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# Douro Express River Cruise: 5-Night Porto Round-Trip

5 Nights • Luxury Experience

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

# Overview

The Douro Express is a 6-day / 5-night round-trip cruise from Porto aboard the MS Douro Cruiser, sailing the heart of Portugal's Douro — the world's oldest demarcated wine region and a UNESCO World Heritage site. From the colourful Ribeira district of Porto to the terraced vineyards of the Régua wine country and the quiet river town of Entre-os-Rios, this is an unhurried, all-inclusive introduction to the Douro Valley, with a panoramic tour of Porto and a wine tasting at a traditional quinta included.

DAY BY DAY

# Your Itinerary

DAY 1

## PORTO

Board the MS Douro Cruiser at Douro Marina from 3:00 PM. After check-in, settle into your cabin and enjoy some time relaxing on board.

In the evening, meet the crew during a welcome reception, followed by a welcome dinner. Overnight in Porto. Dinner and accommodations on board.

DAY 2

## PORTO

Porto is a feast for the senses — a captivating city of rolling hills, colourful historic buildings and timeless charm. Wander through the enchanting Ribeira district, with spectacular views of the Douro River and the iconic Dom Luís I Bridge, designed by a close collaborator of Gustave Eiffel.

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Porto (minimum 10 guests), including its historic centre, the Ribeira waterfront and the city's famous Port wine cellars. Overnight in Porto.

DAY 3

## PORTO

This morning, depart Porto at sunrise and cruise to the charming town of Entre-os-Rios, arriving after breakfast — a peaceful spot where the Douro and Tâmega Rivers meet, framed by beautiful natural scenery.

Notable sights include the Duarte Pacheco Bridge over the Tâmega and the Romanesque Church of São Miguel; nearby, a renowned thermal spa offers tranquil, centuries-old gardens. Optional excursion to the historic city of Guimarães. Overnight in Entre-os-Rios.

DAY 4

## LAMEGO

Arrive in Régua, the heart of Portugal's celebrated Douro wine region — gateway to the Douro Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the world's oldest officially demarcated wine region, established in 1756.

Visit a traditional quinta (wine estate) to learn about local winemaking traditions and enjoy a wine tasting. Overnight in Régua. Accommodation on board.

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DAY 5

## PORTO

Early this morning, begin your scenic cruise back to Porto, arriving shortly after lunch and admiring the spectacular landscapes of the Douro Valley one last time.

This evening, enjoy free time exploring Porto at your own pace — the riverfront, the city's architecture and its renowned wine lodges. Overnight in Porto. Dinner and accommodations on board.

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DAY 6

## PORTO

Enjoy breakfast on board before disembarking at Douro Marina. End of our services.

DATES & PRICING

# Departure Dates & Rates

| DEPARTURE DATE | CLASS / CABIN | SINGLE | DOUBLE (PP) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Mar 21, 2027** | Category D – Main Deck (Aft) | **€1,844** | **€1,229** |
| | Category C – Main Deck | **€2,158** | **€1,439** |
| | Category B – Upper Deck (Aft) balcony | **€3,061** | **€1,749** |
| | Category A – Upper Deck balcony | **€3,603** | **€2,059** |

*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_River-Cruise_6-Days_Journey for the latest information.

COMMON QUESTIONS

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How long is the Douro Express cruise and where does it start and end?

It is a 6-day, 5-night round trip from Porto. You board at Douro Marina from 3:00 PM on day one and disembark there after breakfast on day six. The ship sails upstream to Entre-os-Rios and Regua in the heart of the Douro Valley, then returns to Porto, so you unpack once and never change accommodation during the trip.

## Which ship is used and how many guests does it carry?

The cruise sails aboard the MS Douro Cruiser, a four-star-superior vessel measuring 78 m by 11.4 m with capacity for 130 guests. It was built in 2005 and refurbished in 2024. On board there is a panoramic restaurant, a spacious lounge with a bar, a souvenir shop, a lift, a sun terrace with loungers and an outdoor pool.

## What cabin categories are available?

Four categories are offered and all cabins are exterior: Category D on the Main Deck aft, Category C on the Main Deck, Category B on the Upper Deck aft, and Category A on the Upper Deck. Category D carries the lead-in fare. The exact price for each category and departure date is shown on this page.

## What is the difference between Main Deck and Upper Deck cabins?

Main Deck cabins (Categories C and D) have a large fixed panorama window. Upper Deck cabins (Categories A and B) have a step-out balcony with a table and chairs, which is the main reason to upgrade on a river where the terraced hillsides pass close to the ship. Aft cabins are the lower-priced option within each deck.

## How big are the cabins and what is in them?

All cabins are exterior and about 15 square metres. Each has a shower and WC, individually adjustable air conditioning, a hairdryer, a safe and a television. Daily housekeeping is included, as is laundry service of up to six pieces per person, daily bottled water, Wi-Fi and luggage handling on board.

## Which places does the ship visit?

Days one and two are in Porto, with a panoramic city tour taking in the historic centre, the Ribeira waterfront beside the Dom Luis I Bridge and the famous riverside cellars. Day three is Entre-os-Rios, where the Douro meets the Tamega. Day four is Regua, gateway to the Douro Valley. Day five cruises back to Porto with a free evening in the city.

## What excursions are included in the fare?

The included excursion package covers the panoramic tour of Porto and a visit to a traditional quinta, or estate, in the Regua area with a tasting, both with English-speaking guides. A cruise manager accompanies the sailing. Optional excursions, such as the visit to the historic city of Guimaraes from Entre-os-Rios, are charged separately.

## Is there a minimum number of guests for the excursions?

> Yes. The included excursion package runs in English and requires a minimum of two guests, while the panoramic tour of Porto operates with a minimum of ten guests. On a 130-guest ship these minimums are almost always met, but if a tour cannot run you will be told on board and alternatives suggested.

## What meals are included on board?

> Full board is included from dinner on embarkation day to breakfast on disembarkation day: a breakfast buffet, a three-course lunch and a four-course dinner, plus evening snacks in the lounge. The programme also includes the Captain's Welcome and Farewell receptions, a special Welcome Dinner and the Captain's Gala Dinner.

## What does the all-inclusive beverage package cover?

> The package runs daily from 9:30 AM to 11:00 PM and covers a standard selection of drinks by the glass along with soft drinks, mineral water, coffee and tea. Specialty coffees, premium selections and spirits are not included and are charged to your cabin, as are minibar items.

## What is not included in the cruise fare?

> Optional excursions, drinks outside the included package, individual transfers, international flights, travel insurance, gratuities, minibar items, the fuel surcharge and Portuguese VAT are not included. Transfers between Porto airport and Douro Marina are not part of the fare, so allow for a taxi or a pre-arranged private transfer.

## What extra fees should I budget for?

> Two fixed extras apply: gratuities of 70 euros per person per cruise and a fuel surcharge of 45 euros per person. Portuguese Value Added Tax of 6 percent is also payable and is not included in the quoted fare. A travel specialist will show you the full amount, including these items, before anything is paid.

## Are Wi-Fi and laundry included?

> Yes. Wi-Fi is included throughout the ship, and laundry service of up to six pieces per person is included during the cruise. Daily housekeeping, daily bottled water in your cabin and luggage handling on board are also covered by the fare. Laundry beyond the six-piece allowance is charged separately.

## What is the lead-in fare and what does it mean?

> The lead-in fare is from about 1,169 euros per person sharing a Category D cabin on the Main Deck aft, for the full five nights with all meals, the beverage package and the included excursions. Fares rise with cabin category and vary by departure date, so the exact fare for each date is shown on this page.

## Is there a single occupancy fare?

> Yes, a single-occupancy fare is available for travellers who want a cabin to themselves, at a supplement over the sharing rate. Cabin numbers are limited, so single occupancy is best requested early. Ask a travel specialist to confirm the single rate for your preferred date before you book.

## What deposit is required and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 25 percent of the cruise price confirms your cabin, with the balance due 65 days before departure. If you book within 65 days of sailing the full amount is payable at the time of booking. Written confirmation setting out the

## Can children come on this cruise?

> Children are accepted and priced by age at departure, with one band for ages 0 to 5 and another for ages 5 to 12; from 12 the adult fare applies. Cabins are about 15 square metres, so families usually book two cabins rather than adding a third bed. Speak to a travel specialist so the right cabins are held together.

## What is there to see at Entre-os-Rios?

> Entre-os-Rios is a quiet town where the Douro and the Tamega meet, framed by wooded hills. Sights include the Duarte Pacheco Bridge over the Tamega and the Romanesque Church of Sao Miguel, and a well-known thermal spa nearby has tranquil gardens that are centuries old. An optional excursion to the historic city of Guimaraes is offered from here.

## When do the departures for this cruise run?

> Departures are loaded for the 2027 season, beginning in March. The full list of bookable dates, with the fare for each cabin category, is shown in the departures section of this page. Spring and autumn sailings on the Douro fill early because the number of ships licensed on the river is limited.

## How do I ask a question or book the Douro Express 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 date listed on this page can be booked directly, and we will confirm the cabin category, the exact fare and the extras payable 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