



2012 Cruise Companion and Shore Excursions
Portugal, Spain & the
Douro River Valley



Dear Valued Traveler,

Welcome to Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. We want to do everything we can to ensure you have the most enjoyable and worry-free vacation possible.

With that in mind, we have prepared this booklet for you, so you can plan your trip with the greatest of ease. Consider it a guideline to help you get ready for your upcoming trip. It contains valuable tips and advice on what to pack, your flight and transfer experience, onboard information, day-to-day details, and much more.











Thank you for selecting Uniworld Boutique River Cruises. We look forward to hosting you onboard our beautifully appointed ships and making your vacation the most memorable and enjoyable experience possible.

Sincerely,
The Uniworld Team

Symbols and Icons

In the following pages, you will find these symbols to help guide you with the daily excursions. You will get an idea of the pace of the excursions; you will find out if meals are provided, and you will learn about any special excursions, such as wine tastings, museum visits, or music concerts.

Uniworld Signature Icons

	Embark/Disembark		Wine Tasting
	Motorcoach		Museum Visit
	Flight		Music Concert
	Choice Is Yours	CB/BB	Continental/ Buffet Breakfast
	Uniworld Exclusive	L	Lunch
	Dining Out	D	Dinner
	Welcome/Farewell Dinner		

Shore Excursion Symbols

All tours involve walking unless strictly noted as a panoramic tour. In many cases, the walking takes place over uneven ground, cobblestone or flagstone walkways, and more than a few tours involve stairs or short uphill climbs. We strongly recommend that our guests wear comfortable, non-skid walking shoes while on all of our tours. The symbols below are provided alongside each tour to give you an idea of what to expect on each program.



Easy walking throughout tour, including walking 15 minutes or less from multiple motorcoach stops to, and while in, historical sights. Possibly some steps or gentle uphill and downhill walks.



Intermediate activity, including walks of up to two hours on uneven terrain. Limited seating at sites. Multiple stairs and/or uphill/downhill walking.



Most strenuous activity with a combined walking duration at all sites of up to two and a half hours. Many stairs and uphill/downhill passages. Those with physical limitations and those who may need assistance with private arrangements need to contact the Cruise Manager when onboard.

Tour Duration Symbols

Each tour varies in length. The darkened areas of the symbols indicate approximate tour duration.



¼ Day AM



¼ Day PM



¾ Day



½ Day AM



½ Day PM



Full Day

Cruise Companion

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Cruise Companion

Helpful Hints Before You Go

Travel Documents

Passports: All Uniworld river cruises/tours require a passport. In most cases, passports must be valid for six months after the scheduled return date from the trip. Some itineraries will require visas. Each guest is fully responsible for obtaining and carrying the travel documents necessary for his or her travel itinerary. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper travel documents.

Visa requirements for this itinerary for US and Canadian citizens can be found at the end of this booklet, in the section marked "About Your Uniworld Cruise Package" or on the Uniworld website, uniworld.com, in the "Before You Go" section. Non-US or non-Canadian citizens must contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their particular trip. Uniworld's website provides information on obtaining the required visa through Zierer Visa Service as a courtesy only.

Passenger Information Form: By now, you should have completed the Uniworld Passenger Information Form. The information on this form is used to comply with certain foreign government and airline security restrictions in advance of your arrival onboard our ships. If you have completed this form, we thank you for your prompt attention. If you have not completed this form, please visit our website at uniworld.com and complete the online Passenger Information Form in the "Before You Go" section. Each guest must complete the form.

Travel Protection: Uniworld strongly recommends that each guest purchase a Travel Protection Plan. Please carry all policy information with you during the course of your trip.

Cruise Documentation

Uniworld sends all final cruise and air documents between 21 and 30 days prior to your trip departure, provided that Uniworld has received a completed and signed Passenger Information Form and your booking is paid in full. All documents are sent via a priority mail delivery service, such as UPS or Federal Express.

Final Documentation Includes:

- Cruise Ticket
- Passenger Ticket Contract (which is binding on each guest)
- Airline Tickets or E-Ticket Confirmation (if international air ticket was purchased from Uniworld)
- Cruise and Tour Companion
- Baggage Tags
- Communication Card
- Travel Protection Plan Pamphlet (if Uniworld travel protection was purchased)

Baggage Limitations

Airline baggage restrictions change frequently, and each guest needs to check with his or her specific air carrier for limitations concerning baggage weight, baggage size, carry-on regulations, and excess or overweight baggage charges. This information can be found on the carrier's website. Remember to check for both international (over the water) and domestic (intra-continental) regulations, as limitations differ depending on flight routings. Overweight or excess baggage charges vary, and guests who exceed an airline's recommended limit may be asked by the airline to pay fees ranging from \$25 to \$80 US Dollars (USD), or possibly more, per infraction.

Onboard the ships and motorcoaches, storage space is very limited. Therefore, for your comfort and convenience on the cruise as well as on pre-cruise land stays, we ask that you bring one (1) suitcase per person and one (1) carry-on bag per person (excluding purses). Please note there may be a fee assessed on-site for excess baggage.

Keep an eye on your baggage and all personal belongings—they are your responsibility throughout the trip. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and personal belongings. A Travel Protection Plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is highly recommended.

Travel Essentials

The following items are essential for any destination: comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, a hat, an umbrella, and a lightweight raincoat or outerwear garment appropriate to the seasonal weather conditions. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medicine, copies of credit card information, and copies of passport information pages. Make sure that your baggage has identification tags both inside and outside, with your contact information and address clearly marked. Do not pack valuables or important medication in your checked baggage. You should carry any valuables and important medication with you in your carry-on baggage. Please contact your air carrier for any additional regulations.

Health and Mobility

Physical Limitations: Uniworld trips are exciting, relatively active vacations. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there will also be much to see and do. Your included excursions generally require an extensive amount of walking, as well as navigation of numerous steps and cobblestone streets. On shore excursions, guests with physical limitations will find access to sites generally restricted. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition. In addition, river ships, while spacious and elegant, are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and most do not have elevators. Uniworld, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage or to require a current passenger to end his or her trip if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect his or her own health, safety, and enjoyment, or that of other passengers.

Medical: Uniworld does not employ staff nurses or doctors onboard its ships. Should you need medical attention, it will be at local facilities, at your own expense. Uniworld is not responsible for any costs incurred as a result of medical service or for the quality of medical care received. A Travel Protection Plan covering medical expenses is highly recommended.

Special Diets: Please advise us in advance of your departure of any special dietary restrictions. This information will be provided to the proper personnel. To the extent possible, and in consideration of local conditions, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as necessary concerning any medically related diet concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

General Money Matters

ATMs: ATMs connected to bank networks such as PLUS or Cirrus are widely available in most major metropolitan areas, airports, city centers, and, in some instances, hotels. Fees for transactions vary. ATMs are not available onboard the ships or in smaller towns and villages along the Douro River. Your bank can tell you which network your ATM card can access, and whether a debit or credit card must be used. Make sure you have the correct PIN for the card you plan to use before leaving home, as the PIN is required for all cash withdrawals. It is also recommended that you bring an overseas contact number for your bank or credit card company in case you require assistance while traveling.

Credit Cards and Travelers Checks: Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) are accepted worldwide. Credit cards (in Euros or US Dollars) are also accepted onboard.

There may be some stores or locations where cash is preferred (especially for small purchases) or a particular credit card cannot be used for purchases. We recommend bringing at least one major credit card as well as an ATM card that is both a debit and credit card. Travelers checks are not widely used in Europe, especially Portugal and Spain, and we therefore do not recommend bringing any. They are not accepted as local currency in local stores and restaurants, and it is becoming difficult to cash them at banks as well. Travelers checks cannot be cashed onboard the ship. We recommend that you change or withdraw sufficient local currency while in Lisbon or Porto, as there are no ATMs available and banks do not exchange any foreign currency at all in some of the smaller destinations along the itinerary. Also, we recommend that you not carry Euro bills in denominations greater than €100, as many merchants are hesitant to accept them due to counterfeiting. Local banks can break the larger bills into smaller denominations for you.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit card(s) overseas.

Please note: € = Euro

Getting There

Airport Security and Check-In

It is advisable to contact the airline in advance of your departure to verify that there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule found on your travel documents. After your travel documents are issued and sent to you, Uniworld is not responsible for notifying guests of any changes in flight schedules.

Please make sure you arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure to complete check-in and security procedures. For peak travel times, you may even want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

Transfers

Airport Arrival Transfers: If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines) or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship or hotel. Those guests with a Pre-Cruise Extension will also be met by a Uniworld representative at the airport of the city in which the extension is to take place. You

will be met as you exit the secure customs area. Please claim all of your baggage before exiting the baggage claim area. Porterage services are not included. From the airport, you'll be transferred to the ship or your hotel.

Please note that transfers are non-refundable. There may be a waiting period for scheduled airport transfers, depending on groupings of flight arrivals. This wait can be up to two (2) hours. Uniworld will not be responsible for late arrivals or missed transfers due to delayed, changed, canceled, or missed flights; for missed cruise/trip days; or for extra costs resulting from delayed, changed, canceled, or missed flights.

In accordance with Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the Terms and Conditions section of our current brochure or our website, uniworld.com.

Depending on transfer times, hotel-to-ship transfers may include sightseeing en route.

Guests who have purchased extra nights with hotel stays will be provided private transfers as part of the extra night purchase as long as Uniworld has received their flight information.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside of Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your own way to the ship or hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

Airport Departure Transfers: If your cruise/tour package includes a group departure transfer (and your flights coincide with our transfer guidelines) or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Porterage services are not included.

In accordance with Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines, all guests making their own flight arrangements are required to provide Uniworld with their flight information and pre-trip arrangements no later than 45 days prior to departure in order to receive transfers. For complete details, please see the Terms and Conditions section of our current brochure or our website, uniworld.com.

If your cruise/tour package does not contain transfers (i.e., for flights outside of Uniworld's recommended transfer time guidelines or if flight details have not been communicated to Uniworld in time), then please make your own way from the ship or hotel as per your trip itinerary at your own expense.

Private Car Transfers: Guests who make independent flight arrangements and arrive outside Uniworld's transfer guidelines can purchase private car transfers from Uniworld at an additional cost. Private car transfers are only available on the cruise/tour start and end dates.

Please ask your travel agent or Uniworld for details. In some locations, private transfers are not available due to the distance between the airport arrival city and the port of embarkation and disembarkation.

Cruise-Only Guests and Guests with Independent

Arrangements: For guests who are making their own way to the ship and who are not using Uniworld's transfer options, we strongly suggest that you call the ship to determine its exact location before proceeding to the dock. The ship's telephone number will be shown on your Cruise Ticket. Docking assignments for river cruise vessels can change at the last minute, and the information provided on your Cruise Ticket about the expected docking location could be incorrect on your day of arrival. It is not possible for Uniworld to notify guests making their own way to the ship of any sudden changes.

Cruise/tour-only guests may join Uniworld's group transfers or may purchase private transfers for the cruise/tour start and end dates. However, independent flight arrangements must be made in accordance with Uniworld's recommended transfer guidelines, which are coordinated with the ship's required time of disembarkation for all guests, and must be provided to Uniworld no later than 45 days prior to departure.

Late Flight Arrivals/Missed Flights: If your package includes a Uniworld arrival transfer and you experience a travel delay of any kind, please adhere to the following instructions:

Advise an airline representative at the airport that you are a cruise passenger set to sail that day or the following day. Typically, airlines are able to arrange alternative flights for passengers to continue with their travel to the point of embarkation.

Upon clearing customs in the cruise or tour start city, look for the Uniworld representative outside the customs area. Depending on the nature of the delay, Uniworld's ground staff can, at times, track flight changes. If your flight arrangements were drastically altered, it is unlikely that the ground staff will be notified in time of your specific flight changes. And, due to security protocols enacted post-September 11, 2001, airlines very rarely provide updated flight information to third parties.

If you cannot find the Uniworld representative, please contact the Transfer Provider in your arrival city. Their contact information is shown in the transfer section of your Cruise Ticket. If unable to match you up with a scheduled group transfer, the Transfer Provider will ask you to make your own way to the ship or hotel at your own expense. Costs incurred due to missed transfers are the responsibility of the guest; in most cases, compensation can be obtained from your travel protection plan provider or airline carrier.

If your delay is serious enough that you miss the starting point of your cruise, you will need to get to the next stop on the ship's itinerary at your own expense. Using the ship's phone number shown on your Cruise Ticket, please contact the ship for its exact location on your revised date of arrival. The ship's personnel will advise you of the best course of action. Uniworld is not responsible for missed transfers or additional costs incurred in getting to the next destination due to missed or delayed flight arrangements.

Baggage Delays: Baggage delays do unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. First and foremost, do not leave the baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If you are traveling with a companion, we recommend that one (1) person exit the baggage claim area and locate the transfer representative to inform him or her of the situation. This will allow the representative to ensure that transfers are properly provided. Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary and the ship's contact information. Report your lost baggage to the Uniworld representative and provide your Uniworld Cruise Manager with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. This will assist our staff in helping to locate your baggage as quickly as possible. Uniworld is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to baggage and/or personal belongings. A protection plan covering lost, stolen, or damaged baggage is available through the Uniworld Travel Protection Plan.

Pre-Cruise Included Land Program

All Uniworld land programs are fully hosted and include daily breakfast, transfers, and portage. Most feature at least one (1) special sightseeing program. Your on-site Uniworld representative will host a welcome briefing the evening of your first day to familiarize you with the scheduled program and to provide additional information about optional excursion programs, dining recommendations, and shopping tips. Details about your pre-cruise land stay are included with your final documents.

Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel. This is not always possible due to differences in hotel check-in times and scheduled airport-to-hotel transfers. A short wait for your room to become available may be unavoidable.

Embarkation/Disembarkation

Embarkation: The ship will overnight in Porto on the day of embarkation. However, guests are to be onboard no later than 5:00 p.m. The Captain's Welcome Cocktail Reception will commence at 6:00 p.m.

On embarkation day, the ship is being cleaned and prepared for your arrival. Most of the ship's facilities, including your stateroom, will not be available before 4:00 p.m. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. Should you arrive at the ship earlier than 4:00 p.m, you may leave your baggage at the Front Desk and take a walk in the area or relax in the lounge. Please keep your hand baggage with you at all times. Complimentary coffee, water, and light snacks will be available in the lounge for your enjoyment.

Disembarkation: About two (2) evenings before your departure from the ship, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what to expect on the morning of disembarkation and what time to have baggage available for pick-up; the Cruise Manager will also distribute any documentation necessary to make your departure as smooth as possible.

All guests must vacate their staterooms no later than 8:00 a.m. the day of disembarkation so the staff and crew can prepare for the next group of guests. Breakfast hours are coordinated around airport transfer times, which, in some cases, can be very early in the morning. It is not unusual in some destinations to have airport transfers as early as 4:00 a.m. In such cases, guests will be offered coffee, tea, juices, and pastries.

About Your Uniworld Cruise Package and Onboard Services

Dining

Your ship's onboard Restaurant provides a relaxed environment and accommodates all guests with open seating. It offers international and local cuisine. Breakfast and lunch are sumptuous buffets, with evenings featuring chef's specialties and regional dishes. Soft drinks will be complimentary at onboard lunches. During onboard dinners, complimentary red and white house wine, ice water, iced tea, draught beer, and soft drinks will be included. Complimentary hot coffee and tea will be served during all meals.

Complimentary beverages may only be consumed in the Dining Room. All meal-times are scheduled around tour departures, and breakfast can take place very early in the morning.

Please notify Uniworld immediately if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be taken into account while traveling with us. We will do our best to ensure that your request is accommodated, but we cannot guarantee that this will happen in all cases.

Elevator

The *Douro Spirit* is equipped with an elevator that services all decks except the sun deck. Access to the sun deck from the ship's top interior deck is available by a stairway chair lift.

Front Desk

The Front Desk is open during the day to assist you. At night, it will be closed; however, a night watchman will be on duty.

Gift Shop

There is a gift shop onboard with a limited selection of toiletries, souvenirs, and other sundries. All purchases are charged to your shipboard account. The hours of operation are adjusted to each day's program.

Gratuities

Onboard: Gratuities are customary expressions of appreciation for a job well done, and it is our goal to ensure that the service you receive is as wonderful as the sites you visit. The amount of the gratuity you choose to give is entirely subject to your satisfaction with your travel experience. To assist you in determining the amount of your gratuities, we recommend the following as a guideline:

- Ship staff and crew: €10 per guest, per day to be shared among all staff and crew
- Cruise Manager: €3 per guest, per day
- Local host or hostess for included or optional extensions: €3 per guest, per day
- Local guides: from €1 per guest for a half-day tour to €1 to €2 per guest for a full-day tour
- Drivers: €1 per guest, per day

Please note: € = Euro

The above is solely a guideline. The amount you give should depend upon your personal experience and level of satisfaction. Gratuities cannot be billed to onboard accounts or paid with a credit card, so please ensure that you have cash on hand for this expense. Travelers checks are not suitable for paying gratuities, as banks in Portugal require the issuer of the checks to countersign the checks at the bank.

Health & Hygiene

As part of our commitment to a clean, safe, and healthy onboard environment, the *Douro Spirit* practices a strict sanitization protocol. To assist us in this important matter, we kindly ask all guests to wash their hands frequently and to consistently use the hand sanitizer machines when entering the ship and when entering the Restaurant. The machines are located just inside the main entrance to the ship and at the entrance to the Restaurant. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this important matter.

Ice Machine

There are no ice machines onboard for guest use.

Internet Facilities

The Email/Internet Corner allows you to access the Internet and send and receive emails from the ship's two computer stations. Wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) is also available and you may access the system using your own laptop computer. Use of the Internet Corner and Wi-Fi service is complimentary. Internet communications are occasionally unavailable due to signal loss resulting from the ship's location within the river's deep canyons. Front Desk staff will inform guests when to expect these communications black-outs.

Laundry

Laundry services are available onboard. Please inquire at the Front Desk for a list of services and fees. There is no self-service laundry facility.

Local and Onboard Money Matters

Currency in Portugal and Spain is the Euro. The Euro comes in banknote denominations of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500. One Euro is divided into 100 Cents, and coin denominations are 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 Cents or 1 Euro and 2 Euro.

The *Douro Spirit* features a "cashless" environment onboard, and all charges are billed directly to each guest's onboard account. The onboard currency is the Euro. While onboard, guests can sign for all purchases and pay their charges at the end of the cruise with a credit card; cards accepted are American Express, MasterCard, and Visa. Credit cards will be charged in Euros. Debit cards and travelers checks cannot be accepted for settling the onboard account.

Alternatively, if paying by cash, the currency accepted onboard for settlement of final bills is the Euro. The ships do not have an ATM, but ATMs linked to major bank networks can be found in Portugal and Spain. Most debit or major credit cards can be used for cash withdrawals ashore. Credit cards cannot be accepted for money exchange. Most hotels and major tourist sites have exchange facilities.

Please note that currency exchange transactions and ATM cash withdrawals always involve transaction fees. It is always best to inquire about the fee before exchanging any money. ATMs will typically ask you if you accept the fee before enabling the transaction.

Lounges

The Panoramic Lounge provides spectacular, expansive views at every turn. Relax in the comfort of soft chairs and sofas upholstered in fine fabrics and leathers. Enjoy the full-service bar and local entertainment on select evenings. Complimentary coffee and tea are available here from 6:00 a.m. (or 7:00 a.m. depending on the daily program) until 6:00 p.m.

Mail

Stamps are available for purchase at the Front Desk. Mail is posted daily unless local mail facilities are not available.

Mooring and Docking Facilities

Local river authorities allocate docking space around ship arrivals and departures in port. Typically, river ships always dock facing upstream, against the current. Occasionally, port conditions require ships to tie up alongside each other, in which case guests may be required to walk through another ship to get to their own ship. This is part of the river cruise experience and is perfectly normal and beyond the control of Uniworld. Guests may experience obstructed views from staterooms when the ship is docked.

Safety Deposit Box

Each stateroom comes equipped with a safe. We urge you to leave valuable jewelry at home. We are not responsible for any valuables left in the stateroom. Any charge to return "lost and found property" onboard will be at the owner's expense. Please beware of pickpockets when ashore.

Shopping

Time for shopping is usually but not always allowed for within the framework of most of the sightseeing programs. Actual time available for shopping may be limited by tour constraints. Shopping recommendations can be made by your Cruise Manager and shipboard staff. Larger stores accept most major credit cards. Market vendors and small stores will usually only accept local currency. It is a good idea to take a small amount of cash for on-the-spot gratuities or for purchasing souvenirs or sundries.

Shore Excursions

Each cruise and tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions with a local English-speaking guide designed to provide you with the best possible experience ashore. A complete day-by-day shore excursion itinerary is provided in this booklet. Details for your particular itinerary can also be found at uniworld.com. Occasionally, we may offer an optional excursion for purchase. If an optional excursion is offered, it will be subject to cancellation if a minimum number of participants is not met.

Smoking

The ship enjoys a non-smoking environment in all public areas, in the staterooms, and on the balconies. Smoking is only allowed on the upper sun deck.

Stateroom Amenities

Every riverview stateroom is appointed with an individual thermostat for air-conditioning, a flat-screen TV, a hair dryer, a vanity and make-up mirror, built-in closets, a safe, and a bathroom. Electrical current is 220V, the European standard. Most staterooms have hotel-style beds that can be positioned separately or together. Staterooms and suites have French balconies. Your stateroom will be serviced by your Cabin Attendant on a daily basis. Security and maintenance checks may also be performed.

Swimming Pool

A small swimming pool is located on the sun deck for your enjoyment.

Visa Requirements

No visas are required for US or Canadian citizens on any of the itineraries operated on the Douro River. Non-US or non-Canadian citizens must contact each consulate of the country or countries to be visited for specific requirements. Information for US and Canadian citizens can also be found at uniworld.com in the “Before You Go” section.

Obtaining and carrying the proper documents, including passports, is the sole responsibility of the guest. Uniworld will not be responsible for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your cruise/tour, that are related to improper travel documentation. All guests are strongly advised to obtain necessary visas well in advance to avoid unnecessary expedited-processing charges.

When using a visa service, it is highly recommended that you provide the service with a copy of your entire travel itinerary. There are times when multiple entry visas may be required, or there may be restrictions to entering one country from another depending on your nationality. If the service does not have your full itinerary, this may result in improperly issued documentation.

Visitors

Visitors are generally not permitted onboard the ship and not allowed to join any shore excursions. Please make arrangements to meet your friends and relatives onshore.

Water

The tap water in each stateroom is safe for drinking. The ship has been outfitted with a sophisticated filtration system.

Weather

Today, weather forecasts are widely available at the click of a button on the Internet. Uniworld’s favorite resource for up-to-the-minute international weather is weather.com. Weather.com features a very informative vacation-planner tool that you may find useful.

What to Wear

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions, depending on your travel season. Layering clothing items is smart because it allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperatures, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. Everyday slacks, khakis, walking shorts, and everyday skirts/dresses are recommended. For warmer temperatures, we suggest lightweight clothing that can be layered, such as a mix of sweaters, lightweight knit shirts, slacks, and walking shorts. For early spring and late fall departures, you’ll find sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants perfectly suitable. Mix-and-match color schemes work best to help keep baggage light. You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Sturdy sandals are another good option.

For evenings, any resort-type wear is perfectly suitable; however, we do ask that you not wear shorts to dinner. Men may want to bring one sport jacket for dressier restaurant venues in cities like Lisbon and for the onboard Captain’s Dinner. Women find that one or two cocktail dresses always come in handy no matter the destination.

Don’t forget to pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) or even a heavier-weight windbreaker, for colder temperatures.

Omissions

Uniworld is not responsible for omissions, printing, and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented; we reserve the right to make corrections as required.



Portugal, Spain & the Douro River Valley

Lisbon to Porto | 11 Days

Travel Europe's most unspoiled UNESCO World Heritage-designated river valley through Portugal and Spain

The Douro River, rising in Spain and reaching the Atlantic Ocean in Porto, has created the spectacular Douro River Valley over the course of many centuries. Rambling vineyards and charming farms called quintas cling to the steep sides of the valley, creating an incomparable backdrop to one of Europe's most unspoiled regions and to Port country—the oldest demarcated wine region in the world.

Explore the seven hills of cosmopolitan Lisbon, uncovering a treasure trove of Old World architecture. Visit Coimbra, the "Birthplace of Kings"; Porto, the beautiful "City of Bridges"; Guimarães, which has been named a 2012 European Cultural Capital; and Salamanca, Spain, whose entire Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taste a variety of wines from village vineyards, including Port, the region's sweet fortified wine. Feast on a traditional dinner at a quinta overlooking the Douro Valley and enjoy a Spanish-style lunch complete with a flamenco show in Salamanca. Along the way, uncover a land

of breathtaking beauty and genuine charm, and meet warm-hearted, friendly people who welcome you with open arms.

Day 1 | Lisbon 🚗

Arrive at Lisbon Portela Airport. If your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the hotel.

Day 2 | Lisbon BB

Featured Excursions: Lisbon city tour 🕒 🚶 🚗

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Intimate Lisbon: an afternoon of local experience 🕒 🚶 🚗 🍷 🍴

When the Portuguese owned the seas, circumnavigating the globe and opening distant regions up to trade, Lisbon was among the most important of world capitals. Today the city is a picturesque, vibrant, and colorful place that will continually surprise you. Built on seven hills and situated along the sloping banks of the Tagus River, Lisbon has a special appeal.

Your journey will begin in one of the most historic districts of the city, Belém, where you'll see Torre de Belém (Belém Tower). Built in the 16th century, the fortress was originally situated in the middle of the river. Now, the fortress sits squarely at the edge of the northern riverbank. You can pay homage to the nation's great explorers at the Padrão dos Descobrimentos (Monument to the Discoveries), which is located nearby; the monument was built to honor the fifth centennial of the death of Prince Henry the Navigator, a prominent 15th-century patron of ocean exploration. You'll also view the Palácio de Belém (Presidential Palace), which is adjacent to the Paço da Ribeira—the former Royal Palace.

The next stop, at the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos (Jeronimos Monastery), will really have you reaching for your camera. Along with Belém Tower, the monastery is a masterpiece of Manueline—or Portuguese late Gothic—architecture. Built during the 16th century and decorated with sculptures and Gothic scrollwork, Jeronimos Monastery is another shining example of Portugal's Golden Era.

Moving on to the center of Lisbon, you'll pass under one of the most spectacular bridges in the world, the Ponte 25 de Abril (25th of April Bridge). You'll stroll through the Alfama district, also known as Old Town. This historic district survived a devastating earthquake in 1755, and today its narrow streets, lined with Moorish architecture, are a pleasure to walk through.

After you've had time to look around, a motorcoach will take you through Lisbon's main square, the Praça de Dom Pedro IV, or Rossio. Rebuilt in the 18th century, after the great earthquake of 1755, the Rossio is the busiest square in Lisbon. It was once used as a cattle market, public execution center, bullfighting arena, and carnival ground. Today, the Rossio delights both locals and tourists with its well-known cafés. Local guides will make suggestions for lunch. You can choose to remain downtown and explore on your own or to return to the hotel by motorcoach. The afternoon is yours to do with as you please.

Consider joining us on our wonderful optional excursion, which will give you a taste of Portuguese daily life.




Irresistible Optional Excursion: Intimate Lisbon: an afternoon of local experience






This optional tour begins with a guided visit to Casa-Museu Fundação Medeiros e Almeida (Medeiros e Almeida Museum), the former home of António de Medeiros e Almeida (1895–1986), which was transformed into a house-museum in the 1970s. In addition to housing a priceless collection of 17th- to 20th-century artwork, the museum features the perfectly preserved private rooms and gardens of its former owner, which you will get to visit today for an intimate taste of Portuguese life.

Next, you'll visit Bairro Alto, the cultural and bohemian heart of Lisbon. On your way there, you'll enjoy a fantastic view of the city from the vantage point of São Pedro de Alcantara Belvedere. Once you reach Bairro Alto, you'll head immediately to one of the city's most interesting churches—São Roque, whose plain façade hides a magnificent Baroque interior.

Then you'll continue on to a typical local wine shop, offering Portuguese vintages from every region; here, you will sample the country's wine and receive an explanation about what makes it unique. Afterward, you'll head back to your hotel.

Day 3 | Lisbon BB

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Queluz Palace, Sintra, Cascais, and Estoril   

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Fado show with dinner     

You'll have a whole day to explore the Portuguese capital further. Lisbon hosts a great number of remarkable museums of ancient and modern art, such as the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian (Calouste Gulbenkian Museum) and the Museu Berardo (Berardo Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art). When tired of sightseeing, you can

indulge in Lisbon's excellent shopping. The biggest shopping mall in the Iberian Peninsula, Centro Comercial Colombo, will offer you innumerable options. If you prefer to shop in local markets, there is a fascinating flea market at the Campo de Santa Clara. Alternatively, you may want to join us on our optional outing to stunning Queluz, Sintra, and Cascais; also, in the evening, you can join us to experience the country's national music treasure—fado—along with traditional food during our optional fado dinner.

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Queluz Palace, Sintra, Estoril, and Cascais

Your trip will begin with an inside visit to Palácio Nacional de Queluz (Queluz Palace), an 18th-century palace which—though it is much smaller—is often referred to as the Portuguese Versailles. Queluz Palace boasts the country's finest example of Rococo architecture, as well as beautiful formal gardens with an azulejo-lined canal, where the royal family used to go boating.

Then you'll explore the breathtaking city of Sintra, whose majestic hills are dotted with fairytale palaces and extravagant villas. Sintra has a long and storied history. The Romans made it a place of moon worship and named it Cynthia, after the goddess of the moon. Next came the Moors, who fell in love with the area's lush vegetation and built a hilltop castle and several fountains around the town. Later, the town became the summer residence of the Portuguese royal family and attracted a number of wealthy aristocrats who built huge mansions and villas there. It is an extraordinary place with an exhilarating blend of history and fantasy, and it is a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site.

You'll take a guided tour through the remarkable Palácio Nacional de Sintra (Sintra National Palace). Originally a Moorish structure, it was converted into a palace in the 15th century. Gaze in awe at its magnificent painted ceilings, spectacular tiled walls, and intricately designed 16th-century arabesque doorways. The private chapel has a 14th-century chestnut- and oak-ceiling and a mosaic floor. The Sala dos Brasões (Coats-of-Arms Room) has a domed ceiling adorned by 76 painted stags holding the coats of arms of noble families. After the tour of the palace, enjoy some free time exploring the town on your own and visiting the local shops. Sintra is a wonderful place to look for Portuguese handicrafts.

Your last stop will be in the charming seaside resort of Cascais. Here, you'll find quaint beaches and promenades along the shore, as well as narrow cobblestone streets full of outdoor cafés. You'll have free time to enjoy the lovely scenery, meander through the village, and have lunch on your own.

Your trip back to the hotel will take you via the coastal road past the elegant residential area of Estoril, where the European jet set used to socialize during WWII.

Irresistible Optional Excursion: Fado show with dinner

Fado is the bittersweet folk music native to Lisbon, and tonight is your chance to experience this form of “Lisbon blues” in a special evening out on the town. Join us on our optional excursion to enjoy a traditional dinner along with melancholy, nostalgic fado (and occasionally jaunty!) songs of the sea.

Day 4 | **Lisbon, Coimbra, Porto**   **BB, L, D**

Featured Excursion: Coimbra tour with family-style lunch



You'll check out of your Lisbon hotel and board a motorcoach for the drive to Porto, heading north out of town through Portugal's picturesque countryside.




In the middle of the journey is Coimbra, Portugal's third-largest city and intellectual seat. It's the birthplace of six of Portugal's kings and home to the Universidade de Coimbra (University of Coimbra), one of the oldest universities in Europe. The Biblioteca Joanina (Joanina Library) is the jewel of the university. Housing more than 300,000 books, including some from the 12th century, it is one of the most beautiful libraries in the world.

After a panoramic tour of delightful Coimbra, you'll stop for a hearty lunch at a local family-run restaurant. Then you'll continue straight into thrilling Porto, where you will board your ship.

Porto is Portugal's second-largest city and the origin of the name for Port wine. It is nicknamed “the city of the six bridges.” All the major vineyards have Port houses in Porto, which can be easily spotted by their vintage signs and trademark red roofs. For hundreds of years, vintners have brought their wine here to age in oak barrels before bottling it and sending it out to the rest of the world.





You'll have the opportunity to explore exciting Porto at night. Feel free to enjoy a walk along the river's famous boardwalk.

Day 5 | **Porto (Guimarães), Bitetos BB, L, D**

Featured Excursion: Guimarães city tour    

Historic Guimarães was the first capital of Portugal in the 12th century and home to the first king of Portugal, Don Afonso Henriques. It has been referred to as the birthplace of the Portuguese nation. Dominated by Afonso Henriques's grand castle, Guimarães was recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its extremely well-preserved city center; it has also been honored as a 2012 European Cultural Capital. You will be guided through the narrow streets of the city's Medieval quarter, which is lined with old houses embellished with ornate balconies, toward the beautiful main square, the Largo da Oliveira, and then on to other lovely places such as the splendid Monastery and Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira, the Ducal Palace, and the 14th-century Gothic Padrão do Salado. Enjoy some free time in Old Town before heading back to Porto. After lunch onboard, the *Douro Spirit* will set sail down river to the mouth of the Douro before heading upstream to Bitetos in the late afternoon. Settle into a comfortable seat on the deck of your floating hotel and take in the scenery. Sip some wine or Port. Revel in fascinating conversation. Savor the enchanting Portuguese night.

Day 6 | **Régua, Pinhão BB, L, D**

Featured Excursion: Visit to the Museu do Douro, and Mateus Palace and Gardens    

Featured Excursion: Dinner at Quinta da Avessada



Enjoy a leisurely morning of sailing before arriving in Régua, home to the recently opened Museu do Douro (Douro Museum). A local expert will introduce you to the region's unique people, geology, and winemaking history at a lecture inside the museum.

After lunch, a motorcoach will meet you pier-side for a scenic drive to Casa de Mateus (Mateus Palace). Often described as the most fantastic country house in Portugal, Mateus Palace and its handsome Baroque façade became world famous when they were featured on the label of Mateus Rosé wine.

Built in 1745 and accented by beautiful roof pinnacles and an ornate, balustraded stairway, the palace is considered a perfect example of Baroque architecture. During the guided tour, get a glimpse into the lives of the Portuguese aristocracy as you admire their 18th-century furniture and carved chestnut ceilings; the Four Seasons Room, which takes its name from its large paintings; and the Blue Room, which features Chinese porcelain.

Behind the palace is a delightful garden—one of the most beautiful in Europe—with box hedges, statues, and a spectacular cedar tunnel that is about 115 feet (35 m) long. Marvel at the garden's lovely camellias and topiary work. Stop by the gift shop for recordings of concerts performed at the palace and local wine or jams produced and labeled under the Casa de Mateus brand.

After you visit the gardens, a motorcoach will take you for a scenic drive back through the steep, vineyard-covered hills to the ship, which is awaiting you in Pinhão. Encircled by terraced hillsides that produce some of the world's best Port, the tiny village of Pinhão is spectacularly located at the confluence of the Douro and Pinhão rivers.

This evening you'll be taken to the family-owned winery Quinta da Avesada for a rustic country dinner and wine tasting. Built a century ago and located in the heart of the Douro region, this quinta produces delicious Moscatels using sweet, floral Muscat grapes.

Note: The number of visitors at Mateus Palace is regulated by a strict set of time slots, and occasionally there may be a wait.

Day 7 | Pinhão, Vega de Terrón (Spain) BB, L

Featured Excursion: Wine tasting at a local quinta



Pinhão is the epicenter of the Port winemaking region and a place where the soil and climate are considered to be at their very best for this activity. Although a sleepy town for most of the year, Pinhão bursts into life in autumn during the annual grape harvest, attracting pickers from all over the country. Pinhão is dominated by its various Port wine lodges, and even the train station has a display of azulejos (hand-painted tiles) depicting the grape harvest.

This morning you will have an opportunity to learn more about—and sample!—the country's most celebrated beverage. You will board a motorcoach for a scenic ride to the beautiful Quinta do Seixo wine estate. Discover the history of the oldest demarcated wine region in the world and one of the most prestigious international Port wine brands through a visit to the winery and the vineyard. Observe the work of the robotic *lagares*, which simulate conventional foot treading and provide greater control over the winemaking process. This system represents an excellent compromise between traditional and modern methods.






You will feel, see, and taste the wine in its own environment. The modernity of the automated grape-treading basins, the design of the wine tasting room with its stunning view over

the region, the wines themselves—everything works together to create an unforgettable experience.

Return to the ship for lunch and be amazed by the breathtaking scenery surrounding you as you cruise the upper Douro River Valley, considered one of the most beautiful and pristine waterways in all of Europe. The region boasts dramatic vistas, beautiful stone houses, bountiful countryside, and terraced vineyards. Sit on the deck of your floating hotel and take in the immaculate beauty of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A special Captain's Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 8 | Vega de Terrón (Salamanca, Spain) BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Full-day Salamanca tour with a traditional Spanish lunch and flamenco show     

A motorcoach will take you from the border town of Vega de Terrón through the beautiful fields of the Iberian *meseta* (plateau) to the university town of Salamanca. The journey begins at the banks of the Douro and Agueda rivers, and continues along a flat landscape leading to the famous Campo Charro on the outskirts of Salamanca. Because of the charming town's well-preserved architecture, it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In central areas, all recently constructed buildings are built in Salamanca's best architectural tradition, using special Villamayor sandstone. Local guides will talk about the history and customs of this region. You'll learn, for example, that the language of Salamanca is considered the purest form of Spanish spoken today. For this reason, Salamanca is a popular destination for people all over the world who want to learn the Spanish language.

Through the centuries, Salamanca's sandstone buildings have developed an exquisite golden glow that has given the town the nickname "La Ciudad Dorada," meaning the golden city. The city was founded in the pre-Roman period by the Vacceos, an indigenous tribe. Then, in the third century, Hannibal and the army of Carthage laid siege to the city. The only thing that survived was the Puente Romano (Roman Bridge), built by the Romans in the first century. This bridge, which offers a stunning view of the city, is a pedestrian walkway today.

The city of Salamanca is probably best known as the home of the oldest university in Spain and one of the oldest in Europe. Commissioned in 1218 by King Alfonso IX, la Universidad de Salamanca (Salamanca University) still gives an intellectual ambiance to the town and offers some of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in Spain.

Because Spain's museums and shops are closed in the afternoon for siesta, you'll have leisure time to explore this jewel of a city while those venues are still open. Check out the fascinating Casa Lis—an Art Nouveau and Art Deco Museum—or the Museo de Historia de la Automoción (Automobile Museum).

Experience lunch at a local restaurant, where you'll enjoy hearty Spanish fare with regional wine and a flamenco show. Then it will be time to meet your guides for a walking tour of the city. You'll start at one of the finest squares in Spain, the Plaza Mayor, known as the living room of the Salamantinos. It's the perfect place to sit, people-watch, and shop. Its 18th-century Baroque architecture includes Spanish decorations of cut tablets and equilateral arches.

Your next stop is Salamanca University, where you'll learn about the university's impressive history. But before you go inside, take time to examine the university's façade, which is a stunning example of ornate Plateresque architecture from the 15th and 16th centuries.

After visiting the university, you'll go to the Catedral Nueva (New Cathedral), which was started in 1512 to help stabilize the deteriorating Catedral Vieja (Old Cathedral). It displays several architectural styles, including Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance. The interior architecture and decorations of the New Cathedral are rich and elegant. Be sure to see the Golden Chapel, the Chapel of the Veil, and the Chapel of St. Roque. The Plateresque-style organ was constructed in 1568. Today, the New Cathedral provides the only entrance to the Romanesque Old Cathedral, which was built in the 12th century. Take a look at the cathedral's altarpiece, which boasts 53 panels painted by the Italian artist Nicolas Florentino.

After the cathedral, it's on to Rua Mayor, the ultimate souvenir-shopping street. While you walk through the street, the guide will call attention to some popular souvenirs, like charro buttons and dolls wearing the traditional garb of the region.

Having seen and photographed this beautiful city, explored its streets, and stared in awe at its amazing works of architecture, it's time to board the motorcoach and return to the ship.

Day 9 | Barca d'Alva (Castelo Rodrigo), Régua BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Castelo Rodrigo tour   

After breakfast you'll board a motorcoach and ride to Castelo Rodrigo for a special off-the-beaten-path expedition. Atop Serra da Marofa (Marofa Mountain), this location became the perfect place for a powerful citadel. The construction of the fortress began in 1209, and the town of Castelo was granted a royal charter. After seeing the castle, you'll walk through to the Rocamadour Church, as well as the pillory, resplendent in Manueline style.

If you would like to experience a bit more, continue walking to the former Jewish Quarter, the Rua da Sinagoga, exploring the old streets of the village before moving on. The town's market square features a uniquely decorated public fountain, Chafariz dos Pretos. Next, pop into Castelo Rodrigo's recently restored teahouse. Enjoy a cup of tea or a cool drink, and then stop next door at a lovely shop that offers locally made products such as honey, cheese, wine, and seasonal herbs.

Afterward, you'll return to the ship for lunch. Relax onboard this afternoon and admire the enchanting beauty of the Douro River and its waterside villages.

Day 10 | Porto BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Porto city tour   

Spend the morning sailing along the Douro back to Porto. Also known as Oporto, Porto can trace its history back to Roman times, when the city was a fortress named Portus Cale (Harbor of Cale). Located on the northern bank of the Douro River, just off the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, it has always been a city of commerce, trading everything from spices and gold to its beloved Port wine. The city that gave the country its name has a well-preserved metropolitan center that is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your afternoon tour will show you all the charms of this capital of northern Portugal. You'll begin with a stroll to one of the cavernous warehouses that line the Vila Nova de Gaia. Each warehouse is marked with the name of a prestigious Port brand; you'll learn about the history of Port wine and sample a glass of this world-famous export.

Then you'll board a motorcoach to cross the river before stopping at the Neoclassical Palácio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange Palace). This UNESCO World Heritage Site boasts two architectural jewels: the Hall of Nations and the famed Arab Room. Next, you'll stop in Rua Santa Catarina—Porto's lively pedestrian-friendly shopping street. When you've finished perusing the lovely storefronts, cross the city's

iconic 19th-century iron bridge, built by the school of Gustav Eiffel, for magnificent views of Old Town and Sé do Porto (Porto Cathedral). Located atop Pena Ventosa Hill, the cathedral was built from the late 12th century to the 17th century. The cathedral's style was continuously modified until the 20th century, which means that its architectural elements display everything from Romanesque to Gothic and Baroque styles.

After your tour, you can join us on a walking tour of the waterfront Ribeira District, or you can spend some time downtown exploring, shopping, taking pictures, and admiring the city at your leisure. Maps will be provided, highlighting places of interest for you to seek out if you desire.

Our guided walking tour of the UNESCO-designated Cais Da Ribeira (Ribeira District) will introduce you to the district's winding Medieval streets and charming outdoor cafés. Here, in the shadow of Porto's iconic Pont Dom Luís I (Luís I Bridge), you'll encounter colorful houses and a floating cube fountain. You'll also get a great view of the Port wine lodges lining the Vila Nova de Gaia across the river.

Day 11 | Depart Porto CB/BB  

Disembark the ship. If your cruise/tour package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Porto Airport for your flight home.



Portugal, Spain & the Douro River Valley

Porto to Porto | 8 Days

Travel Europe's most unspoiled UNESCO World Heritage-designated river valley through Portugal and Spain




The Douro River, rising in Spain and reaching the Atlantic Ocean in Porto, has created the spectacular Douro River Valley over the course of many centuries. Rambling vineyards and charming native farms called quintas cling to the steep sides of the valley, creating an incomparable backdrop to one of Europe's most unspoiled regions and to Port country—the oldest demarcated wine region in the world.

Explore Porto, the beautiful “City of Bridges”; Guimarães, which has been named a 2012 European Cultural Capital; and Salamanca, Spain, whose entire Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taste a variety of local wines from village vineyards, including Port, the region's sweet fortified wine. Feast on a traditional dinner at a quinta overlooking the Douro Valley and enjoy a Spanish-style lunch complete with a flamenco show in Salamanca. Along the way, uncover a land of breathtaking beauty and genuine charm, and meet warm-hearted, friendly people who welcome you with open arms.

Day 1 | Porto





Arrive in Porto. If your cruise package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the ship.

Day 2 | Porto (Guimarães), Bitetos BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Guimarães city tour    

Historic Guimarães was the first capital of Portugal in the 12th century and home to the first king of Portugal, Don Afonso Henriques. It has been referred to as the birthplace of the Portuguese nation. Dominated by Afonso Henriques's grand castle, Guimarães was recently declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its extremely well-preserved city center; it has also been honored as a 2012 European Cultural Capital. You will be guided through the narrow streets of the city's Medieval quarter, which is lined with old houses embellished by ornate balconies, toward the beautiful main square, the Largo da Oliveira, and then on to other lovely places such as the splendid Monastery and Church of Nossa Senhora da Oliveira, the Ducal Palace, and the 14th-century Gothic Padrão do Salado. Enjoy some free time in Old Town before heading back to Porto. After lunch onboard, the *Douro Spirit* will set sail down river to the mouth of the Douro before heading upstream to Bitetos in the late afternoon. Settle into a comfortable seat on the deck of your floating hotel and take in the scenery. Sip some wine or Port. Revel in fascinating conversation. Savor the enchanting Portuguese night.

Day 3 | Régua, Pinhão BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Visit to the Museu do Douro and to Mateus Palace and Gardens    

Featured Excursion: Dinner at Quinta da Avesada



Enjoy a leisurely morning of sailing before arriving in Régua, home to the recently opened Museu do Douro (Douro Museum). A local expert will introduce you to the region's unique people, geology, and winemaking history at a lecture inside the museum.

After lunch, a motorcoach will meet you pier-side for a scenic drive to Casa de Mateus (Mateus Palace). Often described as the most fantastic country house in Portugal, Mateus Palace and its handsome Baroque façade became world-famous when they were featured on the label of Mateus Rosé wine.

Built in 1745 and accented by beautiful roof pinnacles and an ornate, balustraded stairway, the palace is considered a perfect example of Baroque architecture. During the guided tour, get a glimpse into the lives of the Portuguese aristocracy as you admire their 18th-century furniture and carved chestnut ceilings; the Four Seasons Room, which takes its name from its large paintings; and the Blue Room, which features Chinese porcelain.

Behind the palace is a delightful garden—one of the most beautiful in Europe—with box hedges, statues, and a spectacular cedar tunnel that is about 115 feet (35 m) long. Marvel at the garden's lovely camellias and topiary work. Stop by the gift shop for recordings of concerts performed at the palace and local wine or jams produced and labeled under the Casa de Mateus brand.

After you visit the gardens, a motorcoach will take you for a scenic drive back through the steep, vineyard-covered hills to the ship, which is awaiting you in Pinhão. Encircled by terraced hillsides that produce some of the world's best Port, the tiny village of Pinhão is spectacularly located at the confluence of the Douro and Pinhão rivers.

This evening, you'll be taken to the family-owned winery Quinta da Avesada for a rustic dinner and wine tasting. Built a century ago and located in the heart of the Douro region, this quinta produces delicious Moscatels using sweet, floral Muscat grapes.

Note: The number of visitors at Mateus Palace is regulated by a strict set of time slots, and occasionally there may be a wait.

Day 4 | Pinhão, Vega de Terrón (Spain) BB, L

Featured Excursion: Wine tasting at a local quinta



Pinhão is the epicenter of the Port winemaking region and a place where the soil and climate are considered to be at their very best for this activity. Although a sleepy town for most of the year, Pinhão bursts into life in autumn during the annual grape harvest, attracting pickers from all over the country. Pinhão is dominated by its various Port wine lodges, and even the train station has a display of azulejos (hand-painted tiles) depicting the grape harvest.

This morning you will have an opportunity to learn more about—and sample!—the country's most celebrated beverage. You will board a motorcoach for a scenic ride to the beautiful Quinta do Seixo wine estate. Discover the history of the oldest demarcated wine region in the world and one of the most prestigious international Port wine


brands through a visit to the winery and the vineyard. Observe the work of the robotic *lagares*, which simulate conventional foot treading and provide greater control over the winemaking process. This system represents an excellent compromise between traditional and modern methods.

You will feel, see, and taste the wine in its own environment. The modernity of the automated grape-treading basins, the design of the wine tasting room with its stunning view over the region, the wines themselves—everything works together to create an unforgettable experience.

Return to the ship for lunch and be amazed by the breathtaking scenery surrounding you as you cruise the upper Douro River Valley, considered one of the most beautiful and pristine waterways in all of Europe. The region boasts dramatic vistas, beautiful stone houses, bountiful countryside, and terraced vineyards. Sit on the deck of your floating hotel and take in the immaculate beauty of this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A special Captain's Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

Day 5 | Vega de Terrón (Salamanca, Spain) BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Full-day Salamanca tour with a traditional Spanish lunch and flamenco show 

A motorcoach will take you from the border town of Vega de Terrón through the beautiful fields of the Iberian *meseta* (plateau) to the university town of Salamanca. The journey begins at the banks of the Douro and Agueda rivers and continues along a flat landscape leading to the famous Campo Charro on the outskirts of Salamanca. Because of the charming town's well-preserved architecture, it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In central areas, all recently constructed buildings are built in Salamanca's best architectural tradition, using special Villamayor sandstone. Local guides will talk about the history and customs of this region. You'll learn, for example, that the language of Salamanca is considered the purest form of Spanish spoken today. For this reason, Salamanca is a popular destination for people all over the world who want to learn the Spanish language.

Through the centuries, Salamanca's sandstone buildings have developed an exquisite golden glow that has given the town the nickname "La Ciudad Dorada," meaning the golden city. The city was founded in the pre-Roman period by the Vacceos, an indigenous tribe. Then, in the third century, Hannibal and the army of Carthage laid siege to the city. The only thing that survived was the Puente Romano

(Roman Bridge), built by the Romans in the first century. This bridge, which offers a stunning view of the city, is a pedestrian walkway today.

The city of Salamanca is probably best known as the home of the oldest university in Spain and one of the oldest in Europe. Commissioned in 1218 by King Alfonso IX, la Universidad de Salamanca (Salamanca University) still gives an intellectual ambiance to the town and offers some of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in Spain.

Because Spain's museums and shops are closed in the afternoon for siesta, you'll have leisure time to explore this jewel of a city while those venues are still open. Check out the fascinating Casa Lis—an Art Nouveau and Art Deco Museum—or the Museo de Historia de la Automoción (Automobile Museum).

Experience lunch at a local restaurant, where you'll enjoy hearty Spanish fare with regional wine and a flamenco show. Then it will be time to meet your guides for a walking tour of the city. You'll start at one of the finest squares in Spain, the Plaza Mayor, known as the living room of the Salamantinos. It's the perfect place to sit, people-watch, and shop. Its 18th-century Baroque architecture includes Spanish decorations of cut tablets and equilateral arches.

Your next stop is Salamanca University, where you'll learn about the university's impressive history. But before you go inside, take time to examine the university's façade, which is a stunning example of ornate Plateresque architecture from the 15th and 16th centuries.

After visiting the university, you'll go to the Catedral Nueva (New Cathedral), which was started in 1512 to help stabilize the deteriorating Catedral Vieja (Old Cathedral). It displays several architectural styles, including Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance. The interior architecture and decorations of the New Cathedral are rich and elegant. Be sure to see the Golden Chapel, the Chapel of the Veil, and the Chapel of St. Roque. The Plateresque-style organ was constructed in 1568. Today, the New Cathedral provides the only entrance to the Romanesque Old Cathedral, which was built in the 12th century. Take a look at the cathedral's altarpiece, which boasts 53 panels painted by the Italian artist Nicolas Florentino.

After the cathedral, it's on to Rua Mayor, the ultimate souvenir-shopping street. While you walk through the street, the guide will call attention to some popular souvenirs, like charro buttons and dolls wearing the traditional garb of the region.

Having seen and photographed this beautiful city, explored its streets, and stared in awe at its amazing works of architecture, it's time to board the motorcoach and return to the ship.

Day 6 | Barca d'Alva (Castelo Rodrigo), Régua BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Castelo Rodrigo tour   

After breakfast you'll board a motorcoach and ride to Castelo Rodrigo for a special off-the-beaten-path expedition. Atop Serra da Marofa (Marofa Mountain), this location became the perfect place for a powerful citadel. The construction of the fortress began in 1209, and the town of Castelo was granted a royal charter. After seeing the castle, you'll walk through to the Rocamadour Church, as well as the pillory, resplendent in Manueline style.

If you would like to experience a bit more, continue walking to the former Jewish Quarter, the Rua da Sinagoga, exploring the old streets of the village before moving on. The town's market square features a uniquely decorated public fountain, Chafariz dos Pretos. Next, pop into Castelo Rodrigo's recently restored teahouse. Enjoy a cup of tea or a cool drink, and then stop next door at a lovely shop that offers locally made products such as honey, cheese, wine, and seasonal herbs.

Afterward, you'll return to the ship for lunch. Relax onboard this afternoon and admire the enchanting beauty of the Douro River and its waterside villages.

Day 7 | Porto BB, L, D

Featured Excursion: Porto city tour   

Spend the morning sailing along the Douro back to Porto. Also known as Oporto, Porto can trace its history back to Roman times, when the city was a fortress named Portus Cale (Harbor of Cale). Located on the northern bank of the Douro River, just off the coast of the Atlantic Ocean, it has always been a city of commerce, trading everything from spices and gold to its beloved Port wine. The city that gave the country its name has a well-preserved metropolitan center that is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Your afternoon tour will show you all the charms of this capital of northern Portugal. You'll begin with a stroll to one of the cavernous warehouses that line the Vila Nova de Gaia. Each warehouse is marked with the name of a prestigious Port brand; you'll learn about the history of Port wine and sample a glass of this world-famous export.

Then you'll board a motorcoach to cross the river before stopping at the Neoclassical Palácio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange Palace). This UNESCO World Heritage Site boasts two architectural jewels: the Hall of Nations and the famed Arab Room. Next, you'll stop in Rua Santa Catarina—Porto's lively pedestrian-friendly shopping street. When you've finished perusing the lovely storefronts, cross the city's iconic 19th-century iron bridge, built by the school of Gustav Eiffel, for magnificent views of Old Town and Sé do Porto (Porto Cathedral). Located atop Pena Ventosa Hill, the cathedral was built from the late 12th century to the 17th century. The cathedral's style was continuously modified until the 20th century, which means that its architectural elements display everything from Romanesque to Gothic and Baroque styles.

After your tour, you can join us on a walking tour of the waterfront Ribeira District, or you can spend some time downtown exploring, shopping, taking pictures, and admiring the city at your leisure. Maps will be provided, highlighting places of interest for you to seek out if you desire.

Our guided walking tour of the UNESCO-designated Cais Da Ribeira (Ribeira District) will introduce you to the district's winding Medieval streets and charming outdoor cafés. Here, in the shadow of Porto's iconic Pont Dom Luís I (Luís I Bridge), you'll encounter colorful houses and a floating cube fountain. You'll also get a great view of the Port wine lodges lining the Vila Nova de Gaia across the river.

Day 8 | Depart Porto CB/BB

Disembark the ship. If your cruise package includes a group departure transfer or if you have purchased a private departure transfer, you will be transferred to Porto Airport for your flight home.

Tour and General Information

Frequently Asked Questions

What about the weather?

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions, depending on your travel season and the river you will be cruising on. Layering clothing is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperature, by removing or adding items throughout the day.

What should I wear ashore?

Comfortable, sporty, smart-casual daywear is appropriate both onshore and onboard. For holiday season departures, you'll find that coats, sweatshirts, heavier cotton or wool tops and long-sleeved shirts, and corduroy or heavy khaki pants are perfectly suitable. You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Don't forget to pack a waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) or even a heavier-weight coat for colder temperatures.

I have concerns about my physical ability.

What do I do?

Guests with mobility concerns need to discuss their concerns with Uniworld staff in advance of their departure. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them onboard the ships. Also, guests who are limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties, as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions.

How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?

Uniworld does everything possible to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and as outlined in the preceding pages. In certain circumstances or for reasons beyond the control of Uniworld, it may not be possible or practical for the excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision to not operate, to alter the operation, change content, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of the excursion as advertised is at the sole discretion of Uniworld, always taking into account the safety and best interests of

the guests, and the intent of the overall product delivery. Any such modifications to excursions will not result in eligibility for a refund.

Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?

You can count on Uniworld's experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your cruise/tour even when conditions beyond our control occur. The very nature of a river, its sources, and networks of bridges and locks means that there will be times when weather or other conditions in a region require Uniworld to make adjustments and modifications to the operation of an itinerary. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised, Uniworld reserves the right to make changes and substitutions as may be necessary to ensure the safety of our guests and the vessels. Itineraries may need to be altered specifically because of water levels. Time permitting, every possible effort will be made to alert guests in advance of boarding of any known changes. Otherwise, all guests will be informed onboard of changes and amendments. Any changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motorcoach touring to effect delivery of the intended itinerary operation, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

What time will excursions depart?

All shore excursions are carefully coordinated to the ship's daily schedule. Just prior to dinner each evening, or perhaps earlier, your Cruise Manager will brief all guests about what activities will take place the next day. This briefing includes information about departure times, specifics about the shore excursions/tours not covered in this booklet, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, and other important information about the port of call. In addition to the briefing, a daily program will be distributed to each guest's stateroom every evening. This program provides a written overview of all events taking place the next day—whether onboard or ashore.

How can I book the optional excursions listed in the booklet?

Reservations for the optional excursions on your cruise can be made directly with your Cruise Manager onboard the ship. Charges for optional excursions will be added to your onboard account. On pre- and post-cruise extensions, payment for optional excursions will be made directly with your Local Host via credit cards. We cannot accept cash payments for optional excursions. A briefing will be held the day prior to

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