

Viana do Castelo, Minho, Portugal

Perched where the Lima River meets the Atlantic, Viana do Castelo is an under-the-radar gem — ornate Manueline stonework, a hillside basilica with sweeping views, a historic hospital ship, and beaches reachable by river ferry.

Docked (pier)

Typical call: 7-9 hrs

Currency: Euro (€)

Language: Portuguese

Beach & Culture

🗓 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____

Arrive: _____

All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____

Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — riverfront quay for boutique ships; commercial port (south bank) for larger vessels with shuttle to center

Best For: History, architecture, viewpoints, fresh seafood, authentic Portuguese culture

Walk to center: ~10-15 min (800 m) along the river promenade from riverfront quay

Don't Miss: Funicular up to Santa Luzia Basilica dome + warm Bola de Berlim pastry in town

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ €4–10 · 📱 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Santa Luzia Basilica & Dome Views** — Ride the funicular (Portugal's longest) up Monte de Santa Luzia to the Neo-Byzantine basilica.
 - **Gil Eannes Hospital Ship** — This 1955 vessel once served as a floating hospital for the Portuguese cod-fishing fleet in the North Atlantic and...
- **Historic Center & Praça da República** — Wander Viana's pedestrian old town to the elegant main square — the 16th-century chafariz fountain, the ornate Igreja...
 - **Praia do Cabedelo Beach** — A crescent of golden Atlantic sand on the far bank of the Lima River.
 - **Day Trip to Ponte de Lima** — Portugal's oldest town is just 25 minutes away — a medieval bridge over the Lima River, weekly market, and quiet...

BEST WALKS

- **Old Town Highlights Walk** 1.5 km · ~45 min · Easy (flat, cobblestones) — From the riverfront quay, stroll along the promenade past the Gil Eannes ship to the Praça da República.
- **River Ferry to Cabedelo Beach** Short ferry + 1 km walk · ~30 min one-way · Easy — Walk to the Cais da Passagem ferry terminal in town, hop the 5-minute river crossing, and follow the pine-forest boardwalk out to...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		62°	51°	13d
Jun		70°	59°	9d
Aug		74°	62°	5d
Sep		72°	60°	8d
Oct		68°	57°	13d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:55AM–8:15PM · Jun 6:00AM–9:11PM · Aug 6:44AM–8:34PM · Sep 7:15AM–7:44PM · Oct 7:47AM–6:53PM

Currency: Euro (€)

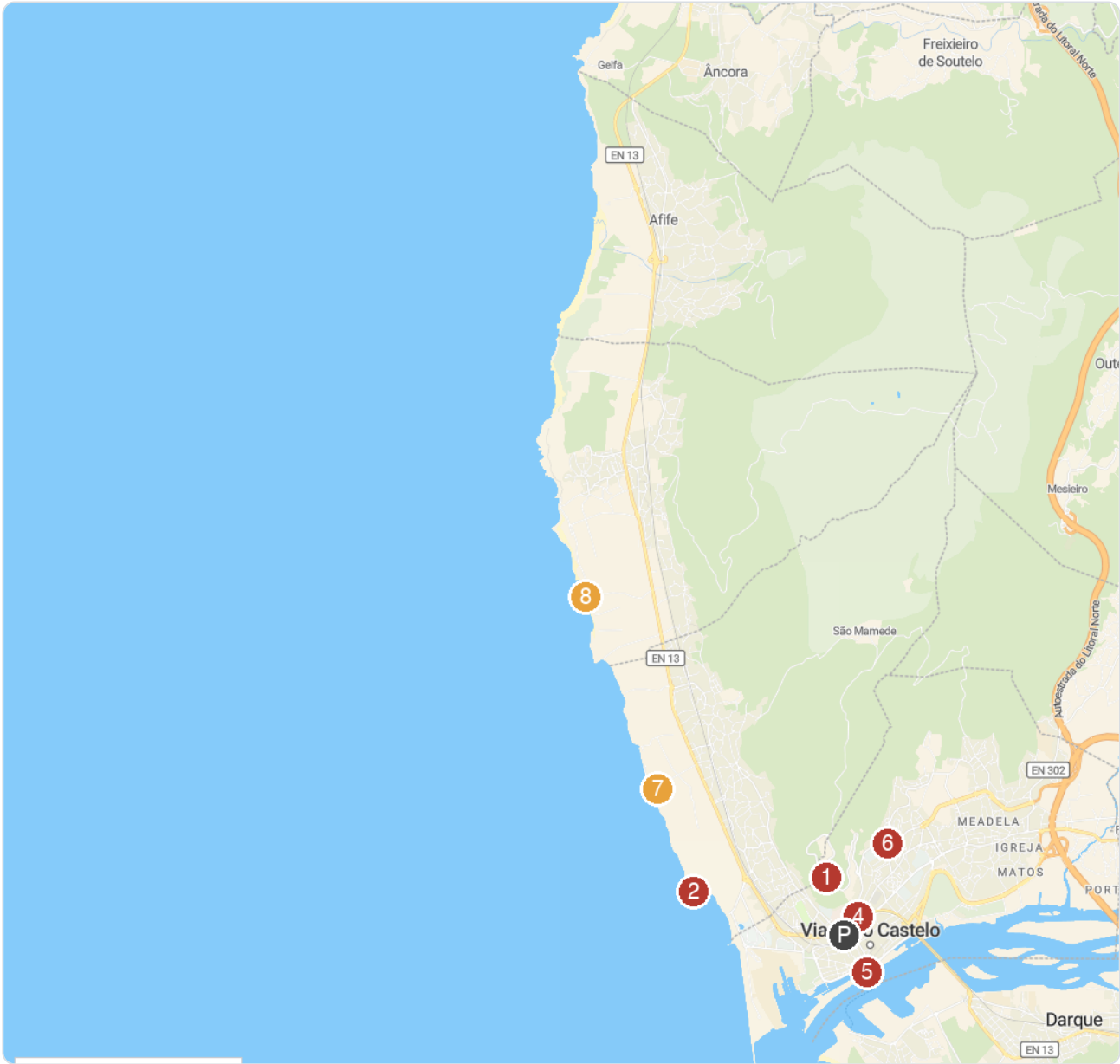
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Wear grippy shoes. Viana's streets are paved with traditional calçada portuguesa cobblestones — beautiful but slippery, especially on downhill slopes or if it rains.
Take the funicular up Santa Luzia — it's a grueling climb on foot. Walk down the steps if you want the exercise, but ride up

Viana do Castelo, Minho, Portugal — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 | Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus | Grand hilltop basilica offering panoramic views of Viana do Castelo. | 2 | Forte da Areosa | Historic coastal fort with sea views, built for defense. |
| 3 | Quinta de Santoinho | Traditional Portuguese estate hosting lively folk festivals and dining. | 4 | Elevador de Santa Luzia | Funicular railway ascending to the Santa Luzia Sanctuary with views. |
| 5 | Cultural Center of Viana do Castelo | Modern venue for arts, exhibitions, and cultural events. | 6 | Igreja da Sagrada Família | A beautiful local church dedicated to the Holy Family. |
| 7 | Praia do Porto de Vinha | A scenic sandy beach perfect for relaxing and swimming. | 8 | Praia do Canto Marinho | A beautiful, wild beach known for its natural beauty. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | | | | |