

SPECIAL
OFFER - SAVE
£400
PER PERSON

GOLDEN LANDSCAPES OF THE DOURO

A journey through the beauty
of the Douro Valley aboard the MS Estrela

28th September to 7th October 2027

NOBLE CALEDONIA



The Douro is one of Europe's most unspoilt and beautiful rivers and, although a mere 550 miles in length, offers an extraordinary variety of scenery with steep emerald slopes dotted with wild olive groves, terraced vineyards and picturesque farmhouses, alongside the renowned port houses and traditional quintas. From its meagre beginnings in the hills north of Madrid, the river flows through northern Portugal in a meandering flourish to the ocean and the city of Oporto. Our cruise aboard the 100-passenger MS Estrela offers the opportunity to sail this delightful river at a leisurely pace and where vessels once laden with barrels of port drifted to Oporto, we will cruise along its tranquil waters, relaxing on board whilst admiring the ever-changing scenery and stopping each day for fascinating excursions.



Our journey offers an exploration of the beautiful landscapes of Spain and Portugal, combining the historic cities of Castile with the timeless beauty of the Douro Valley. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the valley remains deeply rooted in tradition, particularly in the production of port and table wines, some of which we will have the opportunity to sample. We will begin our tour in Spain with a two night stay in the beautiful city of Avila with its remarkably preserved Medieval walls before heading to Salamanca, long regarded as one of Europe's great centres of learning with its grand buildings and the country's most magnificent square, Plaza Mayor. From nearby Vega de Terron we embark the wonderfully comfortable MS Estrela for our navigation of the Douro which will take us on a wonderfully scenic path, past sleepy villages and a tranquil countryside of almond and citrus trees. As we cruise downstream, we will discover restored palaces, places of pilgrimage, historic towns, Baroque estates and working quintas before our cruise concludes in Oporto where we will have ample time to explore the atmospheric riverside quarter, elegant churches and unique architecture of this endlessly fascinating city.

This is the perfect trip for those who enjoy seeing something different every day, as each port of call has its own unique character waiting to be discovered whilst on one of our included guided excursions. There will also be plenty of time to relax on board as the vessel gently cruises through wonderful scenery; let the world slip by and delight in awe-inspiring panoramic views from the comfort of the Lounge or the Sun Deck.



The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Avila, Spain. Fly by scheduled flight to Madrid. On arrival transfer to Avila and check into the Hotel Palacio de los Velada, a wonderful 16th century palace in the heart of the city, for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening.

Day 2 Avila. Spend the morning exploring the Medieval walled city of Avila. A walking tour through the cobbled streets of this UNESCO World Heritage City will include Spain's first Gothic cathedral, integrated into the city walls, the 11th century Basilica of San Vicente and the Convent of Santa Teresa. After lunch in a local restaurant the afternoon is at leisure and you may wish to return to the hotel to relax or perhaps walk along the city walls, which extend for over 1700 metres, with views down to the Plaza del Mercado Grande as well as out to the surrounding countryside. This evening is free to dine independently in the hotel or at one of the city's restaurants to sample some of the local delicacies.

Day 3 Salamanca & Vega de Terron, Portugal. Check out of the hotel after breakfast and drive to Salamanca, a city rich in culture and tradition. Salamanca has been famous as a seat of learning since the early 13th century and boasts an impressive architectural heritage. The city attracts around 40,000 international students each year, giving it a cosmopolitan and modern feel. Our guided tour will include the University, House of Shells and the classic Plaza Mayor, formerly a bullfighting site. We will also visit the Gothic 'New Cathedral', which was actually constructed in the 16th century, replacing the original 12th century cathedral. After lunch we continue to Vega de Terron to embark the MS Estrela.

Day 4 Almeida or Foz Coa. This morning we have a choice of excursions. You may wish to drive to Almeida, one of the finest examples of a ramparted fortification still standing in Portugal. The fortress was built in the 17th century to surround a Medieval castle and, when seen from above, resembles a 12 pointed star. Strategically located on a plateau just 12 kilometres from the Spanish border, it featured in many historic battles during the Wars of Restoration as well as the French invasions of the 19th century. We can explore the narrow streets that preserve the historic atmosphere inside the town as well as walking the fortress walls. Alternatively, we will make our

way to the Coa Museum which celebrates the prehistoric art of the Coa Valley. The Coa is a tributary of the Douro where thousands of examples of ancient rock art have been discovered from the Upper Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Iron Age, and the region has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon cruising towards Pinhao.

Day 5 Pinhao, Douro Valley. Awake in Pinhao, located in the heart of the Douro Valley. The region is one of the oldest demarcated wine regions in the world with a microclimate perfect for grape cultivation. A morning drive takes us through steep terraced vineyards that stretch up the riverbanks and afford breathtaking views. During a visit to one of the local quintas, we will learn about the production methods and will have the opportunity to sample some of the local wines. Spend this afternoon cruising through the scenic Douro Valley.

Day 6 Regua. From our berth in Regua, we visit the 18th century Mateus Palace and its gardens. This elegant palace is still owned by the Count of Vila Real and is one of the best examples of Baroque architecture in Portugal. On our guided tour of the palace we will see the rare books library, as well as vestments and religious icons, and view the remarkable chestnut wood craftsmanship on the ceilings, as well as some beautiful paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Stroll around the romantic gardens, which feature a 100 foot long cedar tunnel and formal garden, and visit the villa's pretty chapel. After lunch on board we visit the historic and charming town of Lamego. This city houses one of the most important places of pilgrimage in Portugal - the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies. Built in the second half of the 18th century over the remains of a 14th century chapel, it is an excellent example of Portuguese Baroque style. It is richly decorated with enormous panels of blue and white tiles, with an impressive staircase of nearly 700 steps.

Day 7 Douro Valley & Entre-os-Rios. This morning is spent cruising towards Entre-os-Rios from where we visit the Quinta de Aveleda, located in the heart of the Vinho Verde region, which is known for its fresh, lightly sparkling wines with a delicate fruit character. After exploring the beautiful park and gardens, with rare specimens of trees, shrubs and flowers which surround the Manor House, we will learn about the wine produced here for generations.



Days 8 & 9 Oporto. After a leisurely morning of cruising we arrive in Oporto, our base for the next day and a half. Join a guided tour of Portugal's second largest city and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This attractive city was originally a Celtic-Iberian settlement and became a prosperous Roman village thanks to its natural harbour. We will explore narrow streets lined with 16th century arcaded buildings, Baroque churches and chapels, as well as the city's iconic 19th century iron bridge, built by the school of Gustave Eiffel. We continue along the coastal road of the Atlantic to the mouth of the Douro River to view this wealthy neighbourhood with its fashionable villas and manor houses. We will also visit the city's cathedral, located on the top of Penaventosa Hill. Inside are beautiful examples of golden carved altarpieces and paintings from the Nasoni period, whilst outside we will enjoy the amazing view over the river. The tour will conclude with a stroll and some free time to explore the riverfront promenade of Cais da Ribeira with its pastel buildings, restaurants and buzzing atmosphere. Also visit the Serralves Estate. Created in 1989, the grounds hold the leading museum for contemporary art in Portugal with regular exhibitions of both Portuguese and international artists. We will also find the villa built between 1925 and 1944, the most notable Art Deco style building in Portugal, and the surrounding park which spans 18 hectares with a mix of formal gardens, woodlands and farmland.

We will have time to walk the paths, view the sculptures and see some of the 200 species of plants. We also see the British Factory House. Built between 1786 and 1790, this was the social club for the merchants of the British owned port houses in the city. Since 1814 it has been named the British Association and today, it is used for receptions, dinners and celebrations by its members. During a tour of the building, see some of the historic rooms and view the hand-painted maps and luxurious furniture.

Day 10 Oporto to London. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
E	Lower Deck cabin with window	£4995	£4595
B	Main Deck cabin with French balcony	£5495	£5095
CT	Main Deck cabin with French balcony	£5695	£5295
P	Upper Deck cabin with French balcony	£5895	£5495
S	Upper Deck suite with French balcony	£6495	£6095
OS	Upper Deck owner's suite	£7195	£6795
E	Lower Deck cabin with window for sole use	£5995	£5595
B	Main Deck cabin with French balcony for sole	£6495	£6095

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights accommodation at Hotel Palacio de los Velada in Avila with breakfast • Dinner on Day 1 & lunch on Days 2 & 3 • Seven nights aboard the MS Estrela on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch & dinner • Shore excursions • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Gratuities • Transfers • Port Taxes • Airport Taxes.
Not Included: Travel insurance, dinner on Day 2.





MS ESTRELA

For our cruise along the Douro we have exclusively chartered the MS Estrela from our associates at APT. The vessel was launched in 2024 and designed to reflect the beauty of the region with abundant natural light and a tranquil atmosphere in which to relax and enjoy the ever-changing scenery. The spacious cabins are arranged over three decks, while public areas include an elegant restaurant and a lounge and bar with floor-to-ceiling windows. The expansive Sun Deck features a swimming pool, a bar and comfortable seating, providing the perfect setting from which to watch the world gently pass by as you take in the region's glorious landscapes from your floating hotel.

Your Cabin/Suite

The MS Estrela features 56 outside cabins and suites, all elegantly decorated and designed for comfort. Each offers individually controlled air-conditioning, an en-suite bathroom with shower, ample storage space, television, dressing table, hairdryer, safe and mini-bar. The cabins and suites are configured with twin beds which can be arranged separately or together as a double bed. Lower deck cabins measure between 13.5 and 14.5 square metres and feature a non-opening window. Main Deck cabins measure 15 square metres and benefit from a French balcony with electric slide-down windows providing wonderful views and access to fresh air. Upper Decks cabins and suites measure 15 or 18 square metres, whilst the two Owner's Suites measure 22 square metres. All Upper Deck suites feature a French balcony with electric slide down windows, whilst the Owners Suites enjoy dual aspect views with forward and side facing windows.



Your Space

The vessel offers ample space to relax, unwind and watch the world go by. The huge Sun Deck spans almost the entire length of the vessel, interrupted only by the bridge, and features a swimming pool, putting green, bar area, comfortable loungers and seating. For those who prefer the shade, an awning provides a pleasant space with tables and chairs. The lounge and bar area is located on the Upper Deck, stylishly decorated with clusters of armchairs and sofas arranged around tables. With its panoramic floor-to-ceiling windows, it is the perfect place to relax, enjoy the views and socialise with fellow guests. The entrance to the ship is on the Main Deck, where the reception desk is manned from morning to evening and staff are on hand to assist when required. Wi-Fi is available throughout the vessel.

Your Dining

Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner are served in the stylish restaurant on the Upper Deck, where all guests are accommodated in a single sitting. The excellent cuisine features a selection of Portuguese and international dishes, including specialities inspired by the regions through which you will be cruising. Breakfast and lunch are buffet-style with a choice of hot and cold dishes, whilst dinner is served as a four-course set menu. House wine, beer and soft drinks are included with lunch and dinner, and for a more informal option, you may choose a lighter meal in the lounge or dine al fresco.



Cat P cabin



The Restaurant



Bar



Lounge

Life On Board

Our cruises along the Douro offer a leisurely experience with plenty of time to relax on board. During the day, comfortable and casual attire is appropriate, whereas in the evenings the dress code is smart casual. The charming and attentive Portuguese crew provide a warm and personal service throughout. In addition to our Cruise Director and Tour Manager, a knowledgeable Guest Speaker will accompany you, delivering engaging and informative lectures on board, enhancing your understanding and enjoyment of the region.



Swimming Pool

DECK PLAN



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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
 Cover image: River Douro at sunset.