

## Weather & Destination Specific Information

# Portugal & Spain on the Douro River

For any questions or concerns about your upcoming tour not addressed here, please call 1-800-826-2266

Time Zone: Portugal is 6 hours ahead of the US Central Time Zone. Spain is 7 hours ahead of the US Central Time Zone.

Weather: Average High/Low

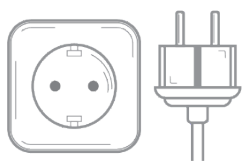
City	August
Porto	77°F/60°F
Vila Nova de Gaia	76°F/59°F
Lisbon	83°F/65°F

Accommodations: Hotel accommodations have been carefully selected and inspected to meet and maintain the standards of comfort, cleanliness, and customer service that we require, and you deserve. Please note air conditioning is not a standard feature in European hotels and restaurants. Those that offer air conditioning may not produce the amount of cool air that you are accustomed to at home. Additionally, room size, amenities, and configurations vary from those in the United States. The hotels do not provide king-size beds. Queen-size beds consist of two single beds pushed together. Some hotels may have coffee makers, hair dryers, irons, and ironing boards available. Shipboard cabins feature air conditioning, an in-room safe, hair dryer and bath amenities. Please note there is no laundry service available onboard the ship.

Currency: The unit of currency in the European Union is the Euro. Currency exchange rates fluctuate daily.

A helpful website for referencing current rates is [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

Electrical Current: The electric current in Portugal and aboard ship is 220 volts, 50 cycles and electric outlets and plugs are different from those in North America. An adapter is required for use in an electrical socket.



A voltage converter is only required if your device is not compatible with 220 volts. Check the voltage of any device that you are thinking of bringing. If the tag on your device lists 110-220 volts, you will not need a converter. Adapters and converters are available at luggage, department, and electronics stores.

International Guides / Drivers / Gratuities: Holiday Vacations has arranged for an international guide to provide cultural insight into Porto, Fatima, Obidos, and Lisbon. Your international guide will also discuss currency exchange, customs, language, and history. The suggested gratuity for your driver is 7 Euros per guest per day and 7 Euros per guest per day for your guide.

Shore Excursions/Guides/Gratuities: All shore excursions and shore excursion gratuities are included in your tour.

Gratuities Aboard Ship: Suggested gratuity for shipboard crew members is 8-10 Euros per guest per day. This amount will be divided among all shipboard staff.

**Internet Aboard Ship:** As part of your cruise package, Holiday Vacations includes wireless Internet connection. Please be aware that the Internet connection on board may be weaker in certain areas and will not be up to the standard of a hotel Internet connection.

**Meal Expenses:** For the meals not included with the tour, expect to spend the equivalent of \$15 – \$30 USD per person, per day.

**Packing - Carry-On Bags:** Bags with wheels are not suitable as a carry-on bag in Europe where the motorcoaches have very limited space. Regulations imposed by the European Union do not allow carry-ons on the motorcoach that do not fit in the overhead bins. Some airlines are now charging fees for carry-on bags.

**Shipboard Dress Code:** Casual wear during the day and on excursions with comfortable walking shoes. There is not a specific dress code aboard ship, but it is recommended that you dress smartly for dinner and for special occasions (semi-formal or smart casual). Wrinkle-free clothing is suggested as there are no ironing facilities onboard.

**Packing Note:** Washcloths are not standard in European hotels. Feel free to bring them with you.

**Public Facilities:** Some public restrooms may require a small fee to use. You may wish to have local coins available for these situations. All tap water is safe to drink. The hot and cold-water faucets may be the opposite of North America and hot water can be extremely hot.

**Value Added Tax (VAT):** There is a Value Added Tax in Portugal and in Spain. This tax is levied on most goods except for food and many services. In certain cases, the Value Added Tax on goods that are exported to the United States can be reimbursed to you upon completion and submission of a special form. There may be a service charge for the forms deducted from your reimbursement.