PORTUGAL and GALICIA: Gardens and Art on the Pilgrim’s Way

June 1 – 10, 2019

In support of the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley

Escorted by Katherine Greenberg

Come with us to discover beautiful gardens and outstanding art collections along the Portuguese route known as the Camino de Santiago. Our journey begins in Porto on the Douro River and continues through Galicia to Santiago de Compostela, a centuries-old destination for pilgrims in northwestern Spain, a region characterized by green hills and valleys, terraced vineyards, and charming villages.

We have invitations to visit historic and contemporary private homes and gardens as well as some of Galicia’s distinctive manor houses called pazos. We will enjoy the best of regional cuisine and wines in restaurants and private homes. Our three hotels have been selected for historic interest and location.

Saturday, June 1: USA to Porto

Sunday, June 2: Arrival in Porto (D)

Independent arrivals to Porto airport. Check into the Hotel Infante de Sagres for 4 nights.

In the afternoon, we will meet with our tour leader Sofia Barroso in the hotel for coffee and an introduction to the history and culture of the region. Then we depart by coach for a panoramic tour of Porto and a visit to Quinta de Villard Allen, the private 19th century home and garden of the Allen family. The garden has two unique named camellias: ‘Villar Allen’ and ‘Augusto de Gouveia Pinto’. After a tour of the garden with Jose and Isaura Allen, we will enjoy a welcome dinner in their home.
Monday, June 3: Porto – Guimaraes (B,L)

After breakfast, we depart by coach to the historic town of Guimaraes, where we will visit a private home with an Indo-Portuguese art collection. We continue to the Pousada de Santa Marinha, once a convent, for a tour of its beautiful garden, tiled cloister, and lunch.

In the afternoon, we will visit the town’s historic quarter, where we will see the Palace of the Dukes of Braganza and the gardens of the Counts of Penaflor, followed by a visit to a lovely private contemporary garden. Return to Porto for a free evening.

Tuesday, June 4: Porto – Vila Real (B,L)

This morning we will tour the Porto Botanical Garden with landscape architect and Director Teresa Andersen. Located on what was formerly the Campo Alegre Estate, the property was acquired by the state in 1949 and is managed by the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto.

Our next visit is the Serralves Foundation, a project designed by the Portuguese architect Jose Marques de Silva. It has a beautiful park and site-specific sculptures by Oldenburg, Serra, and others. The morning will conclude with a reception and lunch at the private home and garden of art collector and gallery owner Maria Belem Sampaio, located in the Boavista residential area next to the Serralves Foundation.

After lunch we will drive to the lovely town of Vila Real and visit the elegant Mateus Palace. Built in the early 18th century, this palace is surrounded by beautiful gardens and a vast farm. It is considered to be one of the best examples of civil architecture in Europe. Return to Porto for a late afternoon port wine tasting at Sandeman.

Wednesday, June 5: Porto – Braga (B,L)

After breakfast, we will explore the historic town of Porto and see the gardens of the Crystal Palace. Exotic plants are featured here in themed gardens, with tree-lined paths, fountains, pools, and views of the Duoro River. After a morning coffee and tasting of typical pastries, we will visit the Church of Carmo, the old prison now converted into Portugal’s Photography Archive, the famous Lello Bookshop, Torre des Clerigos, Sao Palacio de Bolsa, and Francisco Church.
We will drive to Braga for lunch in the private home of Mario and Paolo Sequeira. We will also visit their art gallery, with its wonderful park and sculpture garden. On our return to Porto, we will visit the studio of the artist Luis Coquenhao, located in a traditional farm house. Dinner is on your own this evening.

**Thursday, June 6: Porto – Bondomar – Ria de Arosa – Pontevedra (B,L)**

We depart Porto after breakfast and drive to the Spanish region of Galicia, enjoying the beautiful scenery along the Portuguese pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we will stop for coffee at the Parador of the Counts of Gondomar, followed by a private visit to the garden of the Pazo de Gondomar, owned by the Fernandez de Cordoba family.

We continue to the Manolo Paz Foundation on the banks of the Ria de Arosa for a lunch organized by the sculptor Manolo Paz. Lunch will include fresh vegetables from his garden. After lunch we will drive to the historic Spanish town of Pontevedra, where we will stay in the Parador for 3 nights. Later in the afternoon, we will walk through the historic quarter and visit to RAC Foundation. The owners will host drinks and show us their contemporary art collection.

Dinner is on your own this evening in the Parador or in one of the nearby restaurants.

**Friday, June 7: Pontevedra – Cambados – Rubianes (B,L)**

This morning we depart by coach to Cambados, where we will visit the impressive Pazo de Fefinanes, built in the 16th century by Juan Sarmiento de Valladares. In the 19th century Queen Isabel II spent summers here enjoying the lovely gardens. The first Salnes vines were planted on the property, and the first bottle of Albariño wine was produced here. We will visit its gardens and winery for a tasting of the Albariño wine, Gil Aramada.

We continue to the Pazo de Rubianes, founded in the 15th century and restored by Duke Jacobo de Ozores in the 18th century. It has one of the best collections of camellias in Galicia. We will enjoy drinks and lunch at the Pazo, followed by a visit to its gardens.

Later we will visit the Pazo of Quinteiros da Cruz. Its garden has over 900 varieties of camellias and was designed at the beginning of the 19th century by the French landscaper Martin Dorgambide. After a stroll through the “Wood of Words”, we will enjoy a tasting of the estate’s wine. Return to the Parador for a free evening.

**Saturday, June 8: Pontevedra – Santa Cruz – Oca (B,L,D)**

This morning we have a special visit to the Pazo of Santo Cruz de Ribadulla to see its nursery and gardens, featuring azaleas and camellias. Its owner Juna Armada, Marquis of Santa Cruz de Ribadulla, has been a former president of the Botanical Gardens of Madrid. After a guided visit, we will enjoy a tapas lunch at the estate.

After lunch, we depart by coach to the Pazo de Oca, owned by the Duchess of Medinacelli. This incredible estate has been called the Versailles of Galicia.
The construction of the Pazo, with its manor house and gardens, was done by the VII Count of Amarantes and Lord of Oca in the 18th century. The garden was expanded in the 19th century by the French landscaper Francois Veit. Water features are a highlight of this garden, together with camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, chestnut trees, and palms. We will also see the beautiful interiors of the manor house and enjoy refreshments. Return to Pontevedra for dinner at the Parador.

Sunday, June 9: Pontevedra – Santiago de Compostela (B,D)

After breakfast, we depart Pontevedra by coach to the Ciudad de la Cultura complex, designed by architect Peter Eisenman. From here, we take an hour’s walk on the pilgrimage way to Santiago de Compostela. We will arrive at the Cathedral of Santiago in time for the swinging of the famous Botafumeiro incense burner during the Sunday mass. Then we check into the Parador of the Reyes Catolicos on the main square, with free time for lunch.

Later in the afternoon, we will enjoy a guided walk through the fascinating historic quarter of Santiago de Compostela. Our tour concludes this evening with a farewell dinner in the Parador, which dates from the 15th century.

Monday, June 10: Santiago – USA (B)

Independent transfers to the airport of Santiago de Compostela for return flights to the USA.

Tour Escort:

Katherine Greenberg is a garden designer and author with a life-long interest in the gardens, history, and culture of Spain and Portugal. She studied at the University of Madrid and the University of California. A member of the UC Botanical Garden Advisory Board, Katherine is a past-president of the Mediterranean Garden Society, Pacific Horticulture Society, and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Katherine has led a number of tours to Spain and Portugal. She started branches of the Mediterranean Garden Society in Portugal and Spain during her term as president.

Tour Leader and Lecturer:

Sofia Barroso has designed special art and garden travel programs since 1986, and she has lectured for major U.S. and European museums, providing an “insider’s view” of Spain and Portugal. She is an art collector and president of Around Art in Madrid. Sofia serves on the board of the Zuloaga Foundation, Jacober Foundation, ANAR Foundation, and Teatro Real, Madrid’s opera. She also oversees the maintenance of Palacio de Galiana, her family’s historic garden in Toledo. Based in Madrid, Sofia travels often to Northern Portugal and Galicia.
TOUR LAND COST PER GUEST BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:
Based on a minimum of 18 guests: $6775.00 per person for members of the University of California Botanic Garden. Non-members pay a $50.00 supplement. We suggest non-members join before registering for the tour.

Single supplement $1348.

COSTS INCLUDE:
- 8 night’s accommodation, all rooms with private bathrooms
- All hotel taxes and service charges
- Breakfast daily/ lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Deluxe private transportation and top drivers
- Airport transfers
- Special English speaking local guides
- All sightseeing and entrances as per the itinerary
- Deluxe portfolio of documents
- Escorted by Katherine Greenberg
- Donation of $500 to the University of California Botanic Garden

COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE:
- Airfare
- Travel insurance
- Passports

To make a reservation, please complete and submit a printed booking form or contact:

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Terms & Conditions

This information is important. Please read it carefully. Submission of an online or printed Booking Form along with payment of required trip deposit indicates you have read and expressly agree to these Terms and Conditions. If there is something that you do not understand please ask us about it!

Reservations and Payments – A non-refundable deposit of $600 per person is required at time of booking. Written confirmation will be provided upon receipt of deposit. Balance of payment will be due 60 days before departure. Tour price is based on exchange rates in effect as of May 2018 and are subject to adjustment on final invoice.

Number of Guests: A maximum of 18 guests can be accommodated. A minimum of 18 guests are required to operate the tour at the quoted price. Purchase of non-refundable services outside of the tour itinerary (such as airline tickets) before minimum number of guests have registered is at the sole risk and expense of the guest.

Cancellations – All cancellations must be made in writing. As noted, final payment is due 60 days prior to departure and is non-refundable. Accordingly we strongly recommended that you purchase appropriate cancellation insurance.

Hotels – Hotels are shown on your itinerary. Sterling Tours reserves the right to change any hotel through any circumstance---the substitute will be of equal or higher quality.

Scheduled Activities – Every effort will be made to provide such services as listed, but where unavoidable circumstances necessitate changes, the best substitute alternatives will be made at the discretion of Sterling Tours, the local escort, or the ground operator without financial compensation to tour members.

Service Fees, Tips & Taxes – Today there are frequently service charges and taxes imposed by hotels, suppliers, and governments. These fees and taxes are included to the extent possible, but where pre-payment is not allowed the amounts concerned must be paid locally by tour members. Tips to your guides and drivers are not included and are left to your discretion.

Baggage – Sterling is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to your baggage---travel insurance is strongly recommended to protect against loss. Guests are responsible for airline and government-imposed baggage regulations and fees.

Exclusions – Your arrangements exclude passports, visas, excess baggage charges, items of a personal nature such as laundry, communication expenses, room service, meals not specified in your itinerary, gratuities to guides and drivers, optional sightseeing and other excursions, and any items not listed in your documents.

Travel and Trip Cancellation Insurance – We strongly recommend that you purchase Travel Insurance.

Travel Documents – A passport valid for at least 6 months after last date of this tour is required for this trip.

Physical Capabilities - The tour includes a moderate amount of walking and occasional use of stairs or steeply sloped pathways. Walking surfaces may be uneven or unpaved. Some of the places that we will be visiting can only be seen on foot with no other access possible.

Responsibility Clause – SterlingTours – the “Operator”, Katherine Greenberg, UCBG, and/or their agents or representatives, act only as agents for the various companies involved in providing services. They assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any means of conveyance which may be used either whole or in part in the performance of its duty to the passenger. Likewise they will not be responsible for any act, error or omission or for any personal injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, irregularity or inconvenience which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicles, or through any act, neglect or default, or any company or person engaged in carrying out the purpose for which tickets or coupons are issued, whether negligent or not, including, but not limited to, any act of God, terrorism or war. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the Operator. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain passengers as members of the tour. Legal proceedings against the Operator may be instituted only in a State or Federal Court within the County of San Diego, State of California, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in the County of San Diego, State of California. Any legal proceedings against the Operator must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion. Neither the Operator nor Katherine Greenberg nor UCBG shall in any case be liable for compensatory damages and you hereby waive any right to punitive damages.

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Katherine Greenberg, University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley, and Sterling Tours invite you to join
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IMPORTANT: Submitting this form and paying tour deposit confirms you have read and accept the Terms and Conditions for this tour. Please review and be sure you understand the terms and conditions before registering for this tour.

RESERVATION FORM  ----PLEASE COMPLETE  ONE FORM PER PERSON TRAVELING

Full Name as on your passport: __________________________________________________________

First name you prefer to be called: ___________________________ Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr: ___________

Date of Birth: _______________ Passport #: __________________ Issue Date: _______________

Expires: ___________ Country: _______ Telephone: ________________________________

Email: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________________

City, State, Zip, Country ________________________________

Emergency Contact Name and Phone #: _________________________

Special Food or Physical Requirements: __________________________

Celebrating an event during the tour? ____________________________

Need help booking flights? __________ Planning to arrive early or stay after tour? ______________

HOTEL ROOM  Please check appropriate room type
Double Room, One Large Bed: _______ Double Room, Two Beds: _______
Sharing room with: ________________________________

Single Room, I am willing to share _______ Single Room, not sharing _______
(We will attempt to find a roommate, but if unsuccessful the single supplement will apply)

INSURANCE information to be provided after receipt of deposit.

LAND-ONLY TOUR PRICE AND DEPOSIT INFORMATION
Tour Price for members is $6775 per person land only based on double occupancy and a minimum of 18 guests. Non-member price is $6825.

Single occupancy of a room requires additional payment of $1348.

A nonrefundable deposit of $600 per person is required to register for this tour.

Please make your check payable to Sterling Tours, Ltd and mail with this form to the address below.

Payment by credit card is subject to 3% surcharge, please call Sterling Tours with credit card information.

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