



Clockwise from left:
Terraced vineyard in
Douro Valley; Temple of
Diana; Romantic day
in Douro Valley.



Pleasures of Portugal

Discover a friendly, sunny land with ornate palace walls and a fierce maritime heritage.

Douro by Bike and Boat

Pedal through the Douro Valley's fortified villages and terraced vineyards by day and rest on its waters at night on an eight-day combo bike tour and river cruise. Out of the saddle, taste local vintages and decode the stories hidden in the *azulejos* (Portugal's emblematic blue-and-white tiles) in Pinhão, explore the Baroque Mateus Palace and soak in a soothing thermal bath.

Sites of Centro

Discover the guardians of the gilded Joanina Library at the University of Coimbra: bats. Each night the library furniture is covered and the nocturnal creatures come out to eat the insects that would otherwise devour the 200,000 historical volumes. More secrets of Portugal's Centro region await on this ten-day tour. In Belmonte, see the heart of Portuguese Jewish heritage and culture; in Évora, the UNESCO-protected old town includes the 2nd-century Temple of Diana and a distinctive Moorish influence.

National Palaces and Coastal Villages

Stroll like royalty beneath the watchful eyes of 27 gold-collared swans, gathered on the ceiling in the Sala de Cisnes in the National Palace of Sintra. This opulent thousand-year-old palace is a top stop on a day tour of the castle-dense, Portuguese Riviera — side town. After a seaside lunch, stop in at Cascais and Estoril, coastal villages that were once high-class resorts but today are relaxing escapes.

Your Virtuoso travel advisor can arrange these exceptional experiences and more.