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INSTITUTE FOR
CONTEMPORARY ART
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH
UNIVERSITY



MUSEUM
TRAVEL
ALLIANCE®
BY ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD

Portugal's Enchanting Douro Valley

Round-Trip Porto Aboard *AmaSintra*

October 8 - 16, 2026



with Linda Wolk-Simon, *Lecturer*

Cruise *Highlights*

Sail Portugal's Douro River round-trip from **Porto** aboard the luxurious, 51-cabin **AmaSintra**, which debuted in 2025.

Capture the Douro Valley's beauty with **optional guided painting workshops**, learning how to create traditional Portuguese **azulejos** (tin-glazed ceramic tiles) and canvases *en plein air* (outdoors).

Discover contemporary art on a guided tour of Porto's **Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves**, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Álvaro Siza Vieira.

Enjoy a guided tour of Salamanca's **Museo de Art Nouveau y Art Déco**, which houses the world's most acclaimed collection of French porcelain dolls.

Ascend the 686-step staircase of the **Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios** in **Lamego**, a Baroque and Rococo pilgrimage church.

Attend a private concert at Porto's **Casa da Música**, the landmark 21st-century concert hall designed by Rem Koolhaas.



About the Museum Travel Alliance

Celebrating 50 years of cultural travel in 2027, Arrangements Abroad operates exclusive journeys for the Museum Travel Alliance. MTA trips bring together patrons from more than 150 of America's leading museums, including the **Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University**, offering scholar-led, special-access experiences in destinations across the U.S. and around the world.

All MTA trips are operated by Arrangements Abroad.

Activity Level:
Intermediate



Pace Level:
Tranquillo



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.



Traveling With *You*

Linda Wolk-Simon is a specialist in Renaissance art. A longtime curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, she also served as Head of the Drawings Department at the Morgan Library and Director of the Fairfield University Museum. Currently, she teaches at NYU. She has organized exhibitions, lectured extensively, and authored catalogs, essays, articles, and reviews on European art. Her publication *Raphael at the Metropolitan* received an award for excellence from the Association of Art Museum Curators, and she was recently inducted into the National Jesuit Honor Society in recognition of her acclaimed exhibition and book *The Holy Name: Art of the Gesù: Bernini and His Age*.

The **Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University** is a proud member of the **Museum Travel Alliance (MTA)**, which offers exclusive travel programs for patrons of leading cultural institutions. From **October 8 to 16, 2026**, sail along the Douro, the “river of gold,” through Portugal’s UNESCO-listed wine region aboard the luxurious, 51-cabin river vessel **AmaSintra**. Enjoy private tastings at lush, historic vineyards and guided looks at some of the region’s most important cultural treasures, from UNESCO World Heritage Sites to innovative contemporary art and architecture.

Travel with **Dr. Linda Wolk-Simon**, an Italian Renaissance scholar and former curator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Morgan Library & Museum. She will highlight the Portuguese presence in the art, diplomacy, and history of the Italian Renaissance. **To reserve your cabin aboard AmaSintra**, [click here](#) to register online. You may also contact the Museum Travel Alliance at Arrangements Abroad at 212-324-1893 or trips@museumtravelalliance.com. We spoke with Linda about the art, architecture, and history that define this journey.

The Douro Valley is renowned for Port wine, yet this program also emphasizes art and architecture. What makes this cultural landscape so compelling?

Linda Wolk-Simon: The castles, Baroque churches, and palaces all represent centuries of prosperity from the world’s first demarcated wine region. The terraced vineyards themselves are a kind of sculpture, two millennia of human labor carving schist mountains into productive beauty. You will be able to capture the Douro’s beauty at **optional painting workshops**.

The Baroque theatricality is particularly fascinating: Lamego’s ornate **Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios** features a 686-step staircase designed as performative architecture, where physical exertion is intended to induce spiritual transformation.

What can guests anticipate in terms of Portugal’s increasingly renowned contemporary art and architecture?

Linda Wolk-Simon: We’ll experience venues designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects, such as Portugal-born **Álvaro Siza Vieira** and Dutch master **Rem Koolhaas**. We’ll share a guided tour of Siza’s **Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves**, which houses over 4,300 works spanning from 1968 to the present. Koolhaas’s **Casa da Música**—where we’ll attend a private concert—features the world’s only auditorium with two glass walls offering the city as backdrop. Even the wine estates outside Porto have commissioned cutting-edge architecture.

Portugal's Enchanting Douro Valley

Round-Trip Porto Aboard *AmaSintra*

October 8 – 16, 2026

Thursday, October 8: *Departure*

Depart on an overnight flight to Porto, Portugal.

Friday, October 9: *Porto, Portugal / Embark AmaSintra* (L,R,D)

Upon your morning arrival in **Porto**, you will be transferred to **AmaSintra** for a light lunch in the lounge. Spend the afternoon at leisure on board or join an expert-guided tour of the **Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves**, Portugal's foremost institution for contemporary culture. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Álvaro Siza Vieira, this minimalist museum sits within 44 acres of gardens and parkland.

Encounter the museum's pieces by Spanish Surrealist Joan Miró, whose 85-work collection here spans six decades of his career; American photographer Cindy Sherman, known for her transformative conceptual portraits; and Portuguese-British artist Paula Rego, celebrated for her powerful narrative paintings drawn from storybooks and folk tales. All guests will gather this evening aboard *AmaSintra* for a welcome reception and dinner.



Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto, Portugal,
© Serralves Foundation



Mateus Palace and Gardens, Peso da Régua, Portugal

Saturday, October 10: *Porto / Peso da Régua* (B,L,D)

This morning, watch from the deck as *AmaSintra* glides beneath the **Maria Pia Bridge**, completed in 1877 by the firm of Gustave Eiffel—a full 12 years before his Parisian tower.

Sail east through the **Douro Valley's terraced vineyards** as local experts discuss the region's wines, artistic traditions, and cultural history. Upon arrival in **Peso da Régua**, choose between optional excursions:

Option 1: Follow an expert-guided journey through the heart of Port wine country, exploring the estates of preeminent producers who have defined this region's global reputation.

Option 2: Travel five centuries back in time with a visit to the **Mateus Palace and Gardens**, where Baroque elegance meets landscaped perfection.

Return to the ship for dinner, or opt for an evening meal at a local *quinta*, where you can dine among the very vineyards that produce some of the world's finest fortified wines.

Sunday, October 11:

Barca d'Alva / Castelo Rodrigo

(B,L,D)

Attend a morning lecture aboard *AmaSintra* as the ship navigates deeper into the Douro Valley toward **Barca d'Alva**, Portugal's easternmost river port.

After lunch, transfer to **Castelo Rodrigo**, a fortified hilltop village perched 2,690 feet above sea level. Walk amid the evocative ruins, including the **Palácio de Cristóvão de Moura**, once a grand 16th-century palace; the **Igreja Matriz de Nossa Senhora de Rocamador**, a 13th-century parish church that represents the transition from Romanesque to Gothic architecture; and one of Portugal's finest examples of a **Manueline pillory**, dating to 1509.

Before returning to the ship, refresh yourself with a tasting of regional wines and local delicacies within the village's medieval walls. Enjoy dinner on board this evening.

Monday, October 12:

Barca d'Alva / Vega de Terrón, Spain / Salamanca (B,L,D)

Cross into Spain this morning, arriving at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Salamanca**, a city of honey-colored sandstone.

Join an expert-guided tour beginning at the **Universidad de Salamanca**, the third-oldest university in continuous operation worldwide, founded in 1218. Continue to the 18th-century **Plaza Mayor**, considered one of Europe's most beautiful public squares.



Casa Lis, Salamanca, Spain



Quinta da Avesada, Favaio, Portugal

After lunch, explore the city at your own pace, or join an expert-guided visit to the **Museo de Art Nouveau y Art Déco**, housed in **Casa Lis**, a graceful mansion completed in 1905. View glassware by Lalique, jewelry by Fabergé, and what experts consider the greatest collection of 19th-century French porcelain dolls.

Return to *AmaSintra* in **Vega de Terrón** for dinner on board.

Tuesday, October 13:

Vega de Terrón / Pinhão, Portugal / Favaio (B,L,D)

After a morning of cruising, arrive in **Pinhão** and transfer to the mid-19th-century **Quinta da Avesada** wine estate for an exclusive lunch accompanied by live entertainment. Later this afternoon, visit another local *quinta* for an expert-guided Port wine tasting.

Optional Painting Workshop: In Pinhão, join an expert-led *plein air* session amid the terraced vineyards. Capture the Douro Valley's golden light and sweeping river views in watercolor or sketch, creating a personal artistic keepsake.

Optional Bike Tour: Alternatively, enjoy a scenic bike tour through Pinhão and the surrounding villages and rolling hills.

Return to *AmaSintra* in the evening.



Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios, Lamego, Portugal

Wednesday, October 14:

Peso de Régua / Lamego / Entre-os-Rios (B,L,D)

Depart this morning for **Lamego**, an episcopal city whose history reaches back to pre-Roman times. Visit the **Santuário de Nossa Senhora dos Remédios**, a 16th-century pilgrimage church that crowns Monte de Santo Estêvão. Arrive by motor coach or enjoy a hike up its monumental zigzagging staircase of 686 steps.

After lunch, choose between these options:

Option 1: Participate in **an interactive azulejo tile painting workshop**, learning the traditional Portuguese ceramic art that adorns landmarks across the country, including monuments throughout Porto.

Option 2: Transfer to a private tasting of local specialties, sampling the regional wines and delicacies that have sustained this fertile valley for centuries.

Reboard *AmaSintra* for a lecture as the ship passes through the **Barragem do Carrapatelo**, the dam with the Douro's largest navigation lock, featuring a 115-foot water level change. Enjoy dinner aboard *AmaSintra*.

Thursday, October 15:

Entre-os-Rios / Porto

(B,L,D)

Return to Porto this morning for a behind-the-scenes tour and private concert at **Casa da Música**, a 21st-century concert hall designed by Rem Koolhaas. Before returning to the ship, visit the stunning 19th-century **Palácio da Bolsa** (Stock Exchange Palace), featuring the Salão Árabe (Arab Room), a dazzling work of Moorish Revival style, where gilded stucco and geometric patterns cover every surface from floor to ceiling.

Return to *AmaSintra* for lunch, or spend the afternoon at leisure. You may join **an optional vintage Port tasting** at a working wine cellar. This evening, the captain will host a festive farewell dinner aboard *AmaSintra*.

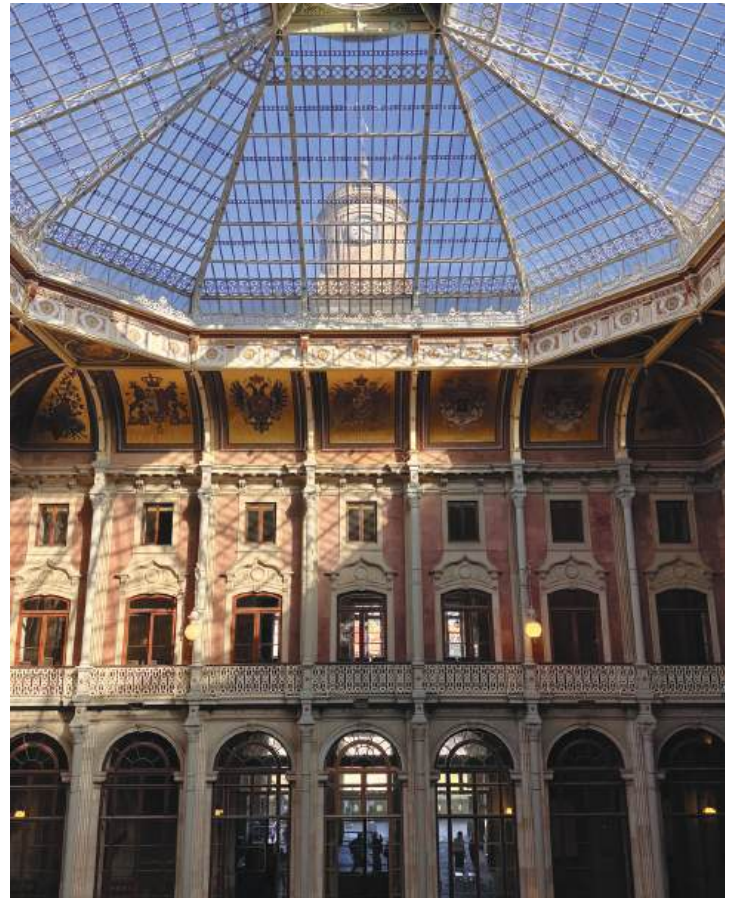
Friday, October 16:

Porto / Disembark / Return

(B)

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home.

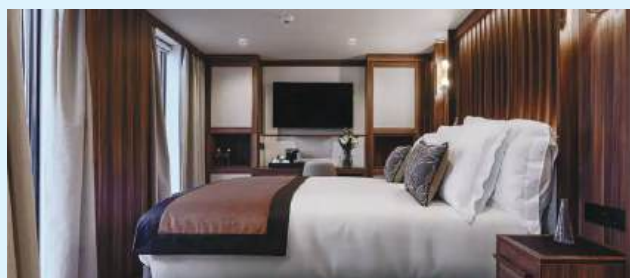
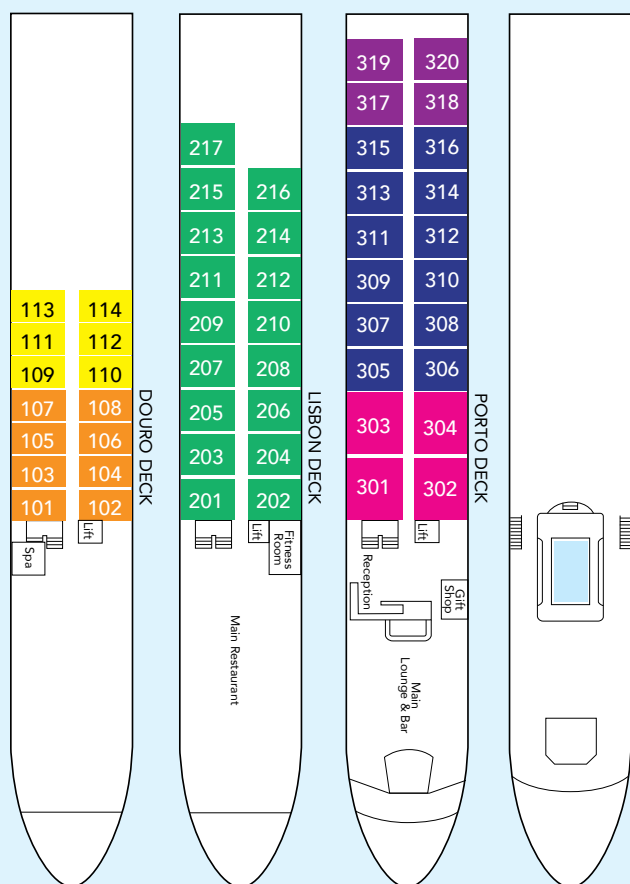
DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/>.*



Palácio da Bolsa, Porto, Portugal

AmaSintra

Aboard *AmaSintra*, which made its debut in 2025, spacious staterooms frame wide views of terraced vineyards and the winding Douro River. This luxury river vessel houses 51 staterooms and suites. Each stateroom includes Entertainment-On-Demand with complimentary high-speed Internet access, unlimited Wi-Fi, movies, music, and English-language television stations; climate-controlled air conditioning; and an in-room safe. The ship's Panoramic Lounge provides a comfortable space for enjoying wine or cocktails alongside nightly entertainment. *AmaSintra* features a massage room, fitness room, sun-deck swimming pool, and gift shop. The Main Restaurant serves regional cuisine paired with the Douro Valley's famous Port wines, where floor-to-ceiling windows bring the riverside landscape to every meal.



AmaSintra Suite

Cruise Rates

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
109-114	Douro	\$7,499	\$9,999
Panoramic window, 161 sq. ft.			
101-108	Douro	\$8,499	\$11,999
Panoramic window, 161 sq. ft.			
317-320	Porto	\$10,499	\$15,999
French balcony, Floor-to-ceiling window, 161 sq. ft.			
201-217	Lisbon	\$11,499	\$17,999
Outside balcony, Floor-to-ceiling window, 215 sq. ft.			
305-316	Porto	\$13,499	Inquire
Outside balcony, Floor-to-ceiling window, 215 sq. ft.			
301-304	Porto	\$16,499	Inquire
Suite, Outside balcony, Floor-to-ceiling windows, 323 sq. ft.			

Rates Include

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *AmaSintra*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; thoughtfully selected wines and beer at lunches and dinners
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on arrival and departure days
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

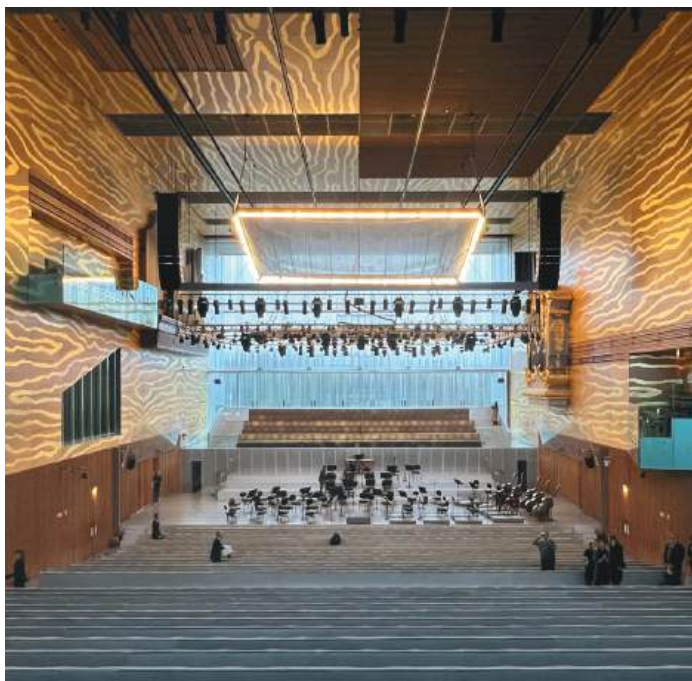
NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than those noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



AmaSintra



Map of the region



Casa da Música, Porto, Portugal



Plaza Mayor, Salamanca, Spain

MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE
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October 8 - 16, 2026
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, [click here](#) to register online through a secure form. You may also call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033; email trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

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

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

AmaSintra cabin preference (1) _____ (2) _____

I wish to share a room/cabin with _____

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

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see <https://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms-conditions/> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



Museum Travel Alliance
260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor
New York, NY 10018-4424

Front cover: Douro River. Highlights page: Porto, Portugal.
Back cover: Castelo Rodrigo, Portugal (top) and Porto, Portugal (bottom).
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Portugal's Enchanting Douro Valley

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