

THE ART OF ESCAPE SINTRA



BLU COSTA
Travel Curation

Journeys in Time

Sintra: The Art of Escape

BLU Journey No. 506

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Traveling is...
giving time to places.



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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.

Experienced local professionals

All our guides are locals and have minimum 5 years of experience.

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 and agencies.



How We Work with You

Every journey begins with a conversation.

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

Some travelers seek a single day well designed.

Others ask us to shape and accompany an entire journey.

From there, we select the places, encounters, and pacing that belong together.

Whether your ideas are clear or still taking form, our role is to interpret them.







From Adriana

Sintra became the retreat of royalty and nobility for a reason. Removed from the intensity of court life, its forests, mist, and cooler air created a world that felt apart from Lisbon and its demands.

From the surreal heights of Pena to the refined grace of Queluz, this landscape proves that escape is not about distance, but transformation.

May this journey leave you feeling gently removed from the ordinary.

Adriana Lage

“

Today is the happiest
day of my life.

I know Italy, Sicily,
Greece, and Egypt, and
I have never seen
anything, anything,
to equal the Pena.

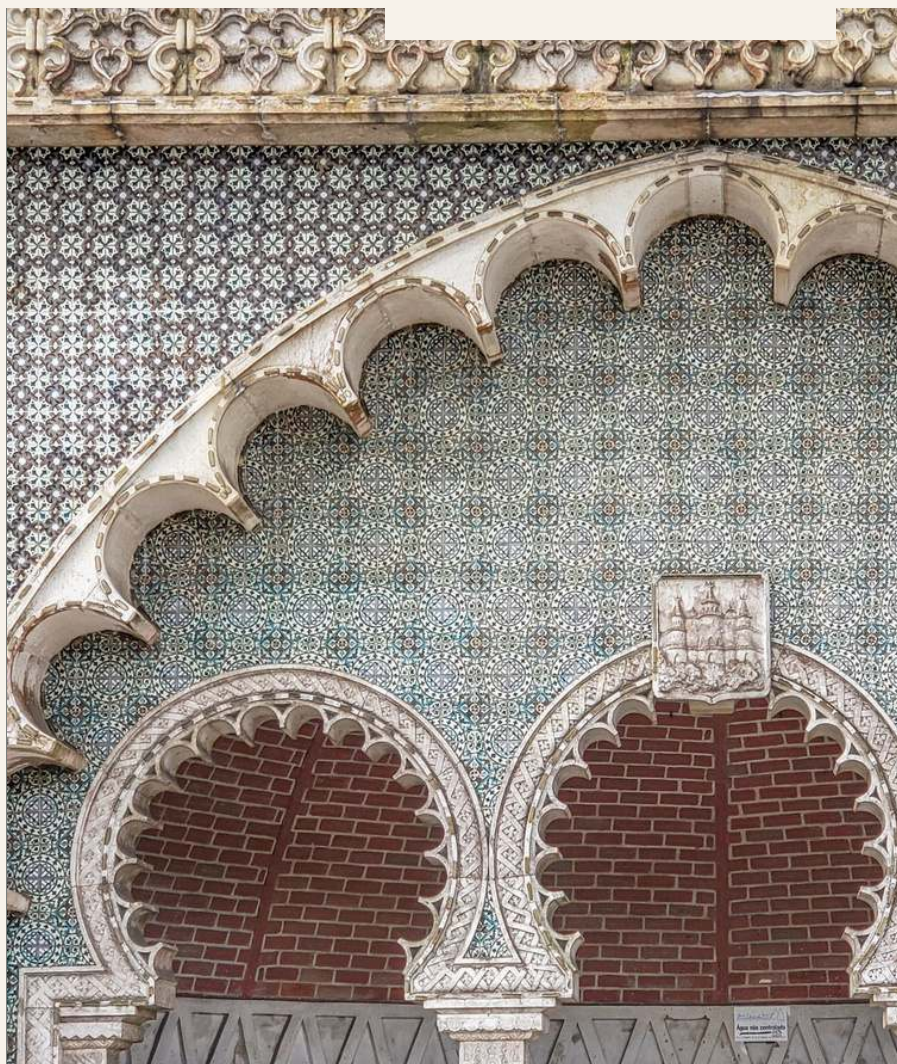
It is the most beautiful
thing I have ever seen.

”

— Richard Strauss, German composer



A few favorite
corners in Sintra
to inspire you.





TORRE DE LA CATEDRAL
ENTRADA AL PATIO DE LAS TORRES
ENTRADA AL PATIO DE LAS TORRES
ENTRADA AL PATIO DE LAS TORRES
ENTRADA AL PATIO DE LAS TORRES

PENA PALACE

Pena resists a single reading.

Raised above the forest, it reflects a moment when
imagination and power converged deliberately.

Color and stone.

Myth and intention.

A palace built to hold contradiction

Not to impress,
but to be understood.

Why it stays with you

Romanticism at full expression

Harmony found in contrast

An architecture of contrasts



CORK CONVENT

Hidden deep within the Sintra forest, the Convento dos Capuchos was created around silence, humility, and retreat from the world.

Small stone cells lined with cork, narrow passages, and filtered light create a place that feels almost suspended outside time.

Here, simplicity becomes presence, and the mountain itself seems to enter the monastery.

Why it stays with you

The feeling of complete withdrawal

Nature slowly overtaking the walls

The radical simplicity of monastic life





Beauty lives in proportion.



QUELUZ PALACE

Queluz belongs to a different scale of royalty.
Closer. More immediate.

It was not designed to impress from afar,
but to be lived within.

Here, court life feels almost within reach.
Measured, refined, and unexpectedly human.

Not grand in gesture,
but precise in how it holds attention.

Why it stays with you

A palace designed for living, not display

The intimacy of royal life at close range

Light, proportion, and quiet elegance

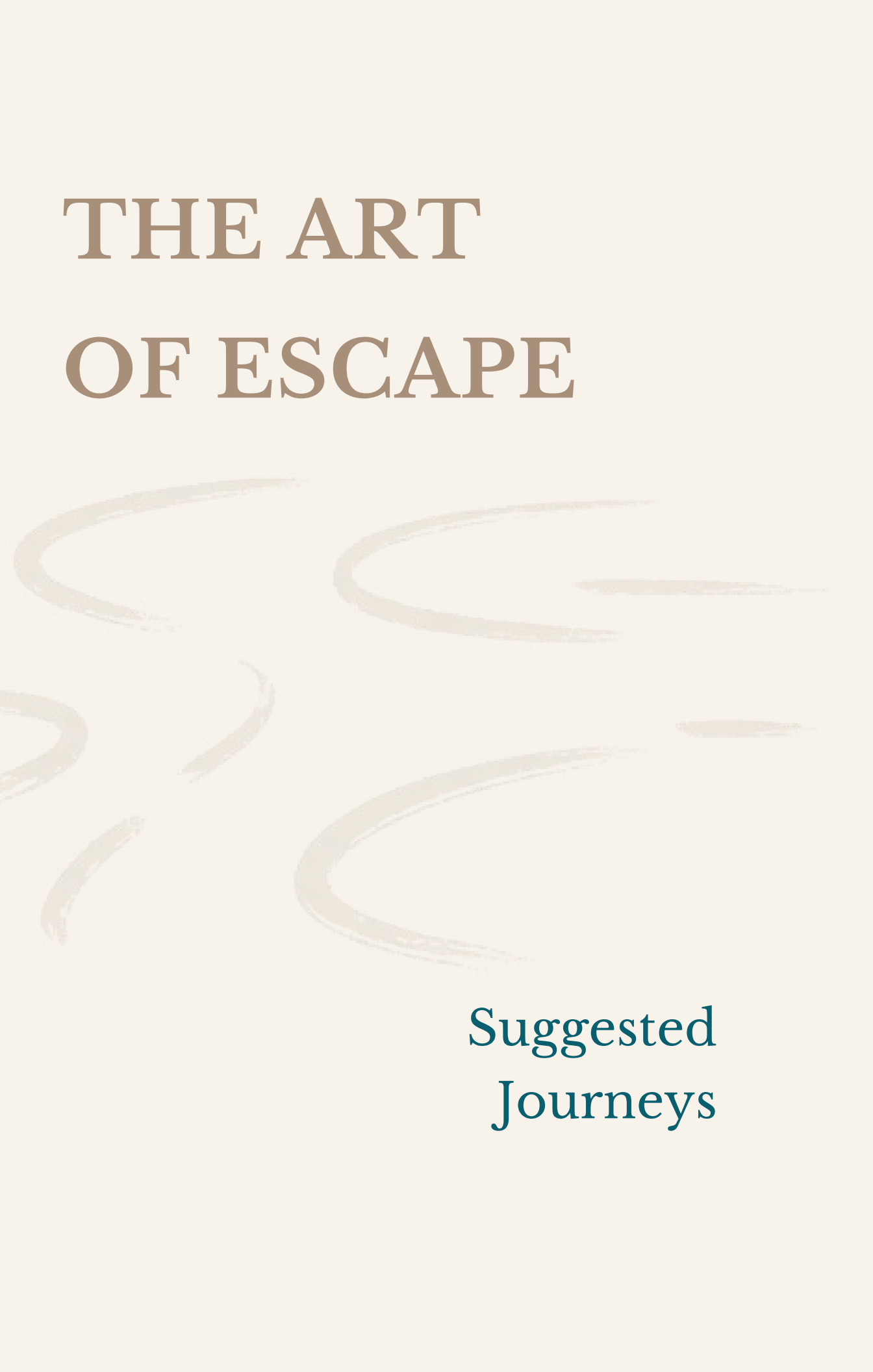
“

In Sintra
the gardens are deeper
And the silence
is greener
and more ancient.

”

— Sophia de Mello Breyner Andresen

THE ART OF ESCAPE



Suggested
Journeys

Journey Interpretations

This journey may be experienced in three ways, each offering a different level of depth, pace, and access.

Classic

The Essential Journey

A clear understanding, well paced.

Extended

Added Moments Along the Way

For those who wish to add a few further layers.

Signature

Our Deeper Journey

Our most immersive way to travel.

CLASSIC JOURNEY

09:00

We begin at your hotel, setting out toward the forested hills of Sintra.

At **Pena Palace**, we remain outside, walking around its terraces and ramparts to understand its unusual forms, colors, and position above the mountain.

LUNCH TIME

From the heights of Sintra, the route turns toward the Atlantic and stop for lunch at a traditional seafood restaurant on Praia do Guincho.

14:00

We start our journey back to Lisbon.



EXTENDED JOURNEY

09:00

We begin at **Queluz National Palace**, where refined interiors and quiet gardens reveal the more intimate side of royal life.

From here, we continue into the Serra de Sintra, following the Classic Journey through the **terraces of Pena Palace**.

LUNCH

Lunch is enjoyed overlooking the Atlantic, where the rhythm of the coast invites a slower pause.

MID-AFTERNOON

A scenic drive along the Atlantic accompanies our return to Lisbon.



Queluz is often overlooked.
It shouldn't be.

SIGNATURE JOURNEY

09:00

We pick you up at your hotel and follow the **Extended Journey**, beginning with a **carriage ride** through the Pena Park.

The visit continues in the **Condessa d'Edla's Chalet**, a quiet and unexpected home in the forests.

LUNCH AND AFTERNOON

A leisurely lunch overlooking the Atlantic.

LATE AFTERNOON

We return to Lisbon along the Atlantic coast, at an unhurried pace.



“

In Queluz, everything
is choreographic: the
gardens, the fountains,
the way the light hits
the pink stucco.

”

— Agustina Bessa-Luís, Portuguese writer — in *The Northern Court*

The Practical Side of Travel

The Art of Escape

Sintra





The Art of Escape, Sintra

Investment

for 2 guests

Included in every journey

Private journey · Guided visits · Tickets
Hotel pick-up and return

Classic

A Focused Experience · 6h · € 690

Pena Park and Palace Exterior
Cabo da Roca
Time for lunch by the sea

Extended

Added Moments Along the Way · 7h · €840

Everything in Classic
Sintra Old Town
Queluz National Palace

Signature

Our Deeper Journey · 9h · € 1,190

Everything in Extended
Horse-drawn carriage ride through Pena Park
Condessa d'Edla's Chalet at Pena
Specialist-led visit to Queluz National Palace

Pricing is total for the group, VAT included.

ADDITIONAL TOUCHES

Handled Separately

Some personal items are handled separately.

Travel insurance
Documents and visas
Flight tickets
Hotel reservations
Personal expenses
Gratuities

A Few Personal Choices

If, during the tour, you feel like adding a visit to an attraction or tasting a few more wines, we'll be happy to arrange it along the way.

Any adjustments may be settled at the end of the tour.

THOUGHTFUL DETAILS

At BLU, every detail is considered so you can simply enjoy your journey.

We are more than drivers. **We accompany you** at each stop, ensuring you feel **welcomed** and **supported**.

All tours include **personal incident insurance**, and we follow high standards of **responsible driving**.

Above all, you are accompanied by attentive, **fluent English**-speaking **Local Guardians** who are happy to share their version of Portugal with you.

INVESTMENT

Payment Method

Payment may be completed in full, or with a deposit through the link or QR code provided.

The remaining balance may be arranged, either up to 72 hours prior to the journey, or in cash at the beginning of your journey.

Additional Hours

Should you wish to linger a little longer, additional time can be arranged, settled at the conclusion of the tour as follows:

- Up to 30 minutes — included
- Each additional 30 minutes — €40

WHEN PLANS SHIFT

Weather Changes

Our journeys take place in most weather conditions. In rare cases of extreme weather, we may need to adjust or reschedule the journey.

You will be offered a full refund or a new date.

A Flexible Approach

The order of the itinerary may shift slightly depending on weather or partner availability, always with your experience in mind.

SINTRA FLEXIBILITY

Please note that in Sintra, occasional last-minute closures may occur due to weather conditions (such as heavy rain) or safety restrictions (such as fire risk).

In such cases, we reserve the right to replace the visit to Pena Palace, or any other affected attraction, with an alternative experience nearby, such as the royal Queluz Palace or the impressive Mafra Palace, both exceptional visits in their own right.

PLANS CAN CHANGE

Rescheduling

Date changes requested more than 48 hours ahead can usually be accommodated, upon availability.

Requests within 48 hours are subject to our cancellation guidelines.

48 hours or more — full refund

48–24 hours — 80% refund

Within 24 hours — non-refundable

Please note: some advance tickets may follow the venue's own policy.

If You Need to Reach Us

To cancel or reschedule, please contact us by email or WhatsApp. We will confirm and guide you.

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WITH YOU, EVERY STEP

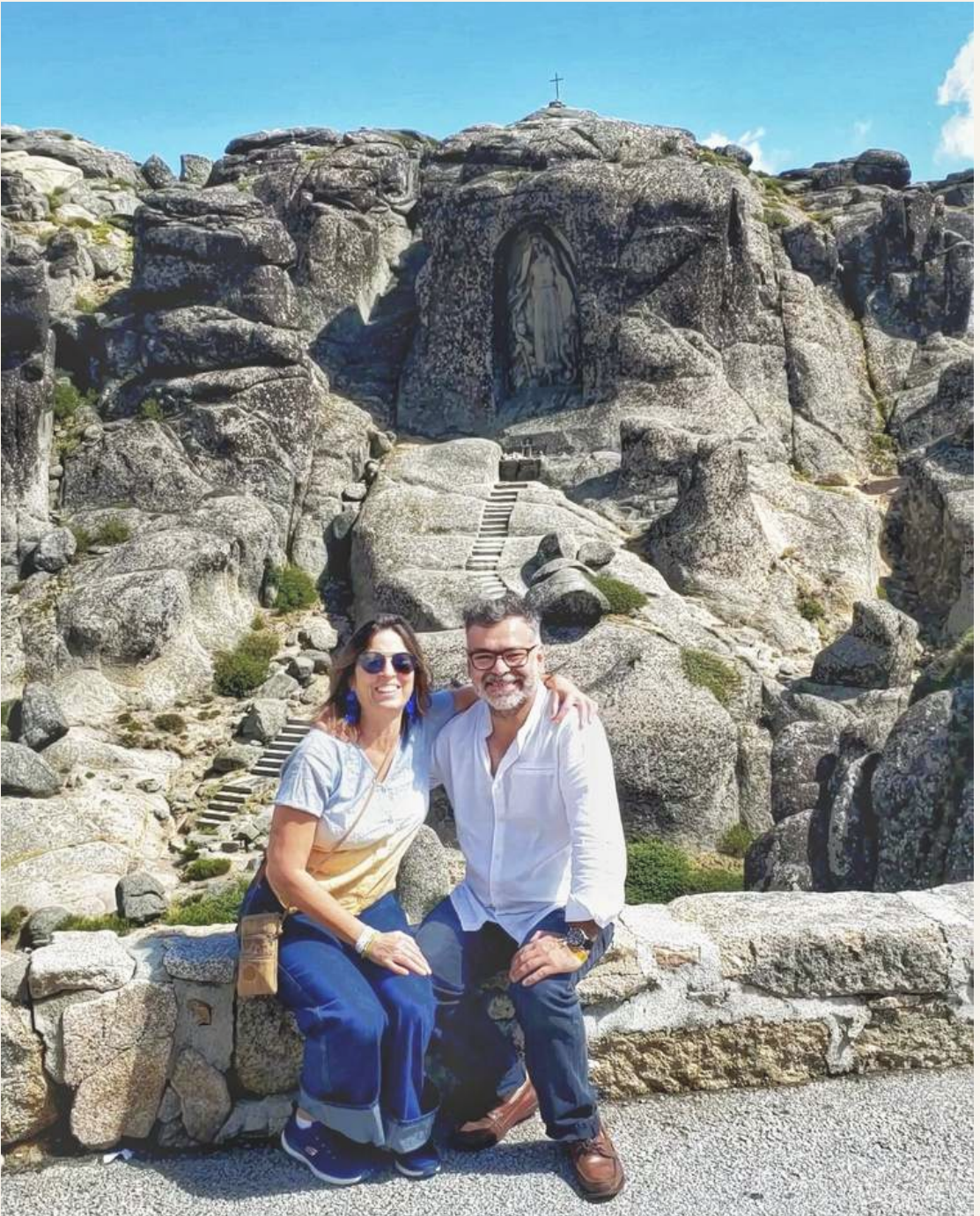
We are here to take care of the details, so you may simply enjoy your time.

If you have any questions, or wish to adjust anything along the way, just let us know.

Adriana

Some journeys end.

Others stay with us.



Until we meet.

Adriana & Tiago

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Rick Steves'
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FEATURED ON
KAYAK
GUIDES

mt REGISTO
NACIONAL
DE TURISMO

**TURISMO DE
PORTUGAL**



