

Sustainability Tour 1

Seeking sustainability in Alentejo: Évora world heritage, agriculture and gastronomy at Herdade do Esporão

Saturday, 16th of July - Departure 08:00 - Return 18:00

Description

This tour crosses one of the less known regions of Portugal, the deep Alentejo. We shall see a Mediterranean landscape far away from the Mediterranean Sea, poor by conventional development standards but rich in nature, cultural heritage and quality of life. The hard land and climate has fostered innovative solutions towards sustainability. We will have an unconventional tour around the millennia-old city of Évora, a World Heritage site. Then we will observe modern biological agricultural practice, taste the local gastronomy and award-winning wines at Herdade do Esporão, a family business with a very special outlook on social and environmental responsibility. On our way back, we shall have a brief look at Alqueva, the controversial dam and irrigation project that created the largest artificial lake in Europe.

Programme

08:00 - Bus departs from UNL Campus of Campolide (main entrance of the Rectorate building)

09:30 - Arrival at Évora

Tour off the beaten track guided by historians and archaeologists with the Regional Directorate for Culture of Alentejo

12:00 - Departure for Reguengos de Monsaraz

12:30 - Arrival at Herdade do Esporão

Tour of the property and discussion of agricultural production methods

13:30 - Lunch

Local gastronomy and a selection of Esporão wines

15:30 - Departure to Lisbon via Alqueva

On-board briefing on the merits and shortcomings of the Alqueva project

18:00 – Arrival at Lisbon

Note: Comfortable clothing, including hat and walking shoes is recommended, along with water and sun cream.