

Hardy Plant Society of Oregon (HPSO) Garden Tours

Galicia: Northern Portugal and Northwest Spain - Friday, March 8 thru Sunday, March 17, 2019

Galicia: The Camellia Trail & The Douro Valley

Northern Portugal & NW Spain

Join us on this odyssey through Spain and Portugal's undiscovered northwest corner. Our journey is timed to coincide with Camellia season, for which the region is justly famous. Sporting some of the oldest specimens in Europe, you may well see them flowering alongside fruiting lemons in this part of the world. Many of our hotels are historic buildings, and some are five-star hotels. With a mild climate, rugged coastal scenery, atmospheric towns, grandiose architecture, superb wines, gourmet cuisine, and the most delightful, welcoming locals – you'll wonder why you've never been to Galicia before!



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Galicia: The Camellia Trail & The Douro Valley Day-by-day Itinerary



Day 1 – Friday, March 8:

Arrive in Porto and transfer to the hotel. Porto is Portugal's second largest municipality and home of the celebrated port wine which is produced in the nearby Douro Valley. The historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage site and has been settled since around 300 BC. You may want to explore the nearby neighborhoods, go to the top of the Clerigos Tower, see the many azulejo (blue tile) buildings, visit the famous

Livraria Lello bookshop, or you may decide to relax. In late afternoon, we will cross the river to the 'Ribeira' area where we will enjoy a gourmet welcome dinner.

Sleep: PESTANA VINTAGE HOTEL, Porto

Meals included: Dinner



Day 2 – Saturday, March 9:

Following breakfast at our hotel, our charter bus takes us out of the city into Portugal's lovely countryside. Our first stop will be the town of Guimaraes, a UNESCO world heritage site, where we will stretch our legs with a walking tour by a local guide. We continue north to Portugal's oldest village, the very scenic Ponte de Lima, for free time and lunch at leisure. Continuing on, we will visit Castelo de Soutomaior, a well-preserved 12th Century castle that now includes boxwood hedges and gardens.

We arrive late afternoon at our hotel in the town of Pontevedra and will stay two nights in this lovely town filled with history, walkable squares, and pocket gardens. Dinner at leisure this evening.

Sleep: GALICIA PALACE HOTEL, Pontevedra

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3 – Sunday, March 10:

Our first visit will be Pazo de A Saleta, with over 200 varieties of camellia. We will then enjoy the botanical gardens and an included lunch at Pazo Quintero da Cruz, a garden with the soul of a museum. Next, we visit the village of Cambados for a wander followed by wine tour and tasting at Pazo de Fefinans before returning to our hotel in Pontevedra.

Sleep: GALICIA PALACE HOTEL, Pontevedra

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch and wine tasting

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Day 4 – Monday, March 11:

We start our day at [Pazo de Santa Cruz de Rivadulla](#), home of hundreds of camellia as well as a collection of monumental trees and other horticultural specimens. Our next visit will be to the gardens of [Pazo de Oca](#), sometimes nicknamed “Galicia’s Versailles.” We then continue to [Santiago de Compostela](#), for centuries the destination of millions of pilgrims who have traversed the [Way of St. James](#). In the old town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, our historic hotel is located on a magnificent urban plaza next door to the town’s imposing cathedral. We will enjoy an included dinner here.

Sleep: [PARADOR DE COMPOSTELA](#), Santiago de Compostela
Meals included: Breakfast and dinner



Day 5 – Tuesday, March 12:

Today we will explore sights just outside Santiago de Compostela. [Pazo De Faramello](#), is an ancient estate that includes a garden, forest, wildlife conservation program, and remnants of one of the first mills that produced paper for the region. Our next visit will be [Pazo de Rubianes](#) which combines 600 years of history, a vineyard, and a pleasure garden given the distinction of “Garden of Excellence” by the International Camellia Society.

Sleep: [PARADOR DE COMPOSTELA](#), Santiago de Compostela
Meals included: Breakfast



Day 6 – Wednesday, March 13:

We start the day with a leisurely morning and independent time in Santiago de Compostela. We will then visit the town of [Lugo](#), a UNESCO city surrounded by completely intact Roman walls. We will have time for an independent lunch in Lugo. We will continue on for a guided

tour of [Colexio Nosa Señora Da Antiga](#) in the town of Monforte de Lemos. We arrive late afternoon at our hotel in the town of [Ourense](#) with time for exploration and an independent dinner.

Sleep: [HOTEL CARRIS CARDENAL QUEVEDO](#), Ourense
Meals included: Breakfast



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Day 7 – Thursday, March 14:

After some independent time and lunch in Ourense, we will drive through the countryside to [Vidago Palace](#), a 5-star historic luxury spa resort hotel which was commissioned by King Carlos I in 1910. There will be time in the afternoon to relax or stroll through the surrounding park and gardens or possibly enjoy an optional pre-booked spa treatment.

Sleep: [HOTEL VIDAGO PALACE](#), Vidago

Meals included: Breakfast



Day 8 - Friday, March 15:

Today we explore some of the sights of the scenic Douro Valley with its terraced vineyards and stunning views. Our first visit will be to [Casa de Mateus](#) and its surrounding gardens. The day will also include lunch at [Casa Da Calcada](#) in the scenic town of [Amarante](#). We will tour a winery, learn the history of winemaking in the region, and sample Port along the way today. Our luxury hotel in Pinhao is walking distance to numerous tasting rooms and restaurants, plus the hotel includes a lovely terrace and cafe overlooking the river.

Sleep: [VINTAGE HOUSE HOTEL](#), Pinhao

Meals included: Breakfast and lunch



Day 9 – Saturday, March 16:

First, we head to the fascinating town of [Lamego](#) where you can choose from numerous sights: a regional museum, hilltop castle, a medieval granite cistern, and a recently-discovered archeological site. We will also visit [Nossa Senhora dos Remedios](#) and its distinctive crisscross paths. After lunch, we will visit the [Quinta de Aveleda](#) for a guided visit to the park, gardens and wine cellars plus tastings before heading back into Porto. Our hotel tonight is the spectacular [Palacio do Freixo](#), a National Monument as well as a hotel, on the river and just east of central Porto. This evening, we enjoy a sumptuous farewell dinner.

Sleep: [PESTANA PALACE DO FREIXO](#), Porto

Meals included: Breakfast, wine tastings & dinner



Day 10 - Sunday, March 17:

The tour officially ends today, but you may decide to linger longer. Porto is a fascinating city plus you might consider flying out of Lisbon and visiting the Portuguese towns of Coimbra, Sintra, Evora, Cascais and more. Portugal is currently a travel bargain and a fascinating country that is rich in history, architecture, welcoming people and wonderful food.

Meals included: Breakfast

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For a further glimpse of the beauty of this uncrowded corner of the world, please visit [Galicia's website on the region](#) and the [Camellia Trail](#) which should be at peak season in March.

Many photos on this brochure are courtesy of Xunta de Galicia, the regional tourism board.

Price per person sharing a room: 2,097 Euro (approximately \$2,621 US dollars)

Price per person in a single room: 2,692 Euro (approximately \$3,364 US dollars)

- Tour is priced in Euros, the value of which may fluctuate. US dollars estimates are as of 3/22/18.
- A minimum of 25 participants is required for the tour to proceed.
- \$180 contribution to Hardy Plant Society of Oregon will be added to the per person prices above.
- Membership in HPSO is required for all participants.
- See Terms, Conditions and Additional Information on the following page.

Cost Includes:

- 9 nights accommodation in 4-star and 5-star hotels
- 14 included meals: 9 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches and 3 Dinners
- Wine tastings and wine with the included dinners
- All gratuities and tips, all taxes and service charges
- Coach services and transportation for the itinerary
- Entrances to all gardens and attractions as listed on itinerary
- Tours by local guide in Guimaraes and Colexio Nosa Señora da Antiga
- Curated and simplified walking maps for many of the towns we will be visiting
- Porterage for one piece of luggage

Not Included:

- Airfare or other transport to and from Porto
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)



Tour guide and the creator of the itinerary, Gavin Bade, has traveled Galicia extensively and knows the very best places to visit. He speaks English and Portuguese plus is conversant in Spanish. He has extensive guiding experience.



Tour escort, Kate McMillan, is active on the HPSO board, a garden designer and also runs a business specializing in creating and maintaining websites for authors.



Tour escort, Lois Moss, is HPSO's Treasurer, a small business owner and former CPA who is adept at logistics and customer service.

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TOUR CONDITIONS, TERMS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Confirmation of Tour Participation

Tour reservation requests are processed in the order received. You will be notified by the tour escorts once your reservation request has been accepted. The main tour is designed for a **minimum of 25 participants and a maximum of 30**. If the tour does not fill to the minimum, it will be cancelled or postponed, or tour members will have the option of agreeing to a change in pricing. If the tour fills, a wait list will be created in the order in which reservations are received. **Please do not book any nonrefundable airfare until you have been notified by your tour escort that the tour has reached the minimum required level of participation.**

Deposit, Payments and Invoicing

A \$750 deposit is required to hold your reservation once your participation in the tour is confirmed. The remaining cost of the tour will be invoiced in two payments, a schedule for which will be presented to tour members when their registration is confirmed. While the tour is priced in Euros, tour members will be invoice in US dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the time. If any overpayment caused by fluctuations in the exchange rate occurs, such overpayment will be refunded in a timely manner, or additional tour features and benefits will be added to the itinerary. Conversely, any shortage will be billed on a supplemental invoice. Because the tour is priced at cost, **payments by credit card will incur a 3.5% service charge to cover bank processing fees.**

Conditions for Participation

Each tour participant must submit a signed **Liability Waiver and Release to HPSO** within 30 days of acceptance of the tour application.

The success of the tour depends on each person's ability to participate and to cooperate with other tour members, the tour guide, and escorts. This tour is rated "**Moderate**." Its physical demands may include long travel times and walking 5 to 7 miles a day, in increments of 1 to 2 miles. Much of the terrain, even in urban streetscapes, includes uneven surfaces (cobblestones, dirt or gravel paths, stairs, etc.). Many of the sites make no accommodations for disabled persons.

This is a non-smoking tour. Smoking is not permitted on the coach, or during group activities or group meals. Local practices may make it impossible, however, to prevent exposure to smoke from others at times during the tour.

Cancellation and Refunds

Regardless of the reason, cancellations impact tour planning negatively. The long lead times required to schedule a tour, including prepayments by our Agent to hotels and other tour suppliers, mean that tour money may not be refundable.

To offset any nonrefundable payments and /or lost revenue, the following cancellation fees apply to this tour:

- If the minimum number of participants for the tour has not yet been reached when the cancellation is requested, an administrative fee of \$50 may be incurred to process a refund.
- If the tour is full and the space is subsequently filled from the waiting list, a \$100 fee will be incurred.
- If the tour is full and the space cannot be filled, the entire \$750 deposit plus any installment payments made up to that date may be forfeited.
- If the tour is cancelled by HPSO because the minimum number of participants is not reached by the Agent's deadline for payment, HPSO will refund in full the deposit and any installments made by tour members.

Tour Agent

The Agent/Company for this tour is **Pathfinders/STITA Tours** of Cheltenham, UK. The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon acts only as representative for the tour participant with respect to communications with the Agent.

Travel Insurance

Participants are encouraged to consider purchasing travel, overseas medical and/or cancellation insurance. Neither HPSO nor Pathfinders/STITA Tours provides travel, overseas medical or cancellation insurance. However, information regarding many third-party companies is available through squaremouth.com, AAA, a travel agency or your personal insurance agent. While travel insurance is not required, it is highly recommended that you purchase a policy within 30 days of booking this tour since some coverages are only available during the 30 day window.

Additional Information

Please contact Kate McMillan if you have any questions regarding this tour.

kate.mcmillan@gmail.com

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY OF OREGON
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