

Porto, Portugal

The cruise port here is in the middle of town. There is shopping, beaches, monuments and eateries within walking distance.

History

Also known as Oporto, Porto is Portugal's second largest city after Lisbon. The area was settled as early as the 8th century BC by the Phoenicians; there are later findings of Celtic peoples, Romans, and Muslim influences. Typical of a valuable port city, Porto has an extensive wartime history. At the end of the 19th century, construction started on the current Port of Leixões. Fun fact; port wine, one of Portugal's most famous exports, is named after Porto.

Local Flavors

- Francesinha - A sandwich consisting of steak, sausage and ham, between thick slices of white bread, covered in melted cheese, topped with a fried egg and served in a sauce made from tomato and beer.
- Prego em prato - dish combining garlic infused steak, ham, egg, chips and cheese.
- Bacalhau - Codfish
- Bolinhos de bacalhau - small fritters made from cod, potato, parsley and onion, then coated with breadcrumbs.
- Rissoles de carne - looking like tiny empanadas, they are filled with ground pork mixed with herbs and spices.
- Rissoles de legumes - the vegetarian version of the above, filled with white sauce, peas and carrots.
- Bifana - sandwich made from pork steak slow cooked in a sauce made from white wine, garlic and other spices.



Unique Animals

Animals unique to this region of Portugal are: Portuguese ibex Red squirrel, Cantabrian brown bear, Egyptian vulture, Red deer, Black stork, Red fox, Pin-tailed whydah, Common genet, European badger, European wildcat, Griffon vulture, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, Portuguese viper and the Common chameleon



Unique Plants

Plants unique to this region of Portugal are: Florist kalanchoe, Tree aeonium, and the Bigleaf hydrangea.

Language

The language in Porto is Portuguese, English is also widely spoken.

Currency

The Euro.

Driving

Your US driver's license is valid, drive on the right side of the road.

Sites to See

- Ribeira - Porto's scenic old town.
- Parque da Cidade - large urban park.
- São Bento Station - known for its stunning tilework.
- Miradouros - scenic panoramic views of the city.
- Mercado do Bolhão - bustling market.
- Dom Luís I Bridge - known for its beautiful sunset view.
- Palácio da Bolsa - completed in 1880 in the Moorish Revival style.
- Church of San Francisco - ornate Baroque interior.
- Casa da Música - modern concert hall.
- Lello bookshop - said to be one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world.



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