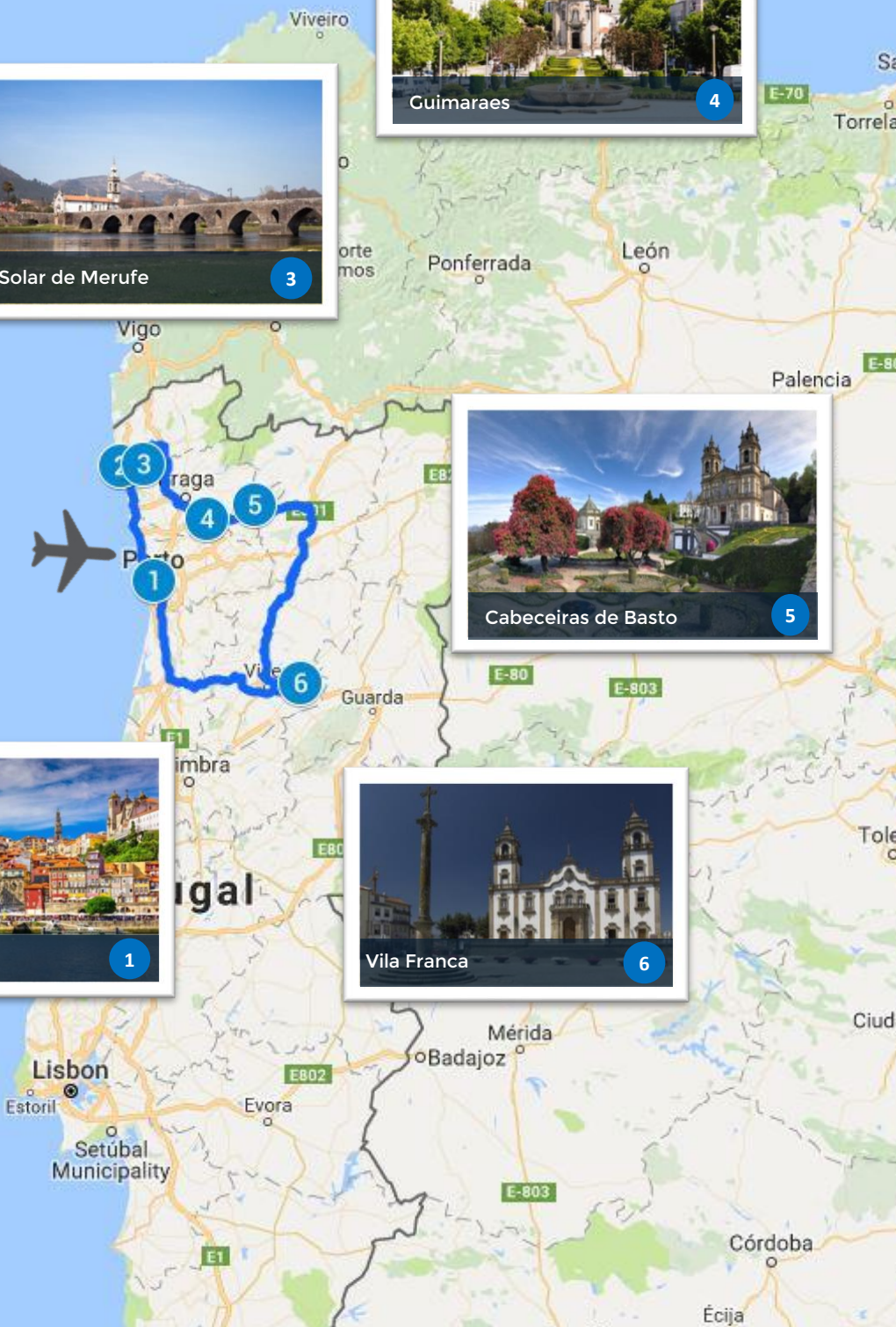
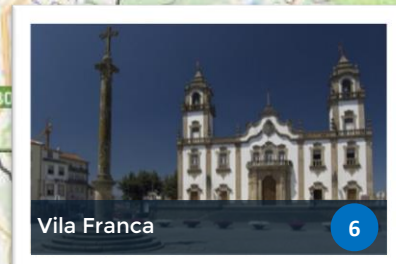
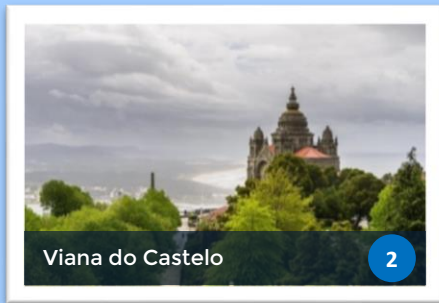
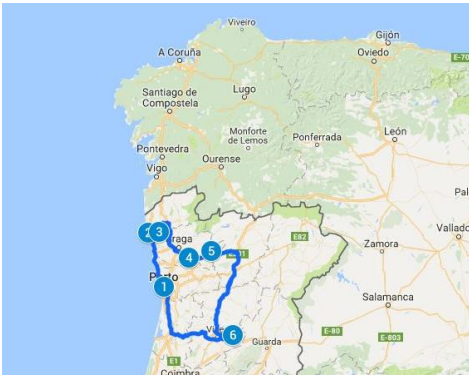




DRIVE TO DISCOVER PORTUGAL

BEST WINE TOURS FROM PORTO





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Porto to Viana do Castelo	41 miles	44 minutes
Viana do Castelo to Solar de Merufe	12 miles	25 minutes
Solar de Merufe to Guimaraes	37 miles	59 minutes
Guimaraes to Cabeceiras de Basto	51 miles	1 hours
Cabeceiras de Basto to Penalva do Castelo	109 miles	1 hour 52 minutes
Penalva do Castelo to Porto	93 miles	1 hour 36 minutes
Total Distance Covered:	343 miles	

The Douro River Valley, home to phenomenal microclimates ideally suited to the production of some of the world's best wines, has gained notoriety in recent years among even the casual wine drinker, but Portuguese wine is certainly not a new phenomenon.

The Iberian Peninsula is home to several rivers which flow into the Atlantic, and the Douro River is chief among them. Porto is the point where the river and sea meet, and it's the starting point for your epic Portuguese driving adventure where you'll experience some of the best wine in Portugal. You'll head north along the coast before turning inland to discover some of the world's most exciting wineries. You'll taste Port (the sweet wine that originally put this region on the map), among other classic and local varietals, and you'll drive some of the most breathtaking countryside in the world.

TO/FROM: Porto Airport

In this road trip guide, you'll begin and end your journey at Porto's Francisco Sa Carneiro Airport.

1. Porto

Explore the fantastic port city of Porto, dine on world-famous Portuguese sea food, and take day trips up the famous Douro River to visit some of the most influential wineries in the region. The Douro Valley region devoted to vineyards is called The Douro Vinhateiro, and it has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site - the Alto Douro Wine Region.

2. Viana do Castelo

Viana do Castelo is a stunning coastal city gracing the mouth of the Limia River. A city which is known as a key trading port, Viana do Castelo is an excellent city to explore on foot once you arrive. The city has an eclectic mix of architecture, and exploring on foot is a terrific way to work up an appetite for a hearty seafood lunch overlooking the Atlantic. While in town stop at the Santuario de Santa Luzia (a stunning cathedral), and the Museu do Traje and/or the Navio Gil Eannes - two fascinating museums which speak to the history of the region and city. Next, we recommend driving east to Solar de Merufe, where excellent wineries await you!

3. Solar de Merufe

A short drive along the Limia River brings you to Solar de Merufe a historic "quinta" of the Vinho Verde region, where you should enjoy a tasting and wine tour at Solar do Louredo, and Sobrinho do Arcipreste. If you're interested in additional tours, follow the Limia river inland where you'll find Adega Cooperativa de Ponte de Lima, Quinta Ameeal-sociedade Agricola Sa, and Quinta dos Abrigueros, all before reaching Ponte de Barca.

4. Guimaraes

Guimaraes offers a tremendous amount to travelers, and in our view, it's one of the best-kept secrets in Portugal. The historic town center is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, earning this status in 2001 for being "an exceptionally well-preserved and authentic example of the evolution of a medieval settlement into a modern town." Foodies will be interested in the fact that Guimaraes has emerged as a pie-haven of sorts. Guimaraes had its start as a feminine monastery, which had a strong influence on the regional gastronomy. You could easily spend a full day exploring (and eating in) Guimaraes, Portugal, but if you want to end the day with some wine tastings, head east toward Cabeceiras de Basto, the next stop on your Porto Wine Tour.

5. Cabeceiras de Basto

From Guimaraes, it's no more than 40 minutes to Cabeceiras de Basto by car, but the trip may take longer if you pause along the way to tour the numerous wineries which are sprinkled along the A7. [On our website](#) you'll find five wineries worth your consideration. The Braga district of Portugal is especially beautiful, and if you're looking for a point of interest to explore beyond the wineries mentioned above, Saint Michael's Monastery is a beautiful historic structure well worth your time.

6. Penalva do Castelo

This route will take you through Vila Real, across the Douro River, and through Lamego to your destination. After a few days of hearty eating and excellent wine, the opportunity to experience rural Portugal is a welcome part of the trip. We recommend treating yourself to a stay in an upscale hotel in this destination, as 5-star accommodations can generally be had for under \$200 USD and 4-star offerings run below \$100 USD per night. Parador Casa da Insua is a fabulous, top-rated option for those looking for a historic, well-appointed and out-of-the-way hotel. The grounds are beautiful, and the wine & dining is even better.

After your refreshing stay in Parador, it's time to head north and return to Porto. The route you take is up to you - if you'd like to explore areas you haven't yet seen we recommend following the A25 west to Albergaria -a-Velha, where you can turn north on the A29. Alternately, you can return north on the A24 and then follow the Douro River back to Porto by the sea. Each drive offers something unique and beautiful, so choose your favorite route and enjoy the ride in your [Portugal rental car](#).