



**A TOURIST'S
 GUIDE TO WORLD
 HERITAGE
 SITES**
 IN THE NORTH OF PORTUGAL



**PORTO
 GUIMARÃES
 ALTO DOURO WINE REGION AND CÕA VALLEY**

The north of Portugal is a region that has been occupied by man since ancient times, a place where Atlantic and Mediterranean cultures intersect, particularly rich in cultural and natural heritage. Much of its territory falls within the Douro river basin and in the river basins of the Minho, Lima, Cávado and Ave rivers. Around three and a half million people live here, mostly along the coastal areas, in cities of different sizes. This is also a region rich in mountain chains that attenuate the effects of the Atlantic and transport us to the sheltered interior of Trás-os-Montes, Alto Douro and the huge territories of the Iberian Meseta, of a markedly rural nature.

There are four cultural assets on UNESCO's World Heritage List: two historic centres – Porto and Guimarães, included in 1996 and 2001 respectively–, the Archaeological Sites of the Cõa Valley, included in 1998, and the Cultural Landscape of the Alto Douro Wine Region, included in 2001.

The attribution of these classifications shows recognition of the exceptional universal values in the region, confirming the density of its history and the intrinsic authenticity and integrity of these cultural assets. To be sure, the north of Portugal offers many other cultural assets, but these four can be identified as representative examples of a whole region, where we can find eloquent testimonials from different stages in man's ancient history spread throughout the territory, which is rich in outstanding examples in terms of architecture, art and landscape.

Nowadays, Porto and Guimarães each have their own unique vibe and are distinct tourist destinations in northern Portugal. Both cities have developed urban rehabilitation programmes based on principles of safeguarding the heritage and respecting and enhancing traditional building techniques, aesthetics and morphology. They have also implemented policies for upgrading public spaces alongside social and economic policies. There is no doubt that the inclusion in the UNESCO list of the two historic centres and the interventions carried out in them have significantly increased the services on offer, especially those geared to tourism.

Porto, the capital of the region has a privileged position as an Atlantic city standing at the sheltered mouth of a mighty Iberian river: the Douro. The granite city arose from this interface between sea and river and spread from hill to hill on the two banks of the river, throwing up successive rings of city walls. This riverside city that was once a port is said to be both liberal and militant. The climate is mild, sometimes wet. It is brimming with architectural heritage from various eras, both civil and religious. Porto is particularly scenic, benefiting from unique light effects that are mirrored in the river, the sea and the sky. Visiting Porto implies taking the time to traverse the public spaces, catch all the sounds and let your gaze take in the big picture and the details. Porto invites you to come back.

WORLD HERITAGE

Guimarães, an inland city in the basin of the River Ave, is a 45 minute bus ride from Porto. It too is built of granite. It has been designated the *cradle of the nation*, and its inhabitants fondly keep the name alive. In Guimarães, one can feel the stamp of a medieval town, a centre of arts and crafts that are still apparent today. Guimarães illustrates the evolution of given types of architecture, from medieval times to the present, with special focus on the period between the 15th and 19th centuries. The high town was built around the castle, alongside which the Palace, residence to dukes, kings and presidents in turn, was later constructed. The low town grew around the Collegiate church of Santa Maria da Oliveira, street by street, square by square, contained by houses, within the city wall. Guimarães thrives on this dialogue between the high town and the low town. Guimarães is a friendly city. Guimarães invites you to stay and visit its surrounding places of interest.

The landscape of the Douro Wine Region and the Cõa Archaeological Sites, together with the territories in which they are situated, are representative of the interior of the region. The city of Vila Real, a mere hour away from Porto, can be seen as the gateway to these territories. The Marão mountain range breaks the Atlantic influence, and here a Mediterranean climate prevails. These territories cover vast areas of low density population and sometimes are not easy to reach, demanding a different kind of visit than the urban centres do. In the Douro, a car is a must – or a boat. One can sail up and down the River Douro, passing the locks at the successive dams. However, visiting the Douro also implies stopping at the viewing points, getting to know the Quintas, the Douro and Cõa Museum, the villages, the historic centres, strolling in the vineyards, visiting the wineries. In this way, we can set off on our voyages of discovery.

The Rock Art Sites are situated along the River Cõa, an important tributary on the right bank of the River Douro, which flows through wild countryside with little in the way of human presence. They constitute the biggest grouping of Palaeolithic art, a heritage of universal value that has been recognised by UNESCO as a masterpiece of human creative genius and an exceptional testament to the material, social, economic and spiritual life of our oldest ancestors. This heritage, which includes over 70 different sites where one can see strongly naturalistic engravings in the rocks, mainly of animals and also the outlines of human figures, falls within the Cõa Valley Archaeological Park, with this body being responsible for managing the around twenty thousand hectare area, spread over four sub-districts. A visit to the Cõa Museum is a must and can provide the starting point to get to know the main centres accessible to tourists: Canada do Inferno, Ribeira de Piscos, Penascosa and Fariuse. However, a visit to Cõa is not exhausted with the engravings, as the landscape is also unique, as are the towns and villages around the Park (Muxagata, Almendra, Castelo Melhor). It is also of great significance in terms of nature conservation, being a Special Protection Zone under the EU Birds Directive. It is a

magical place of contrasts, now seen from the height of São Gabriel, now from the vineyards in Ermavoina, now from the banks of the Cõa. The Cõa Valley invites you to interiorize. The Cultural Landscape of the Alto Douro Wine Region corresponds to an area of around 25,000 hectares, along the two banks of the River Douro and distributed over thirteen municipalities. It is deemed to be a representative area of the vast Douro Demarcated region (around 250,000 hectares), the oldest regulated wine region in the world, and represents a distillation of all that constitutes the most authentic in the Alto Douro as a living and evolving cultural landscape. This is a landscape of singular beauty, to which other ephemeral factors also contribute, such as the light, the colour and the silence. Morning, afternoon and evening in the Douro, just like the different seasons, are never alike. The Alto Douro Wine Region combines the monumental nature of the Douro River Valley, made of steep, mainly schist, stony slopes with the action of man, over the ages adapting the land to the Mediterranean style agricultural requirements supported by the region, and suited also to the shortage of water. This intimate relationship between nature and human activity has resulted in a particular manifestation of profound expertise arising from avid dedication to understanding the vine, a robust plant with deep roots, abundant top growth and highly fruiting... The slopes have been sculpted – formed into terraces and landings – like a collective, anonymous, undated work of art. Here, the famous Port Wine is produced, the main stimulus for technology, culture, local economy and traditions. However, the Douro is more than just vineyards: it is also the landscape of almond trees, olive trees, fig trees, arbutus trees, cork oaks... The Douro invites you to look, smell, and savour, listen, celebrate and fall in love!

- PORTO**
- 1 MOSTEIRO DE SANTO AGOSTINHO DA SERRA DO PILAR
 - 2 PONTE D. LUIS
 - 3 SE DO PORTO
 - 4 MURALHA FERNANDINA
 - 5 IGREJA DO CONVENTO DE SANTA CLARA
 - 6 IGREJA DE S. FRANCISCO
 - 7 PRAÇA DA RIBEIRA
 - 8 CASA DO INFANTE (ALFÂNDEGA VELHA)
 - 9 PALACIO DA BOLSA
 - 10 MERCADO FERREIRA BORGES
 - 11 ALFÂNDEGA NOVA
 - 12 IGREJA E MOSTEIRO DE S. BENTO DA VITÓRIA
 - 13 IGREJA, CASA E TORRE DOS CLÉRIGOS
 - 14 IGREJA DA MISERICÓRDIA
 - 15 ANTIGA CADEIA E TRIBUNAL DA RELACÃO
 - 16 HOSPITAL GERAL DE SANTO ANTONIO
 - 17 ESTACÃO DE S. BENTO
 - 18 AVENIDA DOS ALIADOS
 - 19 LINHARIA LELLO
 - 20 CAVES DO VINHO DO PORTO (PORT WINE CELLARS)

- GUIMARÃES**
- 1 COLEGIADA DE NOSSA SENHORA DA OLIVEIRA
 - 2 MUSEU DE ALBERTO SAMPAIO
 - 3 LARGO DA OLIVEIRA
 - 4 PRAÇA DE SANTAGO
 - 5 PRAÇOS DO CONCELHO
 - 6 RUA DE SANTA MARIA
 - 7 LARGO DO TURAL
 - 8 MURALHA
 - 9 CASTELO
 - 10 CAPELA DE S. MIGUEL DO CASTELO
 - 11 PRAÇO DOS DUQUES DE BRAGANÇA
 - 12 SOCIEDADE MARTINS SARMENTO
 - 13 ZONA DE COURO
 - 14 PALÁCIO E CENTRO CULTURAL DE VILA FLOR
 - 15 IGREJA DE NOSSA SENHORA DA CONSOLAÇÃO E SANTOS PASSOS
 - 16 MONTE E PARQUE DA PENHA
 - 17 SANTUÁRIO DA PENHA
 - 18 MOSTEIRO DE SANTA MARINHA DA COSTA
 - 19 CITÁNEA DE BRITÉRIOS
 - 20 SÃO TORCATO
 - 21 IGREJA DE SANTA CRISTINA DE SERZEDELO
 - 22 TERMAS DAS CALDAS DAS TAIPAS

- ALTO DOURO WINE REGION AND CÕA VALLEY**
- 1 SÉ DE LAMEGO
 - 2 MUSEU DE LAMEGO
 - 3 SANTUÁRIO DE NOSSA SENHORA DOS REMEDIOS DE LAMEGO
 - 4 BARCOS
 - 5 TREVEDS
 - 6 UCANHA
 - 7 SALZEDAS
 - 8 PROVESSENDE
 - 9 FAVAIOS
 - 10 IGREJA DE SÃO PEDRO DAS ÁGUAS, TABOAGA
 - 11 CENTRO HISTÓRICO DE SÃO JOÃO DA PESQUEIRA
 - 12 SANTUÁRIO DE SÃO SALVADOR DO MUNDO, S. JOÃO DA PESQUEIRA
 - 13 FREIXO DE NUNÃO
 - 14 CÕA VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK (ENGRAVINGS) MUSEU DO CÕA
 - 15 MOSTEIRO DE SÃO JOÃO DE TAROUCA
 - 16 MUSEU DO DOURO
 - 17 CASA DE MATEUS
 - 18 CASTELO E ANTIGA VILA AMURALHADA, CARRAZEDA DE ANSIAES
 - 19 IGREJA MATRIZ DE TORRE DE MONCORVO
 - 20 PINHÃO



ROTEIROS TURÍSTICOS DO PATRIMÓNIO MUNDIAL
 www.visitportugal.com
 www.descubraportugal.pt
 www.incm.pt