

Hey Travelers!

I finally received the information to complete the much anticipated Portugal River Cruise Pre -Tour!!!

The cruise is round trip Porto, embarking August 12, 2019. What can be better than an on-board sommelier to match our wine with our meals. A local Miami DJ will keep us moving to his music, from elegant ballroom to Motown and current salsa!

What a great combination!!! Cruising the scenic Douro River through its valley where the best Porto wine in the world is produced. Match that with our sailing vessel – CroisiEurope’s Miguel Torga, their newest 65-cabin ship – small enough to navigate the winding Golden River and sufficiently intimate to actually become friends with many of those sailing with you.

You can choose to go with relaxed style tours, or you can opt for more action - such as a bicycle in Salamanca!

Below is a detailed itinerary of this magnificent cruise!

Day 1 – Porto Embarkation and Porto by night

Day 2 Porto historical and cultural Get the first sight of the Golden River as you spend the afternoon sailing and going through locks. Spend the evening in Regua with local entertainers, while getting to know your fellow cruisers.

Day 3 – Disembark in Pinhao to visit Vila Real and Mateus Mansion and its exquisite gardens. Overnight in Barca d’Alva for an early departure to Salamanca, Spain.

Day 4 – ‘Rise and shine’ for Salamanca and a visit to the oldest university in Europe. Enjoy gala night and dancing as the ship arrives in Senhora da Ribeira.

Day 5 – Discover the Road Wine in Ferradosa and some local wine tasting. Arrive in Leverinho for a night of farewell tears and reliving memories of the trip.

Day 6 - With heartfelt sadness, the bus picks up those leaving from Porto Airport as you make plans for your next vacation!

AND since you’re already making plans for the pre-cruise tour to visit Portugal, Western Europe’s best kept secret, you may as well take a few extra days and explore its beautiful capital, Lisbon, its Old World history depicted by its Moorish fortress and the mazelike streets of the Alfama district, where we will have dinner and Fado show that night - **Arrival in Lisbon Wednesday/Aug. 7.**

Thursday/Aug. 8 is fully-packed day of sightseeing with a visit to picturesque Sintra, a UNESCO site, and Pena Palace, for many years the Portuguese Royal family vacation spot. A stop in Cabo da Roca will almost allow you to see New York City if you can envision a straight line across the ocean. The scenic drive back to Lisbon will allow photo stops in the colorful seaside towns of Cascais and Estoril. Back in Lisbon, you’ll see the Torre de Belem, part of the defense system from seafaring raiders in the 1500’s.

Evening on your own to sleep, but why??? We can plan an optional outing to explore Lisbon at night!

On Friday/Aug. 9, we'll do a half-day tour to the quaint town of Obidos., where streets are lined with chocolate liqueur shops, taking a \$1 shot at each one..... The entire town was a wedding gift in 1282 from King Dinis to his Queen Isabel! Those were the days of **real** wedding gifts! You are on your own for lunch in one of the many restaurants along the cobble-stone roads, lined with white-washed houses decorated with colorful flowers!

Friday evening is a marvelous dinner at a restaurant known for its bacalhau! No worries if you don't eat bacalhau; an alternate menu is available!

Saturday/Aug. 10 is a FREE day for more in-depth sightseeing or shopping or a little dancing in one of the many clubs Lisbon has to offer!

Sunday/Aug. 11 early checkout and departure for Fatima, one of the most important catholic shrines in the world. In 1917, it is reported that the Virgin Mary appeared to three young shepherds. You can use the three hours in Fatima to visit more closely the sanctuary or the basilica or to enjoy lunch on your own in one of the many local restaurants.

We continue to Porto for our one-night hotel stay before embarking on our memorable cruise on Monday. We have part of Sunday afternoon to get acquainted with beautiful Porto and the evening for an optional wine tasting dinner.

Monday/Aug. 12 is free until 4 PM when the bus picks us up to board the ship.

Once we board, we'll have a "meet and greet" during a cocktail hour when we see friends who just flew in for the cruise and you can tell them about the beautiful sights you saw in your pre-cruise tour! Get ready to continue the second portion of this magnificent 'bucket list' journey!

NOTE: This optional pre-cruise tour has limited capacity. If you plan to be part of the group, do your best to contact me so you can make arrangements to send the deposit to hold your spot! Don't miss out!!!

We look forward to your traveling with us!

Teresa and Linda

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