

EICF 29th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



29th International Conference April 2018

Touristic Tours for Partners

By European Investment Casters' Federation
in association with Associação Portuguesa de Fundição



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Discover Porto

Discover Porto in his old houses, in his markets and old stores where the tradition prevails, in his coffee houses that tell tales and invites us to stay, in his book stores that remain alive with the turn of the centuries.



The Tour will begin from your hotel to a panoramic tour through Boavista neighborhood (Casa da Música) to Castelo do Queijo, a (defensive) fortress attentively watched by the statue of D. João VI. Next we will go through Matosinhos, one of the largest central fisheries from the north of Portugal.

We will continue close to the sea until we reach the mouth of Douro River (Foz do Rio Douro), where we can appreciate the fisherman's community houses that still subsist by Douro's estuary.

The stroll will proceed by the river, the sculpture dedicated to Tripeiros (nickname from which Porto's population is known for since 1415). The bridge we will see next, built in 1963, became known for the world's biggest suspended arch made of reinforced concrete.

We will continue toward the city center to visit Cordoaria garden, Vitória neighborhood (the last jewelry), Torre dos Clérigos that watches over us from its 76 meterhigh tower, Lello's bookstore (considered by CNN as the most beautiful in the world) and where J.K. Rowling got inspired to write Harry Potter, Carmo and Carmelitas churches and Galerias de Paris, place where the city comes to life every night.

We will follow toward Praça da Liberdade and Avenida dos Aliados, the so called "visiting room" of the city where you can admire the imposing building from the neoclassic of Oporto's Town Hall.

Then across a typical market, Mercado do Bolhão, where the well-known preaches from the saleswomen make the difference.

The route continues through the emblematic Café Majestic so you can eat a custard tart (or Pastel de Nata) and enjoy a cup of coffee while admiring the beauties of this coffee house.

Then to São Bento's station, place where the 20 thousand tiles from Jorge Colaço will take us on a journey through Portuguese history and Douro and Minho's traditions.

Continuing to D. Luís I Bridge, iconic Porto's monument from Teófilo Seyrig (one of Eiffel's disciples) where you can watch the typical boats called "Rabelos", as well as the bridge built by Gustave Eiffel and the old Fernandine wall (defensive wall from the XIV century).

Above Douro's river we admire also Oporto's cathedral, known as Sé by his inhabitants.

The we will go down to the oldest street in Oporto (Rua dos Mercadores) to the riverside area to visit São Francisco's church (in gold-clad), Palácio da Bolsa, ending in a brief stroll through Ribeira to discover the nooks and alleys of this most typical area of the "Invicta" city (epithet given by D. Pedro IV of Portugal, D. Pedro I of Brazil).

Next we will admire the six bridges that divide the cities of Porto and Gaia aboard a Rabelo ship on a cruise through Douro River

We will save some time to visit one wine cellar and delight ourselves with a cup of the famous Porto Wine.

We will end the Tour with a panoramic view of the city from Serra do Pilar and a visit to Lapa Church where D. Pedro I's heart lies.

Douro Valley Tour

“The sublime Douro. The prodigy of a landscape that strips itself from its being. It’s not a panorama for the eyes to contemplate: it’s a nature’s excess; A geological poem. An absolute beauty.”

It’s this way that Miguel Torga, one of the biggest portuguese poets of the XX Century, describes Douro Valley.



Marão is the name of the hill that leads us to Amarante, our first stop and where we can pray to a well-known matchmaker saint, Saint Gonçalo de Amarante. Besides admiring the church and the convent that goes by the name of the worthy saint, we can also see the bridge from the XVIII Century that unites the margins of the Tâmega River, the largest Douro’s affluent. It will also be an opportunity to taste one of the land’s five conventual pastries in one of the bakeries that overlooks the river.

Continuing our journey will lead us to Mateus' parish so we can admire one of the most beautiful baroque's palaces from Portugal with their gardens and history.

It was in this Palace or "Solar de Mateus" that famous wine Mateus Rosé was born. After visiting the Palace we will go to Douro's Valley to see his schist terraced fields, his vineyards, his olive trees, his mountain charms that rise to the sky.

This region was considered by Unesco as Heritage of Humanity in 2001. This production region is surrounded by 335 stone marks with the name of "Feitoria" (factory), and it was this way that Marquês de Pombal did its first demarcation of the region on September 10th of 1756 (the first in all the world). With it he ensured the quality of the product, avoiding adulterations, balancing the production and the market and stabilizing the prices.

We will also have time to admire a breathtaking view of the Miradouro de Casal de Loivos (viewpoint) and visit Pinhão's train station where the 24 tile panels show us the hard work in the production of the precious nectar.

One of the options to keep in mind in this tour will be enjoying the ride aboard a Rabelo boat, how the boats used in the past for the transportation of wine between Douro's Valley and Gaia's wine cellars (Caves) are called. To navigate on the calm Douro River's water, while admiring the magnificent landscape that appears to have been sculpted by some renaissance master, is an unforgettable experience.

Last but not least, we will have time to visit a wine production farm where the tradicional grape stomping (pisa) mixes with some technology for the production of Porto Wine and table wine.