

PORTUGAL!



Let ICAN take you places you can't go on your own!



ICAN EVENTS
ceramicartsnetwork.org/events



This tour offers a unique opportunity for ceramics enthusiasts to delve into Portugal's rich ceramic traditions. The blend of cultural tours, hands-on workshops, and the scenic beauty of Portugal promises an unforgettable experience for all participants.

Contact Holly Goring, ICAN Manager at 614-895-4213 to reserve your spot. Or, learn more at ceramicartsnetwork.org/events.

iCAN International
CERAMIC
ARTISTS
NETWORK

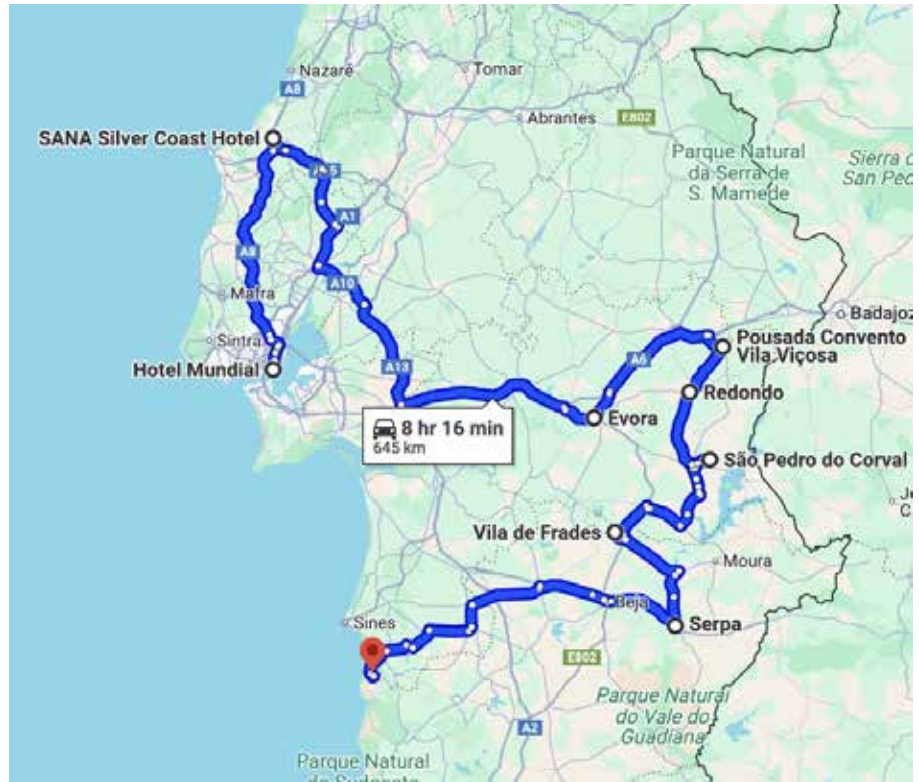
iCAN International
CERAMIC
ARTISTS
NETWORK

ICAN presents: Exploring Portuguese Ceramics October 20-29, 2025


Join ICAN and your fellow ceramic artists to explore the cities, countryside, coastal regions, rolling hills of wine country throughout Portugal. This trip will immerse participants in the rich world of Portuguese ceramics, blending traditional and contemporary techniques, visiting renowned workshops, and engaging in hands-on activities while discovering Portugal's cultural and historical heritage.

Tour Overview

This trip offers a unique opportunity for ceramics enthusiasts to delve into Portugal's rich ceramic traditions. The blend of cultural tours, hands-on workshops, and the scenic beauty of Portugal promises an unforgettable experience for all participants. The tour begins in Lisbon and travels to the silver coast, on to the countryside and the eastern regions of Portugal, and finally back to Lisbon. Our group will make stops in Lisbon, Caldas da Rainha, Vila Viçosa, Vila de Frades Beja, and Vila Nova de Milfontes. In each location we will discover the local cultural including its history, contemporary life, food, wine, geography, and of course, ceramics! The map to the right shows the grand tour we will take together all with our knowledgeable local guides, David and Irene, from Clay Kitchen Portugal.



Tour Highlights

- Walking tour of “hidden” Lisbon including the historical heart of the city with a visit to Feira da Ladra (fair), Praça do Comércio, Baixa (downtown), and the Alfama district
 - National Tile Museum (Museu Nacional do Azulejo) with guide
 - Bordallo Pinheiro Factory and Museum with guide
 - CENCAL ceramic center; tour and workshop
 - Ceramics Museum of Caldas da Rainha and town tile murals
 - Évora’s Chapel of bones and Heritage and Ceramic museum
 - Wine tasting at a local Alentejo winery
 - Visit traditional potteries in Redondo
 - Visit potteries in S. Pedro do Corval
 - Olive oil tasting at Reguengos de Monsaraz
 - Serpa Workshop: Primitive ceramics
 - Wine tasting in Herdade do Cebolal
 - Vila Nova de Milfontes: Tile workshop
 - Vila Nova de Milfontes: Boat tour
 - Clay Kitchen Portugal: Ceramic workshops + wood kiln loading and firing
 - Non-Potter (friends and partners of the potters) activities occurring during the clay workshops: Caldas da Rainha Park Parque D. Carlos I, Caldas Market, Batalha Monastery visit); Vila Nova de Milfontes hiking in the Fishermen’s Trail or cycling on Rota Vicentina trails; Sines with old town, castle, and museum visits; cooking lesson at Tres Marias.
- 

Included in the Registration:

- A small, friendly group of up to 20 guests
- English-speaking tour leader and venue guides

- Curated itinerary focused on ceramic arts and Portuguese culture
- Ground transportation while in Portugal
- Accommodations in 6 select hotels
- Hands-on ceramic workshops and materials
- All tours and admissions covering group sightseeing events
- Meals: 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 5 group dinners. Some lunches will be in a group setting, but not covered by the tour price.

Not Included in the Registration:

- Air flights to and from Portugal (arrive and depart in Lisbon)
- Airport transfers (recommendations will be given)
- 4 lunches and 5 dinners
- Travel and health insurance (not mandatory but highly recommended)
- Personal expenses and personal purchases
- Shipping expenses (including any purchased items and/or ceramics you make)
- Pre and post-tour accommodations (Note: all pre- and post-tour accommodations must be made on your own. Neither ICAN nor Clay Kitchen Portugal can provide additional travel services beyond what is included in the main tour.)

Group Hotels

Lisbon, 2 nights: **Pensão Londres**

Caldas da Rainha, 1 night: **Sana Silver Coast**

Vila Viçosa, 1 night: **A Pousada hotel**

Vila de Frades, 1 night:

Beja, 1 night: **Pousada Convento de Beja**

Vila Nova de Milfontes, 3 nights: **Três Marias**

Tour Partner: Clay Kitchen Portugal

Clay Kitchen Portugal is a ceramic retreat and workshop center for lovers of clay, wood firing, and hands-on ceramic education, overlooking a stunning landscape in Ribeira da Azenha, in Southwest Portugal. Clay Kitchen Portugal is owned and run by David Trueb, with help from Irene Nunes.



Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Monday, October 20

Lisbon

- International flights arrive in Portugal
- Check into hotel
- Evening: Gather in hotel lobby
- Short stroll to the Welcome Dinner in Baixa

Accommodation: Pensão Londres,

Meals: Dinner

Pensão Londres, once a palace in the early 20th century with unparalleled charm, preserving the original architectural design, is situated on one of Lisbon's seven hills, namely on the seventh hill, in the famous Bairro Alto, in an area of historical and architectural interest in Lisbon and Europe, surrounded by beautiful gardens, family restaurants, markets, and a vibrant nightlife. Around the corner from the guesthouse, guests can enjoy the scenic view of São Pedro de Alcântara viewpoint. In addition, its central location allows you to walk around the city center, being less than 10 minutes' walk from Baixa, Chiado, Restauradores, and Rato metro stations.

Day 2

Tuesday, October 21

Lisbon

Breakfast at hotel

Potters and Non-Potters

- Walking tour of Lisbon – discover the historical heart of the city with a visit to Feira da Ladra, Praça do Comércio, Baixa (downtown) and the Alfama district
- Lunch on your own
- Tour of the National Tile Museum (Museu Nacional do Azulejo) with guide.
- Group dinner

Accommodation: Pensão Londres

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Museu Nacional do Azulejo is one of the most important of the national museums by the singularity of its collection, Azulejo (tile), an artistic expression that differentiates Portuguese culture, and by the uniqueness of the building in which the Museum is set, former Madre de Deus Convent, founded in 1509 by Queen D. Leonor. Its collections allow a journey through the history of tile, from 15th century until present days. Belonging to the convent, the Madre de Deus church is decorated in full Portuguese baroque splendor, with gilded and carved wood, paintings and tile panels. There are also beautiful views of the city from the rooftop.

Baixa is Lisbon's historic heart and commercial center. Neoclassical architecture, built after the 1755 earthquake, surrounds Commerce and Rossio squares. Bustling pedestrianized streets are lined with traditional seafood restaurants and eclectic shops. The National Museum of Contemporary Art, in the upscale Chiado area, shows Portuguese art from the mid-1800s to today, and the Santa Justa Lift offers city views.

The Praça do Comércio is a large, harbor-facing plaza, and is one of the largest in Portugal.

The steep streets of Alfama, one of Lisbon's oldest areas, are lined with cafes and shops selling traditional crafts. The historic no. 28 tram winds through Alfama on its way up to 11th-century São Jorge Castle. Views from Miradouro da Graça terrace stretch over the city to the River Tagus.

Day 3

Wednesday, October 22

Caldas da Rainha

Breakfast at hotel

Depart hotel, travel to Caldas da Rainha (1h30m)

Potters

- Ceramics Hub: Bordallo Pinheiro Factory and Museum, tour with guide
- Lunch at CENCAL
- CENCAL school visit
- Ceramic workshop

Non-Potters

- Caldas da Rainha visit: Parque Dom Carlos I and the Caldas Market
- Nazaré visit: Lunch
- Batalha Monastery

Evening Potters and Non-Potters

Dinner on your own

Accommodation: Sana Silver Coast

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Caldas da Rainha, a medium-sized Portuguese city and a UNESCO Creative City. It is home to many cultural institutions including nine museums covering art, history, and cycling.

The Bordalo Pinheiro Museum exhibits the work of Rafael Bordalo Pinheiro. Pinheiro (1846–1905), who was a Portuguese artist specializing in drawings and ceramics.

Parque Dom Carlos I is a scenic green space featuring an art museum, gardens, and a tranquil lake filled with row-boats. The Caldas market has been running since the end of the 15th century and is the only daily open-air market in the country.

Nazaré is a coastal town known for its beautiful beaches and surfing.

The Batalha Monastery is a stunning example of Gothic architecture, and is perhaps the most impressive religious building in Portugal. It became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990. The town, Batalha, is known for its museums and beautiful architecture.

Sana Silver Coast hotel is located on the beautiful Portuguese west coast, only 45 minutes away from Lisbon, in the heart of the charming, artistic, and historical city of Caldas da Rainha.

Day 4

Thursday, October 23

Évora, Vila Vicosa

Breakfast at hotel

Travel to Évora (3h)

Potters and Non-Potters

- Late Lunch in Évora
- Chapel of bones, Évora's Heritage and Ceramic museum visits
- Wine tasting at a local Alentejo winery/vineyard

Accommodation: Pousada Vila Viçosa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Évora is the capital of Portugal's south-central Alentejo region. In the city's historic center stands the ancient Roman Temple of Évora. The Cathedral of Évora is a massive Gothic structure begun in the 12th century. The Igreja de São Francisco features Gothic and baroque architecture along with the skeleton-adorned Chapel of Bones.

The Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones) is one of the best-known monuments in Évora, Portugal. It is a small interior chapel located next to the entrance of the Church of St. Francis. The Chapel gets its name because the interior walls are covered and decorated with human skulls and bones.

Vila Viçosa has many churches, some of them of great historical and artistic interest. Senhora da Lapa, for example, at the western end of Campo da Restauração, was built in 1756. It has a very elegant Baroque façade in front of which is a beautiful fifteenth century white marble cross.

The Pousada Convento Vila Viçosa is located close to the historical center of Vila Viçosa and is surrounded by beautiful gardens. The Pousada is located in the former Convent of the Chagas de Cristo, built in the 16th century.

Day 5

Friday, October 24

Redondo, São Pedro do Corval, Vila de Frades

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart for Redondo (30 min)

Potters and Non-Potters

- Visit to several traditional potteries in Redondo
- Picnic lunch
- Depart for São Pedro do Corval (40 min)
- Visit to several traditional potteries in São Pedro do Corval
- Olive oil tasting at Reguengos de Moansaraz
- Travel to Vila de Frades (1hr)
- Group dinner

Accommodation: in Vila de Frades

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Redondo is a small, charming town, with historical sites, picturesque landscapes, and cultural traditions. The castle of Redondo, along with the old town walls and the Church of São Salvador, are among the notable landmarks. The

region's craft and pottery traditions, along with wineries and vineyards contribute to the cultural identity.

Sao Pedro do Corval has more than 20 pottery workshops. Because of that, it contains the largest concentration of potteries in Portugal and one of the largest in the Iberian Peninsula.

Vila de Frades, is known for its picturesque streets, traditional Alentejo architecture, wine, and the Quetzal Art Center. It is a great destination for wine tastings.

In Southwest Portugal, halfway between Porto Covo and Vila Nova de Milfontes, Três Marias is a country guest-house nestled among the serene countryside of the Alentejo Coast. Três Marias offers whitewashed rooms with minimal rustic decor, plenty of natural light, and an inviting porch for enjoying the surrounding nature.

Day 6

Saturday, October 25

Serpa, Beja

Breakfast at hotel

Travel to Serpa (45 min)

Potters

- Primitive ceramics workshop
- Lunch in Serpa
- Travel to Beja

Non-Potters

- Free time in Serpa
- Lunch in Serpa

Accommodation: Pousada Convento de Beja

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Day 7

Sunday, October 26

Ribeira da Azenha

Breakfast at hotel

Travel to Ribeira da Azenha (1hr45m)

Potters and Non-Potters

- Wine tasting and lunch in Herdade do Cebolal
- Travel to Três Marias

Afternoon: Potters

- Tile workshop at Clay Kitchen Portugal

Afternoon: Non-Potters

- Travel to Vila Nova de Milfontes
- Boat tour with Guide
- Freetime to enjoy Vila Nova de Milfontes

Potters and Non-Potters

- Dinner on your own

Accommodation: Três Marias

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Clay Kitchen Portugal is a ceramic retreat center for lovers of clay, wood firing, and hands-on ceramic education overlooking the stunning landscape of Ribeira da Azenha in Southwest Portugal.

Day 8

Monday, October 27

Vila Nova de Milfontes

Breakfast at hotel

Potters

- Clay workshop at Clay Kitchen Portugal
- Picnic lunch at Clay Kitchen
- Loading and preparing the kiln for the firing
- Firing

Non-Potters

- Hiking on the Fishermen's Trail or cycling on Rota Vicentina trails
- Picnic lunch at Clay Kitchen
- Afternoon free time at Três Marias or visit to Sines (old town, castle, and museum)

Potters and Non-Potters

- Dinner at Três Marias

Accommodation: Três Marias

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Vila Nova de Milfontes, one of the loveliest towns along this stretch of the coast, has an attractive, whitewashed center, sparkling beaches nearby, and a laid-back population. It's located in the middle of the beautiful Parque Natural do Sudoeste Alentejano e Costa Vicentina and is still a port alongside a lovely, sand-edged limb of estuary.

The Fisherman's Trail and the Rota Vicentina Trails offer great hiking and cycling opportunities. The trails are open year-round and offer beautiful views at any time.

Day 9

Tuesday October 28

Vila Nova de Milfontes

Morning yoga

Late breakfast at hotel

Potters and Non-Potters

- Visit of the area village and trip up the coast
- Picnic lunch

Afternoon: Potters

- Unpacking the kiln; little exhibition and critique

Afternoon: Non-Potters

- Cooking lesson at Três Marias

Potters and Non-Potters

Farewell dinner at Três Marias

Accommodation: Três Marias

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 10

Wednesday October 29

Lisbon

Breakfast at hotel; tour ends

Potters and Non-Potters

11 am departure to Lisbon, arrival to Lisbon airport by 1:30pm; or Lisbon train station by 4pm

Additional Travel Information

- Walking and stairs: IMPORTANT This trip will include a significant amount of walking including stairs and steep inclines, and is not recommended for those who have difficulty walking for long distances or at a swift pace. Pack comfortable shoes. Plan to be attentive and stay with the group at all times during walking tours. Each tour is timely and will need to keep moving. We will not be able to wait for individual stragglers.
- All additional accommodations and transportation needed beyond what is listed in the tour itinerary must be arranged and paid for on your own.
- Passports must be valid for 6 months after you have completed your travel.
- Daily/group participation: If for any reason you are unable to participate in an activity, please speak to the ICAN manager or the primary tour guide in advance while on the tour so the necessary arrangements can be made. Note that all tickets, tours, and transportation are arranged and paid for in advance
- We recommend that you do not book non-refundable flights or other services until the minimum number of spots have sold and the trip is confirmed. The trip will be confirmed to each guest as soon as possible.
- All tour inquiries should be directed to the ICAN manager, Holly Goring, at hgoring@ceramics.org or 614-895-4213. Please do not make direct inquiries to the hotels or the venues listed in the itinerary, or to the tour partner.
- Itinerary subject to change.