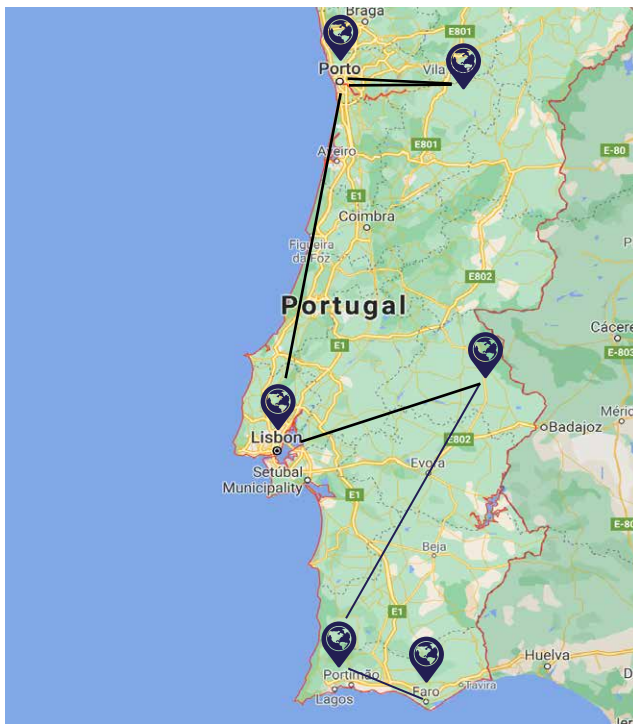


Portugal - Self-drive Porto to Faro 10 nights

\$1429

Per person / Double occupancy. Including GST/PST
For departures from Jan. 2 to March 26 2021



Package inclusions:

- 2 nights in 4* Hotel Vila Gale Braga
- 2 nights in 4* Hotel Vila Gale Douro
- 1 night in 4* Hotel Vila Gale Porto
- 2 nights in 4* Hotel Vila Gale Palacio dos Arcos – 15km from Lisbon
- 1 night 4* Hotel Vila Gale Elvos
- 2 nights in 4* Hotel Vila Gale Praia
- Breakfast daily
- 10 Day car rental EDMR (Ibiza with A/C or similar) with Super Collision Damage Waiver Insurance and pick-up at Porto Airport and drop-off at Faro Airport

Package exclusions:

- Air flights to/from Portugal
- Road tolls, if applicable
- Entrance fees to sites or museums
- Tips
- Meals unless mentioned in the itinerary

Portugal Self-drive - Porto to Faro - 10 nights



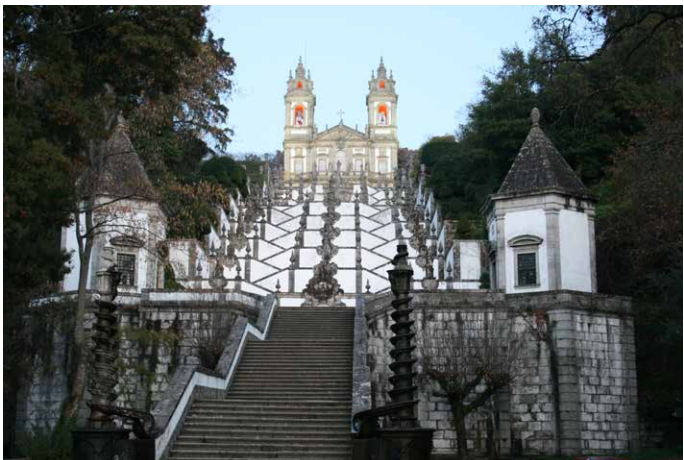
Day 1 : Porto - Braga

After clearing customs and collecting your luggage at the Porto Airport, pick-up your car from the Europcar Rental Desk in the arrivals area and drive about 57 kms north to the city of Braga.

The city was founded by the Romans and is one of the oldest Portuguese cities and one of the oldest Christian cities in the world with over 2000 years of history.

While here we recommend a visit to Guimarães, Portugal's birthplace - where the first king, D. Afonso Henriques lived and where Portugal was born as an independent country in 1143. Take a walk around the medieval quarter to see Medieval Castle and the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança which dates back to the 15th century.

Overnight: 4* Hotel Vila Gale Braga or similar



Day 2 : Braga

After breakfast this morning, you may wish to travel to Ponte de Lima one of the oldest and most scenic villages in Portugal.

Also, of interest is the town of Barcelos which is a cute medieval town with a strong cultural identity. It comes from artisan traditions like pottery, as well as the Galo de Barcelo, the ornamental rooster that became an emblem for Portugal. The weekly market on Thursdays is one of Portugal's largest, and together with the usual fresh produce it's a souvenir hunter's dream, with traditional, handmade "figurados", painted galos, reed baskets and much more.

Overnight: 4* Hotel Vila Gale Braga or similar



Portugal Self-drive - Porto to Faro - 10 nights



Day 3 : Braga - Lamego (Duro Valley Region) Approximately 129 km

After breakfast this morning, head towards the Duro Valley and discover plenty of interesting sights along the way such as Amarante, situated in the rich agricultural lands of the Minho region in the northern section of the country responsible for the grapes of the vinho verde, the young semi-sparkling 'green' wine unique to Portugal. The River Tâmega runs through the town and crossing this waterway is a striking arched bridge, the Ponte São Gonçalo. It is reputed to have helped local heroes fend off a French attack in the early 19th century. Nowadays cafes and restaurants make the most of their riverside location.



The town of Peso da Régua, the official centre of the Port wine region is also of interest. Situated on the banks of the River Douro, Peso da Régua played a fundamental role in the production and sale of Port wine and where barrels were transported by special boats known as barcos rabelos, to Vila Nova de Gaia, where the wine was left to age in the local wine lodges.

In this region, the vines are grown on terraced slopes leading down to the river, providing visitors with a series of spectacular views best admired from the area's many viewpoints, such as those of São Leonardo at Galafura and Santo António do Loureiro.

Overnight: 4* Hotel Vila Gale Duro

Day 4 : Lamego - Duro Valley Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes

Today is a great day to explore one or more of the wine cellars in the area to learn about local wine making and sample different wines.

Drive along one of the most enchanting routes in Portugal to Pinhão and admire the stunning tile panels on the Pinhão railway station wall. Consider a 1 hour Duro River Cruise in a "rabelo" boat and see wine producing farmhouses and terraces sloping down to the river and vineyards – a once in a lifetime view of this area from the water.

Overnight: 4* Hotel Vila Gale Duro



Portugal Self-drive - Porto to Faro - 10 nights



Day 5 : Lamego – Porto

Approximately 128 km

Porto is the capital of the North of Portugal and a UNESCO world heritage site located on the right bank of Douro River. The famous Port wine originated from the city of Porto.

The historic centre of the city has preserved its architectural treasures such as monuments, and palaces and churches made in the local granite stone in the Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque and Neoclassic styles.

The Avenue dos Aliados, a wide boulevard, is surrounded by impressive Neoclassical buildings. Close to the Avenida dos Aliados, there's Torre dos Clérigos, a symbol of Porto dating back to the 18th century. Not far there is the Lello Bookshop with its neo-gothic façade and Carmo Church with its splendid architecture.

The Estação de Sao Bento - Porto main train station is worth visiting just to view the 20,000 tiles.

In the picturesque Ribeira riverside neighbourhood with its tiny houses painted in colourful tones, you will see the Dom Luis I Bridge which dates back to the 19th century and is built in two levels - the lower part connects the Ribeira neighbourhood with the area of the wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia.

Overnight: 4*Hotel Vila Gale Porto Ribeira or similar

Day 6: Porto to Lisbon Area

Approximately 330 km

You may wish to get an early start as it is a fair distance to your next stop and there is lots to see along the way such as: Aveiro, known for the charm of its Canals where you will see the painted boats called Moliceiros, similar to the gondolas of Venice, and the historical and charming city of Coimbra, with one of Europe's oldest universities complete with a magnificent baroque library or Joanina that has kept its secular academic traditions as seen in the black caped students.



Discover Nazaré, the most picturesque fishing town., and enjoy a casual stroll through the narrow streets perpendicular to the beach. Take a break in one of the restaurants to enjoy a plate of fresh seafood, grilled fish or an appetizing bouillabaisse.

Overnight: 4*Hotel Vila Gale Palacio dos Arcos or similar

Portugal Self-drive - Porto to Faro - 10 nights



Day 7 : Lisbon

There is a lot to see in this area so it will depend on what your interests are. You could visit Óbidos, with its typical white houses, flowered windows and narrow streets paved with beautiful stone, all encircled by the walls of a 12th century castle. Or Fátima, a town home to one of the most important catholic shrines in the world dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Fatima's Sanctuary welcomes millions of pilgrims and tourists from all over the world – both outside of Lisbon.

If you prefer to explore Lisbon the "Seven hills City", walk along the typical streets of Bairro Alto and Madragoa and enjoy one night in this lively area and have a chance to dine in a local Fado. Also not to be missed is the historical quarter of Belém from where the Portuguese Caravels sailed off to epic maritime discoveries the World.

Overnight: 4*Hotel Vila Gale Palacio dos Arcos or similar

Day 8 : Lisbon – Elvas in the Alentejo Region

Approximately 221 km

Today you drive inland and to the far east of Portugal close to the border with Spain to the city of Elvas, a town with three massive forts and a city wall that defended the Portuguese border against the stronger neighbour of Spain in the 17th and 19th centuries. The main sight of Elvas is the Forte de Santa Luzia, a star shaped fort to the south of the city.

Overnight: 4*Hotel Vila Gale Elvos or similar

Day 9 : Elvas – Faro – Algarve Region

Approximately 1.5 hours

Continue your journey in a southerly direction to the coastline of the Algarve region.

Some great stops before you reach your hotel tonight include Albufeira which once was a scenic fishing village but gained popularity for its sharp, red-gold sand, and Lagos in the west of Algarve region, known as the pot of gold because of its yellow rocks along the coast. Admire promontory named Ponta da Piedade with its caves and rocks, and in the old center you will see the statue of Henry the Navigator considered the "father" of the Discoveries.

Overnight: 4* Hotel Vila Gale Praia or similar



Portugal Self-drive - Porto to Faro - 10 nights



Day 10 : Praia

After breakfast, you may just wish to lounge on the beach or take advantage of your hotel amenities. If you want to see more of this area then we suggest you travel to Sagres, the most south-westerly village in mainland Europe, to visit the promontory of the fortress of Cape St Vincent - the symbol of the Portuguese discoveries. Enjoy some time in Faro, the capital of the Algarve, and walk through the Old town to visit the XIII century Cathedral.

While in the Algarve region taste one of the most traditional dishes, the cataplana, a stew made with seafood, fish or meat and cooked in a clam-shaped cooking pot.

Overnight: 4* Hotel Vila Gale Praia or similar

Day 11 : Faro - Departure

Today is the day you bid farewell to Portugal as you head to the Faro Airport to return your car and catch your onward flight.

Rates 10 nights

Prices are per person in Canadian Dollars

Price Per Person in CAD	02 Jan - 26 Mar 21	27 Mar - 30 Jun 21 16 Sept - 31 Oct 21	01-15 Jul 21 19 Aug -15 Sept 21	16 Jul - 18 Aug 21
Twin BB	\$1429	\$1919	\$2189	\$2299
Single BB (Car single use)	\$2599	\$3519	\$4029	\$4269

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