

**HINTS TO TRAVELLERS IN
PORTUGAL: IN SEARCH OF
THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE
GRAND**

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Hints to travellers in Portugal: In Search of the Beautiful and the Grand by Various

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VARIOUS

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HINTS TO TRAVELLERS

IN

PORTUGAL,

IN SEARCH OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND THE GRAND.

WITH

AN ITINERARY

OF

SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING PARTS OF THAT REMARKABLE
COUNTRY.



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HINTS TO TRAVELLERS

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PORTUGAL.

THE design of this little work, as its title indicates, is to give to travellers, in search of the beautiful and the grand in Portugal, such hints as may assist them in ascertaining what are the most attractive parts of the country, and the easiest method of gaining access to them, and is by no means intended to interfere with, much less to supersede, the Hand Book for Travellers in Portugal, when such a work, the latest of its kind, shall appear, with the higher object of directing the botanist, geologist, chemist, historian, and politician, as well as the general traveller, each in his separate vocation; yet in the mean time this *brochure* is presented to them, premising that they must be contented to find in it what it professes to offer them, viz., such assistance only as may speed them in their pursuit of what is most beautiful and most sublime in that

land of beauty and grandeur, and yet a land unknown to the great number of travellers, who annually quit England for France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, and scarcely known to those who traverse the vast provinces of Spain, and who occasionally *enter* into Portugal, and rapidly run over some of its districts. Indeed it is but imperfectly known, even to foreigners who have sojourned years in its chief towns and cities; for beyond their annual trip to the Douro, those of the north seldom take long journeys into the Minho, to explore its most retired valleys, or to ascend its finest mountains; contenting themselves with going, it may be, to Vianna, Ponte de Lima, Braga, and Guimarãens; and the simple reason is, that the roads are so bad*, and the inns so wretched, even in what is ludicrously called the "Estrada Real" (royal road), that nothing but the most enthusiastic love of the beautiful and the grand can enable any one to endure the fatigue, and to sustain the unceasing annoyances to which he is liable who wanders in the by-ways, and rides over the hills, and ascends the mountains of Portugal.

* Great efforts are, however, now being made to carry into effect the oft-projected plans of a good road between Lisbon and Oporto, Braga and Guimarãens.

For these and other reasons, very few Englishmen have, as yet, visited the finest parts of that lovely country; and fewer still have ascended the Outeiro-Maior (the chief mountain), or M. Gaviarra, the Gerez, and the Estrella; hence the beauty and magnificence of its different provinces have not yet been made known to, or have not been fully dwelt upon by, English travellers. Link, the German, did indeed visit and describe the almost surpassing beauty of the Gerez and the Estrella; but the French version of his work was published forty-nine years ago, and is but little read at the present day.

From what has been stated, it will at once be seen that this little work is intended to assist chiefly such persons as are bent, at any and every cost, upon exploring the hills and valleys, the rivers, gorges, and mountains of Portugal, and of enjoying all that can gratify their feelings and purify their taste; and in their roving, far and wide, they will often be constrained to exclaim, in the language of the poet,—

“ These are thy glorious works, Parent of good,
Almighty, thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair; Thyself how wondrous then!
Unspeakable, who sitt’st above these heavens
To us invisible, or dimly seen
In these thy lowest works; yet these declare
Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine.”