PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Douro River Escape from Porto for 3 Nights

3 Nights • Luxury Experience

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

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.

DAY 2

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.

DAY 4

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

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
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.

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 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

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

How long is the Douro River Escape and which days does it run?

> It is a 3-night, 4-day escape running Friday to Monday. You board in Vila Nova de Gaia on Friday, cruise upstream on Saturday to Regua and Pinhao, return via Regua and Porto's Ribeira on Sunday, and disembark on Monday morning. It is designed as a long weekend on the river rather than a full week.

Where does the ship board and disembark?

> Embarkation and disembarkation are at the quay in Vila Nova de Gaia, on the south bank of the Douro directly opposite Porto and its Ribeira district. On the final morning the ship leaves Entre-os-Rios at 7:00 AM, arrives at the Gaia pier around 9:00 AM, and disembarkation is at 10:00 AM after breakfast on board.

What is the Spirit of Chartwell?

> The Spirit of Chartwell is a hotel ship with a distinctive history: it was redesigned to carry Queen Elizabeth II during her Diamond Jubilee river procession on the Thames. Today it sails the Douro with cabins finished in fine woodwork and the atmosphere of a private floating club rather than a large commercial cruise ship.

How many guests does the ship carry?

> Just 30 guests, and that is the defining feature of this cruise. Embarkation is quick and personal, service is individual, and excursions move as one small group rather than in coaches. If you prefer an intimate ship to a large river vessel, this is the main reason to choose this itinerary.

What cabin types are available?

> Two categories are offered: the Standard Twin Cabin and the Royal Suite. Both are finished in fine woodwork in keeping with the ship's character. The Royal Suite is the premium option and numbers are very limited on a 30-guest ship. The exact fare for each category and departure is shown on this page.

Which places does the itinerary visit?

> The ship sails from Vila Nova de Gaia upstream into the Douro Valley to Regua and Pinhao on Saturday, then returns on Sunday with a guided tour of Lamego and time at Porto's Ribeira, before overnighting at Entre-os-Rios and cruising back to Gaia on Monday morning.

What is the Culinary Delight presentation on board?

> On Saturday morning, as the terraced slate hillsides of the valley come into view, the ship's chef gives a Culinary Delight demonstration: the preparation of a traditional Portuguese dish, with commentary on the local ingredients and techniques behind it, followed by a tasting ahead of lunch. Show cooking with renowned chefs is included in the fare.

What will I see in Lamego?

On Sunday you disembark at Regua for a guided tour of Lamego, one of the most historically significant towns in northern Portugal. Its landmark is the Sanctuary of Nossa Senhora dos Remedios, a baroque church on a hill reached by a monumental staircase decorated with blue and white azulejo tiles. The visit ends with a tasting of local products.

What is included in the cruise fare?

Included are all meals on board, Wi-Fi and video on demand, the activities and entertainment programme, show cooking with renowned chefs, and the tours and guided visits set out in the programme, along with meals taken off the ship where the programme specifies them.

What is not included in the fare?

Private tours, selected drinks from the bar, shop purchases, transfers to and from the ship, and anything else not listed as included are not covered. International flights, travel insurance and personal expenses are also your own. A travel specialist can confirm the full cost in writing before you book.

Are transfers to the ship included?

No. Transfers to and from the ship are not included, so plan your own arrival at the Vila Nova de Gaia quay. Porto airport is a straightforward taxi ride from Gaia, and many guests arrive a night early and stay in Porto or Gaia. We can arrange a private transfer on request as an add-on.

What time is disembarkation on the final morning?

The ship leaves Entre-os-Rios at 7:00 AM on Monday, arrives at the Gaia pier at about 9:00 AM and disembarkation takes place at 10:00 AM after breakfast on board. Allow time to reach Porto airport afterwards, and book any onward flight for early afternoon or later to be comfortable.

What is the lead-in fare for this cruise?

The lead-in fare is from about 740 euros per person sharing for the three nights, including meals on board, the entertainment programme and the guided visits in the programme. Fares vary by cabin category and departure date, so the exact fare for each date is shown on this page.

Is there a single occupancy fare?

Yes, a cabin for sole use is available at a supplement over the sharing fare. With only 30 guests on board, single cabins are strictly limited and are usually the first to go. Ask a travel specialist to check availability and confirm the single rate for your preferred date before you commit.

What deposit is required and when is the balance due?

A deposit of 25 percent confirms your cabin, and the balance falls due 65 days before departure. Bookings made inside 65 days are payable in full at the time of booking. You receive written confirmation with the exact amounts and the due date once the cabin is held in your name.

Can children join this cruise?

> Children are accepted and priced by age at departure, with a band for ages 0 to 5 and a band for ages 5 to 12; from 12 the adult fare applies. The ship is small and the atmosphere is quiet and adult in character, so talk to a travel specialist about whether the programme suits your family before booking.

Is Wi-Fi available on board?

> Yes. Wi-Fi is included throughout the ship, as is video on demand in the cabins. Coverage along the Douro Valley can vary in the deeper gorges, which is normal on this river, so plan on light browsing and messaging rather than uninterrupted video calls while under way.

Where is Vila Nova de Gaia and how does it relate to Porto?

> Vila Nova de Gaia sits on the southern bank of the Douro directly opposite Porto, linked to it by the Dom Luis I Bridge and known for the historic cellars along its waterfront. Boarding there puts you a short walk across the river from Porto's Ribeira district, so an extra night before or after the cruise is easy to use.

Which departure dates are available?

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

How do I ask a question or book the Douro River Escape?

> Email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610 or message https://wa.me/17864080610, and a travel specialist or our AI assistant will help. The departures shown on this page are 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

www.palacetours.com

500 S. Federal Hwy, Unit 3852, Hallandale Beach, FL 33008