

BOMPORTO

HOTELS

MOKE®

*Salt, Surf &
Sardines*



The Lumiares ^(LIS) The Vintage ^(LIS) The Rebello ^(OPO)

WHERE PORTO ENDS AND THE ATLANTIC BEGINS

This route crosses into Porto and heads west, all the way to where the Douro runs into the Atlantic. It takes in the city centre, the grand coastal neighbourhood of Foz, and the seafood capital of Matosinhos, in that order. Bring an appetite.

ESTIMATED TIME: 3 to 5 hours (depending on how long you linger)

DISTANCE: Approx. 30–35 km

STARTING POINT: The Rebello

Head east from The Rebello along the Cais de Gaia. At the end of the waterfront road, cross the Ponte do Infante into Porto. Named after Henry the Navigator, this is the newest of Porto's six bridges, opened in 2003. Once across, follow signs for "Batalha" and "Centro": you're now driving through Porto's upper city.

→ *THE CITY DRIVE*

From Ponte do Infante, the route takes you through **PRAÇA DA BATALHA**, a square framed by the Igreja de Santo Ildefonso with its famous azulejo façade, then down **PRAÇA DA LIBERDADE** and along **AVENIDA DA BOAVISTA**, Porto's long, elegant boulevard that connects the city centre to the sea. Keep going west. The city gradually opens up, the buildings get grander, and the Atlantic starts to feel close.


This stretch is best driven slowly. You're not stopping yet, just taking in the city at **MOKE** pace.

→ *STOP 1 - Forte de São João Baptista da Foz*

Where the Douro meets the Atlantic, a 16th-century fortress guards the river mouth from a low rocky promontory. Construction began in 1570 and was completed in 1647. By the mid-17th century it ranked as the second most important coastal fortress in the kingdom, described at the time as the key to Porto.

Entry is free on weekdays between 9h and 17h30. Even from outside, the views across the river mouth and back towards Gaia are worth the stop.




→  *STOP 2 – Jardim do Passeio Alegre + Farol de Felgueiras*

A short drive from the fort. Jardim do Passeio Alegre was designed in 1860 by German landscape architect Emile David, who was also responsible for the Palácio de Cristal Gardens in Porto. Park here and walk through the garden towards the river mouth.

At the end of the jetty opposite the park stands the Farol de Felgueiras, a ten-metre hexagonal lighthouse that stood at the head of the pier from 1886 until its decommission in 2009.

Just north of the garden, the Pérgola da Foz is worth a short detour on foot. Built in the 1930s after the Mayor of Porto's wife was enchanted by the pergola of the Promenade des Anglais in Nice and wanted the same for Porto.

→  *STOP 3 – Serralves*

Drive north from Foz towards Serralves, one of the most important cultural institutions in Portugal and one of the most beautiful places to spend an hour anywhere near Porto.

The Serralves Foundation comprises the Museum of Contemporary Art, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Álvaro Siza Vieira, an 18-hectare park designed by French landscape architect Jacques Gréber, and the Casa de Serralves, a rare Portuguese example of Art Deco domestic architecture built between 1925 and 1944.

The park alone, with its sculpture installations and woodland paths, is worth the entrance fee.

DID YOU KNOW? *Siza designed the museum's exhibition spaces in a U-shaped layout so that the garden could enter the building, keeping the relationship with the surrounding landscape constant throughout.*



→ 📍 *STOP 4 – Matosinhos + Lunch on Rua Hérois de França*

Drive north from Serralves to Matosinhos. For much of the 20th century, Matosinhos was the largest sardine fishing port in the world, home to 54 canneries working around the clock. Most are gone, but the fishing culture is very much alive, and so is the food.

Rua Heróis de França is the street to know. A row of seafood restaurants, each with its own charcoal grill firing on the pavement outside, serving whatever came off the boats that morning. No menus to overthink. Grilled fish, green wine, bread and olive oil.

→ 📍 *STOP 5 – Praia de Matosinhos*

The beach is just a small walk away. Wide and sandy, a proper surf beach with a completely different energy from the sheltered river beaches further south. Walk the shoreline, watch the surfers, or simply sit and let the Atlantic do the rest.

The large steel net sculpture visible from the seafront is She Changes by American artist Janet Echelman, erected in 2005 and known locally as anémona. The steel net represents the fishing traditions of the area and the poles the smokestacks of its more modern factories. The whole structure sways in the breeze and casts a variety of shadows depending on the light.

→ *RETURN*

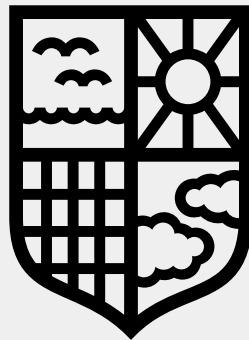
From Matosinhos beach, drive south along the coastal road back through Foz, then east along Porto's riverfront. Cross back into Gaia via the Ponte do Infante and follow the Cais de Gaia west back to The Rebello - about 20 minutes.

Bello Rooftop is open until midnight if you want one last view from above.



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