

# Portugal & Spain: Treasures Along the Golden Douro - 2023

## **DAY 1:**

Fly to Madrid

Depart the U.S. and board an overnight flight to Madrid, Spain. Or, depart earlier for your pre-trip extension to Barcelona, Spain.

## **DAY 2:**

Welcome to Spain! Enjoy a Welcome Dinner tonight

Arrive in Spain's capital city. If you purchased your airfare from Vantage, our representative will meet you outside the arrivals area at the airport and assist you with your transfer to the hotel. Travelers on the optional pre-trip extension to Barcelona will meet up with fellow travelers on Day 2. Enjoy a Welcome Briefing and Dinner this evening.

Included meals:

Dinner

## **DAY 3:**

See more of Madrid's landmarks and visit the Prado Museum

Explore more of vibrant Madrid on a panoramic tour by foot and motorcoach that showcases the city's main squares — Playa Sol and Plaza Mayor — as well as the Egyptian Temple of Debod, Segovia Bridge, the Royal Palace of Madrid, Atocha Station, and more. Then, visit the city's Mercado Central for an included tapas tasting!

After lunch on your own, enjoy a guided tour of the world-renowned Prado Museum, featuring the largest holdings of Bosch, Titian, El Greco, Rubens, Velázquez and Goya. Following your visit, you'll return to the hotel to refresh for tonight's dinner, which includes a stirring flamenco show!

Included Features:

Panoramic and walking tours of Madrid

Prado Museum visit

Cultural Connection:

Flamenco dinner show

Included meals:

Breakfast & dinner

**DAY 4:**

Explore Madrid at your leisure

Enjoy a free day to pursue your own interests with recommendations provided by your Cruise Director. Wander the city's many squares, shop for espadrilles and other classic Spanish products, and get your fill of tapas!

Included meals:

Breakfast

**DAY 5:**

Discover Salamanca's Old City and embark your Douro river cruise

Discover the magic of Salamanca on a walking tour. Then, explore the its UNESCO-listed Old City and see the town's grand cathedral and baroque Plaza Mayor, where you can seek out churros and do some shopping and independent wandering along the town's main street. Lunch, typically tapas, will be on your own. We'll depart for Barca d'Alva after lunch; practice your pronunciation during the drive with a with a language lesson and introduction to Portugal. Afterward, transfer to the pier and embark the m/s Douro Serenity. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Drink and Briefing before your first dinner on board.

Included Feature:

Guided Salamanca walking tour, with visit to the UNESCO-listed Old City

Cultural Connection:

Language lesson and introduction to Portugal

Included meals:

Breakfast & dinner

**DAY 6:**

Journey back to medieval times in Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo

Turn back the clock 600 years today on a coach and walking tour of the fortified hill town of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo. A walking tour takes you to the city's old walls, 16th-century pillory, the local parish church, and more. You'll also enjoy a small tasting of local products here, which will introduce you to the culinary culture of the area. Continuing the culinary theme today, you can later participate in an onboard demonstration of the classic Portuguese egg pastry, pastéis de nata. (You'll get to compare your recipe to a local version later in Lisbon.) You'll also enjoy an authentic Portuguese tea experience — complete with pastries — while learning about the traditions surrounding tea drinking and tea production.

Scenic sailing: Tonight begins your sail down the UNESCO-listed Douro River, lined with terraced vineyards and quintas, or rural estates. During the length of our cruise, you'll pass multiple locks and hear onboard commentary on certain stretches, while enjoying slow sailing to savor every view!

Included Feature:

Figueira Castelo Rodrigo walking tour

Culinary Features:

Regional food tasting in Figueira Castelo Rodrigo

Traditional Portuguese tea presentation with pastries

Onboard cooking lesson: Pastéis de nata

Included meals:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 7:**

Mateus Manor House and Garden and Quinta da Avesada

Spend the morning at the magnificent 18th-century Mateus Manor House and Garden. On a walking tour, discover this sweeping baroque property and palace, including a maze of manicured hedgerows, elegant parterres, and a lake reflecting the palace in its mirror-still surface. Lunchtime brings you to Quinta da Avesada, where you'll meet the winery host, view generations of wine production, and come closer to a true understanding of this region's way of life. Many of our travelers rave that this is the best meal on the cruise! After dinner tonight, gather in the lounge for a movie and popcorn.

Vantage Exclusive:

Quinta da Avesada winery lunch

Included Feature:

Mateus Palace and Gardens tour

Included meals:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

## **DAY 8:**

Highlights of Lamego and an evening of traditional entertainment

After breakfast, get “A Look Inside Portugal” with another lecture, then visit a local quinta to sample more fantastic regional wines in yet another breathtaking Douro setting. Return to the ship for lunch as you sail to Lamego, site of your afternoon explorations. This quaint town is filled with terra-cotta rooftops, tree-lined streets, and a 700-step staircase that leads to the grand Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. Your tour begins at the church. Then, you can descend all 700 steps and admire the surrounding gardens filled with monuments, terraces, fountains, and pretty tile mosaics. You’ll also visit a former episcopal palace that’s now the Lamego Museum, which houses a collection of works by Portuguese painter Grão Vasco. Tonight, experience traditional Portuguese fado music with an onboard performance and attend the Captain's Dinner.

Included Features:

Lamego tour, with entrance to the Lamego Museum

Quinta visit and wine tasting

Cultural Connections:

Onboard lecture: “A Look Inside Portugal”

Fado music performance in the lounge

Included meals:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 9:**

Tour Régua before sampling local vintages at Aveleda Winery

A plethora of cultural delights awaits you today! Begin the day in Régua to visit its Museu do Douro to learn about the storied Douro River during a lecture and wine tasting. Alternately, skip the museum and explore more of the town on an active walk. Lunch is on board as the ship sails to Bitetos. Here, a short drive brings us to Aveleda Winery for a tasting of Vinho Verde and snacks. Enjoy dinner on board tonight, then let music transport you back in time when local performers come on board to play favorites from the '60s, '70s, and '80s.

Included Features:

Régua excursion and Museu do Douro wine tasting and lecture

Aveleda Winery excursion with wine and cheese tasting

Cultural Connection:

Onboard music performance in the lounge

Active Feature:

Régua active walking tour

Included meals:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 10:**

Discover Porto and enjoy a port wine sampling at a local wine cellar

After breakfast, get insights into Portugal's booming cork industry as you sail to the port wine capital of Porto. No visit to Porto is complete without enjoying its signature wine, of course! So, we'll seek our port-wine at one of the city's best-known cellars. Lunch is back on board before a panoramic city tour of Porto, including a visit to the historic center — a UNESCO World Heritage Site — and the market area. Back on the ship this evening, a local artisan will give a talk on "Portuguese Filigree." Following dinner, enjoy a lively performance by a local tuna band.

Included Feature:

Guided city and panoramic tour of Porto

Cultural Connections:

Port wine tasting in a celebrated Porto wine cellar

Talk on Portugal's cork industry

Tuna band performance in the ship's lounge

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 11:**

Explore historic Guimarães or join a walking tour of Porto's Ribeira district

Enjoy your choice of excursions today: A morning guided tour of the UNESCO-listed historical center and castle of Guimarães, a preserved medieval city; or, discover more of Porto with a walking tour of its oldest district, Ribeira. However you choose to spend the morning, you'll reembark the ship for lunch and an afternoon at leisure in Porto. Later, enjoy a special "World of Discoveries" themed dinner on board.

Included Feature:

Your choice of tours: Guided Guimarães sightseeing or a walking tour of Porto's Ribeira district

Cultural Connection:

"Portuguese Filigree" onboard talk by a local artisan

Included meals:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 12:**

The storied walls of Óbidos and seaside Nazaré; disembarking the ship in Lisbon

This morning, say goodbye to the m/s Douro Serenity and transfer to the final city on your tour: Lisbon. On the way, stop for lunch in Nazaré, a beach town famous for its monstrous waves and surfing culture before exploring Óbidos. Tonight, gather in the hotel restaurant for a Farewell Dinner.

Included Features:

Óbidos walking tour

Short walking tour of Nazaré

Included meals:

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 13:**

Tour Lisbon's famed monuments and sample a culinary favorite

Begin the day with a guided panoramic and walking tour of Lisbon's famed monuments, including Belém Tower and the courtyards of the Jeronimos Monastery, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. During your city tour, you'll sample a classic Portuguese pastry: the mouthwatering pastéis de Belém. One taste of this creamy egg custard wrapped in buttery, flaky crust, and you'll see why this is Portugal's favorite treat! Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure by exploring Lisbon's cobblestoned charm on your own, perhaps even joining your Cruise Director for a pub crawl.

Included Feature:

Guided panoramic and walking tour of Lisbon and its monuments

Cultural Connection:

Pastéis de Belém sampling

Included meals:

Breakfast

**DAY 14:**

Discover Portugal's seaside enclaves of Sintra and Cascais

After breakfast, embark on a coastal trek that begins at the town's ornate Queluz Palace before exploring the town of Sintra, which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its wealth of 19th-century Romantic architectural monuments. You'll visit the town's ornate Queluz Palace before enjoying some time on your own to explore more of the town's castles or main square. Later, your tour continues with a scenic drive along the coastline to the quiet fishing village of Cascais. Once you have arrived, you can enjoy lunch on your own at numerous restaurants (all offering fresh regional specialties!) and take in the postcard-perfect scenery before returning to Lisbon this evening.

Included Feature:

Tour of Sintra and Cascais, with visit to Queluz Palace

Included meals:

Breakfast

**DAY 15:**

Fly home — or head to Madeira on an optional extension

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or continue your travels by next heading to the island of Madeira on an optional extension.