



SPAIN AND PORTUGAL DOURO RIVER CRUISE

JULY 5-13, 2019

Program Guide

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Before You Go	3-4
Getting There	4-5
Program Information	5-7
Omissions & Responsibility Waiver	7
Amenities & Services	8-9
Frequently Asked Questions	9-10
Itinerary – Main Program	11-12
Itinerary – Lisbon Extension	13

BEFORE YOU GO

PERSONAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passport: A passport that is valid for at least six (6) months after your return date is required for this program.

Visas: U.S. and Canadian citizens do not need visas for the countries visited on this itinerary. Other nationalities should consult the local embassies or consulates for visa requirements.

All travel documentation required for this itinerary is the sole responsibility of the guest. Brand g will not be responsible for advising and/or obtaining required travel documentation for any passenger, or for any delays, damages, and/or losses, including missed portions of your trip, related to improper or absent travel documentation. It is suggested that copies of important documents, including your passport and visas, be kept in a separate place, in case the originals are lost or stolen.

Travel Protection: While travel insurance is not required to participate in this program, Brand g strongly recommends that each guest purchase a travel protection plan, as unforeseen circumstances can occur both prior to and during travel. Brand g's recommended travel insurance provider is Travel Guard Insurance. They may be reached at 1-800-826-4919 or www.travelguard.com/brandgvacations. Please be sure to carry all policy information with you during your program.

HEALTH AND MOBILITY

Vaccinations: At the time this Program Guide was produced, no vaccinations are required for entering the countries visited, but it is recommended that all guests discuss available vaccinations and any other health concerns they may have with their personal physician or a travel medicine specialist.

The consulates of the countries to be visited will also provide information on vaccination requirements and/or suggestions. You may also consult your home country's centers for disease control for their current recommendations. Their website in the US is <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

Physical Limitations: The Spain and Portugal Douro River program is active. While there will be plenty of time to relax, there is much to see and do. Many included excursions require an extensive amount of walking over cobblestone streets, and many sites have numerous steps that may be steeper and narrower than is common in the U.S. For your safety and enjoyment, we recommend that all guests be in good physical condition. Brand g at its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse passage, or to require a current passenger to end their trip, if the passenger's state of health or physical condition may affect their own health, safety, or enjoyment or that of other passengers.

Medical: The ship does not employ staff nurses or doctors onboard, nor sell over the counter medications. Most European nations allow the sale of medications by licensed pharmacies only, therefore guests should bring their medications with them. Should a guest require medical attention it will be done at a local facility. Any medical expenses incurred during the trip are the guest's own responsibility. Brand g is not responsible for cost or quality of medical treatment received. A travel insurance policy that covers medical expenses while traveling internationally is highly recommended.

Dietary Preferences: Please advise us of any special dietary restrictions at least 15 days prior to your departure. This information will be provided to the proper personnel, and to the extent possible within local conditions and limitations, every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. It is the guest's responsibility to provide us with as much detail as possible concerning any medically related dietary concerns. Not all dietary requests can be accommodated, and we appreciate your understanding in this matter.

LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS

While there are no restrictions on the number of bags each guest may bring on board the ship, storage space is limited, and it is suggested that each guest bring only one checked bag. Additionally, all airlines impose restrictions on both size and weight, and many airlines restrict the number of bags per person. Each guest must check with his or her selected air carrier for limitations prior to departure, as luggage restrictions are subject to change. Guests who exceed an airline's luggage restrictions may be asked by the airline to pay the airline's overweight/oversized luggage fees.

An airline's limitations on the weight and size of checked and carry-on baggage are usually found on their website or may be obtained by calling the airline directly. Please remember that international (over the water) and domestic (intra continental) restrictions may not be the same. Your luggage and all personal belongings are solely your responsibility throughout the trip. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged luggage or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

Please place luggage tags on the outside of all your bags, including carry on and hand luggage, and include a copy of your contact information during the trip on the inside of your checked bags. Valuables and medication should only be packed in your carry-on bags (unless required to be placed in checked bags by your airline).

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Brand g issues all final documents by email between 30 and 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided that full payment has been made and the Passenger Information Forms have been fully completed (either online or through the Brand g online booking website, email or hard copy mailed to the Brand g office).

GETTING THERE

AIRPORT SECURITY AND CHECK-IN

Please be sure to contact your airline prior to departure and verify there have been no changes to the flight number or schedule. If you have an airport transfer confirmed with Brand g, please advise of any schedule change affecting your airport pick up time.

Please be sure you are familiar with current airport security procedures and arrive at the airport at least two and a half (2.5) hours prior to your scheduled departure. During peak travel times, you may want to arrive three (3) hours prior to your scheduled departure time.

CUSTOMS

Entry documents will be required at all border crossings, so please carry proper identification with you all times, and never place it in checked luggage.

When arriving by airplane, it is not unusual for a border guard to ask you questions such as “where you are from,” “where are you going,” “how long will you be there,” or “what is the purpose of your trip.” Always answer honestly and politely.

If you are bringing laptops, cameras, or other electrical equipment with you on your trip, you may be required to register these items with the local customs authority to ensure you are not charged duty on these items when you return home.

Most items you purchase internationally can be taken into the US and Canada. We do recommend, however, that you check with both your home country’s customs office for current restrictions, as well as with the embassies of the countries you are visiting for any restrictions on items that may be unlawful to take outside their borders.

When you return to your home country, you should be prepared to declare everything you purchased or acquired while traveling. Many countries will ask you to complete a customs form, which will require descriptions and values of the items. These forms are easier to complete if you keep your sales receipts easily accessible. Most countries have set customs duty exemptions for both quantity and value of certain items. We suggest that you familiarize yourself with these allowances and limits prior to your travel.

HOTEL CHECK-IN/HOTEL CHECK-OUT

Please be advised that most hotels do not allow check-in earlier than 3:00pm. If you arrive at the hotel before 3:00pm, you may need to wait until the room becomes available. Hotel check-out is usually no later than 11:00am. If your arrival or departure schedule does not coincide with these times, you may ask the hotel to store your luggage while you explore independently. Please note that every effort is made to ensure that your hotel room is available and ready for occupancy upon your arrival at the hotel, but this is not always possible. A short wait for your room to become available may be unavoidable. Depending on your scheduled arrival or departure, you may wish to purchase an early check-in or late check-out, or an additional hotel night, to guarantee availability of your room. Feel free to contact Brand g Vacations or your travel agent or to review your arrival and departure and discuss any special check-in and/or check-out needs.

TRANSFERS

Main Program Arrival Transfers: Most guests arriving at Madrid’s Madrid-Barajas Adolfo Suarez Airport will be met by our local representatives and transferred to the InterContinental Madrid Hotel (Paseo de la Castellana 49, 28046, Madrid, Spain). Your personalized travel documents will have specifics on your arrival transfers based on the provided flight details. You will find this information on the page entitled *Transfer Information*. If you feel the information listed on that page is not correct, please contact Brand g at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or 952-405-9309, email info@brandgvacations.com, or contact your travel agent immediately.

For those with transfers, our representatives will welcome you in the arrivals hall (after customs) with a Brand g logo sign. You will enter the arrivals hall after passing through passport control, collecting your luggage and after proceeding through customs. If you do not see our representative immediately, please wait at least 15 minutes.

Guests are responsible for providing their most up-to-date flight details. Please inform us immediately if you receive notice of changes to your arrival flight.

For guests arriving by train, as you depart the platform at either Madrid Atocha or Madrid Chamartin station you will be met by a representative with a Brand logo sign and escorted to your awaiting transport. If you do not see our representative immediately, please wait at least 15 minutes.

Departure Transfers: At the end of the main program in Porto, departure transfers will be provided to the Porto International Airport, train station or local hotel. For those who purchased the optional Brand g post-cruise extension this includes ground transfers to Lisbon. At the end of that program guests will have a transfer to Lisbon Portela Airport, or other destination based on the departure details provided. Your Brand g Tour Leader will provide you with the exact place and time for meeting your transfer prior to the end of the trip.

Flight information for all guests must be provided to Brand g no later than 15 days prior to departure for transfers to be properly arranged. Your flight arrangements must also be made in accordance with Brand g's recommended transfer guidelines. Guests are responsible for providing their most up-to-date flight details.

Travel Delays: If you experience a travel delay while still in your home country, after working with your air carrier to revise your flight schedule, please contact Brand g's office at 1-800-433-4303 (toll free within the U.S.) or +1 (952) 405-9309 to advise us of your revised arrival date and time. If the line is busy or you are calling outside of general business hours, please leave a message. The Brand g office is on central time (GMT -5 hours).

If you have already departed your home country, please contact our local staff at the numbers provided on the *Communication Information* page that is included with your final documents.

If you purchased travel insurance that covers flight delay and cancellation expenses, you will also want to contact your travel insurance company to start a claim for expenses incurred during your delay.

If the delay causes you to miss the starting point of your program, any additional arrangements necessary to catch up will be at your expense.

Baggage Delays: Baggage delays unfortunately occur from time to time, especially during peak travel periods. If you discover any bag did not make it to your destination, do not leave the airport baggage area without completing a Lost Baggage Report with your air carrier. This report is essential to the tracking of your claim. If you have an airport transfer scheduled, and are traveling with a companion, we recommend that one person exit the baggage claim area and locate the transfer representative to inform them of the situation. This will allow them to ensure that the transfer is properly provided.

Give the air carrier a copy of your travel itinerary, along with the hotel and ship contact information. Report your lost baggage to your Brand g Tour Leader and provide them with a copy of your Lost Baggage Report. Brand g is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged baggage and/or personal belongings. Selecting a travel insurance plan that will cover lost or stolen luggage and/or personal items is highly recommended.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

CONTACTING HOME

The ability to stay in touch with friends and family is an important part of travel, and many guests choose to bring cell phones on the trip. International roaming charges can be expensive, and it is advisable to contact your local carrier to determine the charges and plans available for each country you are visiting, selecting the best available plan for your expected usage. In some countries, SIM cards are available for purchase that can be used in an unlocked phone (call your carrier to determine if your phone is, or can be, unlocked), providing a local number that can be used both locally and internationally, usually at a significantly lower rate. Should you choose to bring your cell phone, please refrain from conducting conversations during the guides' excursion commentary and any lectures so as not to disturb others.

Making international calls from the hotel and ship is possible, but costly. Connection fees are usually applied, in addition to other charges.

CURRENCY AND MONEY MATTERS

The official currency of both Spain, Portugal and onboard Ms. Gil Eanes is the Euro (€). US Dollars may also be accepted at some shops and restaurants throughout the itinerary; however, change will be provided in the local currency and often at lower exchange rates than available through ATMs, banks or other currency exchange facilities. If using US Dollars, it is advisable to use small bills.

The ship operates on a 'cashless' system and all charges are billed directly to each guest's onboard account. While onboard, guests will sign for all purchases and pay their charges at the end of the cruise with a credit card; cards accepted are MasterCard, and Visa. Credit cards will be charged in Euros. Debit cards and Travelers Checks cannot be accepted for settling the onboard account.

ATMs: ATMs connected to bank networks such as PLUS or Cirrus are widely available in most major metropolitan areas, airports, city centers, and some hotels. Fees for transactions vary. ATMs are not available onboard the ship and will be limited in the smaller towns and villages along river. We recommend that you change or withdraw enough local currency while in larger cities such as Madrid and Salamanca prior to boarding the ship. Your bank can tell you which network your ATM card can access, and whether a debit or credit card must be used. It is also recommended that guests bring an overseas contact number for your bank or credit card company in case you require assistance while traveling.

Also, we recommend that you not carry bills in large denominations, as many merchants are hesitant to accept them due to counterfeiting. Local banks can break the larger bills into smaller denominations for you.

Credit Cards and Travelers Checks: Most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) are accepted worldwide. Credit cards are also accepted onboard.

There may be some stores or locations where cash is preferred (especially for small purchases) or where a card cannot be used for purchases. We recommend bringing at least one major credit card as well as an ATM card that is both a debit and credit card. Travelers Checks are not widely used in Europe and it is becoming difficult to cash them at banks. Additionally, Travelers Checks cannot be cashed onboard the ship, so we recommend not bringing them.

Please contact your bank and/or credit card companies to let them know that you will be leaving the country to avoid any problems using your credit or debit cards overseas.

ELECTRICAL CURRENT

The voltage in hotels and onboard ship is 220v, European standard. To use any electrical product from the US or Canada you will need a plug adaptor and any device that is not dual voltage will require an electrical converter. Many electronic devices have built-in electrical converters, however, please check the manufacturer's specifications for specific details.

EXCURSIONS

Your tour program includes comprehensive shore excursions led by a local English-speaking guide; these excursions have been designed to provide you with the best possible experience. Your Brand g host will provide details on each day's excursion(s) and timing. If you are concerned about any aspect of an excursion, please inform your Brand g tour leader.

FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED

The *MS Gil Eanes* is equipped with an elevator that services all decks except the Sun Deck.

Please note: the American with Disabilities Act does not apply in Europe and accessibility to some sights may be limited. Embarkation and disembarkation facilities may also be impossible to navigate with wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or any other mechanical device.

GRATUITIES

Gratuities for the included components of this program have been pre-paid. At your discretion, you may choose to provide additional tips for exemplary service. It is best to provide these tips in cash, directly to the individual or individuals you wish to reward.

PROGRAM STAFF

A Brand g Tour Leader will be with you during your travel program to handle all the details, leaving you to relax and enjoy your vacation.

SECURITY

As in all big cities, pickpockets are not uncommon, and caution is encouraged. We recommend wearing purses and cameras across your body when walking and holding them securely when entering and exiting taxis and buses. We also recommend leaving jewelry and other valuables at home.

SHOPPING

Many shops in Europe may be closed on Sundays and holidays. There is often free time built into the schedule for shopping or other activities. Additionally, we try to allow shopping during excursions where possible. On excursions where shopping is possible, the actual amount of time available may be limited due to tour constraints.

SMOKING

On the ship, smoking is allowed only on designated parts of the Sun Deck. The hotels have open areas where smoking is allowed and may offer smoking areas in specific sections of some indoor lounges. All hotel rooms and ship staterooms are non-smoking.

WATER

Most tap water throughout Spain and Portugal is safe for brushing teeth, and in most cases drinking. However, we suggest sticking to bottled water for drinking to be completely safe.

WEATHER

Weather forecasts are widely available on the Internet, and some of the favorites for large, international cities are <https://weather.com/> and www.cnn.com/weather. Brand g's preferred resource for up-to-the-minute weather in the rural areas we visit is Weather Underground, which may be found at www.wunderground.com.

Average temperatures throughout this itinerary in July typically range from 61° – 91° Fahrenheit (17°C – 33°C) with the potential to reach over 100° Fahrenheit (38°C).

WHAT TO BRING

Travel Essentials: The following items are essential for any destination: sunglasses, sunscreen, hat, and umbrella. It is recommended that you bring duplicates of prescription eyewear, copies of prescriptions for any medications (generic equivalents are usually easier to obtain), copies of credit card information, and copies of your passport information pages and visas.

Clothing: Comfortable, casual clothing is appropriate both onshore and onboard and we suggest lightweight clothing that can be layered. Shorts are appropriate for most tours; however long pants may be required for inside visits on some excursions. Your cruise manager will advise when and if this is required. You may wish to bring something a bit dressier for one or two dinners on board and in case you wish to attend a concert or have a special dinner off the ship. Mix-and-match color schemes work best to help keep baggage light. You will participate in a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support. Sturdy sandals are another good option.

Don't forget to pack a lightweight, waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) or even a heavier-weight wind-breaker for cooler temperatures. Also, keep in mind that the ship, motor coaches and other venues visited on our itinerary are air conditioned and may be quite cool. We recommend that you pack a lightweight sweater or long sleeve shirts and carry them with you on excursions.

OMISSIONS

Brand g is not responsible for omissions, printing and/or presentation errors in brochures, on Internet sites, or in any other media where such information may be presented. We reserve the right to make corrections as required.

RESPONSIBILITY WAIVER

The Passenger accepts the terms and conditions of the Contract of Passage when participating in any Brand g cruise/excursion/tour/land extension. Participation in some shore excursions or tours may also be subject to an independent operator's own Terms and Conditions.

AMENITIES AND SERVICES

ABOARD THE *MS GILES EANES*

DINING

The ship's onboard restaurant provides a relaxed environment and accommodates all guests with open seating. It offers international and local cuisine. Breakfast is buffet style, lunch is a combination of buffet and table service, with evenings featuring a choice of three main courses (one of which is vegetarian) featuring chef's specialties and regional dishes.

Please notify Brand g at least 15 days in advance if you have any special dietary concerns or considerations that need to be considered. We will do our best to ensure that your request is accommodated but cannot guarantee all dietary needs and preferences can be met.

All mealtimes are scheduled around tour departures, and breakfast may take place very early in the morning.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

As part of a commitment to a clean, safe, and healthy onboard environment, the *Gil Eanes* practices a strict sanitization protocol. To assist in this important matter, the ship kindly asks all guests to wash their hands frequently and to consistently use the hand-sanitizer machines when entering the ship and when entering the restaurant. The machines are located just inside the main entrance to the ship and at the entrance to the restaurant.

INTERNET FACILITIES

Complimentary wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi) is available and you may access the system using your own laptop computer or other Wi-Fi equipped device. Internet communications are often unavailable due to signal loss resulting from the ship's location within the river's deep canyons and when transiting locks. Expect the connectivity speed to be much slower than your home connection.

MOORING AND DOCKING FACILITIES

Local river authorities allocate docking space around ship arrivals and departures in port. Often port conditions require ships to tie up alongside each other, in which case guests may be required to walk through another ship to access their own ship. This is part of the river cruise experience and is perfectly normal and beyond the control of Brand g and the ship company. Guests may experience obstructed views from staterooms when the ship is docked.

Moving About the Ship: As the ship is often in motion, and the decks are sometimes slippery, please take care when moving about the decks. Stairs may be steeper than you are used to, and it is best to always use the handrails.

STATEROOM AMENITIES

Every stateroom is appointed with an individual thermostat for air-conditioning, a TV, a safe, and a bathroom provided with shower gel, shampoo, conditioner and body lotion. Electrical current is 220V, the European standard. Most staterooms have hotel-style beds that can be positioned separately or together. Your stateroom will be serviced by your Stateroom Attendant daily. Security and maintenance checks may also be performed.

VISITORS

Visitors are generally not permitted onboard the ship and are not allowed to join any shore excursions. Please make arrangements to meet your friends and relatives onshore.

THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL – MADRID

Hotel Amenities:

- El Jardin Terrace, El Jardin del InterContinental, and Bar 49
- 24-hour business center
- Health Club, Spa Services, Sauna, and Steam Room
- Standard and same-day laundry and dry-cleaning service (additional charge)
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout hotel
- Concierge service

Room Amenities:

- Premium cable/satellite TV with in-room movies
- Wi-Fi, telephone and voicemail
- Individually controlled air conditioner
- In-room safe
- Bathrobe and slippers
- Hair dryer
- Complimentary coffee and tea facilities
- Complimentary access to the Health Club
- Minibar (additional charge)

DOM PEDRO LISBOA (OPTIONAL POST HOTEL)**Hotel Amenities:**

- 2 Restaurants
- Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel
- Concierge Services
- Health & Fitness Club with indoor pool, Full-Service Spa
- ATM/Cash Machine
- Standard and same-day laundry and dry-cleaning service (additional charge)
- Business Center

Room Amenities:

- Premium cable/satellite TV with in-room movies
- Bathrobe & Hair Dryer
- Wake Up service/Alarm Clock
- Complimentary coffee and tea facilities
- Minibar (additional charge)
- In-room safe

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What about the weather?

Prepare for a variety of weather conditions, including the unexpected occasional rain shower. Average temperatures throughout this itinerary in July typically range from 61 – 91 Fahrenheit (17C – 33C) with the potential to reach over 100 Fahrenheit (38 C).

What should I wear?

Comfortable, casual clothing is appropriate both onshore and on board. Layering clothing items is always your best bet, as this allows each person to adjust to any temperature, including artificially maintained temperature, by removing or adding items throughout the day. An umbrella for shade and light-weight loose-fitting clothes are advised as the Douro region can have extreme temperatures and sunshine in July.

You will find a significant amount of walking over uneven terrain during your time ashore. We recommend comfortable walking shoes with good ankle support, as well as head covering to protect from the sun. At some sites, you may also be required to have knees and shoulders covered. Don't forget to pack a waterproof jacket (preferably hooded) for unpredictable rain. You may also wish to bring something a bit dressier for one or two evenings or a special dinner in Madrid or Lisbon, but jacket and gowns are never a requirement.

I have concerns about my physical ability. What do I do?

Guests with mobility concerns should discuss their concerns with Brand g. Guests requiring the use of a mobility device, such as a wheelchair, motorized scooter, or walker, may not be able to participate in many shore excursions or use them on board the ships.

Also, guests who may be limited in their ability to walk long distances may also have difficulties, as there is often uneven terrain on many shore excursions. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your physician.

How accurate are the shore excursion/tour descriptions?

Brand g makes every effort to ensure that shore excursions are performed as promoted and outlined. In certain circumstances beyond our control, it may not be possible or practical for an excursion to be performed exactly as written. The decision to cancel or alter excursions, and/or otherwise adjust or modify any element of an advertised excursion is at the sole discretion of Brand g, always considering the safety and best interests of the guests, and the intent of the overall product delivery. Any modifications deemed necessary to any excursion will not result in eligibility for a refund.

Can the itinerary change? What happens if it does change?

You can count on the value of Brand g's experience and regional knowledge to make sure you enjoy your travel program, even when conditions beyond our control occur. Although every effort is made to keep itineraries as advertised, Brand g reserves the right to make changes and substitutions, as necessary, to ensure the safety of our guests and our vessels. Every effort will be made to alert guests of known changes, in advance of boarding. When this is not possible, all guests will be informed on board of any change or amendment.

Changes to itineraries, including the addition of extensive motor coach touring needed to arrive at the intended excursions, will not result in eligibility for a refund.

What time will excursions depart?

All excursions are carefully coordinated into the daily schedule. Your Cruise Manager or Brand g Tour Leader will conduct briefings, informing all guests of departure times, specifics about shore excursions/tours, suggested shopping and restaurant recommendations, where applicable, and other important information about upcoming activities. Guests are strongly encouraged to attend the briefings, as information will be presented that may not be included elsewhere, and guests are given the opportunity to ask questions about previous or future activities or events.

Does each motor coach or walking group have its own tour guide?

Yes. Each motor coach or walking group has its own English-speaking local guide. Brand g, through its travel partners endeavors to select the highest quality guides, who are well versed in the destination, and who will ensure that you have the best possible time ashore.

What about tipping?

Gratuities should always be in accordance with each guest's personal satisfaction. Gratuities for shipboard staff as well as included hotel properties have been pre-paid. At your own discretion, you may choose to provide additional tips.

Is smoking allowed on shore excursions/tours?

Smoking is not allowed while on the motor coach, and many historical venues now request that visitors not smoke anywhere on site. We ask all our guests to refrain from smoking while on excursions/tours.

ITINERARY

July 5, 2019

MADRID

Welcome to Madrid! Our guides will meet you at the airport to assist with your transfer to the Intercontinental Hotel, conveniently located in the heart of Madrid. After settling into the hotel, make the most of the remainder of your day by exploring the city on your own and taking in the many festivities of Madrid Gay Pride. At 5:30 this afternoon, meet your fellow guests, and Brand g Tour Leaders at a festive welcome reception featuring drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

July 6, 2019

MADRID

Following breakfast at the hotel we begin our tour of the lively metropolis of Madrid including a visit of the Royal Palace, the official residence of the Spanish royal family. After this we experience a taste of local cuisine by sampling a selection of tapas at the Museo Chicote, which has played host to several celebrities including Hemingway, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, and James Stewart. Afterwards we will visit the famed Prado, Spain's national art museum, considered to have one of the world's finest collections of European art, dating from the 12th century to the early 20th century. Founded as a museum of paintings and sculpture in 1819, it also contains important collections of other types of works. We return to the Intercontinental hotel late afternoon, where you are on your own to relax and head out later to enjoy Madrid Pride and all its festivities including the infamous pride parade. (B,L)

July 7, 2019

MADRID / SALAMANCA / BARCA D'ALVA, PORTUGAL (EMBARKATION)

Following breakfast at the hotel we leave Madrid and travel overland to Salamanca, a UNESCO world Heritage city. The architectural purity of this charming town has endured through the centuries, during which time its sandstone buildings have acquired the exquisite glow that gives Salamanca its nickname, "The Golden City." You will have some time on your own for lunch before we embark on a walking tour.

Walk under plateresque arches and past ornately decorated masonry walls as you explore the university. Then visit Salamanca's extraordinary Old and New Cathedrals. Continue to Barca d'Alva on the Spanish/Portugal border and board the MS Gil Eanes. Once on board settle into your cabin, explore the ship and enjoy an evening of dinner and Brand g Signature entertainment. (B,D)

July 8, 2019

BARCA D'ALVA/FERRADOSA/PINHAO, PORTUGAL

After a leisurely breakfast relax and take in the breathtaking views as we sail the Douro river from Barca d'Alva to Ferradosa. Your lunch will be served in the dining room before we disembark to enjoy our excursion along the Porto wine route. We'll discover this incredible vineyard extending over 100 km along the Douro river all the way to the Spanish border. We'll visit San Salvador do Mundo and Sao Joao da Pesqueira, two small towns set among the vineyards in the Rio Torto valley. In Sao Joao da Pesqueira, you will have the opportunity to explore the arcaded main square, the chapel and the white houses with their balconies. You will visit a quinta (wine cellar) to taste the famous Port Wine. We'll return on board in Pinhao where you have time to freshen up before our evening tour of the family-owned Quinta da Avesada, which produces premium Moscatel. After strolling the grounds and meeting the owner, you'll partake in a rustic dinner featuring fine local wines and traditional live music. Afterward we will return to the Gil Eanes. (B,L,D)

July 9, 2019

PINHAO /PESO DE REGUA, PORTUGAL

Following breakfast on board, enjoy the rest of the morning taking in the breath-taking views of the Douro River, relax with a book or join us for some fun pool activities. After lunch on board we disembark for Vila Real, where aristocrats built grand palaces during the 16th and 17th centuries. The architecture of the religious buildings is here extremely varied. We'll take a panoramic tour of the city by coach, followed by a tasting of the local pastry, Cristas de Galo. We'll then set out to explore Mateus Palace, the most beautiful and astonishing manor in all Northern Portugal. This 18th-century beauty is set in a hilly landscape reminding us of Mexico. The subtle mixture of granite, white walls and extravagance from the Age of Enlightenment such as ledges covered in statues and Baroque style pilasters is a striking feature. Behind the manor is a delightful garden with box hedges, more statues, and a spectacular 115-foot cedar tunnel. After our tour, we'll return to our ship for a wonderful evening on board. (B,L,D)

July 10, 2019

PESO DE REGUA/PORTO, PORTUGAL

After breakfast on board we leave for our visit to Lamego, a small, picturesque town that is rich in history. Lamego houses one of the most important pilgrimage sites in all of Portugal: The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies (Nossa Senhora dos Remedios Sanctuary). Sitting atop a hill, the sanctuary overlooks the town and you'll get to discover that this 18th century church stands out with its white façade dominating a baroque staircase with 686 steps ending in a shrine built in the rocaille style and adorned with azulejos. The first stone was laid on February 14th, 1750 and gave way to the construction of a massive temple overlooking the city and providing a breathtaking view over the misty mountains of the surrounding landscape. You'll get to see it up close on today's tour and have a chance to admire its gorgeous panels of blue and white tiles. As a treat, you will have an opportunity to try the local sparkling wine and famous country Ham before returning to your ship for a late lunch. This afternoon we have a scenic sailing into Porto. In the evening, enjoy dinner onboard followed by Brand g signature entertainment. (B,L,D)

July 11, 2019

PORTO, PORTUGAL

Today explore the wonderful city of Porto with a Guided tour and wine tasting. Porto, the second largest city in Portugal, stands out from the steep banks of the Douro river with its mixture of grey facades and red tiles interspersed with unusual architectural masterpieces. Its historical center was listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. We'll discover The Palácio da Bolsa (Stock Exchange Building), built in 1834 by the city's Commercial Association. It has remained their headquarters to this day. After climbing up the beautiful granite and marble stairway, we'll visit the former Tribunal Room, the Golden Room and the Arab Room, decorated in the exotic Moorish Revival style. Afterwards, we'll visit the Igreja de São Francisco (Church of Saint Francis), also known as the "Golden Church". It was originally a modest convent founded by Franciscan monks in the 12th century, before being further altered by prominent Porto families in the 15th and 16th centuries. They were responsible for the Baroque style interior which mingles with the large, elaborate rose window in Gothic style on the main façade in a fascinating mixture of styles reflecting the various eras it went through. We'll cross the Dom Luis I Bridge again back to Villa Nova de Gaia for the visit of a wine cellar. Porto's pride notably stems from its famous wine known the world over, which you will get to taste. We'll return on board for lunch. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on board or explore the city on your own before our Gala Dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

July 12, 2019

PORTO/GUIMARAES/PORTO, PORTUGAL

Today enjoy exploring the beautiful historic Guimarães to discover the city's historical treasures. Its medieval heart is a labyrinth of lanes and picturesque plazas framed by 14th century buildings. Guimarães' glory was officially recognized in 2001, when UNESCO declared its old town a World Heritage Site. Because of its role in the foundation of the country, the city is known as the "cradle of the Portuguese nationality." In 1128, major political and military events that lead to the independence and the birth of the new nation took place in Guimarães. We'll continue to the Palace of the Dukes of Braganza, a medieval estate and former residence of the first Dukes of Braganza. The palace was classified as a National Monument in 1910 and has since been restored to its former glory. In the afternoon explore the city at your leisure or join us for an optional "Douro Hike" We'll leave by coach for the mouth of the Douro River. Here, you'll set out with your guide for a hike along the Douro, passing through the traditional fishing village of São Pedro da Afurada. We'll have a great view of Porto and its famous Ribeira Square before arriving in Vila Nova de Gaia, where the prestigious wine is aged in renowned cellars. We'll visit a wine cellar and enjoy a tasting*. After our hike, we'll return to the ship on foot. If you are not up for a hike, relax in the ship's pool or explore the city at your leisure. After this busy day prepare for our Farewell cocktails and final evening of Brand g Signature Entertainment. (B,L,D)

July 13, 2019

PORTO, PORTUGAL

Morning disembarkation. Transfer to Porto airport (OPO) or join the 2-night post cruise extension to Lisbon. (B)

PORT-PROGRAM ITINERARY

July 13, 2019

PORTO/LISBON

Disembark the vessel and board luxury motor coaches bound for Lisbon. En-route we stop at the Sanguinhal Wine Estate, remarkably known for its great wines and historical beauty. This visit includes an expert guided tour of the vineyards, a visit to the ancient pressing-room with its stone and wood manual wine press, the old distillery, the aging cellar of liquor, wines and brandies, and finally wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and a traditional buffet lunch from the region.

Following lunch, we proceed to Óbidos, which a well-preserved example of medieval architecture: with Roman and Moorish heritage. This delightful town of white houses adorned with bougainvillea and honeysuckle is surrounded by medieval walls and is forbidden to car traffic. Our visit to Óbidos includes a walking tour and a tasting of the local traditional cherry liquor.

We continue to Lisbon, where we check into the well-located Dom Pedro Palace. The evening is yours to relax, or to explore the city on your own. (B,L)

July 14, 2019

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Today we enjoy a half-day city tour of Lisbon, beginning with a panoramic tour, which leads us to the Belém Quarter, from where many of the great Portuguese explorers embarked on their voyages of discovery. It is here that we'll visit two of the most cherished historic buildings in the country: the Jerónimos Monastery and the Belém Tower. Both are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Also, here stands the impressive Discoveries Monument "Padrão dos Descobrimentos", a contemporary monument to the Golden Age of Discovery that soars over the riverfront.

Next, we proceed to the Chiado Quarter where we will explore the lovely neighborhoods on foot. The walking tour takes us on to Baixa, where we'll enjoy the bustling city life in its squares, including the most impressive square of all, Commerce Square.

Following the tour, remain in the city center, or return to the hotel via Liberty Avenue. This street is famous for its design stores and beautiful elaborated buildings, and the Marquis of Pombal monument. Finally, we reach the hotel where you'll enjoy time at leisure before we gather at the hotel for a farewell cocktail reception. (B/Farewell cocktail)

July 15, 2019

LISBON, PORTUGAL

After breakfast and check-out from the Dom Pedro Palace Hotel, transfer to Lisbon International Airport (LIS). (B)

