

ABOUT BRAGA

The city of Braga, located in the North of Portugal, is the third largest city in the country (after Lisbon and Porto) with a population of approximately 181.000 inhabitants. The city is the capital of the Minho Province and is close to Porto, the seaside and the Galicia Region in Spain. Braga's history may be traced back 2000 years, being an important Roman Colony during the Roman Empire (named Bracara Augusta) and later a relevant religious centre in Hispania. Currently, the region is a vibrant centre in the country with the highest level of density of young population. Braga was recently voted the 2nd European best destination 2019.

You may find relevant information about Braga in the following links:

- [Visit Braga](#)
- [A Visit to Braga](#)
- [Braga City Council](#)
- [City Tourist map](#)

Braga Tourist Office: +351 253 262 550

How to get to Braga

1. By plane

The closest airport to Braga is Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport, in Porto, approximately 50 Km (31 miles) away from Braga.

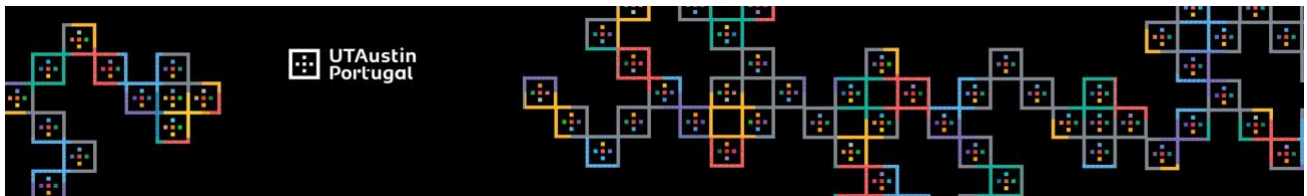
a) The easiest way to get to Braga from Porto airport is by coach or taxi:

- There is a direct coach from the airport – **get Bus** – which runs daily trips from the Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport to the Coach Station in Braga. Braga Coach Station is located in the city centre and there are taxis available from there. For more information on prices and timetables please check the following link: <https://www.getbus.eu/en/> Typically, the coach trip takes 50 min (depending on traffic it may take longer).
- By taxi: Taxis are available at the airport and you may take one directly to Braga. The fare tends to range between 70€-90€. You may also pre-book a taxi (transfer) in advance and, in this case, the fare tends to range between 60€-70€. There are taxi companies doing these trips. The following taxi company accepts individual and group bookings for airport transfers: <https://www.economicotaxis.pt/en/> [Email: geral@economicotaxis.pt; +351917126060]. Typically, the taxi trip takes 40 min (depending on traffic it may take longer).

(Please note that prices are indicative and may raise to different amounts when considering travel times, luggage or number of people travelling).

b) From Porto airport to Braga you may also:

- take the subway, Violeta Line to Campanhã Station [about 33 minutes, between 6am and 1:30am]. From there you can take the train to Braga. Trains to Braga run on a regular basis during the week days and



less regularly in the evening and weekends/holidays. Braga train station is located close to the city centre (approximately 5-minute walk) and there are taxis available from there. Information on train timetables and prices can be found in the National Railway Service – **Comboios de Portugal CP** – website: <https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en>

- a coach service is available from downtown Porto (Rua Alfredo Magalhães).
- rent a car

2. By car

If you are travelling by car, the GPS coordinates to University of Minho are: 41°33'41.00"N and 8°23'54.45"W (according to Google Earth).

3. By train or coach

There are frequent train or coaches from other locations in the country to Braga. You may find information about the train times/stations and coaches in the following websites:

- [Train](#)
- [Bus – Expresso](#)
- [Bus – Renex](#)

Hotel Information

We negotiated discount rates at local hotels for the conference delegates. In order to benefit from these rates, participants should mention that they are attending the “UT Austin Portugal Program’s 2019 Conference” at the University of Minho.

▪ **Hotel Meliá Braga 5***

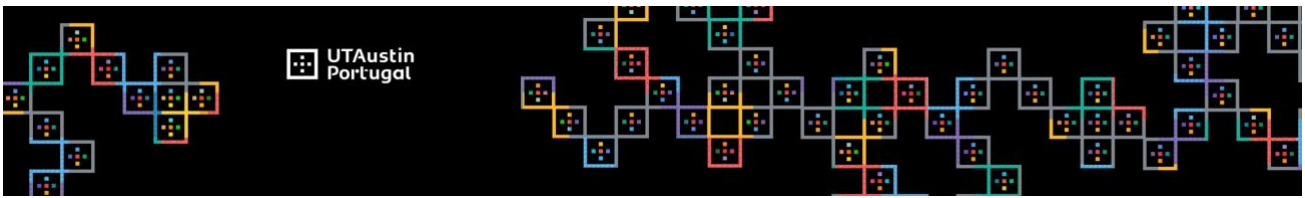
Near the University Campus (Approx. 5 min walking distance)
Av. Gen. Carrilho da Silva Pinto 8
Tel.: +351 253 144 000
melia.braga@meliaportugal.com

▪ **Vila Galé Collection Braga 4***

At the city centre
Largo Carlos Amarante, 150
Tel.: +351 253 146 000
braga.reservas@vilagale.com

▪ **Basic Braga by Axis 3***

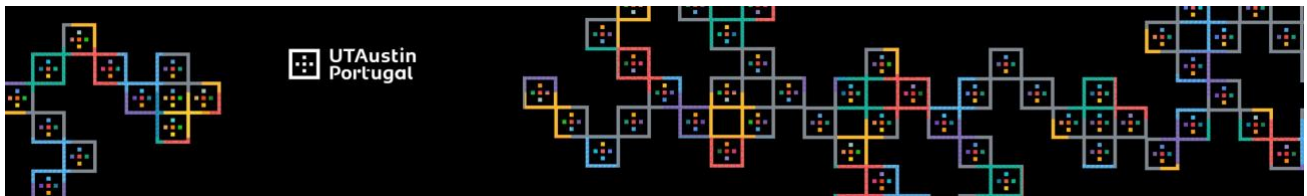
At the city centre by the train station
Largo da Estação, Maximinos
Tel.: +351 253 148 000
reservas@basichotelbraga.com



Official websites and useful information on University of Minho and IB-S

- [University of Minho](#)
- [Campus of Gualtar, University of Minho map](#)
- [IB-S](#)

Continue below to see more useful information about the Northern Region of Portugal.



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT PORTUGAL (NORTHERN REGION)

Location: Southwest of Europe, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal's north coast.

Climate: maritime temperate, with no extreme temperatures.

Airport: Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro, 11 km away from Porto city centre and 50 km from Braga.

Official language: Portuguese (English is spoken by most of the population and service providers).

Time zone: GMT / UTC + 1 hour in summer.

Currency: € (Euro).

Exchange: money can be exchanged in banks, exchange offices and machines.

VAT Refund: Visitors from countries outside the EU may obtain a refund of VAT (Value Added Tax) on goods purchased in Portugal and carried as personal luggage. Only individuals can have access to this refund.

On buying, you must request a statement at the store, showing in detail the amount paid, the goods purchased and the amount that can be refunded. You may get your refund in cash at major European airports or major European cities centres, or through your credit card or international check, provided that the goods have been previously shown to customs.

Further information on the refund of VAT at:

- Premier Tax Free - <http://www.premiertaxfree.com>

Telephone access code: Portugal + 351, Porto 22, Braga 253.

Telecommunications: telephone connections are accessible from public telephone boxes, to be paid with coins or phone card on sale at the Portugal Telecom shops, post offices, stationaries and other locations duly identified. To call abroad from Portugal, dial 00, followed by the country code, city code and number you want.

Essential telephone contacts:

- A. Emergency: 112
- B. Tourism Police: +351 222 081 833
- C. Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport: +351 229 432 400

Opening hours:

- D. Banks: Monday to Friday - 08h30/15h00
- E. Street commerce: Monday to Friday - 09:00 or 10:00/19:00. Some shops open on Saturday
- F. Shopping Centres: Daily - 10:00/24:00



G. Pharmacies: Monday to Friday - 09:00/19:00 > 09:00/13:00 Saturday. Rotas for 24 hour pharmacy service displayed at all pharmacies.

H. Most museums in the city are closed on Monday. If you want to visit a museum on this day, make sure it is open.

Parking: paid parking in the city centres.

Tips: Not included in final price. Tips are optional.

Electricity: 230/400 volt with a frequency of 50 hertz. Electrical outlets in accordance with European standards.

People with physical, auditory and visual disabilities: the resources identified as having facilities or services suitable for people with physical, auditory and visual disabilities are clearly marked in this Tourism Portal. Many public transportation vehicles are now accessible to people with physical disabilities.

Proof of purchase: every time you make a purchase of a product or service, you should ask for proof of purchase (invoice/receipt).

Complaints Book: all suppliers and service providers are required to hold a Complaints Book and make it available to users when requested. When the complaints book is not immediately made available to the user, he may require the presence of police authority to solve this difficulty.

The claim is made by filling in the complaint (Complaints Book), in which the client describes clearly and completely the facts that motivate it and indicates elements relating to his identification.

After filling in the complaint, the supplier of the goods / services provider is required to submit it to the monitor market authority or regulator in the sector, within five working days and hand the duplicate of the claim to the claimer, keeping the triplicate, which is part of the complaints book and cannot be removed.

The user can also send the duplicate of the complaint to the monitor or the relevant market sector regulator, indicated on the sign posted at the establishment.