



FIND YOUR
CENTER OF PORTUGAL

Center of Portugal - one of the most diversified destinations in Portugal, is very pleased to welcome you
Transportation, Accommodation in a single room at the hotels and dates mentioned and all the meals and wine tastings, will be a courtesy of the Center of Portugal Tourism Board.

Center of Portugal

Between the two main airports in Portugal, you will find an impressive scenery and a millenary history that left notable marks on the landscape.

Unique brands in Portugal: Historical Villages, Border Castles, Schist Villages, Mountain Villages!

Plenty of welcoming small towns. They have this unique flair of cosiness and human connection. It's all about discovering these amazing places and their rich historical heritage, mouth-watering gastronomy, dazzling natural spots and big-hearted people.

Hospitality and tradition. A destination brimming with creativity and passion, soul and authenticity.

Togetherness

In March 2021, we have launched the Togetherness portal. Dedicated to the news, ideas and inspiring projects in the Center of Portugal.

We want to mark 2022 as a new beginning. Updated every 2 weeks, it brings to you the latest news in 5 different languages with eyes on the future.

<https://togetherness.centerofportugal.com/>

Be inspired. www.centerofportugal.com

#portugal

#centerofportugal

#aveiro

#vistaalegre

#moliciro

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Day 01 – Sunday, 23rd April
Aveiro, Art Nouveau and it's ceramic heritage

09h00 - Departure to Aveiro

Roaming through Aveiro is the same as diving in the waters of Centro de Portugal. Known as the “Portuguese Venice”, the city is quietly dominated by the Ria de Aveiro, described by Saramago, portuguese literature Nobel prize winner, as “a living body that connects the land to the sea like a huge heart.”

Guided visit to Aveiro

Art Nouveau

Art Nouveau in Aveiro and it's museum is the coolest stop on the city cultural scene. The museum resides in the Casa Major Pessoa, one of the most architecturally admired buildings in the city. Building design is attributed to architects Silvia Rocha and Ernest Korrodi. On the exterior, extraordinary art nouveau detail is evident in the stone façade as well as the wrought iron embellishments. The building is topped by a noble eagle, a theme that carries through to the interior.

Explore the Art Nouveau facades in the city!

13h00 – Lunch @ Aveiro

Vista Alegre Factory and Museum

Known as one of the most prestigious porcelain brands in the world, Vista Alegre Factory was created by José Ferreira Pinto Basto early in the 19th century to produce porcelain, glass and chemical processes. In 1812, Basto bought the Ermida Farm, situated in Ílhavo, near the Aveiro Lagoon. It was a land full of minerals, clay and white sand, which were essential to produce ceramics, and, shortly after, he bought all the surrounding areas. Among them was Vista Alegre Farm where there was a palace, a chapel and several buildings and it was here that Pinto Basto built his porcelain factory. In 1824, King John VI granted it a royal warrant and five months later, it received the title of Vista Alegre Royal Factory.

To visit Vista Alegre Factory is to enter a world which keeps the secrets of a century old of the most international Portuguese porcelain manufacturing process. Go through this space and follow the entire creation process of some of the most emblematic Portuguese porcelain pieces from the dough composition until the final boiling. Discover the painting school which, throughout the factory's history has been essential both in training young artists and preserving a tradition of excellence.

Check in and diner @ Montebelo Vista Alegre Ílhavo Hotel / Moon & Sun **tbc** – according to hotel availability and opening

Vista Alegre quarter - Bairro Vista Alegre.

Is a new concept of accommodation. The former neighbourhood of the factory workers was now converted in welcoming apartments, ideal for long family stays.

The Vista Alegre quarter includes studio to 4-room apartments that provide a new accommodation experience. These fully equipped apartments are the perfect place for families, long stays and travellers who value privacy and a sense of independence, yet benefiting from all the services provided by the Montebelo Vista Alegre Ílhavo Hotel.

The neighbourhood of the factory workers was indeed a pioneering project that Vista Alegre created around the factory, so that factory workers could live near their workplace, along with other facilities for their families

Day 02 – Monday, 24th April Aveiro, Ria and traditions

10h00 - Moliceiro Boat Trip @ Ria de Aveiro by Terra D'água - meeting with Ms. Verónica Fonseca @ Cais do Bico, Murtosa

Uncover the wonders of the [Aveiro "Ria"](#)

Important recommendations:

- Use sunscreen in any season of the year (rain, shine);
- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes.

Embark on the most beautiful boat in the world sailing in the Ria de Aveiro "the Moliceiro boat".

Walk in the heart of the Ria de Aveiro between islands and banks with history. Check out the fishermen.

13:00 - Regional lunch at "Taberna da Alcina"

With the opportunity to discover the secrets of the famous eel stew in the kitchen of Dona Alcina with over 70 years of history.

15h00 - Bicycle Ride @ Torreira Beach

Visit Moliceiro shipyard Museum

The moliceiros are a great part of the colourfulness of Aveiro Lagoon. Used in the past to collect sea weed – "moliço" – they are nowadays a tourism icon of the city. When fully loaded, this boat could take up to 5 tons.

There are two essential elements that characterise these typical boats: the colourful décor and the elegance of its pointy edges of the bow and stern. They are normally 15,7 meters long and 2,6 meters wide. The moliceiros were built in Murtosa, Vagueira and Salreu.

São Jacinto Dunes

Located in the Aveiro Lagoon, the Natural Reserve of São Jacinto Dunes is a well-kept dune extension along the Atlantic coastline that also includes the National Woods of São Jacinto.

This is a 960 hectares area divided into shifting and fixed dunes which form a wood with mainly Pinus pinaster trees and fresh water ponds. The greatest of these bogs, known as Pateira, is a privileged crossing or wintering sit for migratory water bird species.

As you go through the interpretive trails, you will be able to watch, among others, the great tit, the diving duck, the coal tit, the gull, the tufted duck, the crested tit or the European herring gull.

17h00 - Ferry Boat from S.Jacinto to Aveiro

Sunset @ Costa Nova

Be amazed by the warmth of the Costa Nova fishing spirit which is still very much present in its sand plains. Discover the beach, the town and the history of this area.

A part of the colours and beauty of Aveiro is inseparable from the famous haystacks of Costa Nova. These traditional structures were used by fishermen to store their fishing materials and have also been used as beach houses throughout the years. Built near the beach, they welcome the sea with their façades painted in bright coloured stripes.

Diner @ Costa Nova

Return to Hotel

Day 03 – Tuesday, 25th April
The New Aveiro

The University of Aveiro

Aveiro has been one of the most innovative Portuguese university cities since 1973. Located between the salt ponds and the city centre, the University of Aveiro provided a new dynamic to Aveiro. A city within the city!

Based upon the founding values of freedom of thought and expression, dialogue and integrity, the University of Aveiro is a true engine of the overall development of the city and the region.

The collaboration of the University of Aveiro with the local community and society as whole is reinforced by the UA's engagement in promoting the transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation within the world of business.

The University of Aveiro paved the way in the creation of teaching offers in several knowledge fields. Today, UA is widely recognised as one of the most innovative universities in Portugal, the quality of its teaching and research and for its cooperation with regional and national business, assuring high employability rates to its students. The University's Library, was designed by Pritzker award-winning architect Siza Vieira.

Aveiro Tech City

Is an unprecedented initiative that brings together citizens, companies, R&D institutes and state-of-the-art technology to redefine how to live and work in a digital and connected city.

Technology as a means to improve the quality of living of local citizens and to help governance entities to collect and share relevant information about new exciting ways to manage the city in areas of mobility, education, culture and environment.

Buga Ride

BUGA has a unique design and it personifies the city's healthy lifestyle, which makes Aveiro an ideal place to live and visit.

So, you can enjoy the area's flat topography and do as old Aveiro inhabitants did when they went to their factories and fields or distributed fish by bike! You can go through the entire city of Aveiro on a BUGA, from the university campus to the congress centre, in the old Campos Ceramic Factory, having the Lagoon canals and their habitat as your constant companions. Let's Buga?

Aveiro Walking Path

The newly opened 7 km-long Aveiro wooden paths follow the Aveiro Lagoon, inviting to the discovery of this breath-taking ecosystem so rich in avifauna and flora. A new way of feeling Aveiro Lagoon.

Either on foot or by bike, at sunrise or at sunset, Aveiro Lagoon offers truly memorable images to its visitors. Along the track there are many wooden benches, engraved with local sayings, where visitors can rest or simply contemplate the amazing surrounding natural landscape.

Post Tour_UPAV & VVR
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Lunch @ Aveiro

Street Art Tour @ Estarreja

The municipality of Estarreja has created a consistent street art route that started with the inspiring work of Bordallo II, depicting a colourful Kingfisher out of waste. This work can be seen in the municipal park of Antuã, in Estarreja. After the success of Bordallo II work “Guarda-rios”- created for the Birdwatching Fair ObservaRia – Urban Art Festival ESTAU has brought the community and art together through several ways, such as mural painting, installations, workshops, movies, conferences, guided visits and performances.

Departure to OPO

There´s nothing like Home



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Accommodation

Montebelo Vista Alegre Ílhavo Hotel

Lugar da Vista Alegre

3830-292 Ílhavo

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