

PORTUGAL'S RIVER OF GOLD RIVER CRUISE

10 DAY CRUISE TOUR FROM LISBON TO PORTO WITH VIKING RIVER CRUISES

Experience the renaissance of Lisbon, newly invigorated with trending galleries and restaurants. Explore two of Iberia's oldest university towns: Coimbra, Portugal and Salamanca, Spain. Roam the port warehouses of Porto. Enjoy traditional cuisine, wine and FADO singing. Cruise the Douro River Valley, the world's oldest demarcated wine region and a UNESCO Site. Our 10-day cruise-tour includes a hotel stay in Lisbon and the added bonus of a visit to Spain.



from AU\$4,095 per person twin share

Departures

22 March, 03 May, 14 & 16 June, 03, 11, 18 August, 25 October, 12 & 22 November 2019

BOOK BY 31 AUGUST and FLY RETURN TO EUROPE FOR AU\$995

Book Early! The departures in 2018 sold out!

Inclusions

8 day river cruise with river-view stateroom

2 nights at Lisbon Hotel Tivoli Lisboa (or similar)

8 guided tours with audio headset

All on-board meals, 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners, featuring regional specialties, plus hotel breakfasts

Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks with on-board dinner and lunch services

Visit 4 UNESCO world Heritage Sites

Culture Curriculum: sample some local port wines; enjoy a folkloric music performance; learn about wine-making traditions and Portuguese history; attend a flamenco show

All port charges

Free WiFi

All on-board gratuities and tipping

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CRUISE:



Lisbon - Panoramic city tour featuring the Tower of Belem & Jeronimos Monastery, a UNESO site



Porto - Tour of City centre, a UNESCO Site, port wine tasting; afternoon free or optional Guimaraes excursion



Pinhao – Quinto do Seixo excursion and wine tasting; Portuguese folkloric music show. Lunch and wine tasting at Quinta da Aveseada in Duro wine District, a UNESCO Site, visit to a traditional bakery & guided museum tour



Full day excursion to Salamanca, a UNESCO Site, guided city tour; lunch & flamenco show, afternoon free

ITINERARY:

Day One

Welcome to Lisbon; we will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the superior first-class Hotel Tivoli Lisboa (or similar) in the heart of Lisbon. Relax this afternoon and evening or explore the city a bit on your own.

Day Two

After breakfast, embark on a half-day tour of Lisbon. Begin at Belém with a tour of the Jerónimos Monastery, one of the most prominent examples of Portuguese late Gothic Manueline style of architecture. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site,

along with the Tower of Belém that you also explore. Then take a walking tour through the narrow streets of the Alfama District, where you learn about Lisbon's long, multicultural history. (B)

Day Three

Have breakfast, then check out of your hotel and take a scenic ride to Porto. Stop for lunch in Coimbra, birthplace of six Portuguese kings and home to one of Europe's oldest universities. Upon arrival in Porto, proceed to the dock at Vila Nova de Gaia to board your ship. Then, after boarding, you can relax and get settled in your stateroom before a welcome cocktail and dinner is served. (B, L, D)

Day Four

After breakfast, take a city tour of Porto, a charming riverside community whose historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Admire its graceful bridges, baroque cathedrals and romantic 16th- through 19th-century buildings nestled together on narrow cobblestone streets.

This afternoon you have time to explore Porto on your own, or take an optional excursion to Guimarães and its medieval quarter. Perhaps experience an evening of culinary delights as you indulge in traditional fare paired with wine at Porto's famed Graham's 1890 Lodge and sample a selection of their award-winning ports. Sample wines that have been in the making for generations at the historic Quinta da Aveleda estate, or soar over the historic "City of Bridges" on a thrilling helicopter sightseeing tour. Enjoy your evening at leisure in Porto, where your ship remains docked overnight. (B, L, D)

Day Five

This morning we sail along the Douro, arriving at Régua in early afternoon. Disembark for an excursion to Vila Real, site of the extraordinary Mateus Palace (the building depicted on the Mateus Rosé wine labels). This stunning baroque palace was the home of the last count of Vila Real; its pinnacled facade, grand stairway, richly appointed interiors and priceless objects on display will astonish you, as will the palace's enchanting formal gardens featuring cedar-lined walkways, exquisite sculpted hedges and statuary and serene bodies of water. As you depart, catch glimpses of the town's ornamental carvings and tiled walls. Visit one of the area's iconic port wine-making institutions. See its vineyard and tour the facility to learn how these unique Portuguese products are crafted, then sample the libation in their tasting room. Rejoin your ship in Pinhão for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day Six

This morning, we sail east along the Douro. See dramatic, sheer rock formations, picturesque terraced vineyards, and graceful bridges and trestles along the way; you also pass through two of the river's locks at the Valeira and Pocinho Dams. We arrive at Barca d'Alva, not far from the Spanish border, in mid-afternoon.

This afternoon, enjoy a tour to Castelo Rodrigo. Located approximately 2,200 feet above sea level and surrounded by almond trees, Castelo Rodrigo is one of Portugal's 12 historic parishes; its streets are narrow and steep, and its houses still present 16th-century facades and the distinctively Portuguese Manueline-style windows. Here you see Sinagoga Street, a remembrance of the Jewish community established by refugees from the Spanish Inquisition; you can visit the local church as well. As we ride back to our ship, we will stop along the way to admire panoramic views. (B, L, D)

Day Seven

Today you have a full-day excursion to Salamanca, Spain. This ancient city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a living museum that takes visitors back to the Middle Ages; yet it is also a cosmopolitan and multicultural city with a large population of international students. Take a ride through the Iberian countryside to Salamanca, then spend some time exploring the shops and cafés of the Plaza Mayor (Main Square) on your own. Your afternoon guided city tour takes you to the Gothic House of Shells, the 13th-century Salamanca University and the New Cathedral, built from 1513 through 1733. The Old Cathedral still exists and can be visited during free time. Rejoin your ship in Vega de Terrón. (B, D)

Day Eight

This morning, we sail west along the Douro passing some of the area's *quintas* (vineyards), where you may catch glimpses of vintners tending their vines.

After breakfast, disembark for a scenic drive up to the little village of Favaio, and make your way to one of the last traditional bakeries in the Douro River Valley. Discover how bread was made in the old days and how it tasted with a sample fresh from the oven. Visit the local museum for a wine-and-bread repast, and explore a typical Portuguese village not yet discovered by the masses. Then continue for lunch at Quinta da Avessada, a rustic centuries-old winery in the heart of the Douro Wine District (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and sample some local varieties of port, such as moscatel. Rejoin your ship in Pinhão and set sail to Régua, where you remain docked overnight. (B, L, D)

Day Nine

After breakfast, disembark for a visit to Lamego, a small town known for its baroque Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies, dating back to the 14th century and still used by pilgrims today. Visit the shrine, decorated with exquisite tilework in the Moorish manner, and descend the grand baroque staircase. You also see the town's Gothic cathedral and the ruins of 12th-century Lamego Castle, with its unusual vaulted cistern. Return to your ship for lunch and scenic afternoon sailing along the Douro, back toward Porto. After arriving in port, enjoy a festive farewell dinner; we are docked overnight, so feel free to take an evening stroll or join the activities in the Lounge. (B, L, D)

Day Ten

After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight.* Or, extend your time in the region with a 2-night extension to Braga, Portugal and Santiago de Compostela, Spain. (B)



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