

# **CULTURE IN PORTUGAL**

The culture of Portugal has its roots in Celtic, Phoenician, African, Iberian, Germanic and Roman cultures. The cultural differentiation of the Portuguese is manifested through the types of housing, religious manifestations, gastronomy, folklore, typical Portuguese sidewalks, tiles, museums, monuments, theatres, cinemas and so on.

## **Museums**

Portugal is an alluring country, not only for its strategic coastal position, but also for its numerous sights and cultural landmarks. Here is a selection of top museums in Lisbon and Porto, to help you discover the country's most amazing cultural spots.

### **Lisbon**

#### **Calouste Gulbenkian Museum**

Apart from being the capital and the largest city in Portugal, Lisbon also offers the widest choice when it comes to museums. *Calouste Gulbenkian Museum* houses a magnificent collection of Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Islamic, Asian, and European art. This is one of the world's finest private art collections and is a must-see when you visit the capital.



#### **Coaches Museum**

Coaches Museum presents the lavish transportation vehicles of Portuguese royalty. It is housed in the Belem Palace and represents the world's largest and most valuable collection of this type. It contains dozens of magnificent state carriages, some decorated with depictions of Portugal's Maritime Discoveries.



## Oporto

### Serralves Museum

Serralves Museum is famous as Porto's cultural eden. It displays world-class modern and contemporary pieces of art. As it has no permanent exhibition, but houses temporary exhibitions from all over the world. Before you visit, check out the website to find out what is currently on display.



### Casa da Música

Casa da Musica is another impressive landmark in Porto. It is a 12-storey, irregular-shaped building which Rem Koolhaas designed exclusively for musical performances. As well as having a resident orchestra, Casa de Musica hosts top international orchestras. Its façade is as fascinating as the performances which take place inside this architectural marvel.



## Monuments

In Portugal, culture and heritage have unique characteristics stemming from historical events and the outlook of a people who, as they learned from the rest of the world, adapted this new knowledge to their way of living and their land

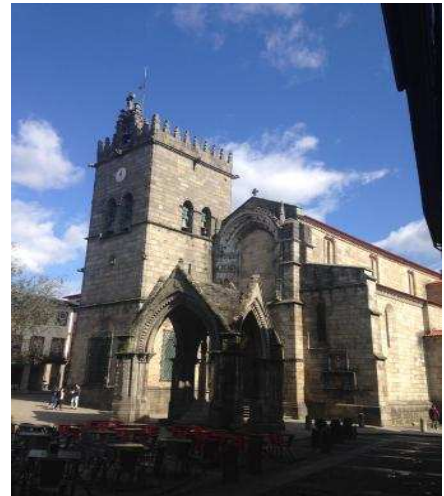
### Historic Centre of Porto

The landscape of cascading houses tumbling down to Ribeira, by the River Douro, and the waterfront area in Vila Nova de Gaia depict the history of this city linked to maritime activity since Roman times. The Cathedral and the Clérigos Tower, symbols of Porto, the opulence of the buildings, the Baroque churches, the Neoclassic Stock Exchange make this an exceptional urban landscape with a history stretching back thousands of years.



### Historic Centre of Guimarães

Guimarães has a high symbolic value for the Portuguese identity as the birthplace of the nation in the 12th century. The well-preserved city reflects the progress of civic architecture from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. The specialist construction techniques developed here were applied the world over in the Portuguese colonies, from Africa to the New World.



## Art

**Portuguese art** includes many different styles from various ages, for example:

### Sculptures

Portuguese sculptures can be best analysed by studying the many tombs of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Centuries that are found throughout Portugal. In the late 1700s, the colony of Brazil was the main influence in Portuguese sculpture. This can be seen by the increase in Baroque wooden sculptures during this time. Joaquim Machado de Castro, a famous Portuguese artist who lived around this time, is responsible for a lot of these works.



### Tiles

The Portuguese glazed tiles (azulejos) are one of Portugal's best decorative arts. Many 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings are lined with tiles, and the rooms and halls of palaces and mansions have tiled panels following a colour motif. Some prime examples of this style of art are the Pátio da Carranca (courtyard of Carranca) of the Paço de Sintra (Palace of Sintra), the São Roque church in Lisbon and the Quinta da Bacalhoa at Vila Fresca de Azeitão near Setúbal.

