

It Happened in Porto

I am not happy. I just learn that the hotel won't store my luggage while I finish the OAT trip in Lisbon. Its only four days until I return to Porto and I want to travel to Lisbon with just carry-on.

The Carris Ribiera Porto Hotel is lovely. I have paid to upgrade to a suite after being shown a dark, airless, teeny, tiny room that faced a brick wall. (Room 3 - don't ever accept this room). This in a city with spectacular river and city views. I'm not happy and ask to move.



My guide Emma accompanies the receptionist and me as we look for a suitable room. Emma even offers me her room, but I don't want to displace her. Why is it that people on their own, even though we pay a single supplement, get the teeny, tiny, undesirable rooms???

But I digress.

Its our last night in Porto. I have stopped by the desk on the way to dinner to see when is a good time to bring down two pieces of luggage for storage.

"Sorry - overnight storage is not allowed"

What a shock! This is a modern 4-star hotel with a full range of services. How can they not offer this very basic service???

The group goes to dinner and when we return, I contact Garry, the guide for the Camino trip and ask his help as he puts his groups at this hotel. It is Saturday nite and he sends an email to his contact. Of course, she is not available. Emma tries to help too. No luck. A rash of emails go back and forth: Garry-the hotel-me-Emma,etc. Finally at midnight I get the phone call. The final word has come from a higher-up: No, I CANNOT leave luggage at the hotel.

What to do?

In my nightly conversation with Joe, he had quipped, "well, get it a room." We had a good laugh.

But that is exactly what I did.

The man at reception worked hard at finding a minimum accommodation room for four nights. The bottom line is 102euros a night - including taxes and fees. I ask to see the room. Its on the 4th (top) floor, smallish, but with a nice size terrace with a city view! It is nicer and better appointed than room #3 - the miniscule room I had originally been given!

So the next morning I leave my two darlings, and one large bag in room 407, put the "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door and leave for Lisbon.

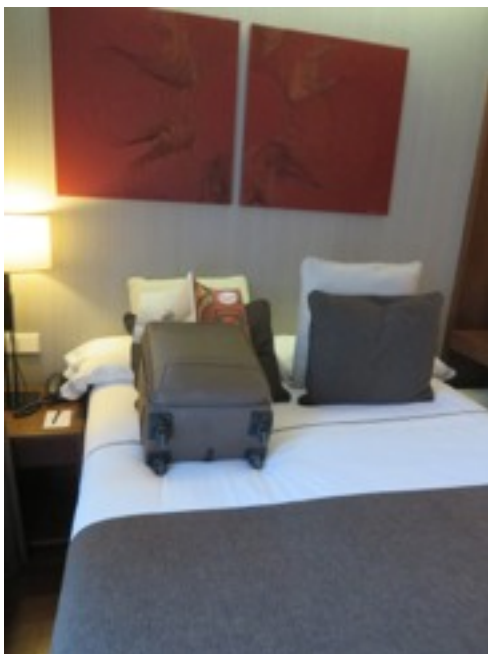
I hope they had a good time without me.



My luggage has this great view from the terrace. The 15th century Church of Sao Francisco (St. Francis) is at the far end of the street.



Here Mr. Duffle enjoys a sunny afternoon on the terrace.



Mrs. Carry-on enjoys reading a magazine and relaxing in bed.

Baby bag gets ready for a nice shower.



When I returned four days later, the curtains were open a bit, the luggage was not exactly where I had left it, and the “Do Not Disturb” sign was off of the door.

All I can think is

What happens in Porto, stays in Porto!