

# DBH GUIDES

## Porto, Portugal

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Hotel Exclusive

Restaurants

See's & Do's

Nightlife

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Custom Itinerary

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Your  
Portal  
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ing **TRAVEL**

Vol. 8.1



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**MEGA**  
guide

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## Country Intro

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## Brief History

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The Portuguese Republic is the westernmost country of mainland Europe and is situated on the Iberian Peninsula. Further to the west, the Azores and Madeira archipelagos also form part of the Portuguese Republic. Like its neighbor Spain to the east, Portugal has been inhabited for millennia since the Stone Age. Later on, Celtic tribes that migrated from central Europe came to control much of the Iberian Peninsula for more than six hundred years until the arrival of the Romans in the year 218 BC. The Romans were attracted to the fertile soil and Atlantic Ocean access that the western lands could provide them, thus the Latin title *Portus Cale* (Big Port) was born.

Fast forward to the Middle Ages, when an Islamic force from North Africa began conquering the peninsula then known as *Hispania* and establishing kingdoms collectively known as Al-Andalus. The Moors dominated the land until the centuries-long Reconquista movement (718-1492) eventually drove them out of Spain and Portugal for good. During the Reconquista, several Christian kingdoms were able to emerge. At first, Portugal formed part of the Kingdom of Galicia, but eventually gained its independence. On June 25, 1139, Afonso Henriques proclaimed himself the first monarch of the land, becoming King Afonso I of Portugal.

## Weather

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Portugal has a temperate, Mediterranean climate with a particularly wet winter season. During

the summer months, visitors enjoy 11 to 12 hours of sunshine and breezy conditions, especially in coastal cities like Lisbon and Porto. Areas north of the Tagus River are hilly while the land south of the Tagus is flat. Portugal is an ideal destination for Americans. In less than seven hours one could fly from New York City to Lisbon, and the country boasts hundreds of unforgettable experiences. With a host of stunning beaches, megalithic sites, energetic cities, wineries and medieval castles, who would ever want to leave?

## **Culture**

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Portuguese culture is a unique blend of folk traditions that vary by region. The arts, particularly music, form a huge part of the national identity. Fado music is by far the most iconic genre of Portuguese music. Characterized by passionate lyrics about love and loss, a melancholy tone and seductive guitar sounds, a live Fado show is a can't miss experience when in Portugal.

## **Cuisine**

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While largely influenced by its position in the Atlantic Ocean, Portuguese gastronomy varies significantly by region, giving foodie lovers reason to rejoice. While the Southeastern Alentejo region is known for its aromatic soups and pork dishes, the Centro region is known for its hearty goat recipes. Lisbon packs a punch with a remarkable selection of fresh seafood and scrumptious pastries like the famous Pastel de Belém tart. No trip to Portugal is complete without sampling some of the country's renowned wines. Few know that Portugal actually produces more types of wine than Spain. In recent years, wine tourism here has boomed due to the abundance and rich flavors of wines like Port, Bairrada, Verdelho, Verde, Bucelas, Ribatejo and Douro.

## City Intro

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Gilded cathedrals, old buildings clinging to hillsides, angular modern architecture and of course, sweet Port wine all greet you in Porto, Portugal's second largest city. Overlooking the Douro River, Oporto, as it is known in English, was founded as an important port city between Lisbon and Braga.

With its hilly streets and medieval flair, the city serves as a link between the modern day and the more ancient traditions. In the last twenty years, improvements to the Metro and bridge systems have modernized the city but the historical churches, squares and monuments still retain their old-world charm. One of the most ancient European cities, its city center was classified as a World Heritage site in 1996. The center consists of the outer "Protected Area," a 14th-century Romanesque wall, and the inner "Classified Area," a medieval borough.

On every street corner, visitors will find numerous monuments, including the She Changes sculpture by [Janet Echelman](#) on the Waterfront Plaza of [Matosinhos](#), that prove Porto's reputation as an artsy and architectural city.

The city is also well known for its biggest export, Port wine. Produced exclusively in the Douro Valley, this sweet, fortified wine is typically served with dessert, and can be found at many of the restaurants in town.

Walking is the best way to explore the city and its historic stone buildings. Public transportation makes it easy to get around Porto. The city's Metro network has five lines and is

complimented by a network of buses, trams and trolleys. Another option is to take a cruise along the Douro River and see central Porto from another perspective while taking in its six bridges.

Nestled along the Mediterranean, Porto's climate features warm, dry summers and cool, rainy winters. During the summer, the nearby beaches provide a refreshing escape from the heat of the city. In winter, high temperatures average 57°F (14°C) and it rarely reaches freezing. During the summer, highs hover around 74°F (23°C) on average, with lots of sunshine.

In this guide, you will find all of the attractions I recommend for Porto. I experienced all of them during my visit to Portugal in November 2010. As part of a new feature in our 2012 DBH Guide series, at the end of this guide you will find a sample itinerary for your trip.

The following websites are invaluable resources for first-time visitors:

[www.visitportugal.com](http://www.visitportugal.com)

[www.portugal.com](http://www.portugal.com)

[www.portoturismo.pt](http://www.portoturismo.pt)

[www.gooporto.com](http://www.gooporto.com)



## Hotel Infante Sagres

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In the center of Porto is Hotel Infante Sagres, an icon of design and the city's leading boutique hotel. Located meters away from City Hall, this five-star hotel offers all the usual amenities while being located in the middle of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Hotel Infante Sagres is also just a short walk from the stellar art district, the river and numerous bars and shops.





The hotel was built in 1951 as a guesthouse for a textile manufacturer's clients. Since then, it has hosted the Dalai Lama, Prince Edward of England, the Queen of the Netherlands and the music legend, Bob Dylan. It was completely refurbished in the 1990s and was brought up to modern hotel standards.

The interior is reminiscent of an elaborate palace with polished stone, stained glass, tile work and baroque design. The 73 elegant European-style rooms feature large living spaces, antique furniture and warm accent colors. Rooms also have large en-suite bathrooms, double glazed windows, and local and satellite TV.

The hotel's amenities include breakfast, safe deposit boxes inside each of the rooms, baby sitting services, children's facilities, concierge, banquet halls, a doctor on call, dry cleaning, a gift shop, internet access including WiFi, laundry service, elevator, non-smoking rooms, and 24-hour room service.



The hotel houses the Boca do Lobo (Wolf's Mouth) restaurant featuring the cuisine of renowned Chef Albano Lourenco, an incredible Port wine list and a menu of several original cocktails. Boca do Lobo is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Hotel Infante Sagres also boasts a delightful courtyard, bar, sun terrace and covered parking. The restaurant offers an outdoor terrace for alfresco dining.

For those who need some extra help relaxing, the Angkor Wat Spa Room offers hot stone massages, facials, sea salt massages, reflexology, shiatsu massages and other treatments in an lovely oriental-style room.

Info:

Praça Dona Filipa de Lencastre  
n° 62 4050-259 Oporto, Portugal  
+351 223 398 500

[www.hotelinfantesagres.pt](http://www.hotelinfantesagres.pt)

[bookings@hotelinfantesagres.pt](mailto:bookings@hotelinfantesagres.pt)

## See's and Do's

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## *Palácio da Bolsa*



A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, Palácio da Bolsa is located in the Infante D. Henrique Square in the center of Porto. It was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Porto's Commercial Association and features a neoclassical design by several artists. Classified as a national monument, it took three generations of artists and craftsmen to complete.

While the inside could be mistaken for a royal palace, it was originally built as a national stock exchange to impress European investors. Inside, visitors will find a spectacular glass dome in the center covering the Hall of Nations, an elaborate staircase, numerous paintings and waiting room, as well as some very elegant décor. The palace regularly hosts debates, auctions, exhibitions, shows, and business meetings.



## *Rua Santa Catarina*



Rua Santa Catarina is the main pedestrian walkway in Porto and is a hot spot for stores, cafés and boutiques. Wander down this path to soak in the stunning local architecture and window shop at your leisure. Locals and tourists alike frequent this main Porto street. Most shops are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## *Bolhão Market*



Bustling and colorful, the Bolhão Market is the best known of Porto's markets. Located on Rua Sá da Bandeira in the center of Porto, this two-story market was originally built in the 19th century. It currently features vendors selling fruit, cheese, bread and other baked goods. It is also a great place to see the latest fresh catch from the ocean and sample some typical Porto snacks. Conveniently located near Porto's central train station, Sao Bento, it is also close to Rua Santa Catarina.

## *Porto Se Cathedral*



Porto's largest church features paintings, ornate carvings and a Romanesque rose window. Completed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the cathedral has been remodeled and added on to over time. It houses a special collection of 150 liturgical ornaments, hangings, books and silverware from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Don't miss the gorgeous 18<sup>th</sup> century blue and white Portuguese tiles on the outside of the cloisters. The Canticle of Canticles, which is a Bible story from the book of Solomon, inspired their design.

During the baroque period, Porto Se Cathedral was completely remodeled, but visitors can

still see the façade of a more primitive fortress church along with the old battlements. Inside the cathedral, visitors will find gothic cloisters and religious sculptures from the 14th and 18th centuries. An admission fee is required to see the cloisters. The church's terrace offers nice views of old Porto's rooftops.



## *Clérigos Tower*



Standing tall at 76 meters, this 18<sup>th</sup> century tower was Portugal's highest when completed in 1763. Designed by architect Nicolau Nasoni, Clérigos Tower has six floors and a 225-step stairway leading up to the balconies. The top offers a spectacular view of Porto and some amazing photo opportunities.

Because of the baroque bell tower's prominence along Porto's skyline, sailors often used it as a guide when entering Cais da Ribeira. Next door, you can find a fine example of baroque and rococo architectural styles at the oval-shaped Igreja dos Clérigos. The church features a pipe organ from 1774 and elaborate engravings.

[VIDEO: Click Here to Watch! \(Kindle Fire/Tablets/Smartphones\)](#)

## *Church of San Francisco*



While not the largest cathedral in town, the Church of San Francisco is considered by many to be Porto's most beautiful. The church's simple 14<sup>th</sup> century gothic and baroque shell belies its lavish, gilded interior. Pure gold — reportedly 400 grams of it — covers arches, cherubs and columns inside. The Church of San Francisco is one of the few remaining medieval structures in Porto and its only gothic church.

Its interior was remodeled with baroque features in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Elegant carvings create a beautiful golden box design. Another interesting feature is the church's catacombs, which still hold bodies to this day. The small museum across the square is also worth a visit to see artifacts from the former monastery.

## *Riviera of Porto*



The Riviera is one of the most recognizable areas of Porto and is filled with restaurants, hotels and nightlife. This is a great spot to find souvenirs. Board a river cruise to experience Porto from the water and watch a spectacular sunset. Nighttime brings bustling bars and restaurants filled with locals.



## *River Cruise Douroacima*



To see a different side of Porto, take a boat ride along the Douro River. Two different tours are offered – a 50-minute tour that highlights Porto's six bridges and an all-day cruise that tours the countryside and valley.

For those looking to maximize their time in Porto, the 50-minute tour is a great way to get the experience and sights in a short time.



## *Graham's Port Lodge*



Graham's Port Lodge is one of the oldest Port wine producers and should be your first stop in Vila Nova de Gaia. Brothers William and John Graham founded W & J Graham's in 1820 as an independent family business. In 1890, the lodge was built to store and mature wine under the best possible conditions, inside its cool tunnels.

Today, guests can choose from one of four tours of the Lodge and sample their wines, which are some of the best on Portugal. The Lodge's granite walls house more than 3,500 casks of port as well as many large oak tunnels, vats and an extensive vintage port cellar. The location also offers grand views of Porto across the Douro River. Visitors may sample wine and ports at the Lodge's wine bar.



Another must-see port maker is Croft. Founded more than three hundred years ago, the House of Croft was originally known as Phayre & Bradley but was renamed in 1736 after John Croft, a member of a distinguished wine merchant family, joined the company. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Croft returned to England, but left a strong mark on the business. Today, the company is owned and operated by the descendants of two Port wine families, the Yeatmans and the Fladgates.

The Croft Port wine Lodge is open all year for tours and tastings except for on December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Admission for the tour is €3. It begins at 10 a.m., and offered about every 35 minutes throughout the day. After touring the wine lodges, visitors may taste three Croft ports. Along with a remarkable wine tasting experience, they also offer delicious chocolate pairings.

## *Taylor's Port Wine Lodges*



Taylor's Port wine Lodges, another of the 50 or so Port makers in Porto, is one of the finest Port shippers. Taylor's wine cellars lodge in the heart of the historic area of Vila Nova de Gaia, across the river from the old city centre of Porto, and house most of the company's extensive reserves of wood-aged Port as well its vintage Port cellars. Taylor's established in Porto in 1692.

The €3 tour takes visitors into the history of the company and offers a taste of their products. At the end of the tour, visitors will be able to sample three different wines, Chip Dry – Extra Dry White, Late Bottled Vintage (LBV) and Tawny 10 year old in the elegant Library Room. Taylor's also offers chocolate pairings with the wine and olive oil from Quinta de Vargellas, as well as partake in workshops. Tours begin every 35 to 40 minutes. For non-drinkers, a gorgeous garden and terrace offer a spectacular view of Porto.





Located in the historic center of Porto, this special Port wine bar has been operating since 2000. Inside a welcoming brick and wooden tasting room, visitors can sample more than 240 different bottles of Port. The bar hosts a wide variety, from the most basic (white-Ruby Tawny) to the most sophisticated (Tawnies 30 and 40 years old vintages). The majority of Vinologia's Ports come from small, independent producers. The store and tasting room allow for easy conversation with fellow visitors and total immersion into the wine. The tasting room also offers plates of cheese, dried fruit, nuts and chocolate desserts.

[VIDEO: Click Here to Watch! \(Kindle Fire/Tablets/Smartphones\)](#)



## Restaurants

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## Café Guarany



Established in 1933, the amazing Café Guarany is located in the center of the city, only two blocks away from the Hotel Infante Sagres. It has always been known as the musicians' coffee shop. The café restaurant consists of one large room with multiple seating areas for diners. One some nights, patrons can enjoy live Fado music or energetic Cuban musical acts.

Upon arrival, the friendly wait staff may offer White Port and show visitors how to properly drink it. Highlights included the codfish, filet mignon and their version of the Francesinha topped with shrimp.

Café Guarany is open daily from 9 a.m. to midnight.

Info:

Avenida dos Aliados  
n° 89/85, Porto, Portugal  
+351 223 321 272

[www.cafeguarany.com](http://www.cafeguarany.com)

Recs: *Bacalhau* (codfish), filet mignon, *francesinha*; a traditional Portuguese sandwich originally from Porto made with bread, meat, thick layer of tomato sauce and covered with cheese.

Best Time: Lunch or dinner.

## *Café Majestic*



One of Porto's more interesting spots is Café Majestic, which opened in 1921 under the name Café Elite. Located on Rua de Santa Catarina, this luxurious café features wooden furnishings and an ornate ceiling that echo times past; when the location was a 19<sup>th</sup> century fixture of the city, Café Lusitano. It was a place where the upper crust of Porto could mingle over coffee and board games in the mornings; and Port wine during dinner. With its chandeliers and private concerts, Café Lusitano was one of the city's "it" spots during the 1850s.

More than 160 years later, under the name of Café Majestic, this historical restaurant is restored to its original splendor. Guests can experience a piece of history when they enter through the grand glass doors. Even the exterior of the building has been restored to showcase the original craftsmanship of the time. Menu items include traditional plates of codfish and duck, but most people stop by for their mid-morning caffeine fixes. Guests can dine inside, out on the sidewalk terrace or the winter garden courtyard. Inside, there is also a special exhibition room for visitors to explore.

The café is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as tea and coffee all day long. Prices are on the expensive side because of its historical and architectural significance. Café Majestic is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to midnight.

Info:

Rua Santa Catarina

n° 112 4000-442 Porto, Portugal

+351 222 003 887

[www.cafemajestic.com](http://www.cafemajestic.com)

Best time: Anytime.



## *O Papparico*



O Papparico is a traditional restaurant with a modern twist. The main concept revolves around enjoying mouth-watering food the way it is meant to be eaten; without too much garnish or sauce to mask the natural flavors of fresh ingredients. Owner and manager, Jose Cambas, puts his soul into creating unique dishes and an intimate ambiance for his guests. The dining room, housed within antique stone walls, features crisp white linens, elegant wooden furnishings and traditional Portuguese tile work. A relaxing ambiance and mood lighting make it the perfect spot for a romantic dinner for two.

The feeling of hospitality that Jose Cambas brings to O Papparico is unmatched. Staff members will put you at ease as you enjoy the essence of new age Portuguese cuisine. This upscale eatery is a great way to experience the uninterrupted flavors of Portuguese gastronomy. Do order a bottle of house red wine and save room for O Papparico's exquisite desserts.

O Papparico is open Tuesday through Saturday 7:30 p.m. to midnight.

### Info

Rua de Costa Cabral  
n° 2343 4200 Porto, Portugal  
+351 225 400 548

[www.opaparico.com](http://www.opaparico.com)

[geral@opaparico.com](mailto:geral@opaparico.com)

Best time: Dinner

Recs: Duck tartar, raw codfish, octopus tartar, grilled octopus, lamb with wild mushrooms, tangerine sorbet ice with potato vodka, homemade ice cream with pop rocks.





Yuko Tavern is a chilled out, rustic eatery and bar owned and managed by Sergio Cambas. Its laid-back ambiance and old-fashioned dishes make this a great choice for those in the mood for no-fuss, no-frills food and drinks. This is where locals and tourists converge to get their carnivorous francesinha sandwich fixes. The hallmark ingredients of a traditional francesinha are: cured ham, fresh sausage, Iberian ham, steak, cheese and tomato between slices of freshly baked white bread. Each mountainous sandwich is layered with several layers of sliced cheese before it is melted to perfection in the oven. Once hot and toasty, it is smothered in a tomato sauce and topped with a fried egg. These sandwiches are not for vegans or the faint of heart (or stomach); each one packs a whopping 1,500 calories! Forget about your diet and order a cold, crisp beer with your savory francesinha. You can work off the calories later.

Yuko Tavern is open Monday through Saturday 7 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Info:

Rua de Costa Cabral

n° 2331 4200 Porto, Portugal

+351 225 482 291

[www.yuko.com.pt](http://www.yuko.com.pt)

Recs: francesinha

Best time: Dinner





## *O Pai Ramiro*



O Pai Ramiro literally translates into My Father Ramiro. It is a family-owned restaurant dedicated to its founder, Ramiro. His portrait hangs on the wall overlooking the minimal, yet contemporary dining room. Longer than it is wide, O Pai Ramiro seats 35 people and serves up traditional and international fare. The specialty of the house, however, is seafood. Try it grilled, baked, fried or raw; you won't be able to resist the seductive smells emanating from the kitchen. Every plate is made with love from Ramiro's family to yours.

O Pai Ramiro is closed Sunday evenings and Mondays.

The restaurant is closed on Mondays and for dinner on Sundays.

Info:

Rua Nova de S. Crispim 286

nº 4000 363 Porto, Portugal

+351 220 994 815

Recs: Seafood empanada, octopus tartar, linguini with clams, homemade chocolate cake with dessert wine.

Best time: Lunch

## *Foz Velha*



The old town of Foz, where the Douro River intercepts the Atlantic Ocean, is home to the boutique restaurant, Foz Velha. Foz Velha is considered one of the best in Portugal because of its remarkable Port wine selection and the many culinary talents of Chef Marco Gomes. Inside Foz Velha, guests are greeted with a chic dining room of vibrant pinks and purples and intimate lighting provided by handsome chandeliers. Every dish is expertly crafted and beautifully plated, giving Foz Velha its signature approach to dining.

For those with cash to burn, sample one of the oldest Port wines in the house; a 1942 bottle. There are also bottles from the 1960s and 1990s to satisfy your inner sommelier. Here is where traditional Portuguese food gets a new look and where your taste buds will explode.

The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner: Monday 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to midnight.

### Info:

Esplanada do Castelo  
n° 141 4150 Porto, Portugal  
+351 226 154 178

[www.fozvelha.com](http://www.fozvelha.com)

[mail@fozvelha.com](mailto:mail@fozvelha.com)

Recs: Fried Quail Egg, meat roll, seared codfish filet, rack of lamb

Best time: Dinner

## *Zé Da Calçada (Amarante)*



This is a timeless authentic Portuguese restaurant located in the old part of the town of Amarante, one block east of the main bridge that connects both sides of town. Zé Da Calçada is housed in one of the few buildings that survived Napoleon's rampage in 1809 and serves amazing codfish dishes.

Amarante's location, nestled between the Minho and Douro Rivers and halfway between Porto and Tras-os-Montes, allows Zé Da Calçada access to several of the area's specialty ingredients like veal, chicken and lamb. The restaurant prides itself on its hearty, satisfying dishes and sizeable wine list. Zé Da Calçada also features a great deal of natural charm. Diners who choose to sit out on the terrace overlooking Tamega River can enjoy the mild breeze and collective rustling of the trees on the property. Indoors, diners can also relax in the spacious contemporary dining room. Last and certainly not least, service is stellar! If you are in Amarante, you must dine here.

Info:

Rua 31 de Janeiro

nº 4600-043 Amarante

+351 255 426 814

[www.zedacalcada.com](http://www.zedacalcada.com)

[geral@zedacalcada.com](mailto:geral@zedacalcada.com)

Best time: Lunch

Recs: Codfish, baked lamb, homemade sausage, grilled octopus, pork loin and homemade sweets.





## *Marisqueira Mare Cheia (Aveiro)*



Marisqueira Mare Cheia is considered one of the best seafood restaurants in the area. It is located one block south of Aveiro's main canal in the center of town, just before the first bridge.

Inside, diners will be greeted by an old-tavern vibe and the rare opportunity to watch their chef prepare each meal. Décor is simple and the atmosphere is laid back, but the real show stopper here is the fresh seafood. Ask any local and they will surely refer you to Marisqueira Mare Cheia. The menu is short and sweet so that only the freshest catch is served. This restaurant is a tasty and affordable place that you will surely want to return to.

### Info:

Rua Jose Rabumba  
n° 10 Aveiro, Portugal  
+351 234 384 030

Recs: Oysters, sea bass, seafood with rice

Best time: Lunch

## Day Trips

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### *Aveiro*

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Aveiro is the Venice of Portugal. Located 40 minutes south of Porto, this small town is known for its salt production, seaweed harvest, and algae exports. Visitors can enjoy rides along the winding canals and waterways on the same boats that were used to harvest algae. When in town, be sure to sample the local pastry Aveiro is known for: *Ovos Moles*, a small almond-shaped creation with a sweet filling.

Several day cruises offer dinner, a walking tour or other excursions. The Douroacima tour went down the Ria, short for Small River, and was a wonderful experience, thanks to the very knowledgeable guides. Douroacima offers several different tours in the Porto area. After the tour, be sure to visit Marisqueria Mare Cheia, which serves a wonderful grilled fish and mussels.

[www.portugal-info.net/costaprata/aveiro.htm](http://www.portugal-info.net/costaprata/aveiro.htm)

[www.douroacima.pt](http://www.douroacima.pt)

[VIDEO: Click Here to Watch! \(Kindle Fire/Tablets/Smartphones\)](#)







Amarante is a charming valley town located along the river, one hour east of Porto. The town was destroyed by Napoleon's troops in 1809. The only building that survived currently houses the Ze Da Calcada restaurant, which features amazing appetizers and seafood.

The most popular site is the granite São Gonçalo Bridge, which was built in 1790 and spans the River Tâmega.

The church and former monastery of São Gonçalo is another must-see location. The stunning interior features columns and a high altar under which St. Gonçalo, the patron saint of marriage, is buried. According to legend, St. Gonçalo organized matchmaking festivals for women, a tradition that continues to this day. On the first weekend of every June, the Festa de São Gonçalo springs up in Amarante and singles can share heart-shaped cakes. In fact, love is an integral part of the town, since the first part of the city's name, Amar, means love.

Another site to see is a museum dedicated to the life and work of locally-born Cubist artist Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso (1887-1918), one of Portugal's leading 20th-century artists. Visit [www.amarante.pt/museu](http://www.amarante.pt/museu) for more information.

[VIDEO: Click Here to Watch! \(Kindle Fire/Tablets/Smartphones\)](#)

## Additional Travel Information (Porto)

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**Time zone:** GMT +1

**Getting around:** Although there are plentiful taxis, buses and trolleys shuttling people all over the city, the Metro do Porto system is a cost effective way to move about. Porto's Metro has five lines and services both the city as well as other towns in the outskirts. A Metro ride will run you about €0.90 to €2, depending where you would like to go. Metro cards cost €0.50, are rechargeable and are available at each of the stations. The Metro runs daily from 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

See below for information about trains for travel to/from Lisbon and other parts of Portugal.

**Shopping:** For Europe's big brand stores like H&M and Mango, head to Rua de Santa Catarina. There you will also find a small shopping mall. Rua do Boavista is the longest avenue in the city and is home to fine fashion boutiques and stately homes. For a one-of-a-kind shopping experience, head to A Vida Portuguesa (Rua Galeria de Paris, 20). Housed on the second floor of a 19<sup>th</sup> century fabric shop, this store is filled with charming, vintage-inspired souvenirs, toiletries, fashion accessories and ceramics. To satisfy the designer in you, there is the Bombarda Mall (CCB) for furniture, interior accents and art shops.

Hours of operation: Typical hours of operation are from 9am-1pm and from 3pm-7pm Monday through Friday and Saturdays from 9am-1pm. Museums are closed on Mondays.

### **Nightlife:**

Overview of Nightlife



Porto charms visitors during the day and entertains them at night. With its wide array of clubs and bars, this city will not disappoint those looking for a great night out.

The hub of nightlife is the [Ribeira](#) district in the old downtown area of the city. This district is filled with a large selection of small cafés, bars and clubs, all within walking distance of each other. If one gets too crowded, simply move on to the next. Rua Galeria de Paris and Rua Candido dos Reis are two of the area's liveliest streets, and the same is true when the sun goes down and everyone's in the mood to be sipping at local bars and lounges. The Ribeira district also features live fado music venues and casual bars.

Like other Portuguese, the locals of Porto enjoy a late dinner and usually hit the town after 11 p.m. Dress to impress and be prepared for a long night of fun because many parties will last until sunrise.

For those looking for an intense clubbing experience, the [Foz](#) district and the Matosinhos suburb are it. The two best clubs in Porto, Estado Novo and Industria, can be found here. Estado Novo, located in Matosinhos, is near the ocean and is one of the most popular clubs in the area. Enjoy a mix of house and pop music in the large dance area and five bars or catch your breath on the chairs and sofas on the upper level, overlooking the dance floor. Industria boasts a world-renowned DJ throwing down a mix of reggae, house, and electro music. Partygoers can dance until sunrise with a crowd of over a thousand in this fast-paced, intense club.

Two local favorites are Twin's and Act. Twin's, one of the first clubs in Portugal, caters to Porto's elite with its chic interior and super modern ambiance. Act, located on Rua de Manuel Pinto de Azevedo, is known for its fashion and art events as well as its mix of house, pop, and hip-hop music.

**Currency:** Euro.

**Currency converter:** [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

Best time to go: March through October. The Festa de São João, or Saint John Festival, takes place on June 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. It is a religious feast day widely celebrated throughout Portugal during last week of June, but in Porto the festivities are citywide. Everyone crowds the streets for lively block parties, outdoor music concerts, barbecues, firework shows and of course, wine drinking. If you want to behave particularly like a local, be sure to also wave a strand of garlic bulbs. The festival is a tribute to St. John the Baptist and has been a tradition here for over 600 years!

**Nearest airport:**

Porto Airport (OPO)

[www.porto-airport.com](http://www.porto-airport.com)

+351 0229 432400

**Lisbon Portela Airport (LIS)**

[www.lisbon-airport.com](http://www.lisbon-airport.com)

+351 0218 413500

**Train:**

Alfa express and regional trains

[www.cp.pt](http://www.cp.pt)

+351 211 023000

**Car rentals:**

Europcar                   +351 229 482452

Hertz                       +351 223 395300

Sixt                         +351 223 439240

**Tours:**

Panoramic Porto Tour

[www.viator.com](http://www.viator.com)

**Yellow Bus Tours** (hop on hop off).

<http://www.yellowbustours.com/en>



Douro River Cruises, Wine Tours, Cultural Experiences and more.

[www.portotours.com](http://www.portotours.com)

**Pass:**

**Porto Card**

[www.portoturismo.pt](http://www.portoturismo.pt)

Porto's discount card offers discounts to museums, monuments, shops and restaurants. The price of the card depends on how long it lasts; cost ranges from €5 for 24 hours to €21.50 for three days. The card is available at the Porto Tourist Information Offices, several railway stations and the airport.

**Telephone numbers:**

Country code	+35
Emergency Line	112
Tourism Board	+351 2239 3470
Metro do Porto	+351 22501000
Radio Taxi	+351 225021132

**List of helpful websites from this guide:**

[www.portoturismo.pt](http://www.portoturismo.pt)

[www.visitportugal.com](http://www.visitportugal.com)

[www.portugal.com](http://www.portugal.com)

[www.gooporto.com](http://www.gooporto.com)

[www.hotelinfantesagres.pt](http://www.hotelinfantesagres.pt)

[www.amarante.pt/museu](http://www.amarante.pt/museu)

**Other recommended accommodations:**

\$ Star Inn Porto Design Hotel

\$\$ AC Hotel Porto by Marriott

\$\$\$ Pousada do Porto – Palacio do Freixo

For a complete list of historic pousadas throughout Portugal, visit [www.pousadas.pt](http://www.pousadas.pt).

**Other places of interest:**

**Casa de Musica**

Avenida da Boavista, 604-610

4149-071 Porto, Portugal

[www.casadamusica.com](http://www.casadamusica.com)

This building, designed by renowned architect Rem Koolhaas, is dedicated to music culture. Concerts, workshops and experimental projects are always being held here. The space is

innovative and truly original in that it is 100% devoted to musical arts. Visit the website for concert schedules and to purchase tickets.

### **Crystal Palace Gardens**

Rua D. Manuel II

This elegant landscaped park has the iconic domed pavilion known as the Crystal Palace. The original dome was built in 1956 by landscape designer Emilio David, but has since been replaced by the Pavilhao Rosa Mota, which is used as a sports arena. The garden complex is comprised of multiple distinct gardens including Jardim de Sentimentos (garden of feelings) and Jardim do Roseiral (garden of roses). The Crystal Palace Gardens offer sweeping views of the Douro River.

### **Foz District**

West Porto

The Foz District is an oceanfront neighborhood known for its palm-lined promenades, scenic views and numerous sculptures. Although not a popular area for swimming because of the rocky shore, it is a great area for a stroll or a visit to a stylish café. The Foz District is home to the 1661 Castelo do Queigo fort and Parque de Cidade, which is Porto's largest park.

### **Lello Bookshop**

Rua das Carmelitas 144  
4050-161 Porto, Portugal

Bibliophiles, and those who simply appreciate striking architecture, must stop by Lello Livraria, a spot many call the most beautiful bookstore in the world. Its focal point is an ornate wooden winding staircase bathed in red carpeting. A five-minute walk from downtown Porto, old and new books in Portuguese and English fill its shelves.

### **Romantic Museum of Quinta da Macieirinha**

220 Rua de Entre quintas  
Porto, Portugal

Immerse yourself in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the Romantic Museum. Its exhibits attempt to recreate aristocratic life city during the age of romanticism. Housed in a 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion, the museum reproduces the interior of a 19<sup>th</sup> century house with decorative art of the period. The museum, which opened in 1972, is located in one of the most stunning gardens of the city, the Crystal Palace Gardens (Jardins do Palacio de Cristal).

### **Serralves Museum**

Rua D. Joao Castro, 210

The Serralves Museum, housed in a striking building designed by architect Alvaro Siza Vieira, has multiple galleries exhibiting contemporary art. The museum grounds also feature a pink art deco building and 44 acres of manicured gardens. The complex is considered to be one of Porto's top cultural centers. The Serralves Museum is open April to September from Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. During winter (October to March) it is open Tuesday to Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission to the museum and park is 7. Those 18 years and under enter free of charge.

## Suggested Itinerary

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## *Day 1: Touring old Porto*

- Visit Porto Cathedral
- Visit to Clérigos Tower
- Walk down Rua Santa Catarina
- Visit to Bolhão Market
- Coffee break at Café Majestic
- Lunch at Café Guaranay
  
- Visit to San Francisco Church and afternoon walk around medieval quarter
  
- Dinner at O Papparico\*

*Day 2: Wining around*

- Head to Vila Nova de Gaia for Port wine tasting. Choose from Graham's Port Lodge, Croft Porto, Vinologia and Taylor's Port for an unforgettable morning sampling Porto wines
- Lunch anywhere in the Vila Nova de Gaia area
- Visit to Church of San Francisco and visit to Palácio da Bolsa or stroll through the Foz District
- Dinner at Yuko Tavern\*

*Day 3: By the water*

- Drive to Aveiro for sightseeing and/or beach day
- Lunch at Marisqueira Mare Cheis\*
- Return to Porto for a Douro River cruise
- Dinner at O Pai Ramiro\*

*Day 4: A day in Amarente*

- Drive to Amarante for sightseeing
- Lunch at Ze Da Calcada\*
- Return to Porto
- Dinner at Foz Velha\*

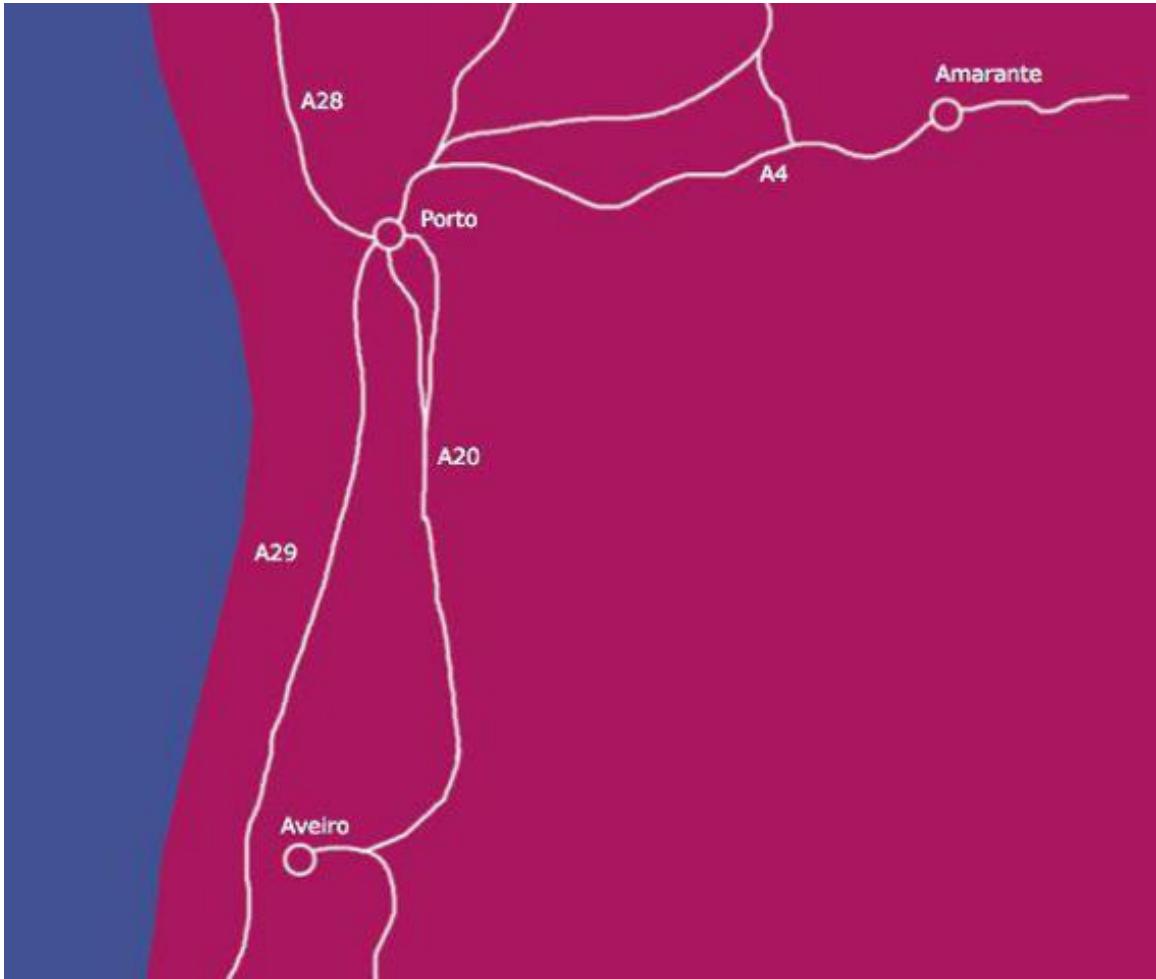
*Activities marked with an asterisk (\*) require prior booking.*







*Area Map*



## Porto Map



- |                         |                            |                               |                  |                |                     |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Hotel Infante Sagres | 6. Clerigos Tower          | 11. Croft VC                  | 16. O Peparico   | 21. Industria  | 26. Club 3c         |
| 2. Palacio da Bolsa     | 7. Church of San Francisco | 12. Taylor's Port Wine Lodges | 17. Yuko Tavern  | 22. Twins      | 27. Villa Community |
| 3. Rua Santa Catarina   | 8. Riviera of Porto        | 13. Vinologia                 | 18. O Pai Ramiro | 23. Act        | 28. Plan B          |
| 4. Bolhao Market        | 9. River Cruise Duoroacima | 14. Cafe Guarany              | 19. Foz Velha    | 24. Via Rapida |                     |
| 5. Porto Se Cathedral   | 10. Graham's Port Lodge    | 15. Cafe Majestic             | 20. Estado Novo  | 25. Bazaar     |                     |



## Note from David

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For me, Porto is the most incredible city in all of Portugal. A simple stroll will showcase the city's beautiful architecture and comforting atmosphere.

Portuguese food is a huge aspect of the city, with the national culture and flair reverberating throughout the flavor and texture of the food. The restaurants were all amazing. O Papparico was memorable for its traditional “no sauce” rule. Yuko Tavern is a great place to learn how locals drink traditional Super Bock beer and how an authentic francesinha should taste. Both restaurants are owned by the Cambas brothers and share a kitchen. A short taxi ride from the city center can take you to either O Papparico or Yuko Tavern. O Pai Ramiro had the best clam pasta I have ever had. At Café Guarany, visitors can sample several types of francesinhas; each given its own special touch. Foz Velha stood out as having an extensive collection of Port wines.

The day trips in this guide offer visitors the opportunity to see the surrounding areas. Vila Nova de Gaia contains numerous wineries, where visitors can learn about the bottling process and sample the wine.

Porto has one of Europe's most picturesque riverias. Only two blocks away is Vinologia bar, where you can sample wines from some of the smaller independent local wine producers. The owner of the bar is well versed in wine and can give you a lesson of a lifetime.

Porto is the type of city that surprises and enchants. It is one of Western Europe's best-kept secrets and a city that cannot be fully understood in just one visit.

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