



Portugal is so much more than the beaches of the Algarve, and this month we're showcasing some of the finest this diverse country has to offer. Many of our favourite tour Some UK Tours Operators have recently started to offer Portugal or have increased their offers to Portugal: Wendy Wu – Intrepid – Explore - G Adventures to name a few

Travelling to Portugal is synonym of vast diversity within short distance. It is for example easy to combine a short city or a beach break with the many outdoors activities available in the country, including the stunning Madeira and spectacular Azores.

In less than 90 mins from any airport in Portugal, visitors will find themselves surrounded by nature or in a small village away from hustled and bustle of the city while discovering the many hidden gems and off the beaten track places available all over the country.

As ocean plays a huge role for destinations, not only for the activities that the sea provides, but also for the beautiful encounter and seascapes that make people travel for the experience, saving the ocean should be a top priority for the tourism industry. With that in mind, Portugal will host the United Nations' Ocean Conference, in Lisbon, from June 27th to July 1st, 2022, aiming to "Save the Ocean, Protect the Future"

It doesn't matter which activities are chosen, either it is a water activity like surf or canoeing or something more earthy like walking and cycling in the mountains, Portugal will be the perfect destination for a multi-activity holiday, and below we give some options for each type of holiday.

Today we showcase these activities and regions:

- Sky diving in the Algarve
- Cycling in the Azores
- Water sports in the Alentejo
- Trail walking in Madeira
- Surfing in the only European Surf Reserve
- Walking & cycling upon water
- Adrenaline activities in the National Park



Sky diving in the Algarve

Looking for an adrenaline rush activity when in Portugal? Then why not heading to Alvor in the Algarve (just 45 min from Faro Airport) for a sky diving experience? Available both for first timers and experienced jumpers, sky diving is an unforgettable experience for anyone. The drop zones are near the coast, providing jumpers the most spectacular views of the Algarve.



More information about adventure in the Algarve click here.

Cycling in the Azores

Destinations like the Azores, with its many amazing trails, is the perfect destination for adventure lovers looking for thrills and cycling in the Azores is an unforgettable experience allowing visitors to discover more of this magical archipelago.

From the ultra-technical single tracks that link the highest mountains to the beaches and fajãs of the islands, and from the rolling roads that encircle the lakes or cross the mountains, rich in endemic fauna and flora, the route Biking Açores has options for all tastes and technical abilities.

If you would rather cruise along the roads, the islands have an extensive road network lined with hydrangeas and Cryptomeria forests, linking all places whose landscapes and culture are notable, crossing pastures, mountains and places of great beauty and interest. All this with the possibility of ending a day trip somewhere where there are hot water pools, either in the sea or in natural swimming pools.



For more information about cycling in the Azores click here



Water sports in the Alentejo

The Alentejo is mostly known for its varying and compelling scenery of wheat fields, miles of nearly deserted white beaches on the western coast, walled hilltop towns with castles and Roman ruins, hills dotted with cork trees, olive trees and vineyards, which makes the region a paradise for slow travellers.

Apart from being a slow travel heaven, when crossing the Alentejo, near the border with Spain is located the Alqueva Lake, the biggest man-made lake in Europe. Here visitors can experience many water sports available in the lake like water ski and waterboard, SUP, sailing, rowing and even sport fishing.



Find more information here about some experiences in the Alqueva lake <u>click here</u>

Trail walking in Madeira

Madeira is famous for its many levadas (irrigation channels transporting water from one side of the island to another) carving their way through the whole island. The walking paths that go along the levadas are a great way to explore all corners of the island by foot.

There's many to choose from, which will take you through a variety of landscapes, show off stunning sea views, and leave you at the foot of jaw-dropping waterfalls and on the edge of azure lagoons.



Find more about walking in Madeira here



Surfing in the only European Surf Reserve

Ericeira is a charming Portuguese fishing town located just 30 min from Lisbon Airport by car.

In the recent years, it has become THE place to surf in Europe and this small town is the only European spot among the World Surfing Reserves due to exceptional coastline for the practice of surf. Ericeira is a town full of character defined by rocky cliffs punctuated with beautiful bays and little bays and is the perfect fusion of Portuguese heritage with an ultra-cool surfing ambience.

Around Lisbon there are many other amazing places for surf located less than 30 min from the city centre, from Carcavelos to Cascais and Costa da Caparica so it's easy to combine a city break with a surfing holiday.



Find more Portuguese Waves

Walking & cycling upon water

The Aveiro Lagoon (Ria de Aveiro) is one of the most important wetlands in Portugal. Located near Aveiro (just 40 min by car or train from Porto) in the Atlantic coast, the lagoon is home to many different habitats and a rich and varied birdlife, and it forms a network of canals and islands that makes Aveiro known as the "Portuguese Venice".

There are many ways to explore the endless beauty of the Aveiro Lagoon. Taking a boat trip on board of a traditional moliceiro is a great way, however walking or cycling will allow to discover many of the secrets of this great region and uncover the landscape diversity of the Aveiro Lagoon that includes sea and mountain landscapes, as well as finding the most amazing waterfalls along the way.



Walking & Cycling holidays in Portugal with <u>here</u> Find more <u>here</u> about the Great Route of Aveiro Lagoon



Adrenaline activities in the National Park

Peneda-Gerês National Park (Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês) is Portugal's only national park, stretching through the northern districts of Viana do Castelo, Braga, and Vila Real. Largely uninhabited, the vast highlands are ideal for hiking, with rugged mountain ridges, dense pine forests, and sweeping plateaus.

This northern hidden gem is one of the best destinations in Portugal for adrenaline seekers. Apart from the many wonderful walking and cycling trails available in the national park, visitors can experience many amazing activities available, such as white-water rafting, canyoning, canoeing, paragliding, tree climbing, or rock climbing are just a few activities available.



Find active holidays in Portugal <u>here</u>
Find more about adventure in the Porto & north of Portugal <u>here</u>

Want to find out more about what Portugal has to offer the active traveller?

Take a look at our <u>website</u>, and <u>search by</u> <u>activity</u>, or <u>WhatsApp/Call us</u> and we'll be happy to help you plan the perfect adventure!!

We look forward to hearing from you soon...

