

# *Romance of the* Douro River

LISBON | PORTO | ALTO DOURO WINE REGION



**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

SPONSORED BY

**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association

September 13-24, 2024

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

The romantic Douro River flows gently through a visual wonderland of sculpted hills and terraced vineyards. On this 10-night journey, join us to revel in the Douro Valley's stunning landscapes, and thrill to the culture and history of Lisbon and Porto.

Begin your journey with three nights in Lisbon, where explorers launched history-making journeys and centuries-old trams still navigate twisting lanes. Then fall under Porto's alluring spell, delighting in the city's storied port wine culture and mosaic of scarlet and golden architecture. Continue with seven nights cruising the Douro River, passing colorful vineyards and hilltop villages. Along the way, witness charming Vila Real and Lamego, spend a day in the Spanish city of Salamanca, and tempt your palate with tantalizing cuisine, including the region's eponymous sweet port wine. Prepare to lose yourself in Portugal's old-world ambience and nostalgic antiquity!

Enjoy an intimate cruising experience on a small ship built specifically for river travel, and personalize your cruise by joining excursions of your choice on select days. Space is limited, so we encourage you to make your reservation today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

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### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Historic Center of Oporto and the Dom Luis I Bridge
2. Historic Center of Guimarães
3. Alto Douro Wine Region
4. University of Coimbra
5. Monastery of the Hieronymites and Tower of Belém, Lisbon
6. Old City of Salamanca





# A World of Discovery



A unique and authentic discovery awaits on this extraordinary journey through Portugal! Follow in the wake of great explorers in Lisbon and uncover Porto's lively local scene. Then set sail through the Douro River Valley, the world's oldest demarcated wine region. Carve a path through the region's sculpted hills and acres of terraced vineyards, and hop off to visit medieval towns and charming *quintas*. There is no better way to discover Portugal's celebrated viniculture and traditions.

Top: *Quinta visit, Alto Douro wine region* | © Stephane Pflieger  
Cover: *Douro River Valley*  
Mail panel: *Lisbon* | *MS Douro Queen*

## Inspiring Moments



- Travel through the rolling hills of the Alto Douro wine region and visit a wine estate, a *quinta*, for a **port wine tasting**.
- Walk in the footsteps of Portuguese aristocracy at **Mateus Palace**.
- Gaze at the world-renowned **University of Coimbra**.
- Delve into Portuguese history at **Guimarães**, the city considered to be the birthplace of Portugal.
- Explore **Porto's** maze of medieval alleys and colorful neighborhoods.
- Appreciate the splendor of **Salamanca**, an elegant Spanish city.
- Follow the historic path of great explorers in the lively capital city of **Lisbon**.
- Sit back and soak up the views while day sailing along the scenic **Douro River**.
- Experience six **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.



Hieronymites Monastery, Lisbon

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart gateway city for Lisbon, Portugal. 🌐

### Day 2 | Lisbon, Portugal

Upon arrival in Lisbon, transfer 🚗 and check in to the Dom Pedro Lisboa.

Tonight, join us for a Welcome Reception.

### Day 3 | Lisbon

**Lisbon City Tour.** Begin today along the Avenue of Liberty. Next, uncover Portugal's history at the Hieronymites Monastery where sailors and explorers prayed before their expeditions. Also admire the artistry of the towering Monument to the Discoveries and the Belém Tower, which celebrates the triumphs of Portugal's explorers. Continue to the district of Estrela to glimpse local life.

**Free Time:** Discover Lisbon at your own pace.

🕒 **Elective | Fado Dinner.** Savor a delicious dinner of Portuguese cuisine and listen to soul-stirring *fado*, a traditional genre of music with guitar and vocal arrangements.

### Day 4 | Lisbon

**Free Time:** Join today's elective excursion to explore nearby villages or enjoy a day at leisure.

🕒 **Elective | Sintra, Cascais and Estoril.** Sintra boasts bright architecture and the celebrated National Palace of Sintra. Walk in the footsteps of Portuguese kings during a guided tour of the palace. Next, take a scenic drive, passing Cabo da Roca and Guincho Beach. Stop in the fishing village of Cascais for a guided walk, and drive through Estoril on your return to Lisbon.

**Enrichment:** *Contemporary Portugal.*

### Day 5 | Óbidos | Coimbra | Porto

Check out of your hotel after breakfast.

**Óbidos.** Explore one of the most beautiful towns in Portugal! Pretty Óbidos sits on top of a coastal hill and is filled with brightly colored bougainvillea and geraniums.

**Coimbra.** Coimbra's timeworn streets offer a variety of interesting monuments and landmarks. Visit the illustrious University of Coimbra, one of Europe's oldest universities. See St. Michael's Chapel, a historic ceremonial hall and the stunning Biblioteca Joanina.

After lunch, continue to Porto and embark your ship. Later, join a festive onboard Welcome Reception and Dinner.

### Day 6 | Porto | Peso da Régua

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

• **Porto City Tour.** Explore Porto's historic and modern districts, viewing architectural styles at the Palácio da Bolsa. Visit the Igreja da São Francisco and enjoy a port wine tasting.

Porto | © Alain Bron





Porto

• **Porto by Tram and Flavors of Porto.** See the city from a unique perspective aboard one of its old trams. Visit the Museu do Carro Eléctrico, followed by a tasting of local foods.

**Free Time:** The afternoon is at leisure. You're welcome to return to the city center on our complimentary shuttle.

**Enrichment:** *Douro Wine Country.*

**Musical Tuna.** Enjoy a "Tuna" band, a group of local students who sing serenades.

#### Day 7 | Porto

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Guimarães, Cradle of Portugal.** Discover the birthplace of Portugal's first king on a walking tour. Step inside Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Oliveira and visit the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança, an opulent estate. After, craft your own path of adventure in Guimarães.
- **Douro Walk and Port Wine Tasting.** Take a guided walk along the coastline and river. Pass through São Pedro da Afurada, a typical fishing village. Along the way, enjoy a beautiful view of Porto and Ribeira Square.

Óbidos



Port wine cellar

Continue to a port wine cellar for a wine tasting. *(Active)*

#### Day 8 | Vila Real | Barca d'Alva

**Vila Real.** Take a guided tour of the baroque Manor Solar de Mateus. Admire the rooftop pinnacles, carved wooden ceilings, lavish halls and gardens. Next, walk along the cobbled lanes of Vila Real and sample a local pastry. Gather for a lively Castilian dance show.

#### Day 9 | Salamanca, Spain

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **Salamanca City Tour.** Explore the notable university town of Salamanca. Visit the ornate cathedral and tour the famous university.
- **Salamanca by Bike.** Bicycle along the Río Tormes and the old town with a guide. Visit the cathedral and the university. *(Active)*



Manor Solar de Mateus | © Alexandre Sattler

## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Lisbon, Portugal, at the first-class Dom Pedro Lisboa.
- **7 nights** aboard the exclusively chartered, first-class MS Douro Queen.

### Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land | Cruise Program.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **🌐 Personalize Your Journey | PYJ** | A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- **🎯 Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **🌱 AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, Lamego | © S. Pfleger



### Day 10 | São João da Pesqueira | Pinhão

**Porto's Wine Road.** Travel through the rolling Alto Douro wine region. Join a walking tour of São João da Pesqueira before exploring at your leisure. Continue to a traditional country estate, or *quinta*, for a tour of the facilities and a tasting of the local product.

**Portuguese Folklore.** Cap off the evening with an authentic folk performance.

### Day 11 | Lamego | Porto

**Lamego.** Pretty Lamego is nestled in the heart of the port-producing Douro Valley. Visit Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, a splendid baroque church overlooking the city. Leading to the church is a grand staircase with 686 steps, nine landings, statues, obelisks and *azulejos*, Portugal's iconic blue-and-white tiles.

Tonight, celebrate your exciting journey at a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### Day 12 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer ➡ to the airport for the return flight ✈ to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and ➡ transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

🌐 PYJ experiences are included.

🎯 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

#### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

#### Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

## Accommodations



### Dom Pedro Lisboa | Lisbon



The Dom Pedro Lisboa is centrally located and is elegantly decorated with marble columns and classic touches. Guests will enjoy dining at Il Gattopardo, featuring Italian dishes, or Bistrot Le Café, which serves regional cuisine. Unwind in the hotel's serene spa offering a sauna, whirlpool and indoor swimming pool as well as a fitness room. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



## MS Douro Queen



The state-of-the-art, 65-cabin MS Douro Queen is a great base to experience the beauty, history and culture of the Douro River Valley. Step aboard this recently refurbished, contemporary hotel and embark on a cruise where your comfort and enjoyment are the highest priority. The crew is dedicated to taking care of each guest with warm, friendly Portuguese hospitality and attentive service. Travelers will enjoy the ship's elegant style and modern amenities as well as the expansive gathering spaces to connect, unwind and relax. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates †

**September 13-24, 2024**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**September 14-24, 2024**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land | Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Price*
E-Middle Deck (Aft)	\$5,145	<b>\$4,895</b>
D-Middle Deck (Mid)	\$5,345	<b>\$5,095</b>
C-Upper Deck (Aft)	\$6,145	<b>\$5,895</b>
B-Upper Deck (Mid)	\$6,345	<b>\$6,095</b>
A-Upper Deck (Forward)	\$6,545	<b>\$6,295</b>

Categories A, B and C feature a balcony. Categories D and E feature a large window.

**\*Special Price includes \$250 special savings.  
Special Price valid if booked  
by the date found on the address panel.**

VAT is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).  
Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

**Single supplement waived for solo travelers!** This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1821A?schoolId=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.





Guimarães

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Belém Tower, Lisbon

## AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Passenger Service Representative** offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Salamanca

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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