

THE RIVER OF **GOLD** THROUGH PORTUGAL TO SPAIN

River Douro Cruise

aboard ms Douro Spirit

In a sundrenched corner of Europe, the Douro has created a spectacular valley as it wends its way from Spain and across Portugal to meet the Atlantic Ocean. It's here, in the colourful city of Porto, that we join our ship and set off through miles and miles of rural scenery swathed with endless rows of neatly terraced vineyards and clusters of almond and olive trees, with tiny villages dotted here and there along the steep slopes. On reaching Spain, we turn our course back to Porto to explore the place that gave Portugal – and port wine – its very name. With sightseeing opportunities each day and the chance to experience local traditions aboard our ship, it's a summertime cruise that will lull you into the relaxing rhythm of the Douro, the river of gold.



Day 1: London – Porto, Vila Nova de Gaia

We fly from London Heathrow to Porto in Portugal and are transferred to Vila Nova de Gaia where we board our ship.

Day 2: Vila Nova de Gaia – Pinhão

Enjoy the beautiful surroundings with a welcoming cocktail. In the afternoon you can join an optional excursion to Lamego. This elegant city is filled with Renaissance and baroque mansions and is where we find one of Portugal's best museums. Our excursion returns to our ship in Pinhão and then later today you can join another optional excursion for an evening in the little village of Favaios, at Quinta Avessada, where we enjoy wine tasting and dinner with live entertainment.

Day 3: Vega de Terrón, Spain

After a leisurely morning you can join an optional excursion visiting Castelo Rodrigo, which ranks among the 12 historic villages in Portugal and has landmark status. We take a walk around the village to admire the medieval treasures and panoramic views before returning to our ship. The captain joins us for dinner this evening.

Day 4: Vega de Terrón – Barca d'Alva

Today's optional excursion visits the Spanish city of Salamanca, where you can enjoy a sightseeing walk, lunch and a flamenco show. We return to our ship back over the border in Barca d'Alva, the last Portuguese village along the Douro, and enjoy a traditional barbecue on board.

Day 5: Cais Espinho – Régua

Spend this morning relaxing on board as our ship cruises towards Cais Espinho. From here you can join an afternoon optional excursion to the Quinta do Seixo winery, where we enjoy port wine and stunning views across the Douro. During our excursion we also visit Mateus Castle and garden near Vila Real, before taking a scenic drive past rolling hills, vineyards, canyons and olive groves to meet our ship in Régua. A folk show takes place on board this evening.

Day 6: Régua – Porto

The Douro Museum in Régua is a fantastic representation of the history of the Douro wine region, the first protected wine growing region on earth. You have the option of visiting the museum this morning, after which we cruise back to Porto. This evening we enjoy a sunset harbour cruise with traditional fado music on board our ship.

Day 7: Porto, Vila Nova de Gaia

This morning's optional excursion explores Porto's secrets, leading you from the historic square to the waterfront before visiting one of the local port wineries for a tour and tasting. After lunch there's another optional excursion to Guimaraes, often referred to as the birthplace of Portugal, where you can explore the narrow alleys lined with medieval houses, along with an old castle complex set against the deep green hills surrounding the Pena Palace.

Day 8: Porto – London

After breakfast we bid farewell to the team on board our ship and are taken to the airport for our return flight to London Heathrow.

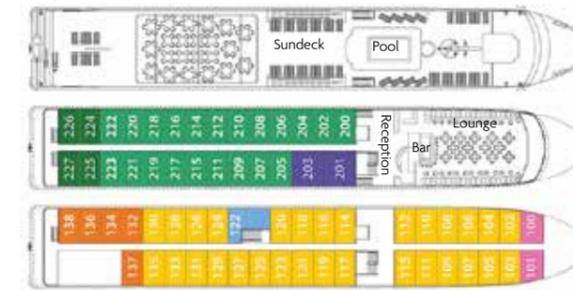
EXCURSIONS

- Lamego
- Wine tasting in the Quinta Avessada
- Castelo Rodrigo
- Salamanca with lunch and a flamenco show
- Quinta do Seixo & Mateus Castle and garden
- The Douro Museum
- Porto city tour with port wine tasting
- Guimaraes

Pre-book package price £230

*Available on advance bookings only
Individual excursions bookable once on board ms Douro Spirit, subject to availability.*

DECK PLAN



8 DAYS FROM
£1299



YOUR CRUISE INCLUDES

BY AIR

- Return flights from London Heathrow
- Prices are subject to change and availability and will be confirmed at the time of booking
- Coach transfers between airport and ship
- Captain's welcome drink reception and farewell dinner
- Seven nights' cruise on a full board basis

| 2017 dates | No. of days | Airport |
|--------------|-------------|---------|
| 14 June | 8 | LHR |
| 28 June | 8 | LHR |
| 12 July | 8 | LHR |
| 26 July | 8 | LHR |
| 23 August | 8 | LHR |
| 6 September | 8 | LHR |
| 20 September | 8 | LHR |
| 4 October | 8 | LHR |

HOLIDAY PRICES

Tour code: DOURO

| BY AIR per person | | | 14 & 28 June 8 days | 12 & 26 July 8 days |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Code | Deck | Berth | £1849 | £1499 |
| | Middle Single Front | 1 | £1849 | £1499 |
| | Middle Single Middle | 1 | £1899 | – |
| | Middle Aft | 2 | £1699 | £1399 |
| | Middle Premium Aft | 2 | £1799 | – |
| | Middle Premium | 2 | £1749 | – |
| | Upper Aft | 2 | £1849 | £1599 |
| | Upper Premium | 2 | £1949 | £1649 |
| | Upper Suite | 2 | £2249 | £2149 |

| BY AIR per person (continued) | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Code | 23 August 8 days | 6 Sept & 4 Oct 8 days | 20 Sept 8 days |
| | £1499 | £1799 | £1849 |
| | £1649 | – | – |
| | £1449 | £1699 | £1749 |
| | £1499 | – | £1799 |
| | £1479 | – | £1779 |
| | £1599 | £1849 | £1849 |
| | £1649 | £1949 | £1949 |
| | £2049 | £2249 | £2249 |

OUR CRUISE SHIP – MS DOURO SPIRIT

The ms Douro Spirit is a 4 star ship where modern design and attention to detail go hand in hand to ensure a fantastic experience along Portugal's most famous river. All standard cabins are 15 square metres with floor to ceiling french balconies, en suite shower, air conditioning, hairdryer, safe and TV. Suites are available on the upper and middle deck, which boast more living space at 21 – 22 square metres and a bath with an overhead shower. The lounge bar is a great place to enjoy the scenery with a drink, as is the sun deck which has comfortable outdoor chairs, sun loungers and a splash pool; while the restaurant serves delicious international cuisine. There is also a 24 hour self service station for tea and coffee, and a lift between the lower and upper deck. *Smoking is only permitted on the sun deck.*



The Douro valley