



**Tour Portugal !** As the start of another busy season comes into view, we're still taking bookings for this year. If you'd like to tour Portugal this year, or beyond, have a look at the information in this email and contact us if you'd like to know more or check available slots for a visit. We look forward to welcoming you to beautiful Central Portugal.

**When to come** The cricket season in Portugal runs roughly from March to October. In many ways, the shoulder seasons are ideal, as they're not as hot as July and August can be, but you still get the clear blue skies and sunny days.

**Ground and facilities** Our Parque Stadium is based in Miranda do Corvo, a small town just outside Coimbra. The ground is mainly used for cricket, with some alternative use including local events. We play on a synthetic cricket pitch. Floodlights at the ground allow us to play into the night, although they're not usually needed in the summer months. We also have nets which touring teams are welcome to use for practice.

With the floodlights, practice facilities, clubhouse and beautiful location, we believe it is the best cricket facility in Portugal.

### **Format and teams**

We usually base tours around 20-, 30- or 40-over fixtures, but we can be flexible and have played 'double-wicket' and declaration games with recent touring teams.

Our Coimbra Knights team is currently made up of players from the UK, Portugal, Australia, South Africa, Bangladesh and India. In some cases, we may be able to invite other teams to take part in a short tournament, including our own sister-team, the Miranda Dragons. We also have a women's cricket team, the Miranda Maidens.

### **Weekend tours and longer**

Most touring teams play matches over two to three days, arriving on Thursday or Friday. However, if you're looking for an alternative arrangement, we can also organize evening matches during the week and – in some cases – during a weekday.

**Match day refreshments** We provide lunches and/or teas and also have a licensed bar with Portuguese beer on tap. And if you're staying here a bit longer, we can recommend lots of fantastic places to eat and drink, at very reasonable prices.

**Getting to us and accommodation** **Getting to Portugal** Flying to mainland Portugal will usually give you three options: Lisbon, Porto and Faro. Faro, in the Algarve, is the most distant, so it is best to fly to Lisbon or Porto. Members of our club have plenty of experience of travelling between the UK and Portugal by car, ferry and train. If you're interested in taking your time in getting here, let us know if you'd like any tips.

**Getting to Coimbra or Miranda** From Lisbon or Porto airport, renting cars may be the most flexible option. Driving in Portugal is straightforward, and the motorways are excellent. Porto Airport is a 90-minute drive to Coimbra/Miranda, Lisbon Airport about 15 minutes longer. We can also arrange transfers for you, to and from either airport.

If you prefer taking the train, it is also straightforward: travel from either airport to the main train stations in Porto (Campanhã) and Lisbon (Oriente), and then take an InterCity or Alfa Pendular train to Coimbra. Travel time again is around 90 minutes from Porto and Lisbon.





**Away from cricket** You can eat well at a very good price in Portugal. There are plenty of options in Miranda to try some Portuguese specialties, and a great range of bars and restaurants in Coimbra, which is the capital city of the Central region.

**Travelling locally** Coimbra is a beautiful city, with the Mondego river running through the centre. It has a medieval old town on a hill overlooking the Mondego, complete with winding streets, a remarkable cathedral (the 'Old' cathedral) and stunning University buildings, which you can visit – don't miss the library. The lower town – or 'Baixa' – is a warren of narrow streets full of old shops, bars and restaurants.

**Miranda do Corvo** is set in a beautiful location, surrounded by the green mountains which form the backdrop of our Parque Stadium. Its historic centre is small but typically Portuguese, and well worth an exploration.

If you fancy a day or two at the beach, resorts like Figueira da Foz, Nazaré and Costa Nova are all within an hour's drive of Coimbra

**Getting around** Taxis are very reasonably priced in Central Portugal, and Uber is also available. An Uber from the centre of Coimbra to Miranda should cost around 17 EUR.

**Accommodation** There are plenty of hotel and Airbnb options in Miranda do Corvo, Coimbra and elsewhere. We can make recommendations and help with bookings. The [Hotel Parque Serra da Lousa](#) (in the photo) is a wonderful place to stay, and very near the ground.



**Get in touch** Email [info@sports-europe.co.uk](mailto:info@sports-europe.co.uk)

**FB:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063504194192>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/NickDryden1>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/p/CofAjeQqynz/>