



# Villages & Vintages: Cruising the Douro River Valley

*An authentic taste of life in one of the world's most beautiful wine regions*

8 DAYS FROM \$4,990

## 1. Arrive Porto / ■ Embark ms *Andorinha*

**Tour begins: 4:00 PM, ms *Andorinha*.** A transfer is included from Porto's Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport or Porto Campanhã train station to ms *Andorinha* on the Douro. Join us for a welcome reception followed by dinner and onboard entertainment as your riverboat spends the night docked in Porto, the gateway to the Douro Valley. **Meals D**

## 2. ■ Porto and the Douro Valley

Situated in northwest Portugal where the Douro meets the Atlantic Ocean, Porto has been known around the globe as the city from which authentic Port wine has been

shipped throughout the world for nearly three centuries. Rising on staggered hills along the river, this colorful city beckons you to its labyrinthine streets and stairways, medieval alleys, Baroque churches, fountains, and bell towers, Beaux-Arts buildings, and bohemian neighborhoods whose narrow cobblestoned lanes wind their way past centuries-old former merchants' homes and trendy cafés. You have a sightseeing choice today. Discover Porto by land, river and air – starting from the historic riverfront Ribeira district, walking to Vila Nova de Gaia and riding a cable car for panoramic views. Alternatively, join a local guide for a walking tour that begins in the riverside Ribeira district, walking uphill to the Cathedral, crossing the top of the Luis I bridge and concluding in Vila Nova de Gaia

## Uniquely Tauck

- Get an exclusive introduction to the Douro Valley's age-old Port winemaking process with an evening at the family-owned Quinta do Portal, featuring a reception and private dinner with wine pairings
- Pedal your way through Vinho Verde wine country on a bicycle tour through the region where Portugal's celebrated "Green Wine" (fresh, light wine) is produced
- Delve into the valley's rich history with your choice of a visit to Castelo Rodrigo, a hilltop village with castle ruins, or Paleolithic rock art at Museu do Côa
- Shore excursion choices include a visit to Mateus Palace, a Baroque palace in Régua, or a visit to a winemaking estate (a quinta) followed by an exclusive Port cocktail making workshop;



*Peaceful, tranquil and visually stunning, a cruise through the Douro River Valley inspires and reenergizes around every bend.*

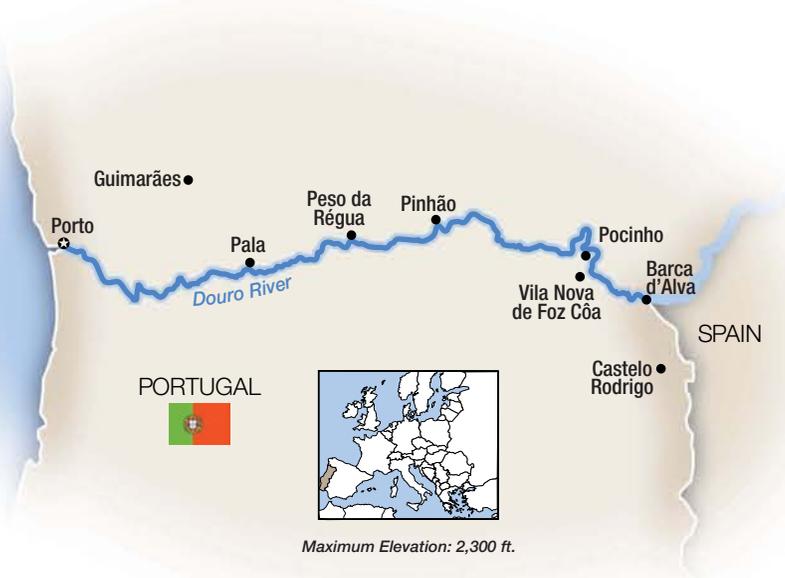
with a view overlooking Porto. Return to ms *Andorinha* late morning and begin sailing to the Douro River Valley, bound for the historic port of Peso da Régua. All along the winding river, rugged conical mountains and shale hills carved by concentric vineyard terraces tell of a winemaking history that's thousands of years old. Inhospitable to most other kinds of farming, the terroir is perfect for Portugal's indigenous wine grapes, whose hardy roots can go down 30

feet or more in search of water. And since the latter half of the 17th century, when Portuguese vintners succeeded in creating a sweet fortified wine – now famous around the world as Port, named for the city of Porto – that could make the long sea voyage to Britain and other destinations without spoiling, the Douro Valley has been the only supplier of true Port, the oldest demarcated wine region on Earth. **Meals BLD**

## VOYAGE AT A GLANCE

### ■ 7 Cruise Days

Day	Destination
■ 1	<b>Arrive Porto</b> / Embark
■ 2	Porto
■ 3	Peso da Régua / Pinhão
■ 4	Day on the Douro
■ 5	Pocinho
■ 6	Pinhão / Peso da Régua
■ 7	Guimarães
8	<b>Disembark Porto</b>





Shore excursion choices present a wide variety of possibilities that match different interests; on day 7, you have a choice of visiting medieval Guimarães (left) or bicycle touring; on day 6, a visit to exquisite Mateus Palace (right) or a class in port cocktail-making.

### 3. ■ Peso da Régua and Pinhão

Dock in the historic town of Peso da Régua, once a busy hub where wooden boats called *rabelos*, laden with barrels of Port, sailed downriver to Vila Nova de Gaia. At Museu do Douro, housed in a renovated 18th-century mansion, multimedia exhibits offer a history of viniculture in the Douro Valley. This afternoon, pass through one of the largest locks on the Douro as you sail to the idyllic, tranquil village of Pinhão, nestled at a dramatic bend in the river; Pinhão is known as the gateway to the valley's *quintas* (vineyards). From here it's a short drive to Quinta do Portal, a family-run estate in the Cima Corgo region where renowned Port and

non-fortified wines are made. Enjoy a private reception and dinner with wine pairings, as well as an introduction to the winemaking process and vineyards. **Meals BLD**

### 4. ■ Along the Douro to Vega de Terron

The Douro River Valley and its unique landscapes of terraced mountains, villages, and wine estates unfold before you today as ms *Andorinha* embarks on a full day of cruising from Pinhão. It's a great day to take advantage of your riverboat's amenities, enjoy commentary by your Tauck Director, or simply relax on the Sun Deck as ms *Andorinha*



### Hiking, bicycling, walks and more

You'll have several opportunities throughout your cruise to enjoy outdoor adventures in the beautiful landscapes along the Douro. Days with sightseeing choices include hiking or bicycling along the trails and terraced vineyards of the Douro River Valley. Guided walking tours of historic ports and towns, a medieval castle, and the 18th-century home and formal gardens of a Baroque masterpiece. Explore a wine cave. And enjoy a world of nature unlike any other.

leisurely makes her way along the River Douro. In late afternoon, arrive in the small Spanish port town of Vega de Terron, where the Douro River forms the border between Spain and Portugal, and where the riverboat will dock for the night. The tranquil landscape, at a confluence of rivers, is tranquil, beautiful and unspoiled. **Meals BLD**

## 5. ■ Castle ruins and Paleolithic art

You'll have a choice of shore excursions today. Visit Castelo Rodrigo, a medieval hilltop village with a turbulent history, where battles were once fought against Moors and Spanish rule; the empty ruins of its 13th-century palace still stand guard over the walled town with its churches, Manueline pillory, cistern, and panoramic vistas. Alternatively, travel to the Museu do Côa in the Vale do Côa Archaeological Park, for stunning exhibits of rock art from the valley's Paleolithic era, discovered in the 1990s; unlike cave art found in other parts of Europe, the thousands of petroglyphs in the Côa region were created in the open air by the valley's earliest inhabitants, and the museum explores their mystery through state-of-the-art multimedia exhibits. Return to the riverboat for lunch and sail back to Pinhão. **Meals BLD**

## 6. ■ Pinhão or vineyard hike / Mateus Palace

Your choice of excursions this morning includes an opportunity to explore Pinhão and its early-20th century train station, adorned with blue-painted tiles (*azulejos*); or a vigorous hike from the village of Provesende down through the vineyards towards Pinhão, with striking views. Sail to Régua, where you'll have two choices; visit 18th-century Mateus Palace, a lavish Baroque residence now a museum with period furnishings and artwork, formal gardens, and a winery. Alternatively, join a local guide for a visit to a local winemaking estate called a *quinta*, rewarding with a port cocktail-making class. Begin the return trip, docking overnight in verdant wine country where some traditional farms grow vines on pergolas and fences so high the grapes must be harvested with ladders. **Meals BLD**

## 7. ■ Guimarães or bicycle ride / On to Gaia

Drive to medieval Guimarães, known as the "Cradle City," on a full day's excursion; the kingdom of Portugal was born here after a famous battle in 1128. You can choose a walking tour of the city center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, whose treasures include the partially restored Castle of Guimarães; the opulent Palace of the Dukes of Braganza; and the 13th-century Church of São Miguel do Castelo. Or choose a bicycle excursion (for experienced cyclists only) through the Vinho Verde wine region to Amarante. In late afternoon travel to Vila Nova de Gaia, across the river from Porto. Join us this for a farewell reception and dinner aboard ship. **Meals BLD**

## 8. Journey Home

**Tour ends Porto: Disembark by 9 AM and fly home anytime.** A transfer is included from your riverboat to Porto's Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport or Porto Campanhã train station. Allow three hours for flight check-in. **Meals B**

### 2023 DATES / CRUISE PRICE PER PERSON

#### BEGINS PORTO – MS ANDORINHA

DATE	CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3	CAT 4	CAT 5
Jun 30 Aug 4	\$4,990	\$5,590	\$6,740	\$6,940	\$7,440
Apr 28	\$5,490	\$6,090	\$7,240	\$7,440	\$7,940
May 19 Jun 9 Aug 25	\$5,990	\$6,590	\$7,740	\$7,940	\$8,440
Oct 6	\$6,190	\$6,790	\$7,940	\$8,140	\$8,640
Sep 15	\$6,390	\$6,990	\$8,140	\$8,340	\$8,840

Please go to [tauck.com](https://tauck.com) for up-to-the-minute space availability.

#### SPECIAL SOLO TRAVELER SAVINGS

On all departures, the single price in Category 1 is the same as the double price – no single supplement, which means savings of up to 50% for solo travelers! Solo Travelers also enjoy Savings of \$1,000 per cabin in Category 3 and 4 on the Aug 4 departure. Single prices Category 2 and above start at 40% over the double price; please visit [tauck.com](https://tauck.com) for complete pricing.

#### 2023 LAND / CRUISE PRICE INCLUSIONS

20 meals (7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches & 7 Dinners), airport and train station transfers, cruise fare, port charges, applicable fuel surcharges, and gratuities to Tauck Directors, Tauck Cruise Director, ship staff, local guides & drivers, and on all included meals. Unlimited complimentary beverages aboard ship include regional wine, beer and premium spirits, in addition to specialty coffee, and soft drinks. Tauck's private shore excursions and distinctive inclusions valued at \$1,276.

International Airfare is additional; call Tauck for special rates. Museums and attractions may be subject to closure due to state, local or religious holidays. This cruise includes a fair amount of walking in each city. For all bike rides, hikes and activities marked with an asterisk (\*), participation is at your own risk and requires a signed liability waiver to be provided. Shore Excursion Selection: Tauck will contact guests 90 days prior to departure to assist with shore excursion selections. Itinerary is subject to change. **Please go to General Information for additional information, including our Cruise Protection Product and Activity / Pace details.**

**Activity Level 2 / Pace Level 2**