



**GIPPSLAND
TRAVEL**

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A Journey through SPAIN & PORTUGAL

Personally escorted by Jacquy Turner

20 October to 15 November 2023

Optional 7-night Douro River Valley Cruise add-on



Spain is considered an exotic country in Europe due to its friendly inhabitants, relaxed lifestyle, its cuisine, vibrant nightlife, and world-famous folklore and festivities.

Portugal has a rich, unique culture, lively cities and beautiful countryside. Highlights feature Medieval castles, cobblestone villages, captivating cities and golden beaches.



Friday 20 October **Australia - Lisbon**

We depart Gippsland in the afternoon and travel by coach to Melbourne Airport in time for our flight to Lisbon, Portugal.

Saturday 21, Sunday 22, Monday 23 October

Lisbon, Portugal

(B B B L D D)

On our arrival in Lisbon, we will be met and transferred to our hotel, the SOFITEL LIBERDADE, or similar, for the next 3 nights. During our time in Lisbon we visit the Belém district and the magnificent **Jerónimos Monastery**, an extraordinary example of Portugal's 'Manueline' style of architecture. We shall take a cable car ride through the narrow streets and visit the **National Tile Museum**. Today you will have your first opportunity to taste the National Portugal Custard Tart.

We shall lunch at a beachside restaurant in Cascais and also visit the charming town of Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and former summer residence of Portuguese kings and aristocrats and see the **National Palace of Sintra**, a former royal residence characterised by a variety of architectural styles

Tuesday 24, Wednesday 25, Thursday 26 October

Seville, Spain

(B B B L L D)

Depart Lisbon this morning and drive towards the border. After an included lunch stop we arrive in Seville and will check into the HOTEL ALFONSO XIII, or similar, for a 3-night stay.

Seville is one of Spain's most fascinating and exciting cities. Over the next couple of days, we will take a walking tour and visit the 15th century cathedral, one of the most breathtaking, and see **La Giralda**, Seville's most famous monument. The massive cathedral is the burial place of Christopher Columbus.

We visit the **Alcazar**, a magnificent 14th century Mudejar palace that is one of the oldest royal residences in Europe still in use, and enjoy a walk through the Barrio de Santa Cruz, a maze of narrow streets, whitewashed houses and small squares.





The best way to appreciate the city is by a horse drawn carriage ride through the streets. No visit to Seville is complete without attending a performance of the region's famous Flamenco and one evening you'll see an authentic **Flamenco Show**.

We shall also visit the haunting **Casa de Pilatos**, which is still occupied by the ducal Medinaceli family, and is one of the city's most glorious mansions. It's a mixture of Mudéjar, Gothic and Renaissance styles, with some beautiful tilework and arcesonados (ceilings of interlaced beams with decorative insertions).

Friday 27, Saturday 28 October Ronda - Granada (B B D)

After breakfast we shall drive past the olive groves and the gleaming white villages. We stop at Ronda and visit the **Bull Fighting Museum** then continue on to glorious Granada. On arrival, we will check into the NH COLLECTION VICTORIA HOTEL, or similar, for a 2-night stay.

Overlooking the town is one of the most remarkable fortresses ever built, the **Alhambra** and **Nasrid Palaces**. We shall explore these exquisite palaces, a fantasy of stone, and we will walk on to the exotic water gardens of **Generalife**, the royal summer residence.

Sunday 29 October Cordoba (B D)

We set off early along the Guadalquivir Valley, for the well-preserved Moorish city of Cordoba. On arrival we will check into the LAS CASAS DE LA JUDERIA HOTEL, or similar, for an overnight stay.

While in Cordoba we will see the 2000-year-old bridge and the famous Plaza de Porto. Afterwards we shall have a walking tour through the flower-filled streets of the Jewish Quarter and visit the **Mezquita**, built between the 8th and 10th centuries, considered one of the most extraordinary buildings in all of Europe.





Monday 30, Tuesday 31 October, Wednesday 1 November

Madrid, Spain

(B B B L D)

This morning we shall transfer to the rail station for our AVE train journey to Madrid. On our arrival in Madrid we shall check into the HOTEL ORFILA, or similar, for the next three nights.

Madrid is a vibrant, sophisticated city which we will explore on a walking tour through the historic centre and the arcaded **17th century Plaza Mayor**. We shall also see the **Puerta del Sol** before visiting the **Palacio Real**, whose rooms are filled with antiques and treasured artworks.

During our time in Madrid, we will have a full day trip travelling south to the fortified city of **Toledo** which dates from Roman times. We shall visit the **6th century cathedral** and the **Church of Santo Tomé** which houses some of El Greco's most important works. Before returning to Madrid, we shall also visit the city's oldest synagogue, the **12th century Santa María la Blanca**. Along with a gourmet tapa walking tour and many other highlights we shall visit in Madrid, there will be plenty of free time for shopping and additional sightseeing.

During your free time you may like to visit the Prado Museum, one of Madrid's main attractions where works by Spain's three great masters Goya, Velazquez and El Greco are on show or the Reina Sofia Art Centre which concentrates on 20th century art, its most famous work being Picasso's 'Guernica'.



Thursday 2, Friday 3 November Barcelona

(B B D)

This morning we re-board the AVE train for our journey to Barcelona, Spain's second largest city. We shall transfer to the MAJESTIC HOTEL, or similar, for a 2-night stay.

Our time in Barcelona will be spent exploring many attractions including a guided introduction to Gaudi's architectural masterpieces including a night visit to **Casa Mila**, one of Barcelona's best-known Art Nouveau buildings, considered architecturally innovative for its steel structure and curtain walls. Next is the impressive, but as yet unfinished, **Sagrada Familia Basilica** and **Parc Güell**, a beautiful municipal garden with a superb panoramic view over the city.

We shall also explore the heart of the old city – the **medieval Gothic Quarter**. The narrow, labyrinthine streets and quiet squares are quite distinct from the rest of the city. We shall see the magnificent 13th century cathedral, notable for its fine Gothic chapels, medieval choir stalls and shady cloister.



Saturday 4, Sunday 5 November Bilbao - San Sebastian

(B B L D)

This morning we shall transfer to the Barcelona El Prat Airport for our short flight to Bilbao where we will visit the **Guggenheim Museum**. Hailed as the most important structure of its time when it opened in 1997, Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum has changed the way people think about museums and continues to challenge assumptions about the connections between art, architecture, and collecting.

After lunch we drive to beautiful San Sebastian. On arrival we shall check in to the HOTEL MARIA CHRISTINA, or similar, for a 2-night stay.

San Sebastián is a resort town on the Bay of Biscay in Spain's mountainous Basque Country. It's known for **Playa de la Concha** and **Playa de Ondarreta**, a very upmarket district known as a millionaires' belt on account of its lavish holiday homes, beaches framed by a picturesque bayfront promenade, and world-renowned restaurants

In its cobblestoned old town (**Parte Vieja**), upscale shops neighbour vibrant bars pairing local wines with bite-size regional specialties.

During our time in San Sebastian, we shall also take a walking tour of the **Old Quarter**. We shall see the numbered balconies of the **Plaza de la Constitucion**, a reminder of the days when bullfights were held in the square.



Monday 6, Tuesday 7 November

Santillana del Mar

(B B D)

We leave San Sebastian and head west along the coast to picturesque Santillana de Mar with a stop at a **Cider House**. After checking into our hotel, PARADORE GILBLAS, or similar, for a 2-night stay, we will have time to stroll the rustic cobblestone streets to the church square.

Santillana del Mar is a historic town situated in Cantabria, Spain. Its many historic buildings attract thousands of holidaymakers every year. There is an old saying that Santillana del Mar is The Town of Three Lies, since it is neither a Saint (Santo), nor flat (llana), nor is it by the sea (Mar) as implied by its name. However, the name actually derives from Santa Juliana (or Santa Illana) whose remains are kept in the Colegiata, a Romanesque church and former Benedictine monastery.

Another highlight we shall visit is **The Cave of Altamira**, famous for its Upper Palaeolithic cave paintings featuring drawings and polychrome rock paintings of wild mammals and human hands. When the discovery was first made public in 1880, it led to a bitter public controversy between experts since many did not believe prehistoric man had the intellectual capacity to produce any kind of artistic expression. The acknowledgment of the authenticity of the paintings, which finally came in 1902, changed the perception of prehistoric human beings.



Wednesday 8, Thursday 9 November

Castilla y Leon – Villa Franca

(B B D)

This morning we drive south west to the Castilla-Leon region, located in the interior of the northern part of Spain. Its natural heritage includes the **Picos de Europa National Park**, which can be explored by taking the Route of the Cares River. The area of **Las Médulas**, a landscape of open-air mines, has also been awarded the World Heritage designation by the UNESCO.



The province of León is home to places with a rich cultural heritage such as Ponferrada, Astorga with its **Episcopal Palace by Gaudí**; as well as the capital, León, with its Cathedral and the **Casa Botines** building, also designed by Gaudí. We shall also visit the **Knights Templar**.

Our hotel for our 2 nights in Castilla Leon is the PARADOR DE VILLAFRANCO DEL BIERZO, or similar.

Friday 10, Saturday 11 November Santiago de Compostela (B B L D)

Santiago de Compostela is the capital of northwest Spain's Galicia region. It's known as the culmination of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route, now considered by UNESCO a World Heritage Site, and the alleged burial site of the Apostle St. James ("Santiago"). His remains lie within the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela, consecrated in 1211, whose elaborately carved stone facades open onto grand plazas within the medieval walls of the old town. During our time we will have a walking tour of the old town, visit the **Cathedral** and end with drinks and tapas. We will enjoy our last Spanish lunch at a local home.

Santiago is certainly one of Spain's most monumental towns, with a particular architecture style all of its own. But it is also a town full of life, with one of the most famous Universities and a large number of students who guarantee youthful ambience in between the historical walls. Also, the region's cuisine is of great reputation, and it is said that nowhere you can eat better seafood than in Galicia.

While in Santiago we will stay at the PARADORES DE SANTIAGO, or similar, for two nights.



Sunday 12 November Porto, Portugal (B L)

After breakfast we will drive south and visit the ancient capital town of **Guimarães**. After a lovely lunch we have a scenic drive through the Douro Valley to Porto, Portugal. On arrival, we shall farewell our fellow travellers that are continuing on with the optional 7-night cruise and check into LE MONUMENTAL HOTEL, or similar, for a two night stay.

Monday 13 November Porto Sightseeing (B FD)

We will spend the morning on a walking tour with a local guide. There's much more to Portugal's second city than its eponymous fortified wine—historic architecture, cutting-edge design, fabulous food and wine, and a hip, laid-back vibe. We shall have some free time this afternoon to relax, or explore the city further for those last-minute souvenirs. Tonight, we shall get together for our Farewell Dinner.

Tuesday 14 November Porto-Dubai (B - In-flight meal)

This morning we shall transfer to Porto Airport for our flight to Dubai via Lisbon. We shall overnight at the hotel within the Dubai Airport.

Wednesday 15 November Dubai – Australia (In-flight meal)

Morning departure from Dubai to Australia.

Thursday 16 November Australia

We shall arrive in Melbourne in the morning and transfer to Gippsland by coach.

A Journey Through SPAIN & PORTUGAL 2023

Tour Cost:	\$24,499	per person twin share
	\$ 5,030	single supplement

- Business class upgrades are available on application.
- Should you wish to extend your travel arrangements after the tour, please contact me to discuss further options.
- Should you select to travel on flights other than the included group flights, or upgrade to business/first class, payment for the air fares will be required at the time of booking the flights.
- The tour will only operate subject to a minimum of 15 participants. In the unlikely event that minimum numbers are not reached, a full refund of the deposit is applicable.

Payment Schedule:

Initial deposit	on booking	\$2,000 per person
Second deposit:	due b 31 March 2023	\$2000 per person
Balance of payment	due by 19 July 2023	

INCLUSIONS

- **Maximum group size will be 20 participants, minimum 15 participants**
- Melbourne/Lisbon and Porto/Dubai/Melbourne economy airfares and taxes
- Transfers between Gippsland and Melbourne Airport
- Personally escorted throughout the entire tour
- Centrally located 4- & 5-star hotel accommodation in twin- or double-bedded rooms with private facilities. Three of the hotels are the Paradores which are restored castles, convents and monasteries, many maintaining their original features.
- Multi-lingual tour director from Lisbon until Porto
- Bottled water every day on board the coach
- Large luxury air-conditioned coach
- Experienced driver and local guides
- 45 included meals as per itinerary - 25 Breakfasts (B), 7 Lunches (L), 13 Dinners (D)
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary
- Porterage (one suitcase per person)
- Personal audio headsets throughout the tour
- ALL tipping of waiters/restaurant staff at included meals throughout the tour and cruise
- ALL tipping of tour directors, drivers and local guides throughout the tour and cruise

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel insurance
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses
- Any meals not included in the itinerary

SPECIAL NOTES

Flight schedules are subject to change.

The order of the sightseeing may vary depending on local conditions.

We will team up with **Mark**, who will be our **TOUR DIRECTOR** from Lisbon to Porto. Mark has had many years' experience as a Tour Director and is based in Spain.



YOUR TOUR LEADER

Jacquely Turner has more than 36 years' experience as a highly successful travel agent and tour guide.

With this itinerary, Jacquely will show you the rich and colourful history that the Iberian Peninsula has to offer.

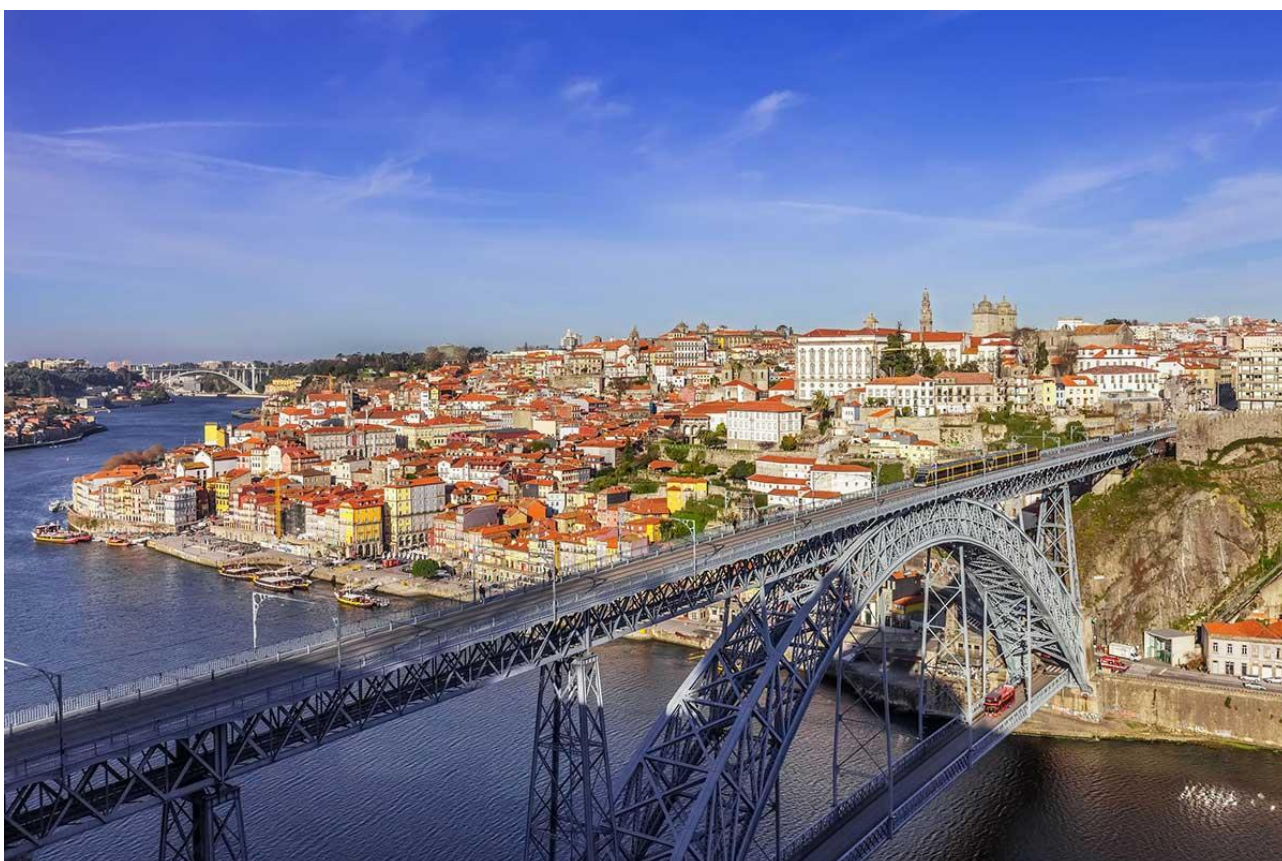
Along with the local guides she will ensure you have a most memorable journey.

CANCELLATION FEES

Cancellation fees cannot be credited to another booking. Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to Gippsland Travel Centre. For this tour the following fees apply:

Date of Cancellation	Cancellation fee
24 Jan 2023 to 30 March 2023	\$2,000
31 March 2023 to 18 July 2023	\$4000
19 July 2023 onwards	100% of tour cost

All costs are based on the exchange rate prevailing as at 13 January 2023



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the The Glória Funicular
- Visit to National Tile Museum
 - National Palace of Sintra -
- Seville Cathedral & La Giralda tower
 - City river cruise in Seville
- El Arenal Flamenco Dinner Show
 - Casa de Pilatus
- Horse & carriage ride through Seville
 - Visit to Ronda
- Visit Plaza de Toro & Bullfighting Museum
 - Alhambra Fortess and Palace
 - Nasrid Palaces & Royal Chapel
 - Visit to Mezquita
- Train from Cordoba to Madrid - 1st class
 - Royal Palace of Madrid
- Walking tour Huertas neighbourhood market, Tapas Tasting
 - Ancient city of Toledo
 - Toledo Cathedral & Toledo Synagogue
 - The Burial of the Count of Orgaz el Greco
 - Train from Madrid to Barcelona - 1st class
 - La Sagrada Familia Barcelona-
 - Park Guell Barcelona
- Ciutat Vella - Old town and city centre Barcelona
- Gaudi's Pedrera, The Origins tour, Casa Mila
 - Guggenheim Museum visit
- Tasting delicious local cider in Santillana de Mar
 - Visit to Museo de Altamira
- The Bulnes Funicular - an underground funicular
 - Ponferrada Castle Knights of Templars
 - Las Medulas - a historic gold-mining site
 - Santiago de Compostela mini-train
 - Mountain Cable Car in Guimaraes
 - Oporto Six Bridges Cruise

**Plus many delightful meals in amazing locations to experience
delicious local cuisines**

And so many more wonderful surprises....

GIPPSLAND TRAVEL ESCORTED TOURS - TERMS & CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION:

This contract is governed by Gippsland Travel Centre Pty Ltd and all members of the travelling parties as listed on your itinerary.

Gippsland Travel Centre acts as the agent selling and coordinating products on behalf of a third-party travel supplier/s. A separate contract with the supplier/s will apply and will be governed by the supplier's Terms and Conditions. Gippsland Travel cannot guarantee the performance of any third-party supplier/s. Gippsland Travel may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third party supplier/s under this contract.

COVID POLICY

If the tour cannot operate due to COVID-19 state border closures and restrictions, the tour will be rescheduled and any funds paid will be transferred to the new tour date.

Gippsland Travel recommends you are fully vaccinated prior to travel.

LATE BOOKINGS

Higher deposit payments are required for late bookings. A guarantee of full payment is required at the time of booking for all bookings received within 4 weeks of departure.

GOVERNING LAW

These booking conditions are governed by the law in force in Victoria, Australia.

PASSPORT and VISA

A valid passport is required for all international travel.

If you do not hold an Australian passport, you may require a resident return visa. Some countries require a visa to be issued before you depart Australia. Gippsland Travel will advise you of all passport and visa requirements for this tour.

The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regularly updates travel advice on various destinations. We recommend that you refer to www.dfat.gov.au for the latest updates before choosing to travel and prior to departure.

HEALTH & FITNESS

A minimum level of fitness is required to be able to participate on a Gippsland Travel Tour, you are required to at least:

- Be able to walk at least 1 hour on uneven surfaces without the use of any walking aid (walking stick for stability is acceptable)
- Walk up flights of stairs and short, steep hills
- Stand for 20 minutes without needing to sit down, often in hot/humid climates
- Carry your own hand luggage / handle your own suitcase when portage is not supplied eg. at airports.
- Get on and off various modes of transport without assistance, including small boats. Assistance will be offered where necessary.

Passengers must inform us of any medical conditions which may affect your ability to participate in the tour.

At our discretion we can exclude you from a tour or any activity if we consider that you are unable to safely participate in that tour or activity or we consider your participation may place the safety of other guests at risk.

You will be requested to supply a letter from your doctor indicating your prescription medication and your reason for taking it, which shall be carried in the event of an emergency. This information will remain confidential and can be supplied in a sealed envelope.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to remove a traveller from a tour if they are acting in a way that interferes with the general operation of the tour or compromises the general enjoyment of the tour by other travellers in any way

BOOKINGS SOLD ON A SHARE BASIS

Bookings may be accepted on a share room basis on the proviso that the person requesting the share reservation agrees that while every effort will be made to match suitability of the passengers there is no guarantee that a share room can be provided. If a share room is not available at the time of final payment, either the single room supplement will apply, or the cancellation conditions detailed in your itinerary will apply.

UNUSED COMPONENTS OF THIS TOUR

We regret refunds will not be given for any unused component of this tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation or transfers.

ITINERARY CHANGES and ITINERARY VARIATIONS

Gippsland Travel reserves the right to amend the hotels, itinerary and excursions if deemed advisable or necessary due to adverse weather conditions, road conditions or other unforeseen circumstances. Any necessary alternative arrangements will be made to a similar standard. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of Gippsland Travel make it necessary to change airlines, hotels or amendments to daily activities. We will inform you of any changes as soon as they occur.

FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Airlines schedules are subject to change without notice. Voluntary date changes will incur fees. Gippsland Travel is not liable for delays or disruption of air travel.

FORCE MAJEURE:

Force Majeure means the occurrence of an event that is beyond Gippsland Travel's reasonable control and which could not have been reasonably prevented by Gippsland Travel. Force majeure includes, but is not limited to: acts of God, accident, riots, war, terrorist act, epidemic, pandemic, quarantine, outbreaks of infectious disease or any other public health crisis, civil commotion, breakdown of communication facilities, natural catastrophes and natural disasters (including but not limited to flooding, fire, earthquake, landslide), adverse weather conditions, high or low water levels; government directed travel restrictions or omissions, changes in laws or regulations, national strikes, explosion, generalised lack of availability of raw materials or energy, nuclear or other industrial accident causing environmental pollution or contamination; change in law, meaning, enactment, amendment (including repeal) in the law or administration of any law in Australia or any jurisdiction or territory relevant to the booking contract, which includes changes in statute, regulation, determination, by-law, declaration, licence and the common law as applicable from time to time.

For the avoidance of doubt, Force Majeure shall not include (a) financial distress nor inability of either party to make a profit or avoid a financial loss, (b) changes in market prices or conditions, or (c) a party's financial inability to perform its obligations hereunder.

In the event that a Force Majeure is declared, the customer will be bound by the third-party supplier/s Terms and Conditions, if applicable.

TERMINATION OF BOOKING CONTRACT OR CHANGE OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE

If Gippsland Travel, in its reasonable opinion, considers that any Force Majeure event prevents Gippsland Travel (whether directly or through its employees, contractors, subcontractors and agents) from lawfully or safely providing any products or services subject of the booking contract with you, Gippsland Travel may immediately by written notice; (a) terminate the booking contract (in whole or part of); or (b) change your travel arrangements as reasonably practicable to ensure your safety and invoice for any additional costs.

If you are eligible for a refund once a booking has been cancelled, the balance less any non-refundable amounts will be forwarded to you once received by Gippsland Travel from the third-party supplier/s.

Gippsland Travel is not responsible for any delays of refunds from the third-party supplier/s. Refunds from third party supplier/s can take in excess of 6 weeks. Refunds will be processed as per original form of payment.

Travel insurance policies may provide cover for cancellation fees subject to their terms and conditions.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:

Subject to Australian Consumer Law, Gippsland Travel does not accept any liability in contract, tort or otherwise for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused by a third-party supplier/s over who we have no direct control. Gippsland Travel is not liable for Force Majeure or any other event which is beyond our control or which is not preventable by us.



SPAIN & PORTUGAL

Optional 7 night Douro River Valley Cruise



Sunday 12th to Tuesday 20th November 2023

Sunday 12 November **Porto** **(D)**

Embark the S.S. São Gabriel this afternoon. Designed to embody the beautiful Douro River Valley region, this ship offers more lavishly appointed suites than the Queen Isabel and brings the destination to life through its décor and delectable food and wine. Butler service is added onboard, giving guests the option to dine at any time they'd like while enjoying the ship.

Monday 13 November **Porto, Entre-os-Rios** **(B L D)**

There's much more to Portugal's second largest city than its eponymous fortified wine—historic architecture, cutting-edge design, fabulous food and wine, and a hip, laid-back vibe.

Discover its many charms with your choice of distinctively different tours today. Portugal's second largest city (after Lisbon) gave its name to the nation's most famous export, Port wine, and to the nation itself.

The city is a fascinating combination of historic buildings and cutting-edge architecture, tradition and vivacious modernity. You must choose between two distinctive—and distinctively Portuguese—ways to explore Porto.

The ship sets sail after your tour, cruising up the Douro toward Porto Antigo.

In the evening, a special Gala Dinner will be prepared for you.

**Choice of Porto city tour or "Do as the Locals Do" Porto walking tour



Tuesday 14 November **Entre-os-Rios, Régua, Pinhão** **(B L D)**

As you cruise along the river today, take note of the little chapels you see along the banks. Though the river is slow and calm now that it has been tamed by dams, it was once extremely hazardous. These tiny chapels mark spots where entire rabelo boat crews perished attempting to get their cargo of Port wine to Porto. Today we learn about wine, which has been cultivated in the Douro River Valley since ancient Roman times. Get a crash course on the history of Port during your visit to the Douro Museum.

****Featured Excursions:** Douro Museum / Dinner at a local quinta.

Wednesday 15 November **Pinhão, Pochinho, Vega de Terrón** **(B L D)**

Feel the centuries fall away as your ship winds its way through the pristine, dramatic, UNESCO-protected landscapes of the Douro River Valley. Head ashore for a choice of excursions, a tasting at a prestigious port wine estate or a vineyard hike with a wine tasting at a local quinta.

****Choice of Quinta do Seixo guided tour with tasting or Vineyard hike and wine tasting at a local quinta**

Thursday 16 November **Vega de Terrón (Salamanca), Barca d'Alva** **(B L D)**

What adventures await you in Spain today? The ship docks near the Spanish border today, where you may head across the country to the historic university town of Salamanca—the “Golden City”—famous for its sand-coloured buildings and abundance of churches.

****Featured Excursion:** Salamanca - the Golden City and Spain's oldest university.

Friday 17 November **Barca d'Alva, Régua** **(B L D)**

A tiny village surrounded by mountains, Barca d'Alva is your base for today's adventures. Go medieval today at Castelo Rodrigo, both the name of a hilltop castle as well as the village that surrounds it. It has been singled out as one of Portugal's 12 historic villages for its medieval beauty.

The view from the top is incredible and the village is a charming place to ramble, relax and replenish. Or, if you wish, you can also lace up your hiking boots and unleash your inner Indiana Jones with an up-close gander at some prehistoric carvings during a visit to Portugal's first archaeological park, Foz Côa.

****Featured Excursion:** Castelo Rodrigo



Saturday 18 November **Régua (Guimarães), Porto** **(B L D)**

Guimarães or Porto? That's the question of the day today (you really can't go wrong either way). Guimarães is the town where Portugal was born and its well-preserved architecture and stylish young residents make it a pleasure to visit.

Or opt to explore one of Porto's oldest neighbourhoods, picturesque Ribeira, considered the soul of the city. A tough choice awaits you today: Do you venture off to historic Guimarães, Portugal's first capital, or do you stay in Porto and explore the Ribeira district on foot?

A special Farewell Dinner will be prepared for you this evening.

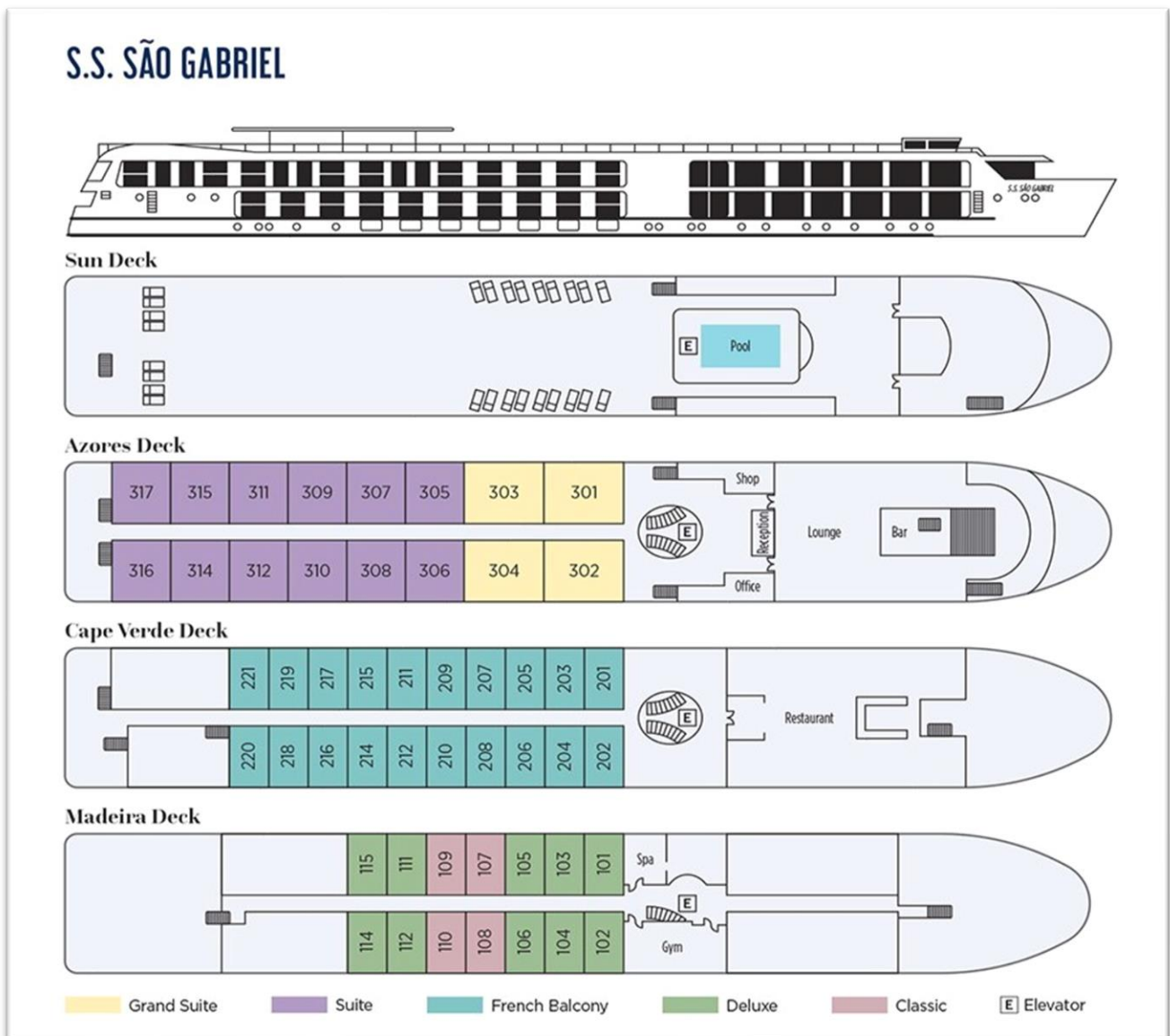
**Choice of Guimarães city tour or Ribeira walking tour.

Sunday 19 November **Porto-Dubai** **(B - In-flight meal)**

This morning you shall disembark and transfer to Porto Airport for your flight home via Lisbon & Dubai.

Monday 20 November **Dubai - Australia** **(In-flight meal)**

You shall arrive in Melbourne late this evening and will be met and transferred to Warragul.



Optional 7 night Douro River Valley Cruise

Sunday 12th to Tuesday 20th November 2023

OPTION 1:

Cruise Cost based on French Balcony cabin \$10,699 per person twin share
 Single supplement on application

OPTION 2:

Cruise Cost based on Deluxe Cabin \$8,499 per person twin share
 Single supplement on application

- From 13th January 2023, all costs are subject to change and availability.
- Should you choose to travel on this cruise add on, a reduction of \$900 per person will apply to the main tour cost.

Payment Schedule:

Initial deposit	on booking	10% of cruise cost
Balance of payment	due by 01 July 2023	

EXCLUSIONS

Travel insurance (a surcharge may apply if there is a pre-existing medical condition)
 Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic beverages, medical expenses
 Any meals not included in the itinerary

SPECIAL NOTES

Flight schedules are subject to change.
 The order of the sightseeing may vary depending on local conditions.

CANCELLATION FEES – applicable to cruise component only

Cancellation fees cannot be credited to another booking. Notice of cancellation must be made in writing to Gippsland Travel Centre. For this tour the following fees apply:

Cancellation notice received prior to tour departure	Cancellation charges per person
120 days or more	\$250 per person for cruise
119 – 90 days	20% of the cruise cost
89 – 60 days	35% of the cruise cost
59 – 30 days	50% of the cruise cost
Less than 30 days	100% of the cruise cost
No Show	100% of the cruise cost

S.S. Sao Gabriel Overview

Designed specifically to navigate the narrow Douro river in Portugal, the **S.S. Sao Gabriel** brings the best of the region to life with public rooms, decor and cuisine all designed to highlight this famous epicentre of port wine production.

Carrying 100 passengers in 50 cabins, all of which offer river views, **S.S. Sao Gabriel** offers cruisers plenty of niceties, like an onboard swimming pool, a small spa and fitness centre, and a small gift shop.

A panoramic lounge situated all the way forward offers 180-degree views of the Douro River Valley, and like all Uniworld vessels, all beverages onboard are offered on a complimentary basis.

S.S. Sao Gabriel Dining

Meals are taken in the ship's main restaurant on Cape Verde Deck, which features open seating and cuisine inspired by Portuguese favourites alongside international and North American dishes.

Breakfast and lunch are typically served over several hours, while dinners tend to start at a set time, usually around 7p.m.

Lighter fare and afternoon snacks can be found in the ship's lounge on Azores Deck, which also houses a full-service bar offering specialty coffees, and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the day.

S.S. Sao Gabriel Cabins

S.S. Sao Gabriel offers five grades of cabin accommodations, from economical river-view staterooms to the ship's four lavish Grand Suites. Deluxe and Classic staterooms are all located on the Madeira Deck, and all feature fixed half-height window views of the passing river.

Moving up one deck, French Balcony staterooms are similarly sized but replace the small picture window with a French balcony that can fully open.

The uppermost accommodations deck, Azores Deck, houses only Suites and Grand Suites. These boast French balconies and enlarged living space compared with other cabin categories onboard.

In a first for Uniworld's Douro river cruises, passengers booking suites aboard **S.S. Sao Gabriel** will be entitled to the same butler service found aboard Uniworld's other European-based river cruise vessels.

While Uniworld has not announced specific cabin details, features like hand-crafted Savoir of England beds, Egyptian linens, L'Occitane toiletries (or Hermes at the suite level) and interactive flat-panel television entertainment systems with complimentary movies and television shows are pretty much standard issue across the fleet.

S.S. Sao Gabriel Top Deck Attractions

S.S. Sao Gabriel's Sun Deck features an outdoor swimming pool that is perfect for cooling off in the heat of the Douro, which can get hot, particularly during the summer months. Other niceties include plenty of shaded seating, and unshaded options for those looking to work on their tan.

S.S. Sao Gabriel Entertainment

In addition to daily briefings, cooking classes, demonstrations and the odd guest lecture make up the majority of the entertainment onboard. **S.S. Sao Gabriel** sails a port-intensive itinerary through the Douro River Valley, so expect to be off the ship for much of the day.

At night, a piano player entertains in the ship's main lounge, while passengers mingle over cocktails. Between the heat and the copious amounts of port wine to be enjoyed while on-tour, many cruisers elect to retire to their cabins shortly after dinner.

DINING

- All meals onboard, prepared using the finest and freshest ingredients
- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- Gala Dinner
- Unlimited beverages onboard, including fine wine, beer, spirits, specialty coffee and tea, soft drinks and mineral water

EXCURSIONS

- 8 days of excursions, including "Choice Is Yours" options, all fully hosted by English-speaking local experts
- Guided "Do as the Locals Do" program
- State-of-the-art Quietvox portable audio-headset system on all excursions
- Use of bicycles and Nordic walking sticks
-

EXPERIENCES

- 2 countries: Spain and Portugal
- Services of an experienced Uniworld Cruise Manager
- All transfers on arrival and departure days
- All gratuities, both onboard and onshore
- Captivating onboard local entertainment
- Cultural enrichment, including a Signature Lecture

ACCOMMODATIONS

- 7-night cruise in a riverview stateroom on the *SS Sao Gabriel*
- Beautifully appointed riverview staterooms and suites with hotel-style beds, draped in fine linens with a choice of pillows
- Free Internet and Wi-Fi access

