



RIVER CRUISING



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 AUD \$6,667!
- 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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** The Westin Palace, Madrid

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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** The Westin Palace, Madrid
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Madrid Coach Orientation
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** 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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

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 in the town of Pocinho for a choice of excursions; a visit to the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the Côa Valley to see stunning exhibits of rock art from the valley's Paleolithic era, discovered in the 1990s when excavations began for a Côa River dam. Or, a vigorous hike through the countryside. Return to the ship late afternoon, and cruise to Ferradosa.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Pinhao Orientation Walk
- **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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Douro River Museum Guided Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Lamego Visit & Sparkling Wine
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Casa de Mateus Guided Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** 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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Walking Tour of Guimarães
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** 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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Vinho Verde Winery & Afternoon Sail
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Arouca Geopark & Bridge Hike

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. xplore 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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Porto by River, Land & Air
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Walking Tour of Porto & Gaia
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** 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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** InterContinental Lisbon

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
- **ACCOMMODATION:** InterContinental Lisbon
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Sintra & Cascais
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Discovering Lisbon Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Lisbon Terraces Walking Tour

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