USC Alumni Association
*Trojan Travel*



**Duration**
11 days

**Activity Level**
Moderate

**Journey Type**
River
Solo-Friendly

# Romance of the Douro River

## September 18-29, 2027

### Lisbon | Porto | Alto Douro Wine Region | Starting from $6,245/pp

Uncover rich legacies along the enticing Douro River, one of the world's oldest trading routes. Begin in lively Lisbon, packed with maritime legacies and historic charms; visit bohemian Porto; and enjoy in-depth cultural excursions and culinary experiences. As you cruise along the revered Douro River, pass bountiful vineyards and postcard-perfect villages where world-class wines are perfected. Learn about the Alto Douro's winemaking history, witness the elegance of Salamanca, Spain, and tour the baroque Mateus Palace. These experiences and more await on this sun-kissed sojourn!





# Day-by-Day Itinerary

Romance of the Douro River

Air Program: 12 days/11 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land/Cruise Program: 11 days/10 nights

Breakfasts: 10 | Lunches: 7 | Dinners: 7

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land/Cruise Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land/Cruise Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches and boats.

Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours

Active: Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Lisbon, Portugal. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: LIS.

Day 2 | Lisbon, Portugal

Dom Pedro Lisboa

Arrive at Lisbon Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land/Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you.

Transfer to your hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Tonight, meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Reception.

Day 3 | Lisbon

Dom Pedro Lisboa

B

Lisbon. Lisbon is one of the most beautiful and intriguing cities in the world. This morning, take a tour of the city and learn more about its history, which includes a significant role in the Age of Discovery. Begin with a drive along the Avenida de Liberdade in the heart of the city. See the statue of Marques de Pombal, one of Portugal's most famous statesmen, as you drive along the leafy boulevard. Next, take a look at Portugal's role in the exploration of the New World. Many world-changing expeditions began in Lisbon. See the 20th-century landmark, the Monument to the Discoveries, which honors several individuals who played integral roles in Portuguese exploration, and the Tower of Belém, which commemorates Vasco da Gama's pivotal journey as the first European navigator to sail from Europe to India. Walk in the footsteps of famous explorers and discover Portugal's seafaring heritage at the Hieronymites Monastery, where monks offered spiritual support to the world explorers setting out on their great adventures. Construction began on the monastery in the late 15th century, the

dawn of the Age of Discovery. The monastery, along with the Tower of Belém, is a magnificent example of Portuguese architecture of the time. Continue to see the Estrela district to get a glimpse of everyday local life. (Moderate)

Free Time: Spend the rest of the day getting to know Lisbon at your leisure. Enjoy lunch, explore a local museum, or browse through local boutiques. The choices are yours!

Elective Activity: Fado Dinner. Savor a delicious dinner of Portuguese cuisine and enjoy a fado performance. Fado is a traditional music genre, featuring melancholic and soul-stirring guitar and vocal arrangements. (Mild)  Available at an additional cost.

Day 4 | Lisbon

Dom Pedro Lisboa

B

Free Time: Join today's Elective Activity or enjoy a full day at leisure in Lisbon. Once you are done exploring the city center, head to Chiado, a charming neighborhood with many theaters, bookshops and cafés. This area of Lisbon has been a magnet for writers, artists and other creative types since the 19th century.

Elective Activity: Queluz , Cascais and Estoril . Set out on a guided tour of the National Palace of Queluz and admire its exquisite architecture, which showcases the evolution of baroque, rococo and neoclassical styles. Often described as one of Portugal's most elegant royal residences, the palace offers a glimpse into the grandeur and pageantry of Portugal's royal past. Explore its beautifully decorated rooms and surrounding gardens, where numerous celebrations and performances have taken place over the years. Then continue on a scenic drive that takes you past Cabo da Roca, continental Europe's westernmost point and along the pretty Guincho Beach to the picture-perfect towns of Cascais and Estoril. These two villages are popular summertime retreats for both Lisbon residents and international visitors alike. Stop in Cascais for a guided picturesque walk, and drive through Estoril on your return to Lisbon. Lunch will be included at a local establishment during the tour.  (Moderate)  Available at an additional cost.

Enrichment: Contemporary Portugal. Learn about Portugal today while discussing the events and people that shaped the modern country.

Day 5 | Óbidos | Coimbra | Porto

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Following breakfast, check out of your hotel.

Óbidos.  Explore pretty Óbidos, where the city's architecture seamlessly blends styles from the Middle Ages onwards. Sitting atop a hill, this location was settled millennia ago for its strategic location. In the 13th century, King Dinis presented the town to his wife as a gift. For centuries after that, Portuguese queens were the custodians of the town, beautifying it and lavishing attention upon it. It is known as one of the most beautiful towns in the country! (Moderate)

Continue to Coimbra. Upon arrival, enjoy traditional Portuguese cuisine for lunch.

Coimbra. Built atop an ancient Roman city, Coimbra occupies an important location along the Rio Mondego. The city was Portugal's medieval capital, and in 1290, the doors to its prestigious university opened. At the University of Coimbra, visit St. Michael's Chapel and a historic ceremonial hall.  (Moderate)

Arrive in Porto and embark your first-class river ship. Later, gather with your shipmates and join a Welcome Reception and Dinner to kick off your cruise.

Day 6 | Porto

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Personalize Your Journey | Choose one of the following excursions.

Porto City Tour.  Explore the vibrant city of Porto. Visit the Palacio da Bolsa, also known as the historic Stock Exchange, and the Igreja da São Francisco. The Church of St. Francis, a former convent church, was built in the Gothic style. When designers remodeled it during

the baroque period, they kept the rose window, which remains today. Cap off today's discovery with a visit to a port wine cellar. Port's rich, fortified wine is known around the world. Enjoy a tasting before returning to the ship. (Moderate)

Porto by Tram and Flavors of Porto. Trams are a popular way to get around Porto. Hop aboard one today and explore the city all the way to the mouth of the Douro River. See traditional fishermen's homes along your ride. Visit the Museu do Carro Elétrico, a showcase of the trams history in Porto. The extensive collection of trams features the Americanos, the city's oldest cars pulled by horses. The excursion concludes with a tasting of local specialties. (Moderate)

Free Time: You may wish to return to Porto town via the complimentary shuttles. Enjoy time to explore the town or pick a sunny spot along the river to enjoy daily life.

Enrichment: Alto Douro Wine Region. Portugal's most famous wines come from this bountiful region. Join a local expert to learn about the UNESCO Alto Douro Wine Region, one of the world's oldest wine regions.

Dinner is served on board your ship.

Musical Tuna. Cap off the evening with a special musical performance by a "Tuna" band, a group of university students who sing traditional serenades.

Day 7 | Porto | Peso da Régua

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Personalize Your Journey | Choose one of the following excursions.

Guimarães, Cradle of Portugal. Discover Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal's first king and the nation, on a walking tour through this charming town. Step inside Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira. This 14th-century church was built by King João I in tribute to the Virgin Mary after he won the Battle of Aljubarrota against Portugal's Castilian enemies. Visit the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, an opulent estate in the city. Then enjoy some time at leisure in Guimarães to make your own discoveries. (Moderate)

Coastal Walk and Afurada. Take a guided walk along the Atlantic coastline and the Douro. Pass through São Pedro da Afurada, a typical fishing village, where you can see daily life in motion. Along the way, enjoy a beautiful view of Porto and Ribeira Square. Continue to the renowned port wine cellars of Vila Nova de Gaia, and enjoy a tasting at one of the cellars before ending your walk back at the ship. (Active)

Return to the ship and enjoy lunch on board as the ship cruises the beautiful Douro River.

Trade stories about your day during dinner on the ship.

Day 8 | Peso da Régua | Barca d'Alva

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Museu do Douro and Solar de Mateus. Disembark the ship and take a short walk to the Museu do Douro, the Douro Museum, for a glimpse into the history of the Douro winemaking region. The museum is the former administrative building and warehouse for the local winemaking consortium formed in the 18th century. Continue on a scenic drive through the vineyard-covered countryside to the Solar de Mateus, an 18th-century baroque palace featuring the frilly architectural flourishes of the time. Stroll through the opulent halls and enjoy a walk through the manicured gardens. (Moderate)

Return to the ship for lunch and relish an afternoon of scenic cruising through the Douro River Valley. Notice how the banks of the river are lined with multicolored vineyards that grow the grapes used to make port.

Delight in delicious regional cuisine on the ship.

Gather for a wonderful performance by local dancers.

Day 9 | Barca d'Alva | Salamanca, Spain

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Personalize Your Journey | Choose one of the following excursions.

Salamanca City Tour. Take a scenic drive to Salamanca this morning. See charming villages, olive groves and farms on your way to beautiful Salamanca. Upon arrival, explore the historic university town on foot. Step inside the ornate cathedral and discover the famous 13th-century university. (Moderate)

Salamanca Tapas Tour. After a pretty drive to Salamanca, join your guide for a Spanish foodie tour through the city center. Stop by several eateries to sample a variety of typical Spanish tapas and local bites. Your tastings may include flavorful patatas bravas, Spanish salads and classic meats, such as Spain's signature Jamón Ibérico. And tapas taste best with a glass of wine, of course! (Moderate)

Enjoy lunch and free time in Salamanca before returning to the ship.

Join friends new and old for dinner.

Day 10 | São João da Pesqueira | Pinhão

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Depart Barca d'Alva and spend the morning surrounded by stunning riverside scenery. Lunch is served on board.

Porto's Wine Road. Drive through the scenic Alto Douro wine region. Stop at the beautiful viewpoint of São Salvador do Mundo for views over the Douro Valley, where the hills are covered with groves of olive and almond trees as well as grapevines. Visit the pretty town of São João da Pesqueira for a short walking tour and some free time. Afterward, stop at a quinta, a winery, for a tour of the facilities, an informative presentation about port wine making in the Douro Valley and a tasting of the local product. (Mild)

An Evening of Folklore. Enjoy an engaging and colorful local folk show on board the ship. Singers and dancers showcase the Portuguese culture through traditional song and regional costume. (Mild)

Day 11 | Pinhão | Lamego | Porto

MS Amalia Rodrigues

B | L | D

Lamego. Sitting in the heart of the port-producing Douro Valley, Lamego is one of the country's prettiest towns. Visit Nossa Senhora dos Remedios, an 18th-century baroque church overlooking the city. Admire the granite staircase adorned with azulejos, Portugal's famous blue-and-white tiles. After the tour, walk down the steps or take the motor coach to the town center to enjoy some free time before boarding the ship. (Moderate)

Return to the ship for lunch. Spend your final afternoon sailing the Douro Valley as the ship nears Porto.

Tonight, celebrate your exciting river journey at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 12 | Porto | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, disembark the ship in Porto. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land/Cruise Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Porto Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.





# What's Included

### Program Overview

- 3 nights in Lisbon, Portugal, at the first-class Dom Pedro Lisboa.
- 7 nights aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Amalia Rodrigues.
- AHI Connects:  Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise:  We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

### Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- All drinks included on board except special wines and spirits.
- Opportunities to sample authentic cuisine and local flavors.

### On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.
- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Personalize Your Journey | PYJ: A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- Elective activities and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





# FlexAir Travel Program

**Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.**

### Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

### Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

# Travel and Hotel Accommodations

## Dom Pedro Lisboa

Located in the heart of Lisbon‘s Amoreiras neighborhood, the Dom Pedro Lisboa places you at the center of the city’s best shopping and landmarks. After a day of exploring, consider dining onsite at Il Gattopardo, featuring Italian dishes and an al fresco seating option, or Bistrot Le Café, which serves regional Portuguese cuisine. Unwind in the hotel’s serene spa offering a sauna, whirlpool and indoor swimming pool, as well as a fitness room. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

## MS Amalia Rodrigues

The MS Amalia Rodrigues is the latest star in the CroisiEurope fleet of fine river and coastal ships. It’s part of a new generation of ships sailing on the Douro River that employs innovative advanced marine design to allow for a safe and comfortable passage from Porto into the heart of Portugal's riverside villages. The ship’s staff and crew will welcome you as part of the family and work to make each day a memorable travel experience. The congenial atmosphere found aboard is in perfect harmony with the stylish décor that features contemporary design and furnishings in a palette of subdued colors.



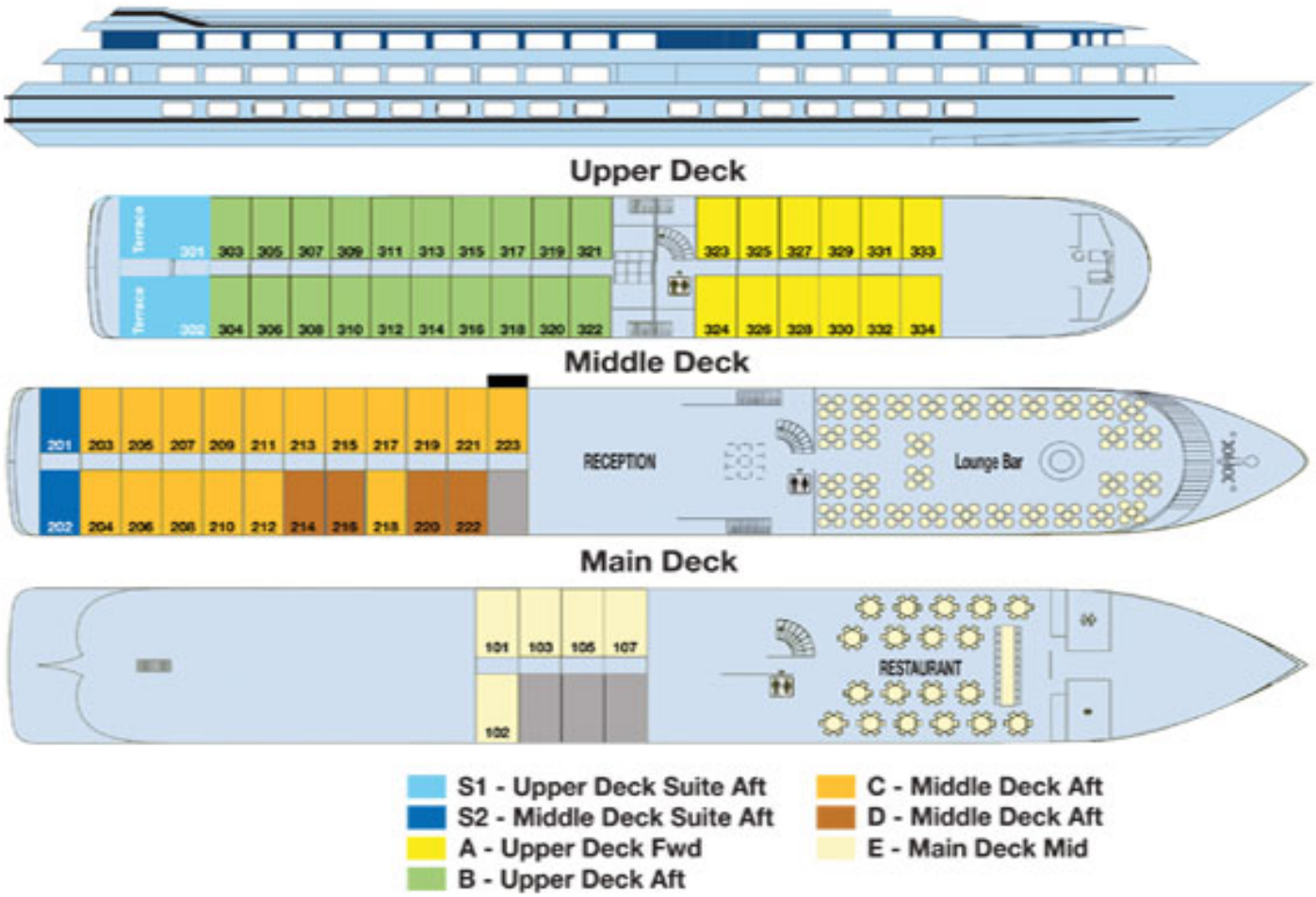
# Pricing

**$500 Full Payment Discount expires April 21, 2027**
**$250 Special Savings expires February 16, 2027**

| Category/Deck | Base Price | Special Savings* | Full Payment Discount* | Special Price |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| S1-Upper - Aft (WAIT LIST) | $9,145 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $8,395 |
| S2-Middle - Aft | $8,645 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $7,895 |
| A-Upper - Forward | $8,145 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $7,395 |
| B-Upper - Aft | $7,945 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $7,195 |
| C-Middle - Aft | $7,245 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $6,495 |
| D-Middle - Aft (WAIT LIST) | $7,045 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $6,295 |
| E-Main - Mid | $6,245 | **-$250** | **-$500** | $5,495 |

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

** Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


Upper Deck
Terrace
301
303 305 307 309 311 313 315 317 319 321
323 325 327 329 331 333
Terrace
302
304 306 308 310 312 314 316 318 320 322
324 326 328 330 332 334
Middle Deck
201 203 205 207 209 211 213 215 217 219 221 223
202 204 206 208 210 212 214 216 218 220 222
RECEPTION
Lounge Bar
Main Deck
101 103 105 107
102
RESTAURANT
S1 - Upper Deck Suite Aft
S2 - Middle Deck Suite Aft
A - Upper Deck Fwd
B - Upper Deck Aft
C - Middle Deck Aft
D - Middle Deck Aft
E - Main Deck Mid


Peso da Régua
Vila Real
Guimarães
Pinhão
São João da Pesqueira
Porto
Lamego
Barca d'Alva
Salamanca
Atlantic Ocean
Coimbra
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
Óbidos
Sintra
Lisbon
Elective



