



Itinerary

Northern Portugal & Spain featuring the Douro River Valley

Sep 14, 2020 - Sep 24, 2020

Pre Night: Pestana Porto Goldsmith



Start your tour of Northern Portugal and Spain with a stay in Portugal's vibrant capital, Lisbon. The largest city in Portugal, and one of the oldest cities in the world, Lisbon sits overlooking the Atlantic Ocean with a skyline blended between modern and medieval architecture. Rich in history and culture, Lisbon is proudly home to several incredible museums and Baroque and Gothic architectural masterpieces. There's so much to discover – explore the Barrio Alto, discover the Baixa and Alfama neighborhoods, or meander along the riverside. From the Belem Tower and the Monument to the Discoveries, to Jeronimos Monastery and Praça do Comercio, there is no shortage of interesting sites to see. Perhaps you may try some salted cod or a traditional pastel de nata – a Portuguese egg tart. Feel like a local and consider seeing the city from the historic tram 28, the popular trolley line. Staying in Lisbon before your tour is the ultimate appetizer for the rest of the Iberian Peninsula.

Day 1: Overnight Flight



Vibrant tiles, sparkling coastlines, and aromatic wines – all this and more awaits you in Northern Portugal and Spain.

Day 2: Porto, Portugal - Tour Begins



Say olá to Porto, a coastal Portuguese city whose robust spirit far outshines its modest size. Allow your eyes to drift along the brightly colored buildings, built of immovable stone and opulent facades. Resembling an outdoor museum, you will feel the inscrutable pull of history as you meander down the cobblestone streets, along the tile-sided storefronts, and under the striking red rooftops. Breathe in the captivating energy of the scenic Ribeira waterfront before getting a taste of the culture at a local restaurant.

Hotel

Pestana Porto Goldsmith
Porto

Culinary

Dinner

Weather

High 75°
Low 57°
Rain 2"

Day 3: Porto



Pass by the neighborhood's friendly faces as you discover the city's hidden secrets on a walking tour with a local expert. The bright blue-and-white tiles of Carmo Church contrast with the overcast gray lining, creating a larger-than-life painting that appears to be lifted straight out of a storybook. Marvel at the intricate ironwork of the iconic Dom Luís I Bridge. Spanning the River Douro, this double-decker structure was constructed by a protégé of Gustave Eiffel, famed creator of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Watch the famous rabelo boats coast by as you gain insight into this city's history of transportation and port wine. The rest of the day is yours to spend as you wish; you may choose to

take a scenic stroll across the river to Vila Nova de Gaia and visit one of the many port wine cellars for a tour and tasting.

Hotel

Pestana Porto Goldsmith
Porto

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 75°
Low 57°
Rain 2"

Day 4: Porto-Guimarães-Braga-Ponte de Lima-Santiago de Compostela, Spain



Venture into Guimarães, the legendary birthplace of Portugal. Allow the city's old world charm to envelop you as you explore the grounds of a 10th-century castle. Continue to Braga and visit the revered Bom Jesus. The church invites you to climb its zigzagging staircase, providing views of the town that are worth the twisting ascent. Take a sip of the crisp flavors of vinho verde (green wine) and explore a family owned quinta in Ponte de Lima. Get a glimpse into the source of this fresh, lightly sparkling wine as you are led through the vineyards. The day ends in Santiago de Compostela, whose history is deeply rooted in superstitions, legends, and faith.

Hotel

Hotel Monumento San Francisco
Santiago de Compostela

Culinary

Breakfast & Lunch

Weather

High 72°
Low 53°
Rain 5"

Day 5: Santiago de Compostela



Choose how you delve into the lore of the city because today, it's your choice! Engage with one side of the city's beliefs on a tour focusing on the myths and legends of Santiago -OR- connect with centuries of travelers and walk a portion of the city's famous pilgrimage path, reflecting as a local guide leads you along the urban camino. Breathe in tranquility as you admire the view of the town and end at the cathedral to learn the origins of the world-renowned pilgrimage. Stop at Mercado do Abastos, wander along the colorful stalls, admiring the fresh produce, warm pastries and savory cheeses. Take advantage of a free afternoon to explore the city on your own. Perhaps you'll join an optional dinner at a local restaurant, featuring the mouthwatering seafood that the city is known for.

Hotel

Hotel Monumento San Francisco
Santiago de Compostela

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 72°
Low 53°
Rain 5"

Day 6: Santiago de Compostela - Leon



Your journey continues in Leon, a city of indescribable energy and mesmerizing architecture. On a city tour with a local guide, pass by the Casa Botines, a work by the eccentric Antoni Gaudi, and take in the imposing Leon Cathedral, whose gothic towers appear to reach straight into the sky. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy this Spanish town at leisure.

Hotel

Ac Hotel By Marriott Leon San Antonio
Leon

Culinary

Breakfast

Weather

High 70°
Low 59°
Rain 1"

Day 7: Leon - Braganca, Portugal - Douro River Valley



Explore Braganca, an isolated medieval town located near the Spanish border. Wander among the clustered stone houses and gaze at the 12th-century castle, rising above the city skyline. Continue to the Douro River Valley, a region of Northern Portugal known for its lush, serpentine hillsides and delicious port wine grapes. Be welcomed to the Quinta da Pacheca, an estate that has been actively producing wine since the 1700's. Settle in for a leisurely 3-night stay in the midst of the vineyard's scenic paths and warm hospitality. After touring the grounds, enjoy a wine tasting and dinner made up of fresh Portuguese ingredients. For true connoisseurs of wine, consider raising your accommodations* to the next level with an innovative wine barrel room, allowing you to admire the vineyard rows from the comfort of your own bed.

Hotel

The Wine House Hotel - Quinta Da Pacheca
Douro River Valley

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8: Douro River Valley



Discover Pinhão, a charming town along the Douro River featuring tranquil vistas, sloping hills, and delicious port wine. Wander the vineyards and olive groves on your own, following the directional plaques along whatever path your heart desires. Learn about the harvesting and production processes of world-renowned port brands. Navigate along the most picturesque landscapes of the Douro River on a traditional wooden rabelo boat. Marvel at the rows of twisting vines, lush trees, and colorful houses from a different perspective.

Hotel

Culinary

Day 9: Douro River Valley



With vineyards by your side and endless beauty ahead, enjoy a day at leisure. Perhaps you'll picnic in the vineyards, meander along the green hills, or venture into the nearby town of Regua. Or, consider an optional tour to Lamego where you'll travel to the peak of the town via coach before hopping on a bike and exploring; coast down the winding streets, perhaps stopping for a delicious bola sandwich, and enjoy the downhill ride back to the quinta. No matter how you choose to spend your time, you will close out the day with a cooking class at your winery home. Allow the fresh air to gently float around you as the kitchen walls slide open, creating the feeling that you are preparing food directly in the vineyard. Indulge in traditional Portuguese recipes – all paired with enticing vintages from the estate.

Hotel

The Wine House Hotel - Quinta Da Pacheca Breakfast & Dinner
Douro River Valley

Culinary

Day 10: Douro River Valley - Aveiro - Porto



Leave the wines and vines behind as you depart the Douro River Valley. Take a peek into the process of creating Portuguese porcelain at the Vista Alegre Factory and Museum; here you'll get to observe workers creating exceptional ceramic pottery. Your journey then takes you to Aveiro, a stunning waterfront town where hand-painted boats pass through the canal. Allow your eyes to drift along the nouveau architecture of this quaint fisherman village; perhaps you'll pause for a bite of a ovos moles, a "soft egg" pastry that the city is known for. Head back to Porto for your farewell dinner and toast to a trip well-traveled.

Hotel

Eurostars Porto Douro
Porto

Culinary

Breakfast & Dinner

Weather

High 75°
Low 57°
Rain 2"

Day 11: Porto - Tour Ends



Your tour of Northern Portugal and Spain comes to a close today.