

Porto, Douro & Las Beiras PO10

Highlights of the Douro Valley & Centro de Portugal

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.



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:

- World Heritage Porto Old Town with its famous Port Wine Lodges
- Stunning scenery of the Douro Valley
- Fortress towns and prehistoric rock-art of the Planalto
- Magnificent rocky wilderness of the Serra da Estrela
- Elegant, lively Coimbra and its monumental University
- A 'moliceiro' ride in Art-Nouveau Aveiro

Travel Tips:

Fly directly to Porto and hire a car – the best options are:

Gatwick: TAP Portugal or Easyjet

Stansted: Ryanair

Heathrow: British Airways

Edinburgh: Ryanair

Liverpool & Birmingham: Ryanair

Manchester: Ryanair, TAP or Easyjet

Luton & Bristol: Easyjet

Dublin: Ryanair and TAP

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, 1 x Double room (Garden or Castle, two sharing)	20mins from airport
2	Day 3 to 5	Douro Valley	Vale de Mendiz	HDOU2 Winery hotel with superb views and pool, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	1hr 40mins
3	Day 6 & 7	Planalto	Castelo Rodrigo	HPLA1 Medieval charm with pool near the Spanish border, 1 x Superior room (tree series 2 sharing)	2hrs 10mins
4	Day 8 & 9	Serra da Estrela	Manteigas	HSDE1 Mountain design hotel with splendid views of the Serra da Estrela, 1 x Mansard double room (2 sharing)	1hr 30mins
5	Day 10 to 12	Coimbra	Coimbra	HCOI3 City hotel in the heart of Coimbra, 1 x Double room (two sharing)	2hrs 10mins
6	Day 13 & 14	Beira Litoral	Aveiro	HNBE2 Classic hotel on the Aveiro canal, 1 x Double room (2 sharing)	1hr
			Departing Porto		1hr to Porto airport

* Double room (2 sharing) can be either double or twin bedded. If you have specific requirements, please let us know.

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
- 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

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

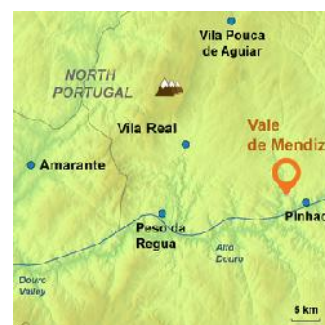


Region: Alto Douro

Take an unforgettable boat trip from Peso de Regua upriver to Pinhao
Or an historic steam train journey on the same route
Pinhao and its delightful train station, decorated with beautiful azulejos – tiles
Magical walks and stunning views among terraced vineyards
Picnic at the beauty spot of São Salvador do Mundo
Take a trip to see the Paleolithic rock-art in the valley of Côa

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](#)



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 ex...[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 Conimbriga

City hotel in the heart of Coimbra

This three-star, family run, city hotel is ideally located in central Coimbra just a short walk from the old town, the riverside and the university. Nearly all the rooms offer wonderful views to the city and the breakfast room and roof-top terrace have one of the best views Coimbra has to offer. The staff are exceptionally helpful and friendly and will go out of their way to make sure you feel at home from the moment you enter and get the ...[Read More](#)



Stage 6



Region: Aveiro and Beiras Litoral

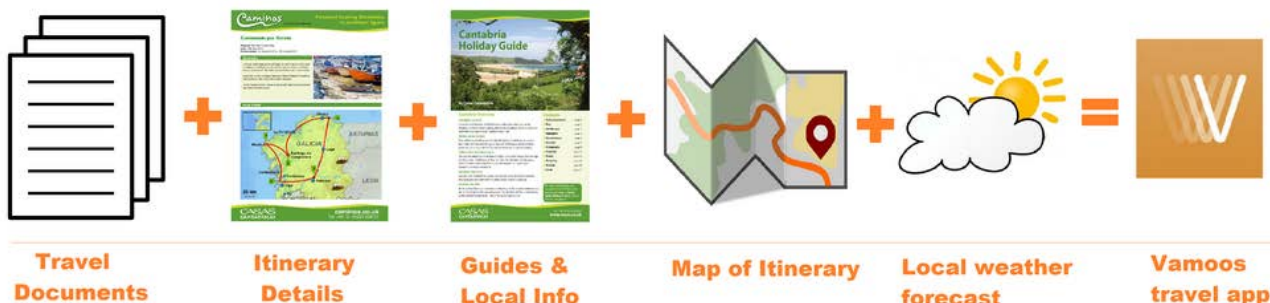
Discover Art-Nouveau Aveiro from a gondola-like 'Moliceiro'
Sail or kayak in the Aveiro estuary, go surfing in the ocean
Gaily-painted striped seaside houses of Costa Nova do Prado
Visit the Vista Alegre porcelain factory
Explore Playa de Barra and the wild dunes of São Jacinto

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](#)



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What our clients say...

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