

Discovering the Gems of Northern Portugal

Northern Portugal is a region that is often overlooked by tourists, but it is a destination that should not be missed. From the rocky coastline of the Minho province to the historic cities of Porto, Braga and Guimarães, this region offers a diverse range of experiences for travellers.

I recently had the opportunity to explore Northern Portugal, and I was blown away by the beauty and magic of this region. The first stop on my journey was the city of Porto, known for its historic center, the Ribeira, and the famous Porto wine cellars.

Porto's Ribeira is a UNESCO World Heritage site and it's a must-see for any travellers visiting the city. The charming narrow streets, the colourful houses and the D'ouro River views make it one of the most picturesque places in Portugal. The best way to explore the Ribeira is by taking a boat tour along the D'ouro River, where you can admire the city's beautiful bridges and learn about the history of the region.

Another highlight of my trip was the city of Braga, known as the Rome of Portugal because of its rich religious heritage. The most famous attraction of the city is the Bom Jesus do Monte, a monumental sanctuary with a staircase of 586 steps that leads to the top of the hill. The views from the top are spectacular, and it's a great place to take a break and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

For those who love the outdoors, Northern Portugal offers a diverse range of activities, from hiking to surfing. The Minho province is known for its green landscapes and beautiful beaches, the perfect spot for a nature lover. The region is full of natural parks, such as Peneda-Gerês National Park, where you can go for a hike and discover the stunning waterfalls, lakes and rivers.

For food lovers, Northern Portugal is a paradise. The region is known for its delicious seafood, from the traditional octopus dishes to the famous "francesinha" sandwich, a delicious mix of meat, bread, and cheese. You can also find a wide range of traditional dishes such as "cozido à portuguesa" or "chanfana", that are hearty and satisfying.

Overall, Northern Portugal is a destination that should not be missed. The region is rich in history, culture, and natural beauty and it's the perfect place to take a break and explore something different.

-Edgar Silva Matos