

Three Weeks and Counting Time to Pack – or at Least Purchase

Lee Murray Hall

We are officially three weeks out, and Lisbon is calling! Our registration numbers are holding strong at 580, which means this Annual Meeting is shaping up to be full, festive, and wonderfully energetic. Before we get to packing strategy, we want to spotlight a few events you will definitely want on your radar.

Spouse Hospitality and Sangria Workshop: On Wednesday morning, Holly Harwell will welcome spouses and guests to Erva from 10:30-12:00 for a relaxed and deliciously Lisbon-inspired Spouse Hospitality gathering. This year, we are leaning all the way into the local flavor with fantastic sangria-making workshops led by the Corinthia bartenders. Come mix, sip, laugh, and enjoy a uniquely Portuguese start to the day with Holly!

Youth Orientation: Just in! We are adding a quick, high-energy youth orientation before the Welcome Reception on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, beginning at 4:45. Watch the app for the location, but please make sure your kids are there. Whether this is their first meeting, their fifth, or they have lost count, please have them join. The orientation will be short, fun, treat-filled, and prize-worthy, with a Lisbon welcome designed just for them. I am also looking for a few of our more senior youth to help lead the way, so please email me if they are willing—or I may be forced to recruit “volunteers.”

SUD Gala: We have looked at the numbers and are thrilled that almost everyone is staying through the final night. This means we get to end the week together in style. Our closing celebration will be at Sud Lisboa, a spectacular, high-energy venue right on the River Tagus with sweeping views and the perfect backdrop for one last Lisbon party. Come ready to dance, mingle, laugh, and toast a fantastic week together. Pack something bright, colorful, and festive. Or simply show up and let us supply the party props. Either way, this is the send-off you will not want to miss.

And now, on to the packing guide.

The Basics

Expect warm, sunny weather with comfortable evenings. It has been brutally hot recently, but we expect this heat wave to pass before we arrive. Lightweight, breathable fabrics such as linen, cotton, gauze, jersey knits, and moisture-wicking travel fabrics will be your best bet.

- **Mornings, presentations:** Collared shirts, blouses, lightweight trousers, skirts, or casual dresses will work well. I think we will be a little more casual than usual, so there is no need to bring suits or work dresses with jackets. I do not plan to bring any suits or suit equivalents.

- **Afternoons, excursions and touring:** Think casual and comfortable. Breathable layers work best since you will be outdoors and moving around. I will probably wear casual dresses, or maybe skorts. If I can lose about 20 pounds, I will wear smart linen travel slacks that never look wrinkled, like those in travel catalogs.
- **Evenings:** Most dinners will be casual meals at local restaurants, so relaxed, comfortable attire is fine. Two nights will be a bit nicer but still casual. A slightly elevated outfit, such as a sundress, nice top, or linen shirt, will fit right in.

A Note on Shoes

Careful readers may remember me mentioning this before. Comfortable, well-cushioned shoes with good soles are essential. Save the heels and slick-soled sandals for another trip. Your feet and ankles will thank you. My trusty HOKAs will not be on trend in Lisbon, where most women wear stylish flats, pretty white or metallic high-end sneakers, or black sandals. Some brave women wear wedges. I will probably wear some variation of HOKAs as a matter of self-preservation.

The crisp, stylish fashion sneaker is the ultimate look for navigating the city.

A Note on Shorts & Local Style Nuances

Shorts are far less common in Portugal than they are here, especially for women. You will not be turned away for wearing them, but if you would rather blend in, lightweight pants, skirts, or casual dresses are good alternatives for daytime wear. If you are touring churches, many women, including young women, cover their shoulders with a gauze wrap.

To better match Lisbon's vibe, here are a few other cultural differences we noticed:

- **Keep athletic fashion wear to a minimum:** Head-to-toe high-end athleisure and prominent logos stand out as overtly touristy in Lisbon. I did not see locals wearing athletic wear outside of a gym. Since I did not go into a gym, I did not see anyone wearing it at all.
- **The swimwear transition:** Swimsuits and sheer cover-ups are strictly for the beach, pool, or boat deck. If you are stepping off the sand or the boat into a local café or shop, transition into a sundress, shorts, or a linen shirt.
- **Leave the pocket knives at home:** If you routinely carry a utility multi-tool or pocket knife in your daypack, leave it in the United States. Portugal has strict public safety laws regarding carrying knives, and they will not clear security at major historic sites.

Working Out

The Corinthia has a lovely gym and spa, so bring your workout clothes if you are inclined. The Seven Hills may also be all you need to get your steps and cardio in.

Activities & Excursions

We have registrations for 1,100 excursions, so remember to pack for hiking, biking, swimming, boating, or simply walking. The hotel has a lovely indoor pool, so bring your swimsuit and cover-up if you want to visit the spa, swim, or spend time in Cascais.

Special Note for the Catamaran Tour

Many of you have registered for the catamaran excursions. Please add these items to your packing list:

- **Windbreaker or light jacket:** Even on an 85°F day, the Atlantic breeze on a moving boat can feel surprisingly chilly.
- **Sunglasses strap:** I have it on good authority that sunglasses do not float. Bring a strap.
- **Boat-friendly footwear:** Choose soft-soled shoes that will not leave dark scuff marks.

The Hat Guide

Packing guides suggest a straw fedora, Panama hat, or linen bucket hat. Since I do not think I have ever seen any of us wear any of these hats at any event, use your own judgment.

Special Occasions

- **Welcome Reception, come as you are:** No wardrobe change required. Travel-day clothes, casual resort wear, or whatever you are comfortable wearing when you arrive is perfectly appropriate. Casual dresses, linen pants, casual skirts, lightweight trousers, golf shirts, or short-sleeve button-downs will all work well. Comfortable sandals or walking shoes are fine.
- **President's Celebration at the Palacio Correio-Mor:** Given the weather, casual dresses, skirts, or lightweight pants are the way to go. No need for anything formal or heavy. This will be the dressiest evening, but it will still feel relaxed because of the warm weather. I am thinking sundresses, midi dresses, or other lightweight summer wedding attire. For men, jackets are optional, and ties and suits are not necessary. We will be outside for part of the evening, and air conditioning at the Palace can be a little unpredictable, so nothing heavy.
- **Dine Arouds:** Attire depends on where you are going, but unless you selected a very high-end restaurant, casual attire is acceptable. I did not see many people in jeans, but sundresses, comfortable skirts, and slacks are acceptable almost everywhere.
- **SUD Lisboa:** This will be our night to dance, celebrate, and toast a fantastic week together. Let's make it festive. Pack something bright and colorful. It is still casual, so have fun with it. If you do not have anything colorful, no worries. We will supply the color.

Consolidated Packing Checklist

- [] Passport and travel documents; check your passport expiration date and make extra copies of your passport

- [] Lanyard and name tag if you have them from Scottsdale
- [] Three business casual outfits for mornings, such as collared shirts, blouses, lightweight trousers, skirts, casual dresses, or polished travel pants
- [] Five or six casual looks for touring, such as tees, linen tops, sundresses, lightweight pants, casual skirts, or moisture-wicking layers
- [] Come as you are welcome reception option, since travel-day clothes are fine
- [] Two slightly dressier but still casual outfits for nicer dinners and evening events
- [] Bright, colorful outfit or accessory for the final night
- [] Workout clothes if you are inclined
- [] Clothing and shoes for swimming, hiking, biking, or boating
- [] Several pairs of comfortable walking shoes with good support; break them in before you leave
- [] Lightweight windbreaker, shawl, or light jacket for the catamaran, air-conditioned rooms, and breezy evenings
- [] Phone charger, portable battery pack, headphones, and any other must-have electronics
- [] Plug converter; Portugal uses Type C/F outlets, 230V
- [] Medications, prescriptions, and basic over-the-counter items such as pain reliever, allergy medicine, motion-sickness tablets for the catamaran, antacids, bandages, and blister bandages
- [] Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a sunglasses strap or tether for the boat
- [] Packable brimmed hat or visor with a hat clip for windy spots
- [] Small crossbody bag, zippered tote, belt bag, or roll-top dry bag for touring and excursions
- [] Reusable water bottle, electrolyte packets, or hydration tablets for long touring days in the sun
- [] Travel-size wrinkle release spray, stain remover wipes, and a few resealable bags for damp or dusty items
- [] Foldable shopping tote

See you in Lisbon!