



# Northern Portugal



Northern Portugal is a region of contrasts, where the cultures and traditions shift and change with the landscape; a region of terraced vineyards and granite villages, lush river valleys, cool deserted beaches and medieval alleys, urban bustle and remote, isolated communities.

On the west coast, the vibrant city of Porto; in the west, rock engravings from Paleolithic times. Beyond Porto, the region seems to retire into a different space. On the northwest coast, the cooler climate ensures its long sandy beaches become almost your own personal domain. In the fertile Minho area are the streams and rivers that tumble from the various Serra ranges.



## Porto

Take a walk across the Dom Luis Bridge in Porto, opened in 1886, for a spectacular view over the River Douro, Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia.



## Barcelos

This charming medieval town, with its weekly (Thursday) market, is an important and vibrant centre for trade and sells clothes, shoes, fresh fruit and vegetables, ceramics, souvenirs and handicrafts.



## Guimarães

Nestled in the mountainous Minho region, Guimarães is steeped in history. Of particular interest is the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, Guimarães castle and the main central squares.



## Peneda-Gerês National Park

This unspoiled area is a destination for nature lovers with hiking trails, historic fortresses and rich flora and fauna – wolves, foxes, wild boar, wild ponies, bats and 147 bird species.

# Porto

Portugal's second largest city and one of Europe's most charismatic, this ancient port stands at the mouth of the Douro River. Port wine cellars, Café Majestic, Clérigos Tower, Gustav Eiffel's 'Dona Maria Bridge' and the Lello bookshop are just some of its many treasures.

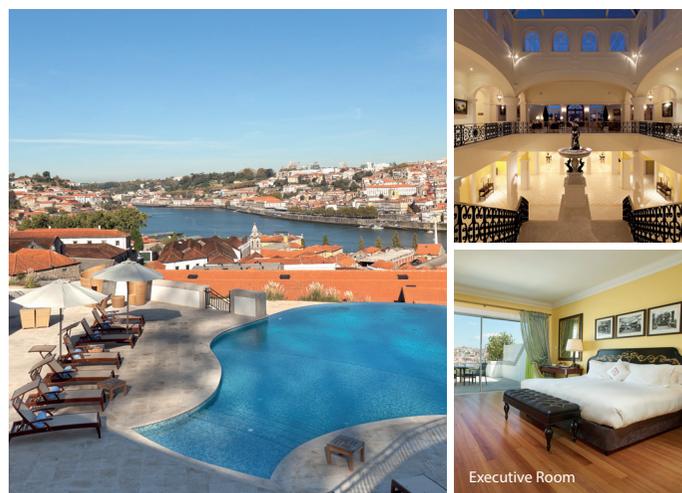
## Pestana Vintage Porto Hotel, Porto

The Pestana Vintage Porto Hotel occupies an unrivalled position on the heritage quayside of the River Douro, in the vibrant and atmospheric centre of Porto. Constructed from a group of adjoining century-old town houses, this beautiful property bears testimony to the development of the city over the years. Many of the bedrooms have a magnificent view across the river to Vila Nova de Gaia on the south bank of the Douro, home to numerous wine lodges – Taylors, Sandeman and Calem – which, when illuminated at night, look quite beautiful.

**Accommodation:** 109 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, plaza rooms, vintage rooms, a junior suite and suites.

- Airport: 14km Porto
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£696 per person\***



## The Yeatman, Porto

This luxury hotel is set within its own landscaped grounds on the south bank of Porto, a short walk from the Port wine lodges of Vila Nova de Gaia. With its extensive wine cellar, Vinotherapie spa treatments and prime position in one of Europe's wine capitals, the property is ideal for wine lovers. It is also the perfect choice for a spa or city break with uninterrupted, panoramic views across the Douro River to the historic centre of Porto; a relaxing spa and outdoor and indoor swimming pools.

**Accommodation:** 109 air-conditioned rooms including executive rooms, superior rooms, superior deluxe rooms and suites.

- Airport: 20km Porto
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Swimming pools
- Spa

Guide price from **£844 per person\***

## Infante de Sagres Hotel, Porto

The Infante de Sagres, a member of the 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World' and the first 5-star hotel in Porto, has been welcoming guests to the city since 1951. Much has changed in Porto since, but the hotel still retains its grandeur and an atmosphere of a bygone era with its stain glass windows, elegant staircase and period features resonating in the lift and telephone cabins. The hotel offers comfortable guest accommodation and is located within easy reach of the city's main sites including the UNESCO World Heritage area.

**Accommodation:** 85 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, deluxe premium rooms and suites.

- Airport: 17.7km Porto
- 5-star luxury hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- City centre location
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant

Guide price from **£685 per person\***



\* Guide prices based on 2-sharing a leading room type for 3 nights, flights from London to Porto (other airports on request) and return transfers. Note: We cannot guarantee that any of our featured properties are suitable for all levels of disability so please ask if you have specific issues. Please visit our website for further information on these and other featured properties.

# North of Porto

The north of Portugal boasts stunning, sandy beaches and a pretty countryside dotted with small, traditional villages and towns. Our chosen properties allow you to explore the area and work particularly well as part of a fly-drive itinerary.

## Casa Melo Alvim, Viana do Castelo

The delightful Casa Melo Alvim enjoys a privileged location in the historic centre of Viana do Castelo. Originally built in 1509, this elegant property (the ancestral home of the Melo Alvim family) has been sensitively remodelled, expanded and modernised to create a beautiful hotel of character, which offers accommodation of the highest standard. Guests should take a moment to admire the building's fascinating architecture, which includes many original features such as the impressive Baroque balustrade staircase in the entrance hall.

**Accommodation:** 20 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, deluxe rooms, a junior suite and suites.

- Airport: 67km Porto
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Coastal location
- Complimentary WiFi

Guide price from **£879 per person\***



## Quinta do Convento da Franqueira, Barcelos

Originally built in the 16th century as a Franciscan monastery and surrounded by 35 acres of beautiful private grounds, the Quinta has been remodelled by the current owners and today offers accommodation in which guests feel truly at home. All rooms have been attractively furnished and attention to detail is apparent throughout. Although secluded and quiet, it is by no means isolated being only 4km from the historic town of Barcelos with its lively Thursday market.

**Accommodation:** 5 rooms including 2 twin bedrooms, 2 double bedrooms and 1 studio.

- Airport: 46km Porto
- Quinta (Manor house)
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£750 per person\***

## Vila Galé Collection Braga, Braga

Vila Galé Collection Braga was formerly the São Marcos hospital, dating from 1508 and built where there used to be a hermitage devoted to São Marcos, a hostel and a Templar convent. Today, the property has been transformed into a hotel which maintains the building's historical and architectural side with original elements such as the vaulted ceilings. This beautifully appointed building, light and airy, conveys a sense of history and is conveniently located in the centre of Braga - one of the most ancient cities in the country, over 2,000 years old.

**Accommodation:** 123 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, family rooms, superior rooms and suites.

- Airport: 54km Porto
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- City centre location
- Restaurants
- Swimming pools
- Spa

Guide price from **£780 per person\***



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# Guimarães and the North

Discover the best of the north from the historic, medieval town of Guimarães, declared a UNESCO World Heritage site, to the Peneda-Gerês National Park with its tumbling streams and wooded mountain trails; and the tiny spa town of Vidago located on Portugal's northern border.

## Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães, Guimarães

Located near to the Penha Natural Park and the historic town of Guimarães (2km), the Mosteiro de Guimarães is one of the most impressive of all Pousadas. Converted from a monastery, the building dates from Roman times and many original Roman and Arabic features have been retained. A medieval chapel still exists and the original cloisters are now spacious lounges and sitting areas with magnificent vaulted ceilings. The bar is partially lined with the blue and white ceramic tiles 'Azulejos' typical of the region.

**Accommodation:** 51 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms and two suites.

- Airport: 54km Porto
- Historic Pousada
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Hilltop location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£815 per person\***



## Pousada do Caniçada-Gerês, Caniçada-Gerês

The pousada enjoys an enviable position in the heart of the Peneda-Gerês National Park, one of the most impressive nature reserves in Europe. Set high in the mountains, the property affords magnificent views over the surrounding hills, the River Cavado and the Caniçada dam. Originally a hunting lodge, the Pousada has maintained many of the building's original features including wooden beams within the bar and restaurant and a stone fireplace within the lounge.

**Accommodation:** 37 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and a suite.

- Airport: 85km Porto
- Charming Pousada
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£784 per person\***

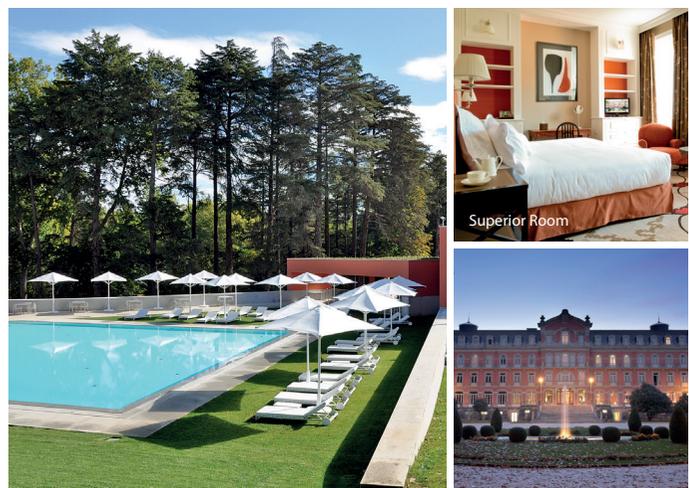
## Vidago Palace Hotel, Vidago

Nestling within a 250-acre estate, landscaped with impressive cedar, pine and holly trees, the Vidago Palace is justly considered one of Portugal's finest hotels. Dating from 1910, this impressive Edwardian palace has been tastefully renovated and sumptuously decorated in the 'Belle Epoque' style that recalls the elegance of the early 20th century. Ornate ceilings, antique furnishings and a beautiful, double sweeping staircase, coupled with an attentive and personal service, guarantee a truly unforgettable stay.

**Accommodation:** 70 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, privilege rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airport: 130km Porto
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Rural location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pools
- Spa

Guide price from **£1,235 per person\***



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# The Douro Valley

Central to the region and crucial to its character, is the majestic Douro River. As it meanders its way towards Porto, the endless terraces filled with vines provide a memorable backdrop to any journey.

## Casa da Calçada, Amarante

Situated in private, well maintained gardens and enjoying stunning views over the historic town of Amarante and the River Tamega, is the Casa da Calçada. This beautiful 16th century manor house, once the home of a Portuguese nobleman, has been tastefully restored and furnished to offer guests a high standard of accommodation in a refined setting. The Casa da Calçada is a delightful property, ideal as a peaceful retreat or as a base from which to explore the Douro and Minho regions.

**Accommodation:** 30 air-conditioned rooms including executive rooms, luxury rooms, superior luxury rooms and executive suites.

- Airport: 63km Porto
- 5-star Relais & Châteaux hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Town location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£946 per person\***



Executive Room



## Douro Palace Hotel Resort & Spa, Santa Cruz do Douro

The Douro Palace Hotel is a modern-design property, surrounded by terraced vineyards, on the northern shores of the River Douro, 32km from Régua. Enjoying an elevated position on the riverbank, the hotel boasts uninterrupted views over the region's vineyards, woodlands and its shimmering waterway; a scene, which can be, appreciated from the manicured lawn, outdoor swimming pool, terraces and all of the guest bedrooms.

**Accommodation:** 60 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms and a suite.

- Airport: 82km Porto
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Douro valley location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£821 per person\***

## Vintage House Hotel, Pinhão

Set in beautiful gardens, this former Taylor's wine warehouse occupies an unrivalled position on the banks of the Douro River at the heart of Portugal's Port wine region. Dating from the 18th century, the hotel has been tastefully refurbished and modernised in the traditional Douro style, whilst preserving the unique heritage of the property. More than 100 varieties of Port can be enjoyed in the hotel's bar and restaurant and for those with an appreciation for Port, in the Hotel's wine academy.

**Accommodation:** 50 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airport: 116km Porto
- 5-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- River front location
- Restaurant
- Swimming pool

Guide price from **£1155 per person\***



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# Explore Northern Portugal by Train

## Porto – Viana do Castelo – Guimarães

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

With many Portuguese cities and towns conveniently linked by rail, travelling by train is a great way to see the country with the additional ease of travelling from city centre to city centre. Our suggested 7 night itinerary explores the towns of Porto, Viana do Castelo and Guimarães - three destinations each with their own individual charm and heritage.

**Day One – Porto:** On arrival at Porto airport you will be transferred to The Yeatman on the south bank of the River Douro.

Close to the metro and mainline railway stations, the hotel enjoys panoramic views over the historic centre of the city.

**Day Two:** Day at leisure. Opportunity to explore Porto and its many historical sites or visit one of the Port wine lodges found only a few steps away from The Yeatman. The city of Porto is renowned for its fortified wine and guided tours of the lodges can be arranged locally.

**Day Three:** Day at leisure. Why not indulge in some retail therapy in the northern capital, a shopper's delight! The city not only produces, but designs footwear, jewellery and fashion. Alternatively, for

a special treat, visit the Caudalie Vinotherapie Spa (payable locally) at The Yeatman. With its various treatments, a Roman bath, sauna, Turkish bath, barrel hot tub, Vichy shower and complete well-being centre who can resist the temptation?

**Day Four – Viana do Castelo:** After breakfast, check-out from The Yeatman and make your way to Porto Campanha train station. Purchase your train ticket to Viana do Castelo (payable locally - please note some trains will be indirect). The journey takes you through the Minho countryside and takes approximately 2 hours 30 minutes. On arrival in Viana do Castelo make your way to Casa Melo Alvim, which enjoys a privileged position in the centre of town with the train station located to the rear of the property.

**Day Five:** Day at leisure. Take a moment to look around Casa Melo Alvim, before heading out to explore Viana do Castelo. Casa Melo Alvim was originally built in 1509 and many of the original features have been retained including an impressive baroque balustrade staircase in the entrance hall. The old sailing port of Viana do Castelo is easily explored on foot. The cathedral, the town hall and the Casa Barbosa Maciel municipal museum are some of the highlights not to be

missed. For a superb view along the River Lima estuary and sandy beaches of Cabedelo, take the funicular to Monte de Santa Luzia and the Sanctuary of the Sagrado Coração de Jesus de Santa Luzia.

**Day Six – Guimarães:** After breakfast, make your way to Viana do Castelo train station for your journey to Guimarães (ticket to be purchased and paid locally). The transfer will take approximately 3 hours 30 minutes, with two changes. On arrival at Guimarães train station we recommend you take a taxi to Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães which is located in the Penha Natural Park, 2km from the town centre.

**Day Seven:** Day at leisure. Time to discover Guimarães, a compact city with a 10th century castle, a series of medieval squares and regarded as the birthplace of Portugal. Alternatively, relax in the grounds of the Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães and absorb the spectacular views over the town. A cable car links the Penha Natural Park with the historic centre.

**Day Eight:** Private transfer to Porto airport for your return flight to the UK.

\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London Gatwick to Porto (other airports on request)
- Private transfers on arrival and departure
- 3-nights The Yeatman, Porto BB - Page 13
- 2-nights Casa Melo Alvim, Viana do Castelo BB - Page 14
- 2-nights Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães, Guimarães BB - Page 15

### Departures

Daily

### Duration

7 nights

### Guide price from

£1,105 per person\*





Braga

\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flight from London Gatwick to Porto (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire
- 2-nights Quinta do Convento da Franqueira, Barcelos BB - Page 14
- 2-nights Casa de Casal de Loivos, Pinhão BB - See website
- 3-nights Pestana Palácio do Freixo, Porto BB - See website

Departures

Daily

Duration

7 nights

Guide price from

£854 per person\*



Porto

# Northern Portugal

## Barcelos – Pinhão – Porto

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

Northern Portugal is a region of mountains, natural parks and rivers – a land of contrasts and a historical treasure chest waiting to be discovered. Our suggested itinerary is not set and can be amended to suit individual requirements.

**Day One:** On arrival at Porto airport, collect your hire car and drive north to the historic town of Barcelos (46km).

**Day Two:** Day at leisure. Opportunity to visit Barcelos - particularly lively on a Thursday when it's weekly market, selling a variety of goods from ceramics to livestock, takes place in the town square. Or, head to Braga (23km), Portugal's third city and an architectural delight, with buildings dating back to the Neolithic and Roman eras.

**Day Three:** After breakfast, drive south towards Pinhão (165km). Pinhão, considered to be the geographical centre of the Douro, has a beautifully decorated railway station adorned with blue and white azulejos (ceramic tiles) depicting a scene of the wine harvest.

**Day Four:** Day at leisure. Visit the attractive towns of Lamego (38.6km) and Vila Real (37.9km) both of which have fine baroque buildings. Lamego boasts the ruins of a 12th century castle, the Church of Santa Maria de Almacave and a Gothic cathedral. Vila Real's medieval centre is lined with noble homes, cobbled shopping streets and, for the best view over the city, the hilltop of Calvario. Just 3km from Vila Real is Mateus Palace, one of the jewels in the Portuguese baroque crown with some exquisite paintings, antique furniture and beautiful grounds.

**Day Five:** After breakfast, drive along the Douro River valley alongside the terraced vineyards, for which the region is renowned, to the city of Porto (132km).

**Day Six:** Day at leisure in Porto: Portugal's second largest city boasts fine examples of baroque architecture, including the Church of São Francisco, built in the 14th century and the Torre dos Clérigos which dates from the 18th century. The city, best explored on foot, is a shopper's paradise and a gastronomic delight.

**Day Seven:** Day at leisure in Porto with time to visit one of the city's many Port wine cellars. The district of Vila Nova de Gaia, on the south bank of the River Douro, is the main centre for this fortified wine and guided tours and wine tastings can be arranged locally.

**Day Eight:** After breakfast, drive to Porto airport for your return flight home.



Pinhão

# Fly-drive holiday to the central and northern regions of Portugal

## Viseu – Amares – Caniçada-Gerês

Itinerary: 8 days / 7 nights

**Undulating hills, river valleys lined with vineyards, natural parks and historic cities are just some of the attractions on offer on our 7 night Pousada fly-drive holiday to the heart of Portugal.**

**Day One:** On arrival at Porto Airport, collect your hire car and drive to the city of Viseu (139km, 1 hr 25 mins), the main city in the central region of Portugal. Your accommodation is the historic Pousada de Viseu in the historic quarter.

**Days Two & Three:** Free time in Viseu. Opportunity to explore the Centro region of Portugal, familiarly known as the 'heart of the country'. We would highly recommend visiting the fascinating city of Coimbra, a former capital of Portugal and home to one of the oldest universities in Europe; the coastal town of Aveiro and the Serra de Estrela Natural Park.

**Days Four & Five:** A 192km (2 hrs 10 mins) drive north brings you to Amares. We would highly recommend that you make a leisurely day of this transfer, stopping en route at Lamego and the town of Amarante. For those that are desirous, a further detour along the Douro river valley is possible. Amares is a small 16th century town and a gateway to the Peneda- Gerês National Park and within the Vinho Verde wine region. It is also within striking distance (under one hour's drive) of three of the most important, historical cities in the country: Guimarães (37km), Braga (17km) and Barcelos (38km). The coastal town of Viana do Castelo is also within easy reach. Your accommodation is the 32 room Pousada Mosteiro de Amares, a member of the 'Small Luxury Hotels of the World' and formerly a 12th century Cistercian monastery.

**Days Six & Seven:** A short drive east (16km, 22 mins) is the Pousada de Caniçada-Gerês. From the Pousada there are panoramic views over the Peneda- Gerês National Park, the Cavado River and the Caniçada Dam. Set on a mountain top, this 36 room Pousada once a hunter's chalet has a cosy and inviting atmosphere and is an excellent base for relaxing and walking within the park. Activities include fishing, canoeing, horse riding and boat trips. A relaxing end to our fly-drive itinerary.

**Day Eight:** Drive from Caniçada to Porto Airport (82km, 1 hr 10 mins) for your return flight to the UK.

\*Guide price based on 2-sharing includes:

- Flights from London to Porto (other airports on request)
- 8-days car hire Group A
- 3-nights Pousada de Viseu, Viseu BB - See website
- 2-nights Pousada Mosteiro de Amares, Santa Maria do Bouro BB - See website
- 2-nights Pousada de Caniçada-Gerês, Caniçada-Gerês BB - Page 15

### Departures

Daily

### Duration

7 nights

### Guide price from

£748 per person based on 2-sharing \*

Peneda-Gerês National Park

