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Explore nosso Universo

Religious Tour
Sanctuary Porto
D'Ave
Ref. 25411

Visit



Porto d'Ave, in Póvoa de Lanhoso, is a sanctuary deeply linked to the popular faith and religious tradition of northern Portugal. Known for its monumental staircase and secluded atmosphere, the site welcomes pilgrims seeking moments of prayer, penance and devotion. The Porto d'Ave Chapel is the center of pilgrimages and celebrations throughout the year, especially in August, bringing together local communities and visitors in a spirit of spiritual sharing. Surrounded by nature, the space invites contemplation and introspection, becoming a landmark on the religious tourism itinerary in Minho.

Region



The Porto d'Ave region, located in Póvoa de Lanhoso, offers a unique combination of tradition, culture and faith. In addition to its religious value, it stands out for the authenticity of its people and the deep-rooted Minho traditions. The local cuisine is rich and comforting, with specialties such as arroz de cabidela, rojões, papas de sarrabulho and conventual sweets. The surrounding landscape, marked by green hills and typical villages, reinforces the rural charm of the area. Other religious monuments, such as the Chapel of Nossa Senhora do Pilar, complement the spiritual heritage. Popular festivities, with music, processions and markets, keep the local cultural heritage alive.

Route

PORTO
PÓVOA DO
LANHOSO
PORTO
- Approx. 160 km
- 10h trip

Departure from Hotel
8am Estimated Arrival
6pm at Hotel

Price

Price per
person:
285€ For 1 person
155€ For 2 people
115€ For 3 people

FOR GROUPS WITH
MORE THAN 4 PEOPLE
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Prices refer only to transport with a private guide, meals and drinks are not included, please consult the booking conditions on the website

Description

This 10-hour circular tour departs from Porto towards the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Porto d'Ave, in the municipality of Póvoa de Lanhoso, offering a journey of faith, tradition, and the Minho landscape, with stops at religious and historical sites and a typical regional lunch.

The journey begins in the morning, following the A3 towards Braga, with an optional first stop at the Sanctuary of Sameiro, one of the largest Marian centers in Portugal. Its imposing staircase and panoramic view of Braga invite reflection and contemplation. Nearby, you can visit the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its monumental Baroque staircase and surrounding scenery.

Then heading towards Póvoa de Lanhoso, the journey continues between valleys and green hills to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Porto d'Ave, located in a peaceful valley and deeply connected to the popular religiosity of Minho. It's a serene place, ideal for prayer, visiting the temple, and experiencing the authentic rural atmosphere. The sanctuary stands out for the beauty of the church, the festivities in honor of Our Lady, and its natural setting.

Lunch is served in a typical regional restaurant, where you can savor specialties such as roast kid, Barrosã veal, Minho-style pork belly, or cod with cornbread, always accompanied by red or white vinho verde.

In the afternoon, the tour continues with a visit to Lanhoso Castle, one of the oldest fortresses in Portugal, with medieval origins and superb views of the region. Alternatively, you can include a brief stop at the Romanesque church of Fontarcada or the historic center of Póvoa de Lanhoso, with its traditional shops and welcoming atmosphere. The return to Porto takes place in the late afternoon, concluding a day marked by spirituality, gastronomy, and the discovery of the deep and authentic Minho region, where faith, history, and tradition coexist in perfect harmony.



Santuário Nossa Senhora Porto D'Ave

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Porto d'Ave, built in the 18th century (from 1740) on top of an earlier oratory, is a notable example of religious Baroque architecture in Minho, classified as a Public Interest Site. Its façade, flanked by two pyramidal towers, reveals elegant symmetrical features and a central niche with an image of the Virgin. Upon entering, the single nave covered with blue and white Joanine tiles illustrating scenes from the life of Mary and the Birth of Jesus stands out. The octagonal transept, crowned by a dome, leads to the main chapel, whose gilded carving in Rococo style highlights the central image of the patron saint. The complex includes an impressive double staircase, Stations of the Cross chapels with large sculptures, a museum of popular sacred art and facilities to support pilgrims. This work was also elevated to the category of Royal Sanctuary by royal charter in 1874, underlining its architectural and spiritual value.

Booking

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