



PORTUGAL

Douro River Cruise

Optional Extension
Hidden Delights of Portugal

Portugal—Douro River Cruise

April 15–22, 2019 ♥ 8 Days ♥ \$3650

DAY 1 ~ April 15: Arrive Porto, Portugal – Embarkation (D)

Travelers arrive from across The Pond today. We rendezvous this evening aboard the MS Vasco de Gama, looking forward to a welcome dinner and to the next 7 days exploring the heart of Portugal with some of our favorite walking friends!

Optional Castro de São Lourenço Celtic Welcome Walk: Our friends from the Borealis walking club offer a “Welcome to Portugal” hike today for travelers who arrive a day early (Arrive April 14 to participate). This experience offers a memorable combination of natural beauty with an archeological introduction to northern Portugal’s Celtic past. We depart by bus from a central hotel in Porto for the Iron Age fortified village of Castro de São Lourenço. The walk is about 4 KM in length with a difficulty rating of 3B, and about 500 feet of cumulative ascent/descent. Along the trail we’ll see funerary structures, Esposende miniature houses, and a couple of lovely old chapels, with views of the Atlantic Ocean. A Celtic lunch is included. ~Estimated price: \$140 per person

DAY 2 ~ April 16: Activities from Porto (BD)

Porto Walk ~ 7 km, rated 2A

Before sailing up the beautiful Douro, we spend the day exploring Porto, a venerable northern Portugal town that gave its name to the famous wine. Porto’s history and development is closely linked to the Douro River, and today the city is the primary city in the north of Portugal. Our walk winds down narrow streets, past 16th century arcaded buildings and Baroque churches, and crosses the city’s iconic 19th century iron bridge. Towards the end of the walk, we visit one of the Port wine cellars that has been storing and shipping Port wine for over 200 years. We enjoy dinner aboard ship this evening, followed by an evening of Fado entertainment, a uniquely Portuguese expression of pathos connected to the sea, fishing, or the fate of the poor.

Caption:

Description:

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