Activities In Portugal

Your 3-Day Porto Itinerary

A flexible first-time visitor plan, swap days around to suit the weather

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DAY 1 | Historic centre and riverside

WHEN	SUGGESTION
Morning	Explore São Bento station, the cathedral area and historic streets. Allow time for viewpoints and photo stops.
Lunch	Lunch – Try a Porto classic • Time Out Market Porto: Located inside the south wing of São Bento railway station, just a short walk uphill from Ribeira. A modern food hall bringing together different restaurants and food stalls under one roof. Great if you're travelling with a group or want to try a few different things without committing to one restaurant. • Adega São Nicolau: A traditional Portuguese restaurant tucked away in the narrow streets behind the waterfront. Known for classic northern Portuguese dishes, seafood and octopus rice. A good choice if you want a proper sit down Portuguese lunch. • Terra Nova: Right on the Ribeira waterfront, with views over the Douro. A good option for seafood, cod dishes and a leisurely lunch while watching the boats pass.
Afternoon	Wander down towards Ribeira and the Douro waterfront. Cross Dom Luís I Bridge on the upper or lower level, depending on your route and comfort with hills.
Evening	Enjoy dinner in the centre or riverside. Book a Douro cruise ahead if you want a particular departure time.
Dinner	Taberna dos Mercadores: A small, intimate restaurant serving traditional Portuguese dishes, fresh fish and seafood. A lovely choice for a memorable dinner. Book ahead. Adega São Nicolau: A traditional Portuguese restaurant tucked away in Ribeira, known for its seafood, octopus and cod dishes.

DAY 2 | Porto icons, food and Gaia

WHEN	SUGGESTION
Morning	Visit Clérigos and the surrounding streets. If Livraria Lello is on your list, reserve a timed ticket through its official website.
Lunch	Try a local speciality such as francesinha, a pernil sandwich or a cachorrinho. ● Café Santiago: Famous for its francesinha, Porto's famously filling sandwich covered in a rich beer-based sauce. ● Cervejaria Gazela: A good choice for a cachorrinho, a small, spicy sausage sandwich that's a local favourite. ● Casa Guedes: Known for its roast pork sandwiches, traditionally served with Serra da Estrela cheese.
Afternoon	Explore Vila Nova de Gaia and consider a Port wine cellar visit. Remember Gaia is a separate city on the south bank of the river.
Evening	Stay in Gaia for river views or return to Porto for dinner and nightlife.
Dinner	Bacalhoeiro: A popular Portuguese restaurant on the Gaia waterfront, specialising in bacalhau (salt cod), with lovely views across the Douro towards Porto. Try the bacalhau à Brás or bacalhau à Zé do Pipo. Restaurante Casa Dias: A small, family run Portuguese restaurant serving traditional home-style food, particularly fish and seafood. A good option if you'd prefer somewhere less focused on the tourist waterfront. Mirone Cachorrinhos do Morro: A relaxed restaurant near Jardim do Morro, with views over Porto and the Douro. Known for cachorrinhos, francesinhas and other casual Portuguese favourites. A good spot for sunset and an informal dinner. UVA by Cálem: Traditional Portuguese cooking with a riverside terrace and views towards Porto. A lovely option for dinner after visiting the Port wine cellars. Vinum Restaurant & Wine Bar: For a more special evening, this restaurant at Graham's Port Lodge combines Portuguese and regional cooking with an excellent wine selection. A more expensive choice, but worth considering for a memorable meal. My recommendations: Bacalhoeiro for traditional food and river views, Casa Dias for a more local meal, and Mirone for a casual dinner around sunset.

DAY 3 | Gardens, art or the coast

WHEN	SUGGESTION
Option A — Green Porto	Spend time in the Palácio de Cristal gardens and explore Cedofeita's independent shops and galleries.
Option B — Beach day	Head towards Foz do Douro or Matosinhos. Check the best public transport route for your chosen beach.
Option C — Culture	Visit Serralves for its museum, gardens and villa. Check current exhibitions and opening times before setting off.

Make it your own

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
1			
2			
3			

Planning note: Porto is hilly and cobbled. Avoid packing too many distant sights into one day, and check accessibility and walking conditions for each route.