



The Minho

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Casa de Pasto das Carvalheiras (p435)
- ➔ Le Babachris (p442)
- ➔ Taberna do Valentim (p449)
- ➔ O Abocanhado (p468)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Margarida da Praça (p448)
- ➔ Casa do Juncal (p441)
- ➔ Carmo's Boutique Hotel (p457)
- ➔ Pousada do Gerês-Caniçada/São Bento (p467)

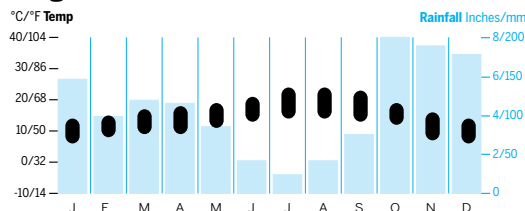
Why Go?

The Minho delivers world-class natural beauty with a knowing smile. Here are lush river valleys, sparkling beaches and granite peaks patrolled by locals – who, whether they are charging 2m waves along the Costa Verde or shepherding their flock into high mountain meadows, seem particularly in tune with their homeland. This is, after all, the birthplace of the Portuguese kingdom, and it would be hard to find better-preserved landmarks than those uplit and on display in the Minho's gorgeous old cities.

Then there's the bold, sharp and fruity *vinho verde* to consider. This young wine is fashioned from the fruit of kilometres of vineyards that wind along rivers, over foothills and into Minho mountain villages. The crops are eventually crushed and bottled in community *adegas* (wineries), giving each destination its own flavour. Of course, if you sip enough along the way, they may all blend into one delicious memory.

When to Go

Braga



May In the first week of the month, Festa das Cruzes turns Barcelos into a fairground.

Jun Braga's Festas de São João bursts with pagan energy and fireworks.

Sep Festas de Senhora, Peneda, features candlelit processions and a gushing waterfall.



The Minho Highlights

- 1 Visit historic monuments, followed by dinner at a top restaurant in **Braga** (p430).
- 2 Stroll the atmospheric streets of **Viana do Castelo** (p444), then catch sunset on the beach.
- 3 Lounge at a cafe overlooking the medieval bridge and lush countryside beyond in **Ponte de Lima** (p454).
- 4 Explore the contemporary art and culture in buzzing **Guimarães** (p438).
- 5 Hike the boulder-strewn peaks and gorse-clad moorlands of **Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês** (p460).