

# ESSENCE OF IBERIA & FRANCE CRUISE

Hosted by Bill & Nancy Flick

# MAY 14 - 27, 2026

Sail on an unforgettable 14-day journey through the heart of Western Europe, beginning in the vibrant city of Lisbon.

After time to explore Portugal's captivating capital, board the luxurious Oceania Insignia for a 10-night voyage

featuring ports of call in Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, and the United Kingdom. Stroll the historic streets of Oporto, discover the cultural treasures of Bilbao and La Coruña, and indulge in the world-class wines of Bordeaux. Marvel at the elegance of Paris, reflect at the historic shores of Dunkirk, and soak in the fairy-tale beauty of Bruges. Your journey concludes in iconic London capping off an extraordinary adventure of culture, history, and scenic charm.



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## **ITINERARY:**

#### DAY 1: THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

Overnight flight to Lisbon, Portugal We will take a motorcoach to Chicago O'Hare Airport and take the overnight flight to Lisbon.

## DAY 2: FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

Arrive in Lisbon, Portugal

Arrive in Lisbon in the morning and check-in to your hotel.

#### DAY 3: SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

#### Embark cruise

The morning is yours to enjoy Lisbon. You will board the luxurious Oceania Insignia late morning to begin your 10-night cruise.

#### DAY 4: SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026 Oporto, Portugal

Explore picturesque, historic Oporto and the Vila Nova de Gaia guarter, home of its famed port wine industry.

#### DAY 5: MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 La Coruña, Spain

See the famed Tower of Hercules, the still working 2nd century Roman lighthouse, and wander through this historic town of fine churches, old palaces, cobbled streets and unique fishermen's houses.

# DAY 6: TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

Bilbao, Spain

Bilbao is a charming city both modern and dynamic while at the same time, with its 700 years of history, it is quite traditional as well. Enjoy a walk around the Old Quarter, the most popular area of the city. No visit to Bilbao would be complete without a visit to the architecturally stunning Guggenheim Museum, which is in and of itself a work of art.

#### DAY 7 & 8: WED, MAY 20 AND THURS, MAY 21, 2026 Pauillac (Bordeaux), France

Nestled in the heart of Bordeaux's famed Médoc region, Pauillac is a charming riverside town known for its world-renowned wines and grand châteaux. Just a short trip from Bordeaux city, this port offers the perfect blend of fine wine, French elegance, and scenic charm.

#### DAY 9: FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2026 At sea

Enjoy the ships amentities

#### DAY 10: SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2026 Paris (Honfleur), France

Enjoy the relaxing drive through the countryside to Paris and then savor its bountiful attractions. Our two gateways to Paris are outstanding as well. Honfleur dates to the 11th century and features a historic waterfront. Across the Seine lies Le Havre, once home to Claude Monet. His Impressionist works hang in the Malraux Museum. Historic Rouen is closest to Paris and boasts the great Cathédrale Notre Dame.

## DAY 11: SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026

Dunkirk, France

Rich in history and coastal charm, Dunkirk is famed for the dramatic WWII evacuation known as Operation Dynamo. Visit museums and memorials, stroll the historic beaches, and explore the lively harbor and old town.

#### DAY 12: MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026

Bruges (Zeebrugge), Belgium Step back in time to the 14th century as you meander along the narrow streets of this medieval gem past gabled buildings and through the bustling market. Take a boat ride along the city's

# canals. Or spend the day exploring Brussels.

DAY 13: TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026 Disembark cruise - London (Southampton), United Kingdom Take a trip up to London and get a bird's eye view of the city from the London Eye. See sights like Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Piccadilly.

#### DAY 14: WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2026

Disembark cruise - London (Southampton), United Kingdom Head to the airport and start our journey home.

## ESSENCE OF IBERIA & FRANCE CRUISE TOUR PACKAGE

Double Occupancy Starting at \$6,699.00

#### PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Round Trip Airfare from O'Hare Int. Airport
- Round Trip Transfers to O'Hare Int. Airport
- In Destination Transfers
- 1 Pre-Night Accommodations in Lisbon
- 10 Night Cruise & Accommodations on 
  the Oceania Insignia
- 1 Post-Night Accommodations in London
- Unlimited Starlink WiFi
- Private welcome & farewell cocktail parties for our group
- All meals while on the ship including specialty restaurants
- All soft drinks, Vero Water, specialty coffees and teas

- \$250 Shipboard credit per stateroom
- Group Fitness Classes
- Self Service Laundry
- Pre-Paid Gratuities on the Ship
  - Hosted by Direct Travel Representative provided there are 30 participants on the cruise.

All prices are in US dollars unless otherwise indicated. A non-refundable deposit of \$1,500.00 per person is required to confirm your booking. Final payment is December 3, 2025. Please see website for full terms & conditions



Contact the Direct Travel Groups Department or scan QR code for details. 309-834-3739 reservations@directtravelgroups.com

