



DID YOU KNOW, THAT...

Portugal has one of the oldest borders in Europe

The national border between Portugal and Spain, often referred to as "A Raia" (or "La Raya" in Spanish), stretches 1,234 km and is the longest uninterrupted border in the European Union. Thanks to the Treaty of Alcañices (1297), the border was established in a form remarkably similar to today's. While there are occasional disputed areas, the main border remains unchanged.

Portugal is one of the main entry points to the Camino de Santiago

Portugal is the second most important country after France for pilgrims setting out on the Camino de Santiago. The most famous routes begin in Lisbon or Porto and lead north through Portugal to Spain, where they end in Santiago de Compostela. The Portuguese section of the route is among the most popular—it offers a combination of historic cities, coastal stretches, and rural trails, and is significantly less crowded than the main French routes. Every year, thousands of pilgrims walk this route because of its calmer atmosphere and strong tradition.

Portugal has the oldest continuously operating bookstore in the world

Lisbon is home to the world's oldest continuously operating bookstore—Livraria Bertrand, founded in 1732. Throughout its history, it has survived earthquakes, political upheavals, and the transition to the digital age—and it remains a vibrant place where literature, history, and everyday life intersect. The bookstore is also listed in the Guinness World Records.

WELCOME TO PORTUGAL!



Portuguese is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world

Portuguese is the official language of nine countries and is spoken as a native language by over 236 million people worldwide. Thanks to Portugal's former maritime expansion, you can hear it spoken not only in Europe, but also in Brazil, Africa, and Asia.

Portugal is the world's largest producer of cork

Most of the world's cork production comes from Portugal, which has ideal conditions for the growth of the cork oak. The bark is harvested by hand approximately once every 9–12 years without having to cut down the tree, making it one of the most sustainable natural materials in existence. Cork from Portugal is used not only for wine corks but also in design, fashion, and construction.



TOP 5 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PORTO



- 1 The city of Porto gave its name to the entire country. During the Roman Empire, there was a settlement on the Atlantic coast called Portus Cale. The word portus meant “harbor,” and Cale was likely the name of the original Celtic settlement in the area. Over time, the name of the region changed to Portucale, and in the Middle Ages it referred to a vast territory in the north of present-day Portugal. When the County of Portucale was established in the 9th century, this name began to be used more frequently. It later evolved into the name Portugal, which was eventually adopted by the newly emerging state.
- 2 One of the most significant figures associated with Porto is Henry the Navigator, who was born there in 1394. Although he undertook only a few voyages himself, he went down in history as the principal patron of Portuguese overseas exploration. Henry recognized the importance of seafaring and invested in research, shipbuilding, and the training of navigators. Under his patronage, Portuguese sailors gradually explored the west coast of Africa, discovered new trade routes, and gathered valuable geographical knowledge. It was these expeditions that laid the foundation for the era of great overseas discoveries, which later took the Portuguese as far as India, Brazil, and other distant parts of the world.
- 3 Porto is famous for its iconic bridges. A total of six bridges span the Douro River, the most famous of which is the Dom Luís I Bridge, whose distinctive steel structure has become one of the city's main symbols. The bridge opened in 1886. It was designed by the Frenchman Théophile Seyrig, a student and later collaborator of the famous Gustave Eiffel, who worked for the winner of the architectural competition, the Belgian firm Société de Willebroek. The bridge has two levels—the upper level carries the metro, and the lower level for road traffic.
- 4 Port wine is inextricably linked to Porto. Although it is called “port,” its origins lie hundreds of kilometers from the city of Porto—in the vineyards of the Douro River valley in northern Portugal. The grapes are grown there on steep terraces above the river, but historically, the wine itself had to be transported by water all the way to Porto, where it was stored and exported around the world—mainly to England. And it was named after this export port. Porto is thus not a place of production, but a “gateway to the world,” thanks to which the fortified wine from the Douro became the famous drink known as port
- 5 In Porto, you'll find Livraria Lello, one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world, which is often credited with inspiring Harry Potter. This magnificent Neo-Gothic building with Art Nouveau elements will captivate you with its incredible interior. Its main features are a burgundy-lacquered wooden staircase and beautifully carved wooden ceilings. It is precisely this staircase, thanks to its magical atmosphere, that has become the subject of myths about how it inspired J.K. Rowling, the author of the famous Harry Potter saga, while writing her books. She lived in Porto in the early 1990s, but she herself has mentioned several times that she never visited the Livraria Lello bookstore.

**IN PORTO, YOU'LL FIND ONE OF THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL BOOKSTORES IN THE WORLD**

EXPLORE THE HISTORIC CITY CENTRE

Discover Porto through its unique architecture, historic streets, and iconic landmarks!

The historic [Ribeira](#) district is the oldest and most picturesque part of Porto, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is characterized by narrow cobblestone streets, colorful building facades, and the lively atmosphere of the waterfront along the Douro River. Just nearby, you'll find the famous [Dom Luís I Bridge](#) — a symbol of Porto offering breathtaking views of the city and the river. On your walk, you definitely shouldn't miss [Livraria Lello](#), one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world, whose impressive interior is often associated with the world of Harry Potter. The city's historic landmark is undoubtedly the [Catedral do Porto](#), combining Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque styles. The building also offers breathtaking views of the city and the river. On the nearby Infante D. Henrique Square, you'll find the neoclassical [Palácio da Bolsa](#)—a stately palace with richly decorated interiors and the famous Arab Hall. A short distance from the waterfront, further inland, you'll be captivated by the iconic [Estação Ferroviária de São Bento](#) train station, which enchants visitors with its extensive decoration featuring traditional Portuguese azulejo tiles. End your walk at the [Chapel of Souls](#)—a chapel with a distinctive façade covered in thousands of blue-and-white ceramic tiles.



ENJOY YOUR FREE TIME BY THE OCEAN

Enjoy a moment of relaxation by the Atlantic Ocean and discover beautiful beaches and coastal promenades.

The iconic [Farolim de Felgueiras](#) lighthouse at the end of the stone pier is undoubtedly one of the most photographed spots in Porto. It offers a particularly stunning atmosphere at sunset. From the lighthouse, continue along the coast to the elegant [Foz do Douro](#) district, where the Douro River meets the Atlantic Ocean. Among other things, you'll find a diverse selection of restaurants here, as well as the [Mercado da Foz](#), a modern food market featuring restaurants, cafés, and stalls selling local products.

Do you love the sea, swimming, and relaxing on endless sandy beaches? Head to the city's outskirts and visit [Praia de Matosinhos](#)—a vast beach known for its excellent conditions for [surfing](#) and other water sports. If you prefer quieter spots, head to [Praia do Carneiro](#)—a beach that's ideal for relaxing and strolling along the ocean.



RELAX IN NATURE RIGHT IN THE CITY CENTER

Take a break from the hustle and bustle of the historic streets and discover Porto's green oases, which invite you to relax.

As you explore the city's gardens and parks, be sure not to miss the romantic [Parque de São Roque](#). Its manicured gardens, ponds, and historic features are perfect for unwinding. You can also relax a little further away. Right by the banks of the Douro River lies the [Jardins do Palácio de Cristal](#), which will enchant you with its extensive gardens, lush vegetation, and beautiful views of the river. As a bonus, you'll be accompanied by peacocks roaming freely.



TAKE A SIX BRIDGES CRUISE AND ENJOY STUNNING PANORAMIC VIEWS

Take a short [boat tour](#) along the Douro River, during which you'll pass under six iconic bridges connecting Porto and Vila Nova de Gaia. From the deck, you'll enjoy beautiful views of the historic city center, the colorful Ribeira waterfront, and the famous port wine cellars.



EXPLORE LOCAL SHOPS AND SOAK UP THE CITY'S ATMOSPHERE

Visit the local markets and soak up the authentic atmosphere of Portugal.

In the very heart of Porto, you'll find the historic [Mercado do Bolhão](#), which has been one of the city's liveliest spots for over 100 years. Here you can sample fresh fruit, vegetables, fish, local specialties, and traditional Portuguese products. It is the perfect place to experience the local culture and cuisine. A more modern market that combines food stalls, cafés, and shops selling local products is the [Mercado Bom Sucesso](#). It also offers a pleasant setting for sampling Portuguese specialties and taking a break during the day.

DISCOVER PORTO'S CULTURAL SIDE

Discover Porto's culture and immerse yourself in the world of art, history, and sporting traditions.

Sports fans, especially soccer fans, will certainly enjoy a visit to the [FC Porto Museum](#), which is dedicated to the history of one of Portugal's most successful soccer clubs. Through interactive exhibits, it brings you closer to the most significant moments in FC Porto's history. However, if you prefer culture and history, visit the [Museu Nacional Soares dos Reis](#), Portugal's oldest public art museum, which houses rich collections of Portuguese painting, sculpture, and decorative arts.



BRING HOME A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY OF PORTUGAL

Visit shops selling traditional Portuguese products and take home a unique souvenir.

It would be a shame to leave Porto without some authentic port wine. Be sure to visit [Garrafeira do Carmo](#), a specialty shop offering a wide selection of Portuguese wines. Porto is also famous for its colorful tiles and its production and export of cork. Be sure to visit [Prometeu Artesanato](#), a shop that will captivate you with its diverse selection of products related to Portuguese crafts, ceramics, hand-painted azulejos, cork products, and other traditional souvenirs. Shop for edible gifts or souvenirs at the historic store with its distinctive façade decorated with azulejo tiles. [A Pérola do Bolhão](#) offers a carefully curated selection of Portuguese specialties, coffee, tea, wine, and other traditional products. Support traditional craftsmanship and visit [Cultura Portuguesa](#), which specializes in modern Portuguese products. The main selection focuses on cork products, and their range includes backpacks, wallets, handbags, bags, and other accessories. You can also buy iconic ceramic sardines at [Casa Oriental](#), for example.



TIP! Rent a bike or e-bike and take a sightseeing ride through Porto along the river and the Atlantic coast. That way, you can enjoy the route without breaking a sweat and fully soak up the city's unique vibe!

TASTE PORTO

The best way to get to know a country and its culture is through its cuisine. So set out in search of the best restaurants and treat yourself to an authentic culinary experience.

The elegant [Vinum](#) restaurant, with a stunning view of the Douro River and Porto's historic center, offers modern Portuguese cuisine complemented by a wide selection of port wines. Here you can savor freshly caught fish from the Matosinhos market, aged beef from the Trás-os-Montes region, and other regional specialties. On the waterfront in Vila Nova de Gaia, you'll find [Enoteca 1756](#), which combines modern Mediterranean and fusion cuisine with an exceptional selection of Portuguese wines. Its stylish interior, pleasant atmosphere, and stunning views of the river and the historic center make it the ideal spot for an exceptional dining experience.

ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE GASTRONOMIC EXPERIENCE IN A BREATHTAKING SETTING.

A popular restaurant right in the heart of the city is [Flow](#), which combines Mediterranean cuisine with Portuguese traditions and a modern gastronomic approach. Housed in an impressive building with Neo-Arabic elements, it features an elegant interior, a bar, and an outdoor terrace. Thanks to its sophisticated atmosphere and carefully curated wine list, it ranks among the city's most popular restaurants. In the heart of the city, you'll find [Real by Casa da Calçada](#), which builds on traditional Portuguese cuisine with a modern and sophisticated twist. The menu combines classic Portuguese recipes with regional ingredients and contemporary culinary techniques. The stylish interior, refined atmosphere, and extensive wine list focused on Portuguese wines make it the ideal place for a culinary experience.



You can sample classic local specialties prepared according to time-honored recipes at [Abadia do Porto](#). This traditional restaurant, with over eighty years of history, is one of the icons of Porto's gastronomy. In a cozy setting with stone walls, wooden furniture, and the atmosphere of an old Portuguese tavern, you can enjoy classic regional specialties such as Tripas à Moda do Porto, Bacalhau com Broa, or Polvo à Lagareiro. One of Porto's most iconic dishes is the francesinha sandwich. You can try it at [Brasão](#)—a popular restaurant serving traditional Portuguese cuisine with a modern twist, complemented by a selection of local beers and wines. The interior combines elements of a traditional tavern with modern design, creating a lively and friendly atmosphere.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PORTUGUESE SANDWICH CALLED FRANCESINHA ("LITTLE FRENCH GIRL") ORIGINATED IN PORTO AS A LOCAL RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH CROQUE-MONSEUR?

This hearty specialty consists of several types of meat, baked under a layer of cheese and topped with a special tomato-beer sauce, the recipe for which restaurants often guard like a family treasure. It is traditionally served with fries and sometimes topped with a fried egg. A single serving can contain more than 1,500 calories!



CLUBS AND BARS

Discover Porto's nightlife and explore stylish bars, wine venues, and places with a lively dance atmosphere.

The [Royal Cocktail Club](#), a stylish cocktail bar in the heart of Porto inspired by the era of classic speakeasies, offers creative signature cocktails, a stylish interior, and a cozy atmosphere. The cocktail menu is based on the concept of the five elements—Water, Earth, Fire, Air, and Ether—with each cocktail designed to express a specific emotion, texture, or story.

For a drink on the terrace at sunset with breathtaking views of the city, [Mirajazz](#) is the place to be. This unassuming bar, tucked away above the historic Miragaia district, offers a wide selection of Portuguese wines, light snacks, and regular open-air jazz concerts.

In the gardens below the Clérigos Tower, you'll find [BASE bar](#), where the hustle and bustle of the city gives way to tranquility among the trees and urban greenery. Seating on the lawn under olive trees, a friendly atmosphere, regular DJ sets, and refreshing cocktails make it the perfect spot for an afternoon drink or an evening get-together with friends. It's the ideal stop for anyone looking to experience Porto in a relaxed and authentic spirit.

A popular spot that elegantly blends a wine bar with the energy of a modern club is [Fé Wine Club](#). In the evening, you can enjoy Portuguese wines by the glass, small tapas, and live music, while later the space transforms into a club with DJ sets and a dance-friendly atmosphere.

EVENTS IN PORTO

18/9 – 20/9

DOURO HARVEST FESTIVAL



About an hour and a half by train from Porto, in the heart of the Douro Valley, the harvest season truly begins. It takes place in the town of Peso da Régua, which is considered the main hub of the Port wine region. The festival's biggest attraction is stomping grapes barefoot in stone vats. The event also features races of historic Rabelo boats, which once transported barrels of port wine to the cellars in Gaia near Porto.

17/9 – 20/9

PORTOJÓIA



Visit PortoJóia, Portugal's leading trade fair for jewellery, goldsmithing and watchmaking. Discover the latest collections, trends and innovations in the industry, connect with manufacturers, designers and international buyers, and explore new business opportunities in the Portuguese and international markets.

19/9 – 22/9

DOURO HARVEST RIVER CRUISE



Experience the two-day Douro Harvest Cruise and discover the unique atmosphere of Portugal's famous wine region during the grape harvest season. Enjoy breathtaking scenery along the Douro River, visit renowned wine estates, take part in authentic harvest traditions, taste exceptional local wines and cuisine, and experience one of Portugal's most celebrated cultural and gastronomic traditions.

15/9 – 5/10

SERRALVES EM LUZ



Experience Serralves em Luz and discover a unique side of Porto as the Serralves Park transforms into a captivating open-air gallery after dark. Follow a two-kilometre trail filled with light, multimedia and interactive installations that bring together contemporary art, nature, sound and technology. Enjoy a magical evening walk and experience Serralves from a completely new perspective. The experience runs from Wednesday to Sunday, from 8:00 PM to midnight, with extended opening hours until 1:00 AM on Fridays and Saturdays.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 17TH, THURSDAY

14:30 – 18:00

- BICYCLING WITH GUIDE OR
- GUIDED TOUR IN CITY

19:30

- DINNER AT HOTEL REBELLO, ROOF TERRASSE

SEPTEMBER 18TH, FRIDAY

08:00 – 16:00

- SALES CONFERENCE AT WOW VENUE

19:00

- DINNER – RESTAURANT PRAIA DA LUZ

SEPTEMBER 19TH, SATURDAY

08:00 – 12:00

- INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

12:30 – 18:00

- TRIP TO THE COUNTRY

19:30

- DINNER – RESTAURANT FLOW

SEPTEMBER 20TH, SUNDAY

07:00

- CHECK OUT AND TRAVELING HOME



Thermia 2026
SALES CONFERENCE

19/9

INAUGURAÇÕES SIMULTÂNEAS DE MIGUEL BOMBARDA



Visit Inaugurações Simultâneas de Miguel Bombarda, one of the most exciting events on Porto's contemporary art scene. Throughout the afternoon, galleries and cultural spaces in the Miguel Bombarda district will open their doors to new exhibitions and offer a diverse programme of contemporary art, including installations, performances, workshops and other cultural activities. Explore the individual galleries, soak up the creative atmosphere of the neighbourhood and experience the local and international art scene. The event takes place on Saturday, 19 September, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and admission is free.

20/9

FC PORTO VS. BENFICA



If you're a football fan, don't miss O Clássico – the clash between FC Porto and Benfica, taking place on 20 September at Estádio do Dragão. One of the biggest matches in Portuguese football awaits, along with an incredible atmosphere inside the stadium.