

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

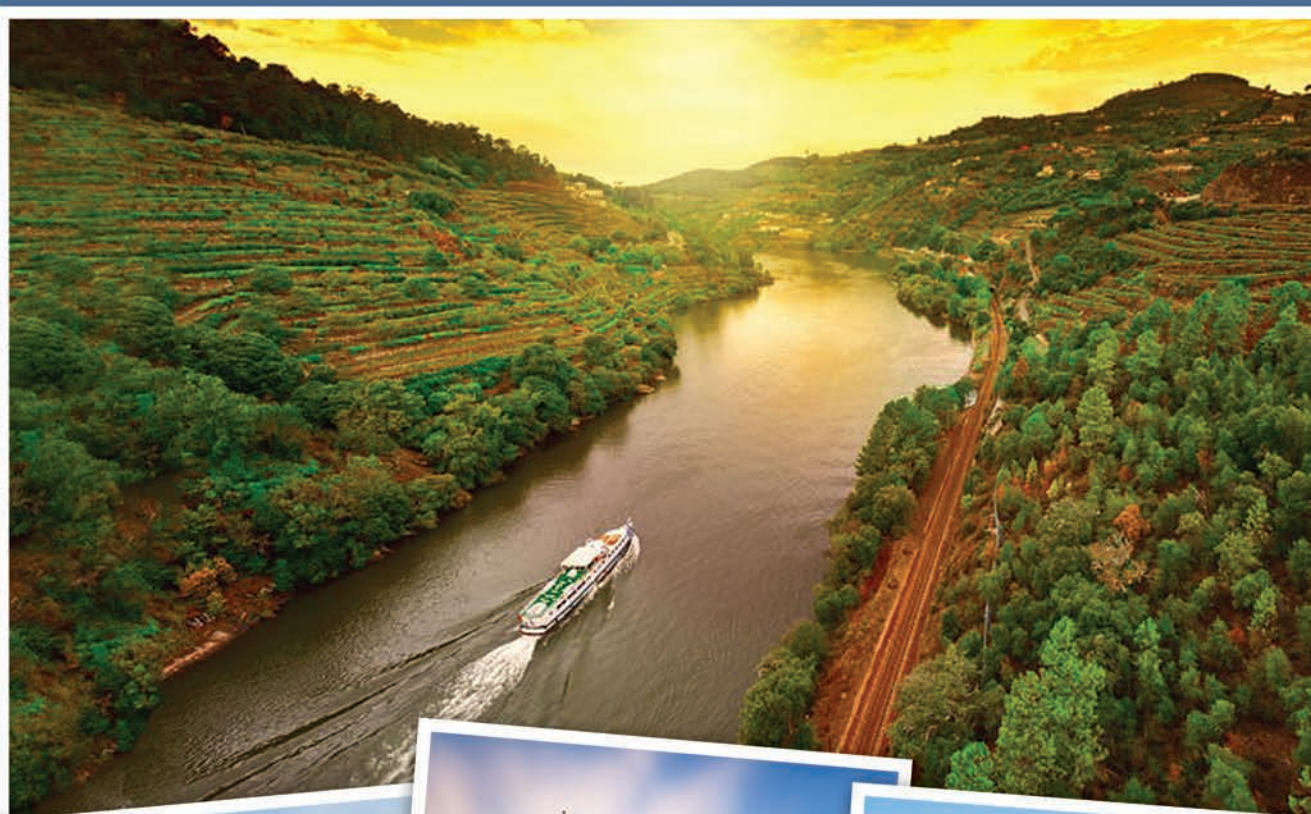
Portugal – Douro River Cruise

April 4 – 15, 2022

Lower Deck \$5,395 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago; Single Supplement - \$2,690

Middle Deck \$5,845 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago; Single Supplement - \$3,090

Upper Deck \$5,995 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago; Single Supplement - \$3,240



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Monday, April 4 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this evening by scheduled service of TAP Air Portugal on the overnight transatlantic flight to Lisbon, Portugal.

Tuesday, April 5 – LISBON (I,D)

Late this morning we arrive in Portugal where we'll meet our Tour Guide who will introduce us to the city of Lisbon. Built on seven hills, the attraction of the Portuguese capital lies in the deep shade of its many tree-lined streets and squares, and the magnificent vistas along its wide avenues. After checking in at our downtown hotel the remainder of the day is at leisure. This afternoon be sure to stroll Baixa, the most central and renowned neighborhood in Lisbon, housing the capital's most emblematic streets and squares, namely the attractively paved Rossio, a social focal point with cafes, the tree lined Praça dos Restauradores, and the lively pedestrian Rua das Portas de Santo Antão.

Wednesday, April 6 – LISBON (B)

This morning an introductory tour of Lisbon will take us along the banks of the Tagus River where we'll stop to view both the Monument to the Discoveries, built to mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Henry the Navigator, and the Torre de Belem. We'll visit the magnificent Mosteiro dos Jeronimos. Built in the 1500s this great monument to the Age of Discovery is one of Lisbon's must-see marvels. Afterward, we'll travel along the grand Avenida Liberdade, the broad tree-lined avenue that is Lisbon's fashionable main thoroughfare, as we make our way to the Alfama District. Here we'll peer into Lisbon's Moorish past as we explore a colorful maze of winding cobblestone streets little changed since the 12th century. Our tour will come to an end at the Portas do Sol for a marvelous view of the city.

Thursday, April 7 – LISBON (Sintra & Cascais) (B,L)

This morning we travel towards the peaks of the Serra de Sintra to visit the spectacular Palácio da Pena. The palace's history started in the Middle Ages when a chapel dedicated to Our Lady of Pena was built after an apparition sighting of the Virgin Mary. The most complete and notable example of Portuguese architecture in the Romantic period, the palace is a fanciful combination of architectural styles – Moorish, Gothic, Baroque and Manueline. Following our visit, we'll travel to Cabo da Roca, the westernmost point of continental Europe to view the enormous cliffs that stand like a stage over the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. Then we'll travel south along the amazing coastline to the town of Cascais. Initially a small fishing village, Cascais eventually became home to the summer residences of the wealthy Lisboetas during the 19th century. Here, we'll enjoy an afternoon luncheon in a beautiful location with breath-taking views over the Atlantic Ocean.

Friday, April 8 – LISBON / CRUISING (B,D)

This morning we depart Lisbon and travel north to Fatima to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, one of the most famous Marian shrines in the world, commemorating the 1917 visitation of the Virgin Mary to three young shepherds. Some four million people visit Fatima each year to pay their respects at the basilica, constructed in 1928 to commemorate the site of the miraculous appearance. This afternoon we travel through the Beiras

regions, defined by the Tagus River in the South, and the Douro River to the North. Our destination is the historic city of Porto, strategically sited overlooking the Douro River as it empties into the Atlantic. Late this afternoon we'll embark aboard Riviera River Cruises *MS Douro Elegance*. In no time at all, we'll be settled into our luxurious accommodations and have an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with all the first-class aspects of this floating boutique hotel.

Saturday, April 9 – CRUISING (Pinhão) (B,L,D)

As dawn breaks over Porto our adventure begins as we get set to explore what is possibly Europe's most undiscovered river through the stunning Douro Valley, dotted with charming villages, age-old traditions, and wonderful wines. After breakfast, head up on deck to appreciate the changing landscape in all its splendor. This afternoon we'll arrive in the pretty little town of Pinhão, surrounded by the hillsides and terraces where one of the world's best wines is made. Here we'll enjoy a visit to a local historic quinta to learn all about the stages of wine production, from the planting of the vines, harvesting, the wine-making process and finally tasting and labeling.

Sunday, April 10 – CRUISING (Vega de Terron) (B,L,D)

The Douro was once a wild river, notoriously challenging to navigate. Today it has been tamed by a system of dams and locks, which have raised the water level, and the river here is at its most gentle, as we cruise into ever more rural territory towards the Spanish border. This afternoon's port of call is the peaceful town of Vega de Terron, Spain. From here, we'll travel to the delightful 12th century walled village of Castelo Rodrigo, tucked away in the picturesque highland ranges bordering Spain. From this lofty hilltop position, the views are simply stunning. In Castelo Rodrigo, we'll have the opportunity to make a true journey through the history of humanity. The region is rich in remains of the Paleolithic and Roman era, and the village was the scene of intense struggles, conquests, and reconquest, which is still visible today in its structures. Its church, dedicated to Our Lady of Rocamadour, was a resting place on the pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela, and it is said that Saint Francis himself stayed here.

Monday, April 11 – CRUISING (Barca d'Alva) (B,L,D)

Today we travel to historic Salamanca, regarded by many Spaniards as their nation's most beautiful city. Founded by the Romans, Salamanca is built from local sandstone that emanates a gorgeous rose-colored glow in the sunlight. As we'll soon find out, Salamanca is exceptionally beautiful and has many architectural treasures. We'll see the New Cathedral in Gothic Style, the Old Cathedral in Romanesque Style, and the Renaissance University Building with its splendid facade. Founded in 1218, the university is the oldest in Spain and was one of the civilized world's most important seats of study for over 400 years. The Spanish Inquisition records are kept here, and as early as the 16th century it boasted some 12,000 students. At lunch, we'll enjoy a traditional Flamenco show. More than just a dance, Flamenco is a forceful artistic expression of the sorrows and joys of life. Afterward, free time will be set aside to explore the Plaza Mayor. Possibly Spain's finest public square, it was built in the 18th century in Spanish Baroque style with colonnaded walkways.

Tuesday, April 12 – CRUISING (Peso da Régua) (B,L,D)

One of the benefits of life aboard a river cruise is the sheer sense of relaxation it brings. Enjoy the morning at leisure in the on-board spa, or simply watch the riverbank scenery passing by from the comfort of a cozy seat in the lounge. This afternoon we arrive in the small port town of Peso da Régua, from where we'll travel to Vila Real to visit the grounds of the splendid Mateus Palace. Built in the first half of the 18th century, the palace is set among beautiful gardens on a vast farm, considered to be one of the finest examples of baroque civil architecture in Portugal. The palace is owned by the Mateus Foundation, which sponsors a number of cultural activities, particularly in the areas of music, literature, sculpture, and ceramics. This sweeping baroque property houses a maze of manicured hedgerows, elegant parterres, and a lake that reflects the palace in its mirror-still surface. Tonight, we'll enjoy an evening dinner at the 126-acre Quinta da Pacheca with a spectacular view over the Douro landscape.

**Wednesday, April 13 – CRUISING (Peso da Régua) (B,L,D)**

This morning we travel to the charming town of Lamego, nestled among the terraced slopes of the Douro Valley, home of Portugal's sparkling Raposeira wine. Located atop the hill overlooking the town is the ancient Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies. The church is reached via an awe-inspiring double stairway, adorned with attractive azulejos. Individuals who choose to make the 686-step journey to the Patio dos Reis will be rewarded with a spectacular view of the town. Following our tour, we'll return to the ship as we cruise towards Entre-os-Rios, an opportunity to head up to the Sun Deck to enjoy the ever-changing kaleidoscope of the Douro Valley. This evening is the Captain's Dinner, a truly memorable experience featuring exquisite regional specialties, followed by a colorful performance of traditional Portuguese folk music.

Thursday, April 14 – CRUISING (Porto) (B,L,D)

Today we return to Porto, where the city's splendid geographical location at the mouth of the Douro River has led to an architectural heritage of exceptional quality. Porto is

synonymous with wonderful Port wine, so a visit would not be complete without a tour to one of the famous Port producers. Port is made from grapes still pressed in the traditional way – by feet – then lovingly matured, sometimes for decades, before you can enjoy its subtle flavors. We'll learn of this time-honored tradition and have an opportunity to sample various port styles at the end of our visit. After lunch on board, the remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the Ribeira, the riverside quarter that is home to narrow, twisting streets and arcades lined with outdoor markets.

Friday, April 15 – CRUISING / CHICAGO (B,I)

Early this morning we disembark from Riviera River Cruises *MS Douro Elegance* and board our waiting motor coach as we travel to Porto Airport in preparation for the return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Portugal – Douro River Cruise* vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way.

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled airline service of TAP Air Portugal.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guides on pre and post cruise days.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel.
- Accommodations based on choice of stateroom aboard the Riviera River Cruises *MS Douro Elegance*.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotel and pier.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$350 per person.**

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guides, and shipboard personnel; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

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Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact Pat Anderson at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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