



# Porto Portugal

## 4 Day Itinerary

### Day 1

#### PORTO

Guided tour by Porto Historic Centre – a World Heritage Property

This unforgettable guided tour will walk you through the Historic Centre of Porto, a UNESCO World Heritage Property. As you amble leisurely along the ancient streets and medieval lanes you will visit some of the most important monuments of Porto such as the Bolsa Palace, a true neoclassic jewel, the Clérigos Church and the Cathedral. Admire the magnificent works of art that are the hand-painted tiles (azulejos) and ornate gilt wood-carvings that decorate impressive baroque and neoclassic churches and palaces. In the bustling and colourful markets such as the Bolhão and the traditional, highly unique shops such as the Lello Bookshop and the Majestic Café, you will discover the authentic heart of Porto, in its people. You will enjoy the stops we have arranged in charming locations so that you can relax as you sip a glass of wine from the North of Portugal and nibble on a traditional specialty.

Lunch in a tavern, an old ‘adega’ of Porto

Taverns, the Portuguese ‘tascas’ and the old ‘adegas’ offer the good popular and regional recipes, in an atmosphere of the truest character. Choose a tavern located in the historical center of Porto, at one of the oldest streets of the old city, situated in the antipodes of the habits of fast food. Clients are treated with a special kindness, and include some artists, judges and gourmets who search specialities such as the “cozido à portuguesa” (Portuguese meat stew) or the famous “tripas”, emblematic dish of the city.

River Douro cruise and visit to a Port Wine lodge with Vintage tasting

A delightful tour through the most elegant traditions of Port Wine. From medieval Porto, begin with a cruise of the six bridges that span the River Douro, on a replica of the traditional rabelo boats that, for centuries, carried casks of young wine from the Douro Valley downriver to the lodges in Vila Nova de Gaia. After the cruise, visit one of the celebrated wine lodges where the world-famous Port Wines are aged and cared for and enjoy a select tasting of two of the finest types of Port: a Vintage and a Old Tawny. At the end, relax in a local café where you will be served traditional Portuguese refreshments.

Welcome dinner Fado & Soiree

Fado conquered the Portuguese's heart quickly unquestionable their favorite melody. Singing love, jealousy, misfortune and as well as hope and dream and why not the history of a people that centuries ago elected it as their most representative song, Fado, despite its humble origins in alleys and in the old taverns, in the voice of trivial women and tramps, it soon conquered supporters among bourgeoisie, bull fighters and noblemen who gathered the typical bullfights and sovereignty of palaces. There is nothing more agreeable than having dinner in a traditional restaurant with the beautiful Fado as company.

## Day 2

### PORTO

Serralves Museum and Gardens, and the Architecture of Siza Vieira at Matosinhos  
Serralves, the most popular Museum of Modern Art in Portugal, boasts a fantastic modernist garden in the midst of lush hectares of parkland and diverse landscapes. The Museum was designed by Alvaro Siza Vieira, the most notable Portuguese architect. Winner of the Pritzger Prize, the Nobel Prize of Architecture, Siza Vieira is considered one of the finest architects worldwide. Guided visit of the Museum and its gardens; visit to another of Siza Vieira's works in Matosinhos, his birthplace, and discover his facet as a respected designer.

Lunch at a sea-food and fish restaurant at the fishing port of Matosinhos  
Matosinhos is the biggest discharging-port of sardine, of the tasteful Portuguese sardine, worldly famous. An agreeable traditional restaurant, at one of the streets near the fishing port, is the ideal place for a lunch with the most delicacies of the sea: the different shellfish, with relief to the tasteful barnacles, the coast shrimp and the stuffed spider crab, and a choice of fish to grill, including of course the typical sardines. The Vinho Verde wine, light, fresh and with light acidity, from the neighbor wine region of Minho, is the ideal match to this delicate food.

Watch a performance at the impressive Casa da Música  
The Casa da Música a new icon of the Porto, resulting of the new cultural vision of Porto 2001, European Capital of Culture. Inaugurated in 2005, this original building – a diamond-shaped white concrete box - was classified by Conde Nast Traveler as one of 'The Next Seven Wonders' in architecture of the World. It is a project of the Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas. Situated in the Mouzinho de Albuquerque Square at Porto, this marking work at the Portuguese cultural space, was object of wise and careful technical job, since its architecture and environmental integration to the equipments and materials selected.  
Watch a performance here, in one of best musical auditorium in the World.

## Day 3

### VINHO VERDE WINE REGION

Visit to the historical centre of Guimarães, classified as World Heritage by Unesco.  
Visit Guimarães, whose extraordinary historic centre with its monuments, bustling squares and narrow medieval streets was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Property. Guimarães is considered the birthplace of Portugal as it is here that our first king, D. Afonso Henriques, proclaimed the nation in 1143 A.D.

Lunch and wine visit at a majestic Chateaux at the Vinho Verde Wine Region  
Vinho Verde wine is unique in the whole world, through a blending aroma and petillance, which makes it one of the most delicious natural beverages. It is a digestive light wine due to its sparkling freshness special qualities. Vinho Verde wine, aromatic and elegant, is delightful especially in the summer.

The lunch will be in this wine chateaux producing Vinho Verde Wine. A majestic manor house, still in possession of the same family since the 14th century, inserted in a magnificent property. Surrounded of sumptuous and dazzling gardens, this property is very recognized for the heritage of the great and secular trees. Guided visit by the owner to the vineyards, adega (cellar), and house with its rich interiors, ending with an agreeable wine tasting and a lunch with recipes of regional cuisine, and served by the warm tradition of the house

Visit Amarante, charming and historic river town, and gourmet dinner

Amarante is land of famous pastries and has a beautiful historic centre, famous for the bridge over the River Tâmega and the 16th century baroque, Portuguese Renaissance São Gonçalo Church. A guided visit by this enchanting river town with the opportunity to discover the rich and famous egg pastry with conventual origin.

Gourmet dinner in a restaurant inside a stunning Manor House, classified with A Star by the Guide Michelin. The luxury décor and high quality service complement the Chef's creativity in producing superb food from the best quality local products. A five course meal with a special selection of Portuguese wines.

## Day 4

### **DUORO VALLEY, PORT AND DOURO WINEMAKING REGION**

The mythical Douro Valley Winemaking Region, classified as a World Heritage Landscape by Unesco, and land of the famous Port and Douro wines.

Guided visit to the Palace of Mateus and its beautiful gardens

Also known as the Solar de Mateus, and famously depicted on bottles of Mateus rosé wine epitomizes the flamboyance of Baroque architecture in Portugal, this baroque recreation was built in the early 18th century. Its granite wings shelter a forecourt dominated by an ornate balustrade stairway and overlooked by rooftop statues. Behind the palace is an Alice in Wonderland garden of tiny box hedges, prim statues and a fragrant cypress tunnel.

Visit and lunch at the monumental town of Lamego.

Departure to Lamego, the monumental city of Douro valley, and lunch in a restaurant renewed by its cuisine of local specialities. Time to visit the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios (Our Lady of Sorrow) and its spectacular baroque staircase, and the impressive Cathedral in the historic center.

Cruise in the Douro river or trip in a historic Steam Train at the river side

In a Douro river cruise, throughout the beautiful mountains and valleys you have the opportunity to admire the terrace slopes and wine farms where the world famous Port Wine and Douro Wine are produced.

The Douro railway line is a remarkable engineering feat. Travelling in carriages from the beginning of the century and hauled by steam (Henschel loco 0187) you can experience one of the most visible symbols of the region whilst at the same time, delight in the majestic landscapes of the Douro river valley.

By the end of the afternoon relax in the swimming pool in one of the hotels of the valley, with an astonishing view over the river and vineyards that surround the site.

Farewell dinner at a charming familiar estate producing Port and Douro wines, awarded by the Best Of Wine Tourism. At September, experience to tread grapes inside the stone tanks and live the great and vibrant ambience of the Grape Harvest Festivities!

## **Travel Agent**

To organise your tour and experience Porto's sights, please contact our preferred agent:

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