

Spanish Culture & Cuisine

"Iberian River Cruise - Valley of the Douro from Portugal to Spain"

21st - 29th April 2019

A 9-day trip which will include return flights to/from Valencia/Oporto (with coach transfers), 1 night in a central hotel in Oporto, followed by a 7-night cruise on the MS Infante Don Henrique and a visit to Salamanca, one of Spain's most beautiful cities.



Our journey begins in the historic city of Oporto, known for its stately bridges and port wine production. In the medieval Ribeira (riverside) district, narrow cobbled streets wind past merchants' houses and cafes. The palatial 19th-century Palácio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market, was built to impress potential European investors.



São Francisco Church is known for its lavish baroque interior with ornate gilded carvings. From Oporto, we will then cruise through the Douro Valley - one of the most stunning landscapes in all of Portugal.

**PORTO - REGUA - VEGA DE TERON - BARCA D'ALVA - SALAMANCA - BARCA D'ALVA
- FERRADOSA - PINHAO - PORTO**

DAY 1: PORTO



Board the ship at 5pm. Time to settle into your cabin before a welcome cocktail served in the lounge and presentation of the crew. Dinner on board. Evening excursion: Tour of Porto by night.

DAY 2: PORTO



Buffet breakfast on board. Morning excursion: Guided tour of Porto, one of the oldest cities in Europe; its historic centre is classed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, with an unspoilt old quarter of winding narrow streets, arcaded houses, and lovely churches. But Porto is best known as the home of Port wine. Wine properties extend as far as the eye can see along the Douro in Vila Nova de Gaia. Back on board for lunch. The afternoon is free, or you can ask to be dropped off in the city centre. Return on board for dinner and an evening of Fado entertainment (traditional folk music).

DAY 3: PORTO - REGUA



Buffet breakfast on board. Morning excursion: Tour of Guimaraes - Its historic town centre is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The afternoon will be spent cruising. Dinner on board followed by dancing or a stroll through Regua by night on your own.

DAY 4: REGUA - VEGA DE TERRON



Buffet breakfast on board. Morning excursion: Discover Vila Real, a town in which the religious architecture is very varied, and take a walk in the beautiful gardens of the Mateus Palace, noted as the wine label picture. During this time, the ship will sail to Pinhao where we will join it for lunch.



The afternoon will be spent cruising into the heart of the vineyards of the Douro, past magnificent hillsides covered in trellised vines planted in terraces up to 700m and plunging majestically down towards the river. We will go through the locks in Valeira and Ocinho to reach Barca d'Alva during the evening. Dinner followed by an evening of Flamenco entertainment on board.

DAY 5: BARCA D'ALVA - SALAMANCA (SPAIN)



Buffet breakfast on board.

Full day excursion by coach (122 km) to Salamanca, awarded World Heritage status by UNESCO. This town of dazzling beauty houses some extraordinary Romanesque, Arab and Christian architectural treasures. Lunch in Salamanca before returning to the ship late afternoon. Dinner and an evening's entertainment back on board.

DAY 6: BARCA D'ALVA - FERRADOSA - PINHAO



Buffet breakfast.

The morning will be spent cruising.

Afternoon Excursion: Discover the Porto wines, including tasting.

Evening: gala dinner on board.

DAY 7: PINHAO - PORTO



Buffet breakfast on board.

Morning excursion: Departure from Pinhao by coach for a guided tour of Lamego. You will discover the *Nossa Senhora dos Remedios* sanctuary and the cathedral. The afternoon will be spent cruising, passing through several large locks before arrival in Porto. Dinner on board and an evening of traditional folk entertainment.

DAY 8: PORTO

Enjoy one last buffet breakfast on board before disembarking at 9 :00 a.m. and transfer to the airport for the return flight to Valencia.

What is included

The cruise will include all meals from dinner the first evening to breakfast on the final day. Drinks included are water, wine, beer, fruit juices during lunch and dinner and coffee afterwards for meals eaten on the ship - drinks from the bar, except for champagne or wines from a special list. CroisiEurope invite you to experience some of the best French and European cuisine - the restaurant has sufficient capacity for dining in one sitting; lunch is a 3-course lighter meal whilst dinner is more indulgent, again with 3 courses (apart from the gala meal). Lunches and dinners are prepared with fresh produce daily (with a set menu) - food allergies/special dietary requirements are catered for. Breakfast is a buffet of standard European-style items, including fruit, cheeses, cold cuts, yogurt, eggs made to order, breads and pastries, and standard beverages. Excursions as detailed in the programme. Double-occupancy cabin with shower in bathroom. Assistance from an onboard multi-lingual host/hostess. Welcome cocktail - gala dinner - onboard entertainment - Flamenco entertainment - traditional folk entertainment. Travel assistance and repatriation insurance - all port fees.

Not included:

Drinks from the special wine list or drinks ordered during excursions or transfers - cancellation and baggage insurance - travel insurance - personal expenses. Gratuities: tipping is entirely at your discretion - if you wish to leave a tip, you may use the envelope found in your cabin on your last evening on board, and place this envelope in the specially designated box in the reception area as you disembark.

Practical information:

Valid national identity card or passport required.

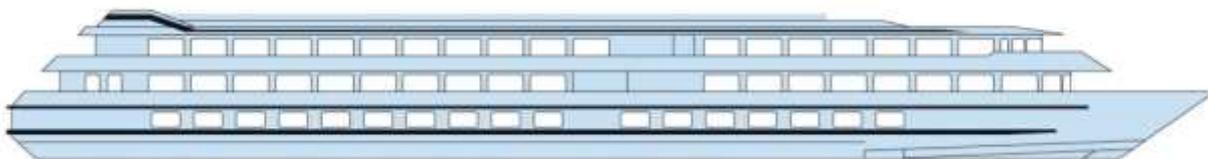
COST

The price is dependent upon which cabin is chosen:

main deck: €1381pp plus cost of return flight/transfers and 1 night's hotel in Oporto
middle deck: €1533pp plus cost of return flight/transfers and 1 night's hotel in Oporto
upper deck: €1573pp plus cost of return flight/transfers and 1 night's hotel in Oporto
Single supplement: €512 (this is the same for both middle and upper deck cabins)

Ryanair flight Valencia/Porto return, based on April 2018 price (including 1 checked suitcase) is €80.

Ship information



4 anchors class - 3 DECK SHIP

Built: 2003

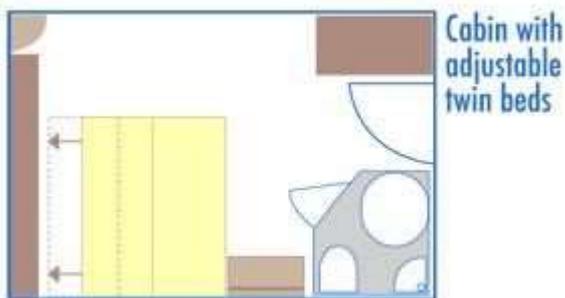
Length: 75 m long

Width: 11.40 m wide

Cabins: 71 cabins

Passenger capacity: 142 passengers

Facilities: lounge-bar with a dance floor - bar - dining room - large sundeck with deckchairs - French balconies (upper deck cabins) - gift shop - lift. Central heating - 220V electricity - air-conditioning, radar - radiophone - wifi.



- Upper deck: 38 twins (French balcony, with large sliding picture windows)
- Middle deck: 19 cabins (16 twins, 3 cabins with double bed; non-opening picture windows)
- Main deck: 14 cabins (12 twins, 2 cabins with double bed; non-opening picture windows)

Equipments: all cabins are equipped with shower and toilet, hairdryer, satellite TV, radio, safe.



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