

Porto & The Douro

The food, wines & culture

November 3 - 8, 2021



Treasures of Portugal and the Douro

This trip offers a wonderful overview of the best of northern Portugal, including the wonderful Douro Valley, the vibrant city of Porto, the bold wines of the Bairrada, finishing in the cosmopolitan capital of Lisbon. Magnificent scenery, great contrasts between wine styles and regions, this is always one of our favourite trips.

Why Portugal?

Northern Portugal is a throwback to days gone by, a world away from Algarve glitz and glamour in the south. Porto is a gem of a city, the clusters of atmospheric streets either side of the Douro retaining their long lived maritime soul whilst opening the door to the 21st century through fabulous restaurants and luxury hotels. The rural wine regions of the Bairrada, Dao offer food and wine experiences more closely tied to their origins than most places on the planet. The Douro is one of the greatest wine tourism destinations, the astonishing terraces overlooking the river now producing great red wines and ports.

Lisbon is one of Europe's great cities, a place on the rise and the base for Portuguese exploration from Vasco de Gama onwards, as well as being scenic and dramatic.

Above all though, the joy is in the small villages where grapes, unrecognisable to outsiders, produce wines of huge character, quality and individuality.

Trip Highlights

- Michelin 2* dinner The Yeatman in Porto
- Traditional rabelo boat ride on the Douro river
- Wine and Port visits in the Douro and Bairrada
- Visit to the Factory House and Wine Museum in Porto
- Cookery class in the Douro Valley
- Dinner at top restaurant DOC
- Lunch at the iconic Quinta do Noval
- Lunch at fairytale Bussaco Palace

Top wineries included

Taylor's, Quinta do Noval, Quinta do Bomfim, Quinta do Pacheca

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Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Wednesday 3 November. Check in and late afternoon meet in the foyer of the top class Yeatman Hotel in Porto and walk to the nearby Taylors port lodge, one of port's grandest names and a fine setting for a premium tasting of some very fine styles of ports.

Dinner in the Yeatman's 2-star Michelin restaurant, one of Portugal's very best. **D**

Day 2. Thursday 4 November. After breakfast we take a short trip to one of Porto's best kept secrets for our first visit. Feitoria (The Factory House) is a unique part of Porto's story, a gentleman's club for British port shippers which was handed over in perpetuity to the British Consulate in the early 19th century. We enjoy a tour of the property followed by a glass of port in front of the Queen's portrait, the perfect place to understand the intertwined relationship of the Portuguese and British in the history of the port trade.

Lunch is in the Wine Box, a wonderful wine themed restaurant near the river where we enjoy a range of northern Portuguese dishes with wines from regions we don't visit on the tour. After lunch there is a visit to the recently opened Wine Museum before heading back to the Yeatman for a free evening. **B/L**

Day 3. Friday 5 November. Head inland to the spectacular Douro Valley. Check in to the lovely Vintage House, overlooking the river at Pinhao.



before heading up the hill to Quinta do Noval, the only historic port shipper to take its name from its base in the Douro and more rooted in its terroir than any of its local rivals. A beautiful location sets the scene for a visit and lunch before making our way back down to Pinhao to meet our rabelo (a traditional port boat for transporting barrels) to take us for a tour along the Douro. Relax and enjoy the sight of one of the world's most spectacular wine landscapes.

Back to the hotel and time to relax before dinner at the nearby Quinta de la Rosa, great food in a lovely location. **B/L/D**

Day 4. Saturday 6 November Morning visit at Dow's flagship Quinta do Bomfim before heading to the Quinta da Pacheca estate near Regua. It is a lovely setting for a cookery class, which we enjoy near the traditional winery culminating in a very convivial lunch close to the port barrels. Back to the hotel for some relaxation before dinner.

Tasting menu dinner at DOC, the best restaurant in the region in a stunning setting on the river. We enjoy a tasting menu from chef Rui Paula with some of the excellent wines of the region. **B/L/D**

Day 5. Sunday 7 November. Head south to the fairytale Bussaco Palace for a tasting of their rare wines and lunch. On to Lisbon and our hotel in the the Pestana Palace where the evening is free. **B/L**

Day 6. Monday 8 November. After breakfast, end of tour or continue onto the main Gran Reserva tour.



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\$3400 per person sharing
\$500 single supplement
\$500 deposit per person
Limited to 20 guests



Included

- 2 nights at the Yeatman Hotel, Porto
- 2 nights at Vintage House Hotel, Pinhao
- 1 night at The Pestana Palace, Lisbon
- Private transport by luxury coach
- English speaking guides
- Breakfast daily; 7 lunches or dinners
- Entrances and activities as specified
- All winery visits

Not included

Airfare; meals not mentioned above; travel insurance, gratuities for guides

Contact us to sign up for this trip

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