

Crafts Tour in Portugal

4 Days



Through the Hands of People:
Arts, Flavors, and Traditions

Among Linens, Crockery, and Legends: A Sensory Tour through Northern Portugal

In just four days, this itinerary takes us to the heart of the traditions of Northern Portugal, revealing the diversity of ancestral knowledge, genuine crafts, and authentic flavors.

From Aveiro, with its pottery and ovos moles, to Arouca and its conventual sweets, we continue along the Douro South to Vila Real, where the black clay of Bisalhães and high-altitude wines enchant.

In Minho, we discover linen, embroidery, and the famous Alvarinho, finishing with lace and folk pottery in Viana and Barcelos.

Honey, olive oil, cheeses, basketwork, and carved wood complete this cultural immersion, where each village and town proudly shares its heritage.

A sensory journey amid creative hands, unique landscapes, and living stories.

Because at Universe, Travel Never Ends.



01 Day Ovar/Aveiro/ Arouca

THEME: Ceramics, Ovos Moles, Textiles and Conventual Sweets

Departure from Porto towards Ovar and Ílhavo: Visit workshops or shops with hand-painted earthenware, tiles, and modern pieces (Vista Alegre). Textiles and lace: In Ílhavo, regional lace and embroidery are produced by hand.

Lunch and visit to Aveiro and a stroll through the historic center. Regional products: "Ovos Moles," artisanal preserves, and Aveiro salt.

Afternoon visit to Arouca - stroll through the historic center. Convent sweets: Arouca sponge cake, almond and chestnut cigars. Wood and stonework, small hand-carved.

Dinner and accommodation at the MS Collection Hotel in the Convent of Arouca. Gastronomy: Roast goat or Arouquesa veal with vinho verde.



02 Day Lamego/ Vila Real/Amarante

THEME: Basketry, Mountain Cheeses, Port Wine and Embroidery

Departure to Lamego / Régua Douro embroidery: Delicate linen embroidery made by local women. Port wine & sausages: Tastings at Quintas in Cambres or Valdigem. Sweets: Bôla de Lamego and homemade jams. Regional shop or tapestry workshop.

Lunch at Quinta de Santa Eufémia, typical and regional dishes, and a tasting of Port and wines.

Afternoon visit to Vila Real. Black crockery from Bisalhães(UNESCO): Traditional production in a wood-fired oven, with a visit to an artisan. Sweets: Cristas de Galo and Pitos de Santa Luzia. Wines: Tasting of high-altitude wines, fresher and more structured.

Dinner and accommodation in Amarante at the Palacio Casa da Calçada hotel, and I strolled through Amarante's historic center, enjoying convent sweets and regional sausages.



03 Day Castro Daire/ Mondim/Braga

THEME: Basketry, Mountain Cheeses,
Honey and Liqueurs, Conventual Sweets

Morning departure for Castro Daire /
Montemuro Basketry: Wicker baskets, mats,
and doormats typical of the villages (Campo
Benfeito, Paradade Ester). Local products:
Multifloral honey, infusions, and mountain
ointments.

Regional lunch in Mondim de Basto, visit
a handloom and linen: It is still hand-woven
in Ermelo and Pardelhas. Local products:
Mountain cheeses, walnut sweets, and
functional wood carvings.

Afternoon visit to Braga, Braga embroidery,
with floral and religious motifs, embroidered
on white-on-white linen, a convent heritage.

Dinner at the Villa Galé Collection Palacio in
Braga with accommodation and regional food



04 Day Ponte de Lima/ V.Castelo/Barcelos

THEME: Embroidery, Bobbins, Ceramics, Conventual Sweets

Morning - departure for Ponte de Lima, contact with regional products, honey, cheeses, and a tour of the historic center.

Lunch in Viana do Castelo, Bobbin lace: One of Portugal's most delicate traditions. Possibility to see weavers in workshops open to the public. Minho costumes & Viana gold: Exhibition of traditional women's costumes and filigree jewelry. Typical sweets: Sidónios, filhoses, and custard balls, all with a convent touch.

Afternoon visit to Barcelos, Traditional ceramics: Colored clay, the famous Barcelos Rooster, nativity scenes and folk figures with satirical expressions. Popular crafts: Clay dolls, simple wooden carvings, and hand-painted objects.

Return to Porto and end of the tour

This playbook presents a 4-day itinerary through Northern Portugal, celebrating traditional crafts, convent sweets, and regional flavors. From Aveiro to Barcelos, via Braga and the Douro, we journey through ancestral knowledge, authentic workshops, local markets, and immersive cultural experiences.

PLAYBOOK – ARTISAN AND GASTRONOMIC ITINERARY THROUGH NORTHERN PORTUGAL (4 DAYS)

DAY 1: PORTO/OVAR/ÍLHAVO/AVEIRO/AROUCA

Morning - Depart Porto for Ovar and Ílhavo. Visit workshops or shops with hand-painted earthenware, tiles, and modern pieces (e.g., Vista Alegre). Textiles and lace: in Ílhavo, artisanal production of regional lace and embroidery.

Regional and traditional lunch in Aveiro and a tour of the historic center. Regional products: "Ovos Moles," artisanal preserves, and Aveiro salt.

Travel to Arouca and tour of the historic center. Convent sweets: Pão-de-ló, almond cigars, and sweet chestnuts. Woodwork: carving and hand-carved objects.

Dinner and accommodation at the MS Collection Hotel in the Convent of Arouca. Depending on the season, roast kid or Arouquesa veal with local Vinho Verde wines.

DAY 2: AROUCA/LAMEGO/RÉGUA/VILA REAL/AMARANTE

Morning - Departure for Lamego/Régua. Douro embroidery on linen, made by local women. Port wine and sausage tastings at Quintas de Cambres or Valdigem. Sweets: Bôla de Lamego and homemade jams. Visit a regional shop or tapestry studio.

Lunch - Quinta de Santa Eufémia: typical meal and Port and table wine tasting.

Afternoon - Visit to Vila Real. Blackware from Bisalhães (UNESCO): visit to a local artisan. Conventual sweets: Cristas de Galo (Rooster's Crescent) and Pitos de Santa Luzia (Santa Luzia's Pitos). Tasting of high-altitude wines.

Evening arrival in Amarante. Tour of the historic center, focusing on convent sweets and sausages. Dinner and Accommodation - Dinner and overnight at the Palácio Casa da Calçada Hotel, Amarante.

DAY 3: AMARANTE / CASTRO DAIRE / MONDIM / BRAGA

Morning - Departure for Castro Daire / Serra de Montemuro. Traditional basketwork: wicker baskets, mats, and doormats. Local products: multifloral honey, infusions, and natural ointments.

Lunch - Regional meal in Mondim de Basto. Visit to handloom weaving communities (Ermelo, Pardelhas). Products: artisanal linen, Serra cheeses, walnut sweets, functional wood carving.

Afternoon - Arrival in Braga. White Braga embroidery: floral and religious motifs embroidered on linen.

Dinner and Accommodation - Dinner at the Villa Galé Collection Palácio de Braga. Overnight stay with a regional gastronomy experience.

DAY 4: BRAGA / PONTE DE LIMA / VIANA DO CASTELO / BARCELOS / PORTO

Morning - Departure for Ponte de Lima. Regional products: honey, cheeses, sausages.

Almoço - Em Viana do Castelo. Rendas de bilros: visita a oficinas. Traje minhoto e filigrana de ouro. Doçaria tradicional: sidónios, filhoses, bolas com creme.

Tarde - Visita a Barcelos. Cerâmica popular: Galo de Barcelos, presépios, figuras satíricas. Artesanato popular: bonecos em barro, talhas, objetos pintados à mão.

Final do Roteiro - Regresso ao Porto e encerramento da viagem.

Portuguese Crafts Tour 4 days 3 nights 2890.00 Euros - price per person

What's Included

Private transfer from the airport to your hotel upon arrival.

Private transportation with a driver-guide for the 4 days of the itinerary.

3 nights' accommodation in 4- or 5-star hotels for one person, including daily breakfast in a double room, low season.

24-hour assistance by a specialized professional.

Travel in a comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle, with fuel and tolls included.

What's Not Included

Personal expenses for lunches, dinners, drinks, and individual extras.

Entrance to museums, monuments, wine or snack tastings, or optional experiences.

Services not specifically mentioned in the program.



CATEGORIES OF ARTISAN & REGIONAL ITEMS THAT CAN BE VISITED ON THE ITINERARY OVER THE 4 DAYS

Category	Visitable Examples
Ceramics / Clay:	Earthenware from Ílhavo, blackware from Bisalhães (UNESCO), popular clay from Barcelos, ceramics from Perre
Textiles & Embroidery:	Bobbin lace (Viana), Douro linen, Minho embroidery, white embroidery from Braga, Valentine's Handkerchiefs (Vila Verde)
Wood & Carving:	Religious carving (Arouca, Braga), carved spoons, kitchen utensils, sacred and folk art
Basketry & Straw:	Wicker baskets (Montemuro, Barcelos), broom, chestnut, mountain mats and doormats
Traditional Jewelry:	Filigree from Viana, queen earrings, gold necklaces and crosses traditional Minho
Food:	Heather honey, Trás-os-Montes olive oil, wines (Porto, Douro, Alvarinho), cured cheeses, smoked meats, convent sweets
Religious Crafts:	Crucifixes, reliquaries, icons, embroidered liturgical pieces, gilded wooden images
Popular Crafts:	Clay figurines with satire, nativity scenes, rag dolls, rag toys, Barcelos roosters
Leather & Footwear:	Wooden clogs, leather belts and bags (Resende, Cabeceiras)
Soaps & Naturals:	Olive oil and honey soaps, herbal balms and ointments, artisanal candles (Braga, rural Minho)
Miniatures & Traditions	Rabelo boats, cork houses, miniature rural utensils (Santa Maria da Feira, Albergaria)
Iron & Tinwork	Decorative horseshoes, lanterns, and handmade hardware (Trás-os-Montes and inland Minho)
Paper & Typography	Embroidered postcards, antique labels, hand-drawn graphic arts (Porto and Braga, A Vida Portuguesa)

The tour reveals a diversity of Portuguese crafts: ceramics, embroidery, basketwork, wood, filigree, sweets, leather, soaps, and traditions.

Portuguese Crafts Tour

The journey never ends, come as a
traveler and leave as a friend.



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