



Pittsburgh Youth Symphony Orchestra
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PYSO goes to PORTUGAL!

June 20 – July 1, 2023*

*(NOTE: In light of recent information regarding several high school graduation dates we have slightly adjusted the dates of the tour)

PYSO is excited to return to international touring with a concert tour of Portugal in June 2023. It is a long-standing tradition that the PYSO international tour is an integral part of our season and as such all PYSO students involved during the “regular” season are expected to participate in the tour.

Preliminary Information:

The following is some important preliminary information about the Tour. We ask that you please read it thoroughly. We will continue to keep you updated as information emerges.

Dates:

We anticipate departing on Tuesday, June 20 and returning on Saturday, July 1, 2023.

General Itinerary:

We are still refining the specific itinerary, but we anticipate the following:

- Porto:** Arrive in Porto, Portugal’s second largest city. Take a Rabelo boat cruise from Porto up the Douro River. Concert in Porto.
- Coimbra:** The former capital of Portugal and the home of the traditional Portuguese folksong, the Fado. There will be a traditional Fado performance at dinner one evening. Concert in Coimbra. From Coimbra there will be an excursion to the Roman ruins at Conimbriga, which are the best-preserved on the Iberian Peninsula.
- Torres Nova** Concert in Torres Nova and excursion to Tomar to visit the Knights Templar Castle built in the 12th century.
- Lisbon** Concert in Lisbon. A guided sightseeing tour of this city will include major sites including St. George’s Castle at the top of Lisbon’s highest promontory. Excursion to Sintra to see the summer palaces of the royalty. Concert in Lisbon. Depart from Lisbon

Tour costs:

We anticipate that the cost of the tour will be \$3,500 per student. This is a subsidized cost (the actual cost of the tour is around \$4,000 per person). PYSO uses funds from fundraisers, events, foundations, and private donations to support the subsidy.

Tour cost includes airfare, ground transportation, hotel accommodations in 3 & 4 star hotels, entrance fees for sight-seeing tours and excursions, admission to PYSO concerts, breakfasts in the hotels and dinners in restaurants and basic travel insurance. Individuals are responsible for their own lunches.

In the past there have been several fundraisers (sponsored by the PYSO Parents’ Association) during season in which PYSO members may participate to raise money for their personal financial obligation.

PYSO Preliminary Tour Information

2022-2023 Season/Portugal

A non-refundable tour deposit of \$250 will be due on Wednesday, August 31 (along with membership dues).

Remaining payment can be made in one full installment, two equal installments, or four equal installments based on the preliminary schedule: October 24, January 4, February 20, and April 10.

Scholarships:

We believe that *no student should be prevented from participating in PYSO and going on tour due to financial circumstances.*

Scholarships and financial assistance are available to assist in covering the expense of the tour. Scholarships are both need based merit-based scholarships. Please complete the Tour Scholarship Form by August 31, 2022.

Scholarship requests are evaluated by PYSO staff and the Scholarship Committee of PYSO's Board of Directors.

Other:

All large instruments (such as cellos, basses, tuba, harp and large percussion instruments) will be rented by PYSO (not the individual players) for use in Portugal

PYSO takes 10 to 12 adult chaperones on tour. Each chaperone oversees the safety and well-being of one group of up to 8 students. Chaperones are generally comprised of PYSO parents. ***The cost of the tour for any parent serving as a chaperone will also be subsidized.*** In the fall we will email parents asking if they wish to be a chaperone and directing them to fill out the application form in order to be considered.

Parents not wishing to be chaperones may still come on tour as companions. The companion cost is \$4,500 (\$500 of which is tax deductible). The number of companions is limited, and are available on a first come, first served basis. A deposit of \$500 reserves a spot as a companion on the tour.

All chaperones and companions must submit a child abuse history clearance as well as criminal record check.