



## Value Inclusive Package to Morocco and Portugal

14 Nights featuring Casablanca, Rabat, Marrakech, Lisbon, Porto, and the Douro River

[https://www.onlinevacationcenter.com/special\\_deal.cfm?specialID=30610](https://www.onlinevacationcenter.com/special_deal.cfm?specialID=30610)

**Start Date:** November 1, 2020 | **Sail Date:** November 8, 2020

UNIWORLD®  
BOUTIQUE RIVER CRUISE COLLECTION®



## Inclusions

- ✔ Roundtrip international airfare, transfers and baggage handling
- ✔ 5-night pre-cruise land program in Morocco
  - Casablanca, Morocco: 2-night hotel stay
    - Welcome dinner
    - Full-day city tour of Casablanca and Rabat
  - Marrakech, Morocco: 3-night hotel stay
    - Half-day city tour
    - Full-day city and cultural tour
    - Full-day tour to the Atlas Mountains
    - Evening dinner and show
- ✔ 2-night pre-cruise land program in Portugal
  - Lisbon, Portugal: 2-night hotel stay
    - Full-day city tour
    - Half-day tour of Coimbra
- ✔ Tour Leader throughout Morocco land program and Local Tour Hosts during included tours
- ✔ Most meals while on tour (see itinerary highlights) and all meals while onboard
- ✔ 7-night sailing aboard the Uniworld SS *Sao Gabriel*
  - Includes gratuities, Beverages, Wi-Fi, Shore Excursions and More

## Accommodations

*The following hotel list is preliminary and subject to change. Although we contract for hotels a year or more in advance, unforeseen circumstances do occasionally require a change of hotel. Should it be necessary to change a hotel, one of equal quality or value will be substituted and you will receive confirmed hotel information with your final itinerary.*

- ✔ 2 nights at the 5-star Hyatt Regency Hotel in Casablanca (or similar) including breakfast
  - Hotel Website: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/hotel/morocco/hyatt-regency-casablanca/casab>
  - Trip Advisor: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g293732-d303054-Reviews-Hyatt\\_Regency\\_Casablanca-Casablanca\\_Grand\\_Casablanca\\_Region.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g293732-d303054-Reviews-Hyatt_Regency_Casablanca-Casablanca_Grand_Casablanca_Region.html)
- ✔ 3 nights at the 5-star Sofitel Marrakech Hotel in Marrakech (or similar) including breakfast
  - Hotel Website: <https://sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-7335-sofitel-marrakech-palais-imperial/index.shtml#origin=sofitel>
  - Trip Advisor: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g293734-d299685-Reviews-Hotel\\_Sofitel\\_Marrakech\\_Lounge\\_and\\_Spa-Marrakech\\_Marrakech\\_Tensift\\_El\\_Haouz\\_Region.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g293734-d299685-Reviews-Hotel_Sofitel_Marrakech_Lounge_and_Spa-Marrakech_Marrakech_Tensift_El_Haouz_Region.html)
- ✔ 2 nights at the 4-star Avani Avenida Liberdade hotel in Lisbon (or similar) including breakfast
  - Hotel Website: <https://www.avanihotels.com/en/lisbon>
  - Trip Advisor: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g189158-d206890-Reviews-Hotel\\_Avani\\_Avenida\\_Liberdade\\_Lisbon-Lisbon\\_Lisbon\\_District\\_Central\\_Portugal.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g189158-d206890-Reviews-Hotel_Avani_Avenida_Liberdade_Lisbon-Lisbon_Lisbon_District_Central_Portugal.html)
- ✔ 7 nights onboard the Uniworld SS *Sao Gabriel*

## Itinerary

**Start Date:** November 1, 2020 (*Sailing November 8, 2020*)

Day 1	Nov 1	Arrive Casablanca - Transfer to Hotel and Welcome Dinner
Day 2	Nov 2	Casablanca - Tour of Casablanca and Rabat
Day 3	Nov 3	Casablanca - Transfer from Casablanca to Marrakech
Day 4	Nov 4	Marrakech - City and Cultural Tour
Day 5	Nov 5	Marrakech - Tour to a Village in the Atlas Mountains
Day 6	Nov 6	Marrakech to Lisbon - Flight
Day 7	Nov 7	Lisbon - City Tour
Day 8	Nov 8	Lisbon to Porto – Enroute Tour of Coimbra; Embarkation
Day 9	Nov 9	Porto - Included Shore Excursion: choice of Porto City Tour or Walking Tour
Day 10	Nov 10	Cruising the Douro, Regua, Pinhao - Included Shore Excursions: Douro Museum and Dinner at Wine Estate
Day 11	Nov 11	Pinhao, Vega de Terron - Included Shore Excursion: choice of Port Wine Estate or Vineyard Hike
Day 12	Nov 12	Vega de Terron (salamanca) - Included Shore Excursion: Salamanca Tour
Day 13	Nov 13	Barca d'Alva, Regua - Included Shore Excursion: choice of Archaeological Park or Castle Rodrigo
Day 14	Nov 14	Porto (Guimaraes) - Included Shore Excursion: choice of Guimaraes City Tour or Porto Tour
Day 15	Nov 15	Porto - Disembark and Transfer to Airport

*Interested in the land program without the cruise? Call us for a quote.*

### Land Program Details

#### Day 1 – Arrive Casablanca

Upon arrival at the airport, meet your guide, who will assist with transferring you to the hotel. After check-in, you'll have time to get settled in and relax before joining your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. (D)

#### Day 2 – Casablanca

After breakfast, you will visit the Hassan II Mosque. This is arguably the most impressive architectural achievement in Morocco over the last few generations and reflects the beauty and the intricacy of Moroccan traditional arts. After this rich introduction to Morocco, you will continue to Rabat, an elegant city that has been serving as the capital of Morocco and the official residence of the king since the early 20th century. The capital maintains traditional Moroccan character like all the historical cities of this country. After lunch, enjoy an afternoon tour of the fortified town of Kasbah Oudaya and the 17th-century royal residence, including its impressive Andalusia style garden. Take



in the sites of Mohamed V Mausoleum—a masterpiece of Moroccan arts and crafts. Standing nearby is the medieval Hassan Tower that was built in the late 12th century. See remnants of Sala Colonia at the Kasbah Chellah and as well as many other Roman relics. Finally, arrive at the museum of Moroccan Contemporary Arts, revealing what modern Moroccan artists have created since 1914. After a short break, you will return to Casablanca to enjoy your evening at leisure. (B, L)

### Day 3 – Casablanca to Marrakech

Enjoy breakfast before checking out of the hotel. Begin your journey to Marrakech across the agricultural plains south of Casablanca. Once in the “red city” of Morocco, begin your tour to the “hidden sides of Marrakech”. For a truly immersive experience, take time to explore artisan quarters and the colorful Souks. Afterward, discover the secret garden before strolling into the square which the city is so famed: Jemaa El Fna. This famous plaza is where hundreds of locals and tourists come to spend the end of the day watching jugglers, dancers, fortune tellers, storytellers and traditional musicians. Tonight you will enjoy a “1001 Nights” dinner show that features traditional dishes, lively acrobats, belly dancers, horseman and more at the Fantasia of Marrakech. (B, D)



### Day 4 – Marrakech

This morning we will enjoy a cooking class at La Maison Arabe. It starts with a comprehensive introduction highlighting the importance of cooking in Moroccan society. Learn a variety of recipes created by Dadas (traditional female cooks) who have perfected their fare over centuries for special occasions such as marriages, holy days, and family festivals. Your instructor will enlighten you on the most traditional recipes such as pastilla, couscous, and the broad variety of tajines (stews usually made with lamb or chicken), while reviewing some of the basic pillars of Moroccan cuisine, such as a ‘spices and herbs’ technique of cooking. Next, you will visit a nearby spice market and communal bread oven, where neighborhood families bake their bread. In the afternoon, you will meet with your guide and “caleche” driver for a charming tour around the majestic ramparts of Marrakech. Ride through the crowded streets of the Medina to the enchanting Majorelle Garden. The sedate pace of the horses and the clip-clop sound of their hooves provides a relaxing way to experience the city. Take your time in the famous garden created by the orientalist painter Jacques Majorelle. The Garden houses a collection of plants from the four corners of the world which flourish amidst elegant ornamental ponds and an Art Deco villa of which the special shade of bold cobalt blue is named after the artist, ‘Majorelle blue’. The garden is home to more than 15 bird species that are endemic to North Africa, and boasts an amazing collection of cacti. Since 1980, the garden has been owned by the estate of the late Yves Saint Laurent. You will visit the beautifully designed Berber Museum displaying Yves Saint Laurent’s personal collection of Berber antiques. Here you can learn some fascinating facts about the Berber people of Morocco and admire his marvelous treasure of local antiques. After the visit, you will return to your hotel to relax. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)





## Day 5 – Marrakech

Today we will venture out of the city and head towards the Atlas Mountains. Driving through the Ourika Valley and dramatic landscapes, we will arrive at an authentic mountain community to experience the daily life in the Atlas Mountains for ourselves. Try your hand at baking bread and preparing a local tagine dish in the kitchen of a village family, and get to know them better over a pot of traditional mint tea – made by you! The conversation will start to flow, with a little help from your guide! While lunch is simmering, roll up your sleeves and use your hands to mold wet clay during a ceramics workshop. Later on, try your hand at weaving a colorful kilim with the local women behind their prized ancestral looms, and walk the farm terraces to see the work that goes into ancient irrigation and subsistence farming methods. You'll also meet the community's youngest members at the charity pre-school center, where little Berbers learn Arabic in preparation for elementary school. Note: an authentic, interactive experience is guaranteed, but specific activities are subject to change based on availability. (B, L, D)



## Day 6 – Marrakech to Lisbon

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Lisbon. Upon arrival, check in to the hotel and enjoy the evening at your leisure. (B)

## Day 7 – Lisbon

Lisbon is the oldest city in Western Europe, predating Rome by about 400 years. Historians believe that it was settled by the Phoenicians around 1200 B.C. From its historic tradition as a maritime center to its modern-day culture and art, Lisbon is a lively city full of passion and history. Today we will learn about Lisbon and Portuguese culture as we tour the downtown neighborhoods. Keep your cameras out – around each corner is a



postcard scene of fountains, arches, tile panels and beautiful river views. We will also visit the neighborhood of Belem. Here, you will see the monument to the Portuguese explorers during the Age of Discovery and make a photo stop at the Belem Tower, built in the early 1500s and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Right next door is the Jeronimos Monastery, also a UNESCO World Heritage site. The current building replaced a smaller church on the same site, as its location allowed the monks to aid seafarers from the nearby harbor. This prominent example of Manueline (Portuguese late Gothic) style architecture is the final resting place of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama. (B, L)

## Day 8 – Lisbon to Coimbra and Porto for Embarkation

Today we will explore Coimbra, home to the country's greatest university for the past five centuries. In the morning, your guide will point out several of the highlights of Coimbra, which was the capital of Portugal during the medieval period. You will see sections of the old town, the riverfront and the university that sits on a hill overlooking the river. The university is famous for its baroque library, the Joanina Library, and its 18<sup>th</sup> century bell tower. We will enjoy a tour of the library and then sit down to a lunch. Then, continue to Porto, where you will board the *SS Sao Gabriel* for a 7-night cruise on the Douro River. (B, L)



### **Day 9 – Porto, Cruising the Douro River, Entre-os-Rios**

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. Discover its many charms with your choice of distinctively different tours today. Portugal's second city (after Lisbon), Porto 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. Your ship sets sail after your tour, cruising up the Douro toward Porto Antigo.



Choice of Porto city tour or “Do as the Locals Do” Porto walking tour.

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

### **Day 10 – Cruising the Douro River, Régua, Pinhão**

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 and Dinner at Quinta da Avesada wine estate



### **Day 11 – Pinhão, Vega de Terrón**

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

### **Day 12 – Vega de Terrón (Salamanca), Barca d'Alva**

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-colored buildings and abundance of churches.

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



### **Day 13 – Barca d'Alva, Régua**

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

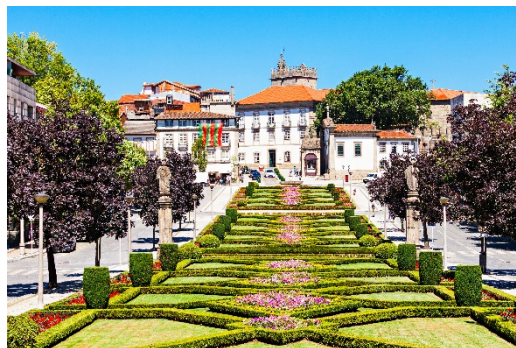


and unleash your inner Indiana Jones with an up-close gander at some prehistoric carvings during a visit to Portugal's first archaeological park, Foz Côa.

Choice of: Archaeological Park of the Côa Valley or Castelo Rodrigo

#### **Day 14 – Cruising the Douro River, Porto (Guimarães)**

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 neighborhoods, 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?

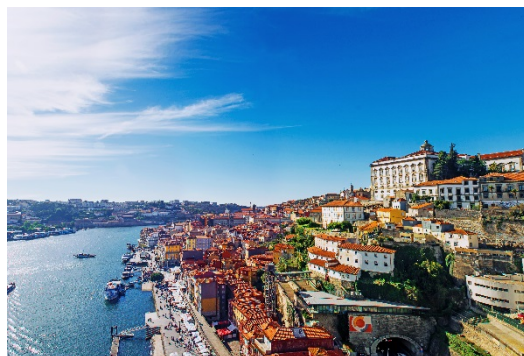


Choice of Guimarães city tour or Porto surprise discovery tour

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

#### **Day 10 – Porto Disembarkation**

You've experienced the best of Portugal, Spain and the pristine Douro River, but now the journey comes to a close and it's time to disembark the ship. You will be transferred to Porto Airport for your flight home.



*For meals not included in your land programs, all hotels chosen include a restaurant on property where you may relax and enjoy a meal. In addition, your guide is available to make suggestions on nearby dining, shopping or sightseeing.*

## **Pricing**

Please click the link below for current rates and available airport gateways  
[https://www.onlinevacationcenter.com/special\\_deal.cfm?specialsID=30610](https://www.onlinevacationcenter.com/special_deal.cfm?specialsID=30610)

## **What to Expect**

### **Pacing**

Most days during the land portion will include full-day tours. The overall pace is rather quick, as there is much to see in these regions, however there is a healthy mix of both visits to historical sites and time to enjoy the landscape and scenery. Most days include two meals, allowing the third meal to be at your leisure. All hotels will have a restaurant on property where you may dine, then have the rest of the evening to relax. If you wish to go out, your guide is available to make suggestions for nearby dining.

During the cruise you will have a mix of relaxing days at sea and exciting days on land to explore the port cities. You may choose from optional shore excursions, which will allow for cultural immersion, exotic meals and numerous activities.

## **Physical Activity**

The land portion of the trip should be considered active, and includes a considerable amount of walking. In Portugal, Lisbon is similar to San Francisco in that there are many steep roads and walkways that may transform a short walk into a strenuous one. Online Vacation Center will do everything in our power to ensure comfort through our third-party providers, including air-conditioned buses and comfortable accommodations where applicable. However, some areas cannot be accessed by coach, so our drivers will get you as close to sites as is legally allowed. Sensible, rubber-soled walking shoes are strongly recommended. Historical sites often do not have elevators, escalators or ramps due to the age of the building/structure. Steps can be steep and uneven. Wheelchair access at many sites is limited to extremely limited. Based on crowds and traffic, order of visits may be changed. A fold-up wheelchair may be able to be stored on the bus but requires prior arrangements. Motorized wheelchairs and scooters cannot be accommodated on this group program. Guests must be able to transfer from their chair to the transportation. Guides/drivers are not allowed to lift or push wheelchairs, so guests requiring physical assistance must travel with a companion who can assist. For the cruise portion of the trip, passengers will board and leave the ship up stairways and gangways, and you may have to walk a moderate distance to transfer to train, bus and car stations. Time spent on the road and traveling can be long, so you will need to be prepared for stretches of down time in between destinations.

## **Cultural Focus**

The program in Morocco will include intimate cultural experiences such as visiting a home, interacting with locals in a small village, watching neighbors bake bread together at the communal oven, culinary experiences, folkloric dancing and much more. The program in Portugal will include the historic city center and culinary delights. You will encounter dishes and ingredients typical to the region that you may not have encountered before, and you will be introduced to local artistry of the region. Online Vacation Center encourages an open mind when in unique situations and meeting people abroad. Sometimes the attractions, beaches and cities themselves can be crowded, especially while on the cruise.

## **Unique Factors**

In Morocco and in some religious sites throughout Europe it is expected (and sometimes required for entry) that you dress conservatively (no shorts, covered shoulders, etc.). If you have special needs or physical limitations, you will need to check in with your personal vacation manager before booking the trip. The temperature can vary between day and night, so pack accordingly with items that can be layered. Some guests may wish to have a light sweater or windbreaker with them.

## **Transportation**

Included airfare is from select airports only. To inquire about a different airport, please contact your Personal Vacation Manager.

Airlines and routes are selected to maximize that value and may involve multiple stops and extended layovers versus non-stop or direct flights. Passengers wishing to utilize specific carriers, direct/non-stop flights, Business Class upgrades, or to extend their time in any of our beginning or ending destination cities may do so by contacting Online Vacation Center and inquiring about the Custom Airfare Program. There is a \$50 per person charge for this service, however this charge will be applied toward any flights or upgrades you choose to purchase. The \$50 charge must be paid prior to receiving a custom air quote.

Transportation while on tour:

Casablanca–Rabat: 1 Hour Coach Transfer

Casablanca–Marrakech: 3 Hour Coach Transfer

Marrakech–Lisbon: 1 Hour 45 Minute Flight

Lisbon–Porto: 3 Hour Coach Transfer (plus enroute stops)