

## Secrets of Centro de Portugal PO9

Aveiro - Coimbra - Estremadura - Serra da Estrela - Planalto - Viseu

*The best kept secret of Portugal, the Centro region. From mountains to the coast through history and culture, always blessed with wine and food.*

# Caminos

by Casas Cantabricas

### Summary

Discover the treasures of Centro de Portugal - perhaps the country's best-kept secret!  
From Art-Nouveau Aveiro - the 'Portuguese Venice' - head inland for Coimbra, with its historic University and its own style of Fado music. Then south to Estremadura, littered with heritage sites - Batalha, Alcobaca and Tomar and Fátima - and with great walking and stunning beaches to boot!  
Take the mountain air in Serra da Estrela, Portugal's highest mountains before heading for the high plains of the Planalto, and discover historic fortress towns among the vineyards.  
Finish in the delightful, historic city of Viseu, the granite-built centre of the Dão wine region.



### Your Route

#### Tour Highlights:

- Aveiro with its canals and its modernist architecture
- Famous Coimbra with its monumental University
- Batalha and its magnificent Gothic monastery
- Serra da Estrela - Portugal's highest mountain range
- Castelo Rodrigo and the nearby fortress towns
- Viseu - historic centre of Dão wine region

#### Travel Tips

Fly to Porto or Lisboa from most airports in the UK. Rent a car and enjoy the hidden gems this region has to offer.

*Please consult for travel options*



### Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Porto or Lisboa		
1	Day 1 & 2	Aveiro	Aveiro	HNBE2 Classic hotel on the Aveiro canal, Double room (2 sharing)	50mins from Porto
2	Day 3 & 4	Coimbra	Coimbra	HCOI1 Historic palace with spa and pool, Double garden room (2 sharing)	1hr
3	Day 5 to 7	Estremadura	Batalha	HBAT1 Stylish hotel with view of magnificent monastery, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 10mins
4	Day 8 & 9	Serra da Estrela	Manteigas	HSDE1 Mountain design hotel with splendid views of the Serra da Estrela, Mansard double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 30mins
5	Day 10 to 12	Planalto	Castelo Rodrigo	HPLA1 Medieval charm with pool near the Spanish border, Superior room (2 sharing)	1hr 40mins
6	Day 13 & 14	Viseu	Viseu	HNBE1 Historic city hotel at the heart of the Dão wine region, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
			Departing Porto or Lisboa		1hr 30mins to Porto

### Your Itinerary

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class hire car for the duration
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map and regional guidebook
- Our own regional guide and Vamoos travel app
- NB Flights not included

If you would like to book this itinerary please call us at your earliest convenience.

If, on the other hand, you require further help or information or wish to investigate alternatives please don't hesitate to contact us.

### Stage 1



#### Region: Aveiro and Beiras Litoral

Discover Art-Nouveau Aveiro from a gondola-like 'Moliceiro'  
Sail or kayak in the Aveiro estuary, go surfing in the ocean  
Gaily-painted striped seaside houses of Costa Nova do Prado  
Visit the Vista Alegre porcelain factory  
Explore Playa de Barra and the wild dunes of São Jacinto

#### Classic hotel on the Aveiro canal

Right on the water beside the main canal in Aveiro, this elegant, classical hotel with its modernist exterior is a fine example of the Art Nouveau architecture which is the trademark of the city of Aveiro. The hotel's interior is charming, with a perfect balance of old and new, creating a very relaxing atmosphere. The emphasis here is very much on outstanding personal service with great care being taken over every detail. Here you're in ...[Read More](#)



### Stage 2



#### Region: Coimbra and around

Coimbra University - stunning buildings, stunning views  
Sé Velha, Portuguese Romanesque at its finest  
Take in a fado show - Coimbra style of course  
Jewish Quarter - especially magical by night  
Roman ruins at Conimbriga

#### Historic palace with spa and pool

Famous throughout Portugal as the romantic setting of the tragic love story of star-crossed Doña Inês and Prince Pedro, this monumental, one-time royal, palace has now been renovated and converted into a luxury hotel. Set in its own grounds with pool area, arboretum (complete with a sequoia planted by Wellington during his stay) and even a small golf course, this truly is an oasis of peace whilst just a stone's throw from the bustling centre o...[Read More](#)



### Stage 3



#### Region: Estremadura and Ribatejo

The magnificent monasteries of Batalha and Alcobaça  
 São Martinho do Porto a little pearl set on a string of surf washed Atlantic beaches  
 The Convent at Tomar, delightful, historic city of the Templars  
 Escape to the Sierras de Aire y Candeeiros Nature Park – riddled with caves  
 Explore medieval Óbidos with its famous white houses

#### Stylish hotel with view of magnificent monastery

Set in a residential area above the town of Batalha, with its astonishingly beautiful C14th Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitoria, this delightful, family run hotel with great amenities including a swimming pool, small gym and even an art and craft's shop, will embrace you at once with its informal and relaxing atmosphere. The hotel is light, bright and colourful with a modern, elegant design and the owner's original paintings and objects d'art ...[Read More](#)



### Stage 4



#### Region: Serra da Estrela

Walking, cycling, kayaking... in the Serra da Estrela Nature Park  
 Visit the Burel Wool factory in Manteigas  
 Scale the Torre peak – Portugal's highest  
 Manteigas and Sabugueiro – charming mountain villages  
 Rich Jewish heritage and historic castles of Belmonte and the Planalto

#### Mountain design hotel with splendid views of the Serra da Estrela

A breath of fresh, mountain air, this delightful small hotel-spa at the heart of the Serra da Estrela is full of surprises and is everything a mountain lodge should be – and more. At 1500m above sea level, this architect-designed hotel is truly integrated in its surroundings bringing the spectacular sierra views right into every room - but it's the customer service and attention to every detail that really make this a unique and special ex...[Read More](#)



### Stage 5



#### Region: Planalto-Fortress towns

Visit the fortress towns of the Planalto – Trancoso, Almeida, Marialva, Castelo Rodrigo...  
Paleolithic rock-art in the Coa Valley – 5000 petroglyphs – some 22000 years old!  
Sample the local wines and olive oils of the Beira Alta  
Visit the Faia Brava nature reserve with wild horses, cattle and large birds of prey  
Explore the Douro International Nature Park  
Pop over the border to Spain's Ciudad Rodrigo or even Salamanca

#### Medieval charm with pool near the Spanish border

In a privileged position in the tiny walled village of Castelo Rodrigo, with the eponymous castle looming large, this delightful guest house is a treasure and makes the perfect base from which to discover the historic fortress towns of the Planalto, once Portugal's first line of defence against the Castilian and the Moor. The guest-house is housed in three buildings, each lovingly restored and decorated with great taste and each with its own...[Read More](#)



### Stage 6



#### Region: Viseu & the Dão wine region

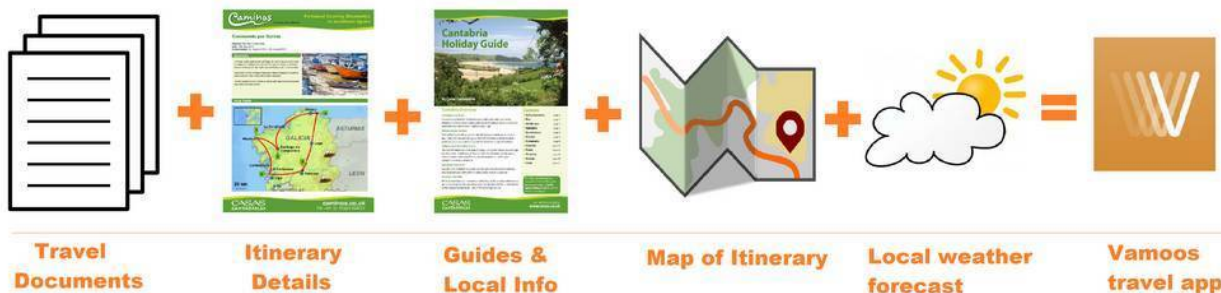
Delightful Viseu, historic centre of the Dão wine region  
Grão Vasco museum, Portuguese Renaissance at its best  
Viseu's imposing granite-built Sé cathedral  
Dão wine route, historic vineyards, velvety reds  
Hike the Sierra de Caramulo and visit the Caramulo car museum  
Visit historic Vouzela and take a bike ride down the via verde

#### Historic city hotel at the heart of the Dão wine region

Facing the Cathedral at the heart of Viseu's old town this grand 18th century house has been converted into a delightful small hotel retaining all its original charm and feeling. Owned by a family dealing in antiques and fine-art, the furnishings and décor are truly first-class and give the hotel a very authentic feel - with the added curiosity is that every item in the hotel is for sale should you be interested! Each room is like a smal...[Read More](#)



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- directions to find each hotel (embedded within the map)
- local weather forecast

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