Cruise Details

Name:	Iberian Capitals: Lisbon, Madrid & the Douro - Eastbound
Reference:	TAUCKQIE202713052027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	ms Saudade
Regions:	Douro
Departs On:	13 May 27
Departs From:	Porto
Arrives On:	24 May 27
Arrives At:	Madrid
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Porto (Portugal)

Tour begins: 6:00 PM, InterContinental Lisbon. A transfer is included from Lisbon Airport to the InterContinental Lisbon, located between Eduardo VII Park, Marques de Pombal Square and the luxurious Avenida da Liberdade. Join us tonight for a private visit and welcome dinner at 18th-century Queluz National Palace, a blend of Baroque, Rococo and Neoclassical architectural designs graced with gardens inspired by French styles.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 2: Lisbon (Portugal)

Crafted atop seven hills over centuries, Lisbon is home to cobbled lanes, castles in the clouds and maritime monuments that pay lasting tribute to Portuguese explorers like Vasco da Gama who changed the world. You'll have a choice of excursions today. Your first choice is city sightseeing in Lisbon; discover landmark places steeped in history, including Eduardo VII Park, Trade Square, the

Monument to the Discoveries, and Jeronimos Monastery where Vasco da Gama and Portugal's kings are buried. Your second choice is also in Lisbon, a robust Lisbon walking tour of the city's terraces for those seeking a more active walk. Your final choice is a stop at in the town of Sintra for a visit to Sintra National Palace, the best preserved medieval residence in Portugal and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy some free time in Sintra before driving to the seaside town of Cascais for a guided walk in the town's center and lunch before returning to Lisbon. Regardless of your choice, spend the remainder of the day at leisure exploring the sights of Lisbon as you wish.

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 3: Porto (Portugal)

Drive back in time to Coimbra, Portugal's medieval capital for more than a century. A walking tour along the tiered cobbled lanes of this hilltop city brings you to its esteemed university, founded here in 1537, where its caped students evoke images of Harry Potter's Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, its majestic buildings line squares steeped in history and cloistered arcades lead to architectural showpieces beautiful to behold. Learn about student life, past and present; many of its centuries-old traditions still exist today with time to explore on your own. Continue on to Porto, where Tauck's riverboat, ms Andorinha, is docked on the Douro and awaiting your arrival. Settle into your cabin and enjoy a welcome reception followed by dinner onboard the ship.

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 4: Porto (Portugal)

Culturally rich and historically charming, Porto's pleasures are diverse and delightful, blending old and new to reveal a fascinating portrait of the city through art and architecture, wine and food, and magnificent waterfront views. Explore Porto on a choice of excursions, each offering a unique way to see this historic city. One option brings you by land, river, and air from the medieval riverfront district of Porto to the top of the Luiz I Bridge, rewarding you with a stunning panorama. You may also join a local guide in the historic heart of Porto for a robust walking tour with stops to taste local culinary treats. Your final choice focuses on Porto's history with the Port wine industry, highlighted by a visit and tasting in an authentic Port wine cellar.

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 5: Régua (Portugal)

The Douro River cuts a 200-mile path through one of the world's most beautiful and prolific wine regions as it makes its way from Porto and the Atlantic Ocean through rugged wilderness to the Spanish frontier. The wine growing regions of the Douro surprise visitors with an array of vintages, young and old. You'll have two excursions to choose from today. One brings you to the UNESCO

World Heritage city of Guimarães, regarded as the birthplace of Portugal and renowned for its well-preserved medieval buildings and national monuments for a walking tour before driving to Aveleda to discover its uniquely produced "green wines" during a tasting lunch at a quinta in a Vinho Verde vineyard. Green refers to its age not its color; the grapes they use for these wines are typically consumed within three to six months after bottling and can be red, white, or rosé. Your second choice is a visit to Arouca Geopark, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a very active hike across the 516 Arouca Bridge. Measuring in at 1,693 feet long and 575 feet high, the 516 Arouca Bridge connects the banks of the Paiva River and is the world's largest suspended pedestrian bridge. Chart a course upriver this afternoon and dine onboard your riverboat tonight.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 6: Régua (Portugal)

Step off the boat into Peso da Régua and begin a day of discovery – you'll learn about the town's historic role in the production of port wine. An important transport junction, this is where barrels of wine were boarded onto traditional rabelos bound for Gaia in the 18th century, where the wine was aged in local lodges. A choice of activities includes a guided tour of the Douro River Museum, or joining a local guide for a visit to a local wine-making estate called a quinta, rewarding with a port cocktail making class. Spend the afternoon cruising the Douro, then tonight entices with a special culinary experience. Dine with a riverside view at DOC, an acronym for "Degustar Ousar Comunicar" (translated: "Taste, Dare, Communicate"), savoring gourmet cuisine by acclaimed chef Rui Paula who delights in blending traditional Portuguese dishes with contemporary fare along with the Douro's famous wines. Note: Tour of July 8 won't dine at DOC due to a summer closure; alternate venue will be advised.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

Day 7: Pinhão (Portugal)

The idyllic village of Pinhão, situated at a scenic bend of Portugal's Douro River, is considered the gateway to the quintas and large wine estates of the Douro River Valley, one of Europe's oldest and revered wine making regions. A choice of shore excursions today includes a walk in pretty Pinhão, nestled in the heart of port wine country, with a visit to its historic tile-covered train station, a vision of blue and white Azulejo tiles – or a vigorous hike through the area's lush, sloping terraced vineyards with striking views of the town and river. Dine onboard the riverboat at your leisure tonight.

Arrives On: 19 May 27

Day 8: Pocinho (Portugal)

Spend the day enjoying a leisurely cruise in the heart of Port wine country, past sloping terraced vineyards and picturesque villages; your riverboat was custom designed for Douro cruising and offers an expansive sun deck for viewing the scenery, cooling off in the pool, or enjoying a casual café or cocktail at the rooftop bistro. Disembark for your choice of excursions. One includes a visit to the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the Côa Valley, highlighted by stunning exhibits of rock art from the valley's Paleolithic era, discovered in the 1990s when excavations began for a Côa River dam. Alternatively, you might wish to visit a local quinta for an introduction to and tasting of wines produced in the Douro Superior wine region.

Arrives On: 20 May 27

Day 9: Barca d'Alva (Portugal)

The choices are yours this morning. One option includes a visit to a wine estate in a local village for a tour, presentation, and tasting. Alternatively, you might wish to visit the hilltop town of Torre de Moncorvo for a guided walking tour highlighting its Renaissance heritage and longstanding connection to almond production. Your third and final choice is a scenic active walk in the Upper Douro region. Rejoin the riverboat for lunch and enjoy a leisurely afternoon cruise towards Spain.

Arrives On: 21 May 27

Day 10: Port information not found

Enjoy a choice of excursions at your own pace today. You may wish to visit the UNESCO World Heritage city of Segovia, where you'll discover its remarkable Roman aqueduct, elegant Gothic cathedral, and historic streets on a guided walking tour. Enjoy free time for lunch and exploring on your own before continuing to Madrid this afternoon. Alternatively, you might wish to spend more time in Madrid, where an early afternoon guided market experience offers a taste of local life and traditional Spanish specialties before arriving at your hotel in the heart of the capital.

Arrives On: 22 May 27

Day 11: Port information not found

Begin your day with a choice of a panoramic coach tour or an active walking excursion through the heart of Madrid. Both culminate in the world-renowned Museo del Prado, home to masterpieces by Velázquez, Goya, and El Greco — a sanctuary of Spanish artistic heritage. This afternoon, explore the striking Royal Collections Gallery, where centuries of royal patronage are displayed in a bold, modern setting. From Habsburg armor to Bourbon tapestries, it's a living chronicle of power, artistry, and legacy. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner — a final toast to new friends and unforgettable moments.

Arrives On: 23 May 27

Day 12: Port information not found

Tour ends: Madrid. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from The Palace Hotel, Madrid to Madrid-Barajas Airport or Madrid's Atocha Station. Allow a minimum of 3 ½ hours for flight check-in.

Arrives On: 24 May 27

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

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