

Traveller's diary



LEARNING ACTIVITY

PORTUGAL

APRIL 24th - 28th 2016

This diary belongs to:





Day 1 – April 24th

Cape of Saint Mary



The Cape of Saint Mary, better known as Lighthouse Island, is the southernmost point of continental Portugal. It is around 7 km long and is part of the Formosa estuary, a nature reserve.

There are three small villages on the island: Culatra, a fishermen's village, with a church, a school and a kindergarten; Hangares, used by the Portuguese Navy as a shooting range but deactivated for many years now; and Farol (lighthouse), which is mainly a summer holiday "resort".

Coastwatch Survey

The Coastwatch Survey is designed to give an overview of the state of the coast. It involves volunteers from all walks of life checking their chosen 500m stretch of coast (survey unit) once around low tide, and jotting observations down on the survey questionnaire while on the shore. It is intended to characterize the coastline; the coastal zoning (intertidal zone, supratidal contiguous zone and inner zone); coastal erosion; waste; contamination; biodiversity,...

The Coastwatch Survey was born in 1987 and Portugal joined it 26 years ago.

We will be divided into six groups. Each group will have 2 units of 500m to monitor and a survey to fill in for each unit.





1.	How long is the boat ride from Olhao to Culatra?
2.	How many units do we have to monitor?
3.	What is the name of the nature reserve which the Lighthouse Island is part of?
4.	Did you go to the top of the lighthouse? Why/why not?
5.	What was your favourite moment today?





Day 2 – April 25th

Sagres



Sagres is the most southwestern point in Europe. Greeks, Romans and Arabs believed that the world ended in the cliffs of Sagres.

It was here that Prince Henry the Navigator spent much of his time planning voyages and methods to improve seafaring, these endeavors would map the western edge of Africa and lead to the golden age of Portugal. Henry's private residence was on the Cape of Saint Vincent at the location of the present day lighthouse but he died in the fort in 1460.

The 1755 earthquake destroyed most of the fort. The actual quake only did slight damage but the resulting tsunami flooded (and washed away) the entire fort by rising higher than the 60m cliffs.

Inside the fort's walls there is a giant compass rose that was used to aid early navigation and a small chapel.





Lagos



Lagos is an ancient maritime town with more than 2000 years of history. It became part of Portugal in 1249, when King Afonso III conquered it from the Moorish. Lagos is also a historic centre of the Portuguese Age of Discovery, frequent home of Prince Henry the Navigator, a historical shipyard and, at one time, centre of the European slave trade.

The Wax Museum of the Portuguese Discoveries



This museum tells us about a spectacular and exciting journey through time: the History of the Discoveries in 16 different scenarios, in an educational but also entertaining way. This is done through a thematic approach starting with the Battle of Aljubarrota, the marriage of King John I and Philippa of Lancaster (The Treaty of Windsor), the Conquest of Ceuta, the Discovery of Brazil and the arrival of Vasco da Gama in India, amongst many others.



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1.	Where is Sagres situated?
2.	What happened in 1755?
3.	What can be seen inside the fort's walls?
4.	When did Lagos become part of Portugal?
5.	What is the wax museum in Lagos about?
6.	What did you enjoy most today?





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Day 3 – April 26th Olhão







In the 14th century Olhão was just a small fishing village with a dozen people living in huts made of wood, straw and reeds. Three centuries later, the village was important enough to attract pirates. The fortress of St. Lawrence, now underwater, was built back then to protect the village from their attacks.

Olhão is currently the biggest fishing port in the Algarve. The town is not really considered a tourist resort because it has no beach - it is situated in the heart of the Ria Formosa Nature Reserve, an intricate landscape of lagoons, canals, salt pans and sand banks that are separated from the Atlantic by a series of barrier islands that stretch from Faro to the village of Cacela Velha, near Tavira. A sanctuary for plant and wildlife, the estuary's fertile wetlands are a breeding ground for numerous species of birds, fish and shellfish and a delight to explore.

Olhão has two market buildings, one dedicated to the selling of fish and sea food delivered straight from the port. Olhão is famous for its fresh fish and sea food and is host to the annual seafood festival which takes place every summer in August. The other market building is where you can find a huge selection of fresh fruit and vegetables. The market halls are surrounded by pavement cafes and it's a great place to sit and enjoy the view of the boats moored along the waterfront by the marina.





1.	What is the name of the school?
2.	How many students are there in the school?
3.	Tell us something you liked about the school and something you didn't like.
— 4.	What did you enjoy most today?





Day 4 – April 27th

Lisbon







Lisbon is Europe's second-oldest capital (after Athens), once home to the world's greatest explorers like Vasco da Gama, Magellan and Prince Henry the Navigator, becoming the first true world city, the capital of an empire spreading over all continents, from South America (Brazil) to Asia (Macao, China; Goa, India).

1.	How long did the journey take from Olhão to Lisbon?
2.	What did you visit in Lisbon today?
 3.	What did you like the most about Lisbon?





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Day 5 – April 28th Belém







Belém is synonymous with history and the Portuguese discoveries. It was from this historic location that the great adventurers set sail in their fragile caravels, on a mission to discover the world. The Mosteiro do Jerónimos (Jerónimos Monastery) and Torre de Belém (Belém Tower), both UNESCO World Heritage sites, are Manueline-style monuments. This decorative style is characterized by complex ornamentation in portals, windows, columns and arcades. Several elements appear regularly in these intricately carved stoneworks, like elements used on ships, such as the armillary sphere, anchors, anchor chains, ropes and cables; elements from the sea, such as shells, pearls and strings of seaweed; symbols of Christianity such as the cross of the Order of Christ (former Templar knights), the military order that played a prominent role and helped finance the first voyages of discovery. The cross of this order decorated the sails of the Portuguese ships.

Caravela Vera Cruz

The Caravela Vera Cruz is an exact replica of the ancient Portuguese caravelas. It was built in 2000 in the framework of the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of Brazil.



The Caravela was a vessel invented and used by the Portuguese during the Age





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of Discoveries in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was a fast boat, easy to maneuver, and, if necessary, could be moved by rowing.

Which monument did you prefer visiting, the Monastery or the Tower? Why?
What is the Manueline-style?
What were the sails of the Portuguese ships decorated with?
What is a caravela?
Did you enjoy visiting the Caravela Vera Cruz? Why/why not?
What did you enjoy the most about your visit to Portugal?

