



Center for Global Engagement

# Spain and the Douro River Voyage

THE CULTURE, CUISINE & WINE  
OF PORTUGAL



March 22 – April 1, 2026

**T**he romantic Douro River winds through northern Portugal, creating a landscape of sculpted hills and terraced vineyards. Begin your journey exploring Spain's capital, Madrid — a vibrant, welcoming city known for its rich culture and iconic plazas. Next, visit Salamanca with its historic university, one of the world's oldest. Then, embark on a 7-night cruise and sail from picturesque, medieval Barca d'Alva to Porto, a delightful mosaic of scarlet and gold architecture. Pass by storybook villages and steeply sloping countryside while gliding through one of Europe's most unspoiled regions. Taste locally produced olives, almonds, breads and cheeses, and of course, port — the famous sweet, fortified wine the area is known for. Along the way, learn about the Alto Douro's winemaking history, witness beautiful Portuguese tile artwork and explore charming villages with stories to share. These experiences and more await on this fantastic sojourn!

#### Exclusive Highlights

- 7-night river cruise aboard *Porto Mirante*, an exclusively chartered deluxe riverboat.
- 2-night hotel stay in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe *InterContinental Madrid*.
- Specially arranged food and wine tastings throughout the valley.
- 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites — The Old City of Salamanca, Spain; Alto Douro Wine Region and Historic Centre of Porto, Portugal.



Above: Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal.  
Cover: Porto, Portugal, Douro river.





## Center for Global Engagement

### Dear Alumni and Friends:

On this fabulous 9-night land and river journey, travel from the historic plazas of Madrid to the riverside splendor of medieval Porto. Spend 7 nights aboard the deluxe *Porto Mirante*, sailing the winding Douro River, which carves its way through northern Portugal, creating beautiful landscapes of sloping vineyards, farms and villages.

Explore three UNESCO World Heritage sites along the way, epitomizing the varied itinerary. First, the ancient town of Salamanca — nicknamed Spain's "Golden City," and boasting one of the oldest universities in the world. In the Alto Douro Wine Region, with its perfect microclimate, wine has been produced for 2,000 years. The main product, port wine, is world-famous for its quality. And finally, the city center of Porto — including 12th-century ramparts erected on Roman foundations — was proclaimed by UNESCO "an exceptional urban landscape with a thousand-year history."

On this voyage, experience cultural and historic highlights; savor tastings of delicious locally produced food and wine; hear traditional music and marvel at unforgettable views. Book now for this unparalleled program, while space is still available!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jean Anne Hattler

Director

Alumni and Friends Travel Program

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For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)

**Day 1 | March 22**

Depart your home city.

**Day 2 | March 23****Madrid, Spain**

Arrive in Madrid, Spain.

Transfer to the *InterContinental Madrid*. Settle in and spend the afternoon exploring at your leisure, and make your own plans for lunch and dinner.

**Day 3 | March 24****Madrid**

A tour of Madrid reveals elegant, tree-lined boulevards; large, landscaped parks; varied architecture and lovely fountains — Cibeles Fountain has become a symbol of the city. Stop in the Prado Museum, which boasts one of the world's finest collections of European art.

**Day 4 | March 25 B-L-R-D**
**Madrid | Salamanca |  
Barca d'Alva, Portugal |  
Embarkation**

On a scenic drive to Salamanca, pass charming villages, olive groves and farms. Called Spain's

"Golden City," Salamanca began as a prehistoric community, then evolved into an ancient Roman settlement and college town (the world-famous university was founded in 1218). Enjoy a traditional Spanish lunch at a local restaurant, then embark on a city tour. Transfer to Barca d'Alva and embark the *Porto Mirante*. This evening, join your fellow passengers for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner.

**Day 5 | March 26 B-L-D****Barca d'Alva**

Join a walking tour through the medieval streets of Castelo Rodrigo, a tiny, fortified village

built in 1296. From the castle, enjoy spectacular views of the valley and the red-roofed stone houses of the village. Enjoy a tasting of local favorites, such as almonds, cheese, bread and wine. The riverboat travels from Barca d'Alva to Pinhão this afternoon. Spend time on deck watching the green and gold hills, terraced vineyards and tiny villages glide past.

**Day 6 | March 27 B-L-D****Pinhão**

Stroll to the charming Pinhão Railway Station, famous for its lovely azulejos — distinctive blue-and-white, hand-painted tiles. The azulejos depict

Plaza Mayor Square, Salamanca, Spain







Salamanca University, Spain

scenes of local significance — quintas (vineyards), wineries, folk culture and local landscapes. Next, enjoy an authentic dining experience complete with traditional Portuguese music of authenticity and joy. Explore the quinta's museum which showcases the fascinating history and culture of wine in the Alto Alentejo region — complete with tastings.

#### Day 7 in March 2020 B-L-D

##### Regua

Explore Matosinhos and Gardens on a guided tour. The Baroque facade is well known as it is pictured on the Matosinhos label. The palace is brimming with antiques and artwork; the gardens boast formal



Bridges over the Douro River, Regua, Portugal

beds, topiaries and statues; the captivating Cedar Tunnel is an aromatic and memorable highlight. After lunch, visit the ancient and picturesque town of Lamego, which produces wines, fruit and smoked meats. Stroll the cobblestone streets and the town's wide boulevard lined with cafés and markets. Lamego is home to one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Portugal, the Nossa Senhora do Rosário, set on a spectacular hilltop. The church is a cascade of Baroque details, a cascade of steps and nine terraces, decorated with statues, azulejos and more. The views at the top are spectacular! End the day with a tasting of local specialties and wines.

#### Days 8 in March 2020 B-L-D

##### Entre-Os-Rios

Spend the morning on deck watching the beautiful scenery glide by, enjoying the best amenities. Book in Entre-Os-Rios and lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, explore the town, ideally located between two rivers. Talk in the old building, landscapes and beautiful views; meander the cobble streets, adding historic churches and architecture.

#### Days 9 in March 2020 B-L-D

##### Porto

Join a guided tour of Porto's historic quarter, UNESCO World Heritage site. See the



Pinhão Railway Station, Portugal



Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies, Lamego, Portugal

Mateus Palace, Vila Real, Portugal



Porto Cathedral, one of the city's oldest monuments, and Liberty Square, the town's main plaza, ringed with shops and cafés, connecting the historic and modern parts of the city. Don't miss the São Bento Railway Station, one of the most beautiful train stations in Europe. Admire the 22,000 incredible azulejos. This afternoon, indulge in a final Douro Valley port tasting. You will have

a choice on how you arrive — by motorcoach or scenic hike.

Day 10 | March 31 B-L-R-D

Porto

Enjoy time today to explore on your own. Stroll the cobbled lanes of Porto's UNESCO-designated Ribeira (Riverside) district. Marvel at the grand 19th-century Palácio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market, built to impress

potential investors. Or browse the shops and markets to find that perfect souvenir.

Return to the boat for the Captain's Farewell Reception.

Day 11 | April 1 **B**

Porto | Disembark boat | Return to Home City

Following breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight.

*Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.*

## Prime Port Wine

The Douro River valley is famous for producing many varieties of wine and, more famously, for the distinctive fortified wine called port, which cannot be produced anywhere else in the world. This region's unique topography and geography, and the number of microclimates along the twisting Douro River, are responsible for the diverse variety of delicious grapes that can grow here...and, consequently, the number of different wines that can be produced.

Port, a local specialty loved the world over, is made of a blend of up to 40 kinds of grapes. The grapes are picked by hand (machines can't harvest as well as humans) and are usually crushed by foot (machines tend to break the seeds, releasing too much tannin and a bitter flavor). The stomping takes place in granite vats called lagares, which then drain into fermentation tanks made of cement or steel. However, the fermentation process is halted before completion by the addition of brandy (usually imported from South Africa). This stabilizes the port for long-term aging and creates a distinctive dry sweetness that people keep coming back for.







#### POST-TOUR EXTENSION



## Lisbon, Portugal

**April 1 to 3** (Program Ends: April 3)

Enjoy two nights in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. Take a guided tour to explore this multicultural metropolis with a rich history. Wander through Lisbon's city center on foot, strolling from the Bairro Alto district to lively Rossio Square. Visit Coimbra, a UNESCO-inscribed medieval town with a historic university. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe *Dom Pedro Lisboa* hotel.

**Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,095**

**Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,425**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- 2-night stay in Madrid, Spain, at the deluxe *InterContinental Madrid*.
- 7-night cruise from Barca d'Alva to Porto, Portugal aboard the deluxe riverboat *Porto Mirante*.
- Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Included Meals | 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.  
(1 for every 40 guests).
- Expert lecturers and local guides enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- Specially arranged food and wine tastings throughout the Douro River Valley.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your hotel, stateroom and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad when you purchase your air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).



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### TERMS

\*The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 9/24/25 and paid in full at booking.

These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

- All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes.
- Single supplements apply in select categories at 125% of the per person cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Special Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person. Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Full ship information and deck plans are available on our website at [gohagantravel.com](http://gohagantravel.com).
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at [gohagantravel.com/terms/](http://gohagantravel.com/terms/)





## PORTO MIRANTE

The newest member of the Viva family is the *Porto Mirante*, which debuted in 2024. The multi-lingual crew is welcoming and friendly. The riverboat's appointments are luxurious, yet the feeling is relaxed and easygoing. All staterooms and suites are equipped with flat-screen TV, included minibar, beauty products from RITUALS®, hair dryer, safe, air conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. The upper and middle deck staterooms and suites all have French balconies.



2026 DEPARTURE DATE | March 22 to April 1 | Tour Begins: March 23

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
C	Stateroom with two beds, comfortable chair, 172 sq ft   Emerald Deck (Deck 1), mid	\$6,495	\$5,495
B	Stateroom with two beds, French balcony, comfortable chair, 172 sq ft   Ruby Deck (Deck 2), mid & aft	\$7,495	\$6,495
A	Stateroom with two beds, French balcony, comfortable chair, 172 sq ft   Diamond Deck (Deck 3), mid & aft	\$7,995	\$6,995

All staterooms are river-view and feature: one double or two twin beds, flat-screen TV, included mini-bar, Nespresso® machine, beauty products by RITUALS®, hairdryer, in-room safe, air conditioning, private bathroom.

### The Gohagan Difference — An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

- Shore Excursions
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Beverage Package
- Port Charges & Gratuities
- Travel Director(s)

ALWAYS  
INCLUDED

For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](https://gohagantravel.com/reserve)



**SPECIAL SAVINGS\* AVAILABLE**  
**SAVE \$2,000 PER COUPLE!**

*Port wine and pastel de nata, a traditional Portuguese dessert*

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