



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

November 6 to 15, 2025

Douro River Voyage

CULTURE, CUISINE AND WINE



Splendor & River Romance

On this extraordinary nine-night land and river voyage, witness breathtaking vistas, wander historic villages and visit iconic cultural sites. Begin in Madrid and then take a scenic drive, stopping in stunning Salamanca, Spain. Make your way to charming Barca d'Alva, Portugal, on the Spanish border, to embark upon the deluxe **AmaVida** river boat.

As you cruise the romantic Douro River through northern Portugal, be captivated by the passing scenery of vineyards planted in the terraced hillsides, undulating countryside and storybook villages dotting the landscape. Make daily stops at ports along the way where you'll explore the medieval Castelo Rodrigo village and marvel at the Pinhão Railway Station's famous azulejos tiles. Stroll the magnificent, baroque 18th-century Mateus Palace and gardens and take in spectacular views from the hilltop Nossa Senhora dos Remédios pilgrimage site in Lamego. In Porto, tour historic districts and neighborhoods, visit its oldest Cathedral and view the spectacular tilework at the architectural gem, São Bento Railway Station.

Along the way, relish traditional music and savor locally produced specialties, including olives, cheeses and the famed Douro Valley port wine.

Front cover: Porto, Portugal, Douro river.

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Remedies stairs, Lamego, Portugal




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Dear Alumni and Friends:

On this fabulous 9-night land and river journey, travel from the historic plazas of Madrid to the riverside splendor of medieval Porto. Spend 7 nights aboard the deluxe **AmaVida**, sailing the winding Douro River, which carves its way through northern Portugal, creating beautiful landscapes of sloping vineyards, farms and villages.

Explore 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites along the way, epitomizing the varied itinerary. First, the ancient town of Salamanca — nicknamed Spain's "Golden City," and boasting one of the oldest universities in the world. In the Alto Douro Wine Region, with its perfect microclimate, wine has been produced for 2,000 years. The main product, port wine, is world-famous for its quality. And finally, the city center of Porto — including 12th-century ramparts erected on Roman foundations — was proclaimed by UNESCO "an exceptional urban landscape with a thousand-year history."

On this voyage, experience cultural and historic highlights; savor tastings of delicious locally produced food and wine; hear traditional music and marvel at unforgettable views. Book now for this unparalleled program, while space is still available!

Sincerely,



Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association



Leanna Smith, '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association's travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**

Azulejo Tiles

Portugal's famous blue-and-white glazed tiles have a long and storied past. When Moors invaded the country in the eighth century, they brought azulejos — ceramic tiles whose Arabic name means “small polished stones.” Tiles such as these may date as far back as Mesopotamia (civilization there flourished between 4500 B.C. and A.D. 539), where they were used to protect the exteriors of buildings.

Azulejos were originally painted a variety of colors — blue, green, gold and even reddish-brown. However, the love of Chinese blue-and-white porcelain, which had so gripped the Dutch and Flemish cultures in the 16th century, took hold of the Iberians as well, and the Portuguese became besotted with blue and white.

The tiles blossomed in popularity and — especially between the 17th and 18th centuries — became Portugal's predominant decorative art form. They can be found adorning palaces, churches, public buildings, staircases, walls and train stations. Their designs portray cultural, religious and historical scenes, mythological tales and stories from literature. They served as a way to educate and enlighten, since books were expensive and not always accessible to average citizens.



Pinhão railway station, Portugal



Prime Port Wine

The Douro River valley is famous for producing many varieties of wine and, more famously, for the distinctive fortified wine called port, which cannot be produced anywhere else in the world. This region's unique topography and geography, and the number of microclimates along the twisting Douro River, are responsible for the diverse variety of delicious grapes that can grow here...and, consequently, the number of different wines that can be produced.

Port, a local specialty loved the world over, is made of a blend of up to 40 kinds of grapes. The grapes are picked by hand (machines can't harvest as well as humans) and are usually crushed by foot (machines tend to break the seeds, releasing too much tannin and a bitter flavor). The stomping takes place in granite vats called lagares, which then drain into fermentation tanks made of cement or steel. However, the fermentation process is halted before completion by the addition of brandy (usually imported from South Africa). This stabilizes the port for long-term aging and creates a distinctive dry sweetness that people keep coming back for.



INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



2025 | 10-DAY/9-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1 | November 6

Depart your home city.

Madrid, Spain

Day 2 | November 7

Arrive in Madrid, Spain. Transfer to the deluxe, historic **Wellington Hotel & Spa**. Settle in and spend the afternoon exploring at your leisure, and make your own plans for lunch and dinner.

Madrid/Salamanca/
Barca d'Alva, Portugal/
Embark River Boat

Day 3 | November 8

On a scenic drive to Salamanca, pass charming villages, olive groves and farms. What began as a prehistoric community evolved into an ancient Roman settlement and university town (the world-famous university was founded in 1218). Called Spain's "Golden City," Salamanca boasts historic buildings in a mix of architectural styles, many made of gold-colored sandstone. Enjoy a traditional Spanish

lunch at a local restaurant, then embark on a city tour. Transfer to Barca d'Alva and embark the deluxe **AmaVida**. This evening, join your fellow passengers for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Barca d'Alva

Day 4 | November 9

Join a walking tour through the medieval streets of Castelo Rodrigo, a tiny, fortified village built in 1296. From the castle itself, enjoy spectacular views of the valley and the red-roofed stone houses of the village. Enjoy a tasting of local favorites, such as almonds, cheese, bread and wine. The river boat travels from Barca d'Alva to Pinhão this afternoon. Spend time on deck watching the beautiful green and gold hills, terraced vineyards and tiny villages glide past. (B,L,D)

Pinhão

Day 5 | November 10

Stroll to the charming Pinhão Railway Station, famous for

its lovely azulejos — distinctive blue-and-white, hand-painted tiles. The azulejos depict scenes of local significance — quintas (vineyards), winemakers, folk culture and local landscapes. Next, enjoy an authentic, delectable dining experience complete with traditional Portuguese music at a family-run quinta. Explore the quinta's museum, which showcases the fascinating history and culture of wine in the Alto Douro region — complete with tastings. (B,L,D)

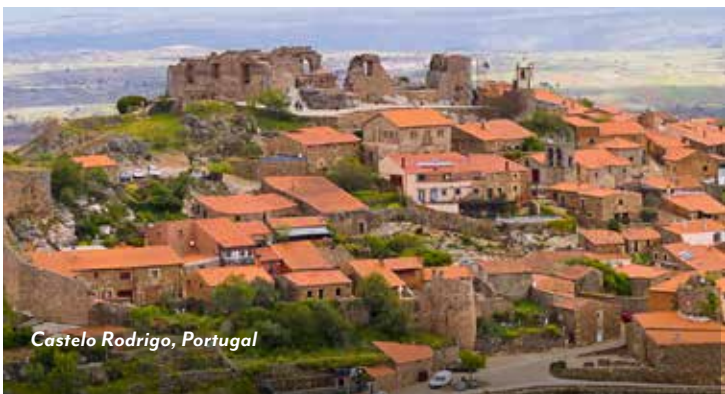
Régua

Day 6 | November 11

Explore Mateus Palace and Gardens on a guided tour. The Baroque façade is well known, as it is pictured on the Mateus rosé wine label. The palace is brimming with antiques and artwork; the gardens boast formal beds, topiaries and statues; the captivating Cedar Tunnel is an aromatic



University of Salamanca, Spain



Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal



Réguas, Douro River, Portugal

and memorable highlight. After lunch, visit the ancient and picturesque town of Lamego, which produces wines, fruit and smoked meats. Stroll the cobblestoned streets and the town's wide boulevard, lined with cafes and market stalls. Lamego is home to one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Portugal, the Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, set on a spectacular hilltop. The church is accessed by a Baroque double staircase of 686 steps and nine terraces, decorated with statues, azulejos and urns. The views at the top are spectacular! End the day with a tasting of local specialties and wines. (B,L,D)

Entre-Os-Rios

Day 7 | November 12

Spend the morning on deck watching the beautiful scenery gliding by, or enjoying the ship's amenities. Dock in Entre-Os-Rios and lunch at a local quinta. Spend the

afternoon exploring the town, ideally located between two rivers. Take in the rolling landscapes and beautiful views; meander the cobble streets, admiring historic churches and architecture. (B,L,D)

Porto

Day 8 | November 13

Join a guided tour of Porto's historic quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the Porto Cathedral, one of the city's oldest monuments, and Liberty Square, the town's main plaza, ringed with shops and cafés, connecting the historic and modern parts of the city. Don't miss the São Bento Railway Station, one of the most beautiful train stations in Europe. Admire the 22,000 incredible azulejos. This afternoon, indulge in a final Douro Valley port tasting. You will have a choice on how you arrive — by motorcoach or via a scenic hike. (B,L,D)

Porto

Day 9 | November 14

Enjoy some free time today to stroll the cobble lanes of Porto's UNESCO-designated Ribeira (Riverside) district, with its narrow streets winding past shops and cafés. Stop in at the 14th-century Church of São Francisco. Marvel at the grand 19th-century Palácio de Bolsa, formerly a stock market, built to impress potential investors. And of course there are plenty of shops and markets to search for that perfect souvenir. This evening, join your fellow passengers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Porto/Disembark/ Return to Home City

Day 10 | November 15

Following breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



Tram in Porto, Portugal



Mateus Palace, Vila Real, Portugal



AmaVida

Timeless elegance spills from the decks of **AmaVida** as the ship cruises along Portugal's Douro River. Most staterooms feature balconies from which to enjoy views of terraced vineyards, as well as deluxe hotel-style bedding and spacious bathrooms. **AmaVida's** passionate chefs will treat you to exquisite, locally sourced cuisine paired with unlimited local wine — and the region's signature port — as well as beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner in the Main Restaurant.



2025 DEPARTURE DATE

November 6 to 15

(Tour Begins: November 7)

Category-Description	Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
E Panoramic window (does not open). 161 sq. ft. Lower Deck, midship.	\$5,044	\$4,044
D Panoramic window (does not open). 161 sq. ft. Lower Deck, forward.	\$5,744	\$4,744
B Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and French balcony . 215 sq. ft. Middle Deck.	\$7,744	\$6,744
A Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and French balcony . 215 sq. ft. Upper Deck.	\$8,244	\$7,244
Suite Luxury accommodations including sitting area. Large floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door and French balcony . 323 sq. ft. Upper Deck. (Limited Availability.)	\$10,244	\$9,244

***Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 5/20/25 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes. Single accommodations are available in category B for an additional \$1,000, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200% of the cabin fare, plus taxes. Early Booking Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)

Port taxes in the amount of \$249 per person are included in the above prices. Deck plans available upon request.

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve



PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

Madrid, Spain

November 4 to 7, 2025 (Program Begins: November 5)

Explore Spain's capital — a vibrant, welcoming city known for its rich culture and historic neighborhoods and streets. A tour reveals elegant, tree-lined boulevards; large, landscaped parks; varied architecture and lovely fountains — Cibeles Fountain has become a symbol of the city. Stop in the Prado Museum, which boasts one of the world's finest collections of European art, renowned for its superior collection of artworks by Goya, Velázquez, El Greco, Rubens, Titian and more. Extension includes two-night stay at the deluxe historic **Wellington Hotel & Spa**.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$895

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,095



POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Lisbon, Portugal

November 15 to 17, 2025 (Program Ends: November 17)

Enjoy two nights in Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal. Explore this multicultural metropolis with a rich history during a guided tour. Visit the charming village of Sintra — a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its mountain range, climate, countryside palaces and cottages. Marvel at the Old Royal Palace, which houses the oldest glazed tiles in Portugal and the biggest conical chimneys of medieval times. Take a scenic drive through the picturesque village of Cascais and then along Lisbon's coast to admire the beaches, the mouth of the Tagus River and the Tower of Belem. Accommodations are in the luxurious **Corinthia Lisbon** hotel.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$895

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,095

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Early Booking Savings* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!



Port wine and pastel de nata, a traditional Portuguese dessert



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