

# Journey to Portugal: In Pursuit of Portugal's History and Culture

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When José Saramago decided some twenty years ago to write a book about Portugal, his only desire was that it be unlike all other books on the subject, and in this he has certainly succeeded. Recording the events and observations of a journey across the length and breadth of the country he loves dearly, Saramago brings Portugal to life as only a writer of his brilliance can. Forfeiting sources of information such as tourist guides and road maps, he scours the country with the eyes and ears of an observer fascinated by the ancient myths and history of his people. Whether an inaccessible medieval fortress set on a cliff, a wayside chapel thick with cobwebs, or a grand mansion in the city, the extraordinary places of this land come alive with kings, warriors, painters, explorers, writers, saints, and sinners. Always meticulously attentive to those elements of ancient Portugal that persist today, Saramago examines the country in its current period of rapid transition and growth.

Infused with the tenderness and intelligence that have become familiar to his readers, Saramago's *Journey to Portugal* is an ode of love for a country and its rich traditions.

José Saramago was born in Portugal in 1922. His work includes plays, poetry, short stories, nonfiction, and seven novels. In 1998 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Amanda Hopkinson translates contemporary literature, mainly from Latin America, and is a reviewer for leading British newspapers.

Nick Caistor, journalist and producer of BBC programs, has translated the work of several authors including Eduardo Mendoza and Juan Carlos Onetti.

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: Portuguese

Other Books

Spanish and Portuguese South America During the Colonial Period.

“ . . . . . A short sketch of this journey may be given here as illustrating the enormous natural and other difficulties with . . . Manoel de Lima, who was a native of Portugal, had failed to enrich himself in the pursuit of gold; prices were . . .”