



Northern Portugal



No one place is typical of Northern Portugal. It 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.



Guimarões

Nestled in the mountainous Minho region, Guimarões is steeped in history. Of particular interest is the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, Guimarões 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 **£660 per person***



Classic Room



Executive Room

The Yeatman Hotel, 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: 82 air-conditioned rooms including executive rooms, superior rooms and suites.

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

Guide price from **£576 per person***

Pousada de Porto, Porto

The pousada, designed by the Italian architect Nicolau Nasoni, is one of the finest examples of Portuguese architecture from the baroque period. Built in 1742, the hotel has preserved the entire façade of the palace buildings, which became a National Monument in 1910. Today the property consists of two separate but inter-connected buildings: the Palácio which houses the restaurant, bar and lounges; and the former Harmonia Flour Factory, where the guest bedrooms are located, many of which boast stunning views over the River Douro.

Accommodation: 87 air-conditioned rooms including classic rooms, superior rooms, deluxe rooms, junior suites and suites.

- Airport: 18km Porto
- Collection Hotel & Historic Pousada
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- River front location
- Swimming pools
- Spa

Guide price from **£674 per person***



Classic Room

* 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 **£632 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 **£639 per person***

Paço de Calheiros, Ponte de Lima

Set in its own private landscaped gardens and surrounded by vineyards, the impressive Paço de Calheiros is a haven of peace and tranquillity. The location of the property is unrivalled and the views over the Minho countryside can only be described as breathtaking. On a clear day it is possible to see the town of Ponte de Lima (7km) and its Roman bridge (from which the town takes its name) in the distance.

Accommodation: 9 rooms in the main house and 6 duplex apartments.

- Airport: 83km Porto
- Casa Antiga (Manor House)
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Rural location
- Swimming pool
- Spa

Guide price from **£713 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 in the Penha Natural Park, near the historic town of Guimarães (5km), the Mosteiro de Guimarães is one of the most impressive of all Pousadas. Converted from a convent, 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 standard rooms, superior rooms and two suites.

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

Guide price from **£660 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 **£576 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 **£674 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.

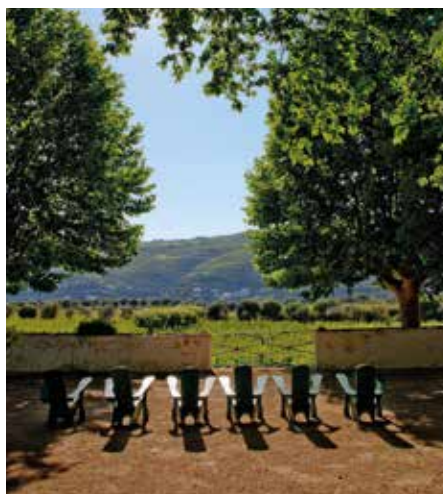
Accommodation: 30 air-conditioned rooms including executive rooms, deluxe rooms, superior deluxe rooms and executive suites.

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

Guide price from **£654 per person***



Executive Room



Quinta da Pacheca, Régua

Surrounded by a 36 acre estate and vineyards, the Quinta da Pacheca is one of the oldest wine producers in the Douro region. Owner-managed by the Serpa Pimentel family, the Quinta offers contemporary guest accommodation in an exclusive and historic setting. Relax in the tranquil grounds; enjoy views over the River Douro; sample the local specialities served by Teresa Serpa Pimentel in the hotel's restaurant; participate in a wine, honey or olive oil tasting or explore the stunning port wine country - the choice is yours.

Accommodation: 15 air-conditioned rooms including standard rooms, superior rooms and a garden suite.

- Airport: 103km Porto
- 4-star hotel
- Bed & Breakfast
- Complimentary WiFi
- Restaurant
- Rural location
- Wine Estate

Guide price from **£733 per person***

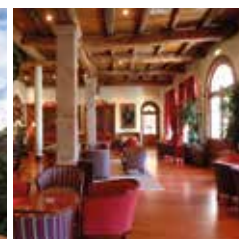
Vintage House Hotel, Pinhão

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: 47 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 **£650 per person***



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Braga



Porto

*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
- 2-nights Casa de Casal de Loivos, Pinhão BB
- 3-nights Pousada de Porto, Porto BB

Departures
Daily

Duration
7 nights

Guide price from
£846 per person*

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