

Self-Guided Walking in Douro

Trip Code: SGDW

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a scenic rail journey from Porto to Peso da Regua, gateway to the Alta Douro
- Stay in welcoming sleepy villages and discover the warm Portuguese hospitality
- Discover Porto, steeped in history and decorated with spectacular Azulejo tiles
- Hike through tranquil orchards, olive groves and vineyards accompanied by spectacular views

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days walking and sightseeing
- Private airport transfer on arrival
- Private transfer from Pinhao to Porto
- Port wine tasting and winery tour
- Daily departures available
- Suitable for 2+ travellers
- Join at Porto Airport

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Discover the magnificent Alto Douro on this one week self-guided walking holiday. The beauty of this rural landscape, punctuated with sleepy villages, is that no matter what the season, the landscape provides the entertainment. Whether it is the colourful blossom and wild flowers which paint the hillside, or watching in fascination as the locals come together for harvesting, you will be sure to fall in love with the Portuguese rural life. A place where life slows down and you can appreciate the simple things; good food, good wine and good company all within a beautiful UNESCO landscape.

Starting your trip with a private transfer to Porto you can enjoy a night in this culturally rich port before slowing things down on a scenic rail journey to Peso da Regua, the gateway to the Alto Douro. Your hikes will take you through orchards and vineyards where you can sample the produce and, to sleepy villages where your welcoming guesthouses await with a friendly face and a pool inviting you for cooling dip. Hiking up to 16km a day at your own pace, you will have plenty of time to pause and appreciate the flora and fauna. Ending your trip in Pinhao, on the northern banks of the Douro, a private transfer will take you back to Porto. You may opt to extend your stay to enjoy the contrasting hustle and bustle, after your week of tranquillity among the vines and pastoral scenes of the Douro valley.

Is this holiday for you?

If you love to get off the beaten track, enjoy great wines and great food, then you are going to fall in love with the Douro. Away from the crowds where life slows down and you can really get to embrace the culture and traditions of rural Portugal. Watch locals busy away in the orchards and vineyards and enjoy the warm hospitality of family run boutique guesthouses and inns. Walking up to 16km a day through tranquil landscapes and enveloped in the birdsong and constant shush of crickets to reach villages and your accommodations. We have included a wine tasting so you can appreciate the produce that has made the region famous. The perfect unwind!

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- Luggage transfers
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- App with trail information for use on a smartphone
- Tour and tasting session at Quinta do Tedo winery on day 5
- Transfer from Porto Airport to Porto hotel on day 1
- Transfer from Pinhao to Porto or Porto Airport on day 8
- Transfers to/from your walks as per itinerary

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Porto to join the tour
- Travel from Porto at the end of your tour
- Train tickets from Porto to Peso da Regua on day 2 (usually around €10 per person)
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under €5 per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

GPS Travel App

This holiday is led by a self-guided travel app, which contains the personalised details of your complete holiday itinerary. This includes the GPS-led routes for you to follow on your self-guided walking tours, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest in the towns along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your phone before you leave home and you are ready to go.

Each mobile comes with a different expected battery life so we suggest you pack a spare battery pack with you just in case you require it.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts at Porto Airport, where your driver will be waiting for you at the arrivals hall to take you to your hotel in Porto. Porto Airport is well-connected with many departures from UK regional airports.

The trip ends in Pinhao, where you will be collected by your driver for your private transfer to Porto Airport. Alternatively, if you have booked additional nights in Porto at the end of your trip, you will be taken to your hotel.

If you have booked additional nights in Porto, at the end of your stay you can make your own way to Porto Airport using the Metro for approximately €3 per person. The journey takes around 30 minutes, with trains running approximately every 20 minutes. For more information please visit

www.metroporto.pt.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the opportunity to enjoy dining in one of the local restaurants. We have also included 5 packed lunches to allow you to enjoy lunch with a view while out on your walks.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

The Portuguese are passionate about food. It is a reason for celebration, time with family and socialising with friends, and as is typical in much of Southern Europe, evening meals are enjoyed late into the evenings with a glass of wine. Portugal's national obsession is Bacalhau, a dried salted cod which will feature heavily on menus alongside other delicious seafood. After all Portugal has almost 1800km of coastline. But it is not all just seafood. Porto and the Douro valley are known for their good wines and simple, but delicious, local cuisine. Local specialities include the caldo verde, or 'green soup', a cabbage soup containing chorizo. There are also a variety of sausages and slow cooked casseroles commonly offered- perfect after a day in the vineyards.

Whilst in Porto, you must be sure to sample 'francesinha'. Calorie heavy, but extremely delicious, this glorified sandwich is made from bread, wet-cured ham, sausage, steak and egg, all drowning in melted cheese and served with a spicy tomato and beer sauce! Note that vegetarian options, though available in northern Portugal, will be less varied. When it comes to drink, wine lovers will be in their element. Port wines are of course a must when visiting this region. Ports can be ruby, tawny, white and rosé and during the holiday there will be plenty of opportunity to sample the different varieties of this rich and delicious fortified wine.

Accommodation

On this trip you will stay in a selection of comfortable guesthouses and 3* or 4* hotels each offering warm hospitality and beautiful locations. Each accommodation brings its own charm whether it is a small family-run guesthouse offering beautiful gardens to relax or a hotel with a swimming pool for cooling down after a day on your feet.

All our accommodations are booked on bed and breakfast basis in a twin or double room and have Wi-Fi available. Many accommodations have restaurants, perfect for those days when you just want to relax in your hotel after a busy day exploring. Please note that in some rural locations the local restaurants are closed on Sundays and dinner in your hotel may be the only option on this day.

It is possible to arrange additional nights' accommodation if you wish to extend your time in Porto and enjoy all the buzz of this fabulous maritime city. Please speak to our Sales Team for more information.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your walk. We ask that you please ensure your main luggage is limited to one piece under 20kg per person and that your luggage is ready for collection in the morning on the day of each hotel change. Any additional pieces will incur an additional cost. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are out walking.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

Travelling with children aged 17yrs and under, who are not with their parent or legal guardian - Portugal

Children aged 17 and under travelling to Portugal alone or in the company of a person who is not their parent or legal guardian, must either:

- be met at the airport or point of entry by their parent or guardian, or carry a letter of authorisation to travel from their parent or guardian. The letter should name the adult
- in Portugal who will be responsible for them during their stay and the identification and contacts details of the parent or guardian.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking approximately 15 km per day with up to 700m of ascent for consecutive days.

Climate

The climate in this part of Portugal is mild. Whilst winter months tend to be damp, the summers are warm with a cooling breeze coming in off the Atlantic, making it very pleasant for walking. From April onwards the green vines begin to transform the hillsides of the Douro. The hottest months are July and August, with temperatures reaching up to 25 - 30 degrees centigrade. In mid to late September the grape harvest is well underway, and by early October the hills start to take on a warm autumnal hue.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

The Portuguese: The Land and its People, Marion Kaplan

Pocket Porto, Lonely Planet

Douro Valley: Journeys and Stories, Sergion and Susana Fonseca

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good grip soles

- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Long/short hiking trousers
- Hiking socks
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit

- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics
- Walking poles
- Headtorch & spare batteries
- Your self-guided route notes

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin/double occupancy, however this trip is suitable for groups of 2 or more travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Explore one of the quieter regions of Portugal away from the coastal crowds, in the fabulous wine country of the Douro Alto. We have included private transfers from/to Porto Airport so you can relax from the start to end of your trip, and also included a wine tasting so you can appreciate the magnificent Douro region's biggest export.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change