

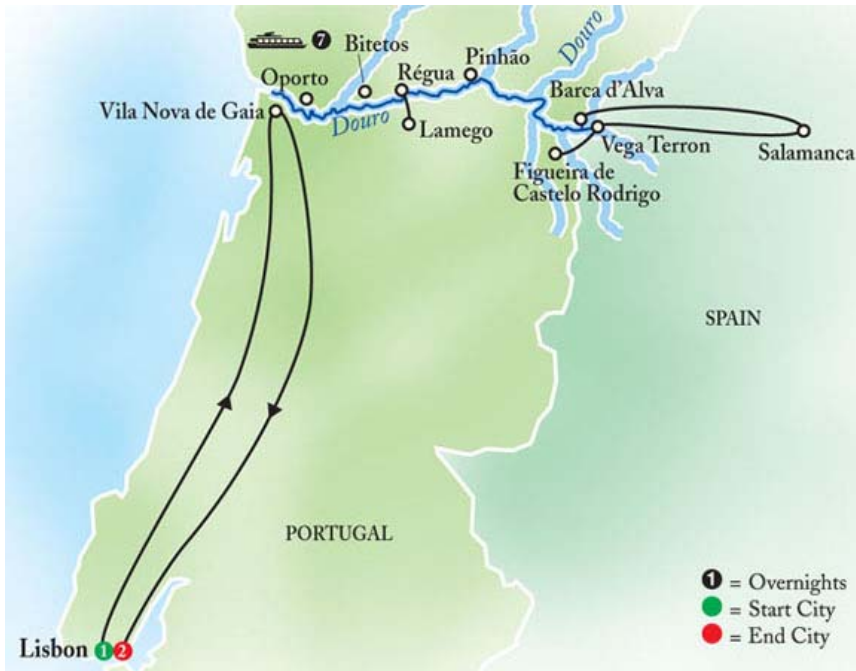
GLOBUS

Every journey tells a story®

Portugal River Cruise - 2011

12 days incl. travel, or 11 days from Lisbon to Lisbon with 7-night river cruise

Vacation Overview



Enjoy one night in Lisbon before heading north to board your cruise ship in Vila Nova near Oporto. Take in the breathtaking scenery along the Douro and stop in Régua to visit Lamego and to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies. Next, sail via Pinhão to Barca d'Alva and enjoy a full-day excursion Salamanca in Spain, where visits to Plaza Mayor and the cathedral are included, as well as lunch followed by a Flamenco show. Return to your ship at Vega Terron, where a morning excursion takes you up to Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, the "White Village." Visit the castle and enjoy a wine tasting and dinner at a local estate. Back at the ship, enjoy a Portuguese

show. From Régua, join an excursion into the Trás-os-Montes region to visit the Palace of Mateus, famous for its wines. Continue to Bitetos and enjoy a Portuguese meal at the 14th-century former Benedictine monastery of Alpendurada. Also included are guided sightseeing tours of Oporto, including a visit to the cathedral and a visit to a Port wine lodge, and of Lisbon, featuring a walk through quaint Alfama and a visit to Jeronimos Monastery with the tomb of Vasco da Gama.

Itinerary

Day 1

Board your overnight transatlantic flight.

DAY 2 - Lisbon, Portugal

Welcome to Lisbon! Free time to rest or start exploring the Portuguese capital. At 6 pm, meet your Local Host and traveling companions for a welcome drink.

DAY 3 - Lisbon - Vila Nova de Gaia

(Embarkation). A leisurely start to your day before heading northward. Stop for lunch en route before arriving at Vila Nova de Gaia, south of the city of Oporto, where your river cruiser is docked and the crew awaits to welcome you on board. (Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 4 - Régua - Excursion to Lamego

Enjoy this first opportunity to take in the breathtaking scenery along the Douro during a leisurely morning of cruising. Arrive at Régua and after lunch on board, drive to Lamego, an old historical yet picturesque and charming town. It is home to one of the most important places of pilgrimage in the country, the SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF REMEDIES. After visiting this shrine there's free time to explore on your own before returning to your ship. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 5 - Régua - Barca d'Alva

Spectacularly located at the confluence of the Douro and Pinhão Rivers, the small town of Pinhão is the epicenter of the Port winemaking area and a place where the soil and climatic conditions are considered to be at their very best. Enjoy spectacular scenery while cruising towards Barca d'Alva. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 6 - Barca d'Alva - Excursion to Salamanca, Spain–Vega Terron

Today a full-day excursion takes you into Spain to Salamanca, a rich city full of traditions and situated in the center of the Castillo de León region. During your guided walking tour you'll see many of the best-known sights such as the University, the House of Shells, beautiful baroque PLAZA MAYOR, formerly the site of numerous bullfights, and you'll also visit the CATHEDRAL. Lunch is included, followed by a FLAMENCO SHOW. This evening return to your ship at Vega Terron. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 7 - Vega Terron - Excursion to Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal–Pinhão

This morning's excursion takes you up to Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, lying 2,200 feet above sea level. Along the typically medieval, steep and narrow streets you'll still find 16th-century façades and Manuelino-style windows! The blossoms of the almond trees that grow around the little town have given it the name "White Village." The surrounding region has an economy based on agriculture, and wine was first produced in the 12th-century by the monks. Visit the CASTLE and learn how in former times Jews, Arabs, and Christians co-existed peacefully here and formed the social fabric of Castelo Rodrigo. With luck, you'll see the storks that migrate to this village every year and have become the symbol of the village. Return to your vessel and cruise to Pinhão. Here, enjoy a WINE TASTING and dinner at a local estate, and later, back on board your ship, a PORTUGUESE SHOW. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 8 - Pinhão–Régua–Bitetos

After breakfast, dock in Régua and join an excursion into the Trás-os-Montes region to visit the PALACE of MATEUS. On the way you'll see small picturesque villages nestled amidst the grandiosity of the steep terraces on the side of the mountains. Although still privately owned, the palace was transformed into a cultural foundation called the Casa de Mateus, whose main aims are to preserve the building and to promote cultural, scientific, and educational activities. Your stay ends with visits to the striking chapel and the winery, producing the famous Mateus wines. Rejoin your

vessel and cruise to Bitetos. This evening, enjoy a hearty Portuguese meal at the 14th-century former Benedictine MONASTERY OF ALPENDURADA. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 9 - Bitetos–Oporto–Vila Nova de Gaia

This morning, arrive back in the Oporto area for a short cruise of the Douro River mouth, then visit Portugal's second-largest city. Spreading along the banks of the Douro, Oporto owes its history and development to this river. The city gives its name to one of the finest wines in the world—the Port wine. Guided sightseeing takes you through the city's Old Town, a UNESCO Heritage Site, down narrow streets to find 16th-century arcaded buildings, the CATHEDRAL, and baroque churches. Drive across the 19th-century iron bridge designed by Gustav Eiffel, then along the Atlantic coast road to Foz, with its fashionable villas and manor houses, at the mouth of the river. Before returning to your vessel, stop at one of the PORT WINE LODGES to visit the cellars and sample the delicious wine. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

DAY 10 - Vila Nova de Gaia (Disembarkation) –Lisbon

After breakfast, bid farewell to your ship's crew and drive south to Lisbon. (Breakfast)

DAY 11 - Lisbon

Lisbon was the center of Europe's longest-lived overseas empire. Portugal's imperial ambitions date back to Prince Henry the Navigator's 15th-century discoveries in West Africa. Morning sightseeing with a Local Guide features a drive through the Baxia quarter's main squares. Then, enjoy a walk through the cobbled alleys of quaint ALFAMA, the quarter of the seamen. Drive past the Bull Ring to Pombal Statue and along the grand Avenida da Liberdade. Stop for pictures of Belem Tower, guarding the mouth of the Tagus, and visit JERONIMOS MONASTERY with the tomb of Vasco da Gama. Afternoon and evening at leisure. (Breakfast)

Jeronimos Monastery

DAY 12 - Lisbon

Your homebound flight arrives the same day. (Breakfast)

Optional Excursions

Here's a list of optional excursions you can enjoy during your vacation. Whether it's a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, optional excursions are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation even further. Plus, they give you flexibility. We include the must-see sites and experiences, and we also understand that people take interest in different activities and may want to craft a more personal vacation by hand-picking optional excursions that appeal to them.

Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility for your vacation. The approximate value listed gives you a good, general idea of what you can expect to pay but may vary once you are on your vacation. Some information provided might be in a foreign currency; you can use our online [currency converter](#) for exchange rate information.

CITY: Lisbon

Excursion to Sintra and Queluz

Enjoy one of the most beautiful landscapes on the Iberian Peninsula, while driving along the scenic ocean road to the picturesque fishing village of Cascais and fashionable Estoril. Later, visit the World Heritage Site of Sintra and its ROYAL PALACE with a local expert.

Approximate value: EUR €42 per person

Night Tour

Treat yourself to a Portuguese dinner with drinks at a typical restaurant. Enjoy after-dinner entertainment with songs and dances, Fado-style. Unforgettable views of the illuminated city finish your day with a flourish.

Approximate value: EUR €54 per person

Dinner by the Tagus

Drive to the pier where you will board the ferry for a pleasant crossing on the river Tagus, to a restaurant for a dinner in a typical Portuguese environment. Return to the hotel by coach and over the spectacular suspension bridge.

Approximate value: EUR €46 per person

Vacation Highlights

INCLUDED FEATURES

Lisbon: Welcome drink

Vila Nova de Gaia: Welcome cocktail

Régua: Excursion to Lamego, visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies

Barca d'Alva: Full-day excursion to Salamanca with guided sightseeing, visit the cathedral; lunch and flamenco show

Vega Terron: Guided sightseeing of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, visit the castle

Pinhão: Wine tasting and dinner at a local wine estate; onboard Portuguese show

Régua: Guided tour of Mateus wine estate, visit the palace

Bitetos: Specialty dinner at Alpendurada Monastery

Oporto: Guided sightseeing

Lisbon: Guided sightseeing, visit the Alfama quarter and Jeronimos Monastery

INSIDE VISITS

Inside visits and special features are shown in the description, including admission charges when applicable.

Accommodations

MEALS

Welcome drink and full buffet breakfast in Lisbon; welcome cocktail on board; superb dining with all meals on board featuring full buffet breakfast, lunch, and dinner, including a specialty dinner and Captain's dinner.

SUPERIOR HOTELS - (D) Deluxe (SF) Superior First-Class (F) First-Class

Lisbon Sofitel (SF)

Dates and Prices

Dates and prices are not available for this tour. Please call us or check back soon for updated information.

Our Toll Free Number is as follows:

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