

## Best of the north-west - PO6

**Porto - Galicia - León - Salamanca - Douro Valley**

Discover the best of north-west Iberia; Porto, Santiago, León and Salamanca - and lots of special treats along the way

# Caminos

by Casas Cantabricas

### Summary

A fantastic combination of the North of Portugal highlights with the magnificent cities of Salamanca and Santiago de Compostela, starting from Porto or Santiago. Discover two countries in one trip, with all their similarities and their differences.

Visit the monumental city of Salamanca, a historic university town. Vineyards and nature, food and wine. From start to finish you'll find striking scenery, great walking, superb food and wine, great cities and lovely, well preserved towns to investigate as well as the legacy of hundreds of years of pilgrimage.



### Your Route

#### Tour Highlights:

Porto Old Town & Wine Lodges.  
Viana & the Atlantic coast  
Rias Baixas & Historic Santiago  
El Bierzo & León  
Monumental Salamanca  
Douro valley, the world's oldest demarcated vineyards

#### Travel tips:

Fly directly to Porto from:

Gatwick or Heathrow with TAP  
Gatwick with British Airways  
Stansted, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Birmingham or Dublin with Ryanair  
Gatwick, Luton, Bristol or Manchester with Easyjet.

or to Santiago from  
Gatwick with Easyjet  
Stansted with Ryanair  
Heathrow with Vueling to La Coruña

*Please consult for other travel options*



### Itinerary Overview

Stage	Itinerary	Region	Location	Hotel, Room	Travel/drive time
			Arriving Porto		
1	Day 1 & 2	Porto	Porto	HOPO2 Elegant, Baroque castle hotel in Porto	20mins
2	Day 3 & 4	Minho / Costa	Vila de Punhe	HMIN2 Manor house with pool, surrounded by vineyards near coast	1hr
3	Day 5 & 6	Rias Bajas	San Amaro	HAMA1 Stylish hotel with pool among vineyards, near coast	1hr 40mins
4	Day 7 & 8	El Bierzo, León	San Esteban de Valdueza	HLEO4 Country hotel among the mountains	3hrs 10mins
5	Day 9 & 10	Salamanca	Salamanca	HSAL3 Charming boutique hotel in Salamanca	2hrs 30mins
6	Day 11 & 12	Douro Valley	Vale de Mendiz	HDOU2 Lovely winery hotel with superb views and pool	3hrs 30mins
			Departing Porto		1hr 20mins to Porto airport

### Your Itinerary

What the cost includes:

- Two people in rooms as detailed, bed & breakfast accommodation in each of the hotels
- Economy class hire car for the duration
- Regional roadmap
- Point-to-point directions
- Complementary map and Portugal guide book
- Our own 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: 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

#### Elegant, Baroque castle hotel in Porto

This gorgeously romantic, Baroque castle, full of character, set in its own beautiful gardens, is the perfect base to visit historic Porto. Built in 1887 as a private house, this listed building with its imposing tower is wonderfully atmospheric and, being set on a vantage point, commands lovely views of the city. The location is excellent - fairly near the centre (a twenty minute walk) with on site parking and the metro just a short walk a...[Read More](#)



### Stage 2



#### Region: Minho/Costa

Imposing Viana do Castelo with its long, surfy windswept Atlantic coastline  
Delightful towns and villages along the river Minho: Caminha, Valenca, Moncao and Melgacao  
Historic step in the Portuguese Santiago pilgrim way  
Graceful Ponte de Lima with its Roman bridge  
Sample the Vinho Verde wine and hearty local fare

#### Manor house with pool, surrounded by vineyards near coast

As you come up the long vine-covered cobblestone drive to this grand C17th manor house, home to the Abreu Teixeira family for the last three hundred years, you immediately feel a certain magic, the pull of the past... Surrounded by vineyards and woodlands, the delightful grounds with courtyards, lawns, shrubberies, and a lovely pool area create a feeling of total relaxation and serenity. No better place to read a good book or wander in the ...[Read More](#)



### Stage 3



#### Region: Rias Bajas, Galicia

Feast on the shellfish farmed locally in the Rias  
The idyllic islands of Cies and Ons, both National Parks  
Vigo, Europe's largest fishing port and a lively city at any time of year  
Albariño wines - arguably Spain's finest whites - visit Cambados, the charming old town at the heart of the region  
The Galician Rias - broad estuaries, a haven for watersports from sailing to surfing.

#### Stylish hotel with pool among vineyards, near coast

Looking out over Albariño vineyards and gently rolling hills beyond, in the heart of the Salnes valley with its mild and agreeable climate in the Rias Baixas, this very special hotel, in a sleepy hamlet, with a pool and an excellent restaurant, is a dream come true. The owners spent many years searching for the perfect location and this is it! A harmonious blend of century old stone buildings with dynamic modern, with original features and or...[Read More](#)



### Stage 4



#### Region: El Bierzo y Las Médulas

Las Médulas - extraordinary red-rock landscape formed by Roman mining  
Historic El Bierzo, a land seemingly lost in time.  
Full bodied local wines, delicious peppers, botilla, cecina....  
Visit the Knights Templar castle at Ponferrada – straight from a fairytale  
Historic Villafranca del Bierzo, right on the Camino

#### Country hotel among the mountains

A typical 'Bierzano' stone building recently converted into a comfortable, charming small hotel by the owners who also run the village's popular 'Mesón' restaurant. In an idyllic situation at the entrance to the Valle del Silencio the hotel is the perfect base to discover the main highlights of El Bierzo; Las Medulas, Villafranca, Ponferrada with its Knights Templar castle, Peñalba de Santiago and the Camino de Santiago - but you might just ...[Read More](#)



### Stage 5



#### Region: Salamanca

Magnificent Salamanca Spain's foremost university town  
Walking in the Sierra de Francia  
Gijuelo ham, one of the best in Spain  
Site of Wellington's famous victory at the Battle of Salamanca and nearby Ciudad Rodrigo  
Via de la Plata - ancient Roman route linking Sevilla with Gijón on the north coast.  
Arribes del Duero Nature Park - breathtaking catamaran journey on Duero river  
Wines of Sierra de Salamanca and nearby Toro and Rueda

#### Charming boutique hotel in Salamanca

Situated between the cathedral and the river this small yet historic hotel is the perfect base from which to explore the old quarter of Salamanca. Though centrally placed the thick stone walls offer a peaceful retreat from the city noise. The emphasis here is very much on quality and outstanding personal service with great care being taken over every detail. The owner Julian and his staff will go out of their way to make sure you get the best ...[Read More](#)



### Stage 6



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



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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
- 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