

# Detailed Itinerary

**Trip Name:** [8 days] Heart & Soul of Douro Valley

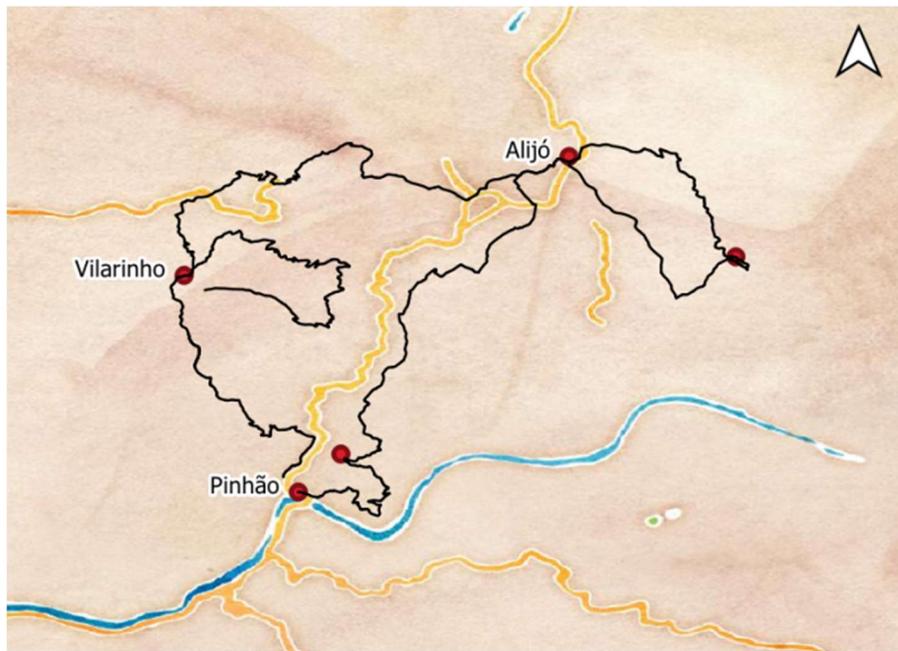
## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

**Dates:** Variable. Contact Yūgen Earthside with your preferred start date.

*This trip is a 1-week, self-guided walking and wine-tasting holiday in the Douro Valley – a demarcated wine region and one of the most scenically impressive in the world. Our route will take you through astonishingly beautiful world heritage landscapes and picturesque traditional villages.*

### Main Stops:

Porto – Pinhão – Vilarinho de São Romão – Alijó – São Mamede da Ribatua – Casal de Loivos



### About the Tour:

We firmly believe that travel should be a safe and rewarding experience for all concerned, including the destinations that you visit and the people you meet. Using our own extensive local knowledge, we carefully design our tours to respect the way of life of local populations as well as the environment and provide our clients with a genuine experience that leads to meaningful interactions with another culture. In turn, we make sure that money stays within the small local communities that they spend time in.



### **Day 1: Arrival to Porto**

We'll be at the airport to meet you and drive you to the train station in Porto where you'll receive a full briefing about your self-guided walking holidays in Douro Valley. Take the train from Porto to the small riverside village of Pinhão (2.5 hours) where the train station is decorated with painted tile panels depicting Douro wine production. Walk or take a taxi to a working winery with attractive guest rooms, stunning views of the Douro River and an outdoor pool.

Stroll around the vineyards, sample their wines or take a boat trip along the river (paid locally). Enjoy tasty local dishes this evening in the onsite restaurant or head into the village for other options.

*Accommodation: 3-star hotel*

### **Day 2: Walk from Pinhão to Vilarinho de São Romão (9,5 km | 5.9 miles | +577 meter elevation gain)**

Explore the western slopes of the Pinhão Valley today as you climb to the hillside villages of São Cristovão do Douro and Provosende. The views of surrounding vineyards more than compensate your efforts. End this journey with a warm welcome and home-cooked meal at a historical country house. If weather permits, take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool or simply relax in the comfortable guest lounge.

*Accommodation: Country House*

*Included meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 3: Circular walk via Pinhão River (13km | 8.1 miles | +507m)**

With Vilarinho de São Romão as your base, today's circular route winds down to the Pinhão River via a couple of small villages and wine estates and along the opposite hillsides, through the vineyards, with varied landscapes and splendid views throughout.

Relax at a riverside picnic spot before making your way uphill to the village of Celeirós where you can stop to taste the wines at Quinta do Portal before returning to your delightful accommodation. Take a taxi up the hill if you'd prefer an easier day.

*Accommodation: Country House*

*Included meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch, Dinner*



**Day 4: Walk from Vilarinho de São Romão to Alijó (16km | 9.9 miles | +626m)**

Enjoy views across the valley on your way towards the pretty village of Sabrosa. Follow an ancient road between here and Favaios as you head down through the vineyard terraces to the river. Wend your way uphill again between grape vines and olive groves towards a distinctly different landscape.

Taste traditional wood oven-baked bread and moscatel wine in Favaios then continue to the small, historical town of Alijó. Settle into your comfortable accommodation for the next two nights. Explore the town or relax by the pool before having dinner at the onsite restaurant or in a nearby restaurant.

*Accommodation: 4-star hotel*

*Included meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch*

**Day 5: Circular walk via São Mamede da Ribatua (15km | 9.3 miles | +358m)**

Today's walk is a circular route from Alijó that undulates through an ever-changing patchwork of vineyards and fields towards the ancient village of São Mamede da Ribatua with spectacular views of the surrounding rock-strewn mountains and the glittering lake below. Leave the village via a different route to return to Alijó or take a taxi back for a more relaxing afternoon. A third option involves a walk down to the lake before calling the taxi.

*Accommodation: 4-star hotel*

*Included meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch*

**Day 6: Walk from Alijó to Casal de Loivos (14km | 8.7 miles | +214m)**

Spend the day walking in Douro Valley through vineyards, perhaps calling in at a wine estate or two for a tour and tasting session before reaching the ridge at the top of the eastern slopes of the Pinhão Valley. Look back at the terraced slopes opposite to identify the villages you walked to earlier in the week. You'll have magnificent views of the Douro River before reaching the last village of the day.

Spend the night in a 17th century country house with amazing views and a pool.

*Accommodation: Country House*

*Included meals: Breakfast, Packed Lunch*



**Day 7: Walk from Casal de Loivos to Pinhão (6km | 3.7 miles | +50m)**

Today's short but glorious walk down to Pinhão leaves you with time for a final winery tour and tasting session (optional, paid locally) overlooking the River Douro. You could have lunch in the village or a picnic in the vineyards before taking the train back to Porto for a night in the heart of the city in a stylish modern hotel.

Take some time to explore the city's historical monuments, revitalised areas such as Rua das Flores and the riverside Ribeira district. If you have time, cross the river and visit at least one of the port wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia to see and smell where the barrels of aging wine are stored.

*Accommodation: 4-star hotel*

*Included meals: Breakfast*

## Day 8: Departure

We will take you to the airport in a comfortable private car in time for your flight.  
End of our services.

*Included meals: Breakfast*

## PRICING

**Tour cost:** Please note this tour's prices are in euros (it will need to be paid according to the EUR price). Prices in USD are listed for reference as an approximation.

**Low Season** (March 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>, and October 16<sup>th</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>)

- 990 € → \$1200 USD per person for a double room occupancy
- 1320 € → \$1600 USD per person for a single room occupancy

**High Season** (May 1<sup>st</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup>)

- 1090 € → \$1320 USD per person for a double room occupancy
- 1480 € → \$1790 USD per person for a single room occupancy

### Cancellation Policy:

If you cancel:

- **More than 30 days before the expected arrival date** – we'll refund you 10% of the total cost
- **From 29 to 15 days before the expected arrival date** – we'll refund you 50% of the total cost
- **Less than 15 days before the expected arrival date** – no refund is possible

## INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation:** All accommodation (7 nights)
- **Meals:**
  - Dinner on Days 2, 3
  - Packed lunches on Days 2-6
- **Transportation:**
  - Private transfer from Porto airport to Campanhã train station or city centre plus briefing on day 1
  - Private transfer from Porto hotel to the airport on day 8
- **Permits, Fees, Guides:**
  - GPS tracker using the app "Ride with GPS" (you will need a smartphone)
  - Road book with detailed route descriptions and elevation profiles
- **Other:**

- Luggage transfers between accommodations from Days 2 to 6 and to Pinho train station on Day 7 – 1 bag per person – up to 15kg/bag
- 24/7 emergency contact number

## EXCLUSIONS

- **Meals:**
  - Dinner on days 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7
  - Lunch on days 1 and 7
- **Transportation:**
  - Flights to/from Portugal
  - Transfers between Porto and your accommodation in the Douro Valley
- **Permits, Fees, Guides:** Passport/visa fees
- **Other:**
  - Travel Insurance
  - Winery tours and tastings: Travelers will need to book the tastings, but we will help facilitate this by providing a list of the wineries, their locations, and contact information. Most wineries are around Pinhão, where you will be on the first and last days. Tastings cost anywhere from 10 € and up.
  - Personal expenses and gratuities
  - Museum entrance fees and other optional expenses