



PORTUGAL & THE DOURO RIVER CRUISE

Detailed Itinerary



DAY 1, Sunday, August 18, 2024 – Fly to Lisbon

Depart the USA for Portugal.

DAY 2, Monday, August 19, 2024 – Lisbon

Arrive in Portugal's romantic capital city of Lisbon, and transfer to your hotel, the Moxy Marriott Oriente, conveniently located directly across the street from the Oriente Rail Station, the main rail station in Lisbon. After storing our luggage and having lunch on your own, we will embark on a memorable city tour of Lisbon's major attractions. Evening is at leisure to discover Lisbon's exciting nightlife on your own.

Overnight: Lisbon Melia Oriente

DAY 3, Tuesday, August 20, 2024 – Lisbon – Porto – Matosinhos

After an included breakfast, depart Lisbon for our rail journey to Porto, known for its stately bridges and port wine production, and the gateway to the Douro River Valley. Admire the beautiful countryside views along the way. Upon arrival, we will visit the Planet Cork Museum where you will discover the magic behind this 100% sustainable material. Portugal is the largest cork producer on the planet and Planet Cork will show you how cork oaks are harvested, how the huge slabs are transformed into wine, sparkling wine corks stoppers and all the other applications of cork in our daily lives. Then transfer to the cruise ship, the MS Douro Cruiser. After check-in, familiarize yourself with the ship. Enjoy a welcome drink followed by the Captain's Welcome Dinner with your fellow passengers.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4, Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – Pinhao

We begin our scenic Douro River Cruise passing by the region's beautiful, terraced vineyards and interesting locks. In the afternoon, arrive at the village of Pinhao along the banks of the Douro River. Make a photo stop at Pinhoa's historic rail station with one of the world's most impressive displays of scenic tiles depicting life in the Douro Valley centuries ago. Then proceed to the Casal de Loivos, a scenic lookout with the lush terraced Pinhoa valley and the S bend in the Douro River below. This viewpoint was considered by BBC as one of the 6th most beautiful viewpoints in the world. Then return to the ship for dinner.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5, Thursday, August 22, 2024 – Pico do

This morning sail to Pico do in the northern region of Portugal. Visit the village of Castelo Rodrigo, perched high on a hilltop and surrounded by medieval walls. Stroll along the narrow cobblestone alleys and view the ruins of the Cristina de Myra Palace and the cathedral while discovering its extensive history dating back to former rulers many centuries ago. Return to the ship in time for dinner.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6, Friday, August 23, 2024 – Salamanca, Spain

After breakfast, embark on a full day excursion to the ancient city of Salamanca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the famous Salamanca Cathedral, its prestigious university, Plaza Mayor, the main square, and the historic city center. Enjoy lunch on your own perhaps of traditional Spanish paella or tapas. Have free time to further explore this ancient town on your own and shop for traditional Spanish souvenirs before transferring back to the ship in the early evening.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7, Saturday, August 24, 2024 – Regua

After breakfast, enjoy a morning and afternoon at sea as we sail to Regua. Delight in viewing the locks and the stunning Douro Valley sights we pass by on the cruise. In the late afternoon, arrive at historic town of Regua in the heart of Portugal's most famous wine region, and the oldest in the world. Visit the Douro Museum, which was once a wine warehouse. You'll view informative exhibits and learn about the wine making process, aging techniques, storage, and bottling, then taste one of the most popular port wines of the region. In the evening, you'll have free time to explore this beautiful town on your own.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 8, Sunday, August 25, 2024 – Porto

After breakfast, enjoy free time to delight in viewing the locks and the stunning Douro Valley sights on our final leg of the cruise. Visit the captain's bridge where you'll receive an informative commentary of the very technical navigation of the MS Douro Cruiser. In the mid-afternoon we arrive in the lovely seaside village of Porto. Upon arrival in Porto, meet your local Porto guide for an interesting and informative city tour. Then return to the ship for dinner.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9, Monday, August 26, 2024 – Aviero

After breakfast, head south for our visit to the town of Aviero, located on the west coast of Portugal set along a lagoon called Ria de Aveiro. It is known as the Venice of Portugal with its network of canals navigated by colorful boats called moliceiros and colorful art nouveau buildings. Next, we visit the enchanting resort town of Costa Nova with its colorful striped houses. Formerly a fishermen's village, now it is a popular coastal resort town. It is also the home to one of the best beaches in central Portugal, Costa Nova do Prado, a beautiful sandy beach with dunes and lovely views of the Atlantic Ocean. Our final stop is a tour Vista Alegre, the premier porcelain producer in Portugal since 1824. On this tour, you'll have a chance to visit the museum where you will learn about how porcelain and ceramics are produced and watch their professional staff hand paint it. Then we return to the ship for our Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Overnight: MS Douro Cruiser

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10, Tuesday, August 27, 2024 – Sintra, Cascais & Estoril

After breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to the Porto rail station for our return journey to Lisbon. Upon arrival, take a guided tour to Sintra, Cascais and Estoril. Our final evening in Lisbon is at leisure.

Overnight: Lisbon Moxy Marriott Oriente

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11, August 28, 2024 – Depart for the USA

After an included breakfast, depart for the airport for our international flight home, bringing back fond memories of our Portugal Cruise/Tour.

Meals: Breakfast

NOTE: This itinerary may be changed due to weather conditions, river levels, or other conditions beyond our control. In the unlikely event that water levels become unsafe for sailing, motor coach and hotel accommodations will be substituted.