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The Delightful Douro

FROM £2,270 PER PERSON

Dates available - Throughout 2018 and 2019

The Douro river seems to be on everyone's 'must do' list. This incredibly popular journey sells out fast, so don't miss your chance to experience your own Portuguese memories in style.

Enjoy an 8 day break and luxury river cruise through the Douro River Valley.

Your journey will take you down the Douro River, with its dramatic gorges, lush vineyards, and tranquil fishing villages. Once in Porto you continue on to the ancient and picturesque city of Lamego. Enter Spain to visit Salamanca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as the beautiful inland countryside and the palace and gardens of Mateus. Explore the 14th-century Alpendurada Monastery before concluding your cruise in Porto.

At a Glance

Included:

- All Non-UK transfers
- 7 nights Deluxe cruise in an outside stateroom
- Excursions as stated in the itinerary
- Fine dining, local wine, port wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
- Port taxes
- Immersive tours in every destination
- Gentle, regular, active and late-riser tour options
- Guided hikes
- Special Interest Tours
- Knowledgeable guides
- Sip & Sail Daily Cocktail Hour with complimentary wine, beer, spirits and soft drinks
- Personal headset for easy exploration

Highlights:

- Porto wine tasting
- Castelo Rodrigo tour
- Lisbon wine tastings
- Flamenco show
- Cruise through the dramatic Douro Valle

Trip Summary

Day 1

Welcome to Portugal!

Transfer

17:00 5* River Cruise Embarkation: Porto - AmaVida.pdf

Day 2

Porto – Régua

Day 3

Régua– Barca d'Alva

Day 4

Salamanca – Vega de Terrón

Day 5

Vega de Terrón – Pinhão

Day 6

Regua – Entre-Os-Rios

Day 7

Porto

Day 8

9:00 Disembarkation- Porto

Transfer

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Day 1



Welcome to Portugal!

With its mild climate, 3000 hours of sunshine per year and 850 kms of splendid beaches bathed by the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal is the perfect holiday destination all year round.

This is a country that has the oldest borders in Europe, with an exceptional range of different landscapes just a short distance away, lots of leisure activities and a unique cultural heritage, where tradition and modernity blend together in perfect harmony. Its superb cuisine, fine wines and hospitable people make this a tourist paradise of the highest quality. Situated in the extreme south-west of Europe, just a few hours from any of the other European capitals, Portugal attracts visitors from all over the world.

Come and discover the charms of this country too.

Currency: EURO

Time: GMT +1 hr

Language spoken: Portugese (English and French are also spoken)



Transfer

From airport to port



17:00

5* River Cruise Embarkation: Porto

Embark your cruise in Porto. Gather on board tonight and meet your fellow passengers. Enjoy a welcome dinner as excitement for your cruise begins.

You can expect high levels of service onboard. In fact, “Ama” is derived from the Latin word for “love.” It is a philosophy that drives the attention to detail, constant innovation and culture of always making guests top priority. It is the reason guests all have a story about why it was the best cruise they’ve ever taken. You will experience the luxury of more – more ways to discover, more ways to indulge and more onboard amenities. With an award-winning fleet, critically acclaimed dining and unique tour options, you will have the trip of a lifetime.

The ship will become your floating sanctuary. With fewer guests on board, there is more space for

luxurious amenities. Relax with a massage after a day of exploring, stay in shape in the fitness room and watch castles go by while enjoying a cocktail and taking a dip in the sun deck pool with a swim-up bar.

This afternoon meet your fellow passengers on board for the Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Your cruise includes:

- 7 night 5* award winning river cruise
- Fine dining with all meals included during your cruise
- Unlimited red and white wines, beer and soft drinks with every lunch and dinner on board
- Multiple dining venues
- Bottled water replenished daily
- Cocktail reception, Welcome dinner and Captains cocktail and Gala dinner
- Shore excursions in every port
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access onboard
- Bicycles to explore on your own and guided bicycle tours
- Services of a professional cruise manager

See Deck Plan attached for more information.



AmaVida.pdf

Day 2



Porto – Régua

Travel to picturesque Lamego, home to one of the most important pilgrimage sites in all of Portugal, where you'll go to the Nossa Senhora dos Remédios (Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies). The shrine features a staircase of nearly 700 steps, beautifully decorated with white and blue tiles, which for the more active adventurer will want to hike.

Concluding both tours, you will have the opportunity to sample local traditional specialties, such as Bôlas de Lamego, bread filled with Presunto, a type of dry-cured ham; and Espumante, a Portuguese

sparkling wine. You'll then go to the formal Episcopal Palace Museum. Later in the day, enjoy free time, or visit the Douro Museum in Régua showcasing the history, culture and identity of the Douro Wine Region.



Day 3



Régua– Barca d'Alva

Spend time soaking up the beauty of the Douro River as you cruise to Barca d'Alva, where you will visit Castelo Rodrigo, a small fortified village perched high on a hilltop with centuries-old walls, steep narrow streets and fantastic views. You can also opt to hike up to the village should you wish for a more active exploration. While here, taste some delicious locally grown produce. Back on board the ship, enjoy a traditional flamenco show.



Day 4



Salamanca – Vega de Terrón

Drive to Salamanca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built of golden sandstone, Salamanca is known as a “living museum,” and you will have an opportunity to step back in time to the Middle Ages during your guided tour, which includes the city’s elegant university buildings, the twin-towered Cathedral, the intriguingly decorated House of Shells and Plaza Mayor.



Day 5



Vega de Terrón – Pinhão

Be treated to an exclusive lunch at Quinta da Roêda, Croft's flagship vineyard estate. Discover the secrets of the vineyards as you take a guided walking tour through the property, stopping at points of interest along the way and taking in the magnificent landscape and the stunning views across the Douro River. Later in the day, venture to Quinta do Seixo, producers of some of the most traditionally made wine in the Douro region. An expert from the Sandeman Winery will take you on a tasting and private tour of the wine cellars, teaching you about the centuries-old winemaking methods.



Day 6



Regua – Entre-Os-Rios

Cruise to Régua where you can visit the Baroque-style Palacio de Mateus and its gardens, located in the beautiful Trás-os-Montes region. Inside the house you'll see exhibits of religious images and beautiful furnishings, paintings and a ceiling of intricately carved wood. The gardens here are considered some of the most beautiful in Portugal. Later, savour a pre-dinner glass of port wine and the breathtaking view of the river valley from the terrace of the centuries-old Alpendurada Monastery, followed by a traditional "home cooked" meal.



Day 7



Porto

The colorful city of Porto blends the best of old and new, which you can discover on a guided tour of the historic quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, including the Cathedral, one of the city's oldest monuments; and the São Bento Railway Station, known for its blue and white tile panels depicting scenes from Portuguese history. You'll also enjoy a tasting of Port, Portugal's most renowned contribution to the world of wine at Graham's Winery. Prefer to get more active, you can hike to Graham's Winery, offering magnificent views over the Douro River. Later in the day, take a short journey to a nearby coastal town for the "Tastes of Matosinhos" tour where you'll visit a traditional restaurant serving Pataniscas, a traditional Portuguese cod fish cake, and other typical regional snacks. You also have the option to go on the Jewish Porto tour through the Jewish Quarter of the city discovering the fascinating Jewish heritage.



Day 8



9:00

Disembarkation- Porto

Your cruise comes to an end and it's time to bid your farewells to new friends as you prepare to

disembark.



Transfer

From Port to Airport



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Your holiday ends here

Trip Information & Documents



Prices

Price based on 2 adults sharing accommodation and a Category E stateroom on board. Prices are correct at time of writing and are subject to availability and/or change and can be withdrawn at any time. Single supplements apply. Full terms and conditions are available on the website.

Upgrades and extensions

Flights and Stay upgrades, as well as extensions to this itinerary are available, please ask for details.

Financial Protection

If booked as a flight-inclusive holiday this is financially protected under the ATOL scheme.

Travel Insurance

If you require travel insurance we can put you in touch with our preferred supplier who will be able to offer you preferential rates. Please ask for details.