

Portugal Without a Car

A 10-day Lisbon + Algarve family itinerary · March 16-25

Mar 16	Arrive Lisbon	Settle into Baixa/Chiado or Avenida. Easy neighborhood walk and early seafood dinner.
Mar 17	Old Lisbon	Alfama, Sao Jorge viewpoints, Praca do Comercio and the riverfront. Use metro/tram plus walking.
Mar 18	Belem + LX Factory	Jerónimos area, riverside paths, pastries and a relaxed afternoon around Alcantara.
Mar 19	Sintra day trip	Train from Rossio. Choose Pena exterior/park plus the historic center; reserve timed entries.
Mar 20	Lisbon to Lagos	Train south via Tunes, then regional connection to Lagos. Keep this an easy arrival day.
Mar 21	Lagos coast	Walk Ponta da Piedade, Praia do Camilo and Dona Ana. Use a local bus or taxi if legs are tired.
Mar 22	Boat day	Weather-dependent grotto cruise from Lagos. Keep an indoor backup and book a refundable option.
Mar 23	Benagil excursion	Pre-book a transfer or tour to Portimao/Benagil departure point; do not rely on beach access.
Mar 24	Relaxed Algarve	Market morning, beach walk and a flexible half-day in Lagos or Portimao.
Mar 25	Return / fly	Rail to Lisbon for a late flight, or sleep near the airport the prior night for an early departure.

BEST BASES	CAR-FREE RULES	BENAGIL PLAN
Lisbon: Baixa/Chiado for walkability, or Avenida/Saldanha for larger rooms and easy metro access. Algarve: Lagos near the old town or marina for rail, restaurants, beaches and boat departures.	Pack light enough for train changes. Buy long-distance rail once dates are firm. Keep one low-key day after each transfer. Use taxis/rideshare for short family hops when buses are infrequent.	Cave access is sea- and weather-dependent. Use a licensed boat operator and confirm the actual departure point. From Lagos, a transfer/tour is simpler than stitching together local buses.

Before booking: verify current CP rail times, local bus schedules, attraction closures and boat conditions. This plan is a practical framework, not a live timetable.

Full guide: ourbirchisland.com/travel/car-free-portugal-family-itinerary