

BOMPORTO

HOTELS

MOKE[®]

Stones & Stories



The Lumiares (LIS)

The Vintage (LIS)

The Rebello (OPQ)

TWO CITIES, ONE RIVER - THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS.

This route crosses the Douro and doesn't apologise for it. Start in Gaia, climb to the best viewpoint on either bank, then leave the MOKE and cross the bridge on foot into Porto to walk through the historic centre. Back in Gaia, the drive continues up through the lodge streets and along hidden viewpoints most visitors never find.

A mix of driving and walking. Bring comfortable shoes!

ESTIMATED TIME: 3 to 5 hours

DISTANCE: Approx. 8 - 10 km

STARTING POINT: The Rebello

→ *THE DRIVE OUT - Cais de Gaia*

Head east from The Rebello along the Cais de Gaia, keeping the Douro on your left. The port wine lodges rise above you on the hillside. Almost everything you can see here has been part of the port wine trade since the 17th century.

DID YOU KNOW? In 1255, King D. Afonso III granted a charter to Gaia specifically to transfer commercial trade away from Porto, where the Bishop was charging tolls on all goods bought, sold or exported. Port wine merchants relocated their cellars across the river to avoid those taxes, and they never moved back.



→ **STOP 1** – *Miradouro da Serra do Pilar*

Follow Avenida da República until the ramp, Rampa do Infante Santo, which leads up to the Mosteiro da Serra do Pilar. Park nearby and walk to the terrace in front of the monastery. This is the single best view of Porto: the bridge and the Douro in one frame, and it's free.

Jardim do Morro is right below and worth a wander down if you want to get closer to the bridge and soak up the atmosphere before moving on.

DID YOU KNOW? Built in 1670, the monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, notable for its rare circular church and cloister, and for the role it played in two of Porto's defining military moments: Wellington used it as his launch point to drive Napoleon's forces out of the city in 1809, and it became an improvised fortress during the Siege of Porto in 1832. It remains under the Portuguese army's tutelage today.

→ **STOP 2** – *D. Luís I Bridge*
(cross on foot)

Cross the D. Luís I Bridge upper deck on foot and let Porto's skyline unfold in front of you as you walk.

DID YOU KNOW? The bridge was designed by Théophile Seyrig, a student of Gustave Eiffel, with construction running from 1881 to 1886. When completed, it had the longest span of any metal bridge in the world. The upper deck now carries Porto Metro Line D alongside pedestrians, so a tram may pass within a metre of you mid-crossing. You are now in Porto.

→ **STOP 3** – *Ribeira*

Come off the lower end of the bridge steps and you're in the Ribeira, Porto's historic waterfront quarter and the heart of its UNESCO World Heritage designation.

The area rises steeply from the Cais da Ribeira up through Praça da Ribeira and has been the city's main commercial hub since Roman times, growing wealthy through the Age of Discovery as ships from Porto departed for Brazil, India, Newfoundland and Macau.

Walk along the waterfront, look back across the river at Gaia's lodge-covered hillside, and take in Praça da Ribeira, the square that has been the social centre of this neighbourhood since the Middle Ages.



→ **STOP 4** – *Sé do Porto (Porto Cathedral) + Miradouro*

A short uphill walk from Ribeira brings you to the Sé, Porto's cathedral, which has stood on this hilltop since the 12th century. The terrace in front of the Sé is itself a viewpoint, looking down over the Ribeira rooftops, the bridge and across to Gaia.

From here, keep climbing a few minutes further to reach the Miradouro da Vitória, one of the best and least-crowded views in Porto.

Tucked away in the historic Vitória neighbourhood, the viewpoint offers views of Porto's red rooftops, the Douro River, the D. Luís I Bridge, and the Serra do Pilar Monastery directly across the water. Unlike the Clérigos Tower, it's completely free.

→ **STOP 5** – *São Bento Train Station*

A 10-minute walk downhill from Miradouro da Vitória. No need to purchase a ticket, just walk through the doors.

Built in 1900 on the site of a former Benedictine monastery, São Bento's entrance hall is lined with approximately 20,000 blue and white azulejo tiles, installed between 1905 and 1916 by artist Jorge Colaço. The panels depict key moments in Portuguese history, including the Battle of Valdevez (1140) and the Conquest of Ceuta (1415), as well as scenes of rural life and traditional festivals.

DID YOU KNOW? The tiles were installed over 11 years, making it one of the largest azulejo installations in the world.

→ *BACK TO THE MOKE*

From São Bento, take a 15 minute walk or take the metro one stop to Jardim do Morro - Line D, direction Santo Ovidio. The journey takes under 5 minutes and drops you right back at the MOKE.



→ **STOP 6 - An Insider's Tip**

Drive down through Rua do Casino da Ponte until the road opens up at the viewpoint on your right.

The D. Luís I Bridge fills the frame to your left, and the Ponte do Infante appears further, to your right. No crowds, no queues, no one selling postcards. Just the bridges and the river from an angle most visitors never find.

→ **STOP 7 - Taylor's Port Lodge**

From here, drive up through the lodge streets, past WOW and Graham's on the way, until you reach Taylor's at the top. The drive itself is half the point: steep, narrow and cobbled, with lodge façades rising on either side and the city dropping away behind you.

Founded in 1692, Taylor's is one of the oldest port houses in Gaia. Park and walk into the grounds. The terrace looks directly across at Porto, the D. Luís I Bridge and the Douro below. The rose garden is worth a wander, and keep an eye out for the peacocks.

→ **RETURN**

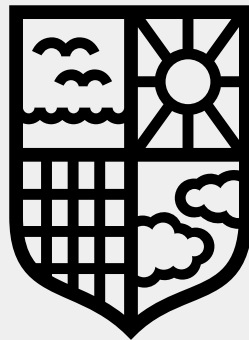
From Taylor's, drive back down through the lodge streets to the Cais de Gaia and follow it west back to The Rebello, a 10-minute drive along the waterfront with the Douro on your right and Porto's skyline across the water.

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



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