



Collett's
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

DOURO VALLEY & VINEYARDS

PICTURESQUE VINEYARDS & TRADITIONAL VILLAGES

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Douro Valley & Vineyards

The Facts

This is a 7 night, self-guided route through this astonishingly beautiful World Heritage landscape dotted with picturesque traditional villages. Make your way from Porto into the very heart of the Douro Region before exploring the picturesque slopes and valleys of this World Heritage landscape. Follow unpaved roads and footpaths as you walk from village to village, pausing for picnic lunches and visits to local wine estates where you can sample not only award-winning table wines but also port and *moscatel* wines.

Museums such as the Bread and Wine Museum in Favaios will give you a greater appreciation of local traditions and wine-production. You'll also witness some of the year-round activities involved in tending the vines and terraces. Relax after each day's walk at carefully selected country houses and hotels where you will receive a warm welcome, comfortable accommodation and delicious meals.

End your self-guided walking holiday back in the fascinating historical city of Porto, where you can visit the port wine cellars in Vila Nova de Gaia as well as the exploring Porto's many sights and views.

Terrain

Most of this walking holiday is off-road on rugged terrain so you will need proper walking shoes with cushioning and support. There is little shade so adequate weather protection is also vital. We strongly recommend the use of walking poles. A reasonable level of fitness is essential.

Grade : Moderate
Walking Time : 4 - 8 hours
Ascent : 50m to 626m each day

Please note that walking time does not include time taken for rests or lunch breaks and is an indication of how long the walking itself will take.

Dates & Prices

1 March – 30 April / 16 - 31 October - £950 per person

1 May – 15 October - £995 per person

Arrive on the day of your choice.

Please note that all bookings are subject to availability in the hotels - please do not make any travel arrangements until we have confirmed your accommodation dates.

Prices are per person and based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Please note that the minimum party size is 2.

For groups of 2 or more where a single room is needed, the single supplement is £225 (low season) and £270 (high season).

Included in the price

- 7 nights B&B accommodation
- Picnic lunches on days 2-6
- 2 evening meals (4 nights guests eat locally at own expense)
- Luggage transfer between hotels (days 2-6) & to the train station on day 7
- Private Transfers between:
 - Porto Airport and Campanhã train station on arrival; and
 - your hotel in Porto & the airport on your departure (day 8)
- Welcome Briefing on arrival in Alijó
- Detailed route directions with maps and GPX track etc
- 24/7 phone support, provided by our local partner based in Portugal

Not included in the price

- Flights
- Insurance
- 5 evening meals
- Lunches on days 1, 7 & 8
- Private Transfer direct to Alijó on arrival (available at a supplement)
- Vineyard tours and tastings
- Museum entrance fees
- Drinks, snacks & all other extras

Route Information

Day 1 – Arrive & Settle In

On arrival at Porto airport, a private transfer (included) will take you to the station for a welcome briefing before catching a train to Pinhão (approx 2½hrs, €11 each way not included). On arrival into Pinhão, you will be met and enjoy a brief welcome meeting. It is then a pleasant walk or short taxi ride to your first nights accommodation which is a working winery with attractive guest rooms, stunning views of the Douro River and an outdoor pool. If time permits you can stroll around the vineyards, sample their wines, take a boat trip along the river (paid locally) or simply relax before your adventure starts the next day. Enjoy tasty local dishes this evening in their onsite restaurant or head into the village for other options. Alternatively, a private transfer from Porto Airport direct to your first hotel can be organised (at a supplement).

Overnight accommodation – 3* Hotel, Alijó

Day 2 – Pinhão to Vilarinho de São Romão

Distance: 9.5km, 4 – 6 hours walking, 577m ascent

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.

Meals – Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner. **Overnight** – a country house, Vilarinho de São Romão

Day 3 – Circular Walk via Pinhão River

Distance: 13 km, 4 – 6 hours walking, 507m ascent

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.

Meals – Breakfast, Packed Lunch & Dinner. **Overnight** – a country house, Vilarinho de São Romão

Day 4 – Vilarinho de São Romão to Alijó

Distance: 16 km, 5 – 7 hours walking, 626m ascent

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.

Meals – Breakfast & Packed Lunch. **Overnight** – 4* hotel, Alijó

Day 5 – Circular Walk via São Mamede da Ribatua

Distance: 15 km, 5 – 7 hours walking, 358m ascent

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.

Meals – Breakfast & Packed Lunch. **Overnight** – 4* hotel, Alijó

Day 6 – Alijó to Casal de Loivos

Distance: 14 km, 4 – 6 hours walking, 214m ascent

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.

Meals – Breakfast and Packed Lunch. **Overnight** – a country house, Casal de Loivos

Day 7 – Casal de Loivos to Pinhão

Distance: 6 km, 2 – 3 hours walking, 50m ascent

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.

Meals – Breakfast only. **Overnight** – 4* Hotel, Porto

Day 8 - Departure

Private transfer to Porto Airport (included), independent onward travel, or the possibility to extend your stay.



At Your Own Risk

Your self guided "Douro Valley & Vineyards" will be spent entirely at your own risk and it is important that you understand that whilst the route notes are accurate at the time of writing, the situation on the ground may change and this itinerary relies on your sound judgement and decision making throughout.

Our self-guided "Douro Valley & Vineyards" has been organised so that you might enjoy a route and associated accommodation you may not otherwise have discovered having organised the itinerary yourself. It represents nothing more than the opportunity to go out on a beautiful walk in a part of this wonderful walking area, with the support of knowing that many of the logistics have been arranged for you.

It is a fact that hill walking can and is associated with personal injury and death. By coming to such areas, you are exposing yourself and your party to the possibility of personal injury or even death. In such an event, Collett's Limited trading as Collett's Mountain Holidays will not be held responsible for your interest in the outdoors and your involvement in coastal walking, which can occasionally have tragic consequences.

information provided uses only marked paths which are in use at the time of writing, however, it is your responsibility to continually assess the suitability and safety of the route throughout the walk and to undertake any action necessary to avoid any terrain which each or any member of the group is not comfortable with. The route choice also assumes an ability to read maps and navigate competently.

It is the responsibility of each individual in the group to make an assessment of the information provided, and to make an informed decision about whether the itinerary is suitable for them.

Finally, during your holiday with Collett's Mountain Holidays you act at your own risk on any ideas, information and opinions included in any material prepared by us to help you get the most from the area.

