

## Itinerary for Globe Treks Portugal Douro River Cruise November 3-16, 2018

### **DAYS 1-2:**

#### **Depart home / Overnight flight / Madrid, Spain**

You will be picked up at home and transported to the airport for an escorted flight to Madrid. After an overnight flight, arrive in Spain's capital. Transfer to the hotel. Enjoy a Welcome briefing and a delightful tapas dinner this evening in downtown Madrid

### **DAY 3: Madrid**

Explore this vibrant city today. Truly one of the world's great capitals, Madrid is teeming with fascinating sights. Your included tour will take you on a panoramic drive through the city, including the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor, Cybele's fountain, and more. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure – perhaps visiting the world famous Prado Museum – or set off on an optional tour of Toledo and the charming, narrow lanes of its UNESCO-listed historic center.

### **DAY 4: Madrid / Salamanca / Barca d'Alva / Embarkation**

The word "magical" has frequently been used to describe Salamanca, and you'll find out why on a walking tour of the city today. You'll spend time exploring the Old City, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and learn about the esteemed University of Salamanca. Founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by King Alfonso IX, the university is the oldest in Spain and considered among the finest in Europe. You'll also see the remarkable cathedral as well as the gorgeous main square, where you'll have some free time to wander. This evening, you'll be greeted with a Welcome Reception and dinner onboard the *ms Douro Serenity*.

### **DAY 5: Barca d'Alva / Pinhão**

After a buffet breakfast onboard, enjoy an excursion to Figueria Castelo Rodrigo. This medieval town features some fascinating architectural accents, including 16<sup>th</sup> century facades and Manuelinostyle windows. You'll enjoy a small tasting of local products here, introducing you to the culinary culture of the area. Continuing the culinary theme today, you'll enjoy an onboard demonstration of the making of cod fish cakes, one of the region's famed delicacies.

### **DAY 6: Pinhão / Régua**

Experience the beauty of the Alto Douro Wine Region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. First, you'll see the magnificent palace depicted on Mateus rosé wine bottles come to life on an excursion to the 18<sup>th</sup>-century, Mateus Manor House & Garden. Admire the Baroque architecture and elaborately manicured gardens at this stately property. Then, visit the Avesada Winery to sample the finest vintages of this area and savor a delectable lunch. You'll enjoy scenic cruising in the afternoon, giving you the opportunity to relax and take in your postcard-pretty surroundings.

### **DAY 7: Régua**

Your day begins with a walking tour of Regua, including a visit to the Douro Museum, where you'll learn all about the picturesque Douro River Valley you've been admiring from the deck of the ship. This afternoon, you'll head to Lamego, a town well known for its wine and the Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios shrine. The elaborate structure is a regular stop for Catholic pilgrims, who climb its nearly 700 steps to walk in order to ask the Virgin Mary to rid them of their afflictions. You'll also visit Quinto do Seixo, where you will get to sample the fantastic local foods and wines of the region. This evening, we'll honor the tradition of Portuguese folk music as we watch a performance onboard.

### **DAY 8: Régua / Entre-os-Rios**

This morning you'll listen to a fascinating lecture entitled "Society and Economy of Portugal" onboard during some scenic sailing. In the afternoon, set off on an excursion to Amarante, where you'll stop for an authentic Portuguese tea experience at the Casa da Calçada. Here, you'll learn about the traditions surrounded tea drinking and tea production while sampling some of the finest teas the country has to offer. Back on board this evening, let music carry you back in time a local performers play music from the 60s, 70, and 80s.

### **DAY 9: Entre-os-Rios / Oporto**

Your exploration of Portugal continues with a scenic sail into Oporto, Portugal's second-largest city and the center of the port wine trade. One can't visit Oporto without enjoying its signature wine, so you'll begin with a stop at a port-wine cellar for a sampling of this world-famous drink. Afterwards, get to know the city better with a full tour and panoramic drive, including a visit to the historic center (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the market area. You'll also have the option of checking out one of the top bookstores in the world – Livraria Lello – where you can peruse the shelves of this one-of-a-kind gem that is said to have been an inspiration for J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* book series. Learn about the importance of the cork industry here in Portugal during an included lecture. Back on board this evening, enjoy a lively performance by a local Tuna Band after dinner.

### **DAY 10: Oporto / Guimarães**

You'll have a choice of how to spend your day today: set off on a walking tour of Oporto — which includes an exploration of the quaint, medieval Ribiera district — or take a guided tour of the historical center of Guimarães. Inscribed on the walls of the castle here is the phrase *Aqui Nasceu Portugal* – "Portugal was born here" – and you'll learn how true this statement is as you explore this town's historical center.

### **DAY 11: Disembarkation / Oporto / Lisbon**

This morning, you'll disembark the *ms Douro Serenity* and transfer to the final city on your tour: Lisbon. En route, you'll stop in the seaside town of Nazaré, a beach famous for its monstrous waves and surfing culture. Later, you'll make another stop in Obidos, where you'll enjoy a walking tour through this beautifully preserved walled town that was once part of the "Queen's Estate." Known as the "Wedding Present Town", Obidos was gifted to Queen Isabel from King Dinis on their wedding day in 1282. This evening, we'll arrive in Lisbon.

### **DAY 12: Lisbon**

The Age of Discoveries launched in Lisbon, so it's fitting that you begin the day with a guided panoramic tour of the city's famed monuments, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites like the Monastery of Jerónimos and Belém Tower. Later in the afternoon, enjoy a balance of leisure time as continue to explore Lisbon's cobble stone alleyways on your own. While on your city tour, sample *pasteis de Belém*, Portugal's favorite treat.

### **DAY 13: Lisbon**

Enjoy a day at leisure in this splendid city. Get a taste of the city's dynamic culinary scene at a gourmet food market or corner tavern, or relax at a café and enjoy a hot *bicas* (espresso) or refreshing pitcher of sangria. Active travelers can embark on a hike through Lisbon's trademark seven hills for must-see views of the city. Or, make your way down the scenic Portuguese coast during an optional day tour and visit two waterside: the historic town of Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the quiet fishing village of Cascais.

### **DAY 14: Lisbon / Return home**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or transfer to Madeira for your optional extension. You will be picked up at the airport and transported safely home to your front door.

### **Madeira Extension – 4 days/3 nights**

You'll experience an exciting new side of Portugal while visiting Madeira, the "Floating Garden of the Atlantic." Prince Henry the Navigator claimed this mid-Atlantic island for Portugal in the early 15th-century, and since the 19th-century, it has been a favorite of travelers seeking a pastoral retreat. During your three-day stay in the island capital, Funchal, enjoy a half-day city tour—including a ride in a wicker toboggan, once a common mode of local transportation. Immerse yourself in local life as you visit the covered market at the edge of the Old Town and pay a visit to Blandy Wine Cellar, where you'll sample the trademark sweet wine named for the island. This visit gives you the unique opportunity to explore the cellars, get an inside look at the production process, and learn about the winery's culture and history (Madeira Wine was used to toast the Signing of the Declaration of Independence). Of course, you'll also enjoy a tasting of four different Madeira wines: Malvasia, Sercial, Verdelho, and Bual.

*(Itinerary subject to change)*