





## Enhance Your Stay in Porto with Additional Privately Guided Sightseeing

**Full-Day Excursion to Braga + Guimarães:** Encompassing two distinct UNESCO World Heritage Sites, this privately guided excursion delves into some of the most important chapters of Portugal's history and the emergence of its national identity. Traveling north from Porto, your first stop is Guimarães , renowned for its well preserved architecture from medieval times to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Enhanced by the historical knowledge of your guide, you'll visit Castelo de Guimarães, a castle dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and the impressive Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in the style of a French manor house. Explore the historic city center and enjoy some free time to have lunch at your leisure. In the afternoon, your sightseeing continues in Braga. Enjoy a guided walk-through town including the Cathedral; founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it is the oldest in Portugal and predates the founding of the country. The last stop of the day before returning to Porto is the magnificent Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte . Here you'll discover a simple neoclassical church that crowns a wooded hill reached by an incredible zig-zagging Baroque staircase. Gracing this ascending *Via Crucis* are fountains, gardens, and a series of small chapels that house sculptures evoking the Passion of Christ.

*Tour Duration: 8 Hours*

**Full-Day Excursion to Aveiro + Coimbra:** Traveling comfortably with your private car, driver and guide, you'll journey southward to Coimbra. Situated on the banks of the meandering Mondego River, this handsome town is home to the country's oldest university, founded in 1290. With historical narratives from your guide, your exploration includes the University of Coimbra  and the remarkable Joanina Library. Behold the Coimbra Cathedral, one of Portugal's most beautiful Romanesque monuments, and enjoy some free time to explore on your own and have lunch. Continue to the beguiling town of Aveiro. Situated on the edge of an extensive network of coastal lagoons, this lively town is often referred to as the Venice of Portugal, thanks to its network of picturesque canals. While Venice has its gondolas, Aveiro has its moliceiros; formerly used to harvest and carry seaweed, they are now used mainly to transport visitors along the tranquil, scenic waterways. **Note:** You can personalize this full-day excursion with your choice of activity: Enjoy a guided tour of the University of Coimbra and Joanina Library **or** embark on a moliceiro canal cruise in Aveiro. *Tour Duration: 8 Hours*

**Full-Day Douro Valley Excursion:** The wine traditions of the bucolic Douro River Valley  stretch back nearly 2,000 years. This long viticultural tradition has transformed the valley's cultural landscape, from the topography of its terraced vineyards to the region's economy and social fabric. Departing Porto with your private car, driver and guide, you'll journey into the Douro Valley, making your first stop in the inviting riverside town of Amarante, famed for its picturesque centuries-old homes. Then continue to Peso da Régua. This riverside village emerged as one of the region's most important wine centers when the Marques de Pombal founded the Companhia Geral das Vinhas do Alto Douro in 1756, making it one of the oldest wine operations in Portugal. Visit one of the local wine estates for a guided tour, highlighted by a sampling of their fine wines. After lunch on the estate, stop in the enchanting village of Pinhão to see its 19<sup>th</sup>-century railway station, decorated with hand-painted tiles that depict the region's wine-making traditions. *Tour Duration: 8 Hours*