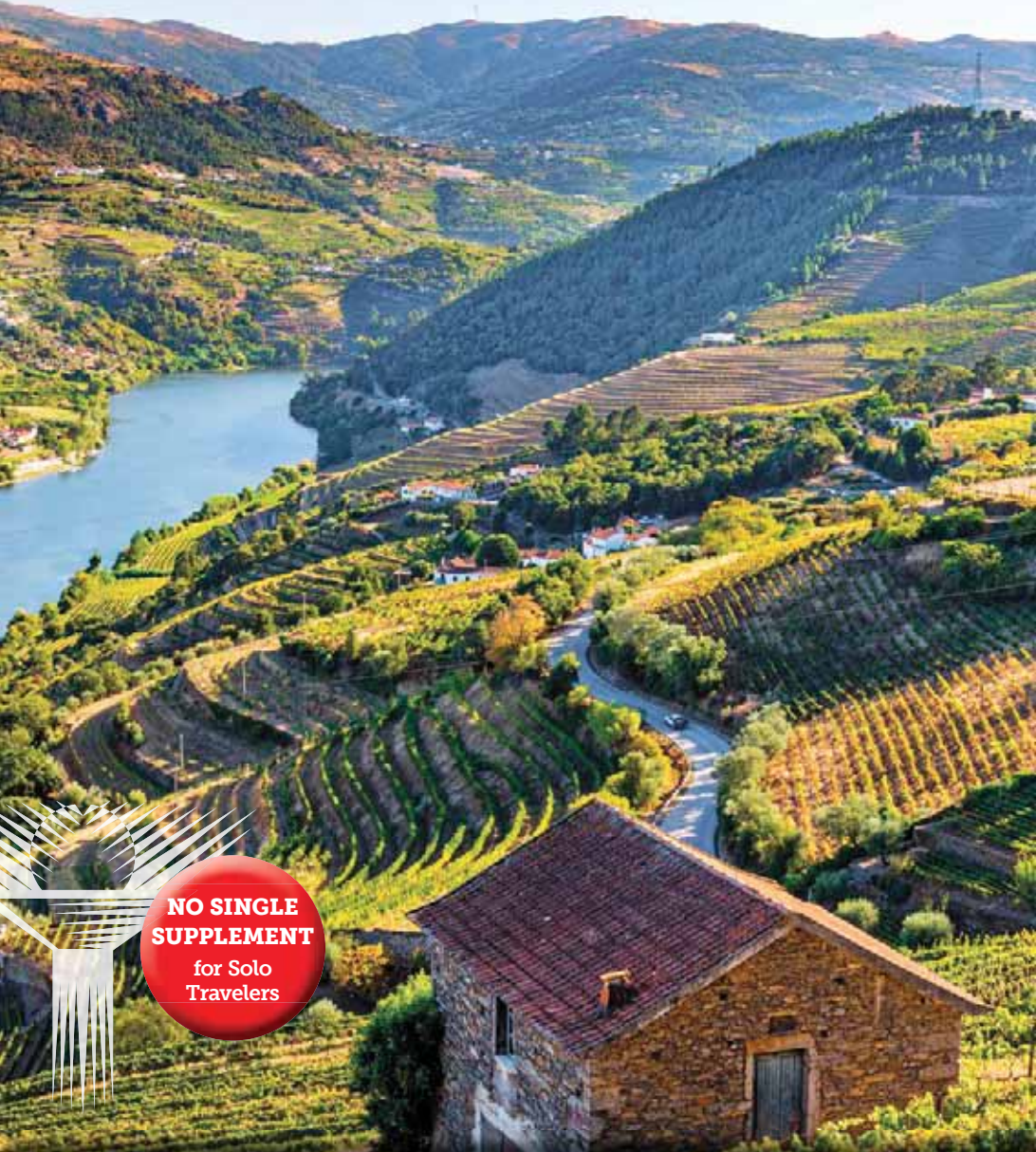


# *Romance of the* Douro River

LISBON | PORTO | ALTO DOURO WINE REGION



**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers

SPONSORED BY

University of Illinois Alumni Association



**ALUMNI**

October 3-14, 2026

# I ALUMNI

## 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, explore the Solar de Mateus and its manicured gardens, spend a day in the Spanish city of Salamanca, and tempt your palate with tantalizing cuisine, including the region's delightful red and white wines. Prepare to lose yourself in Portugal's old-world ambience and nostalgic antiquity!

Enjoy an intimate cruising experience on a small ship built specifically to navigate the Douro River 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.

---

### UNESCO World Heritage

1. Historic Center of Oporto and the 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 in Lisbon
6. Old City of Salamanca, Spain

*Right: Salamanca Cathedral*





# Discovery begins here



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: Belém Tower, Lisbon | Above: Port wine tasting  
Cover: Douro River Valley | Mail panel: MS Amália Rodrigues |  
Walled city of Óbidos

## 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 your gateway city for Lisbon, Portugal. 🌐

### Day 2 | Lisbon, Portugal

Arrive in Lisbon and transfer 🚗 to your hotel. Tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception.

### Day 3 | Lisbon

**Lisbon City Tour.** Begin today along the Avenida de Liberdade. 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 & 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 and pass Cabo da Roca and Guincho Beach. Stop in the vibrant town 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! 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 a group 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

Porto | © Alain Bron





Porto

at the Palácio da Bolsa. Visit the Igreja de São Francisco and enjoy a port wine tasting.

- **Porto by Tram & 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 the 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.
- **Coastal Walk & Afurada.** Take a guided walk along the coastline and river. Pass through the fishing village of São Pedro da Afurada

Port wine cellar



on a route with a beautiful view of Porto and Ribeira Square. Continue to a port wine cellar for a tasting. *(Active)*

This afternoon, begin cruising the Douro River.

#### Day 8 | Peso da Régua | Barca d'Alva

**Mateus Palace.** Learn about the historic Douro winemaking region during a museum visit and explore the Solar de Mateus, a baroque palace. Cruise to Barca d'Alva and take in sweeping views of multicolored vineyards along the river.

**Sevillanas.** Gather for a fun dancing 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 Tapas Tour.** Join a guide for a tasty Spanish tapas tour. Sample typical bites and sip a glass of locally produced wine.

Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, Lamego





## 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 Amália Rodrigues.

### 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

- **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.
- 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.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

*Old tram, Porto*

## Day 10 | São João da Pesqueira, Portugal | 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. Return to the ship and cruise to Porto.

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

## Day 12 | In Transit

After breakfast, disembark the ship and 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.

## Activity Level

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





*Manor Solar de Mateus | © Alexandre Sattler*



*University of Coimbra*



*Old Town, Guimarães*



*Douro River near Pinhão*

# 2026 | Departure Details

## Program Dates

**Travel dates** † **October 3-14, 2026**

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

**Tour dates\*** **October 4-14, 2026**

\* 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 Savings Price*
E-Main Deck	\$6,045	<b>\$5,295</b>
D-Middle Deck (Aft)	\$6,645	<b>\$5,895</b>
C-Middle Deck (Aft)	\$6,845	<b>\$6,095</b>
B-Upper Deck (Aft)	\$7,245	<b>\$6,495</b>
A-Upper Deck (Forward)	\$7,545	<b>\$6,795</b>
S2-Middle Deck (Aft)	\$8,045	<b>\$7,295</b>
S1-Upper Deck (Aft)	\$8,545	<b>\$7,795</b>

**\*This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

S1 Suites feature a private terrace and French balcony. Categories S2, A, B, C and D feature a French balcony. Category E features a window.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

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/1946A?schoold=69>.

## 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 before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

# Accommodations



Dom Pedro Lisboa | Lisbon



## MS Amalia Rodrigues

Built specifically for river cruising, the MS Amalia Rodrigues is small enough to dock at the doorstep of towns and cities along the Douro River. With just 66 staterooms and suites, the ship also offers an intimate cruising experience and the utmost in service. Savor a full breakfast each morning, and at lunch and dinner, enjoy expertly prepared meals complemented by local wine. Throughout the cruise, all beverages (except Champagne and a select list of premium brands) are complimentary. All cabins provide outside river views, allowing guests to soak up the region's outstanding scenery. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



## AHI Travel Expertise



**Travel Consultants** assist with the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

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

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

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

**Book your journey today!**

**844-414-0369**

**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**

# I ALUMNI

University of Illinois Alumni Association  
EXPLORERS Office  
Alice Campbell Alumni Center  
601 S. Lincoln Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801

DOURO26 77



**Embark on an extraordinary journey through Portugal!**

Committed to connecting travelers  
to the people, places and cultures  
of the world for more than 62 years.



**Please call or refer to  
our website for the  
most current program  
information, discounts  
and pricing.**

Presorted Std.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
AHI Travel