



Wandering Works for Us

3 Days in Porto, Portugal

Notes and suggestions included



Perched along the steep banks of the Douro River, Porto is a city where tradition and modern life blend seamlessly. Known for its UNESCO-listed historic center, golden-hued rooftops, dramatic viewpoints, and world-famous port wine, Porto offers a mix of culture, charm, and easygoing warmth that makes travelers feel instantly at home.

Wander its maze of medieval lanes, admire the blue-and-white azulejo tiles that decorate churches and train stations, or savor a slow meal in a riverside café; here, beauty lives in both the grand landmarks and the everyday details. Porto invites you to explore at your own pace, soaking in the city's character while discovering something new around every corner.

Whether you come for its history, food, wine, or simply to enjoy its relaxed rhythm, Porto is a destination that lingers long after you leave, full of moments that are as memorable as they are meaningful.

Day 1

City	Activities
Porto	<p>**Morning:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Livraria Lello (bookstore) book tickets in advance● Igreja do Carmo to see the famous azulejo facade● Clérigos Tower (climb for views if you wish) <p>**Afternoon:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lunch at a local restaurant--maybe try the Francesinhas● Miradoura da Victória--great pics of the city● Porto Cathedral (Sé do Porto)--beautiful church, often where the caminho to Santiago is started. There is a bell tower to climb for views. <p>**Evening:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dinner down by the River Front● Stroll along the Ribeira to Luis I Bridge (get great sunset pic)

Day 2

City	Activities
Porto	<p>**Morning:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Breakfast at the● Stroll through the Mercado do Bolhão for some snacks and wine● Visit São Bento Train station to see the azulejos.● Take the metro from São Bento (or walk across the Luis I Bridge to Jardim do Morro and get a great pic from the Serra do Pilar Monastery. <p>**Afternoon:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Eat Lunch in the Jardim or at the restaurants down by the river.● Port tastings in Gaia (if you opt for a day trip tomorrow). Port caves close at 5 so make reservations if you plan to tour and taste. For more info on the Caves, use our Port Wine Cellars Guide● Walk the river front markets for souvenirs <p>**Evening:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have dinner at Pip Restaurant or another place in Gaia

Day 3: Optional Day trips

City	Activities
Douro Valley	<p>**Morning:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Drive or tour guide will pick you up to drive about 2 hours to the Douro● Do a morning tasting and tour at a vineyard <p>**Afternoon:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Lunch at an authentic Portuguese Restaurant● Boat tour along the Douro River● Second tour and tasting at a vineyard● Drive 2 hours back <p>**You can do this tour yourselves with proper planning. Check out our blog post on how to do that here: Douro Valley Wine tours</p> <p>**Evening:**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dinner along the River or in the historic center of Porto

Optional Day trip 2: Braga and Guimarães

City	Activities
Braga and Guimarães	<p>**Morning:** Tour will pick you up and take you first to Braga. You can climb the stairs to the Bom Jesus do Monte Church, see the cathedral in Braga and walk around the historic center. Braga is one of our favorites. Read more about Braga and Guimarães by clicking on the links.</p> <p>**Afternoon:** We recommend you eat Lunch in Braga because they have the best food in Portugal. Then drive 30 minutes to Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal to see the city center, the castle, and the house of Dukes.</p> <p>**Evening:**</p> <p>Back in time for dinner in Porto.</p>

Notes and Suggestions

As a rule, we like to start at the “top” of Porto and make our way down the hill, which is how this itinerary is designed.

- **Transportation:** Porto has an airport that is easy to navigate (much easier than Lisbon) and has a metro that runs from the airport into the city. Buses are also available and Uber and Bolt. If you take a taxi, agree on the price beforehand or make sure they are running the meter.
- **Packing List:** Bring a jacket, good shoes, and an umbrella from October-May
- **Local Customs:** Use Euros, tipping is optional but appreciated, and make sure to try the local food!

Know Before You Go – Porto

1. Porto is hilly — really hilly.

Expect steep streets and lots of stairs. Using trams, the funicular, or rideshares (Bolt/Uber) can save you time and energy.

2. Book popular attractions in advance.

Livraria Lello, port wine cellars, and Douro Valley tours often sell out—reserve early, especially in high season.

3. The city is walkable, but surfaces are uneven.

Wear comfortable shoes that handle cobblestones well.

4. Dinner starts late.

Many restaurants don't open for dinner until 7–8 p.m., and locals dine even later.

5. Weather changes quickly.

Porto can shift from sunny to breezy to rainy in one afternoon. Pack a light layer or compact umbrella.

6. Cash is useful, but cards are widely accepted.

Most restaurants and shops take credit cards, though small cafés and markets may only want cash or a local card.

7. Port wine = Gaia, not Porto.

All the major port cellars are across the river in Vila Nova de Gaia—easy to reach on foot over Dom Luís I Bridge.

8. English is widely spoken.

But a few Portuguese basics (Olá, Obrigado/a) go a long way.

9. Sundays are quieter.

Some shops close; cafés and tourist areas stay open, but expect a slower pace.

10. Sunrise and sunset are spectacular.

Porto's viewpoints—like Serra do Pilar or Clérigos Tower—are especially magical at golden hour.