

Porto to Salamanca

The Douro River Adventure Cruising



Classic
JOURNEYS™

DAILY ITINERARY

The Douro River: Porto to Salamanca | Adventure Cruising



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

—Travel + Leisure

River Cruising, Reimagined

Classic Journeys takes river cruising to a whole new level when you join us on the Douro River in Portugal and Spain. Aboard your 5-star cruise ship, you unpack just once—and embark on a daily collection of cultural and walking experiences handcrafted exclusively for our guests. A full-time local guide—dedicated to your small group only—is a super well-connected companion who introduces you to experiences and people that other passengers can only envy. You enjoy privileged wine-tastings, forays into dramatic national parks, a special welcome from the food artisans at a hundred-year-old sardine cannery, and private explorations of Porto and Salamanca. Throughout, you enjoy scenic country walks and village visits that the ship's other passengers can only dream about. Of course, you have unfettered use of all of the onboard amenities from observation lounge to wellness center and rooftop deck. Your luxuriously appointed stateroom has a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows, and the ship's own crew is hospitable to the Nth degree. To take your cruise another step beyond the usual, Classic Journeys treats you to a delicious variety of on-shore dining experiences in some of the regions' finest cafes and restaurants.

DAY 1

PORTO

- Settle in aboard your 5-star ship
- Join your Classic Journeys guide for an exclusive culinary dinner onshore

Welcome aboard your luxury cruise ship moored in Porto. You're greeted by your Classic Journeys guide – a local expert who is with you all week to lead you on immersive small-group explorations handcrafted exclusively for you. While your cultural and walking activities are far above and beyond those available to the other passengers, you all share the 5-star attention of the ship's hospitable crew. After you settle into your stateroom, strike out to discover all of the facilities from the expansive topside deck to the fine restaurants and wellness center.

Tonight, your guide invites you to celebrate the launch of your cruise at a private dinner onshore in a favorite Porto restaurant.

Overnight: Porto

Meals: D

DAY 2

PORTO / MATOSINHOS

- Pay a private visit to an artisanal sardine factory
- Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of cruising

Seafood is a major industry – and a culinary passion – in Portugal. This morning, you get an up-close look at a 100-year-old artisanal factory dedicated to the sardine. It's a fascinating glimpse at a made-by-hand Portuguese tradition that carries on in the company's home, an ornate historic building in Matosinhos. You have lunch in the picturesque town before returning to the ship to set sail in the early afternoon. (Never fear! At the end of the cruise, you return to Porto. Join your Classic Journeys guide then with the proper time for the leisurely exploration of the city that today's sailing schedule would not have allowed, and to which your fellow passengers are limited.)

The sights of Portugal begin to unfold with your first daytime cruise of the trip. Take it all in from the Sun Deck, the lounge with its panoramic views or from the wall of windows in your stateroom. Of course, your Classic Journeys guide is on hand to share interesting cultural and historical anecdotes about the sights on the river's banks.

Overnight: Caldos de Aregos

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

COA PARQUE PENASCOSA

- Ride 4x4 vehicles to marvel at remote prehistoric art
- Eat like a local in a country village

As you look out at the scenery over breakfast this morning, you're reminded just how different the Douro is from Europe's other major rivers. It's much narrower with less populated banks than those waterways so you always feel close to the countryside of Portugal and Spain.

Landfall is at Vega de Terron. From the dock, your Classic Journeys guide arranges all-terrain vehicles to assure you a wonderful chance to see the prehistoric rock art at Penascosa. The drive through groves of almond and olive trees is beautiful on its own. But the treasures at this UNESCO World Heritage Site make it truly worth the trip.

Afterward, you visit the white-washed village of Vila Nova de Foz Coa. While the ship's excursions mean your fellow passengers are back for dinner on board, your group is treated to dinner in the village at an atmospheric traditional restaurant – a true Portuguese experience!

Overnight: Vega Terron

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

SALAMANCA

- Enjoy a privately guided visit to the Spanish city of Salamanca

- **Relax over a leisurely lunch in the university town**

"Magical" is the word most often used to describe Salamanca, and it's hard to disagree with how true that is. It's distinctively golden color glows from the sandstone used to build it. Great domes soar into the sky with mountains as a backdrop. On the guided visit planned just for you and your small group of fellow Classic Journeys travelers, you learn about the history and its modern day culture. You walk in the vast arcades of the Plaza Mayor, take in the Old and New Cathedrals, and stroll the narrow shop-lined streets of the old city. Salamanca has been a university town for centuries, and there's a lively urbane vibe. Of course, there are plenty of spots for an interesting lunch and time to absorb the classic beauty and modern energy of the city.

Overnight: Barca d'Alva

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

UCANHA

- **Sip the sparkling wines at a private vineyard tasting**
- **Visit the medieval bridge before dinner in Ucanha**

After yesterday's invigorating day of exploration, you can take this morning at your own pace as the ship is on the river until after lunch. Sleep in, take a book up to the Sun Deck or work out in the wellness center. It's your vacation and your choice.

As you've seen for much of your time on the ship, in many stretches of the river, vineyards hug the banks from the crest of the surrounding hills right down to the water's edge. You expect Port wine (and may well have tasted your fair share by now). But you arrive today in a region known for its sparkling wines. The delightful results are yours to sip and enjoy. Your Classic Journeys guide arranges a private tasting at Murganheira Cellar. Carved from rugged blue granite, the caves are epic and the wines themselves are unique thanks to the area's special microclimate, not to mention some varietals you may never have heard of.

Nearby, the village of Ucanha is renowned for its grand medieval bridge that spans the small Varosa river. It's a wonderful place for a quiet walk, and as you sit down to a typical Portuguese dinner the feeling of being in another world is complete.

Overnight: Regua

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

ALVÃO NATURAL PARK

- **Visit the Fiskas de Ermelo waterfall**
- **Soak in the solitude of the park's peaks**

Today is all about retreat from the bustle of the riverside towns as you head out to the beautiful solitude of the Alvão Natural Park. Fiskas de Ermelo, the impressive waterfall that seems to erupt spontaneously from the rocky slopes, is just one of the highlights. The park sits on the ridgeline of the Serra de Alvão and is off the tourist track. It's a glimpse of an untamed Portugal unlike anything you have seen all week. There's a terrific array of flora and fauna, but most of all this park is a quiet escape, the wild side of a country that you've come to love for its sophistication and comfort.

Speaking of comfort, there's more than enough to spare as you return to your ship for a relaxing evening on board.

Overnight: Entre-os-Rios

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

PORTO

- **Explore Porto on a privately guided walk**
- **Share memories of your cruise over dinner in one of the city's fine restaurants**

Once an outpost of the Roman Empire, Porto is steeped in tradition – including the fact that it gave its name to Port wine. Scenic doesn't begin to describe the city as you discover on a walk with your local guide. A steep tumble of red-roofed buildings nudge up to the river. If the soaring Dona Maria Bridge looks strangely familiar, that's because its steelwork was designed by Gustave Eiffel. Best of all Porto is a very lived-in town. In some neighborhoods, strings of laundry wave at you from overhead. The street life is lively and colorful tiles decorate the façades of family homes. And don't forget the bakeries! They are the ideal sampling spot for the creamy/flaky custard tarts that are a Portuguese national obsession.

DAILY ITINERARY

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Porto is a culinary hotspot, too, and to celebrate the climax of your cruise, your Classic Journeys guide hosts your group tonight at your farewell dinner onshore.

Overnight: Porto

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

PORTO

- Bid a fond farewell to the ship and your guide
- Continue your travels or begin your homeward journey

After breakfast, you disembark for your flight home or to continue your travels.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



MS Douro Splendour

On your 5-star vessel, a crew of 36 serves a maximum of just 126 passengers. Your stateroom offers a French balcony and floor-to-ceiling windows. Every amenity, including fine dining, lounge, spa, fitness room, swimming pool and wifi, is yours to enjoy.

OVERNIGHT: Fairfield | **NIGHTS:** 7

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Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	8 Days, 7 Nights
START	On board the MS Douro Splendour, Porto, Portugal
END	Port of Porto, Porto, Portugal
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths.

What's Included

- All meals are included
- Full-time experienced guide
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for cruise, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Perfect Pairings Dinners
- Wine on Us
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!


President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:
Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:
You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:
Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:
With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:
From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:
"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in The Douro River...

- Unpacking once on your 5-star river cruise boat
- Privately guided small-group tours of Porto and Salamanca
- Walks in white-washed villages and wildly beautiful Alvão Natural Park
- An exclusive tasting of sparkling wines in a fine vineyard
- Dining extravagantly at onshore dinners for Classic Journeys guests only

"I think Susana is exceptional. She was very adaptable to everyone's abilities. She is compassionate, intelligent, and caring. And she has the patience of a saint."

-Barbara R., Phoenix, AZ,