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Tourist attraction in porto, portugal

Tourist attractions in Porto, Portugal including the port industry, historic neighborhoods, cathedral and churches, shopping and the nearby resort of Espinho.

Portugal's second largest city is known all over the world as the birthplace of a rather sweet dessert wine. In fact, Porto gave its name not only to the port wine, but to the country of Portugal itself. Apart from its thriving port wine industry, Porto is a beautiful and stylish city, with a spectacular setting in a gorge carved out of the River Douro. The production and distribution of port is still a vital part of the city's economy, and is what draws many visitors to this part of Portugal.

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The suburb of Porto known as Vila Nova de Gaia is the part of the city where some of the most famous names in port have their headquarters or 'lodges' as they are known. Nearly all of them offer free guided tours, a chance to see behind the scenes and of course, to sample the product. Among the well-known and historic names here are Sandeman's and Taylor's – Taylor's is the last of the original English port companies to remain family-owned. A tour of any of the lodges always ends with a glass of port served on the terrace overlooking the river.

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A good place to have a memorable meal in the city is at the historic and atmospheric restaurant called Barao Fladgate. This restaurant – something of an institution in Porto – is owned and operated by the Taylor port company, and is set in a walled compound high above the Douro River. The menu offers traditional Portuguese dishes, served by formally dressed waiters, along with a spectacular view over both the river and the city. It's not only an excellent dining experience, but an excellent way to round off a visit to this fascinating and historic city.

Written by *Martin Loughlin*