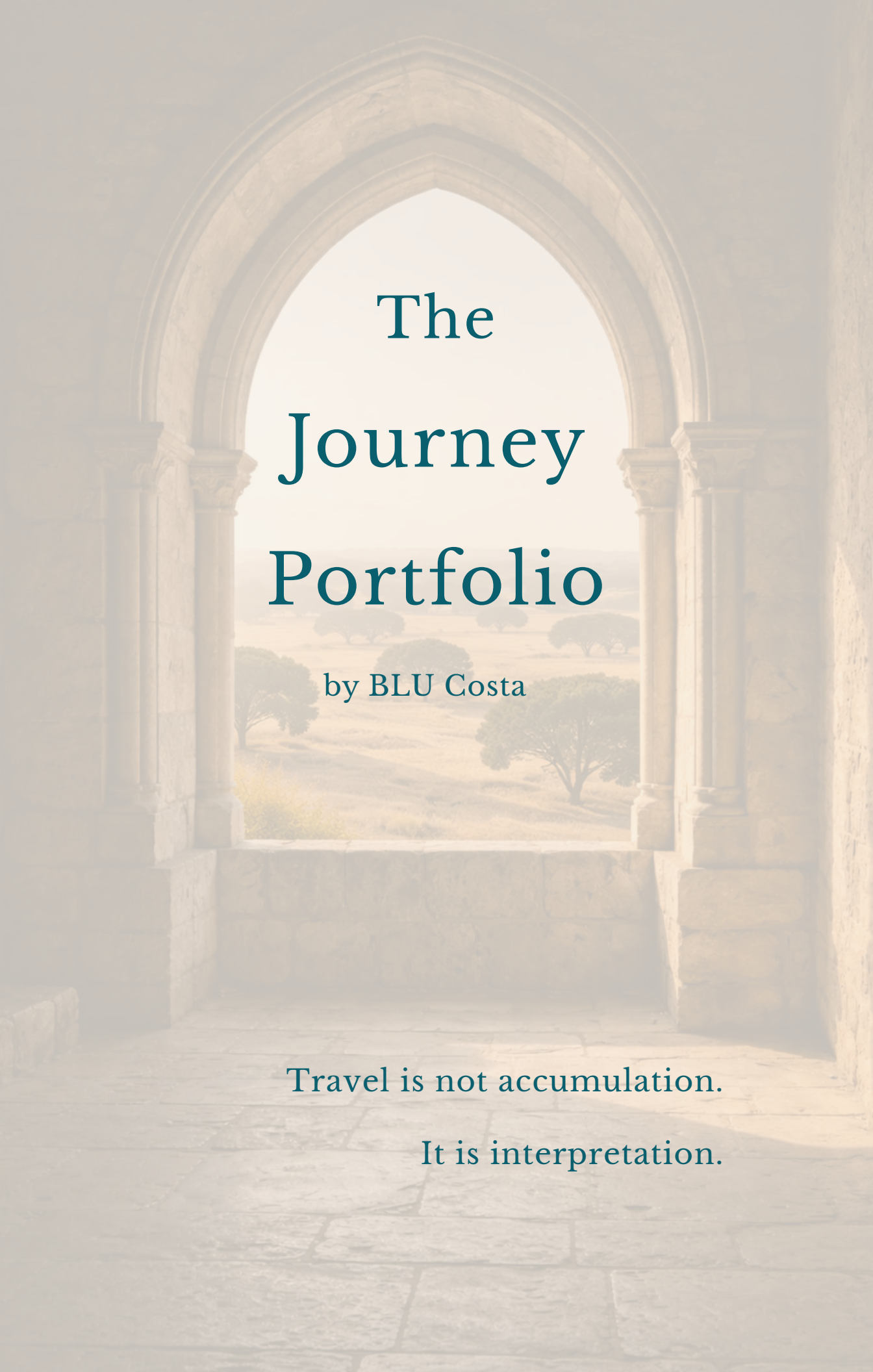


The background of the entire page is a photograph of a stone archway. The arch is made of light-colored stone blocks and has a pointed, Gothic-style top. Through the arch, a savanna landscape is visible, featuring rolling hills, scattered acacia trees, and a warm, golden light suggesting sunrise or sunset. The foreground inside the arch shows a stone-paved floor.

# The Journey Portfolio

by BLU Costa

Travel is not accumulation.  
It is interpretation.

# The Journey Portfolio

Edition No. 03/2026

True luxury is  
a feeling of harmony,

where every moment invites  
presence.

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# The House

*Travel is not accumulation.  
It is interpretation.*

*We choose depth,  
context,  
presence.*

*Luxury, to us, is time.  
Time to arrive, to understand, to feel.*

*We curate moments that make sense  
and stay with you.*

*BLU Costa  
The House of Travel Curation*

# The People Behind BLU

*Born and raised in Lisbon, **Tiago** brings a historian's and architect's eye to every journey.*

***Adriana**, a professor and a travel journalist, brings a storyteller's sensibility to the details that matter.*

*We believe travel is about the experiences we live and the people we meet along the way.*

*We look forward to interpreting your moments with us.*

*Adriana and Tiago*



# How We Curate

Every journey begins by understanding pace  
and what should remain.

We do not assemble trips.  
We interpret them.

Curation is the discipline of choosing what  
belongs and shaping how moments connect.

Our work moves through five lenses:

Journeys in Cities  
Journeys on the Land  
Journeys by the Water  
Journeys of Craft & Table  
Journeys in Time

Not categories of tourism,  
but ways of shaping meaning.

# What Sets Us Apart

## **You are always understood**

We speak fluent English and we listen to you.

## **Two guides on half- or full-day journeys**

One manages timing, access, and logistics. The other stays with you, guiding each visit.

## **Less walking, more experiencing**

Stops are coordinated to reduce waiting, unnecessary walking and fatigue.

## **Guided throughout, not just driven**

Each visit includes context and stories that deepen your understanding.

## **A more personal way of traveling**

At times, we share moments such as a meal together, because the people you meet matter.

## **Carefully chosen partners**

We work with trusted places and people, selected for their quality and genuine experiences they offer.

## **Attentive service**

Inspired by Adriana's background in travel journalism, our service reflects the standards of the world's leading hotels.

# How We Work with You

Every journey begins with a conversation.

We listen carefully to understand what draws you to a region and how you prefer to travel.

Some travelers simply wish to explore a city with a walking route.

Others invite us to design and accompany their entire journey.

From there, we begin selecting locations, encounters, and moments that connect meaningfully with your interests.

We are here for you, whether you already know what you want or you simply have a vague idea.

Our role is to interpret that intention and transform it into travel that feels memorable.





# From Adriana

Portugal invites a form of travel grounded in culture, landscape, and the continuity of everyday traditions.

The journeys in the following pages represent locations we enjoy designing across the country, experiences that combine scenery, heritage, and encounters that remain long after the journey ends.

They are simply starting points, ready to be adjusted around your interests and the time you wish to spend in each place.

Welcome to BLU Costa — The House of Travel Curation.

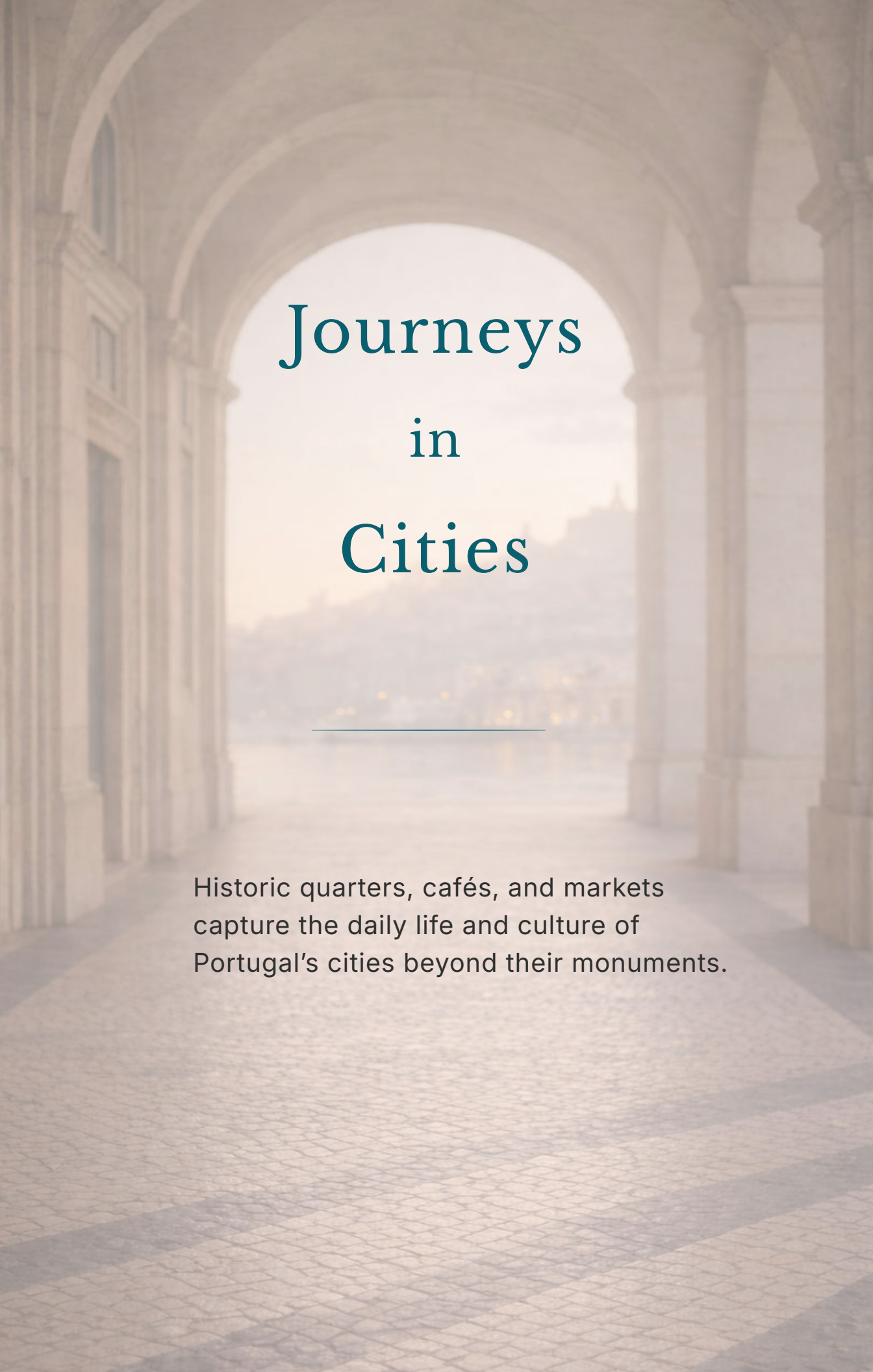
*Adriana Lage*

Traveling, to us, is time.

Time to arrive.

Time to understand.

Time to feel a place.



# Journeys in Cities

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Historic quarters, cafés, and markets capture the daily life and culture of Portugal's cities beyond their monuments.



# Lisbon in Layers

*Private routes by tuk tuk or by car*

Cities are layered. Their character emerges through their architecture, neighborhoods, and daily life.

## City in Perspective

Mapping the city's evolution from medieval quarters to refined avenues: a foundation for your stay.

## Writers & Cafés

Cafés, streets, and meeting places that formed the intellectual surroundings of Portuguese literature.

## Food as Culture

Markets, kitchens, and local producers frame the city's food culture, with an optional cooking class.

## The Art of Making

Craft traditions live in the hands of those who practice them, in distinguished century-old shops.



# Lisbon in Layers

*Private walking routes*

## Sacred Spaces

Examining the role of Lisbon's churches, convents, and monasteries in shaping the city.

## Jewish Heritage

Through Lisbon's Jewish history, tracing presence and memory across the city.

## Symbols in Stone

Reading the discreet presence of Masonic symbols embedded in façades and public spaces.

## The Last Open Capital

Tracing the intelligence networks, coded diplomacy, and silent negotiations that unfolded in WWII.

## Collections in Context

Guided museum visits placing works within their historical and cultural context.



# Lisbon for Young Explorers

*A playful journey by tuk tuk or car*

Lisbon becomes a playground of discovery, drawing ships, hunting for clues, and enjoying a pause for a picnic.

## Adventures at Sea

Inside the Maritime Museum, children draw and discover ships, maps, and instruments used long ago.

## A Picnic by Jerónimos Monastery

The gardens beside the monastery offer wide lawns and shaded paths. Perfect for a relaxed picnic.

## Following the Navigators

At Padrão dos Descobrimentos, kids follow the explorers' routes and jump across the huge world map.

## A Tropical Garden to Wander

The garden feels like a quiet jungle in the middle of Lisbon, great for a scavenger hunt among birds.



# Porto in Layers

*Private routes by car or on foot*

## Porto in Perspective

From Roman foundations to 19th-century industrial growth, tracing how the city evolved over time.

## Cafés & Writers

Reading the city through its literary voices and cafés that nurtured its political and intellectual life.

## Flavors of Porto

Markets, kitchens, and local producers frame Porto's food culture, with an optional cooking class.

## Stories in Azulejos

The azulejos as narrative surfaces, reflecting religious, commercial, and political life across the city.

## Wine and Empire

Porto's role in the global wine trade and its long-standing ties to Britain.



# Journeys on the Land

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From the Atlantic coast to medieval villages and limestone caves, Portugal's landscapes reveal the country beyond its cities.





# Mysteries of Sintra

*A day journey from Lisbon, Cascais, or Sintra*

In the forests and hills of Sintra, palaces, legends, and symbols have inspired poets, mystics, and kings.

## Royal Dream

Perched above the forests, Pena Palace expresses the romantic imagination of the 19th century, where architecture, myth, and fantasy meet.

## Village of Legends

In the village of Sintra, narrow streets and hidden corners still carry the legends that gave the mountain its mysterious reputation.

## Language of Symbols

At Quinta da Regaleira, gardens, tunnels, and the famous Initiation Well reveal a world shaped by symbols, secret passages, and ideas of transformation inspired by its creator's imagination.



# Sintra through Kids' Eyes

*A day journey from Lisbon, Cascais, or Sintra*

Sintra is a setting of discovery where kids can run through forests, meet animals, and explore stories that feel almost like fairy tales. *Suitable for all ages.*

## A Forest to Explore

Hidden paths, lakes, and viewpoints make the forest and palace feel like a place of adventure.

## The Little Tram to the Ocean

The historic tram connecting Sintra to the coast becomes a small journey through time. Children watch the scenery change from forest to ocean as the tram slowly reaches the seaside.

## Life on the Farm

At a traditional educational farm, children meet goats, chickens, rabbits, and other small animals. They can interact with the animals, learn aspects of rural life, and enjoy a slower pace in the countryside.



# The Art of Escape, Sintra

*A day journey from Lisbon, Cascais, or Sintra*

Some places are not only visited. They are understood differently. This journey moves through three distinct perspectives: how we search, how we simplify, and how we compose.

## The Search for Meaning

At Quinta da Regaleira, paths move through symbols, shadows, and discoveries. Nothing is immediate. Meaning takes time.

## The Discipline of Simplicity

At Convento dos Capuchos, everything is reduced to its simplest form. Stone, cork, and forest. A life defined by what is left out.

## The Art of Form

At Queluz National Palace, every element is placed with intention. Gardens, light and interiors reflect order, proportion, and control.

Traveling, to us, is  
about the experiences we live  
and the people we meet.

# Journeys by the Water

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From the Atlantic c





# From Land to Sea

*A day journey from Lisbon, Cascais, or Sintra*

Medieval walls, powerful waves, and underground caves carry the many faces of central Portugal.

## Town of Walls

Encircled by medieval walls, Óbidos offers a glimpse into Portugal's past through its narrow streets, whitewashed houses, and preserved architecture.

## Atlantic Power

From the fortress above Nazaré, the Atlantic stretches below, where fishermen have long lived with the sea and surfers now pursue its legendary waves.

## World Below

Deep beneath the limestone hills, the caves of Mira de Aire open into an underground scenery of vast chambers, flowing water, and striking rock formations shaped over thousands of years.



# Between Lisbon and Porto

*A day journey from Lisbon to Porto by car*

The route north brings together locations that speak to Portugal's terrain and identity.

## A Village Frozen in Time

Within its medieval walls, Óbidos preserves narrow streets, whitewashed houses, and a townscape that offers a glimpse into centuries of Portuguese history.

## The Lagoon City

Along the lagoon of Aveiro, canals, colorful moliceiro boats, and Art Nouveau façades illustrate a city shaped by water and maritime traditions.

## Legacy in Porcelain

Founded in 1824, Vista Alegre carries generations of craftsmanship and artistic dedication within one of Portugal's most distinguished porcelain traditions.



# Between Lisbon and Algarve

*A day journey from Lisbon to the Algarve by car*

Traveling south from Lisbon, the landscape shifts from the Sado River to the plains of the Alentejo.

## River and Rice Fields

One of Portugal's oldest inhabited towns, Alcácer do Sal stands above the Sado River, its medieval character overlooking wetlands and rice fields of the estuary.

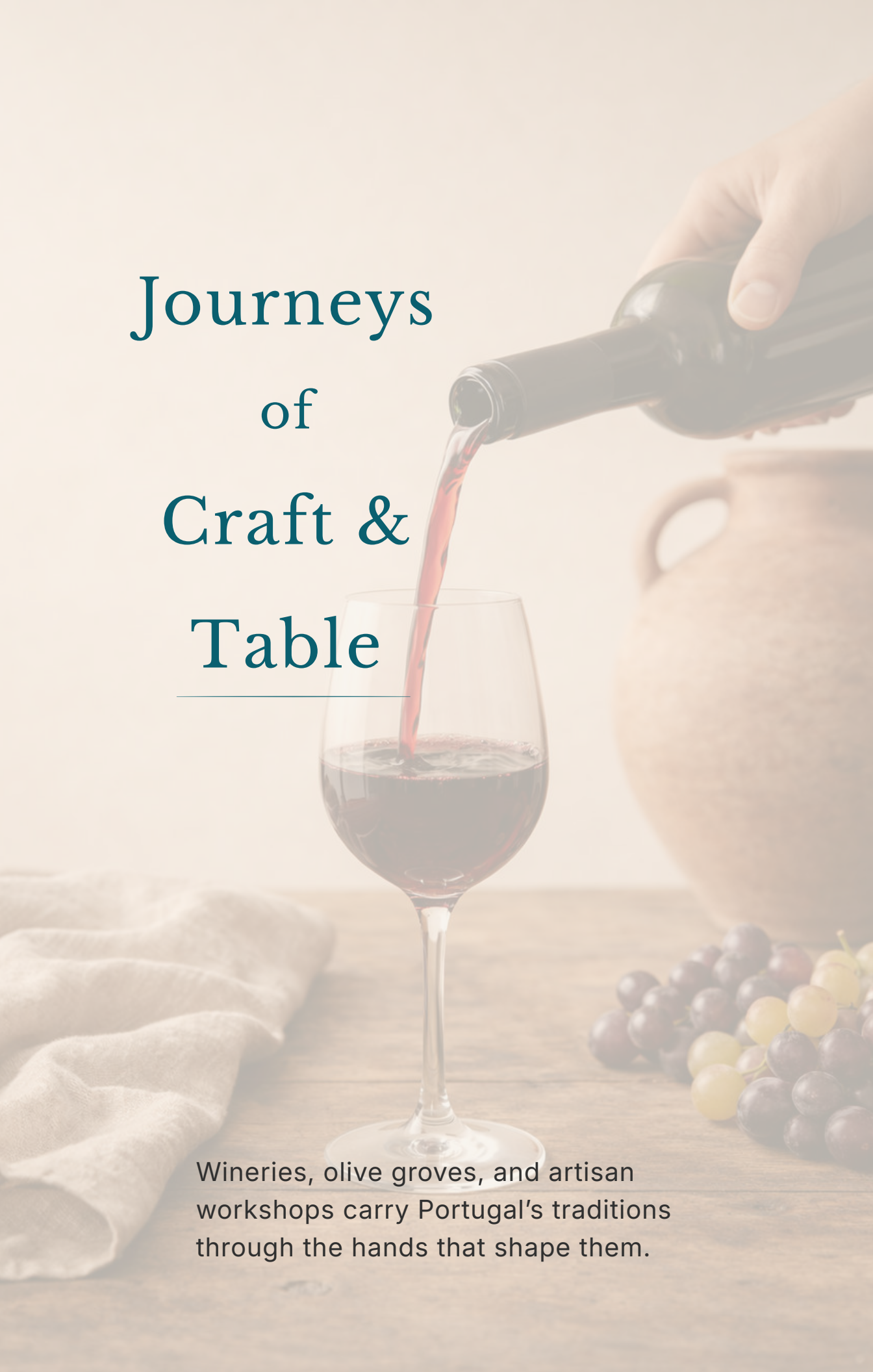
## Echoes of Rome

In the open terrain of the Alentejo, the ruins of São Cucufate evoke the Roman world that once cultivated these lands and introduced early wine traditions.

## Wine in Clay

In the villages around Vidigueira, wine continues to be fermented in clay amphorae following a tradition that dates back to Roman times, preserved by local producers.

Traveling, to us, is  
A memory that stays.  
A connection that is built.  
A longing to return.

A hand is pouring red wine from a dark bottle into a clear glass. The wine is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash. In the background, a large, light-colored terracotta jar sits on a wooden surface. To the right of the jar, a bunch of dark purple and light green grapes is visible. A light-colored, textured cloth is draped on the left side of the frame. The entire scene is set against a soft, warm, light-colored background.

# Journeys of Craft & Table

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Wineries, olive groves, and artisan workshops carry Portugal's traditions through the hands that shape them.



# Craft of the Arrábida Hills

*A day or multi-day journey from Lisbon*

In the villages around Arrábida, visitors step into the traditions of the region's cheese, tiles, and wine.

## Cheese Making in Azeitão

At a historic cheese dairy, the making of the region's celebrated cheese is explored from milk to maturation. Guests are invited to take part in the process, learning the techniques and shaping the cheese by hand.

## The Art of the Azulejo

The craft behind Portugal's azulejos is introduced at this factory, using techniques preserved since the 16th century, with the opportunity to paint a tile.

## A Winemaking Legacy

A six-generation family winery dating to 1834 shares its legacy through its House Museum and cellars. Periquita ages in oak and the oldest Moscatel de Setúbal rests in casks, some more than a century old.



# Stories in Cork and Wine

*A day or multi-day journey from Lisbon*

Alentejo traditions invite visitors to discover a world of cork forests, clay amphorae, and wool.

## From Oak to Craft

In the cork oak landscapes of Alentejo, the journey behind one of Portugal's most distinctive materials begins in the forest and continues to the workshop.

## Wine in Amphora

At these historic estates, wines are still fermented in clay amphorae following ancient Roman traditions. The visit includes the cellars and a tasting of selected wines that embody the character of the Alentejo.

## Threads of Arraiolos

In the hilltop town of Arraiolos, a centuries-old embroidery tradition gives life to the region's distinctive wool tapestries. A workshop introduces the techniques behind these hand-stitched pieces.



# Estates of Vine & Olive

*A day or multi-day journey from Porto or Douro*

Historic estates open their doors to guests, revealing why the Douro is renowned for wine and olive oil.

## A Palace Among Vineyards

At Casa de Mateus, one of Portugal's most remarkable Baroque residences, gardens, and vineyards reveal the cultural life of the Douro.

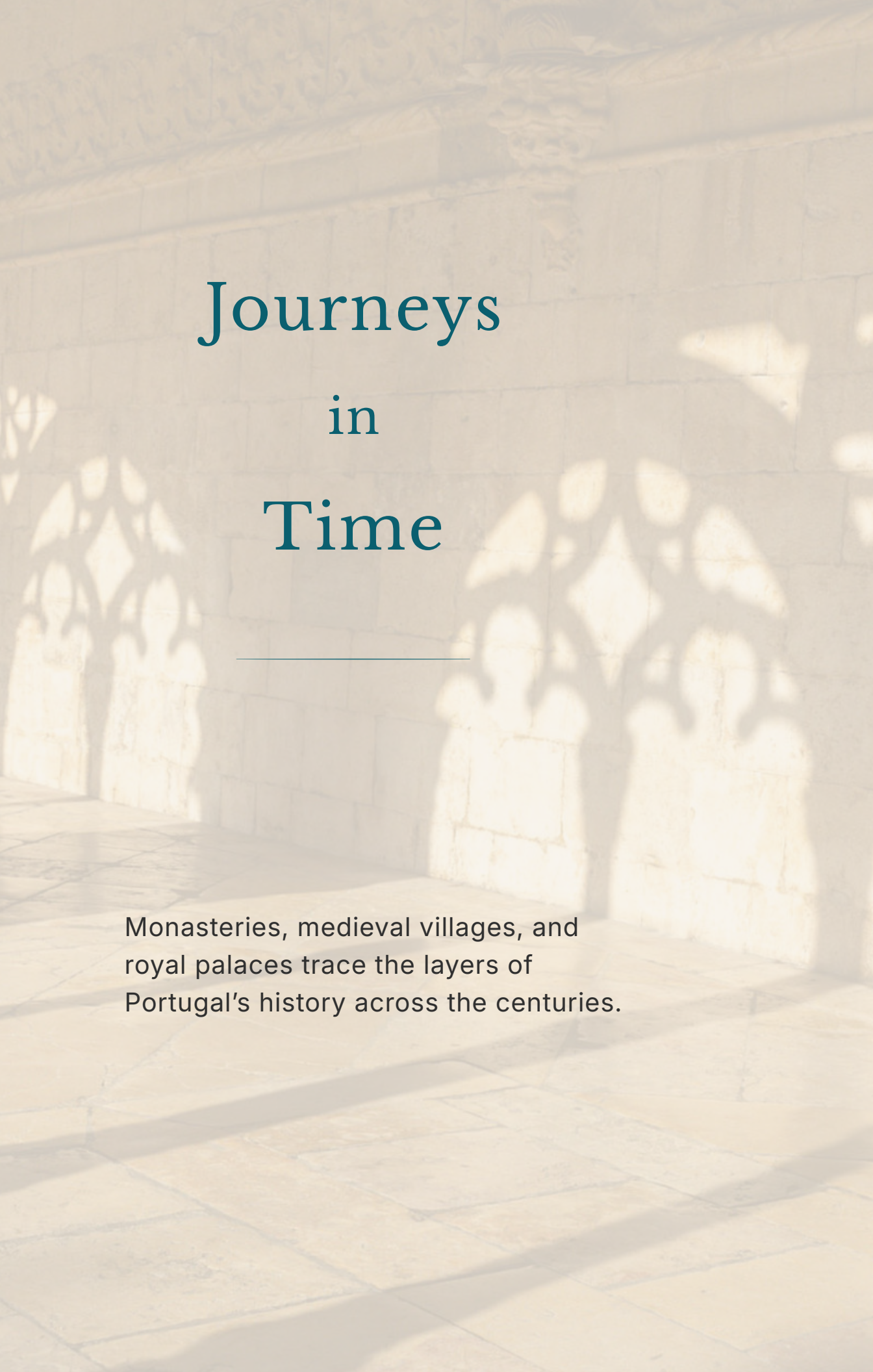
## The Craft of Olive Oil

Among the olive groves of a traditional Douro property, the owner shares the cultivation of the trees and the pressing process, before a tasting of freshly produced oil with ingredients prepared by his wife.

## Family Wineries of the Douro

Here, meaningful wine moments happen at small family estates. Guided by the owners, visits may include picnics, tastings, or encounters with beehives. Over additional days, wineries with different traditions can be explored.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a stone wall with arched windows. Sunlight filters through the arches, creating a pattern of light and shadow on the wall and the floor. The floor is made of large, light-colored stone tiles. The overall tone is warm and historical.

# Journeys in Time

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Monasteries, medieval villages, and royal palaces trace the layers of Portugal's history across the centuries.



# The Age of Discoveries

*An afternoon by car in Lisbon*

In Belém, monuments and collections recall the age when Portuguese navigators opened the sea routes that connected the world.

## The Monastery of the Discoveries

The Jerónimos Monastery stands as one of Portugal's most remarkable examples of Manueline architecture. Its cloisters and church reflect the wealth and ambition of the maritime empire.

## Masters of the Sea

At the Maritime Museum, maps, instruments, and ships speak to the knowledge and ambition that allowed Portuguese navigators to cross the oceans.

## A Tower at the Edge of the River

The Belém Tower once guarded the entrance to Lisbon's harbor. Today it remains one of the most iconic symbols of Portugal's maritime history.



# In the Templars' Footsteps

*A day journey from Lisbon*

In the Tagus Valley, fortresses and symbols still echo the legacy of the Knights Templar.

## The Island Fortress

Rising from a small island in the Tagus River, Almourol Castle stands as one of the most evocative fortresses associated with the Knights Templar in Portugal.

## Tomar, City of the Templars

Founded in the 12th century by the Knights Templar, Tomar became one of the order's most important strongholds in Europe and still carries the atmosphere of the city they once built.

## Symbols of the Order

Built as a Templar stronghold, the Convent of Christ became the headquarters of their successors, the Order of Christ, preserving remarkable cloisters, symbols, and the celebrated Manueline window.



# Paths of Faith

*A day journey from Lisbon*

Monasteries, sanctuaries, and coastal traditions reflect centuries of devotion in Portugal.

## Sanctuary of Devotion

One of the most important pilgrimage destinations in the Catholic world, Fátima gathers pilgrims in prayer.

## A Monastery of Victory

The Monastery of Batalha expresses the deep connection between faith and the founding of Portugal.

## Love Beyond Death

Alcobaça houses the tombs of Pedro and Inês, whose tragic love story is one of Portugal's most powerful legends.

## Faith and the Sea

In Nazaré, devotion to Our Lady of Nazaré has long accompanied the lives of fishermen and their families.



# Origins of Portugal

*A day journey from Porto*

This journey connects two cities where the foundations of Portugal were laid.

## The Roman Capital

One of Portugal's oldest cities, Braga traces its origins to the Roman settlement of Bracara Augusta.

Today, its historic center reflects centuries of religious and cultural influence, where ancient streets, baroque churches, and traditional cafés echo the city's long role in the country's intellectual life.

## Birthplace of a Kingdom

Regarded as the birthplace of Portugal, Guimarães preserves one of Portugal's most complete medieval centers.

Its castle and the Ducal Palace recall the early years of the kingdom, when the first Portuguese king, Afonso Henriques, shaped the nation.

# From arrival to departure

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What remains for you  
is simple:

to arrive,  
to be present, and  
to enjoy the journey.



# Supporting Your Journey

Every journey begins long before the first step and stays with you long after you return.

Whether you need help with a single reservation or the design of the entire trip, BLU can assist with the practical details.

Airport and intercity transfers

Chauffeur services

Carefully chosen hotels

Dining reservations

Ticket acquisition

Private access to monuments

Private local guardians

Special celebrations

The pace of each day

Everything is arranged so your time here feels easy and well cared for.

*It's why we do what we do.*

# Transfers & Chauffeur Services

*Your arrival should feel easy from the start.*

We can arrange your arrival and departure transfers to ensure a smooth start and end to your journey.

Professional drivers will meet you at the airport, train station, or other arrival points and accompany you comfortably to your hotel or next destination.

Routes and timing are planned in advance so you can focus on the journey ahead.

Private drivers can also be arranged throughout your stay for transfers between cities or for exploring the region at your own pace.

# Hotel Curation

*Where you stay shapes how a location is experienced.*

BLU selects hotels for their character, location, and atmosphere: places that reflect your style and the identity of each region.

From historic properties to discreet countryside estates and contemporary urban retreats, each accommodation is chosen with you, for you.

# Dining Scene

*A city is often best discovered at the table.*

BLU recommends and secures reservations at restaurants that reflect local culture and culinary traditions: from refined gastronomy to small establishments known to locals.

We also suggest the traditional dishes of each region, helping you discover the flavors that define each place.

Your food preferences and dietary requirements are taken into account, and reservations are arranged in advance when necessary.

# Tickets & Visit Planning

*Coordinating access to visits and cultural events.*

Some visits and cultural events require advance reservations.

Access to visits and cultural events as well as theatre, opera, concerts, and other events that may take place during your stay may be arranged.

Transportation tickets, including train journeys between cities, can also be arranged when needed.

We also advise on the best days and times to visit, how long to allow for each location, and whether a guided visit is recommended.

This helps each visit fit naturally within the pace of your day.

# Private Access

*Having a monument all to yourselves.*

Some of the most remarkable monuments and museums reveal a different atmosphere when visited outside regular hours.

Through special arrangements with cultural institutions, we can organize private access to selected sites before opening or after closing time.

Without crowds and with time to observe details quietly, these visits allow a more intimate encounter with places that are usually experienced very differently.

Availability depends on each institution and requires advance planning.

# Private Local Guardians

*Exploring settings with trusted local specialists.*

Certain places reveal themselves differently when explored with someone who knows their stories well. We call them Local Guardians.

We collaborate with historians, cultural specialists, naturalists, and other knowledgeable local hosts who bring depth, context, and perspective to each visit.

These encounters are arranged privately, allowing the experience to follow your pace and interests.

# Celebrations

*Marking meaningful moments.*

Some journeys carry a special reason: an anniversary, a proposal, a honeymoon, a birthday, or a moment that deserves to be celebrated.

We help create these occasions with thoughtful arrangements that may include romantic dinners, flowers, private picnics, or other experiences designed around your wishes.

The goal is simple: to make the moment feel personal and memorable.

# Journey Design

*Your journey should reflect who you are.*

BLU designs travel around your interests and pace, shaping an itinerary that balances cultural depth and meaningful encounters.

Your itinerary is designed with intention, leaving space for discovery and for simply being there.

The result is moments that make sense and stay with you.

# Travel Consultation

*Local insight through a dedicated video call.*

Some travelers enjoy designing their own journeys and exploring possibilities along the way.

At times, however, questions arise about logistics, recommendations, or how to shape the route.

For those moments, we offer a one-hour dedicated video consultation to help refine your plans with a local perspective.

Video consultation: €50 per hour

# Private Travel

*Your journey supported from beginning to end.*

For those who prefer to travel with complete ease, the entire journey can be arranged with a private driver and guide.

From arrival to departure, routes, timing, and visits are planned together so each day flows naturally.

Your guide accompanies you throughout the trip, handling the details from check-in to parking, reservations, tickets, and unexpected situations, so you can simply enjoy the journey.

# How a BLU Journey Takes Shape

*From a wish to your return home*

## 1. Conversation

We begin by understanding what draws you to a location and how you prefer to travel.

## 2. Interpretation

We translate your interests into a journey concept, selecting settings and moments that belong together.

## 3. Journey Design

Routes, visits, and pacing are shaped into an itinerary balancing discovery, rest, and meaningful moments.

## 4. Preparation

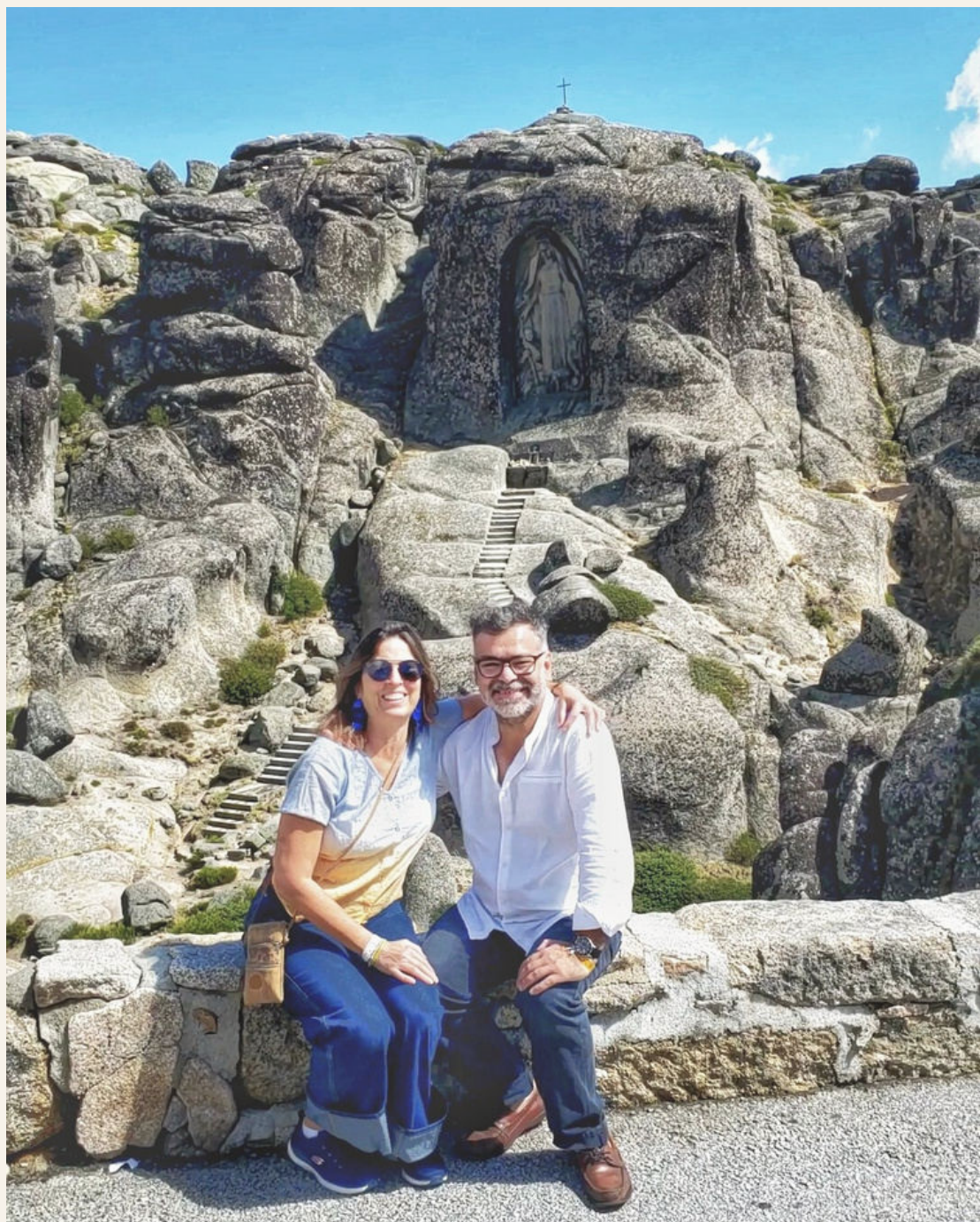
Hotels, dining, visits, and logistics are confirmed so everything is ready before your arrival.

## 5. The Journey

Your time is free to focus on the journey.

*Some journeys end.*

*Others stay with us.*



*Until we meet.*

Adriana & Tiago

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*Rick Steves'*  
**EUROPE**

FEATURED ON  
**KAYAK**  
GUIDES

**mt** REGISTO  
NACIONAL  
DE TURISMO

**TURISMO DE  
PORTUGAL**





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