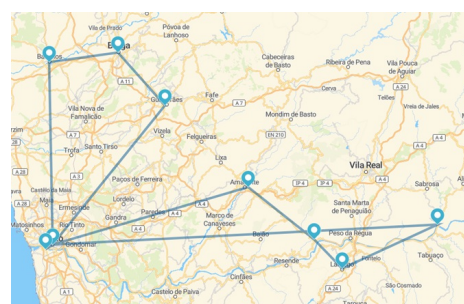




Portugal, 5 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route through the Minho Region and Douro Valley

The "Minho and Douro Valley" tour is the ideal itinerary for lovers of fine wine, as you'll have the chance to taste Portugal's very best port wine. This tour will take you across the north of the country to discover the stunning Minho and Douro Valleys. Verdant vineyard-covered slopes rise up above these rivers. All of this with Porto as a base, a city full of life and brimming with amazing treasures, with modernist buildings standing alongside monuments from bygone times. Just outside Porto is Vila Nova de Gaia, on the banks of the River Douro and home to the wineries with Porto Designation of Origin. There are many wineries in the region; some more picturesque, some more traditional... What you'll see here is that the wine is different. And that's because they add a very special ingredient: wine brandy. You can also photograph the spectacular vineyards of the Douro, declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO, as well as some of its most characteristic villages such as Amarante, whose bridge was used to defend citizens from the French invasion in the early nineteenth century. From the Mesao Frio viewpoint, you'll snatch the best views of the river as it meanders through spectacular vineyards. And in Lamego you'll find the most important Baroque shrine in Portugal: the Santuario de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. A journey with views before reaching Pinhao, the wine capital of Porto. Take a walk through the terraces, enter the estates and savour the wonderful wines. You'll also have the chance to visit the rural area of Minho and explore towns such as Guimaraes, the birthplace of Portugal and a place with an incomparable historical heritage. You'll also pass through Braga, dubbed the "Portuguese Rome" due to its Roman past. And finally, the birthplace of Portugal's colourful rooster, aka the medieval city of Barcelos, where you can't leave without taking home a souvenir of this much-revered bird. Activity-filled days to enjoy nature, but also to taste wines and savour Portuguese cuisine.



NATURE

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - PORTO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Porto and rental car pick-up. Welcome to Portugal's second largest city! The time you have on this first day will depend on your flight schedule, but we suggest at least a stroll around the old town before dinner. If your flight lands late at night, no worries because tomorrow you can fit everything into your plans.

The City Hall is a great place to start the tour. Before heading up the small ramp that leads to the Consistorio, take a few minutes to admire its architecture. It's located on Avenida dos Aliados, towering over the Praça da Liberdade, and you'll definitely be impressed by its 70-metre tower. Our next stop will be at the Banco de Portugal.

The walk between the two buildings is very pleasant and if you sharpen your hearing you will start to familiarize yourself with the Portuguese language.

The vast majority of the buildings in this area are Modernist, just like the two we have already mentioned. Just 10 minutes' away is one of the city's most visited places: the Livraria Lello bookshop. A bookshop?! Pop inside and you'll see why. Then you can head over to the Igreja dos Clérigos church with its famous tower. (Tip: Find out if the tower is open because it's well worth going up. Of course, you need to be quite fit to climb up the 200 steps to the top. Remember that it has 49 bells, which might catch you unawares if they start ringing without warning!). Photography lovers will find hundreds of fascinating spots in the city. One of them is the Sé do Porto cathedral, a landmark that makes locals very proud. To round off the day, where better than on Rua Santa Catarina for some light shopping? You'll have a great time wandering around its shopping centre and the stores. After visiting the Majestic Café (if there isn't too much of a queue) and finding out about its history, you can go to dinner at any of the trendy restaurants in the city. Remember that you've got the car to move around.

Overnight stay in Porto.

DAY 2 · PORTO - VILA NOVA DE GAIA - PORTO

After having some 'pasteis de nata' (typical custard tarts) and a good 'café pingao' (coffee with a dash of milk) for breakfast, it's time to get on the road. You can keep on exploring Porto, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, but we also suggest a trip out of town to discover the incredible universe of wine in the area - an authentic trip back in time. The first thing is to head in the direction of Vila Nova de Gaia, on the banks of the River Douro and home to the wineries with Porto Designation of Origin. The wines of this area are characterised by the use of aguardiente brandy to stop fermentation, an ingredient that was first added in the seventeenth century for them to survive long boat trips without going off. (Tip: Sign up to a guided tour with a tasting session. There are visits that combine several wineries. Activity not included). After savouring the best drinks from the area, you can visit some more of the city. A different way of doing this is on a rabelo, wooden boats that sail up and down the River Douro and which were formerly used to transport barrels of wine. When you're back in Porto, there's still an array of places to visit. Modernist and classic buildings stand alongside über-modern and avant-garde constructions. A great example is the Casa da Música.

It's also a tradition to hop on the tram and travel around the city aboard this charismatic form of transport. There are several lines, so you just have to choose the one that takes your desired route and then sit back and enjoy!

If you have time, don't miss the Igreja da Trindade, Igreja do Carmo and Igreja dos Carmelitas churches. A good idea is to eat in the Ribeira district - try a 'francesinha' (a meat lover's doorstep sandwich) or some cod dishes - and then take a walk along the river. When you're on the way back to Porto, don't miss the Mirador da Vitória stop. It's one of the most stunning places to see the city at sunset. And at the end of the day, head to Rua Candido dos Reis, one of the on-trend areas to have some dinner while listening to live fados in the background.

Overnight stay in Porto.

● DAY 3 · PORTO - MINHO REGION (GUIMARÃES - BRAGA - BARCELOS) - PORTO

Today, we're going to explore the Minho province in the northwest corner of Portugal, the closest to Galicia in Spain, famous for its idyllic countryside.

This area is said to be the birthplace of its emblematic rooster.,

The first stop of our trip today is Guimaraes, considered the birthplace of Portugal because Alfonso I, the first king of the country, was born in this town. It still remains an example of the typical laid-back and traditional character of northern Portugal. The town retains a charming medieval quarter which, thanks to its array of historical monuments, has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Stroll around its maze-like streets dotted with Gothic and traditional buildings, or head to a sunny square in search of the best local coffee. You can get to the medieval quarter by car, but if you want to leave it behind, you can reach the old town on the Da Penha cable car, which also commands spectacular views over the town and the Penha Park. Also worth visiting is its castle, located on the top of Monte Largo, from where the city defended itself against Arab and Norman attacks. Given its height, this impressive castle is a great place to admire the best views of the town. Another of its well-known monuments is on Monte Largo. It is the Palace of the Dukes of Braganza, an estate inspired by 14th-century European styles and home to Flemish tapestries, medieval weapons and a beautiful chapel with stained glass windows. If you keep driving for another half an hour on the A11, you'll get to Braga, one of the oldest cities in Portugal and sometimes known as the "Portuguese Rome". And not only that, it's also one of the most religious cities in the country. In fact, it once rivalled Santiago de Compostela in terms of power and importance. The peal of its thirty bells still shows that its past is well and truly alive. As it's one of the most devout cities in the country, you'll find many churches to visit here. Must-sees include the Romanesque cathedral and the Bom Jesus do Monte. But this is not just a religious city; it also boasts a young and modern spirit full of culture, trade and cuisine. After all, it's a university city full of students who keep the atmosphere lively.

About 20 minutes' drive west is Barcelos, another medieval town popular for its famous roosters with colourful crests, a veritable symbol of Portugal. You'll see them in all the souvenir shops, so you probably won't be able to resist temptation and will end up taking one home with you.

You'll also find them at the Feira de Barcelos market, located next to the River Cávado. It's a famous country market where stallholders still sing out their products to attract buyers. It's only held on Thursdays, but it's so popular that Barcelos turns into the largest and best outdoor market in the country for one day. On the way back to Porto, prepare yourself to stop off more than once to take some amazing photos of the spectacular Douro vineyards, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and the breath-taking meadows in the area.

Overnight stay in Porto.

● DAY 4 · PORTO - DOURO VALLEY (AMARANTE - MESA O FRIO - LAMEGO - PINHÃO) - PORTO

Today will be spent in the Douro Valley. This is a unique landscape of mountains and rivers which gave rise one of God's famous nectars: Port wine. Stop off first in Amarante, a small town on the banks of the river Tâmega and with a very picturesque old quarter. The most remarkable thing here is the São Gonçalo bridge and the church of the same name, of which there are amazing panoramic views from one of the banks. As you drive along the road from here, the vineyards become more and more abundant. You'll stop at Mesão Frio, a tiny village that commands one of the first sweeping views of the famous Douro landscape. You'll find signposts to a vantage point that delivers truly unbeatable views. The trip continues to Lamego, where you'll visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedios with its beautiful gardens and surroundings. Enjoy the magnificent sweeping views over the River Douro, source of the most famous Portuguese wine: Port wine. After lunch, pop over to Pinhao to visit its famous railway station with hand-painted blue and white tiles depicting the region's history.

Return to Porto. Overnight stay.

● DAY 5 · PORTO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes _____

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Porto.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Porto.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Porto direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Porto



Vila Nova de Gaia



Guimaraes



Braga



Barcelos



Amarante



Mesao Frio



Lamego



Pinhão



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.

- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.