Travel with The Met

Portugal’s Enchanting Douro Valley: Round-Trip Porto Aboard AmaDouro
with Rika Burnham, Lecturer

October 13–21, 2023
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

When the sun sets over the Rio Douro, the twilight transforms this mighty waterway into a “river of gold” (rio d’ouro in Portuguese). Join me this October in Portugal’s magnificent Douro Valley for a seven-night cruise aboard AmaDouro, one of Europe’s most elegantly appointed riverboats. As we sail round trip from Porto through landscapes of terraced hillsides and ancient olive groves, we will experience the magic of this region, noted for its wine heritage dating to Roman times and how, over the centuries, the many arts as well as splendid examples of innovative architecture have uniquely flourished here.

As a longtime museum educator, I am eager to share with you up-close viewings of exceptional masterworks, both centuries-old and contemporary, in the region’s beautifully designed art galleries and museums. We will begin in Porto with a private tour of the Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, where a curator will introduce us to the museum’s collection of artworks, including wonderful works on long-term loan by Spanish master Joan Miró.

Our journey will take us over the Spanish border to ancient Salamanca, where we’ll explore its 13th-century university and the Museo Art Nouveau y Art Déco, with its outstanding European decorative arts collection. Back in Portugal, we’ll visit the Museu de Lamego, housed in an 18th-century palace, featuring graceful displays of religious art and 16th-century Flemish tapestries. In Porto, we will also see the Palácio da Bolsa, a neoclassical 19th-century stock exchange celebrated for its gold-gilded rooms, and, in the Porto rail station, the famed 1930s murals composed of 20,000 azulejo tiles by artist Jorge Colaço.

Throughout the program, we will delight in onboard performances of Portugal’s traditional fado music, tastings of Port wine and Vinho Verde, special visits to historic wineries, and other authentic local experiences exclusively for us. A private concert at Porto’s Rem Koolhaas-designed Casa da Música will also be a treat.

We will cruise in the company of members from The National Trust for Historic Preservation and alumni from Harvard, the University of Chicago, and the College of William & Mary. I hope you will join us on this adventure highlighting the great art, culture, and history of Portugal’s Douro Valley.

Sincerely,
Rika Burnham
Lecturer
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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### Trip Highlights

— Spend seven nights immersed in the beauty of the Douro Valley cruising aboard the elegantly appointed AmaDouro, a luxury river vessel launched in 2019

— Explore beautifully designed museums on special tours, including Museu de Lamego, with its graceful displays of religious art and 16th-century Flemish tapestries, and Salamanca’s delightful Museo Art Nouveau y Art Déco, housed in Casa Lis, an urban mansion with a stained-glass façade

— Admire the groundbreaking creations of Pritzker Prize-winning Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza, with a curator-led tour of his minimalist Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, which houses an exceptional collection of contemporary works, and an exploration of mesmerizing wine cellars he designed at a centuries-old vineyard

— Behold the 19th-century Palácio da Bolsa, a Neoclassical former stock exchange in Porto’s UNESCO-listed historic center, featuring the lavish, gilded-in-gold Salão Árabe

— Marvel at the grandiose staircase and stained glass skylight of Porto’s 1906 Livraria Lello bookstore, with its early 20th-century, Art Nouveau interiors
Photos clockwise from top right: Regional map; Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, Lamego, Portugal; Casa da Música, Porto, Portugal; Staircase at the Livraria Lello, Porto, Portugal photo courtesy of the Associação de Turismo do Porto e Norte, AR; Casa Lis, Salamanca, Spain; Fundação de Serralves, Porto, Portugal, photo courtesy of the Fundação de Serralves. Front cover: The Douro Valley, Portugal. Back cover: Azulejo, Porto (top); Porto, Portugal (bottom).
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Pinhão / Barca d’Alva
Monday, October 16
Attend a morning lecture on board as AmaDouro navigates through the valley to Barca d’Alva. This afternoon, discover Castelo Rodrigo, a fortified hilltop village with scenic views of slopes adorned with almond trees and vineyards. Pass through the village’s 16th-century walls and climb the narrow medieval streets. Refresh yourself with a tasting of regional wine and delicacies.

Barca d’Alva / Vega de Terrón, Spain / Salamanca
Tuesday, October 17
Cross the Spanish border to Salamanca, a UNESCO-listed city of golden sandstone. On a guided tour, admire the elegant buildings of the Universidad de Salamanca, founded in 1218 and the third oldest still-operating university in the world. Linger in the city’s 18th-century Plaza Mayor, a grand achievement in Spanish Baroque architecture and one of the most beautiful town squares in Spain. You may enjoy a leisurely afternoon in town, or opt for a visit to the Museo de Art Nouveau y Art Déco. This museum is housed in Casa Lis, a graceful 1905 mansion with a sweeping, stained-glass façade. Rejoin our vessel in Vega de Terrón for dinner.

Vega de Terrón / Pinhão / Peso de Régua
Wednesday, October 18
Spend the morning cruising through picturesque Pinhão Valley, near where the Rio Pinhão meets the Douro. Then transfer to Sabrosa, known as the birthplace of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, for a visit to Quinta do Portal, a family-owned boutique winery with centuries-old vineyards. Learn about their commitment to sustainability, including their unique way of planting and the installation of photovoltaic panels to produce half of the winery’s electricity. You will also tour the strikingly modern cellars, which were designed by Álvaro Siza, and enjoy a wine tasting experience.

Peso de Régua / Lamego / Entres-os-Ríos
Thursday, October 19
Nestled amid the Douro Valley’s terraced slopes, Lamego is best known for the Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios. Visit this ornate Baroque church and descend its exuberant staircase, which zigzags to the gardens below. Make your way to the Museu de Lamego, housed in a grand, 18th-century episcopal palace, for a private look at its eclectic religious art and 16th-century Flemish tapestries. This afternoon, AmaDouro passes through Barragem do Carrapatelo, a hydroelectric dam with the highest lock in Europe. This evening, stop for drinks at a private estate with majestic views of the valley (pending confirmation). As the sun sets, observe why the Portuguese named the Douro the “river of gold” (d’ouro).

Entres-os-Ríos / Porto
Friday, October 20
Return to Porto for a morning tour and private concert at Casa da Música, a landmark of 21st-century architecture designed by Rem Koolhaas. Alternatively, enjoy a walking tour featuring the opulent former stock exchange Palácio da Bolsa; the São Bento Railway Station, filled with murals made up of more than 20,000 azulejo tiles, all designed and painted by artist Jorge Colaço in the 1930s; and the Livraria Lello, one of the most beautiful bookstores in the world. Savor lunch aboard AmaDouro, or you may choose to enjoy a traditional meal at leisure in one of the city’s stylish restaurants. This afternoon, delight in private tours of some of the city’s top art galleries. Alternatively, delight in a vintage Port tasting at a working wine cellar on a hillside above the city. This evening, the captain hosts a festive farewell dinner.

Porto / Disembark / Return
Saturday, October 21
Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.
Portugal’s Enchanting Douro Valley: October 13–21, 2023

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Accommodations

Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Fax

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Date

Optional Prelude

☐ I/We wish to join the optional Porto Prelude

Hotel Room Preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

Form of Payment

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We agree to full payment 120 days before departure.

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org

Program Rates

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AmaDouro Rates Include

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard AmaDouro
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wines and beers at lunches and dinners
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits
- Customary shipboard gratuities
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rates

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Porto prelude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

AmaDouro’s Main Restaurant (left) and Portugal’s traditional fado singers

Launched in April 2019, this luxury river vessel features 51 spacious, elegantly appointed staterooms and suites. Staterooms include Entertainment-On-Demand, featuring free high-speed Internet access, unlimited Wi-Fi, movies, music, and English-language TV stations; climate-controlled air conditioning; and an in-room safe. The ship’s Panoramic Lounge is a stylish and inviting space to enjoy a glass of wine or a cocktail along with nightly entertainment. AmaDouro also features a massage room, fitness room, sun-deck swimming pool, and a gift shop, as well as the culinary delights of the Main Restaurant, where guests are able to sample the region’s famous Port wine.
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metmuseum.org/travel