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## Ficha viaje



### Exclusive Tour Offer, PORTUGAL GARDENS in 5 days

Portugal is dry in the south and wet in the north. It has an excellent Roman garden, at Coimbra, and a series of distinctive gardens elsewhere. Many date from the age of greatness when the focus of world trade was shifting from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. These gardens are late-renaissance and early-baroque.

## Resumen del viaje

Portugal's gardens benefit enormously from the Atlantic climate. Although temperatures can reach 40C at the height of summer - and sometimes stay there for six weeks - conditions conspire to produce gardens that are refreshingly and surprisingly lush.

The Moorish water tanks and Italianate fountains that decorate so many Portuguese gardens are filled to the brim with ice-cold spring water. Often, this water has been brought to the garden using the ancient Arabic system of minas, horizontal shafts driven into the rock of a hill or mountainside to collect a vein of water and carry it out.

Tour Itinerary: Northern PORTUGAL GARDENS in 5 days Places to visit:

- Vila do Conde
- Guimaraes
- This program is **private** and can be tailored to your **dates** and needs
- Pick-up at Porto airport or hotel

## Itinerario ampliado

**Day 1:** Welcome to Porto Our tour guide will be waiting for you at Francisco Sá Carneiro International Airport to give you a warm welcome, the necessary assistance and to escort you to your hotel. Accommodation at Porto.

### **Day 2: Porto - Guided tour of the historic centre of Porto:**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will enjoy a private guided tour of the most typical streets in Porto. The tour begins in front of the Porto City Hall, from there you go on to visit the city's most emblematic monuments with a grand ending at the Port wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia, on the other side of the Douro River. In a colourful urban landscape, with many centuries of history, you will tread through peculiar places, get to know the most picturesque corners and witness the magnificence of the great architectural symbols of the "Invicta" city, like the Cathedral, the neo-Classical Stock Exchange Palace, the Cathedral Neighbourhood and the Church of St. Francisco, all top exponents of Baroque art.

### **Garden of Quinta de Santo Inácio:**

The house and gardens of this estate, Quinta de S. Inácio, are dated from the XVIII century. Today, the garden and surrounding woods are classified as being of public interest: a centenary romantic garden, bordered by shrubs, with azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and other flowers, topped by a canopy of various species of eucalyptus, oaks, pines and many other trees.

### **Day 3: Porto and Vila do Conde Botanical Garden of Porto:**

In 1949 the Portuguese government purchased a family estate on the outskirts of the city to install the Botanical Garden of the University of Porto. The estate included a house, built in the second half of the nineteenth century, surrounded by gardens and farmland. Today the garden is in the central area of town. The original gardens were maintained and extended and the agricultural land and woods were transformed into a wooded park.

**Garden of Casa Villar d'Allen:** The current Quinta Villar d'Allen is an estate that results from the merger of a number of others estates, established in 1839 by John Allen, an English businessman, great-great-grandfather of current owners, when he purchased and unified the Quinta da Arcaria and Monte Pedrinha and then expanded in 1869 and 1872 by the first Countess Villar d'Allen, his daughter-in-law. In addition to the large collection of camellias flourishing amongst a variety of exotic plants from North and South America, Australia and Asia, Villar D'Allen we also find gardens with marked characteristics, as well as and a nursery-garden of exterior ornamental plants.

**Quinta Vilar de Matos:** Considered by the International Confederation of the Camellias, as one of the best in the world. This estate has approximately 30.000 camellias plants, of about 1069 different varieties in many different colours and sizes. Paulino Costa Curval foresees exporting camellias to Japanese collectors because some of the species growing at his estate are no longer available in Japan, eir country of origin, where this flower symbolizes fortune, friendship and harmony.

### **Day 4: Porto, Santo Tirso, Guimaraes and Celorico de Basto Garden of Casa do Casal:**

A house of Casa do Casal was rebuilt in the second half of the nineteenth century and its' gardens

were reclassified from 1945 onwards. Once you're inside, in addition to the two towering redwoods you also find the estates oldest camellias as well as other forest species. At the rear end of the house, on the path to the park you can find an extensive collection of a couple of hundreds of different varieties of camellias. Among them, a special note goes to the three varieties created at this house and to the multi-hued exuberant and rare shaped ones some of which are also scented. At the park the spotlight is drawn to the variety of large trees, some century-old (cork trees), creating a different environment to the omnipresent camellias.

**Garden of the Monastery of Landim:** The Origins of the Monastery of Santa Maria de Landim go back to the dawn of the Middle Ages. Completely renovated by the owners it is considered to be an example of preservation of an almost millennial monastic foundation. Still has the XIX century garden, a large area of century-old trees, with camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas and a magnificent forest of oaks, coloured by beech-trees, acacias and arbutus-trees. Enjoy the variety of flowers during this tour.

**Garden of the Pousada Santa Marinha:** On the hillside overlooking the historic city of Guimarães, stands the majestic Pousada Santa Marinha, a result of the conversion of the former Augustinian convent dating from the XII century. It is relatively close to the city's historic centre that was classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The Garden of the Pousada Santa Marinha is located within the Penha Park with its' century-old trees, the magnificent Monastery Garden, its' granite fountains, multiple balconies and terraces overlooking the city, making it a place of exceptional beauty.

**Garden of Casa do Campo:** The Casa do Campo is a perfect architectural example of the typical northern nobility home, with its' granite tower, the nucleus from which the residential body is slowly added. It is believed that the garden was created in the mid XVII century, by the rebuilder of the house, because the pink coloured camellia on the north-eastern side of the garden is close to 250 years old; among the oldest in Portugal. The garden was transformed and expanded in the XIX century; based on a rectangular shaped area divided by a central axis and transversal sections with a granite fountain at its centre giving it an interesting symmetrical characteristic. Round about the same time, in the lands of Basto, a new way of pruning trees was initiated, giving rise to a true creation of green sculptures. Simply impossible to be indifferent to the huge cylindrical camellia sculptures that flank the entrance to the garden.

**Day 5:** Returning Home Transfer from the hotel to Porto International Airport.

## **Incluido**

- 4 nights in a double room with breakfast buffet
- Private Transfers Airport/Hotel/Airport
- Modern car, mini-bus or bus
- Private English-speaking guide
- Visits, entrances and activities

## **No Incluido**

## Hoteles

The selected hotels are all comfortable and modern hotels.

Portugal Gardens (5 Days) DBL SGL

Hotel 3\* 442€ 638€

Hotel 4\* 544€ 740€

Hotel 5\* 697€ 893€

Price per Person in Double Room:

- More than 14 People: 502eur

- Supplements/Pax:

2 - 3 Pax 5 275€

4 - 7 Pax 230€

8 - 13Pax 136€

- Supplement for Single Room: 230eur

Option with Lunches and Dinners included: 175eur