



RIVER CRUISING

800-788-7885 or your travel agent

January 2025



Exploring the Douro, plus Lisbon & Madrid - 2026

Start in Madrid Spain - End in Lisbon Portugal

Exploring the Douro, plus Lisbon & Madrid



Full Itinerary

Centuries of vineyards, wine and timeless Port traditions along an enchanting "river of gold"... white-painted *quinta* estates lined with terraced vineyards... art and architecture royally inspired and the joys of tapas in Madrid... Lisbon's treasures from the Age of Discovery and beyond...

Cruise through the heart of one of the world's oldest and most beautiful wine regions on a 12-day journey between Lisbon and Madrid, featuring a 7-night cruise aboard Tauck's new riverboat ms *Andorinha*, custom-designed for exploring Portugal's "golden" Douro River. Visit *quintas* for wine tastings, hike through vineyards and villages, and discover the UNESCO World Heritage city of Porto, where the Douro kisses the Atlantic and timeless Port traditions steal your heart. Spend two nights each in Madrid, Spain's bigger-than-life capital, with its bar culture and bevy of baroque and belle époque architecture – and Lisbon, gate to the "New World," enticing with palaces aplenty and *azulejos* chronicling life from Moorish times to present day...

Itinerary

ONLY WITH TAUCK

- Tour and private dinner in Queluz National Palace in Lisbon

TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- 7-night cruise aboard a brand new riverboat custom designed to sail on the Douro River
- A choice of excursions that include active hikes, a port cocktail-making class, a tour of wine caves, bicycle rides and more valued at \$4,146!
- In-depth exploration of 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Spain and Portugal
- Private wine tastings in quintas along the Douro River
- A special culinary experience at DOC restaurant in Folgosa, savoring gourmet cuisine by acclaimed chef Rui Paula and riverside views
- Two-night stays at premier hotels in Madrid and Lisbon with a choice of city sightseeing
- 26 meals, airport transfers on arrival and departure as detailed, gratuities to ship staff, drivers, local guides, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director, admission fees, service charges, taxes, applicable fuel surcharges and portorage

DAY 1

Arrive Madrid

Tour begins: 5:30 PM, The Westin Palace Madrid. A transfer is included from Madrid-Barajas Airport or Madrid's Atocha station to The Westin Palace, Madrid, commissioned by King Alfonso XIII in 1912 and located in the heart of the city's renowned art triangle with easy access to its three most famous museums, El Prado, Reina Sofía and Thyssen-Bornemisza. Settle in and join your fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner tonight at the hotel.

- **MEALS:** Dinner

DAY 2

Palatial Treasures of Madrid

Take a guided one-mile walk – or a short drive – to Madrid's 18th-century Royal Palace, home to a succession of Spanish kings from Charles III to Alfonso XIII, and reigning today as the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family in name only. Your visit to this 2,000+ room jeweled palace, by square feet Europe's largest palace, takes you on a journey through history and time-honored splendor with a local guide as you view rooms and salons overflowing with art treasures and antiques, and gilded, floor to ceiling, with fine fabrics, magnificent mosaics, crystal chandeliers and more. Highlights may include the Reception Room, the State Apartments, the Armory, the Throne Room, the Banquet Room and the Royal Pharmacy. Head-turning art welcomes you to the Museo del Prado, one of the world's premier art museums with over 4,000 works of art masterpieces, including works by iconic Spanish artists Goya and Velázquez, many of them acquired by kings through the ages. Tapas tantalize with small bites of local culinary fare on a guided exploration of Madrid's tapas culture with an expert guide who knows where to find the best samples of this regional specialty.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Madrid Coach Orientation
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice # 2- Madrid Orientation Walk

DAY 3

Salamanca Sights & Your Riverboat Hotel

Drive to the UNESCO World Heritage City of Salamanca for free time and a guided walking tour of its ancient heart, viewing the "living room of Salamanca," the elegant arcaded Plaza Mayor, its stunning 12th-century Romanesque Cathedral, and its esteemed 800-year-old university, one of the oldest in the world. Cross the border into Portugal, where Tauck's riverboat, ms *Andorinha*, is docked on the Douro and awaiting your arrival. Settle into your cabin and enjoy dinner onboard at your leisure tonight.

- MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4

A Medieval Castle & Antiquities on the Douro

The Douro River cuts a 200-mile path through rugged wilderness on the Spanish frontier and one the world's most beautiful and prolific wine regions as it courses through Portugal and the city of Porto on the Atlantic Ocean. Along the way, it passes the castle ruins hidden in the hills; disembark for a visit to a local town on the border between Spain and Portugal where a walking tour reveals remnants of its storied roots, before your cruise continues along the river. 20,000 years ago prehistoric man called the nearby Côa Valley home, leaving evidence of their residence on rocks in the Coa Valley; visit the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the Côa Valley to see these stunning exhibits of rock art from the valley's Paleolithic era, discovered in the 1990s when excavations began for a Côa River dam. Return to the ship late afternoon, and cruise to Ferradosa.

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5

Pleasures of Pinhão

A choice of shore excursions today includes a walk in pretty Pinhão, nestled in the heart of port wine country, with a visit to its historic tile-covered train station, a vision of blue and white Azulejo tiles, or an active hike through the sloping terraced vineyards that surround this town with stunning views of the river and town. Return to your riverboat for an afternoon cruise to Folgosa where dinner tonight entices with a special culinary experience at DOC, an acronym for "Degustar Ousar Comunicar" (translated: "Taste, Dare, Communicate"), savoring gourmet cuisine by acclaimed Portuguese chef Rui Paula who delights in marrying traditional dishes with contemporary fare along with the Douro's famous wines.

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

-
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Orientation Walk of Pinhao
 - **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Vineyard Hike

DAY 6

Explore the legacy of wine, in and around Peso da Régua

Its historic role in the production of port wine is written on the landscapes you'll see today when you step off the boat into Peso da Régua for a day of discovery. An important transport junction, this is where barrels of wine were boarded onto traditional *rabelos* bound for Gaia in the 18th century, where the wine was aged in local lodges. This morning, you have a choice of a visit to the Douro Museum, set within the restored Casa da Companhia Velha building, once part of Real Companhia Velha (Royal Oporto Wine Company), chartered in 1756. On your guided visit to the museum, you'll explore its exhibits chronicling the history, culture and traditions of the Douro River Valley region, from the cultivation of grapes on the vines to the processes involved in the production of Port wine and its distribution around the world. Alternatively, visit the historic town of Lamego (dating back to the Middle Ages), renowned for its viticulture and production of sparkling wine. This afternoon, you have a choice of a guided tour of 18th-century Casa de Mateus, a Baroque masterpiece you may recognize from the label on bottles of Mateus Rosé, and its fantasy garden of manicured hedges and dignified statues. Or, if you choose, join a local guide for a visit to a local wine-making estate called a *quinta*, rewarding with a port cocktail making class. Return to the riverboat late day.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Douro River Museum Guided Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2 - Lamego Visit & Sparkling Wine
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Casa de Mateus Guided Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2 - Vineyard Walk & Cocktail Making

DAY 7

The Charms of Guimarães

Spend a leisurely morning cruise on the lower Douro through a region known for its Vinho Verde wines. Disembark for a choice of excursions that include a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal renowned for its well-preserved medieval buildings and national monuments. As an alternative, you can join a local guide for a bicycle ride that entices with scenic views of terraced vineyards.

-
- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
 - **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Walking Tour of Guimarães
 - **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2- Bike Ride in the Vinho Verde Region

DAY 8

Vinho Verde Wines or Arouca Geopark

The wine growing regions of the Douro surprise visitors with an array of vintages, young and old. Discover them at a wine tasting at a *quinta* in a Vinho Verde vineyard where they specialize in green wines uniquely produced here. Green refers to its age not its color; the grapes they use for these wines are typically consumed within three to six months after bottling and can be red, white, or rosé. For those who would like a more active activity, a short coach ride this morning brings you to Arouca Geopark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a very active hike across the 516 Arouca Bridge. Measuring in at 1,693 feet long and 575 feet high, the 516 Arouca Bridge connects the banks of the Paiva River and is the world's largest suspended pedestrian bridge (note: guests choosing this excursion will not visit the Vinho Verde winery). Chart a course for Porto this afternoon, and enjoy the chef's signature dinner onboard your ship tonight.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 9

Discover Porto, Your Way

Culturally rich and historically charming, Porto's pleasures are diverse and delightful, blending old and new to reveal a fascinating portrait of the city through art and architecture, wine and food, and waterfront views that take your breath away. Explore Porto on a choice of excursions, each offering a unique way to see this historic city. One option brings you by land, river, and air for a ride aboard a historic tram from the Foz Quarter to the medieval riverfront district of Porto, before boarding a water taxi that takes you across the river for a cable car ride to the top of the Luiz I Bridge, rewarding with a stunning panorama. You may also join a local guide into the historic heart of Porto. Your tram ride will take you up to the top of the city for a robust walking tour with stops to taste local culinary treats. Your final choice takes you on a walking tour of Porto focusing on the city's history with the port wine industry and is highlighted with a tour and tasting in an authentic Port wine cellar.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Porto by Land, River & Air

-
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2 - Walking Tour of Porto & Gaia
 - **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #3 - Porto: The Historical City of Wine

DAY 10

Captivating Coimbra & On to Lisbon

Disembark your riverboat in Porto this morning for a drive back in time to Coimbra, Portugal's medieval capital for more than a century. A walking tour along the tiered cobbled lanes of this hilltop city brings you to its esteemed university, founded here in 1537, where its caped students evoke images of Harry Potter's Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, its majestic buildings line squares steeped in history and cloistered arcades lead to architectural showpieces beautiful to behold. Learn about student life, past and present, and university traditions still in play today. Enjoy free time for lunch and exploring before continuing on to Lisbon for a two-night stay.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast

DAY 11

A Choice of Sightseeing & a Palace Dinner

Crafted atop seven hills over centuries, Lisbon is home to cobbled lanes, castles in the clouds and maritime monuments that pay lasting tribute to Portuguese explorers like Vasco da Gama who changed the world. You'll have a choice of excursions today. Your first choice is city sightseeing in Lisbon; discover landmark places steeped in history, including Eduardo VII Park, Trade Square, the Monument to the Discoveries, and Jeronimos Monastery where Vasco da Gama and Portugal's kings are buried. Your second choice is also in Lisbon, a robust Lisbon walking tour of the city's terraces for those seeking a more active walk. Alternatively, visit the town of Sintra for a visit to Sintra National Palace, the best preserved medieval residence in Portugal and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy some free time in Sintra before driving to the seaside town of Cascais for a guided walk in the town's center and lunch before returning to Lisbon. After enjoying time at leisure, join us for an exclusive royal dinner at 18th-century Queluz National Palace, a blend of Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical architectural designs graced with gardens inspired by French styles.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Dinner
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Discovering Lisbon Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2 - Lisbon Terraces Walking Tour

-
- EXCURSION CHOICES: Choice #3 - Sintra & Cascais

DAY 12

Journey Home

Tour ends: Lisbon. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from the InterContinental Lisbon to Lisbon Airport. Allow a minimum of 3 ½ hours for flight check-in.

- MEALS: Breakfast

Book This Trip



call **800-788-7885**
or your travel agent
and book today

Have Information Ready

- Tour Name and Departure Date Desired
- Traveler Name(s): Please have first and last names as they appear on the passport or driver's license.
- Traveler's Address(es)
- Traveler's Phone Number(s)
- Emergency Contact Information: This would be a relative or friend whom we could contact during the tour in the event of an emergency. Please provide their name and phone number(s).
- Interest in purchasing a travel protection product (US and Canada)
- Interest in extending your trip by staying in a Tauck recommended hotel before your trip begins or after it ends
- Interest in our specially negotiated airfares.

Book Your Trip

For reservations, call 800-788-7885 or contact your travel advisor to book today!

Deposit Date

Upon your request, we will hold space tentatively for you and give a "Deposit Due Date," by which a deposit must be received or space is automatically released.

Special Requests

We will be happy to advise hotels of any special requests, provided we receive them at time of booking. We regret that requests cannot be guaranteed.

Final Payment

Final Payment is due to Tauck **120** days before departure for cruises and rail journeys. If your deposit was made by credit card, final payment will be automatic unless you opted out at time of booking. Bookings without full payment at this time may be subject to cancellation without notice. Failure to

make payment will be a considered a cancellation by the guest and all applicable cancellation fees will apply.

The currency in Spain and Portugal is the Euro. In both Madrid and Lisbon, ATMs are available and Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted; visitors with other cards should check with their credit card companies in advance. Foreign currency can be exchanged at exchange bureaus and large hotels, however better exchange rates are likely to be found at banks. It is recommended that you use ATMs to get cash, as exchange rates at the ATMs tend to be favorable, and it is often difficult to exchange money in Portugal and Spain. Major credit cards are widely accepted, as are travelers' checks. Foreign currency is not accepted.

All shipboard accounts may be settled using Euro, MasterCard, American Express or Visa. The riverboat does not have a currency exchange counter.

To obtain the most current exchange rates for all national currencies, you may want to check your local newspaper or log on to the website, *oanda.com*, by clicking [here](#).

All customary gratuities for the hotel and ship staff, local guides and drivers, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director are included.

Cruise prices are per person. All riverboat and hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, port charges, land excursions, admissions, entertainment, special dinners, beverages while on the riverboat (including unlimited soft drinks, regional wine, beer and premium spirits), sightseeing, portage, services of the ship staff, the local guides and motor coach drivers, the Tauck Director and the Tauck Cruise Director and all customary gratuities for the ship staff, local guides, drivers, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director are included. Transportation from Madrid Barajas Airport, Madrid Atocha Train Station or Chamartin Train Station to the Tauck hotel is included, regardless of the time you check into the hotel, provided you have furnished us with accurate flight arrival information at least three weeks prior to the start of your tour. We will also provide you with transportation from the Tauck hotel to Lisbon Airport, Lisbon Oriente Train Station or Lisbon Santa Apolonia Train Station at the end of your tour. Transportation to and from airports and train stations may be shared with other Tauck guests. If you are staying at a hotel other than the Tauck-designated hotel before or after your tour, contact Tauck regarding your various transfer options.

To avoid jet lag and possible flight delays, you may wish to make hotel arrangements for the nights preceding or following your tour or cruise. As a service, we will book additional nights for you on a space-available basis using special rates only available through us. Hotel room charges will be added to the tour or cruise cost. Transfers for these extended stays are included (as noted). If you wish to spend additional nights, please consult Extend Your Stay in the Accommodations section and discuss it with your reservations sales consultant or your travel advisor when you book your tour or cruise.

We pledge to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. We reserve the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels, and/or conveyances as deemed necessary. Any savings realized by these changes will be refunded to you. Any resultant added expense will be

covered by us. Although not expected, prices on this website may be modified due to unexpected significant external factors not forecast at the time of publication.