

# THE LUXE LEDGER VOL. 11 | APRIL EDITION

## “Birthday Bliss & Portuguese Dreams”

### April is here.

My month.  
And baby... this one feels different.

### April 17, I turn 54.

Fifty-four years of life, growth, lessons, wins, and stepping into every version of myself that I once prayed for. And if there's one thing I know for sure at this stage in my life, it's this:

You have to celebrate yourself while you're here. Not later. Not when everything is perfect. Not when life slows down.

### Now...

This birthday, I'm choosing intention. I'm choosing joy. I'm choosing luxury in the way I live, think, and experience life.

### And yes... I'm choosing me.



## TRAVEL SPOTLIGHT: PORTUGAL

This year, I'm celebrating in a way that feels aligned with everything I've worked for. As a Top Producer at Colonial Life, I've poured into my purpose, stayed disciplined, and shown up consistently. So this moment? This season? It's not by accident.

It's earned.  
Which is exactly why I'm gifting myself something meaningful:

### A journey to Portugal.

Not just a trip...

A reward.

A celebration of life as it is right now.

When I tell you this place has been on my heart? I mean that.

Portugal is giving everything it needs to give. The beauty, the culture, the energy... It's effortless. From stunning coastlines and golden beaches to colorful streets lined with those iconic tiles, every corner feels like a postcard. The architecture alone tells stories, and the ocean views? Pure peace.

But what really draws me in is the lifestyle.

It's slower. Softer. More intentional.

People take their time. They sit in cafés, enjoy their meals, walk through their cities, and actually live. And let's be honest, in a world that's always rushing, that kind of energy feels like luxury.

And the best part? It's not just beautiful... It's livable.

And you already know I'm excited about the food and wine. Fresh, flavorful, and full of culture. That alone is an experience.

Now, for me, this trip is deeper than just showing up.

I've been learning Portuguese for the past six months. So this isn't just travel... It's a connection. It's stepping into a place with intention, respect, and curiosity. And I cannot wait to immerse myself in everything it has to offer.



### Here's where I'll be spending my time:

- Lisbon: For the culture, history, and vibrant city energy
- Cascais: For that coastal elegance and ocean breeze
- Porto: For charm, character, and yes... the wine
- Algarve: For relaxation, beauty, and those breathtaking beaches

### And just when you think

*the journey ends there... it doesn't.*

*This trip is turning into a full European experience. I'll also be heading to Italy and Croatia, because why not fully step into the moment?*

*One of the highlights I'm really looking forward to is meeting my brother in Venice.*

*There's something special about sharing these experiences with family.*

And from there, we'll be setting sail on a luxury cruise with Regent Seven Seas Cruises, which, let me just say, is the definition of treating yourself.

## THIS WHOLE SEASON FOR ME?

A season of experiencing the life I've worked for, of seeing the world, creating memories, and leaning fully into joy.

### And yes... that includes YOU too.



## TALK BACK CORNER!

Before we close this chapter, I want to hear from YOU. Because your stories always inspire me right back- so tell me

### ‘Your Holiday Win Check-In’

- Have you ever been to Portugal?
- If yes, what are your top 5 spots?

DM me, or tag @abroadpodcasts

@queenshanshan.

I'll be sharing a few in April's edition because your wins deserve a spotlight too.

## SEE YOU!

On the event of Holidiays, my heart is full.

Full of gratitude for healing.

Full of love for everyone who supported my work, or simply kept me in their thoughts.

I'm wishing you health, mobility, joy, and a passport that never stays empty for long. Take this season to breathe.

To rest.

To dream.

To imagine a version of yourself that feels even more alive in 2026.

- With love & a fresh passport page,  
Queen ShanShan

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DRAYA

**Travel is a blessing.**

But preparation? That's power. And in today's world, that matters more than ever.

We're living in a time where things can shift quickly. Global uncertainty, changing policies, and yes, even times of war in different parts of the world, remind us that being prepared isn't being fearful... It's being wise.

It's about moving smart while still living fully. That's where travel insurance comes in.

Because the right coverage protects more than just your trip, **IT PROTECTS YOU.**



**Here's what to look for when choosing a solid travel insurance plan:**

- Medical coverage abroad: Because your regular insurance may not follow you internationally.
- Trip cancellations or delays: Life happens, and flexibility matters.
- Lost or delayed baggage: Because nobody has time for vacation stress.
- Emergency evacuation and support: Coverage that has your back in worst-case scenarios.

**You deserve to explore the world without worry.**

- ✓ Ready to make sure you're protected before your next trip?
- Visit shaninsure.com or message me to schedule your consultation.
- ✓ Let's make sure you're covered before you take off.

**Beauty Essentials for Travel**

Let's talk about that travel glow... because looking good while you're on the go? That's part of the experience, too.

**My go-to essentials never change:**

Clinique

Estée Lauder

Paula's Choice

**Quick Tip:** You can find these products at your local Sephora, Ulta, Macy's, Nordstrom or on their respected websites.

These are tried, trusted, and always in my bag. Why? Because they're reliable, they deliver results, and they don't require a 10-step routine to keep your skin looking fresh and healthy.



**Here's how I keep it effortless:**

- **Travel-size everything:** Keep it light, keep it cute, and keep it TSA-friendly
- **Hydration is key:** Drink your water and layer your skincare so your skin stays plump and glowing
- **Stick to a simple routine:** Cleanser, moisturizer, treatment, done
- **SPF is non-negotiable:** Sun protection is the real glow-up
- **Multi-use products:** Anything that does double duty gets priority in my bag

**Because let's be real... luxury is not overcomplicating things.**

**It's feeling confident in your skin, wherever you land.**

**April Events & Culture Highlights**

Here's what's happening in April:

- L.A. Times Festival of Books (April 18–19): The nation's largest free literary festival featuring authors, celebrities, and book lovers.
- Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival (April 10–19): Major musical acts and art installations are just a short drive away in Indio.
- Disney California Adventure Food & Wine Festival: A two-month celebration of culinary marketplaces, drinks, and Disney magic.
- PaleyFest LA (Starting April 4): TV screenings and panels at the Dolby Theatre, kicking off with Pluribus.
- DATALAND Museum Opening (Spring 2026): Refik Anadol Studio brings immersive AI art to Downtown LA.
- Hope California (April 11): A community-focused gathering to connect and inspire.

**INTERESTING ARTICLE**

There's a shift happening... and it's worth noticing. More and more Americans are exploring life abroad, seeking freedom, affordability, and a lifestyle that aligns with their values. It's not just a trend; it's a movement toward living intentionally and fully. I came across this piece that really puts it into perspective:

Click This Link to watch on

[TikTok](#)



Watching this made me think about why I'm so drawn to Portugal. The slower pace, the rich culture, the welcoming locals. It's a reminder that sometimes expanding your world isn't just about travel. It's about intentionally creating a life that reflects who you are and what you value most.

**TALK BACK CORNER!**

Before we wrap, I want to hear from you! So, tell me: "Have you ever been to Portugal? If yes, what are your top 5 spots?"

DM me, tag @abroadpodcasts or @queenshanshan, or reply right here. I'll be sharing some of your recommendations in the next edition!

**TRAVEL RIDDLE: LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE REALLY A TRAVELER**

I'm a city of seven hills, famous for colorful tiles and pastel buildings, and I flow along a river with a rich wine tradition. Where am I?

Send your guesses my way! One Luxe Reader will get a shout-out in next month's edition and bragging rights, of course.

**With Growth & Luxe Energy**

As I step into 54, I'm reflecting on growth, joy, travel, wellness, and the art of living intentionally. This year is about embracing every opportunity, every experience, and every moment that life gifts me, and I hope it inspires you to do the same.

Take the trip you've been dreaming about. Celebrate yourself. Say yes to new experiences, adventures, and moments that make your soul feel alive.

Life is too good to wait for "someday." Make now luxurious, intentional, and unforgettable. With love, gratitude, and a full heart.

