porto
and the north
the essence of portugal
porto
and the north

D. Afonso Henriques - First King of Portugal - Guimarães
Handmade Valentine’s Handkerchief - Vila Verde
Portugal was born in the North and the rich cultural heritage of the region doesn’t ignore so noble and ancient origins. Tradition, culture, history, architecture, gastronomy and wine, landscape, hospitality and the joy of their people are the attributes of a unique region. Whether in leisure activities, like golf and spas, or business, this region is acquiring a huge prominence and a peculiar charm. One who visits Portugal takes with oneself more than pictures and memories. One experiences in the soul maybe the most Portuguese feeling: Saudade.

The tourist will find a little of everything in cities and towns of Northern Portugal. Cities like the inimitable Porto, the distinct Braga or Guimarães, birthplace of Portugal. Must-visit cities are also Viana do Castelo, Ponte de Lima, Bragança, Chaves, Amarante, Lamego or Vila Real. Places of great heritage and historical interest, of culture and a very own and welcoming way of living.

The churches and monasteries, the museums and castles, the gardens and the rich architecture are part of an unforgettable itinerary. It is also impossible not to enjoy the numerous Natural Parks, the generous rivers, the sea and the mountain which frame all this region.

At a stop to take a breath, it is always possible to appreciate the rich and abundant gastronomy, the Douro wine, the “Vinho Verde” and the famous Port Wine.

The North of Portugal is all this and it is also a region with four UNESCO qualifications. The Historical Centre of Porto, the Historical Centre of Guimarães, the Douro Valley and the Côa Valley are World Heritage.

It would be hard to qualify a region like the North of Portugal, but if we wanted to do it, we would have to inspire ourselves in their people, in their hospitality, in the joy of their festivities and in their way of living so strongly marked by the pleasant way of hosting.
There are thousand charms and corners that are worth discovering in Porto, capital of the North. Porto is one of the oldest cities of the country, and, as such, its path is sinuous and picturesque.

It is a unique experience to stroll through its streets and feel the pulse of the city. Take the tram to the mouth of the river Douro and get to know the excellent beaches and the outdoor cafés, visit admiring churches and monuments and encounter the non-
conformist modernism of the new contemporary buildings of architects like Siza Vieira, Souto Moura or Rem Koolhaas.
architectural and historical heritage - a unique legacy

Board on a medieval journey and pound the historical centre, passing by the Cathedral or the Clérigos Tower. By tram or on foot, go down to the peer and experience the feeling of making a cruise on a Rabelo boat, which sail on the river Douro. Take the opportunity to admire the six bridges of the city, visit the Port Wine cellars and taste this characteristic wine in a cosy and refined atmosphere.

Visit the Casa do Infante Museum, the São Francisco Church, the Stock Exchange Palace, the pleasant riverfront and the well preserved Ribeira and Miragaia streets. But same wise, admire the well present modernity in the Casa da Música and the Museum of Modern Art of Serralves.
urban entertainment - sensations with the ocean and the river as background

Besides history and culture, Porto is also leisure, fun and night life. The famous streets around the Galeria de Paris Street, the cafés and its terraces, the Miguel Bombarda area or the commercial Sta Catarina Street are reference points in arts, in culture, but also in leisure and shopping.

Find out what Porto has best to offer and enjoy the numerous outdoor cafés by the sea and the excellent City Park with seafront.
São João traditional Festivity – Porto, 23rd June

Galeria de Paris Street – Nightlife

Tram Tour

Terraces over the sea
In Porto and in the North of Portugal one finds the ideal conditions to host business and scientific events in emblematic and well-equipped buildings.

To host international congresses and conferences you can choose congress centres of various competencies and different types of hotels: chain, charm, design or trendy. These units are complemented by a vast support services, always with the guarantee of a skilled experience and a rigorous professionalism. For a social event of more creative matter, it is also the ideal destination due to the huge variety of available gala venues: castles, manor houses, palaces, restaurants, beach bars, casinos, museums and a lot more!

In Porto and in the North of Portugal, it is always possible to transform a simple transfer into an event and make it unforgettable, on board of a boat, tram or train.
The Casa da Música, the Historical Centre and the Ribeira Square, the Lello Bookshop, the Café Majestic, the Port Wine Cellars and the Monastery of Nossa Senhora do Pilar, the Guindais Funicular, Miguel Bombarda Street, Galeria de Paris Street, Cândido dos Reis Street, Serralves House and Museum of Modern Art, the São Bento Train station, the Cathedral, the Clérigos Tower. And, of course, the contagious joy of the popular festivities, the excellent gastronomy and the wine.

don’t miss

Historical Grand Prix of Porto - Boavista Circuit

Dragon Stadium – FC Porto

Clérigos Market
The Minho Region has unique characteristics associated to a natural landscape of enormous beauty and biodiversity. Marked by an intense green of the fields and vineyards, the Minho beautiful landscape allies itself with the contagious joy of the festivities and processions and with the unparalleled hospitality of its people.
Start this journey in Viana do Castelo which has many stories to tell. The city of Braga is also a tourist reference point in the region and European Capital of Youth 2012. Guimarães, birthplace of Portugal and European Capital of Culture 2012, is also a must-stop. Ancient manor houses and pousadas, an extremely rich gastronomy, festivities and processions and Vinho Verde are some of the attractions you can appreciate in this privileged area.

Visit churches and monuments of incomparable beauty, a rich popular culture, music, folklore, stories and an unparalleled handcraft. Know the Portuguese Way to Santiago, the way done by the pilgrims who flock to Santiago de Compostela, since the 9th century, through Minho.
something surprising every day

The radical activities play also an important role not only on the rivers, like rafting in Gerês, but also kitesurfing on the excellent coast, next to Viana do Castelo.

Enjoy the coastline with numerous beaches, green mountains, manor houses, monuments and masterpieces of traditional and modern architecture, festivals, handcraft, gastronomy and “Vinho Verde”.

If you like golf, Minho offers you the necessary peacefulness to play this sport in excellent sceneries and facilities which compete with the best of the world, together with other golf courses of excellency you can find in Porto and in the North of Portugal.
don’t miss


Duques de Bragança Palace – Guimarães

Barcelos Rooster

Portuguese Way to Santiago de Compostela
Typical Costume with Filigree Jewellery

Roman Bridge - Ponte de Lima

Viana do Castelo Annual Festival - Nossa Senhora da Agonia
It was, in 1756, the first demarcated and regulated wine region in the world. The wild slopes of the valley transformed themselves, through the work of generations, in terraces to plant the vines that produce the famous Port, excellent DOC Douro wine, sparkling wine and Muscat.

This impressive landscape was considered World Heritage by the UNESCO in 2001, as a living evolving cultural landscape – the Douro Valley. In the Valley of the river Douro and its tributaries, the harmonious interaction between Man and Nature coexists with another, possibly more natural or derelict - the one of the National Parks of Douro International, of Alvão or, yet even further, the Geopark of Arouca.

The River Douro flows from the Spanish border to the east of Porto and, depending on the time of the year, its slopes may be decorated with Almond trees and Cherry blossom or with the harvest labor.
human work in perfect balance with nature

Visit the Douro Museum in Régua, the Casa de Mateus Foundation in Vila Real and the many quintas that produce Port Wine and Douro Wine. Know the Douro International Natural Park and the Alvão Natural Park. Located in the Upper Douro, Vila Nova de Foz Côa saw its name cross borders due to the discovery of its Paleolithic open air Rock Art. Considered World Heritage by the UNESCO, it is one of the biggest archeological centres of Rock Art.
Try the traditional recipes accompanied by the highly respected Wines, in quintas or in the excellent local restaurants.

Participate in the harvest, treading and other popular events. Board on a cruise or travel by train to enjoy a unique landscape or, if you are looking for radical activities, there is a variety of water sports you can practise.
don’t miss

The Rock Art of Côa Valley and the Archeological Park, the Douro International Natural Park and the Alvão Natural Park, the Douro Valley, the Douro Museum, the Côa Museum, Monuments, the harvest, gastronomy and wine, the Douro cruises, the Casa de Mateus Foundation, the Monastery of Salzedas and the Shrine of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios.
Salzedas Monastery

Fisgas de Ermelo Waterfall – Mondim de Basto

Shrine of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios – Lamego

Salzedas Monastery
Trás-os-Montes is the appropriate name for this area of the interior North of Portugal. Plateaus and majestic mountains, towns and untouched historical villages, purifying spring waters, traditional cuisine and the genuine hospitality of a people proud of their customs.

trás-os-montes, a further and mysterious region

Trás-os-Montes is the appropriate name for this area of the interior North of Portugal. Plateaus and majestic mountains, towns and untouched historical villages, purifying spring waters, traditional cuisine and the genuine hospitality of a people proud of their customs.
Beautiful cities like Chaves and Bragança or places like Vidago are worth a long visit. This remote and hilly region offers unique sceneries, like the Almond blossom, the historical villages, natural landscapes and the richest cuisine. Bragança and its historical core are located in the extreme of the Montesinho Natural Park – one of the wildest forests in Europe, with an enormous variety of fauna and flora.

Daily life hasn’t suffered many changes for centuries and these isolated towns own a very own rustic beauty. The inhabitants have a traditional way of life, especially in smaller cities and towns, like Miranda do Douro, with special traditions like the Mirandês dialect, Mogadouro, Torre de Moncorvo and Freixo de Espada à Cinta.
Trás-os-Montes is a very rich and peculiar area concerning gastronomy and traditions, highlighting the olive oil of great quality and the “Alheira”, a very typical and very much appreciated sausage. The Carnival celebrations in Trás-os-Montes are vibrant and full of tradition. The festivities take up to the days before Ash Wednesday, and include eye-catching costumes, cheerful parades and traditional music, attracting visitors from all over the world. Revigorating spas and wild nature are attributes of a very preserved area, owner of an admirable beauty.
Bragança and the Montesinho Natural Park, the River Beach of Albufeira do Azibo - Macedo de Cavaleiros, Caldas Santas de Carvalhelhos, Mirandela, Miranda do Douro, Vidago. The Spas of Chaves, Pedras Salgadas and Vidago.

don’t miss

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how to arrive

**plane**
The International Airport of Porto, located 15km from the city, is a modern infrastructure, holder of several international awards, equipped with high quality to meet the flow of air traffic. It serves 60 destinations operating with the main regular airlines.

The connections to the Metropolitan Area of Porto are done by a good public transport network (bus, subway and taxi). There are good connections to all Northern region. Porto is located 300km North of Lisbon, in a privileged geographical position, in terms of access to the main European capitals.

**boat**
Leixões International Cruises Terminal /APDL Port is only a few kilometers from the city centre of Porto and welcomes cruisships from many parts of the world.

**train**
Porto and the North of Portugal dispose of international trains, Alfa Pendular, intercity, interregional, regional and urban, allowing to make connections to many national and international destinations. There are three daily connections to Paris, through Madrid and many to Lisbon and the rest of the country secured by the Campanhã Train station, in Porto.

**car**
Porto and the North of Portugal are served by a modern communications network, which allows who comes from Galicia, Algarve, Lisbon, Coimbra, or from any part of the country, to arrive easily at the Destination.
useful information

climate
Temperate maritime climate. Nevertheless, in the interior of the country and away from the sea, temperatures are lower in the winter, but moderate compared to the rest of Europe. Seasons are marked, having pleasant temperatures in the spring and in the summer. Summers are warmer and drier especially in the interior and moderate by the sea.

number of sunny days per year | 250

currency | Euro

time | GMT (0) Winter | (+1) Summer

electrical power | 220V

national emergency number | 112

hospitals
Porto:
São João Hospital: (+351) 22 551 21 00
Santo António Hospital: (+351) 22 207 75 00

Other Cities:
Vila Nova de Gaia / Espinho – Hospital Centre (+351) 22 868 354
Matosinhos – Pedro Hispano Hospital (+351) 229 391 000
Póvoa de Varzim / Vila do Conde – Hospital Centre (+351) 252 690 600 / (+351) 252 299 100
Viana do Castelo – Santa Luzia Hospital: (+351) 258 802 100
Braga Hospital: (+351) 253 209 000
Guimarães – Senhora da Oliveira Hospital: (+351) 253 540 330
Tâmega e Sousa, E.P.E Hospital Centre: (+351) 255 714 000
Vila Real / Peso da Régua – Hospital Centre: (+351) 259 300 500
Chaves District Hospital: (+351) 276 300 900
Bragança District Hospital: (+351) 273 310 800

police
PSP- Public Security Police: www.psp.pt
GNR- Republican National Guard: www.gnr.pt

credit cards
American Express: 707 50 40 50 / (+351) 214 278 20 502
Mastercard: 800 811 272
Visa: 800 811 107

telephone | Dialling code : 00 351

airports
ANA- Porto Airport: www.ana.pt
Porto Airport: (+351) 229 432 400
Bragança Airfield: (+351) 273 381 175
Vila Real Airfield: (+351) 259 336 620

transport
Information about Transport: www.transpor.pt
CP-Combiuos de Portugal (Trains of Portugal): 808 208 208 / www.cp.pt
Rede-Expressos (Buses): 707 223 344 / www.rede-expressos.pt
Metro do Porto (Subway): (+351) 225 081 000
Brisa: (+351) 21 444 85 00
Ascendi: 707 20 25 25
Via Verde: 707 500 900

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