

PORTO
& NORTH

 visit Porto & North
Portugal

ITINERARIES

MINHO



AWAKE TO MINHO.



Minho promises to awaken your greenest side. Here, you can feel all the seasons of the year and indulge in experiences as authentic as the people from Minho. Immerse yourself in fresh waters, experience unforgettable adventures, find a stunning nature and taste the traditional delights of the region. Your senses will certainly be awakened by Minho.

Page by page, you will also be able to find some recommendations for organised experiences and suggestions of partners so that you can enjoy a peaceful visit. Get in touch with us for a more personalised service. We guarantee completely safe experiences.

SELECT THE
NUMBER OF
DAYS OF YOUR VISIT.



1 DAY ESPOSENDE AND BARCELOS

MORNING

You will find some of the best **beaches** in the north of Portugal in Esposende, all of them located in the Protected Landscape Area of the Coast of Esposende. Start the day with a walk of **Parque Natural Litoral Norte** [Nature Park], which runs from Esposende to Fão. It is about 5 km of rich landscape with a biodiversity like no other in Portugal.

In Fão, taste one of the most **famous delicacies** of regional sweets, the delicious *Clarinhas de Fão*. Visit **Pastelaria Clarinha**, in the historic town centre. Here, in addition to the famous *Clarinhas*, you can also taste puff pastry sweets and other specialties. Continue your visit heading to **Apúlia**, land of the *sargaceiros* [sargassum gatherers]. Next to **Apúlia beach**, you can see the picturesque **windmills**, built in granite and schist, with a circular plan and conical shape.

We recommend

Discover the most untouched Minho landscapes and unforgettable scenarios on a hike with a local guide. This guided tour (starting at 12€) will take you up mountains and through deep valleys and includes belvederes with memorable views. It starts in the parish of Marinhas, in Esposende, a place with history, and then you will visit the Abelheira Windmills. They are not the best-known mills in the region, but we suggest you visit them to have a first-hand glimpse of the wealth grain once represented. More information [here](#).

AFTERNOON

We propose an afternoon in **Barcelos**, a Minho city full of colour and tradition. The iconic **Galo de Barcelos** [Barcelos Rooster] welcomes you and you will find different versions of it several times during your visit.

Here you can stroll through the old **Largo da Feira**, today Campo da República, where you will find the 18th century **Churches, Bom Jesus da Cruz Church** and **Nossa Senhora do Terço Church** and will be able to go shopping at the **largest handicraft fair in the country**, which happens every Thursday.

To capture the essence of the artistic expression of Minho, visit **Museu da Olaria** [Pottery Museum], with more than 9,000 art pieces, and **Centro de Artesanato de Barcelos**.

At the city centre, go up to **Torre da Porta Nova**, also known as Torre de Barcelos, a vestige of the city wall where you will enjoy panoramic views over the historic city centre, the Cávado River and Monte da Franqueira. Also at the same place, there is the Tourist Office and a permanent handicraft exhibition.

Be sure to include a walk through the gardens, namely **Passeio dos Assentos** or **Jardim das Barrocas**, full of colour, symbolism and decorative elements in the Rococo style.

If you visit this city in May, take the opportunity to attend the traditional celebrations of **Festa das Cruzes** [Crosses Festival].

WHERE TO TASTE PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

BARCELOS

- Pedra Furada (traditional Portuguese and Mediterranean cuisine)
 - Babette (traditional Portuguese and Mediterranean cuisine)
 - Casa dos Arcos (Mediterranean and European cuisine)
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ESPOSENDE

- O Buraco (Mediterranean cuisine and seafood)
- Foz do Cávado (Portuguese cuisine and seafood)

WHERE TO REST IN PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

ESPOSENDE

- Axis Ofir Beach Resort Hotel (Hotel ★★★★★)
 - Apulia Praia Hotel (Hotel ★★★★★)
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BARCELOS

- Casas do Rio (Country House)

DAY 1

VIANA DO CASTELO

MORNING

Start at the highest point of the city, the imposing **Santa Luzia Shrine**, where you can contemplate the panorama of the coast. Hop aboard the **Elevador de Santa Luzia** [funicular] (starting at 2€) for a quick and relaxed descent. In the city centre, visit **Museu do Traje** [Traditional Costumes Museum] (2€) and **Casa Natário**, a must-stop to taste the city's famous delicacy: the *Bola de Berlim* (doughnut). The route continues towards **Eiffel Bridge**, by architect Gustave Eiffel, and take the opportunity to visit **Navio Gil Eanes** (4.50€), a military training ship.

We recommend

A **90-minute boat ride** (prices starting at 13.50€), with musical entertainment and tasting of *vinho verde* and other regional products. This tour takes you to the Eiffel Bridge, the Gil Eanes Ship and the Cabedelo Beach.

More information [here](#).

NOTE: All prices shown are the general tariff and may be subject to changes. For more information contact us through our - Live Chat.

AFTERNOON

Take the **Ecovia do Litoral Norte** which, in Viana do Castelo, extends along approximately 34 km. To walk only part of this route, cross Eiffel Bridge over the Lima River, then use the access to Ponte das Areias [Bridge] and São Lourenço Chapel, continuing along the existing paths closest to the banks until you arrive at Cabedelo Beach (approximate distance of 4 km).

We recommend

Enjoy a different experience at **Feel Viana**, a sustainable 4-star hotel located in the extensive pine forest of Cabedelo Beach. In this refuge, you can enjoy the **wellness service** (on request), **stand up paddle** classes (starting at 30€) or **bike rides** (rental starting at 20€). If you want to spend one-on-one time, there is a **kids club** with several activities available (starting at 15€).

More information [here](#).

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WHERE TO TASTE PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

VIANA DO CASTELO

- O Vasco (Mediterranean and European cuisine)
- O Laranjeira (Mediterranean and European cuisine)
- Camelo (Mediterranean and European cuisine)

WHERE TO REST IN PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

VIANA DO CASTELO

- Hotel Feel Viana (Hotel ★★★★★)
- Pousada de Viana do Castelo - Monte Sta. Luzia (Pousada de Portugal)
- Hotel A Fábrica do Chocolate (Hotel ★★★★★)

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DAY 2

PONTE DE LIMA

MORNING

In **Ponte de Lima**, one of the oldest towns in Portugal, you will find iconic landscapes and distinct gastronomic delights, including *Vinho Verde*.

Start by visiting **Torre da Cadeia Velha** [Old Jail Tower], one of the most remarkable testaments of what remains of the old wall and where the tourist shop is located; the **Roman Bridge**, the city's landmark; **Museu do Brinquedo** [Toy Museum] (3€), which will fill you with nostalgia. Finish your tour at **Parque do Arnado**, a themed space overlooking the river.

Before leaving, visit the **Vinho Verde Interpretation and Promotion Centre** (3€) and enjoy the tasting. The visit has an approximate duration of 1 hour.

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AFTERNOON

In **Ponte de Lima** you can venture into *ecovias* [eco-trails], routes and trails.

Let yourself be carried away by one of the **Ecovia do Rio Lima** paths, on foot or by bicycle.

This *Ecovia* is divided into 4 sections: Lagoas, Laranja, Veigas and Açudes. We give you a tip: follow the **Açudes path** by bike (**4h – 20€**), this 11 km-section extends along the left bank of the river.

The *ecovia* starts next to the Roman-Gothic bridge, but you will find other points of interest along the way: **Alameda de São João** and the polygonal chapel of **São João**. Make a short stop at the **viewing station**: if you are lucky, you will be able to see some animals, more specifically sea birds. Moving on, you will find the **lime kiln on the stream**, where lime was produced. Along the last part of the route, you will find picnic sites and the area of the **watermills of Gemieira**.

We recommend

In **Centro Aventura** you can experience a wide range of activities, from **air bungee** (10€), **treetop trekking** (10€), **zip line** (10€), **canyoning** (65€), **equestrian activities** (upon request), **paintball** (starting at 18€) and **zorb ball** (125€).

More information [here](#).

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WHERE TO TASTE PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

PONTE DE LIMA

- A Carvalheira (Mediterranean and European cuisine)
- Sabores do Lima (Mediterranean and European cuisine)
- Muralha (Mediterranean and European cuisine)

WHERE TO REST IN PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

PONTE DE LIMA

- Axis Ponte de Lima Golf Resort Hotel (Hotel ★★★)
- Hotel Rural Paço de Vitorino (Hotel rural ★★★★★)
- Carmo's Boutique Hotel (Hotel ★★★★★)



DAY 1

GUIMARÃES AND BRAGA

MORNING

The historic centre of the city of **Guimarães**, known as the nation's birthplace, celebrated last year the twentieth anniversary of its designation by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In order to discover the nooks and crannies of the city by yourself, be sure to visit: **Guimarães Castle** (2€), an important vestige of the national identity, and **Paço dos Duques de Bragança** [Ducal Palace] (5€), a unique example of Northern Europe manor architecture where you can see Portuguese furniture, tapestries, porcelain and armament from the post-discovery period. Within a short walk, be sure to also visit **Santo António dos Capuchos Convent** (2€), where the museum contents give you the chance to discover the movable heritage, the patios, the cloisters, the church and the 19th-century sacristy. You should not leave Guimarães without going to **Praça de Santiago**, an iconic place in the city not only for its architecture and history, but also for being a hub of the city's social and cultural life.

We recommend

That you choose a half-day **guided tour (35€ per person)** around the city centre of Guimarães. This visit includes seeing the Castle, Paço dos Duques, São Miguel Chapel, the tasting of regional products and discover the streets and squares of the historic city centre with a local guide. More information [here](#).

AFTERNOON

In Braga, known as the religious capital of Portugal, let yourself be carried away by the charm of the sacred art and architecture. Begin the tour with the famous **Sé de Braga** [cathedral] (starting at 2€), which is the oldest in the country. Don't miss passing under **Arco da Porta Nova** [arch], where the pleasant surprises of the historic city centre begin. Walk through the narrow and winding streets, the squares with the ornate building facades and don't miss the grandiose churches, one of the best-known being **Misericórdia Church**. In such an old city there are still traces of the medieval period and the **Torre de Menagem** [keep] is an example. You can visit this monument for free, however you will need to book in advance.

Now continue towards **Praça da República**, the heart of the city. Here you can see the fountain and the architectural element that characterizes the city - the **archway**. Take the opportunity to take a break and have a coffee in one of the most iconic places: café Vianna or café Astoria.

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Equally important is **Santuário do Bom Jesus do Monte** [shrine], also known as Bom Jesus de Braga, designated by UNESCO in 2019 a World Cultural Heritage Site. This is one of the largest and best-known Marian temples in Portugal, so we suggest you take a break here and enjoy the privileged view over the city. To get there, you can climb the 581 steps of the staircase or use the **Elevador do Bom Jesus** [funicular] (starting at 1.50€).

We recommend

A **guided walking tour** (starting at 6.50€ per person) (3 hours) or a **tuk-tuk tour** (15€ per person and lasting 30 min) passing through the most iconic spots of the historic city centre.

More information [here](#).

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WHERE TO TASTE PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

GUIMARÃES

- Buxa (traditional Portuguese cuisine)
 - Sola do Arco (Portuguese, Mediterranean and European cuisine)
 - Berço dos Bifes (traditional Portuguese cuisine)
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BRAGA

- Astória (Portuguese and European cuisine)
- Atípica – Oficina de Sabores (contemporary cuisine, healthy options)
- Caldo Entornado (traditional Portuguese cuisine)

WHERE TO REST IN PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

BRAGA

- Basic Braga by Axis (Hotel ★★)
 - Hotel Meliã Braga Hotel & SPA (Hotel ★★★★★)
 - Moon & Sun Braga (Hotel ★★★★★)
 - Vila Galé Collection Braga (Hotel ★★★★★)
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GUIMARÃES

- Sta. Marinha (Pousada de Guimarães)



DAY 2

NATIONAL PARK PENEDA-GERÊS

MORNING

In the only Portuguese national park, **Peneda-Gerês National Park**, you will find old villages with a rich heritage, waterfalls, viewpoints, water activities and sports. Be dazzled by this unique landscape. Head towards **Ermida** (Germil, Ponte da Barca), enjoy the clear waters of **Cascata da Ermida** [waterfall] and **Poço da Carcerelha** [waterfall]. In passing, you can enjoy the beautiful views from the **Ermida Viewpoint**, located just after the village. If you still have time, you can stop to admire the view from the **Vilarinho das Furnas dam**, and maybe go for a swim in the river beach?

We recommend

Parque Cerdeira, located in the heart of the National Park and next to the Vilarinho das Furnas dam, offers a unique setting. With its 7 hectares, it provides a complete experience of immersion in Nature. There are several options of accommodation, dynamic activities, such as guided hikes (starting at 7.50€), canoeing (starting at 17.50€), electric bicycle (starting at 9€), birdwatching (on request), and adapted activities.

More information [here](#).

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AFTERNOON

Head towards **Lindoso**, at the border with Spain, where you can visit the **Castle** that served as lookout fortress against possible invasions. The **Alto-Lindoso dam**, a short distance from the village, is worth a stop. Head now towards the village of **Soajo**, where you can visit **Baloço do Mezio** [swing] and **Espigueiros do Soajo** [Granaries]. Looking for a night experience? Still in Soajo, observe the stars and constellations in the **Dark Sky Reserve**, which aims to preserve dark skies as a valuable resource.

WHERE TO TASTE PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

TERRAS DE BOURO

- O Bem Cozinhado (European and Mediterranean cuisine, grill)
 - Toca do Caçador (traditional Portuguese, Mediterranean and European cuisine)
 - Lua de Mel (traditional Portuguese and European cuisine)
-

ARCOS DE VALDEVEZ

- Saber ao Borralho (traditional Portuguese cuisine)
- Restaurante da Porto do Mezio (Portuguese and European cuisine)
- O Videira (Mediterranean and European cuisine)

WHERE TO REST IN PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

PARQUE NACIONAL PENEDA GERÊS

- Parque Cerdeira (Bungalows and Camping Ground)
 - Hotel São Bento Porta Aberta (Hotel ★★★★★)
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AMARES

- Pousada de Amares- Sta. Marinha do Bouro (Pousada de Portugal)

DAY 3

MELGAÇO AND MONÇÃO

MORNING

Wake up and head towards **Melgaço**, taking advantage of the **Percursos Marginais do Rio Minho** (trails), which start at the town centre, next to the **Mother Church** and **Misericórdia Church**.

Finish your visit in Melgaço with a tasting of the region's characteristic wine: *vinho verde*. **Quinta do Soalheiro** (starting at 6€), the first brand of Alvarinho from Melgaço, offers visits to the Quinta (wine estate) which includes tastings of wines and regional products.

We recommend

A different experience on the Minho River, in Melgaço, considered the Iberian Capital of Rafting. With **ecorafting** (starting at 35€, minimum 6 people), the first one in the country to promote environmental sustainability, you will discover this ecosystem with an activity full of adrenaline and thrills.

More information [here](#).

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AFTERNOON

On the way to **Monção**, you will find a mandatory stop, **Palácio da Brejoeira** (starting at 5€). In this manor house there is a lot to see: the palace, the woods, the English-style gardens, the cellar and the vineyards. The guided tour includes all this and ends with a *Vinho Verde* tasting.

Once again on the way, visit **Cascata do Fojo** [waterfall], in the parish of Lara, and **Torre de Lapela** [tower], the only evidence that exists today of the Lapela Castle. The day ends in the town centre of Monção, where you can visit the **Castle** and its **Fortress**. Or if you prefer, relax in the **Thermal Spa**.

We recommend

Discover a new concept of Thermal Baths and enjoy some me-time at **Termas de Monção**. Take advantage of the thermal circuit (12€) with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath, relaxation room, among others.

More information [here](#).

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WHERE TO TASTE PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

MELGAÇO

- [Adega do Sabino](#) (Mediterranean and European cuisine with healthy options)
 - [Adega do Sossego](#) (traditional Portuguese cuisine)
 - [Chafarix](#) (European, Mediterranean and Portuguese cuisine)
-

MONÇÃO

- [Flôr do Minho](#) (traditional Portuguese cuisine)
- [Lagoa Verde](#) (barbecue)
- [Rua D](#) (traditional Portuguese cuisine)

WHERE TO REST IN PORTO AND THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL?

MELGAÇO

- [Hotel Monte Prado & SPA](#) (Hotel ★★★★★)
 - [Reguengo de Melgaço](#) (Country Hotel ★★★★★)
 - [Melgaço Alvarinho Houses](#) (Agritourism)
-

MONÇÃO

- [Hotel Bienestar Termas de Monção](#) (Hotel ★★★★★)
- [Solar de Serrade](#) (Residential Tourism)
- [Quinta Da Teimosa](#) (Agritourism)

Alternativa...

[Hotel Minho](#) (Hotel ★★★★★) is located 30 minutes away from Monção in the direction of Vila Nova de Cerveira.

TALK TO US

Phone: (+351) 935 557 024 / (+351) 223 326 751

Whatsapp: (+351) 938 668 462

E-mail: info@visitportoandnorth.travel

Hi, talk to us in real time.

