



10D7N Portugal Douro River Cruise Charter

Tour code: ECOPO

A mesmerizing journey through the Douro Valley located just 100km west of Porto. It is the world's oldest demarcated wine region where grape harvest and wine production goes back 2000 years. The terraced vineyards on either side of the Douro River are breathtaking and truly the 'crowned jewels' of Portugal! The Douro Valley is dotted with sleepy hamlets and bustling towns. Life moves at a slow pace and the region is filled with landmarks dating back several centuries. A river cruise on the Douro River is perhaps the most romantic journey in Europe.

Day 1: SINGAPORE – PORTO

Welcome to a unique experience! Assemble at Changi Airport for our flight to **Porto**, Portugal's second largest city after Lisbon.

Day 2: PORTO (Embarkation)

Board the S.S Sao Gabriel, the newest ship on the Douro River and our home for the next 7 nights. The ship is designed to embody the beautiful Douro River Valley region and bring the destination to life through its décor and delectable food and wine. After check in, explore Porto at leisure. *(Note: Rooms will be available after 3pm)*

Day 3: PORTO

There is much more to Porto than its eponymous fortified wine – historic architecture, fabulous food and wine and a hip, laid-back vibe. Discover its many charms with your choice of distinctively different tours today. The city is a fascinating combination of historic buildings and cutting-edge architecture, tradition and vivacious modernity. The ship sets sail after our tour, cruising up the Douro towards Porto Antigo.

Choice of excursion

A. Porto Panoramic City Tour

Of course it is the longtime hub of the Port wine trade, but Porto is also much more. Take in the UNESCO-designated 19th century Stock Exchange Palace, see its famous Moorish Revival-style Arab Room during our panoramic tour. Get a feel for this vibrant town, which is profoundly urban and moodily romantic. Colourful multistory townhouses sheathe the hills that climb precipitously from the Douro estuary, medieval alleys snake through UNESCO-designated neighbourhoods enclosed by 14th-century walls which were erected on Roman foundations and baroque church towers crown the hilltops. The Clerigos Tower is an unmistakable landmark, visible from almost anywhere in the Old Town. In fact, sailors used it as a guide to navigate their way through the estuary. Visit Porto's austere hilltop cathedral before driving down to the Ribeira.

OR

B. Exclusive 'Do as the Locals Do' Porto walking

Depart by coach for Mosteiro do Serra do Pilar where our extensive walking tour will start. Board the electric (Porto's historical tram) to Clerigos quarters. The tram is a splendid way to discover Porto as its cars are beautifully maintained and we will travel amongst the locals. See the world's most beautiful Lello & Irmão Bookstore and the Azulejos Murals at the Sao Bento Station. Walk up to the Cathedral Se for panoramic views of the city then wind our way down narrow alleys the old town. Enjoy refreshment before heading back to the ship. *(Note: Not recommended for gentle walkers)*

Day 4: SCENIC CRUISING: VILA REAL & LAMEGO

Take note of the little chapels we see along the banks. Though the river is slow and calm now that it has been tamed by dams, it was once extremely hazardous. These tiny chapels mark spots where entire rabelo boat crews perished attempting to get their cargo of Port wine to Porto.

AM Excursion:

Vila Real – Casa de Mateus

Built in the first half of the 18th century and betraying the finishing touches of Nicolau Nasoni, this palace set in beautiful gardens on a vast farm is considered to be one of the finest examples of baroque civil architecture in Portugal. Its interior includes intricately carved wooden ceilings, furniture from several periods, paintings, silverwares and a library with an illustrated edition of the celebrated Lusiadas of Luis de Camoes published in 1816. Enjoy some time in the beautiful



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gardens or wine tasting in the cellar.

PM Excursion:

Lamego

Nestled among the terraced slopes of the Douro valley port wine-growing region is the elegant town Lamego. The most striking building of Lamego is the sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of Remedies which stands gracefully above the town on Monte de Sao Estevao, flanked by twin bell towers. Its hundreds of zigzagging stairs are decorated with tiled friezes and climb out of a tailored garden resplendent with a variety of trees. Walk down the well-known 686 steps or join one of the coaches for a ride down to a local cafe to taste locally cured ham, sausage and wine.

Day 5: PINHAO VALLEY – SCENIC CRUISING

Feel the centuries fall away as our ship winds its way through the pristine and dramatic landscapes of the Douro River Valley. Head ashore to the hills for a visit to a quinta (wine estate). See spectacular landscapes shaped by wine growers for two millennia. The stone terraces curving around the steep slopes hold soil that is largely the creation of human intervention. People have labouriously broken up the native silver schist stone over the centuries and turned it into usable sandy earth. Learn about the tradition and modern process of making port wine. Before returning to the ship, walk up to Casal de Loivos for the most spectacular sights of the Alto Douro Wine Region.

Day 6: VEGA DA TERRON

The ship docks near the Spanish border today where we may head across the country to the historic university town of Salamanca famous for its sand-coloured buildings and abundance of churches or remain in Portugal to discover Belmonte.

Choice of excursion

A. Salamanca – The golden city and Spain’s oldest University

Called the ‘Golden City’ for its tawny sandstone buildings, Salamanca boasts a dozen beautiful and historic churches including two cathedrals: the new, built in the early 16th century and the old which dates to the 12th century. Walk with our guide through Plaza Mayor, lined with wonderful baroque buildings to the university which was founded by Alfonso IX in 1218. The ornate façade is stunning and the interior are equally beautiful. Salamanca’s food hall is one of Spain’s best. (Lunch is not included in this excursion and the guide will recommend some great places to dine)

OR

B. Belmonte – the Jewish nation

Discover Hebrew heritage on a visit to Belmonte. Hebrew culture and tradition have lasted since the early 16th century until today. The Jewry was located between the streets of Fonte da Rosa and Direita. See engraved stones in the threshold of small granite houses, an evidence of Jews who were forced to live in hiding. (Lunch is not included in this excursion and the guide will recommend some great places to dine)

Day 7: CASTELO RODRIGO

A tiny village surrounded by mountains, Barca d’Alva is our base for today’s adventures. Go medieval at Castelo Rodrigo, both the name of a hilltop castle as well as the village that surrounds it. It has been singled out as one of Portugal’s 12 historic villages for its medieval beauty. The view from the top is incredible and the village is a charming place to ramble, relax and replenish. In the afternoon, lace up your hiking boots and unleash your inner Indiana Jones with an up-close gander at some prehistoric carvings with a visit to Portugal’s first archaeological park, Foz Côa.

AM Excursion

Castelo Rodrigo

Ride through wonderfully scenic countryside, the region is noted for its honey which derives its flavour from the fields of wild lavender and the almond groves, to Castelo Rodrigo. The castle ruins stand high atop Marofa Mountain, telling the tale of border strife and Portugal’s struggle for independence in a single structure. Construction on the citadel began in 1209 under the auspices of the king of Leon but it became part of Portugal within a century though its local lords sided with Spanish rulers from time to time over the next four centuries which explains why the palace adjoining the castle lies in ruins. Outraged citizens destroyed it after its lord sided with Castile. Take in the amazing view from the ancient stone walls then step down through tiny cobbled lands of the village, passing the old pillory, the Manueline church and the market square. Sample local treats such as honey, almonds, olive oil and cheeses. A newly restored tea-house invites



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you to relax over a cup of tea or a cool drink.

PM Excursion

Archaeological Park of the Côa Valley

Ready for an expedition worthy of Indiana Jones? In the 90s, scouting for a proposed dam project on the Côa River revealed an astonishing collection of prehistoric carvings. The oldest images etched into the schist walls around the river dates to approximately 22,000 to 20,000 BC with younger carvings ranging from the Epipaleolithic, Neolithic and Bronze ages to the 17th century. These images represent human interaction with the natural world for more than 30,000 years. Our visit starts at the Côa Museum where we can see both original and reproduction of the original rock art. Follow the guide into the valley to see the sites. *Note: Sturdy hiking footwear and considerable physical fitness is required. You will hike into rocky and hard-to-access locations.*

Day 8: CRUISING THE DOURO RIVER, PORTO: GUIMARAES

“Portugal was born here”. So the sign on the city wall proclaims. Guimaraes was home to Portugal’s first king, Afonso I, who manages to win his kingdom’s independence in the 12th century from neighbouring suzerains. The wonderfully well-preserved Old Town with its unique architecture (houses combine granite with half-timbering) and charming little plazas is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Overlooking it is the grand castle that appears on Portugal’s coat of arms. Rove with our guide from the castle towards the beautiful main square, the Largo da Oliveira the splendid monastery & Church of Our Lady of Oliveira and the 14th-century Gothic Padrao do Salado.

Day 9: PORTO – SINGAPORE

Bid farewell to Portugal as we transfer to the airport for our flight back to Singapore.

Day 10: ARRIVE SINGAPORE

We hope that you have had an enjoyable vacation with Dynasty Travel and look forward to bring you to your next holiday destination.

Note: The sequence of the tour is subject to change without prior notice. During the cruise, substitute visit to other sites may occur due to water levels, closures because of public holidays, or other uncontrollable factors. Note: All extras, such as optional excursions, telephone calls and items of a personal nature, are not included in the cost of the cruise.



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Assemble date: Oct 24, 31 Oct 2020	Adult (Twin/double)	Child (Half twin)	Single Supplement
Deluxe (D) (10, Madeira Deck)	\$8288 Land only: \$7288	\$7988 Land only: \$7288	\$5000
French Balcony (F) (20, Cape Verde Deck)	\$10388 Land only: \$9388	\$10088 Land only: \$9388	\$6600
Suite (S)* (12 suites, Azores Deck)	\$12388 Land only: \$11388	\$12088 Land only: \$11388	\$10400
Grand Suite (G)* (3 suites, Azores Deck)	\$14888 Land only: \$13888	\$14588 Land only: \$13888	\$13000

Note: Deposit - \$3000 per person upon booking.

*Suites & Grand Suites with personal butler & laundry service on board cruise ship.

Tour fare includes:

Return economy class air ticket on Lufthansa/Turkish Airlines
 Overland tours and meals as per stated in the itinerary
 7-night onboard Uniworld's brand new – S.S SAO GABRIEL
 Wide arrays of shore excursions included
 Gratuities onboard and onshore excursions during cruise
 Free flow of soft drinks, beer and wine onboard
 Wi-Fi access onboard

Tour fare excludes:

Applicable airport taxes & surcharges (Approx. \$165 - \$640)
 Port tax \$270
 Visa application fees (if applicable)
 Travel insurance
 Shore excursions not indicated in itinerary
 Extension or deviation charges