean. From there, we drove to Lagos, also on the coast. We enjoyed the old part of town, the typical pedestrian zone with some unusual for Portugal restaurants – Indian and Nepalese, for example. Part of the slave market is still standing and there is an old fort on the water that is well preserved. We then drove on to Sagres and the Pousada do Infante. We had a balcony that overlooked the water, and even though it was December, we were able to sit out and enjoy. Dinner at the Restaurant Tasca, down in the harbor. Having had such good luck with the house specialty last night, we tried it again, and were again very pleased – this time it was tamboril monk fish in a garlicky, wine, creamy sauce with lots of cilantro. There is another restaurant, located in a house right near the back of the pousada and run by a Dutch couple, which is supposed to be very good, too, but it was closed when we were there. Day 3 – After a late and lengthy breakfast we did an hour of work or so in the very pleasant restaurant drinking coffee and looking out over the ocean, we visited Cabo San Vicente, the southwesternmost tip of Europe. Then a drive back to Lisbon. Day 4 – time to get out of cold and rainy Lisbon. Got on the highway, headed straight to the Algarve. First stop – Vale dos Centianes, a beach near Carvoeiro. It had been recommended for its walk along the cliffs to Algor Seco and did not disappoint. From there, we drove to Ferragudo, a pretty little not too touristy town on the water across the river from Portimao. From Ferragudo, we drove to Lagos and its Ponta da Piedade. We had another long walk along the cliffs, it was just amazing. From there we drove to Salema, thinking we might spend the night there. I know that Rick Steves recommends it and I wanted to see what the fuss was about. Not our style really, the Vila Gale Tavira is huge and modern, but its 44 euro price including breakfast and very good in-town location were the clinchers. We went out walking looking for restaurants around 9 pm, and found that the recommended Restaurante Bica was closed for the holidays. AquaMar – or is it AquaAzul? Day 5 We spent an hour or so in the morning walking around the old part of Tavira, visiting the castle, etc. This is a very nice town, lovely walks along the water – from the Marina down towards the lighthouse. Lots of pedestrian streets, old squares, good pastelerias. We then drove up to Castro Mourim – not much going on there, but it looks like there are several places that really cater to the tourists in summer. The castle has lots of places where it looks like vendors set up inside the walls, the old windmill on the edge of town has several very modern looking structures nearby that must have some tourist purpose. Not a big hit, though it might be more interesting in summer – my guess is though that it tends toward the ticky tacky. We decided to head back to the tried and true Cacela Velha, a very little hamlet on the water about 15 km east of Tavira. To our surprise, a new restaurant had opened and was very busy, so we decided to eat lunch here

before walking around. Casa Azul " owned by a retired Brit and his Portuguese wife, but run by younger people, it has a very interesting menu and good food. There is another restaurant in this tiny place, Casa Velha, but I think the Casa Azul has got a corner on the market we saw that in summer they are open till 2: After some basking in the sun looking out over the water, and walking the couple of kms to Fabrica another small hamlet nearby where there is a very good looking seafood restaurant on the water , we headed back to Tavira. We had originally planned to spend a night in the Pousada, it is in the Convento da Graca, but decided just to stay put in our cheap-o hotel. From there, on to the A Brisa for dinner, which did not disappoint! We decided to stay east on the secondary roads. This allowed us to stop in Alcoutim, another town on the Guadiana River. We enjoyed an hour or so there very much. The castle has a nice museum inside, particularly the little stone house that is filled with recovered artifacts related to games from the Roman times and even earlier. It was a decent, tasty meal, 5 euros a pop. Although it was out of the way, we decided to take a detour to Olharia Pirraca, my favorite pottery store in the Alentejo. We also got a great recommendation on where to buy good Alentejano bread. A bread store right before the gas station at the roundabout where the road to Evora leaves sells delicious bread of all shapes and sizes. We brought home a couple of loaves to freeze! The drive back to Lisbon was very relaxing, minor roads all the way till just about dark, and we were treated to a beautiful sunset. Then we got on the highway near Evora for the last hour into Lisbon.

### Chapter 4 : How easy and safe is it to drive in Portugal? - Lisbon Forum - TripAdvisor

*Portugal is located on the west side of the Iberian Peninsula, ideally positioned between Spain and the Atlantic ocean. Its geographic location along the Atlantic coastline is the reason why quickly became an ocean-bound country setting the stage for centuries of sea adventure and discoveries.*

Avoid the booze hotspots of Algarve: These are nothing but bland touristy places with OK beaches nearby. Another option is Lagos, one of my favorite areas in the Algarve. Faro airport is no far and there are transfer companies doing the journey I suggest this one. Check the road trip map for other suggestions for beaches in Algarve. I remember hearing on the news some fatal accident involving cliffs in Algarve every single year. As good as a shade may feel in a hot summer day, cliff rock falls can happen anytime. Where to stay in Algarve Lagos is a great place to base yourself in the Algarve, giving you access to a series of top-notch small beaches. There are many other places in Portugal worth discovering. Here are some suggestions: Porto is very different from Lisbon and of the rest of the country for that matter in many ways. But both are clearly national winners in two things: Read more about it in my Porto guide for dummies or in my weekend itinerary of the city. Look around and notice the drying the fish and women with their typical set of seven-layered skirts. Praia do Norte is the location for the world record of the largest wave ever surfed by Garret McNamara in The monster wave was ft or 30m high and can be seen in this video. Sintra, Portugal Located the northern-most extent of the protected Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, 30km from Lisbon, Sintra displays an alluring fairy-tale nature setting. This little town has been a summer retreat for the portuguese royal family for centuries and is lush with green forests, exotic flowers and exquisite architecture. Beware of the wind! Sevilla, Spain I know this road trip is about Portugal, but why not take a detour and include one more country in your itinerary? Best time of the year to visit Portugal You are absolutely fine to go anywhere between May and October, as warm weather in Portugal lasts for about half a year. Now comes the but. So if you want to avoid peak months but at the same time maximize the probability of warm sunny weather try to aim your trip for May, June, July or September months. If you are really to take this road trip, I bet my pinkie finger you will not have one mediocre meal. Take advantage of your time in Portugal to eat food generally unavailable or expensive elsewhere: What to eat in Alentejo And speaking of Alentejo in particular oh dear. If you ask me, car rentals in Portugal should be cheaper. Sadly, you can find overall lower prices in other countries of southern Europe. That said, you can still find some great deals, specially if you book early! I always use this great tool to compare rental prices. There is an toll system in operation on the major motorways so taking the secondary roads will be considerably cheaper. If you pass by any of the main tolls, take care NOT to use the green lanes. These are strictly reserved for motors who subscribe to the automatic pay system Via Verde. Some other useful driving numbers to remember information from Or two to three beers. Finding accommodation in Alentejo and Algarve Having a lot of media attention lately, the accommodation in Alentejo has risen a lot in recent years, both in quantity and quality as resorts, rural houses and guest houses pop like mushrooms. My personal suggestion is Herdade do Amarelo , a stunning homestead next to Vila Nova de Milfontes, but there is a choice to all tastes and wallet sizes.

### Chapter 5 : Top 7 Tips for Driving in Portugal: Park Absolutely Anywhere!

*Drive Around Portugal, 2nd: Your guide to great drives. Top 25 Tours. (Drive Around - Thomas Cook) [Thomas Cook Publishing] on [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers.*

Recipes Top 7 Tips for Driving in Portugal: Nopeâ€¦you can pretty much park anywhere your heart desires! In the middle of a two-way street? How about a hairpin curve with a meter drop off into the Douro River? Sounds like a plan! The sky is the limitâ€¦literally. To simply merge onto the roundabout without stopping, or holding up traffic, is genius! Though generally safe and easy to maneuver, do keep track of any lorries or buses, as they tend to use every single lane and will maul you should you get in their way. Despite the mind-bending traffic incursions, roundabouts are generally easy and mindless. Get your Zen on, because the only way to survive is by going with the flow. KISS What is the kiss? Am I proud to admit this? My humble suggestion is to slowly put down the phone and kick it to the back of your car, far from your reach. Then by all means! Now you can avoid the long and arduous donkey ride through terraced vineyards in lieu of a sweet, silky smooth highway. You have two versions: Why is this important? Because most of the national highways called Autostradas have been converted into toll roads. On one hand, this is brilliant! These national highways are so numerous and unused, you could whip out a pair of well-oiled rollerblades and take them for a spin without fearing for your life. On the other hand, the reason why so few people use these highways is their cost. Put on those reading glasses and get informed! I too have nearly wiped the elderly population when zooming through Porto. Sorry, Pedroâ€¦steel trumps flesh. Either hope the pedestrian is dressed in a flaming red Ferrari costume, complete with fuzzy dice, or simply stop the minute you see fleshy overtones on the horizon. So there you have it!

## Chapter 6 : Drive around Spain and Portugal - Spain Forum - TripAdvisor

*Getting around Find out more Essentials Planning your trip Books Features Portugal is not a large country and you can get almost everywhere easily and efficiently by train or bus.*

Find out more Essentials Planning your trip Books Features Portugal is not a large country and you can get almost everywhere easily and efficiently by train or bus. By train Comboios de Portugal CP; enquiries on operates all trains. Always turn up at the station with time to spare since long queues often form at ticket offices. However, at unstaffed regional stations you can just pay the ticket inspector on board, while major stations have credit-card ticket machines for long-distance IC or AP tickets on the day of travel or up to thirty days in advance ; and you can also buy IC and AP tickets on the CP website. Fares are extremely good value. There are fifty-percent discounts for children under 13 under-5s go free , and for overs ID required; ask for a bilhete terceira idade , and 25 percent discounts for those under 25 ID required. Seat reservations are obligatory on IC and AP trains, though they are included in the ticket price. However, both schemes also have single-country Portugal passes, which might prove better value. The InterRail Portugal Pass w raileurope. All these passes also have to be bought before you leave home, and you might still be liable for supplements and seat reservations on long-distance and high-speed trains. It can be a little confusing at times: However, there is a national network of express buses, with Rede Expressos offering a daily service to destinations across the country. Buying tickets in advance is a wise idea, but even in summer in tourist areas the day before is usually fine. Fares are good value: Under-4s travel free, unders half-price, and there are discounts for unders and senior citizens over 65 with relevant identification. Many local services are reduced " or nonexistent " at weekends. Turismos often have bus timetables too. But there are still plenty of winding, poorly maintained rural roads " and you can expect to encounter highway repairs, farm vehicles, roaming animals and locals laden with wood or produce on almost any countryside journey. Other than on city approaches and during rush hour, traffic is generally light, though as car ownership has increased dramatically in recent years so too has congestion. On the whole, they are two-lane roads, with passing lanes on hills, though stretches near some towns and cities are dual carriageway. Many of the formerly toll-free motorways now use number plate-recognition cameras to charge. If you have your own car, there are three somewhat complex ways to pay: In theory, you could be chased for the bill, but it is unlikely. Rules of the road Traffic drives on the right: Many car insurance policies cover taking your car to Portugal; check with your own insurer. By law, you should also have a red warning triangle and a fluorescent yellow jacket in the car provided in rental cars. It pays to be patient and courteous since the police can " and do " levy on-the-spot fines for speeding, parking and other offences. Parking Many towns and beach resorts are now flooded with traffic, especially in summer, so you may find problems finding a central parking space. Some cities, such as Coimbra, have park-and-ride schemes, while in Porto there are huge car parks at suburban metro stations. When parking in cities, do as the locals do and use the empty spaces pointed out to you. On-street parking is usually metered, even in the smallest towns. Car and motorbike rental Car rental is relatively inexpensive and usually cheapest of all arranged in advance through one of the large multinational chains. Check their websites for special offers. Otherwise, rental agencies including local firms are found in all the major towns and at the airports in Lisbon, Porto and Faro. Note also that when renting a car, UK drivers will need to show a driving licence and provide a licence code, which allows the rental company to check if you have any penalty points. The code should be obtained before you travel via gov. However, you can avoid all excess charges in the event of damage by taking out an annual insurance policy with Insurance4carhire. You need to be at least 18 and over 23 for bikes over cc and to have held a full licence for at least a year. Rental should include helmet and locks along with third-party insurance. Helmet use is obligatory.

### Chapter 7 : How's the drive from Lisbon to the Southern Algarve? - Fodor's Travel Talk Forums

- PORTUGAL - NAZARE - Driving around. - PORTUGAL - NAZARE - Driving around. Skip navigation Sign in. Search. Loading Close. This video is unavailable. Watch Queue Queue.

Slip roads are usually very short, meaning you need to slow down before you exit the main road to be able to negotiate the tight bends. Drivers will often stop in the middle of the road without warning so be prepared to slam on the brakes and wait for them to turn off. No matter how hard you look for signs, you will probably find that they disappear on you just when you need them most. Or they will only become visible after you have passed the roundabout exit. Try to stay calm and be prepared to do full circles of roundabouts when in unfamiliar territory. I find it helpful to have a paper road map as backup and to get the bigger picture when route planning. If you are going to be driving in just one specific region of Portugal, look out for Turinta maps in BP petrol stations and Bertrand bookstores. They will usually wrap up their conversation and drive off when they see you, but may need a little encouragement in the form of a gentle beep. If your path is blocked by an abandoned car, honk loudly and someone will come out and move it so that you can pass then return it to its previous spot. Another symptom of impatient drivers in Portugal is the tendency to ride your bumper. I find it extremely stressful but the only thing you can do is to continue driving safely and try your best to ignore them. You have to turn right into the direction of traffic and use the next roundabout to change direction. If you ignore this rule and turn left, you will be strongly tutted at by local pedestrians or fined by the police. Some local authorities seem to invest lots of money on building unnecessary roundabouts and none on pavements, which means that pedestrians are often forced to walk in the road. Some do it through choice. Zebra crossings are often on junctions, which means that you have very little time to register their existence and react if someone is trying to cross the road. Speed limits are frequently ignored, except when the speed traffic lights are working properly. When you are parking in a street, your car must be parked facing the direction of travel. I get stressed out by parking in the public gaze so I drive by and try to find somewhere to park in private. No one will indicate either so play it safe and only pull out when you are certain that there are no cars to your left. In practice, this means you need to be extra careful as not everyone will obey the law. This is not practical if you are only here on holiday. Car rental companies have to offer you the chance to hire a device, which makes the whole thing much easier – more details here. Or buy a prepaid toll card and top it up if needed. Get more information about these options and which roads are affected on the Portugal Tolls website. You need to carry your documents and certain safety equipment with you such as a safety triangle and reflective jackets. There are rules and restrictions about driving with children, e. Update for for immigrants: More information about the changes can be found here. Not all Portuguese drivers are speed freaks. Impatient drivers get fed up of crawling along at 40 kilometres per hour and take even more ridiculous risks in order to get past them and be on their way. If you are patiently waiting for a safe opportunity to pass an Aixam, keep an eye on the drivers behind you who might not wait their turn. First time in Portugal? Subscribe to get these 25 Essential Tips For Your First Trip To Portugal in handy PDF format plus newsletters containing free insider travel tips, blog updates and information about relevant products, services and special offers by email. See my privacy policy So far, so good! Now check your email to confirm your request and download the PDF. Check your spam folder just in case. There was an error submitting your subscription. First Name Email Address We use this field to detect spam bots. If you fill this in, you will be marked as a spammer. Get my insider tips No spam. Unsubscribe at any time Powered by ConvertKit Related

### Chapter 8 : Four classic road trips in Spain and Portugal | Travel | The Guardian

*Here at Totally Spain, we've been planning custom trips around Spain and Portugal for two decades and receive lots of queries about self-drive holidays here. Whether you are looking for the shiny new three-lane highways or the romantic roads that snake around the mountain ridges and hug the.*

The roads, however, provide access to hard-to-reach gems and undiscovered villages. Because Portugal has one of the highest accident rates in Europe, you should seriously think about buying the optional CDW collision-damage waiver insurance. Because of this agreement, some clients opt to decline the extra insurance coverage offered by the car-rental company. To be sure that you qualify for this free insurance, check in advance with your card issuer. Kemwel Drive Group tel. Kemwel leases entire blocks of cars a year in advance at locations throughout Portugal and then rents them back out to qualified customers who pay the entire price in advance. In Portugal, cars can be retrieved in Lisbon. Its rates sometimes are less than those at Hertz and Avis. Package Deals -- Many packages are available that include airfare, accommodations, and a rental car with unlimited mileage. Compare these prices with the cost of booking airline tickets and renting a car separately to see if these offers are good deals. Web Rentals -- Internet resources can make comparison shopping easier. Gasoline -- Gasoline petrol, to the British stations are now plentiful throughout Portugal. The government clamps price controls on gas, and it should cost the same everywhere. Credit cards are frequently accepted at gas stations, at least along the principal express routes. In Portugal, as elsewhere in Europe, to drive a car legally you must have in your possession an international insurance certificate, known as a Green Card Carte Verte or Carte Verde. The car-rental agency will provide you with one as part of your rental contract. Driving Rules -- Continental driving rules apply in Portugal, and international road symbols and signs are used. Wearing safety belts is compulsory. Speed limits are 90kmph 56 mph on main roads, and 60kmph 37 mph in heavily populated or built-up sections. On the limited number of express highways, the speed limit is kmph 74 mph. Or you can order them from Michelin, P. Box , Greenville, SC tel. One of the best Michelin maps to Portugal is no. Breakdowns -- If you rent your car from one of the large companies, such as Avis or Hertz, hour breakdown service is available in Portugal. If you decide to hitchhike, do so with discretion. Considering the potential danger to both the passenger and the driver, hitchhiking is not recommended. By Plane Portugal is a small country, and flying from one place to another is relatively easy. Though most people still take trains to get around, TAP Air Portugal flies four times a day to Faro, in the Algarve, and Porto, the main city of the north. Service to Faro is likely to be more frequent in July and August. Four flights a day depart for Funchal, capital of Madeira, plus limited service to the Azores. By Train The Portuguese railway system is underdeveloped compared to those of the more industrialized nations of western Europe. Still, there are connections between the capital and more than 20 major towns. Express trains run from Lisbon, Coimbra the university city , and Porto. Electric trains, which leave from the Lisbon waterfront, travel along the Costa do Sol Estoril and Cascais and on to Queluz and Sintra. In summer, express trains depart Lisbon for the Algarve Monday through Saturday. They leave from the Barreiro Station across the Tagus -- take one of the frequently departing ferries. Off-season service runs four times weekly. For information about rail travel in Portugal, phone tel. Railroad information and tickets for travel between almost any two stations in Europe, including stations throughout Portugal, are available from the representatives of the Portuguese National Railway, Rail Europe, Inc. The telephone representatives sell one-way and round-trip tickets into or out of Portugal, tickets for travel within Portugal, and rail passes for travel within Portugal and the rest of Europe. Couchettes sleeping cars can be arranged. These tickets are good all year. By Bus This is a cheap means of transportation in Portugal. A network of buses links almost all the major towns and cities. Many routes originate in Lisbon. In addition, there are local and private regional bus links. Express coaches between major cities are called expressos. Once in most cities and towns, you can take cheap bus rides to nearby villages or sights. Of course, in many towns and all cities, you can take buses to get around within the city. This information was accurate when it was published, but can change without notice. Please be sure to confirm all rates and details directly with the companies in question before planning your trip.

### Chapter 9 : driving in Spain and Portugal - Fodor's Travel Talk Forums

*Portugal has so much to see and do and one of the most important things for visitors to do once they arrive is organize transport. Whether you rent a car, use public transportation or see the sights on foot, here are a few tips to help you get around Portugal safely. There are plenty of places to.*

An obvious place to stop for a day on the beach is Nerja 2: You could spend months hiking in the Sierra Nevada national park 3 , so if you can spare a few days, do. One of the white villages in the foothills of the Alpujarras would make for a magical base for hiking. The beaches of the Cabo de Gata 5 are gorgeous, sweeping and almost deserted. Then head on to Murcia 6 , which many say has the best tapas in the land. Colourful Seville 8 is the place for art, architecture, flamenco and late-night fun in the cobbled streets. The grand finale is Granada 9 , for the Alhambra, free tapas and Granadina guitar music. Historic villages and sites: Try the suckling pig, a local speciality, at the Parador Hotel. Avila 3 is a Unesco-protected city with medieval fortifications. Head to Salamanca 4 , a lively university city easily explored on foot, with good nightlife. Just over an hour away is Burgos 6 , with a famous cathedral, a lovely Old Quarter, and Teodoro, an s hat shop. Hikers should head for the Sierra de la Demanda 8. There are villages and churches, lots of routes â€” and a dinosaur museum. Lastly, Soria 9 has Romanesque architecture and a beautiful square. Fly back from Madrid. Drive 22 miles east to Penafiel 2 to sample vinho verde at Quinta da Aveleda aveledaportugal. It has beautiful gardens and hosts concerts in the summer. On your way back to the airport, stop to admire the medieval bridge in Ucanha and the monastery in Tarouca. Alamy miles Two weeks Fly to Porto 1 , hire a car, then head south. Any dirt track off the N towards the ocean will most likely bring your own private breaks. Then head on to Cascais 5 , another surfing mecca and a very pretty town, too. The big-name beach is Praia do Guincho, home to swanky beach Bar do Guincho. Stay in Lisbon 6 for a night or two and try Carcavelos beach and Costa da Caparica over the river. Take the motorway south to Sagres 7 , a historic port town on the southwesterly tip of Portugal and of mainland Europe. There are more surf beaches a little way up the coast at Arrifana and Carrapateira. The south-west coast is quiet, which is great if you want a beach to yourself, but the Algarve is an up-and-coming surf region: Fly home from Faro 8.