PALACE TOURS
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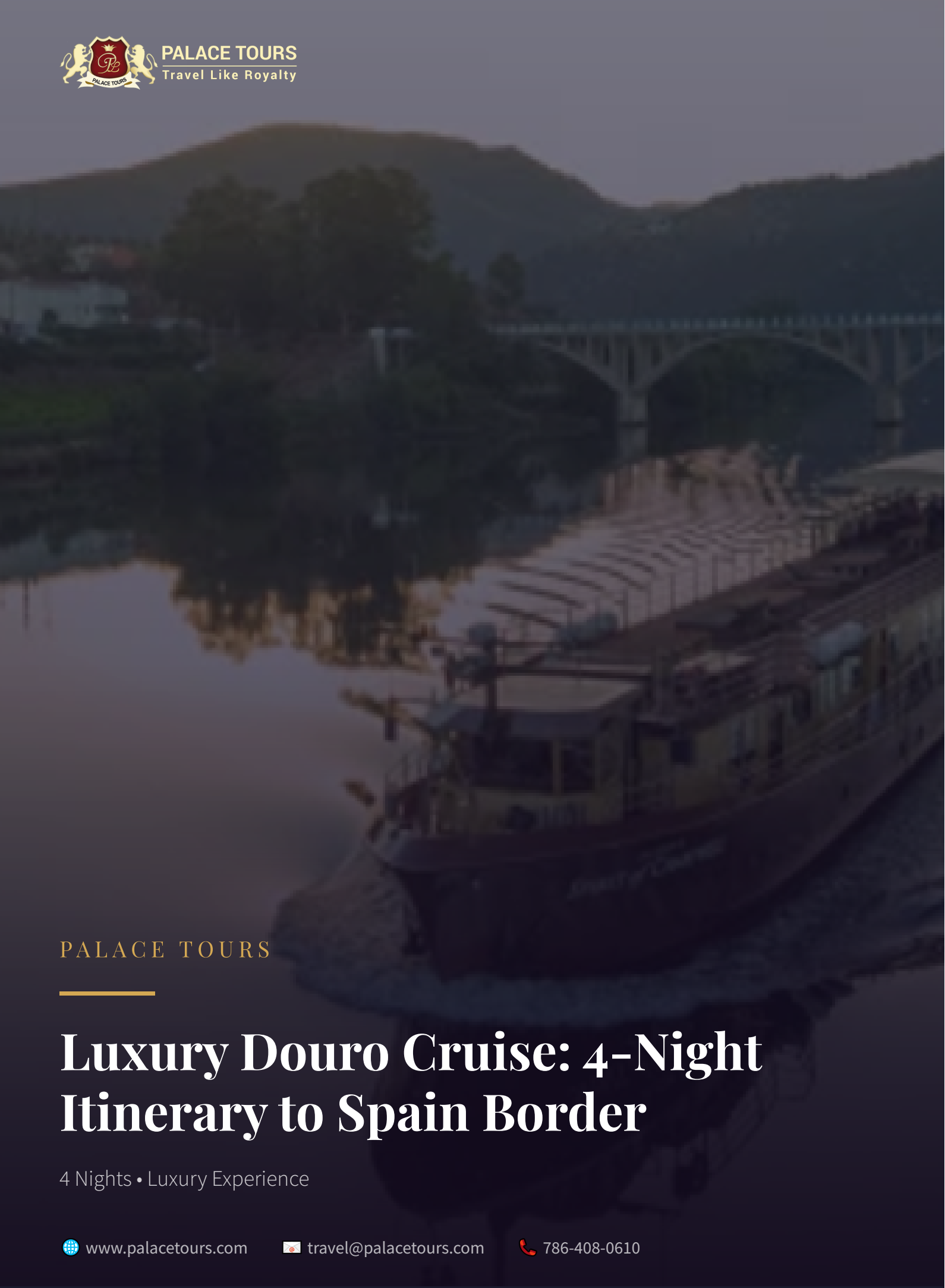

PALACE TOURS

Luxury Douro Cruise: 4-Night Itinerary to Spain Border

4 Nights • Luxury Experience

www.palacetours.com travel@palacetours.com 786-408-0610

Overview

Embark on an exclusive trip through the Douro aboard the Spirit of Chartwell, a luxurious hotel ship internationally recognized for having transported Queen Elizabeth II on the River Thames. Enjoy unique and authentic moments while sailing through the serene waters of the Douro, immersing yourself in the different traditions and regional culture. As leaders in river cruises in Portugal, we guarantee excellent personalized service to the ship's 30 passengers, offering moments of pure relaxation and authentic gastronomic experiences, in addition to stunning landscapes and the rich history of the Douro.

Get ready to explore this unique destination in a truly exclusive and unforgettable way aboard the Spirit of Chartwell. Don't miss the opportunity to experience the luxury, comfort and beauty that come together to offer an incomparable experience when discovering the charm of the Douro.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

PORTO

- **Location:** Vila Nova de Gaia (Porto)
- **Activities:**
  - **6:00 PM:** Embarkation begins at the Vila Nova de Gaia quay.
  - Ship departs for a short cruise to the Ribeira do Porto area (or remains docked depending on river conditions).
  - Welcome Cocktail served on board.
  - **Dinner:** Served on board.
  - **Overnight:** Docked at Ribeira do Porto or Gaia, offering iconic views of the city lights.

DAY 2

PINHAO / RÉGUA

Your day begins aboard the elegant vessel as it glides upstream towards Régua, the morning sun painting the landscape in golden hues. Savor a sumptuous breakfast against the backdrop of the Douro River's scenic vistas, followed by an exclusive culinary demonstration led by the onboard chef, where the rich aromas of local ingredients dance in the air.

As you arrive in Régua, disembark to explore the opulent Mateus Palace, its Baroque architecture framed by the lush, manicured gardens that whisper tales of history.

DAY 3

BARCA D'ALVA

Awake to the gentle sway of the luxury vessel as it glides through the tranquil waters of the Douro, the morning sun casting a golden hue upon the dramatic landscape. Savor a decadent breakfast on board, the aroma of freshly baked pastries mingling with the crisp air, as you venture toward the Spanish border, each moment steeped in serenity and elegance.

Upon arrival in Barca d'Alva, immerse yourself in the rich history of the medieval village of Castelo Rodrigo, where the flavors of local delicacies—succulent almonds, artisanal cheese, and golden honey—dance upon your palate.

DAY 4

RÉGUA

As dawn breaks, you embark on a serene return journey downstream towards Régua, savoring a sumptuous breakfast onboard, where the aroma of freshly baked pastries mingles with the gentle sound of the river's flow. The day unfolds with a delightful lunch, exquisitely prepared to showcase the local flavors, setting the stage for your afternoon adventure.

Upon arrival in Régua, you explore the enchanting city of Lamego, renowned for its breathtaking sanctuary, Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, where a majestic baroque staircase of 686 steps invites you to ascend.

DAY 5

PORTO

Your journey begins with the gentle embrace of the morning sun as you sail from Régua, gliding along the majestic Douro River, the landscape unfolding like a living tapestry of terraced vineyards and quaint villages. Onboard, the air is filled with the enticing aromas of a sumptuous brunch, each bite a celebration of local flavors, perfectly paired with the region's exquisite wines, as the soft sounds of laughter and clinking glasses accompany the serene rhythm of the waves.

As you arrive at the picturesque quay of Vila Nova de Gaia, the golden light dances upon the water, inviting you to disembark and explore this enchanting realm.

Tips & Travel Guide

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

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Nov 2, 2026	Standard Twin Cabin	**€1,250**	**€990**

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-of-Chartwell-Hotel-Ship_2026 for the latest information.

IMPORTANT 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 to the departure: 100% charge

Important Terms

- Travel insurance: not specified
- All cancellation costs are subject to additional charges incurred with transport, hotel accommodation, meals and drinks, contracted services and other non-refundable charges related to the reservation made by the passenger. These additional costs will be charged to the passenger, in addition to the normal cancellation charges.

Source: Cruzeiros Douro official terms

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is this Douro cruise and on which days does it operate?

> It is a 4-night, 5-day cruise running Monday to Friday. Embarkation begins at 6:00 PM on Monday at the Vila Nova de Gaia quay, and disembarkation is usually between 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM on Friday. It is the longer Spirit of Chartwell itinerary and the one that reaches the far upper Douro at the Spanish frontier.

Where does the cruise board and where does it end?

> Both ends are at the Vila Nova de Gaia quay, on the south bank of the Douro opposite Porto. After boarding on Monday evening the ship makes a short cruise to the Ribeira do Porto area, or stays docked depending on river conditions, and overnights with a view of the city lights before heading upstream on Tuesday morning.

Does this itinerary actually reach Spain?

> It reaches Barca d'Alva, the last Portuguese river port before the Spanish border, where the ship docks overnight on Wednesday. The excursion from there is on the Portuguese side, to the medieval village of Castelo Rodrigo. So you sail to the frontier and through the quietest, most dramatic stretch of the Douro, without an overnight in Spain.

What is the Spirit of Chartwell and how many guests does it carry?

> The Spirit of Chartwell is a hotel ship internationally recognised for carrying Queen Elizabeth II on the Thames. On the Douro it takes just 30 passengers, which is why the service is personal and excursions move as one small group. It is an intimate alternative to the larger river vessels that work this route.

Which cabin categories are offered?

> Two categories are available: the Standard Twin Cabin and the Royal Suite. Numbers in both are very limited on a 30-guest ship, and the Royal Suite in particular is usually the first to sell. The exact fare for each category on each departure date is shown on this page.

What is Mateus Palace and when do we visit it?

> On Tuesday afternoon the ship arrives at Regua and you disembark to visit Mateus Palace (Casa de Mateus), a striking baroque palace with magnificent formal gardens and one of the most recognisable buildings in northern Portugal. Afterwards the ship continues upstream to Pinhao, in the heart of the UNESCO-designated valley.

What happens at Barca d'Alva and Castelo Rodrigo?

> Wednesday morning is spent sailing through the quietest and most dramatic stretch of the Douro towards the Spanish border, arriving at Barca d'Alva. In the afternoon you take an excursion to Castelo Rodrigo, a historic medieval hilltop village, including a tasting of local products such as almonds, cheese and honey.

What is the traditional bottle-opening ceremony on board?

> On Wednesday evening, after a Portuguese-themed dinner, the crew perform a vintage bottle-opening ceremony using the traditional method of hot tongs applied to the neck of the bottle. It is a short piece of Douro heritage and theatre rather than a formal tasting, and it is part of the included on-board programme.

What will I see in Lamego?

> On Thursday afternoon the ship returns to Regua and you tour the city of Lamego, famous for the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remedios and its baroque staircase of 686 steps. The visit includes a tasting of local specialities such as bola de Lamego. The staircase is the town's great landmark, so bring comfortable shoes.

What entertainment and activities are on board?

> The programme includes a cooking show with renowned chefs, Portuguese popular music shows, a Portuguese-themed dinner, tastings of local products, lectures, and the guided tours set out in the itinerary. There is a sun deck for the passing scenery, plus Wi-Fi and video on demand. Thursday ends with the Captain's Dinner and a live folk music show.

What is included in the cruise fare?

> Included are all meals on board, use of the sun deck, Wi-Fi, video on demand, the entertainment programme (cooking show, Portuguese music shows and the themed dinner), the tours and guided visits highlighted in the programme, tastings of local products, and lectures. Meals taken off the ship where the programme specifies them are also included.

Is anything not included in the fare?

> This page lists exactly what the fare covers. Anything not on that list, such as personal purchases, items ordered from the bar outside the programme, international flights and travel insurance, is payable separately. If you need a specific item confirmed before you book, ask a travel specialist and we will put the answer in writing.

Where does the ship dock each night?

> Monday night is at Ribeira do Porto or Gaia, with views of the city lights. Tuesday night is at Pinhao, in the heart of the UNESCO-designated valley. Wednesday night is at Barca d'Alva near the Spanish border, and Thursday night is at Regua before the Friday morning sail back down to Gaia.

What is the lead-in fare for this cruise?

> The lead-in fare is from about 990 euros per person sharing for the four nights, covering meals on board, the entertainment and lecture programme and the guided visits in the itinerary. The fare varies by cabin category and departure, so the exact fare for each date is shown on this page.

Is there a fare for single occupancy?

> Yes, a cabin for sole use is available at a supplement over the sharing rate. With only 30 guests on board, single cabins are strictly limited, so ask early. A travel specialist will confirm availability and the exact single fare for your chosen departure before anything is paid.

What deposit is required and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 25 percent confirms your cabin, and the balance is due 65 days before departure. If you book inside 65 days the full amount is payable at the time of booking. Written confirmation with the exact amounts and the due date follows once the cabin is held in your name.

Can children join this cruise?

> Children are accepted and priced by age at departure, with one band covering ages 0 to 5 and another covering ages 5 to 12; from 12 the adult fare applies. The ship is small and the programme is built around tastings, lectures and heritage visits, so talk to a travel specialist about whether it suits your family.

What time is disembarkation on the final day?

> On Friday the ship sails from Regua back towards the coast, with brunch or lunch served on board, and arrives at the Vila Nova de Gaia quay in the early afternoon. Check-out and disembarkation usually take place between 12:30 PM and 1:00 PM, so book any onward flight for late afternoon or later.

Which departure dates are available?

> The dates currently on sale are listed in the departures section of this page, with the fare for each cabin category. With only 30 guests per sailing the number of cabins per date is small, so check the live list on this page rather than assuming a date is still open.

How do I ask a question or book this Douro cruise?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message https://wa.me/17864080610, and a travel specialist or our AI assistant will help. Every departure listed on this page is bookable directly, and we will confirm your cabin category, the exact fare and what it covers in writing before any payment is taken.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

travel@palacetours.com | 786-408-0610

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