

# TOUR OF PORTO & NORTHERN PORTUGAL

## 15 - 25 MAY & 12 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2024 (11 DAYS)



**TOUR PRICE:- £3,975 per person.**  
Single Supplement :- (£822), but I will be contributing towards the cost so the actual price is **£699.**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

#### TRANSPORT

Return flights to Porto via Gatwick, Stansted, Manchester or Glasgow  
Transfer from and to the airport  
Comfortable Private Coach  
Private Guide and Private Driver

#### ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

4 nights at the Porto Douro Hotel 4\*  
3 nights at the Viscondes da Varzea Hotel 4\*  
3 nights at the Carmo's Boutique Luxury Hotel 5\*  
FULL BOARD with soft drinks, beers and house wines all included

Buffet Breakfasts 10 days  
All lunches from day 2 - day 10  
(Plus lunch if you arrive in the morning)  
All dinners from day 1 - day 10

#### EXCURSIONS, VISITS AND ENTRANCE FEES

Porto's Botanical Gardens  
Famous Lello Bookshop  
Serralves Park and Museum  
Porto Wine tasting in Porto Wine cellar  
Filigree Workshop (half day)  
Quinta da Aveleda Garden, plus wine tasting  
Quinta da Pacheca plus wine tasting  
Douro River Cruise Regua to Pinhao lunch on board  
Olive oil tasting at Olive Museum  
Mateus Palace Gardens  
Santa Luzia Cathedral cloisters  
Embroideries at Viana do Castelo  
Palacio da Brejoeira Gardens  
Bom Jesus Sanctuary (Braga)  
Ducal Palace (Guimaraes)  
Douro River Cruise in "Rabelo" boat, then celebration dinner last night



# Jóna Tours



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Jóna Sparey has been organising and personally conducting some tours to Iceland and other countries for 38 years, with every aspect of each holiday being carefully planned. 57% of members now return again for more adventures.

## PORTO & NORTHERN PORTUGAL

### 15 - 25 MAY & 12 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2024 (11 DAYS)

Maximum 20 people per tour



An independent kingdom since 1143 (one of the world's oldest nations), Portugal is a fascinating European country to visit. Portugal has a history that stretches back still further and a rich culture with influences from a mixture of civilisations that include Celts, Romans and Moors.

Occupying the westernmost point in Europe, Portugal has a long and exposed coastline; these geographic characteristics have made it a historical focal point for invaders, seafarers and explorers. The Portuguese are proud of their cultural heritage, particularly the country's deep affiliations with the ocean.

For the majority of the year, the climate is very pleasant and in May average temperatures are between 20°C to 26°C in Porto: comfortable conditions for the tour.

Porto is Portugal's second city after Lisbon with centuries old architecture, a vital trading port, beaches, the river Douro and some of the best food and drink in Europe. Porto has fewer tourists than Lisbon and has access to the rest of northern Portugal with lots of great day trips from the city.

This tour has a full itinerary and explores this interesting region led by our local English speaking guide and experienced driver, with a private coach. Visits are many and varied and include **museums, botanical gardens, wine and olive oil tasting, Douro River cruises, goldsmith, embroidery, pottery and handicraft workshop tours.** During our eleven day stay we will travel through the countryside of **mountains, valleys and vineyards and visit palaces, a cathedral, medieval towns, the coast and much more.** Please see the full itinerary for details on the following pages.

We stay at three beautiful 4 and 5 star hotels (one of which is classed as a 'luxury hotel'). **All meals are included in the tour price** (including soft drinks, beer and house wine). We dine either at our hotel or at specially selected restaurants, all serving delicious local cuisine. Private **transfers** to and from the airport are also included.

# Portugal Itinerary

~~15 - 25 May~~ & 12 - 22 Sep 2024

## DAY 1 - Porto welcomes you

At your arrival at Francisco Sá Carneiro airport, private transfer to your accommodation in Porto.

Dinner and overnight at 4\* Eurostars Porto Douro Hotel.

## DAY 2 - Porto and its charm

Start 09:30. Your guide will escort you on a private full day tour exploring the UNESCO Heritage Historical Center of Porto, taking in its history and main attractions; from the Cathedral down to the Douro riverbanks. An inviting city of contrasts and winner of Best European Destination on several occasions. Restaurant lunch of local cuisine. Points of interest include: Botanical Garden, Lello Bookshop, S. Bento train station, Bolhão market and the Gardens of Serralves. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:30.

Dinner and overnight at 4\* Eurostars Porto Douro Hotel.

## DAY 3 - The Art of Filigree

Start 09:00. A half-day activity that is still off the main tourist radar; a conducted visit to a traditional workshop of ancient Portuguese goldsmithing. Filigree is the handcraft technique of twisting and flattening very thin wires of gold or silver. Here you can also buy unique pieces directly at the best price. Visit ends at the historical house "Casa Branca do Gramido" where the peace treaty for the "Patuleia Civil War" was signed and where the "Alchemy of Filigree" exhibition is displayed. We taste some local delicacies overlooking the Douro River with lunch included in a local restaurant. Arrival at the hotel at approximately 15:00. Rest of the day free. Dinner at a local restaurant next to Ribeira square.

Overnight at 4\* Eurostars Porto Douro Hotel.

## DAY 4 - The "Vinho Verde" (Green Wine) Region

Start 09:00. Today we go to the heart of the Vinho Verde Region, travelling back in time with a magical visit to the Quinta da Aveleda wine estate set in beautiful parks and gardens. Its origins are ancient, with the Aveleda family name spanning many generations devoted to the production of high quality wines. A wine tasting opportunity concludes the visit. We then head to one of the most ancient settlements of northern Portugal, the town of Amarante. Local Portuguese cuisine for lunch. The Tamega River runs through the town and is crossed by a large arched bridge, the Ponte São Gonçalo, named after the 12th century Benedictine monk who settled here after completing his pilgrimage. He became the town's patron saint and he is credited with building the original bridge in the same place where the current one now stands. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:00.

Dinner and overnight at Rural Hotel Viscondes da Várzea.

## DAY 5 - Douro Valley & its endless vineyards

Start 09:00. Today we tour one of the most idyllic areas of the country: the Douro Valley Wine Region, awarded an UNESCO World Heritage site in 2001. One of the oldest wine making areas in the world, with a beautiful and unique landscape shaped by over 2,000 years of wine production; terraced hillsides, vineyards and water of the Douro river. Visit to a world renowned wine estate which includes wine tasting.



At 12:00, embark at Régua quay for a relaxed Douro River cruise, with lunch included. 15:00 arrival at Pinhão, a small village at the heart of the Douro Valley. At the train station see the blue, white and yellow decorative tile panels depicting scenes of wine making at its various stages. Day concludes with a visit to an olive oil estate. Arrival at the hotel approximately 18:00.

Dinner and overnight at Rural Hotel Viscondes da Várzea.

## DAY 6 - Inside the Douro Valley region

Start 10:00. Departure to the small ancient town of Britiande. Visit Casa de Santo Antonio de Britiande, a house situated in an area of immense natural beauty, where visitors come up close to the traditions of family run wine-production rooted in the Douro for many years. Next stop is Ucanha, a wine-growing village bathed by the River Varosa with its unique tower and toll-gate bridge, both testifying to the medieval manor system of the Middle Ages. Lunch in a local restaurant. Visit to the Monastery of São João de Tarouca founded in the early 12th century by the first king of Portugal for the Cistercian monks. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:00.

Dinner and overnight at Rural Hotel Viscondes da Várzea.

## DAY 7 - Northern Portugal

Start 09:30. Built in the first half of the 18th century, designed by Nicolau Nasoni, the Mateus Palace set in a vast estate is considered one of the greatest exponents of Baroque civil architecture in Portugal. The interior decoration includes richly carved wooden ceilings, furniture, paintings, silver, ceramics and a library. Owned by the Fundação da Casa de Mateus which supports cultural activity and organizes festivals, courses, seminars and exhibitions. Lunch served in a local restaurant. Last destination Ponte de Lima, Portugal's oldest village. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:00.

Dinner and overnight at Carmo's Boutique Hotel.

## DAY 8 - Historical Minho

Start 10:00. Visit to this beautiful coastal city in the north of the country, with a medieval center, beaches and stunning river, Viana do Castelo is also considered the "Mecca of Architecture". Modernity and heritage combine perfectly. Explore the symbolism of the heart shaped medallion that the Minho women wear and its connection to the city. Embroidery tour and lunch in a local restaurant. Discover the ancient city of Barcelos, which has archaeological remains dating back to prehistoric times, with a visit to the Pottery Museum and the Barcelos Handicraft Center. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:00.

Dinner and overnight at Carmo's Boutique Hotel.

## DAY 9 - The Beauty of Alto Minho

Start 09:30. Visit the Palácio da Brejoeira - a grandiose building, in neoclassical and baroque style, classified as a National Monument since 1910. Set in splendid parks and gardens, this estate is where the famous Alvarinho wine is produced, as well as a genuine marc brandy.

Then to Monção - a fortified city on the bank of the River Minho. The 17th century walls guard the historic center and a visit to the town's therapeutic waters concludes the city tour before lunch at a local restaurant. The hilltop town of Valença with views over the River Minho has held a strategic position since the Middle Ages protecting Portugal from invasion. The Valença Fortress is the most impressive fortification in northern Portugal and has a 2000 year old history. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:00.

Dinner and overnight at Carmo's Boutique Hotel.

## DAY 10 - Getting back to the "Invicta" city

Start 09:00. On our way back to Porto, we will encounter two historic cities Braga and Guimarães, gems of the Minho Region. Braga is one of the world's oldest Christian cities where we visit the Cathedral, and the Bom Jesus do Monte. Lunch in a local Portuguese restaurant. One of the most beautiful, historic and authentic cities in Portugal, Guimaraes is a must-see. With a castle, palace, medieval wall, iconic church and UNESCO world heritage historical square, this city is known as the 'birthplace of Portugal' for good reason. Arrival at the hotel approximately 17:00. Last evening in Porto we will enjoy a Douro river cruise on a typical "Rabelo" boat (approx. 50 min), which will conclude on the river bank at a Porto Wine Cellar for dinner and wine tasting with impressive views over the city.

Overnight at 4\* Eurostars Porto Douro Hotel.

## DAY 11 - Returning home

Private transfer to Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport.