

# CLASSICAL PORTUGAL AND SOME ARMENIAN TRACES IN PORTUGAL

( 2012 - 8 days / 7 nights)

## Day 1: LISBON

Meeting with the Russian speaking guide at the Lisbon airport and Lisbon sightseeing tour, followed by the transfer to a 3\*/4\* hotel. Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel.

## Day 2: LISBON

Breakfast at the hotel and visit to Lisbon, multi-color city, built on



seven hills in front of the Tagus River. This city is surely one of the most beautiful capitals of Europe. We will start our journey visiting the city center known as « baixa » (the downtown city) and its main squares as Praça Dom Pedro IV, also known as Rossio and Praça do Comercio. Then visit to the Gulbenkian Museum. Calouste Gulbenkian's collection of paintings includes works by Bouts, Van de Weyden, Lochner, Cima de Conegliano, Carpaccio, Rubens, Van Dyck, Frans Hals, Rembrandt, Guardi, Gainsborough, Romney, Lawrence, Fragonard, Corot, Renoir, Nattier, Boucher, Manet, Degas and Monet.

Lunch in a restaurant.

In the afternoon we will discover Belém quarter, where a multitude of monuments recall the great discovering period of the Portuguese history: the Discovering Monument, the Belém Tower, a fort built in the Tagus River in the XV century, the Jerónimos Monastery (visit to the main church). At the end of the day we will head back to the hotel for dinner and night or for a dinner in a typical restaurant to listen to Fado music and appreciate a Portuguese folk dance show.

## Day 3 : LISBON – ESTORIL- CASCAIS -CABO DA ROCA -SINTRA -ÓBIDOS -NAZARÉ

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Estoril and



Cascais- famous resort beaches next to the capital, where the climate is mild all year round. Then there will be a visit to Cabo da Roca -extreme occidental cape of the

entire peninsula where you can admire an astonishing view of the Atlantic Ocean. Afterwards we visit Sintra, the town surrounded by natural beauties, which used to be the favourite abode of the kings and where they built splendid Palaces.

Lunch in a typical and local restaurant in Sintra. In the afternoon departure to Óbidos, town of the Middle Ages, surrounded by its walls and dominated by its castle –the favourite abode of the Queens. Tasting of “Ginginha” (typical liqueur of the region). Return to the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay at a 3\*/4\* Hotel in Nazarè.

#### **Day 4 – NAZARÉ-BATALHA-FÁTIMA-NAZARÉ**

Breakfast at Hotel and visit to Batalha, with its Monastery of Santa



Maria da Vitoria, one of the most beautiful monuments in manueline gothic style (in the list of UNESCO World Heritage). Then a visit to Fátima follows-its sanctuary, a pilgrimage place that hosts thousands of pilgrims every year.

Lunch in a typical restaurant where you will taste the genuine Portuguese cuisine. In the afternoon visit to the picturesque beach of Nazarè a fishing village that kept its traditions till now. You will arrive to the promontory “O Sitio” by a cable lift.

Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel.

#### **Day 5 - NAZARÉ -PORTO**

Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Porto,



Portugal’s second city, situated in a magnificent amphitheatre on the banks of Douro River. Before the arrival, a stop for a short visit to Aveiro, a beautiful city crossed by canals and surrounded by the river. Aveiro having ancient origins is rich in history and also has a port of national importance. Later, departure to Porto and first contact with the city, a walk along the typical Street of Santa Catarina, a lively street, renowned for its numerous shops. Later follows the main square, Avenida dos Aliados and the Central Station, which is known for its 20,000 tiles. At the end, visit to Porto Cathedral where you will find the relics of Saint Pantaleon – martyr of Nicomedia, brought to Portugal in the first half of the XV century by a group of Armenians in search of refuge after the fall of Constantinople (these relics were originally given to the church of Miragaia).

Lunch in a typical restaurant Ribeira, on the river front- the most famous quarter of the old Porto city. After the lunch a walk along Armenia and Ancyra Roads in

Miragaia, then visit to one of the most famous Port wineries, where you will be able to taste the precious nectar-the wine Porto. At the end of the day there will possibility be a short river cruise of about 45 min, which will offer you a unique perspective of the city.

Dinner and overnight stay at a 3\*/4\* Hotel in town.

### **Day 6 – PORTO - BRAGA –GUIMARÃES-AMARANTE- PORTO**

Breakfast at Hotel and departure to Braga – historical, economical and religious capital, one of the most beautiful cities in Minho region with a number of impressive Baroque monuments. Visit to the impressive Cathedral built in the XI century on the top of an old church, and visit to Bom Jesus de Braga (in Rococo style characterized by its double staircase).

Lunch in a typical restaurant of the region. In the afternoon visit to Guimarães, known as the cradle of the nation. This city retains from its prestigious past the air of the old nobility with its majestic house fronts. Visit to the park and castle, fort of former King of Portugal, built in the X century. In conclusion we will discover the charming town of Amarante with its houses with wooden balconies, long narrow streets and restaurants with terraces overlooking the River.

Dinner and overnight stay at Hotel.

### **Day 7 – PORTO-COIMBRA- LISBON**

Breakfast at Hotel and departure to Coimbra. Visit of



this romantic and monumental town, which once was Portuguese capital in the XII and XIII centuries. Coimbra with some of the oldest monuments, such as the Alameda Door, the old Cathedral or the University – one of the oldest in Europe. Visit to Joanina library and Church.

Lunch in a local restaurant.

After we will head towards Lisbon where we will visit Lisbon Cathedral and Santo Antonio's Church. Finally, the old quarter of Alfama, a true labyrinth of winding alleys and wrought iron balconies and Azulejos (blue Tile murals).

Dinner and overnight stay at a 3\*/4\*Hotel.

### **Day 8 and 9**

Breakfast at Hotel.

Two free days for private visits and shopping (without the guide).

### **Day 10**

After breakfast transfer to the airport of Lisbon with the guide and flight to Yerevan or Moscow.

***Pax 2200 Eurous in Double/Twin.***

***Price includes:***

- Flight from Yerevan or from Moscow to Lisbon and back from Lisbon to Yerevan or Moscow.
- Visits with Russian speaking guide.
- Transfer: airport-hotel-airport.
- Accommodation in 3 \*/ 4 \* hotel.
- Full Board including drinks (from the lunch of day 1 to the breakfast of the day 8)  
Breakfast of the free days are included in price.
- All the lunches are indicated in the program in local restaurants including drinks and coffee.
- Bus GT throughout your stay according to the program. Except days 8, 9.
- Entrance to the following monuments with entrance fee: Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon, Batalha Monastery; Se Cathedral in Porto, complete visit to the University of Coimbra.
- 1 evening of entertainment with folk dances and Fado music.
- A funicular in Nazaré.
- Tasting in Porto and Obidos.
- A minicruise along the river Doro.

***Price does not include:***

Lunch and dinner of days 8, 9.

Tips.

Insurance.

60-100 Euros for VISA.

Anything not expressly mentioned in the program.

***Note!***

*Customers flying from Yerevan must return to Yerevan.*

*Customers flying from Moscow must return to Moscow.*

*This condition will not undergo any changes.*

\* Calouste Gulbenkian's collection of paintings includes works by Bouts, Van de Weyden, Lochner, Cima de Conegliano, Carpaccio, Rubens, Van Dyck, Frans Hals, Rembrandt, Guardi, Gainsborough, Romney, Lawrence, Fragonard, Corot, Renoir, Nattier, Boucher, Manet, Degas and Monet.

The collection grew over the years. The Paris collection was divided for security reasons and part was sent to London. In 1936, the collection of Egyptian art was entrusted to the care of the British Museum while the finest paintings went to the National Gallery. Later, in 1948 and 1950, the same works would be sent on to the National Gallery of Art in Washington. At the time of his death Gulbenkian does not appear to have decided where he wanted his collection to be housed and finally left it to Radcliffe, his British lawyer, became his chief discussion partner and confidante to decide. However it was clear that Gulbenkian wanted his collection brought together under one roof where people could appreciate what one man could achieve in his lifetime. In 1960, the entire collection was brought to Portugal, where it was exhibited at the Palace of the Marquises of Pombal (Oeiras) from 1965 to 1969. Fourteen years after the death of this illustrious collector his wish was fulfilled, when the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum-specially built to house his collection-opened in Lisbon.