PORTO

Portugal’s second city lent its name to the wine that made it famous and there’s no better time to explore its enduring charm and eponymous tipple, says Emily McAuliffe

Why go? With long sunny days and temperate nights, summer is Porto’s time to shine. The banks of the Douro River burst with activity as travellers flock to cafés and bars, while others make for the parks to enjoy a rolling schedule of markets and live music. At every turn, colour and movement fill the streets. Better still, it’s one of the continent’s most affordable holiday destinations, providing the perfect excuse to splurge on good food and wine, including, of course, the award-winning vinters of the Douro Valley.

What to do Porto is a walkable city that begs you to get lost. In the cobbled backstreets you’ll find washing flapping from balconies and vibrant street art adorning the time-worn buildings. The art carries through to Rua de Miguel Bombarda, which serves as the main thoroughfare of the city’s arty district. From here, carry on to the pretty Crystal Palace Gardens before heading downhill to the river. If you’re hungry for seafood, take a right when you hit the Douro and jump on the tram towards its mouth. Catch the small cross-river boat (£1.20pp one way) to the fishing village of Afurada.

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Travel information
Currency is the euro. Time is GMT. Flight time from London is around 2.5 hours. The cost to carbon-offset is £3.25. For more details visit climatecare.org.

Getting there
TAP Portugal offers daily services to Porto Airport from London Gatwick. flytap.com
easyJet also flies to Porto from Gatwick and Luton. easyjet.com

AVERAGE DAILY TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL

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Resources
Visit Porto is the city’s official tourist board and is packed with details to help you make the most of your stay. visitporto.travel

Further reading
Prince Henry the Navigator: A Life (Yale University Press, £18.99) tells the story of the visionary prince born in Porto who supported many of Portugal’s global endeavours.