

For an **11:00 AM–6:00 PM van day from your Porto lodging to the Porto Sixt return**, I would make this a **coastal countryside loop south of Porto, then back north along the coast toward the airport**. It gives you beautiful free scenery, short walks, ocean views, fishing villages, and a relaxed pace without committing to a long inland drive.

I'm assuming the Sixt return is **Porto Airport / OPO**. Sixt's Porto Airport process uses the terminal counter and a rent-a-car shuttle area, so I would plan to be at the Sixt return area by **5:45–6:00 PM**, not driving in at the last minute. ([SIXT](#))

Recommended route: Porto coast + Gaia countryside loop

Start: Rua Sá da Bandeira 468, Porto

End: Sixt Porto Airport / Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport area

Time: 11:00 AM–6:00 PM

Main stops: Serra do Pilar viewpoint, Senhor da Pedra chapel, Aguda/Miramar coast, Afurada, Matosinhos/Leça coast

Best parts: mostly free, scenic, not rushed

11:00–11:20 — Load van and leave Porto lodging

Because you will have luggage, I would avoid tight historic-center driving after this. Load everyone and drive directly across the river to Gaia.

11:20–12:00 — Stop 1: Serra do Pilar viewpoint, Vila Nova de Gaia

Drive: about 15–25 minutes from Rua Sá da Bandeira, depending traffic

Cost: free if you just enjoy the viewpoint

Time here: 30–40 minutes

This is one of the best viewpoints over Porto, the Douro River, the Dom Luís I Bridge, Ribeira, and Vila Nova de Gaia. Portugal's heritage site describes Serra do Pilar as one of the most extraordinary viewpoints over the Douro and the historic areas of Porto and Gaia.

(loja.patrimoniocultural.gov.pt)

What to do:

Take photos, enjoy the view, then skip the paid interior unless the group really wants it. This stop is about the panorama.

Parking note:

Parking can be tricky near the viewpoint. The driver may need to drop the group close by and find legal parking nearby.

12:00–12:35 — Drive to Senhor da Pedra / Miramar Beach

Drive: about 30–35 minutes

Destination: Praia do Senhor da Pedra, Miramar

12:35–1:20 — Stop 2: Capela do Senhor da Pedra and Miramar Beach

Cost: free

Time here: 40–45 minutes

This is the most photogenic stop of the day. The small **Capela do Senhor da Pedra** sits directly on rocks at the edge of the beach. Visit Portugal describes the hexagonal chapel as built on rocks and dominating the wide sandy beach at the north end of Miramar Beach. ([Visit Portugal](#))

What to do:

Walk out to the chapel, take beach photos, then stroll the sand or boardwalk area. This is a beautiful, easy stop and a nice contrast to Porto's city streets.

1:20–2:35 — Lunch near Praia da Aguda

Best lunch choice: Restaurante Zizi, Praia da Aguda

Drive from Senhor da Pedra: about 5–10 minutes

Suggested reservation: 1:30 PM

Why here: seaside setting, good for a group, close to your route

Restaurante Zizi says it has been operating since 1970 and is located in front of **Praia da Aguda**, which makes it a very convenient coastal lunch stop. ([Zizi](#))

Backup nearby: **Agudamar Restaurante Marisqueira**, also in Praia da Aguda, emphasizes fresh fish and seafood and group reservations. ([agudamar](#))

For a group of 6, I would reserve lunch. Ask for **peixe grelhado** — grilled fish — or seafood rice if available.

2:35–3:15 — Stop 3: Aguda fishing village / beach stroll

Cost: free

Time here: 30–40 minutes

After lunch, take a short walk along the beach and village area. This is not a big “sight,” but it gives you the small-town coastal feel: boats, beach, cafés, and Atlantic air.

This is a good digestion/rest stop before returning north.

3:15–3:50 — Drive north to Afurada, Vila Nova de Gaia

Drive: about 30–35 minutes

3:50–4:30 — Stop 4: São Pedro da Afurada fishing village

Cost: free

Time here: 35–40 minutes

Afurada is a traditional fishing neighborhood on the Gaia side near the Douro River mouth. It is a good low-key cultural stop: colorful houses, fishing boats, and riverfront views back toward Porto.

What to do:

Park near the waterfront if available, walk the quay, take photos, and enjoy the local atmosphere. Keep this as a short stop, not a full meal stop.

4:30–5:00 — Drive to Matosinhos / Leça da Palmeira coast

Drive: about 25–30 minutes, crossing toward the north side of the Porto metro area.

5:00–5:35 — Early dinner or substantial snack in Matosinhos

Because your Sixt return target is 6:00 PM, this should be an **early dinner/light dinner**, not a long multi-course meal.

Best dinner area: Matosinhos seafood district

Matosinhos is the classic Porto-area seafood stop. The local tourism brand emphasizes Matosinhos as a major seafood destination, and Porto Region notes that hundreds of restaurants serve grilled sardines, seafood rice, grilled cod, and other fish dishes. ([World's Best Fish - Matosinhos Turismo](#)) ([Porte Region](#))

Suggested restaurant

Tito II, Matosinhos

Good for grilled fish and seafood, casual/traditional. Tripadvisor and other listings describe it as a seafood/Mediterranean restaurant in Matosinhos serving lunch and dinner. ([Tripadvisor](#))

More polished backup: Mauritània Matosinhos, a long-running seafood restaurant option. (mauritaniamatosinhos.pt)

For your schedule, I would either:

- make a **5:00 PM reservation** and keep it to 35–45 minutes, or
- skip dinner in Matosinhos and eat at the airport after returning the van.

5:35–6:00 — Drive to Sixt Porto Airport

Drive: about 15–25 minutes from Matosinhos/Leça to Porto Airport/Sixt, depending traffic.

Because you are returning a van and likely unloading luggage, I would aim to arrive by **5:45 PM** if your Sixt return is exactly 6:00.

Summary schedule

Time	Plan	Approx. drive/walk
11:00	Leave Porto lodging, Rua Sá da Bandeira 468	—
11:20–12:00	Serra do Pilar viewpoint	15–25 min drive

Time	Plan	Approx. drive/walk
12:00–12:35	Drive to Senhor da Pedra	30–35 min
12:35–1:20	Senhor da Pedra Chapel / Miramar Beach	free beach walk
1:20–2:35	Lunch at Restaurante Zizi or Agudamar	5–10 min drive
2:35–3:15	Aguda village / beach stroll	easy walk
3:15–3:50	Drive to Afurada	30–35 min
3:50–4:30	Afurada fishing village	free waterfront walk
4:30–5:00	Drive to Matosinhos	25–30 min
5:00–5:35	Early dinner/light meal in Matosinhos	seafood district
5:35–6:00	Drive to Sixt Porto Airport	15–25 min

My recommended version

Do the full route, but keep **dinner flexible**. If lunch runs long or the group is tired, skip the seated Matosinhos dinner and go straight to Sixt by **5:30–5:45 PM**. Then eat after returning the vehicle. The must-do stops are:

Serra do Pilar → Senhor da Pedra → lunch at Aguda → Afurada → Sixt Airport.