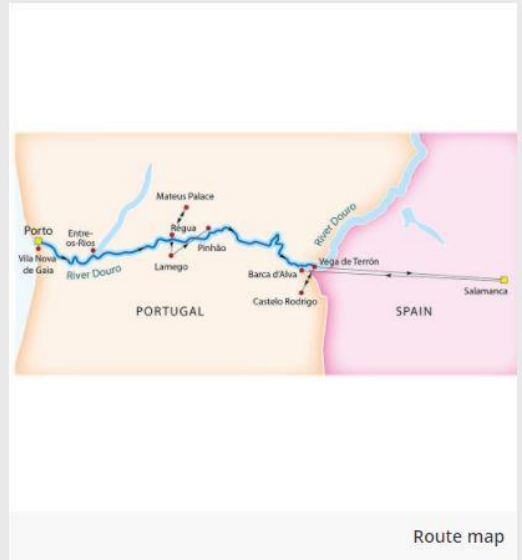


▲
DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN PORTO
DAY 2 LAMEGO
DAY 3 CASTELO RODRIGO
DAY 4 SALAMANCA
DAY 5 PESO DA REGUA
▼

ARRIVAL IN PORTO

Fly to Lisbon or Porto, where we'll meet and transfer you to your five-star cruise ship in Porto. From the moment you board, the welcoming crew are at your service. In no time you'll be settled into your luxurious, thoughtfully furnished accommodation and familiarising yourself with all the first-class aspects of this floating boutique hotel.



Route map

▲
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LAMEGO

As dawn breaks, the ship slips away from Porto and you awake to the gentle sound of water lapping against the sleek hull and – that most relaxing of travellers' joys – you'll witness the ship's stately process upstream. The Douro is one of Europe's most captivating rivers, and you can acquaint yourself with its natural beauty from the comfort of your cabin.

You'll be welcomed in the restaurant for your first breakfast and immediately spoilt for choice – the omelette station is a favourite of many! In the late morning, the ship approaches its first port of call at the small town of Peso da Régua. We're in port wine territory, where the lush hillsides have largely given way to a patterned landscape of terraced vineyards. Inland from the Atlantic, the climate has changed, too: it's noticeably



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CASTELO RODRIGO

The Douro was once a wild river, notoriously challenging to navigate, especially for the traditional flat-bottomed boats, which often foundered in its waters. Today it has been tamed by a system of dams and locks, which have raised the water level to produce a topography reminiscent of Scotland's lochs that enhances the valley's charm. As we cruise into ever more rural territory towards the Spanish border, the river here is at its most peaceful. It's the perfect time to take a refreshing dip in the Sun Deck pool – a rare treat on a cruise ship – or catch up on some reading, perhaps with a cool pre-lunch glass of vinho verde, the local, gently fizzy white wine. Portuguese wine is simply outstanding but production is low, so the best is rarely exported. Our on-board wine list includes some excellent regional wines and the friendly and attentive

