

Social Program Brain in Flux

12 – 15 August 2023, Gaia, Portugal



12th August | 8.00pm departure

Cruise of the 6 bridges on the Douro River



D. Luís Bridge

Your cruise on the Douro River will depart at 8:30 pm sharp from Cais de Gaia, just a few ... walk from the conference venue.

You will board a replica boat of the original Barco Rabelo, a typical Portuguese vessel of Douro River, which many centuries ago transported the Port Wine barrels from the Alto Douro region, place where the Porto wine vineyards are located, to Vila Nova de Gaia - Porto, where the wine was stored and, later, commercialized and shipped to other countries. During your one-hour cruise, you will be able to observe six magnificent works of art, with a unique character.

The first will be Luís I Bridge, named in honor of the King, is one of the most famous bridges in Portugal. It is made of metallic structure, has two decks (upper and lower), built between 1881 and 1888 and was designed by Teófilo Seyrig, one of the disciples and former partner of Gustave Eiffel. The iron arch of this bridge is still considered the largest wrought iron arch in the world. It is 395 meters long. The Luís I Bridge has been classified as a Property of Public Interest since 1982 and as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996.

Social Program Brain in Flux

12 – 15 August 2023, Gaia, Portugal



Cruise of the 6 bridges on the Douro River



Infante Bridge

You will then pass Infante D. Henrique Bridge, the most modern and elegant bridge which was completed in 2003, standing out as being the longest arch bridge with only one deck (top) in the world. This bridge was named after Infante D. Henrique, born in Porto, who was the main driver of Portuguese expansion, the so-called Portuguese discoveries.

The concrete arch is 280 meters long, the crossing is 371 meters long and 20 meters wide, allowing 4 traffic lanes: 2 on each side.

The third bridge you will cross under is Maria Pia Bridge.

Around 1877, before starting the main work for which he would go down in history (the Eiffel Tower in Paris - France), Gustave Eiffel designed the last bridge in Porto that would have his signature, the Maria Pia Bridge. Redefining himself as an engineer and architect, Eiffel bet on the innovation of the time, developing something different from iron constructions.

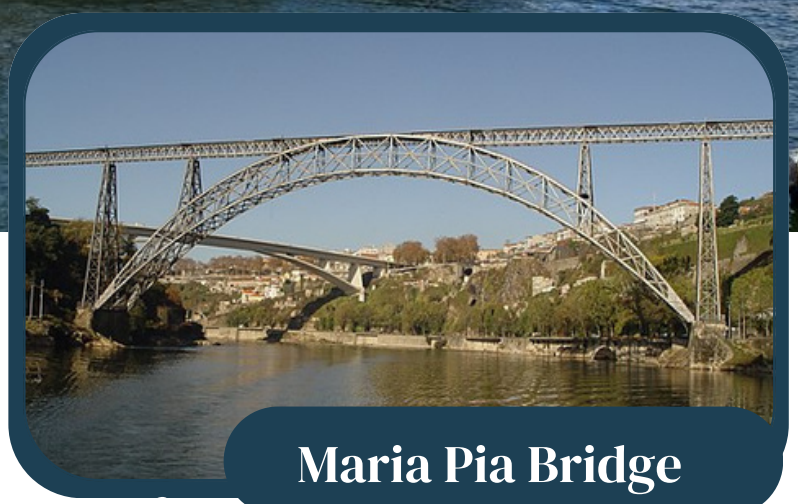
It was in this beautiful work of engineering, the most daring by Gustave Eiffel, that for the first time the intermediate supports were replaced by a large and single arch that supports the main beam.

Social Program Brain in Flux

12 – 15 August 2023, Gaia, Portugal



Cruise of the 6 bridges on the Douro River



Maria Pia Bridge

This was the first important work by Eiffel who, following a similar model, later created the, also famous, "Viaduc de Garabit" (1880-1884) with a span of 165 m (five meters longer than the D. Maria bridge) and only then the structure of the Statue of Liberty in New York (1884-1886) and the Eiffel Tower symbol of the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1889.

The arch spans a span of 160 meters and was built in an incredibly short period: work began on January 5, 1876 and was completed on October 31 of the following year. The solemn inauguration took place on November 4, 1877 by Kings D. Luís and D. Maria Pia, after whom it took its name. For 114 years, it was through this bridge that the railway crossed the Douro River, connecting Porto to Vila Nova de Gaia and consequently Lisbon to Porto. The bridge was in service until the entry into service of the S. João Bridge in 1991.

Social Program Brain in Flux

12 – 15 August 2023, Gaia, Portugal



Cruise of the 6 bridges on the Douro River



São João Bridge

So now there it is S. João Bridge, designed by engineer Edgar Cardoso, the greatest Portuguese bridge engineer of all times, having become famous with bold works built around the world. Its construction began in 1984 and was inaugurated in 1991. Currently, its upper deck serves the train network towards the south of the country. It is a multiple continuous portico, with vertical pillars, with three spans, with a total length of 1140m.

Built in a continuous multiple frame, it has a central span of 250 meters, which is a world record for this type of bridge, and 2 side spans of 125 meters, forming 2 tees thus balancing the forces. This bridge's name is directly related to the most acclaimed popular saint in Porto, São João.

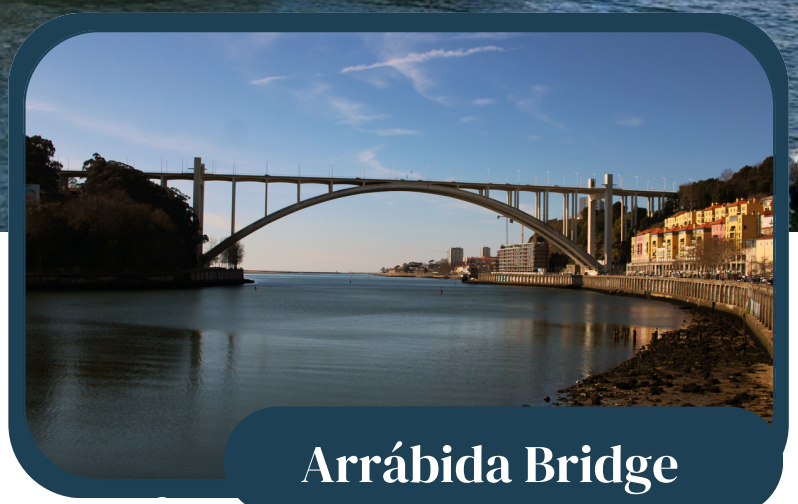
Afterwards you will have a glimpse at Freixo Bridge, the one which you will not cross and located further upstream of the Douro River. It is called “periphery bridge” and was built by Professor António Reis and engineer Daniel de Sousa. Inaugurated in September 1995, its upper deck was used for road connections.

Social Program Brain in Flux

12 – 15 August 2023, Gaia, Portugal



Cruise of the 6 bridges on the Douro River



Arrábida Bridge

In reality, there are two twin bridges at a distance of 10cm from each other, totaling 8 traffic lanes. It ends up serving the outskirts of the city and, on average, 100,000 vehicles cross it per day.

Finally, you will do the return trip crossing over the past 4 bridges, overlooking Porto city on your right and Gaia on your left, two cities which are closely connected.

The last bridge you will see is Arrábida bridge. It was also designed and built by the notable civil engineer and Portuguese university professor, Edgar Cardoso.

It has an arch with a span of 270 meters, the deck is 500 meters long and 26.5 meters wide. It has four elevators so that pedestrians can overcome the 70 meters distance from the river to the deck, facilitating pedestrian crossing.

It is the closest bridge to the Atlantic Ocean and in the year of its completion, in 1963, it was considered the bridge with the longest concrete arch in the world with a span of 270m, reaching 70m above mean water level. It is the main road connection between the city of Porto and the south bank of the Douro.

Social Program Brain in Flux

12 – 15 August 2023, Gaia, Portugal



15th August 08.00 pm
Closing Dinner at Calém



Calém

The closing dinner will be served in Calém, a 164 years old Portuguese company, very close to the iconic Eiffel's bridge - Ponte D. Luís. The founder of this company was António Alves Calém, a man who was seen as an incurable adventurer, founding Porto Calém in 1859 and setting his sights on crossing the Atlantic and exporting to Brazil, which was then seen as a bold decision but became a very successful business relationship. This is a time when Port was only typically exported to British Isles and other European markets.

It will be a 10 minutes walk from the Hilton hotel, a beautiful walk to do by the Douro river, a scenery by night, watching Porto on the other side of the river.

Location: Av. de Diogo Leite, 344 | Gaia

Distance: 900 m (around 11 minutes walking distance)