

## Porto, Douro & Las Beiras PO10

**Porto - Douro Valley - Planalto - Serra da Estrela - Coimbra - Aveiro & the Atlantic**

*A 14 night tour taking in the best of Porto and the Douro Valley before exploring the less well known but fascinating region of Las Beiras from the highlands of Serra da Estrela to the Atlantic coast.*



by Casas Cantabricas

### Summary

This delightful round trip, full of exciting contrasts and experiences, starts on the Atlantic, in the city of Porto, before forging inland to explore breathtaking scenery of the Douro valley.

From the vineyards we head south into the rugged, boulder-strewn, landscape of the Altoplano with its famous fortress towns then up into the Serra da Estrela, Portugal's highest mountain range - a chance to get back to nature and recharge your batteries.

From there it's westward bound, stopping in historic Coimbra with its prestigious university before ending up in stylish, Art-Nouveau Aveiro, back on the wild Atlantic coast.



### Your Route

#### Tour Highlights:

- Charming historic Porto
- The Douro Valley, the worlds oldest & most scenic wine region
- Fortress towns of the Planalto
- Pop over to Salamanca, Spain
- Serra da Estrela, Portugal's highest mountains
- Art-Nouveau Aveiro on the Atlantic

#### 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	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Porto		
1	Day 1 & 2	Porto	Porto	HOP01 Delightful guesthouse with garden in the heart of Porto, Double room (2 sharing)	30mins from airport
2	Day 3 to 5	Douro valley	Vale de Mendiz	HDOU2 Lovely winery hotel with superb views and pool, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 40mins
3	Day 6 & 7	Planalto	Castelo Rodrigo	HPLA1 Medieval charm with pool near the Spanish border, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 10mins
4	Day 8 & 9	Serra da Estrela	Manteigas	HSDE1 Mountain design hotel with splendid views of the Serra da Estrela, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
5	Day 10 to 12	Coimbra	Coimbra	HCOI1 Historic palace with spa and pool, Double room (2 sharing)	2hrs 10mins
6	Day 13 & 14	Beira Litoral	Aveiro	HNBE2 Classic hotel overlooking the Aveiro canal, Double room (2 sharing)	1hr
			Departing Porto		1hr to Porto airport

### Your Itinerary

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- 4 door economy class car hire from leaving Porto
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map and guidebook
- Our own app including travel documents & destination guides
- 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: Porto

Ribeira, Porto's fascinating historic centre, a World Heritage site  
Cross the impressive Dom Luis I iron bridge to the Port Wine Lodges  
Art for all from finest museums to simple galleries  
Walk the lanes, sail the river, live and breathe Porto  
Ferry to Afurada and the golden beach of Estrela

#### Delightful guesthouse with garden in the heart of Porto

This elegant town house with a lovely enclosed garden is beautifully presented. Tucked down a side street known for its little art galleries, a short walk to the historic centre and all the sights of Porto, and with plenty of bars, restaurants and an excellent shopping street just nearby, you really couldn't be better placed. Transformed by a local architect and French designer a few years ago, the furnishings and decor of this traditional ... [Read More](#)



### Stage 2



#### Region: Douro Valley

Fabulous Douro scenery – take an unforgettable boat trip  
World Heritage Douro vineyards, the World's oldest demarcated wine region!  
Romantic Amarante on the River Tamega  
Lamego – famous stairs of Nossa Senhora dos Remedios  
Superb gastronomy in the atmospheric “adeegas” taverns

#### Lovely winery hotel with superb views and pool

Perched high above the Douro in the delightful Vale de Mendiz (known as the valley of gold), with the most stunning views of the surrounding hills and terraced vineyards snaking their way down the valley to Pinhao, this lovely, small rural hotel makes a perfect base for exploring the region. At one time the Magalhaes family home and estate, producing port since 1870, it was transformed into a hotel with all modern comforts in 2005. With a ... [Read More](#)



### Stage 3



#### 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 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 experience...[Read More](#)





### Stage 5



#### 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 Conímbriga

#### 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 6



#### Region: Northern Beiras

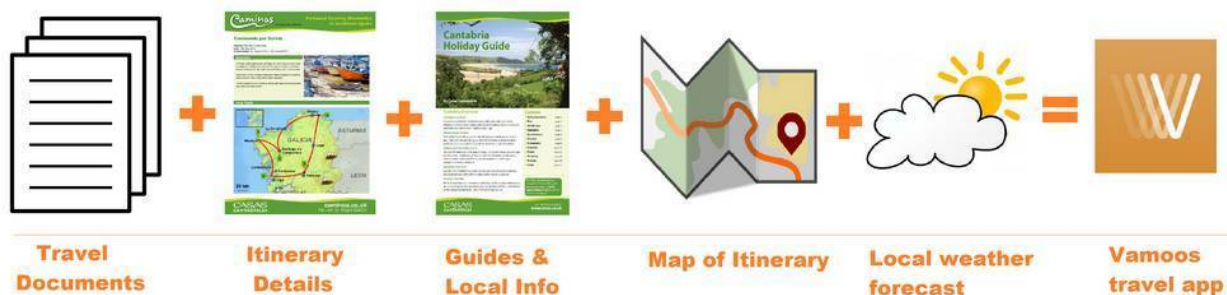
Discover Modernist Aveiro from a gondola-like Moliceiro  
Delightful Viseu, historic centre of the Dão wine region  
Sail or kayak in the Aveiro estuary, go surfing in the ocean  
Gaily-painted striped seaside houses of Costa Nova do Prado  
Make a trip to Coimbra – Portugal's finest University city  
Hike the Serra de Caramulo and visit the Carmulo car museum  
Visit historic Vouzela and take a bike ride down the via verde

#### Classic hotel overlooking 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](#)



### Vamoos - your personal travel App and e-Document manager



#### Travel paper-free with Vamoos

As a Caminos client you will receive your own personal Vamoos travel app and e-document manager for mobile devices.

This is a paperless system which allows you to keep all of your important travel documentation and key information in one place and carry it with you wherever you go.

Configured for iPhone and Android, for use on both tablets and mobile phones.

In the app you will find:

- your itinerary
- your letters and receipts
- your ferry voucher / car-hire voucher as applicable
- point to point directions
- regional guides to the areas you will be visiting
- a general food and vocab guide
- a map with each hotel geo located
- directions to find each hotel (embedded within the map)
- local weather forecast

Also, if you have any other travel documents that you'd like to load to the application you can send them to us and we'll load them on there for you.

#### What our clients say...

*"We loved your Vamoos app - it really enhanced our pre-holiday planning and meant we had everything at our fingertips without having to have WiFi during the trip. The detail provided was exceptional. Everyone should use it!"* ..... Client 2018

*"I particularly liked the use of Vamoos app to provide all the holiday information including off-line maps & travelling directions so we always had this to hand."* ..... Client 2018

*"We particularly liked the Vamoos app which placed all our holiday information - and more at our fingertips"* ..... Client 2018