deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Iberian Capitals: Lisbon, Madrid & the Douro - Westbound
Reference:	TAUCKQIW202706052027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	ms Saudade
Regions:	Douro
Departs On:	06 May 27
Departs From:	Madrid
Arrives On:	17 May 27
Arrives At:	Lisbon
Cruise Nights:	11
Total Vacation Days:	12

Itinerary

Day 1: Port information not found

Tour begins: 6:30 PM, The Palace Hotel, Madrid. A transfer is included from Madrid-Barajas Airport or Madrid's Atocha station to The Palace Hotel, Madrid, commissioned by King Alfonso XIII in 1912 and located in the heart of the city's renowned art triangle with easy access to its three most famous museums, El Prado, Reina Sofía and Thyssen-Bornemisza. Settle in and join your fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner tonight at the hotel.

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 2: Port information not found

Begin your discovery of Madrid with a choice of an orientation walk or an orientation coach tour, offering an engaging introduction to the city's grand boulevards, historic plazas, and daily rhythms. Continue on to the Museo del Prado, one of the world's premier art museums, home to more than 4,000 masterpieces, including iconic works by Spanish greats Goya and Velázquez—many acquired

by kings through the centuries. Enjoy free time to explore on your own and have lunch at leisure, perhaps sampling Madrid's famed tapas or lingering over a café con leche in a neighborhood plaza. Later, visit the Royal Collections Gallery, a striking modern museum showcasing centuries of artistic and decorative treasures amassed by Spain's monarchy. Please note that the order and timing of the Prado Museum and Royal Collections Gallery visits may vary.

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 3: Port information not found

Today brings you the choice to stay in Madrid or journey to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Segovia. If you choose to stay in Madrid, enjoy a later start paired with a guided market visit, offering a taste of local life and traditional Spanish specialties before embarking on your riverboat this afternoon. Alternatively, those wishing to visit Segovia set out on a guided walking tour revealing the city's remarkable Roman aqueduct, historic squares, and architectural treasures. This afternoon, embark on your riverboat and settle into life on the Douro. Meet your Tauck Director and ship's crew during welcome and safety briefings, then toast the beginning of your cruise at a reception hosted by the captain. Dinner onboard follows, accompanied by live entertainment celebrating the spirit and music of the region.

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 4: Barca d’Alva (Portugal)

The Douro River cuts a 200-mile path through rugged wilderness along the Spanish frontier and through one of the world's most beautiful and prolific wine regions as it winds through Portugal toward Porto on the Atlantic. Along the way, it passes castle ruins hidden in the hills. Disembark in the town of Pocinho for a choice of three excursions: a visit to the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the Côa Valley, where striking exhibits showcase Paleolithic rock art discovered in the 1990s during preparations for a Côa River dam; a vigorous hike through the Upper Douro countryside; or a guided walking tour of Torre de Moncorvo, with time to explore its historic streets, local museums, and culinary traditions. Return to the ship in the late afternoon, then set sail down the Douro, arriving for an overnight in a small village on the river.

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 5: Pinhão (Portugal)

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 an active hike through the sloping terraced vineyards that surround this town with stunning views of the river and town. Return to your riverboat for an afternoon cruise to Folgosa where dinner tonight entices with a special culinary experience at DOC, an acronym for "Degustar Ousar

Comunicar" (translated: "Taste, Dare, Communicate"), savoring gourmet cuisine by acclaimed Portuguese chef Rui Paula who delights in marrying traditional dishes with contemporary fare along with the Douro's famous wines.

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 6: Régua (Portugal)

Its historic role in the production of port wine is written on the landscapes you'll see today when you step off the boat into Peso da Régua for a day of discovery. 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. This morning, you have a choice of a visit to the Douro Museum, set within the restored Casa da Companhia Velha building, once part of Real Companhia Velha (Royal Oporto Wine Company), chartered in 1756. On your guided visit to the museum, you'll explore its exhibits chronicling the history, culture and traditions of the Douro River Valley region, from the cultivation of grapes on the vines to the processes involved in the production of Port wine and its distribution around the world. Alternatively, visit the historic town of Lamego (dating back to the Middle Ages), renowned for its viticulture and production of sparkling wine. This afternoon, you have a choice of a guided tour of 18th-century Casa de Mateus, a Baroque masterpiece you may recognize from the label on bottles of Mateus Rosé, and its fantasy garden of manicured hedges and dignified statues. Or, if you choose, join a local guide for a visit to a local wine-making estate called a quinta, rewarding with a port cocktail making class. Return to the riverboat late day.

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 7: Entre-os-Rios (Portugal)

Spend a leisurely morning cruise on the lower Douro through a region known for its Vinho Verde wines. Disembark for a choice of excursions that include a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal renowned for its well-preserved medieval buildings and national monuments. As an alternative, you can join a local guide for a bicycle ride that entices with scenic views of terraced vineyards.

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 8: Porto (Portugal)

The wine growing regions of the Douro surprise visitors with an array of vintages, young and old. Discover them at a wine tasting at a quinta in a Vinho Verde vineyard where they specialize in green wines uniquely produced here. 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. For those who would like a more active activity, a short coach ride this morning brings you 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 longest suspended pedestrian bridge (note: guests choosing this excursion will not visit the Vinho Verde winery). Chart a course for Porto this afternoon, and enjoy the chef's signature dinner onboard your ship tonight.

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 9: 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: 14 May 27

Day 10: Lisbon (Portugal)

Disembark your riverboat in Porto this morning for a 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, and university traditions still in play today. Enjoy free time for lunch and exploring before continuing on to Lisbon for a two-night stay.

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 11: 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. Alternatively, visit 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. After enjoying time at leisure, join us for an exclusive royal 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: 16 May 27

Day 12: Lisbon (Portugal)

Tour ends: Lisbon. Fly home anytime. A transfer is included from the InterContinental Lisbon to Lisbon Airport. Allow a minimum of 3 ½ hours for flight check-in.

Arrives On: 17 May 27

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