



## Cruise Details

Name:	Delightful Douro & Spectacular South of France
Reference:	SCENICFRDS121026-2V
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Azure
Regions:	Douro
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Departs On:	12 Oct 26
Departs From:	Porto
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Arrives On:	29 Oct 26
Arrives At:	Lyon
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Cruise Nights:	17
Total Vacation Days:	18

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Porto (Portugal)

Welcome to Porto, Portugal's second city. Built on the hills overlooking the mouth of the Douro River, this bustling city is the capital of the Northern region. The city was named by the Romans for its port, which was an integral link to Lisbon. It's World Heritage-listed for its 2,000-year history and many well-preserved buildings and monuments.

Your friendly crew are ready to welcome you on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship. Settle into your luxurious suite and prepare for this evening, when you can enjoy a performance of traditional Fado music to toast the journey ahead.

Arrives On: 12 Oct 26

### Day 2: Porto (Portugal)

Relax as your Scenic Space-Ship meanders its way through the spectacular Douro Valley towards Pinhão. Admire the beauty along the steep riverbanks lined with terraced vineyards and

majestic quintas as you cruise along the Douro River. </span></p><p><span>This afternoon you'll dock in Pinhão, set on one of the prettiest parts of the Douro River. This small village is surrounded by terraced vineyards and produces exceptional Pport wine. Look out for the charming riverside train station decorated with azulejos (hand-painted tiles) depicting the annual grape harvest. There's also an opportunity to try your hand at painting your own azulejos at a workshop.</span></p>

Arrives On: 13 Oct 26

### Day 2: Pinhão (Portugal)

Arrives On: 13 Oct 26

### Day 3: Pinhão (Portugal)

<p><span>This morning, you have the special opportunity to visit the charming village of Provesende, located on a plateau with spectacular views of the region's fertile rolling landscape. Wander through the village and visit the church, discover the old bakery, witness traditional handicraft being made, and look inside the historic manor house, Morgadio da Calçada, where you'll enjoy a tasting of delicious bola.</span></p>

Arrives On: 14 Oct 26

### Day 3: Barca d'Alva (Portugal)

Arrives On: 14 Oct 26

### Day 4: Barca d'Alva (Portugal)

<p><strong>Scenic Freechoice: </strong><span>Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice excursions:<br /><br />Salamanca full day excursion: Enjoy a full day excursion to Salamanca. Known as the 'golden city' for its sandstone architecture, Salamanca is famous for its university. On this tour you'll visit the city's two cathedrals, visit a market to sample local delicacies and have free time to explore and have lunch at your leisure.<br /><br />Visit the village of Freixo de Espada à Cinta: A town with a curious name that translates to 'ash tree girded with sword'. Legend has it the Dinis King of Portugal founded the town in the 14th century, then tied his sword to an ash tree before having a rest, hence the unusual name. The town is also the only place in Portugal where handcrafted silk is still processed entirely by hand, and on this guided tour you will visit the local silk museum to gain a better understanding of this local tradition before visiting a local Quinta (estate) for some tasting of regional produce. After this excursion you will return to the ship for lunch.</span></p>

Arrives On: 15 Oct 26

#### Day 4: Pocinho (Portugal)

Arrives On: 15 Oct 26

#### Day 5: Pocinho (Portugal)

Wake in the village of Pocinho, which was established as the terminus of the Douro Railway in 1887. It's a great location to explore more of the Douro Valley.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Explore your way with one of this morning's Scenic Freechoice excursions: Côa Valley Museum: Transfer by coach to the Côa Valley Museum, the largest open-air Paleolithic rock art site in the world. Opened in 2010, this museum is one of the largest in Portugal and is a contemporary building designed to blend into the landscape. The museum is a great introduction to the region's paleolithic rock art sites through artefacts and digital technology; on your visit you'll enjoy a pre-historic workshop.

Village life in the Côa Valley: Visit the small village of Freixo Numão, a traditional village that has been lived in for centuries. Learn about local life before visiting Casa Painova estate, see the family home and enjoy a demonstration on how sugared almonds are produced. Learn how these nuts are harvested and used in desserts and pastries. Enjoy a tasting of almonds and local products.

This afternoon, relax as you cruise towards Régua, the largest of the riverside towns and an excellent base for exploring the Douro Valley. This region is famous for producing Port wine, with rolling vineyards on the terraced hillsides and wineries dating back to the 18th century.

Arrives On: 16 Oct 26

#### Day 5: Régua (Portugal)

Arrives On: 16 Oct 26

#### Day 6: Régua (Portugal)

Awake in Régua. Why not ask your butler to bring coffee to your suite if you would like a slower start to the day?

Explore the Douro Valley today with a choice of excursions that include visiting one of the most beautiful towns in northern Portugal, exploring an enchanting palace or kayaking along a scenic river.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Choose from this morning's Scenic Freechoice activities: Excursion to Lamego: Take a coach to the town of Lamego, nestled among terraced vineyards that were the first to produce world-famous port wine. The city prospered in the 18th century and is a fascinating place to wander, with its many fine Baroque structures. Start your tour at the stunning Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies, standing gracefully overlooking the town. The front of the Sanctuary is lined by a zigzagged staircase decorated in traditional blue and white tiled mosaics leading down to the town centre. If you are feeling active walk down the staircase or journey down

via coach before some tasting some local produce at a nearby Bodega before enjoying some free time to explore the town.<br /><br />Kayaking along the Pinhão River: Explore this beautiful region from a different perspective as you glide past impressive landscapes via kayak on the Pinhão River, a tributary of the Douro River.<br /><br />Mateus Palace: Transfer by coach to Mateus Palace, considered one of the best examples of Baroque civil architecture in Portugal. The stunning imposing palace sits behind an ornamental pond, where the silhouette reflects to mirror the regal design.</span></p><p><span>This afternoon your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship will make its way back to Porto in time for your magnificent Scenic Enrich event.</span></p><p><strong>Scenic Enrich</strong><br /><span>Classical concert in São Francisco Church: From the ship, take a short walk (with some stairs) to São Francisco Church, which is one of the most iconic sites in Porto. Built in the 13th century, the Gothic church has gilded interiors and breathtaking altars. All guests will be seated in the church for a performance of classical music.</span></p>

Arrives On: 17 Oct 26

#### Day 6: Porto (Portugal)

Arrives On: 17 Oct 26

#### Day 7: Porto (Portugal)

<p><strong>Scenic Freechoice: </strong><span><br />Choose from todays Scenic Freechoice excursions:<br /><br />Guided tour of Porto: Discover the rich culture and history of Porto on this guided tour, which includes a visit to the iconic Palácio da Bolsa. After your guided tour, perhaps take the time to explore the historic Bolhão Markets during your free time.<br /><br />Excursion to Guimarães: Guimarães was the seat of the first King of Portugal and home to the impressive Ducal Palace. Visit the well-preserved World Heritage-listed city and explore the Ducal Palace. You will also have free time to explore the city on your own.<br /><br />Quinta da Aveleda: Transfer by coach to this 150-year-old wine producer for a tour and tasting. A highlight of this tour are the enchanting gardens.</span></p>

Arrives On: 18 Oct 26

#### Day 8: Porto (Portugal)

<p><span>Board an included flight from Porto to Lyon where you will board the luxurious Scenic Sapphire for your 10 night cruise along the Saône and Rhône Rivers.</span></p>

Arrives On: 19 Oct 26

#### Day 8: Lyon (France)

Arrives On: 19 Oct 26

## Day 9: Lyon (France)

Spend a leisurely morning on board as you cruise towards Macon. Perhaps ask your butler to bring coffee to your suite admiring views from your Scenic Sun Lounge as the riverside scenery glides by.

An idyllic base for exploring the Burgundy wine region, Mâcon is renowned for its charming old town, quaint riverside streets, and its celebrated white wines.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Explore your way with a choice from these Scenic Freechoice experiences:

**Excursion to Château de Cormatin:** Travel through picturesque countryside for a guided visit to the splendid Renaissance castle of Cormatin. Explore its gilded rooms, moat, water features, and beautifully manicured gardens. Stroll through original 17th-century interiors with gold-leaf decoration, then enjoy free time in the gardens.

**Georges Blanc cooking demonstration:** Journey to the picturesque village of Vonnas for an exclusive cooking demonstration at Michelin starred restaurant Georges Blanc. Walk through charming streets to the celebrated restaurant, where you'll discover the story of Maison Blanc and witness the preparation of classic regional dishes, including Volaille de Bresse à la crème and crêpes vonnassiennes. After the demonstration, enjoy free time exploring the village before returning to the ship.

**Truffle tasting:** Experience the secrets of truffle farming on a visit to a local farm, nestled in the countryside near Cortevaix. Meet the passionate farmer and his hound, discover how truffles are grown and harvested, and then savour a tasting of truffle butter and decadent chocolate mousse with truffles—paired with a glass of fine local French white wine. The visit also offers time to stroll through the rolling fields and immerse yourself in the authentic atmosphere of Burgundy.

**Beaujolais Region:** Drive through the rolling hills of the world-famous Beaujolais wine region and meet a local vintner. Discover how this wine is produced and enjoy the privilege of sampling some of the region's best drops.

Arrives On: 20 Oct 26

## Day 9: Mâcon (France)

Arrives On: 20 Oct 26

## Day 10: Vienne (France)

Wake up to gentle morning light as your ship glides into Vienne, a historic town nestled on the Rhône River just south of Lyon. Known for its remarkable Roman ruins and medieval charm, Vienne invites you to step ashore and discover centuries of rich heritage.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Make your selection from this morning's Scenic Freechoice experiences:

**Walking tour of Vienne with Roman Theatre:** Take a guided walking tour of Vienne and discover its rich Roman heritage, including the remarkable hillside theatre built for 10,000 spectators. Wander through the city's gardens, ancient walls, cathedral, and historic Renaissance streets before enjoying free time to explore at your own pace.

**Cycling tour of Vienne:** Cycle through Vienne and Saint-Romain-en-Gal on an easy

19 km route, exploring the city's Roman ruins and the famous temple of Augustus and Livia. Cross the Rhône River, visit nature-rich river islands, and spot mosaics at the Gallo-Roman museum before returning to town.

St-Joseph Côte-Rôtie wine tasting: Enjoy a private tasting of prestigious Condrieu and Saint-Joseph wines during a guided visit to a Chavanay vineyard. Discover the artistry, passion, and heritage that define this exceptional terroir.

Your ship will cruise to Tournon later this afternoon.

Arrives On: 21 Oct 26

### Day 11: Tournon-sur-Rhône (France)

Arrive in the pretty town of Tournon early this morning. This hillside village is known for its terraced vineyards, enchanting castle dating back to the 10th century and quaint cobblestoned streets. Tournon is at the centre of the Northern Rhône Valley wine region, famous for producing the best Syrah in the world. The surrounding vineyards also produce signature white varieties – viognier, marsanne and roussanne.

**Scenic Freechoice:**

Spend this morning at your preferred pace with one of the following Scenic Freechoice experiences:

Côtes du Rhône Tasting: Enjoy a guided tasting of the famed Côtes du Rhône wines. A local wine expert will share their knowledge as you sip their outstanding wines.

Hiking through the vineyards in Tournon: Get a first-hand look at the famous vines of the Rhône on a hike through the sloping vineyards that flank the town. Learn about the local wine production and taste some of the delicious drops of the region.

Walking tour of Tournon: Explore this ancient town on foot, visiting the castle, built between the 10th and 16th centuries, and crossing France's oldest suspension bridge to the neighbouring town of Tain l'Hermitage, home to prestigious chocolatiers Valrhona.

Biking along the Rhône: Cycle a section of the famed Via Rhona bike route along the Rhône River between Tournon and Gun. Admire charming villages, lush orchards and historic bridges, seeing daily life of locals as you pass by.

This afternoon you will have some free time to explore the town on your own.

This evening, indulge in a dessert buffet on board Scenic Sapphire from a local pâtissier. Savour the authentic flavours of the region and conclude your night with delicious creations - delicate pastries, silky creams, and vibrant confections that delight the eyes as much as the palate.

Arrives On: 22 Oct 26

### Day 12: Avignon (France)

Enjoy another relaxing morning on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship as you cruise south. This could be a good time to book an indulgent massage or just relax on the Sun Deck to admire the landscapes.

Dock in the ancient city of Avignon after lunch. Known as the City of the Popes, it is home to the World Heritage-listed Palais des Papes (Pope's Palace), the former papal residence in the 14th century when Rome was in turmoil. Avignon is

surrounded by wine regions on all sides, with the Rhône Valley to the north and Provence to the south. It is also known for artisan products like olive oil, lavender and chocolates.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Take your pick from this morning's Scenic Freechoice:  
Guided walking tour: Learn the rich and fascinating history of Avignon on this guided tour, wandering the ancient cobblestone streets to reach the Pope's Palace, home to the Papacy and seat of Western Christianity in the 14th century. A moderate degree of fitness is required.  
Excursion to Pont Du Gard: Visit the ancient Pont du Gard aqueduct, built by the Romans around 2,000 years ago. Afterwards, learn about this engineering marvel and how it carried water at the engaging museum.  
Kayaking at Pont du Gard: Get a different perspective on the Pont du Gard from the tranquil waters of the Gardon River. Paddle a kayak beneath the World Heritage-listed aqueduct and marvel at its intricate stonework.

**Scenic Enrich**  
Enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime private experience inside Palais des Papes. Sit down to an exclusive gala dinner inside the very banquet hall Popes used to host formal feasts in and be immersed in the beauty of famous classical pieces performed by a quartet of musicians.

Arrives On: 23 Oct 26

### Day 13: Avignon (France)

If you're an early riser, step out onto your balcony to watch the sun rise over the ancient rooftops of Avignon. Today you can indulge in more of the gourmet charms of the city or go further afield to discover the surrounding villages and picturesque Provence. Or enjoy a wine tasting in one of the world's most famous appellations, Châteauneuf-du-Pape.

**Scenic Freechoice:**  
Explore your way with one of today's Scenic Freechoice  
Wines of the Popes – Wine tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape: Drive to the nearby town of Châteauneuf-du-Pape surrounded by magnificent vineyards, here you will discover and taste the wines that have made Châteauneuf-du-Pape famous, like its iconic grenache. Centuries of wine production have made this one of the most exclusive appellations in France.  
Excursion to Luberon villages and Sénanque Abbey: The Luberon Valley, to the west of Avignon, is famous for its beautiful hilltop villages. Admire the bucolic landscapes as you drive to the village of Gordes, then visit the picturesque Sénanque Abbey. (Please note: Sénanque Abbey is not open to visitors on Sundays. On these days, the tour will include only an exterior visit.)  
Shop with a chef & Scenic Culinaire: Discover the best fresh produce and local ingredients of the region when you shop with a chef at Avignon Market. Afterwards, enjoy an interactive cooking demonstration at Scenic Culinaire cooking school. (Please note: Avignon Market is closed on a Monday).  
Lavender Museum with visit to the village of Roussillon: Be immersed in the beauty of Provence lavender with a visit to the Lavender Museum and its adjoining field. Then take a guided tour of the beautiful village of Roussillon and the striking Ochre Trail.

Arrives On: 24 Oct 26

## Day 14: Arles (France)

Cruise through Provence early this morning to arrive in Arles, the southernmost point of your journey and just a few kilometres from the Mediterranean Sea. Founded by Julius Ceasar more than 2,000 years ago, the city is home to the largest number of Roman ruins outside of Rome itself. Vincent Van Gogh lived here in 1888 and drew inspiration for many of his works from the surrounding landscape. Arles is also a gateway to the vines of Provence where historic wineries produce the region's famous rosé.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Explore the city with one of today's Scenic Freechoice: Provence in Pink – Rosé wine tasting: Discover the sun-drenched vineyards that produce Provence's signature rosé. Learn about unique terroir and popular grape varieties that produce the crisp, elegant pinks the region is famous for.

Guided tour of Arles: Set out from the ship on foot to visit the heart of Arles and its most impressive Roman ruins. Experience the vibrant colours and striking quality of light that has inspired many artists. Your local guide will provide fascinating insights about the city's history and modern culture.

Visit Les Baux with Carrières de Lumières: Marvel at the Carrières de Lumières, a former quarry that has been transformed into a 7,000-square-metre immersive digital art space. Then explore the stunning medieval village of Les Baux.

Learn about the artistic heritage of this region while painting a masterpiece of your own.

Arrives On: 25 Oct 26

## Day 15: Viviers (France)

Your Scenic Space-Ship will cruise north overnight, arriving in Viviers early this morning. Founded in the fifth century, the city is often described as an open-air museum. Wandering its narrow, zig-zagging lanes, you will feel as though little has changed in the past 1,600 years. Viviers also has a fascinating connection with the French Resistance and is bordered by the vineyards of the Côtes du Rhône.

**Scenic Freechoice:** The choice is yours with today's Scenic Freechoice:

Walking tour of Viviers: Admire the many architectural treasures of Viviers on foot, including the Cathedral of St Vincent with its mix of medieval, Gothic and Renaissance styles. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore Viviers at your leisure.

French Resistance Walking Tour: Hear tales of heroism from the French Resistance, who fought bravely against the Nazi Occupation of France during World War II. Learn about their most daring missions as you explore the historic town on foot.

WWII in Viviers: Trace the layers of Viviers' past, a peaceful riverside town shaped by moments of extraordinary drama. Walk through its storied streets to uncover how this quiet corner of the Rhône became a pivotal stage in the Battle of Montélimar, a 1944 clash that helped liberate southern France and is still studied at West Point today. Among the cobbled lanes and Renaissance façades, echoes of that struggle linger in the landscape and the memories of its people, telling a moving story of courage, endurance, and renewal along the Rhône.

**Scenic Freechoice:** Côtes du Rhône Villages tasting: Discover the rich flavours of



the Rhône Valley on this guided tasting excursion. Experience the diverse terroir and time-honoured winemaking traditions of Southern France in a glass.

Ardèche Nature Park with Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum: Explore the natural beauty and historic sites that come together in the Ardèche Nature Park. Then be immersed in the Caverne du Pont-d'Arc Museum, the largest decorated Palaeolithic cave replica in the world. The original site was deemed too fragile for public access, so this replica cave was built only a few kilometres from the actual cave.

Excursion to Grignan de Provence: Travel to the beautiful provincial town of Grignan. Your local guide will accompany you to the mighty castle that dominates the town as well as the Collegiate Church of the Holy Saviour, before enjoying some time at leisure.

Arrives On: 26 Oct 26

#### Day 16: Lyon (France)

Spend a full day on board your luxurious Scenic Space-Ship today as you cruise back towards Lyon. Admire the beautiful vistas of the Rhône River, taste more local wines over lunch or join a French cookery lesson in Scenic Culinaire.

**Scenic Enrich**

Step inside the grand Trinity Chapel, a Baroque beauty with an interior decadently covered in Carrera marble. Scenic guests will be treated to an exclusive acapella choir performance, made even more breathtaking by the sublime acoustics of the chapel.

Arrives On: 27 Oct 26

#### Day 17: Lyon (France)

Spend the final day of your wine-curated cruise in France's culinary capital. Sitting at the confluence of the Rhône and Saône rivers, the city is home to more than 4,000 restaurants – including 20 that hold Michelin stars. Learn more about its rich history, dating back to the days of the Romans, or discover one of the region's surrounding villages.

**Scenic Freechoice:**

Explore Lyon with this morning's range of Scenic Freechoice:

Guided tour of Lyon: Experience the essence of Lyon on this coach tour, taking you past Roman ruins and to its hidden traboules, secret passageways that date back to the fourth century. Then visit Notre Dame Basilica, offering a fabulous vantage point for views across the city.

Excursion to Pérouges: Travel to the medieval walled village of Pérouges, perched atop a hill overlooking the Ain River. Enjoy a walking tour of through its vine-covered stone buildings, cobbled laneways and market square centred around a centuries-old lime tree. Please note: Due to uneven surfaces and a lot of walking both up and down hill, this tour is recommended only for guests with a high degree of fitness.

Silk painting workshop: Fine silk has been produced in Lyon since the 15th century and the city still has a proud tradition of textile production. Join this immersive workshop to learn about this rich heritage and create your own masterpiece.

Arrives On: 28 Oct 26

### Day 18: Lyon (France)

Your journey concludes this morning. Farewell your fellow guests and Scenic crew, taking with you vivid memories of France's most famous wine regions. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. Please refer to our terms and conditions.

Arrives On: 29 Oct 26

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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