

Portugal: Minho & the Douro Valley

Pre-trip-Extension Porto

2 Nights from \$395 per person, double occupancy

- Two nights at the Pestana Vintage Porto
- Airport arrival transportation
- Daily breakfast
- City information

Only available with the Air Inclusive Package.

Flight Day: Depart for Your Vacation

Your vacation is about to begin! Spend your first night aloft and arrive ready for an unforgettable trip.

Arrival Day: Arrive in Porto. Begin Your Pre-Tour Extension: Porto

A local representative or driver welcomes you on arrival at Porto Airport and arranges your complimentary car service to your centrally located hotel in Porto, approximately a 20-minute drive.

Upon arrival at the Pestana Vintage Porto Hotel, settle into one of the city's most atmospheric settings. This elegant property occupies a collection of 16th–18th century townhouses on Porto's picturesque Ribeira Square—a UNESCO World Heritage site overlooking the Douro River. Blending original stone façades and timber beams with contemporary design, the hotel captures the essence of Porto's riverside charm, where centuries of history meet modern comfort.

Take a moment to relax in your stylish guest room, many of which offer views of the bustling waterfront and the iconic Dom Luís I Bridge. Official check-in time is 3:00 p.m.; if you arrive earlier, the hotel will gladly store your luggage so you can begin exploring.

Step outside into the heart of Porto's lively Ribeira district, where narrow cobblestone streets lead to wine bars, artisan shops, and cafés clustered along the river. You might stroll the Cais da Ribeira promenade, take a scenic boat ride on the Douro, or cross the bridge to Vila Nova de Gaia to visit one of the famous Port wine cellars.

Lunch and dinner are on your own today. You'll find plenty of inviting options—from riverside bistros serving *petiscos* (Portuguese tapas) to elegant restaurants that highlight fresh Atlantic seafood and specialties such as *bacalhau à Brás* or the indulgent *francesinha* sandwich. Your City Highlights provide additional recommendations for dining, sightseeing, and local experiences to help you make the most of your stay in Porto.

Pre-Tour Day: Continue Your Pre-Tour Extension

Enjoy an included breakfast at your hotel before setting out to explore one of Europe's most captivating riverside cities. With its terraced hillsides, azulejo-tiled façades, and vibrant food culture, Porto invites you to wander at your own pace.

You might begin your day in the historic Ribeira district, tracing the Douro's curve past colorful row houses and traditional *rabelo* boats moored along the quay. From here, climb the winding streets to architectural treasures such as the Church of São Francisco, renowned for its ornate Baroque interior, and the Palácio da Bolsa, the 19th-century neoclassical Stock Exchange Palace whose Arabian Hall is a highlight.

Cross the Dom Luís I Bridge—one of Porto's most iconic landmarks—to Vila Nova de Gaia, home to the city's legendary Port wine lodges. Many offer guided tours and tastings that reveal the centuries-old craft of Port production, along with sweeping views back across the river to Porto's skyline.

Alternatively, you might ride the historic Funicular dos Guindais along the medieval walls for panoramic views, step inside São Bento train station to admire its remarkable tile panels, then visit Livraria Lello, often cited as one of the world's most beautiful bookstores. Nearby, climb the Clérigos Tower for another unforgettable vantage point. Don't miss Avenida dos Aliados, lined with grand architecture and cafés, or the lively Mercado do Bolhão—a beautifully renewed market hall showcasing local produce and everyday Porto life.

If time allows, consider an excursion to Foz do Douro, where the river meets the Atlantic and locals gather on oceanfront terraces to watch the sunset.

Lunch and dinner are on your own today. Porto's culinary scene ranges from cozy taverns serving hearty northern specialties—such as *tripas à moda do Porto*—to contemporary restaurants offering creative takes on Portuguese cuisine, often paired with wines from the Douro and Vinho Verde regions.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Pre-Tour Day: Pre-Tour Hotel Night: Porto

After an included breakfast, enjoy the morning at your leisure—perhaps revisit a favorite viewpoint along the river, browse local shops for azulejo tiles or artisanal foods, or simply relax at your hotel.

Lunch and dinner are on your own today. Porto offers an irresistible mix of local flavors and ambiance. You might savor fresh Atlantic seafood at a riverside restaurant, try traditional dishes such as *bacalhau com natas* (creamy cod casserole) or a classic *francesinha* at a neighborhood taverna, or enjoy a sunset drink overlooking the water.

This evening, consider a stroll through the nearby Ribeira district or across the bridge to Vila Nova de Gaia, where city lights reflect on the Douro and many Port lodges offer evening tastings and panoramic terraces.

Your City Highlights include curated recommendations for dining, sightseeing, and local experiences to help you make the most of your time in Porto before your walking adventure begins.

Included Meals: Breakfast