

Along the River of Gold

*A cruise from Oporto along Portugal's Douro River
aboard the MS Douro Prince*

April to October 2011



NOBLE CALEDONIA



Vineyards of the Douro

The Douro Valley is a region of stunning natural beauty, a serene landscape of hillside vineyards lining the winding river banks of the River Douro. From its meager beginnings in the hills north of Madrid, the River Douro makes its way through Northern Portugal, descending almost 400 feet in a meandering flourish to the ocean and the endlessly fascinating city of Oporto.

Where once vessels laden with barrels of port drifted downstream to Oporto, we will cruise along this lovely river aboard the charming *MS Douro Prince*. Port Wine production is the main industry, the low altitude of the river banks perfect for cultivating the sweet grapes unique to Portugal's national drink, and the grapevines cascade across the contours of the Douro's many imposing riverside mountains. Our navigation of the Douro will take us from Oporto, on a wonderfully scenic path, past sleepy villages and a tranquil countryside of almond and citrus trees as far as Vega de Terron in Spain. From here there will be the chance to visit Spain's ancient seat of learning, Salamanca. Along the way we shall visit the world renowned Port wine region, restored palaces, places of pilgrimage and cultural centres. Small towns and settlements perched on the sloping hillsides of the region have retained an aura of medieval simplicity, its many tiny communities, largely agricultural, clustering round historic churches, monasteries and castles.

The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Oporto. Fly by scheduled flight. Upon arrival transfer to the *MS Douro Prince* for embarkation.

Day 2 Regua. Depart for Regua, the heart of the port producing region, crossing the Carrapateiro Dam and flood gate. This afternoon there will be a half-day

excursion to the picturesque pilgrimage town of Lamego, with its Gothic cathedral and narrow winding streets. This evening, dinner will be taken at the Vintage House Hotel. Moor overnight in Pinhao.

Day 3 Pinhao & Vega de Terron.

This morning we will visit Quinta do Seixo, an ancient property with 99 hectares of vineyards and a modern winery in the heart of the Douro Valley. Here we will learn more about the history of Port which goes back to the 17th century. Afternoon cruising to Vega de Terron in Spain. Tonight will be the Captain's dinner onboard.

Day 4 Vega de Terron & Salamanca. From Vega de Terron, embark on an optional excursion to Salamanca. Salamanca has been famous as a seat of learning since the early 13th century. Stroll around the Plaza Mayor with its warm coloured sandstone buildings, one of the most beautiful squares in Spain. Later enjoy a traditional show before returning to the vessel for a traditional Portuguese barbecue.

Day 5 Figueira Castelo Rodrigo. This morning we will cruise via the Pocinho Dam and flood gate. Enjoy a morning excursion to the medieval town of Figueira Castelo Rodrigo. Explore its narrow and steep lanes and admire its enchanting 16th century facades and Manuelino style windows. Return to the vessel and cruise to Pinhao, arriving in the late afternoon. This evening enjoy dinner and a traditional Portuguese folk music show onboard.

Day 6 Regua & Bitetos. Cruise downstream towards Regua for a visit to the 18th-century Mateus Manor House and its gardens. This beautiful palace and gardens is still owned by the Count of Vila Real and is one of the best examples of Baroque architecture in Portugal. The romantic gardens feature a unique 100 foot long cedar tunnel and formal garden. Return to the vessel and sail to Bitetos. Enjoy a traditional Portuguese dinner this evening at the 14th century Alpendurada Monastery from where there are breathtaking views of the river below from the terrace.

Day 7 Oporto. Cruise this morning to Oporto, crossing the Crestuma-Lever dam. In the afternoon, enjoy a city tour of Oporto, Portugal's second largest city and a World Heritage Site. The tour will conclude with a visit to a Port wine lodge.

Day 8 Oporto to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for the return scheduled flight to London.



Rabello Boats on the Douro River in Oporto



Plaza Mayor, Salamanca



Delicatessen, Oporto

2011 Departure dates and prices per person

Based on double occupancy Tour code: RCDPDOURO

Cat	Cabin description	9th, 16th April; 2nd, 16th July; 6th, 20th, 27th August; 8th October	14th, 28th May; 11th, 18th June; 10th, 24th September
1	Upper deck cabin	£1395	£1495
2	Main deck cabin with balcony	£1595	£1695
N/A	Upper deck suite	£1795	£1895
1	For sole use	£2095	£2195

Price includes: Economy class scheduled air travel, seven nights aboard the *MS Douro Prince* on full board, shore excursions as described, transfers, tour manager, port taxes, airport taxes.

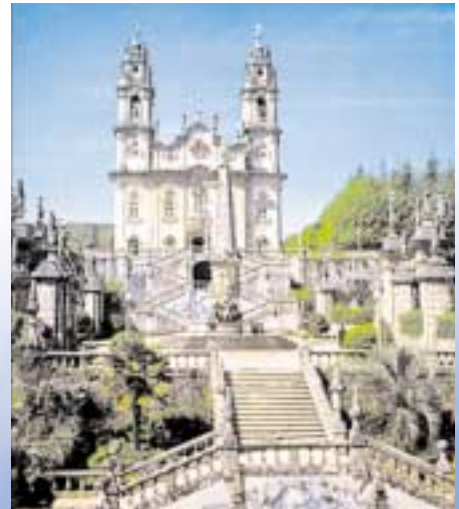
Not included: Travel insurance, gratuities, optional excursion to Salamanca (£80 per person).

NB. Ports subject to change.

Extend your stay

If you would like to extend your stay in Portugal, we are offering a three night post cruise extension to Lisbon. This fascinating city is steeped in history and blessed with natural beauty. Your time here will be at leisure for independent exploration. Perhaps visit St Georges Castle overlooking the city, the World Heritage monument of Jeronimos Monastery or wander around the Barrio Alto. The extension includes a coach transfer from Oporto to Lisbon on day 8, three nights accommodation in a first class hotel on breakfast only basis and transfers.

Twin room: £395 per person Single: £595



Lamego Cathedral



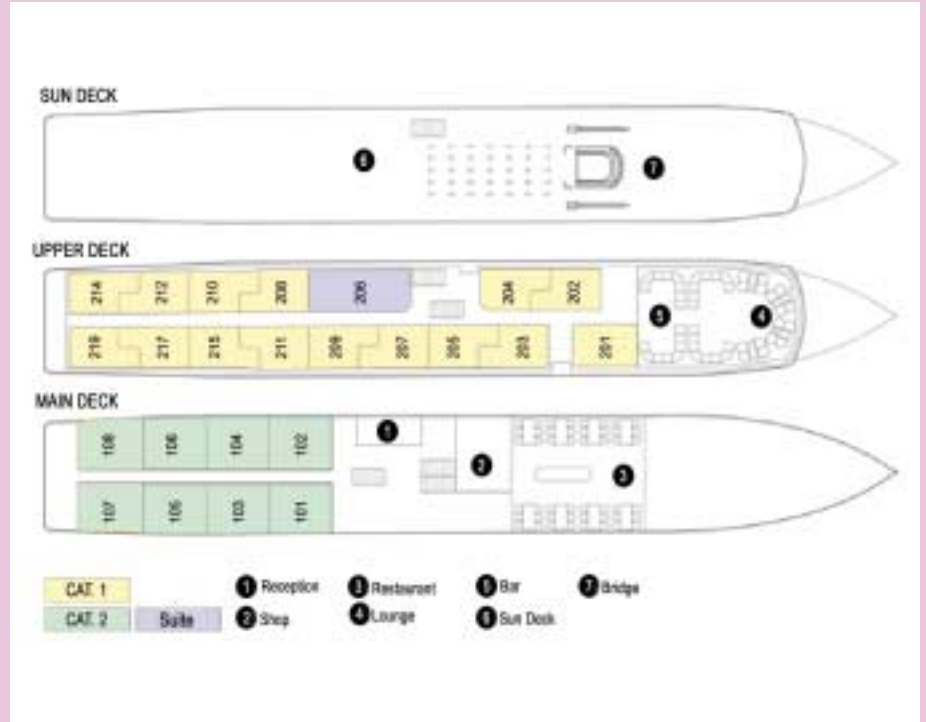
Lamego Cathedral



Reception

MS Douro Prince

The MS Douro Prince is a friendly and intimate ship with an elegant single-sitting dining room, welcoming lounge, bar, sundeck and gift shop. There are 24 spacious outside cabins and one suite. Cabins on the Main deck have floor to ceiling windows which give access to a small balcony and cabins on the Upper deck are slightly larger and have a large picture window. All cabins have a private shower and toilet except the suite which has a bath. All cabins are stylishly decorated with individually controlled air-conditioning, private facilities and TV.



Category 2 cabin



Bar



Suite



Restaurant

Call 020-7752 0000
 Reservations: Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm. Brochures: 24 hours a day/7 days a week

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Front Cover: The Douro's vinecovered slopes; Figueira Castelo Rodrigo; MS Douro Prince; port barrels, Oporto



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 Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations (available on request)