



PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Douro River Escape from Porto for 3 Nights

3 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

Imagine yourself transformed, a soul resonating with the quiet elegance of a Douro River Escape from Porto. You find yourself shedding the chaotic layers of everyday life, stepping into a version of yourself that is serene, reflective, and deeply connected to the world around you. This journey becomes a canvas for your inner artist, painting memories of discovery and delight that will forever color your spirit. As the tranquil waters of the Douro mirror your newfound tranquility, you realize this experience is not just a vacation, but a renaissance of your inner peace.

Your emotional voyage begins in Porto, where the city's vibrant history whispers tales of old, inviting you to become a part of its narrative. As you glide towards Pinhao and Regua aboard the Spirit of Chartwell, the river's embrace invites introspection and awe, each bend revealing landscapes that feel like a gentle hand guiding you home. This river cruise is an intimate dance between luxury and nature, where every sunset over Porto bathes your soul in hues of gratitude, leaving you forever changed.

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

PORTO

Your journey begins in the historic city of Vila Nova de Gaia, located on the southern bank of the Douro River, directly opposite the vibrant city of Porto. As you step aboard the *Spirit of the Chartwell*, you are not merely boarding a ship but entering a piece of living history. This vessel, famously redesigned to carry Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her Diamond Jubilee procession on the River Thames, exudes an atmosphere of regal elegance and intimate luxury. With a capacity for only 30 guests, the embarkation process is swift and personal, feeling more like arriving at a private floating club than a commercial cruise.

Once settled into your cabin, which features the finest wood finishes and classic Pullman-style decor, you are invited to the sun deck or the panoramic lounge for a Welcome Cocktail. This is your first opportunity to meet the Captain and the dedicated crew who will ensure your comfort throughout the weekend. As the sun begins to set, casting a golden glow over the Dom Luís I Bridge and the colorful Ribeira district across the water, the ambiance is one of anticipation and relaxation.

Dinner is served in the ship's elegant dining room, where large picture windows allow you to dine with a view of the twinkling city lights reflected in the Douro. The menu is a curated introduction to Portuguese gastronomy, featuring fresh, local ingredients paired with regional wines. Following dinner, the ship remains docked at the Ribeira pier (or nearby in Gaia), allowing you the unique privilege of sleeping in the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage landscape, surrounded by centuries of history and the faint, rhythmic lapping of the river against the hull.

PINHAO / RÉGUA

The ship departs early in the morning, beginning its upstream journey into the Douro Valley. Enjoy a leisurely breakfast on board as the urban landscape of Porto gives way to the verdant, terraced hills that define this world-famous wine region. The morning is designed for relaxation and sensory indulgence. As the scenery becomes increasingly dramatic, with vineyards clinging to steep slate slopes, you are invited to a special "Culinary Delight" presentation. The ship's chef will demonstrate the preparation of a traditional Portuguese dish, offering insights into the local flavors and techniques that make the region's cuisine so distinct. A tasting follows, whetting your appetite for the lunch served shortly after.

You will spend the afternoon cruising through the tranquil waters, passing through the impressive Carrapatelo and Bagaúste dams, which are engineering marvels that tame the river's flow. Late in the afternoon, around 5:30 PM, the *Spirit of the Chartwell* arrives in Pinhão. This small town is considered the geographical epicenter of the Alto Douro Wine Region. The highlight of the evening is an exclusive excursion to a local *Quinta* (wine estate). Here, amidst the vines that produce the world's finest Port, you will enjoy a private tour and tasting, learning about the winemaking traditions passed down through generations. The experience culminates in a traditional dinner hosted at the estate, offering authentic regional dishes and, of course, exceptional wines, before you return to the ship for a peaceful overnight stay at the Pinhão pier.





DAY 3

PORTO / RÉGUA

The day begins with a morning sail downstream towards Régua, the commercial capital of the port wine region. After breakfast, you will disembark for a guided tour of Lamego, one of the most historically significant cities in northern Portugal. Lamego is famous for the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, a stunning baroque church perched atop a hill and accessed by a monumental staircase adorned with blue and white *azulejo* tiles. Your guide will walk you through the town's rich history, concluding with a tasting of local products, likely including the region's famous sparkling wines and cured meats (*bôla de Lamego*).

Returning to the ship for lunch, the *Spirit of the Chartwell* continues its journey towards Entre-os-Rios. This leg of the cruise offers a perfect opportunity to relax on the sun deck and admire the changing landscape as the rugged upper valley transitions back to the greener, forested banks of the lower Douro. An onboard lecture titled "Douro – River and Region" provides fascinating context to the sights you have witnessed, covering the river's history, geology, and cultural significance.

Arrival in Entre-os-Rios is scheduled for the early evening. Tonight, the ship transforms into a celebration of local culture with a "Portuguese Night" themed dinner. The dining room atmosphere becomes festive, and the meal features iconic national dishes. The evening's entertainment is a live folklore music show, where traditional performers share the soulful sounds and vibrant rhythms of Portugal, providing a spirited finale to your last full day on the river.

PORTO

On your final morning, the *Spirit of the Chartwell* departs Entre-os-Rios at 7:00 AM for the final leg of the journey back to Vila Nova de Gaia. As you enjoy your last breakfast on board, take a moment to reflect on the weekend's experiences while watching the river widen as it approaches the Atlantic. The morning light over the river offers a serene backdrop for farewells with new friends and the crew who have attended to your every need.

The ship arrives at the Gaia pier around 9:00 AM. Disembarkation is scheduled for 10:00 AM, concluding your luxurious escape. You leave not just with souvenirs, but with a deeper appreciation for the Douro's "liquid gold," its people, and the royal comfort of the *Spirit of the Chartwell*.



Tips & Travel Guide

Enjoy an exceptional dining experience on board the Spirit of Chartwell, where every meal is a celebration of the region's authentic flavors. Enjoy carefully selected fine wines from the most prestigious wineries in the Douro region while admiring the stunning views of the Douro River.

SERVICES AND AMENITIES

- Sun Deck
- Activities and Entertainment
- WiFi
- Cooking Show with renowned chefs
- Meals on board
- Tours and guided visits highlighted in the program
- Video on Demand
- Meals outside the ship highlighted in the program

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Aug 7, 2026	Royal Suite	€1,150	€890
	Standard Twin Cabin	€1,000	€740
Aug 14, 2026	Royal Suite	€1,150	€890
	Standard Twin Cabin	€1,000	€740
Aug 21, 2026	Royal Suite	€1,150	€890
	Standard Twin Cabin	€1,000	€740
Oct 30, 2026	Standard Twin Cabin	€1,000	€740

Rates shown in Euro (EUR). Approximate USD equivalents available upon request.

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.



Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/Douro_Azul_Spirit_Chartwell_Cruise_4-Day for the latest information.

Terms & Conditions

Booking Conditions

- **Deposit:** 20% of total price required at booking
- **Final Payment:** Due 30 days before departure
- **Confirmation:** Booking confirmed upon deposit receipt

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be in writing. Charges apply:

- More than 15 days before departure: 75% charge
- Less than 14 days or no-show: 100% charge

Important Terms

- Travel insurance: recommended
- Reservations must be made directly with DouroAzul at its headquarters or via email at reservas@douroazul.pt, or through one of its distribution companies, travel agents, wholesalers, or recognized tour operators

Source: DouroAzul official terms

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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