

Lisbon Travel Guide

Discover Lisbon: The City of Seven Hills

Portugal · Generated August 29, 2026 · mycitytravelguide.com/portugal/lisbon/

Things to do in Lisbon

Landmarks & Monuments

Lisbon's iconic landmarks tell the story of Portugal's **Age of Discovery** and centuries of rich history. From the imposing *Belém Tower* standing guard over the Tagus to the dramatic arches of the Jerónimos Monastery, these monuments represent the city's golden age of exploration and maritime power.



Must See

Belém Tower (Torre de Belém)

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This **16th-century fortified tower** is one of Lisbon's most iconic symbols, standing elegantly at the mouth of the Tagus River. Built between 1514-1520 in the *Manueline style*, it served as a ceremonial gateway to Lisbon and a defense system. The tower features intricate stonework with maritime motifs, rope patterns, and the Cross of the Order of Christ. Climb to the top for **panoramic river views** and explore the ornate Governor's Room with its beautiful balcony overlooking the water. UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Must See

Book Ahead

Jerónimos Monastery (Mosteiro dos Jerónimos)

2-2.5 hours Book Ahead



Map

A **masterpiece of Manueline architecture** and Portugal's most visited monument, this magnificent monastery was commissioned by King Manuel I in 1501 to commemorate Vasco da Gama's voyage to India. The monastery showcases extraordinary stonework with maritime and natural motifs carved into its limestone facade. Don't miss the *spectacular cloister*, considered one of Europe's finest, and the church where Vasco da Gama is entombed. The intricate vaulted ceilings and detailed columns demonstrate the wealth of Portugal's Age of Discovery. UNESCO World Heritage Site. Allow time to appreciate the architectural details.



Must See

Castelo de São Jorge

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Perched atop one of Lisbon's highest hills, this **Moorish castle** dates back to the 11th century and offers the most spectacular panoramic views of the city. Walk along the ancient ramparts, explore the archaeological site revealing Roman, Islamic, and Medieval remains, and wander through the *11 towers* that once defended Lisbon. The castle grounds include peacocks roaming freely, olive and cork trees, and multiple viewpoints. The **Camera Obscura** provides a unique 360-degree real-time view of the city. Visit during *golden hour* for unforgettable sunset photography.





Top Pick

Monument to the Discoveries (Padrão dos Descobrimentos)

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

This striking **52-meter monument** celebrates Portugal's Age of Exploration and honors the explorers who set sail from Lisbon to discover new worlds. Shaped like a caravel ship, it features 33 important Portuguese figures including *Henry the Navigator*, *Vasco da Gama*, and *Ferdinand Magellan*. Take the elevator to the top for **breathtaking 360-degree views** of Belém, the Tagus River, and the 25 de Abril Bridge. At ground level, admire the spectacular marble wind rose compass with a world map showing dates of Portuguese discoveries.



Notable

25 de Abril Bridge

30 minutes (viewing) No Booking Needed



Map

Often compared to San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, this **iconic suspension bridge** spans the Tagus River connecting Lisbon to Almada. Built in 1966, the bridge stretches 2.3 kilometers and stands as an engineering marvel. The name commemorates the *Carnation Revolution* of April 25, 1974. While you can't walk across, you can experience it via car or train on the lower deck. For the best views, visit **Cristo Rei** statue in Almada or catch sunset from various viewpoints in Lisbon.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- **Buy combined tickets** for Belém Tower and Jerónimos Monastery to save money and time
- Visit Belém monuments early morning or late afternoon to avoid crowds and heat
- Wear comfortable shoes - castle involves significant walking and stairs
- Book Jerónimos Monastery tickets online in advance, especially during summer
- The Lisboa Card includes free entry to many monuments plus public transport



Museums & Galleries

Lisbon's museums showcase everything from **ancient artifacts to contemporary art**, reflecting Portugal's maritime heritage, artistic traditions, and modern creativity. The city has invested heavily in cultural spaces, creating world-class museums that rival any European capital.



Top Pick

MAAT - Museum of Art, Architecture and Technology

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

This **stunning contemporary museum** along the Tagus River is an architectural marvel designed by Amanda Levete. The building's flowing white curves create a wave-like structure that visitors can walk over, offering *riverside views*. Inside, rotating exhibitions explore the intersection of art, architecture, and technology. The museum complex includes the historic Central Tejo power station, beautifully restored as an industrial heritage space. The rooftop walkway provides **unique perspectives** of the 25 de Abril Bridge and river. A must-visit for architecture and contemporary art enthusiasts.



Top Pick

Museu Nacional do Azulejo (National Tile Museum)

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Housed in a beautiful **16th-century convent**, this museum celebrates Portugal's iconic *azulejo* tradition - the decorative ceramic tiles that adorn buildings throughout the country. The collection spans five centuries, from Moorish-influenced geometric patterns to modern artistic interpretations. Highlights include the spectacular 36-meter **panoramic view of pre-earthquake Lisbon** from 1730 and the stunning baroque chapel covered in blue and white tiles. Learn about traditional tile-making techniques and see how azulejos tell stories of Portuguese history, religion, and daily life.



Top Pick

Museu Calouste Gulbenkian

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

One of Europe's finest private art collections, assembled by Armenian oil magnate **Calouste Gulbenkian**. The museum showcases 6,000 years of art across two buildings: the Founder's Collection features Egyptian antiquities, Islamic art, European paintings by *Rembrandt, Rubens, Monet, and Renoir*, and an exceptional collection of **René Lalique jewelry**. The Modern Collection focuses on 20th-century Portuguese art. Set in beautiful gardens perfect for strolling, the museum offers a tranquil escape and world-class art in an intimate setting.



Notable

Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Portugal's **National Museum of Ancient Art** houses the country's largest collection of Portuguese paintings and decorative arts from the Middle Ages to the early 19th century. The palace setting showcases masterpieces including *The Temptations of Saint Anthony* by Hieronymus Bosch, works by Albrecht Dürer, and the extraordinary **Panels of Saint Vincent** by Nuno Gonçalves, considered Portugal's most important painting. The collection also includes Asian art from Portugal's colonial period, silver, furniture, and tiles. The museum café has a lovely garden terrace.





Notable

Berardo Collection Museum

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Located in Belém's Cultural Center, this museum houses one of the world's most important **modern and contemporary art collections**. The permanent collection features over 1,000 works spanning from 1900 to present, including pieces by *Picasso*, *Dalí*, *Warhol*, *Pollock*, and *Bacon*. Organized chronologically and by artistic movement, visitors can trace the evolution of modern art through **Cubism, Surrealism, Pop Art, and Minimalism**. Best of all, admission to the permanent collection is free, making it an excellent value for art lovers.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Many museums offer **free entry on Sunday mornings** until 2 PM
- The Lisboa Card provides free or discounted entry to most museums
- Museums are typically closed on Mondays - plan accordingly
- MAAT's rooftop is accessible without museum ticket - great for sunset views
- Book tickets online for popular museums to skip queues



Religious Sites

Lisbon's churches and monasteries represent centuries of **religious devotion and architectural splendor**. From intimate neighborhood chapels adorned with gilded woodwork to grand cathedrals surviving earthquakes, these sacred spaces reveal Portugal's deep Catholic heritage and artistic traditions in baroque, Gothic, and Manueline styles.



Top Pick

Lisbon Cathedral (Sé de Lisboa)

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's **oldest church**, built in 1147 after the Christian reconquest from the Moors, stands as a fortress-like Romanesque structure that has survived countless earthquakes. The cathedral combines *Romanesque, Gothic, and Baroque* elements due to centuries of reconstruction. Highlights include the beautiful Gothic cloister with archaeological excavations revealing Roman and Moorish remains, the treasury with religious artifacts, and the chapel of **Bartolomeu Joanes** featuring a nativity scene by Machado de Castro. The rose window and twin bell towers are iconic features of Lisbon's skyline.



Top Pick

São Roque Church

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

From the outside, this appears to be a simple 16th-century church, but inside awaits one of the world's most **opulent baroque interiors**. The Chapel of St. John the Baptist is particularly extraordinary - commissioned by *King João V* in the 18th century, it was designed in Rome using precious materials including **lapis lazuli, alabaster, agate, and amethyst**, then shipped to Lisbon. The church features stunning azulejo panels, gilded woodwork, and painted ceilings. The adjacent museum displays the chapel's original treasures and liturgical objects.



Notable

Santa Engrácia Church (National Pantheon)

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

This **baroque masterpiece** took 284 years to complete, giving rise to the Portuguese expression for never-ending projects: 'obras de Santa Engrácia.' The white marble church with its distinctive dome is now Portugal's *National Pantheon*, housing tombs of important Portuguese figures including presidents, writers Almeida Garrett and Sophia de Mello Breyner, and fado singer **Amália Rodrigues**. Climb to the terrace for spectacular **360-degree views** of Alfama and the Tagus River - one of Lisbon's best viewpoints.



Notable

Basilica da Estrela

45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This magnificent **late 18th-century basilica** dominates Lisbon's skyline with its white stone dome visible from across the city. Built by Queen Maria I in gratitude for the birth of her son, the church features a stunning neoclassical facade and lavishly decorated interior with *pink, black, and yellow marble*. Don't miss the elaborate nativity scene with over 500 cork and terracotta figures created by **Machado de Castro**. Climb the 112 steps to the dome for breathtaking panoramic views. The adjacent Estrela Garden provides a peaceful spot to rest.



Tips for Religious Sites

- Dress modestly when visiting churches - cover shoulders and knees
- Most churches are **free to enter**, though some charge for cloisters or special areas
- Visit during services to experience the spiritual atmosphere (but respect worshippers)
- Churches offer quiet, cool respites during hot summer days
- Combine National Pantheon visit with exploring nearby Alfama neighborhood



Squares & Streets

Lisbon's squares and streets form the **beating heart of the city**, where locals and visitors gather to socialize, shop, and soak in the atmosphere. From grand neoclassical plazas to narrow cobblestone lanes lined with cafés, these public spaces tell stories of commerce, revolution, and daily life across the centuries.



Must See

Praça do Comércio (Commerce Square)

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

One of Europe's most magnificent squares, this vast **waterfront plaza** opens directly onto the Tagus River with its iconic yellow arcaded buildings. Built after the 1755 earthquake, the square symbolized Lisbon's rebirth with the grand *Arco da Rua Augusta* triumphal arch as its centerpiece. The square has witnessed major historical events including **King Carlos I's assassination** in 1908. Today it's a vibrant gathering place with restaurants under the arcades, the Lisboa Story Centre museum, and regular events. Climb the arch for spectacular views down Rua Augusta to the castle.



Top Pick

Rossio Square (Praça Dom Pedro IV)

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's main square since the Middle Ages, **Rossio** is the city's traditional meeting point paved with distinctive wave-pattern Portuguese cobblestones. The square features two baroque fountains and a monument to *King Pedro IV* on a tall column. Surrounding the square are historic cafés including the famous **Café Nicola**, the National Theatre, and beautiful buildings with ornate facades. The square has been the stage for bullfights, public executions, celebrations, and revolutions. The magnificent Rossio train station with its neo-Manueline horseshoe arches is at the north end.



Top Pick

Rua Augusta

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's most famous pedestrian shopping street runs from **Rossio Square to Praça do Comércio**, passing through the triumphal arch. This lively boulevard is paved with traditional Portuguese cobblestones in geometric patterns and lined with shops, cafés, restaurants, and street performers. The street was rebuilt after the 1755 earthquake as part of the *Pombaline downtown* reconstruction. Today it perfectly blends historical architecture with modern commerce. Stop for **ginjinha** (cherry liqueur) at tiny traditional bars or browse international brands and Portuguese souvenirs.





Notable

Avenida da Liberdade

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Often called Lisbon's **Champs-Élysées**, this grand 1.2km boulevard connects the downtown to Marquês de Pombal Square. Built in 1879 on the site of the former Passeio Público park, the avenue features wide sidewalks with *wave-pattern cobblestones*, fountains, statues, and leafy trees. Today it's lined with luxury boutiques including **Prada, Louis Vuitton, and Burberry**, historic hotels, theaters, and upscale restaurants. The beautiful Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings showcase early 20th-century architecture. Walking the full length gives you a sense of Lisbon's elegant, cosmopolitan character.

Tips for Squares & Streets

- Visit Praça do Comércio at **sunset** for golden light reflecting off the yellow buildings
- Watch for pickpockets on crowded Rua Augusta, especially near street performers
- Try ginjinha at A Ginjinha bar near Rossio - a true Lisbon tradition
- Rossio Square's wave pattern was designed to discourage cavalry charges during protests
- Free walking tours often start from these central squares



Neighborhoods & Districts

Each of Lisbon's neighborhoods has a **distinct personality and character**, from the medieval labyrinth of Alfama to the bohemian streets of Bairro Alto. Exploring these bairros reveals authentic local life, traditional shops, neighborhood tasquerias, and the soul of the city beyond major monuments.



Must See

Alfama

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's **oldest neighborhood**, Alfama survived the 1755 earthquake largely intact, preserving its Moorish medieval layout of narrow winding streets, hidden squares, and whitewashed houses with colorful tiles. This is the birthplace of *fado music*, with traditional taverns offering nightly performances. Wander through steep alleys past laundry hanging from windows, neighborhood bars where locals play cards, and small shops selling sardines and cork products. Key spots include **Miradouro de Santa Luzia** viewpoint, the Flea Market (Feira da Ladra), and São Vicente de Fora monastery. Best explored by getting wonderfully lost.



Must See

Bairro Alto

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The **bohemian heart of Lisbon**, Bairro Alto transforms from a quiet residential area by day into the city's nightlife epicenter after dark. This 16th-century neighborhood features a grid of narrow streets packed with *bars, restaurants, and fado houses*. The area has a creative, alternative vibe with street art, vintage shops, and tattoo parlors. During the day, explore traditional shops and have lunch at small restaurants. After 10 PM, join the crowds spilling onto streets with drinks. The neighborhood also houses the **São Roque Church** and connects to Chiado via the historic Elevador da Bica funicular.



Must See

Belém

Half to full day No Booking Needed



Map

Located along the Tagus River west of downtown, **Belém** is Lisbon's monumental district celebrating Portugal's Age of Discovery. This riverside area houses the city's most important historical monuments including *Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower, and Monument to the Discoveries*. Beyond monuments, Belém is famous for **pastéis de Belém** - the original custard tarts made since 1837 at Pastéis de Belém bakery using a secret recipe. The neighborhood features beautiful gardens, museums including MAAT and Berardo Collection, and waterfront promenades. Plan half to full day to explore properly.



Top Pick

Chiado

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's most **elegant and cultural neighborhood**, Chiado is synonymous with literature, arts, and sophistication. Historic literary cafés like *A Brasileira* (with its bronze statue of poet Fernando Pessoa) attracted intellectuals for centuries. The area features beautiful 18th and 19th-century buildings housing **bookshops, theaters, art galleries**, and upscale boutiques. Key sites include the São Carlos National Theatre, the ruins of Carmo Convent, and Bertrand Bookshop (world's oldest operating bookstore since 1732). The neighborhood seamlessly blends traditional charm with contemporary fashion and dining. Perfect for a refined afternoon of culture and shopping.





Top Pick

LX Factory

2-3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

A **creative urban space** housed in a former industrial complex beneath the 25 de Abril Bridge. This hip area has been transformed into a cultural hub featuring *artist studios, design shops, bookstores, cafés, and restaurants*. The main street is lined with shipping containers converted into boutiques selling crafts, vintage items, and local designer goods. Sunday markets attract crowds browsing street food and handmade products. The complex hosts exhibitions, concerts, and cultural events. **Ler Devagar bookshop** with its unique industrial aesthetic is a highlight. Essential stop for creative travelers and Instagram-worthy photos.



Notable

Parque das Nações

3-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's **modern waterfront district** was developed for Expo 98 and showcases contemporary architecture and urban planning. The area features the striking *Vasco da Gama Bridge* (Europe's longest), the futuristic Oriente Station designed by Santiago Calatrava, and the Oceanário - one of the world's largest aquariums. The waterfront promenade offers restaurants, gardens, cable car rides, and the **Vasco da Gama Tower**. It's a contrast to historic Lisbon, showing the city's modern ambitions. Great for families with kids, with open spaces, playgrounds, and science center. Easily accessible by metro.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Wear comfortable shoes - Lisbon's hills and cobblestones are challenging
- Get lost in Alfama without a map - it's the best way to discover hidden corners
- Visit Bairro Alto during the day to see it without crowds, then return at night
- Take tram 28 through several neighborhoods for an authentic experience
- Each neighborhood has distinct character - spend time in each rather than rushing



Parks & Gardens

Despite being built on hills, Lisbon offers numerous **green spaces and gardens** providing peaceful retreats from urban energy. From formal botanical gardens to hillside parks with panoramic viewpoints, these spaces showcase diverse plant species, historic landscaping, and opportunities to experience Lisbon as locals do.



Notable

Eduardo VII Park

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's largest central park stretches uphill from Marquês de Pombal Square, offering a magnificent **central promenade** with symmetrical gardens and a stunning perspective down Avenida da Liberdade to the Tagus River. Named after British King Edward VII who visited in 1903, the park features formal boxwood hedges, mosaic pathways, and seasonal flower beds. The top provides one of the best *panoramic viewpoints in the city*. Don't miss the **Estufa Fria** greenhouse complex with tropical and cold-climate plants in Victorian-style glasshouses. Perfect for picnics, jogging, or peaceful walks.



Notable

Jardim da Estrela

1 hour No Booking Needed



Map

A charming **19th-century romantic garden** opposite the Basilica da Estrela, this park is a favorite among Lisbon families. The garden features winding paths, duck ponds, ornate iron gazebos, peacocks roaming freely, and mature trees providing shade. There's a popular café-kiosk serving drinks and snacks, a playground for children, and an antique bandstand hosting occasional concerts. The garden's *Belle Époque atmosphere* makes it feel like stepping back in time. Locals come here to read, picnic, practice yoga, or simply escape the city bustle. Especially pleasant on weekend mornings.



Optional

Ajuda Botanical Garden

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Portugal's **oldest botanical garden**, established in 1768 for Prince José. This historic 3.5-hectare garden contains over 5,000 plant species from around the world, arranged in themed sections including *medicinal plants, palms, succulents, and aromatic herbs*. The terraced hillside offers beautiful views over the Tagus and Belém. The garden retains its 18th-century layout with geometric paths, fountains, and statuary. It's a peaceful, less-touristy spot perfect for plant lovers and those seeking tranquility. The **dragon tree section** and historic fountain are highlights. Small entrance fee keeps crowds minimal.





Optional

Monsanto Forest Park

2-4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's largest green space, this vast **1,000-hectare forested park** is often called the 'lungs of Lisbon.' Located on the city's western hills, Monsanto offers hiking and cycling trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, and multiple viewpoints over the city and river. The park includes recreation areas like the *Parque Recreativo do Alto da Serafina* with adventure sports. It's where locals escape for outdoor activities, especially on weekends. Several **miradouros** within the park provide spectacular sunset views. The forest is primarily cork oak and stone pine, creating a Mediterranean woodland atmosphere.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Parks offer free activities and are perfect for budget-conscious travelers
- Visit Eduardo VII Park at sunset for incredible city views
- Jardim da Estrela's kiosk café is perfect for coffee and people-watching
- Bring a picnic blanket - locals regularly picnic in parks, especially weekends
- Parks are generally safe, but avoid isolated areas after dark



Fountains & Public Art

Lisbon's seven hills create natural **miradouros** (viewpoints) offering spectacular panoramas of red-roofed neighborhoods, the Tagus River, and distant bridges. Combined with vibrant street art and public sculptures, these spots provide both visual beauty and cultural insight into the city's artistic soul.



Top Pick

Miradouro de Santa Luzia

20-30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

One of Alfama's most romantic viewpoints, this **terrace overlooks the neighborhood's cascading rooftops** down to the Tagus River. The miradouro features beautiful azulejo panels depicting pre-earthquake Lisbon and the Christian reconquest, pergolas covered with bougainvillea, and benches perfect for relaxing. The view encompasses *São Vicente de Fora church, the National Pantheon, and the river*. Street musicians often perform here, adding to the atmosphere. Just below the terrace is the **Miradouro das Portas do Sol**, another excellent viewpoint with a café. Visit during late afternoon for golden light photography.



Top Pick

Miradouro da Graça

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

Perched above Alfama near the Graça Church, this spacious viewpoint offers **360-degree views** encompassing the castle, downtown, Tagus River, and 25 de Abril Bridge. The large pine-shaded terrace has a popular kiosk-bar serving drinks and snacks, making it ideal for sunset watching. Locals gather here especially on warm evenings, creating a relaxed, authentic atmosphere. The view includes some of Lisbon's most iconic landmarks all in one panorama. The *Igreja da Graça* next door is worth visiting for its baroque interior and more views from its terrace. Less touristy than other miradouros.



Top Pick

Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara

30 minutes No Booking Needed



Map

This two-level garden viewpoint in Bairro Alto provides stunning vistas of **Castelo de São Jorge, Baixa district, and the Tagus**. The upper terrace features a large tile panel map identifying all visible landmarks, while the lower garden has shaded benches and a kiosk café. The miradouro is easily accessible via the *Elevador da Glória funicular* from Restauradores Square. It's particularly popular at sunset when the castle glows golden. Street artists and musicians often perform here. The surrounding area has restaurants and bars, making it perfect for combining sightseeing with dining.





Notable

Street Art Tours

2-3 hours Book Ahead



Map

Lisbon has become a major European **street art destination** with murals by internationally renowned artists covering buildings throughout the city. Notable areas include *Avenida Fontes Pereira de Melo*, *Calçada da Glória*, and *around Intendente*. Works by artists like Vhils (who creates portraits by carving into walls), Bordalo II (who makes sculptures from trash), and many others transform urban spaces. The **Underdogs Gallery** in Cais do Sodré organizes much of the street art scene. Guided street art tours provide context about artists and techniques. The art constantly evolves, making each visit unique.

Tips for Fountains & Public Art

- Visit miradouros during **golden hour** (before sunset) for best photography light
- Each viewpoint offers different perspectives - visit multiple for complete views
- Many viewpoints have cafés/kiosks - bring cash for drinks
- Combine viewpoint visits with exploring the surrounding neighborhoods
- Download apps like Street Art Lisbon to find murals independently



Tours & Activities

Experience Lisbon through **curated activities and guided experiences** that provide deeper insight into the city's culture, history, and traditions. From iconic tram rides to intimate fado performances and hands-on cooking classes, these activities create memorable connections with authentic Lisbon.



Must See

Tram 28 Historic Route

40 minutes - 2 hours No Booking Needed

Lisbon's **most famous tram ride**, the vintage yellow Tram 28 rattles through narrow streets connecting major neighborhoods and attractions. The route passes through *Graça, Alfama, Baixa, Chiado, and Estrela*, climbing steep hills and navigating tight corners with buildings seemingly inches away. The historic Remodelado trams date from the 1930s. Board at Martim Moniz or Graça early morning to avoid crowds and get a window seat. The full journey takes about 40 minutes, but you can hop on/off at attractions. It's both **practical transportation and tourist experience**. Watch for pickpockets during busy times.



Must See

Book Ahead

Fado Performance

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Experience **Portugal's soul music** in an intimate fado house. Fado - meaning 'fate' - expresses saudade (melancholic longing) through haunting vocals accompanied by Portuguese guitar. Authentic venues in *Alfama and Bairro Alto* offer dinner shows or drink-minimum performances in small, atmospheric spaces. Traditional houses include **Clube de Fado, A Baiuca, and Mesa de Frades**. Performances typically feature multiple fadistas (singers) alternating sets. The music is intensely emotional and deeply connected to Lisbon's working-class history. Reservations essential. Silence during performances is expected - this is serious art, not background music.



Top Pick

Book Ahead

Portuguese Cooking Class

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Learn to prepare **traditional Portuguese dishes** in hands-on cooking classes led by local chefs. Classes typically start with a market tour to select fresh ingredients, then you prepare a complete meal including appetizers, main courses, and desserts. Common dishes include *bacalhau à brás* (salt cod), *caldo verde* (kale soup), and *pastéis de nata* (custard tarts). Classes conclude with enjoying your creations paired with Portuguese wine. It's an excellent way to understand Portuguese culinary culture and take skills home. **Various operators** offer classes from home kitchens to professional cooking schools. Vegetarian options usually available.



[Top Pick](#)[Book Ahead](#)

Tagus River Cruise

[1-3 hours](#) [Book Ahead](#)

See Lisbon from the water on a **Tagus River cruise** offering unique perspectives of the city's landmarks. Options range from short 1-2 hour sightseeing cruises to sunset sailboat trips and dinner cruises. Cruises pass under the *25 de Abril Bridge*, alongside historic Belém monuments, and past modern Parque das Nações. **Sunset cruises** are particularly magical as the city glows golden. Some include drinks, food, or live music. Sailing rather than motorboat cruises offer more authentic experiences. Departures from various piers including Terreiro do Paço, Belém, and Cais do Sodré. Book online for better rates.

[Top Pick](#)[Book Ahead](#)

Free Walking Tours

[2.5-3 hours](#) [Book Ahead](#)

Excellent introduction to Lisbon led by knowledgeable local guides working for tips. Tours typically cover **downtown, Alfama, or Belém**, lasting 2.5-3 hours and explaining history, culture, and local life. Guides share stories about the 1755 earthquake, Age of Discovery, Carnation Revolution, and modern Lisbon. Tours are tip-based (suggested €10-15 per person). Popular companies include *Sandeman's*, *Lisbon Chill-Out*, and *Free Tour Lisbon*. Tours start from central locations like Praça do Comércio or Praça Luís de Camões. Book in advance during high season. Great way to orient yourself and get recommendations.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book fado and cooking classes **several days in advance**, especially in summer
- Ride Tram 28 early morning (before 9 AM) or late afternoon to avoid crowds
- Validate your transport ticket before boarding trams - inspectors check frequently
- For cruises, bring layers - it can be windy on the water even in summer
- Free walking tours are tip-based - budget €10-15 per person as appreciation



Day Trips & Excursions

Lisbon's location provides easy access to **diverse day trip destinations** within an hour's journey. From fairytale palaces in Sintra's mountains to beaches along the Atlantic coast and historic towns, these excursions complement your Lisbon experience with contrasting landscapes and attractions.



Must See Book Ahead

Sintra

Full day Book Ahead



Map

This **UNESCO World Heritage town** nestled in misty mountains is Portugal's most enchanting destination. The main attractions include the colorful **Pena Palace** (a Romanticist castle), the mysterious Quinta da Regaleira with initiation wells and grottos, and the ancient **Moorish Castle** with panoramic views. The town center features the National Palace with its distinctive white chimneys. Sintra's microclimate creates lush gardens around each palace. The area requires a full day - buy the combined ticket and take the hop-on-hop-off bus between attractions. **Arrive early** (before 9 AM) to beat crowds, especially at Pena Palace. 40 minutes by train from Lisbon's Rossio station.



Top Pick

Cascais & Estoril

Half to full day No Booking Needed



Map

These elegant **coastal resort towns** offer beautiful beaches, a scenic waterfront promenade, and sophisticated atmosphere. *Cascais* features a charming historic center with cobbled streets, the Cidadela fortress, marina, and several beaches including Praia da Rainha. The coastal walk to **Boca do Inferno** (Hell's Mouth) shows dramatic cliffs and crashing waves. Estoril is known for its grand casino and glamorous history. Both towns offer excellent seafood restaurants and a relaxed vibe. The train journey along the coast from Lisbon provides beautiful views. Perfect for combining beach time with sightseeing. 40 minutes by train from Cais do Sodré station.



Top Pick

Óbidos

Half day No Booking Needed



Map

A perfectly preserved **medieval walled town** that looks like a fairytale. Walk along the ancient walls encircling whitewashed houses with colorful borders, cobblestone streets lined with shops selling local crafts, and the imposing castle (now a pousada hotel). Óbidos is famous for *ginja de Óbidos* - cherry liqueur served in edible chocolate cups. The town hosts medieval fairs, chocolate festivals, and Christmas markets throughout the year. It's small and can be explored in 2-3 hours. The **Igreja de Santa Maria** contains beautiful azulejos. Combine with visits to nearby Nazaré or Alcobaça monastery. 1 hour drive or bus from Lisbon.



Notable

Évora

Full day No Booking Needed



Map

This **UNESCO World Heritage city** showcases 2,000 years of history in the heart of Alentejo region. Key attractions include the remarkably preserved *Roman Temple of Diana*, the macabre Capela dos Ossos (Chapel of Bones) decorated with human skulls and bones, the Gothic cathedral, and medieval streets within ancient walls. The city represents Moorish, Roman, and Portuguese heritage. Évora offers authentic Alentejo cuisine including black pork dishes and regional wines. The surrounding countryside features cork oak forests and traditional whitewashed villages. While it's 1.5 hours away, the city merits a full day. Best reached by car or organized tour from Lisbon.





Notable

Costa da Caparica

Half to full day No Booking Needed



Map

Lisbon's closest proper **beach destination**, Costa da Caparica offers 15km of golden sand beaches across the Tagus from the city. Popular with both locals and surfers, the beaches range from family-friendly northern sections to more secluded southern stretches accessible by *mini-train* running along the coast during summer. Each beach has its own character - some with beach clubs and restaurants, others quiet and natural. The waves make it excellent for surfing and bodyboarding. Fresh seafood restaurants line the waterfront. It's more authentic and less touristy than Cascais. Accessible by bus from Lisbon (45 minutes) or quick ferry plus bus.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- **Sintra requires advance booking** for Pena Palace and other palaces - buy online days before
- Rent a car for flexibility visiting multiple destinations, or join organized tours
- Combine Sintra with Cascais in one long day, or visit each separately for relaxed pace
- Train to Sintra and Cascais is easy and scenic - no need for car to these destinations
- For beach trips, check weather and bring sunscreen - Atlantic sun is strong



Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Lisbon, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Mercearia do Século

Must See

Mercearia do Século★★★★★ 4.9 (969)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Mercearia do Século is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.9★ from 969 reviews. Located at Rua de O Século 145, 1250-095 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 6:45 – 11:30 PM
- Wednesday: 6:45 – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 6:45 – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 6:45 – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 6:45 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Santa Marta

Must See

Santa Marta★★★★★ 4.8 (2,553)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Santa Marta is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.8★ from 2553 reviews. Located at Santa Marta, R. de Santa Marta 61, 1150-294 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM



Augusto Lisboa

Must See

Augusto Lisboa★★★★★ 4.8 (3,483)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Augusto Lisboa is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.8★ from 3483 reviews. Located at R. de Santa M.nha 26, 1100-491 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Tuesday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Wednesday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Friday: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
- Saturday: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
- Sunday: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Copo de Mar

Must See

Copo de Mar★★★★★ 4.8 (1,607)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Copo de Mar is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.8★ from 1607 reviews. Located at Av. Barbosa du Bocage 107A, 1050-052 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 4:00 PM, 7:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed

Stô Restaurante

Must See

Stô Restaurante★★★★★ 4.8 (992)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Stô Restaurante is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.8★ from 992 reviews. Located at R. dos Fanqueiros 83 85, 1100-227 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 1:00 – 4:30 PM, 7:00 – 10:30 PM



Restaurante Pastanaga

Must See

Restaurante Pastanaga★★★★★ 4.8 (883)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Restaurante Pastanaga is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.8★ from 883 reviews. Located at Tv. dos Pescadores 27, 1200-328 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 – 11:30 PM
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 11:30 PM
- Saturday: 6:00 – 11:30 PM
- Sunday: 6:00 – 11:30 PM

Black Pavilion Restaurant

Must See

Black Pavilion Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (242)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Black Pavilion Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.7★ from 242 reviews. Located at Inside Torel Palace Lisbon, R. Câmara Pestana 45, 1150-082 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:30 PM – 12:00 AM

Santa Joana

Must See

Santa Joana★★★★★ 4.7 (568)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Santa Joana is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.7★ from 568 reviews. Located at R. de Santa Marta 61B, 1059-002 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



Taberna Do Castelo Must See

Taberna Do Castelo★★★★★ 4.7 (2,273)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



[Map](#)

Taberna Do Castelo is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.7★ from 2273 reviews. Located at Lgo de São Martinho, 1100-537 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Altar Must See

Altar★★★★★ 4.7 (2,361)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



[Map](#)

Altar is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.7★ from 2361 reviews. Located at Largo Rodrigues de Freitas 21, 1100-495 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM

Belcanto Must See

Belcanto★★★★★ 4.6 (1,796)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



[Map](#)

Belcanto is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.6★ from 1796 reviews. Located at R. Serpa Pinto 10A, 1200-445 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 12:30 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:30 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:30 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 12:30 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:30 – 3:00 PM, 7:00 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: Closed



JNcQUOI Asia

Must See

JNcQUOI Asia★★★★★ 4.6 (4,378)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

JNcQUOI Asia is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.6★ from 4378 reviews. Located at Av. da Liberdade 144, 1250-146 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Lisboa Tu & Eu 2

Must See

Lisboa Tu & Eu 2★★★★★ 4.6 (5,550)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Lisboa Tu & Eu 2 is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.6★ from 5550 reviews. Located at Escadinhas das Portas do Mar 4, 1100-410 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM

Floresta das Escadinhas

Must See

Floresta das Escadinhas★★★★★ 4.6 (3,377)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Floresta das Escadinhas is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.6★ from 3377 reviews. Located at R. de Santa Justa 3, 1100-483 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 3:30 PM
- Sunday: Closed





Can the Can Lisboa is a highly-rated restaurant in Lisbon, rated 4.5★ from 4389 reviews. Located at Praça do Comércio 82 83, 1100-148 Lisboa, Portugal.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Practical Information

Optimal Seasons

April to June and September to October offer the best weather with pleasant temperatures (18-25°C/64-77°F), fewer crowds, and lower prices than peak summer. *Spring* brings blooming jacaranda trees coloring streets purple, while *autumn* offers warm days perfect for sightseeing.

Season Breakdown:

- **Spring (March-May):** Mild weather, flowering gardens, Easter celebrations. Can be rainy early season.
- **Summer (June-August):** Hot and dry (25-35°C/77-95°F), long daylight, festivals, packed beaches. Peak tourist season with higher prices and crowds.
- **Fall (September-November):** Warm early autumn, comfortable sightseeing weather, wine harvest season, fewer tourists.
- **Winter (December-February):** Mild (10-15°C/50-59°F), rainy, fewer crowds, lower prices. Perfect for museums and indoor attractions. Christmas markets in December.

Avoid: August when locals vacation and many restaurants close. Mid-summer heat can be intense for walking.

Getting Around Lisbon

Public Transport:

- **Metro:** Four lines (Blue, Yellow, Green, Red) covering main areas. Clean, efficient, safe. Operates 6:30 AM-1:00 AM. Single ticket €1.65, day pass €6.80.
- **Trams:** Iconic yellow trams, especially route 28. Vintage Remodelado trams and modern articulated trams. Same ticket as metro.
- **Buses:** Extensive network reaching areas metro doesn't. Most useful for tourists: 737 to Belém.
- **Funiculars:** Three historic funiculars (Elevador da Glória, da Bica, do Lavra) climbing steep hills. Picturesque and practical.

Tickets & Passes:

Purchase a rechargeable **Viva Viagem card** (€0.50) and load with credit or day passes. Works on metro, trams, buses, funiculars. The *Lisboa Card* includes unlimited transport plus free/discounted entry to attractions (€21/24hrs, €35/48hrs, €44/72hrs).



Taxis & Ride-sharing:

Cream or black-green taxis are metered and reasonably priced. **Uber and Bolt** operate throughout the city and are often cheaper than taxis. Useful for hills and late nights.

➔ Airport Transfer

Humberto Delgado Airport is 7km from center. Options: **Metro Red Line** (€1.65, 20 minutes), **Aerobus** (€4, direct to center), **taxi** (€15-20, 20-30 minutes), or **Uber** (€10-15).

Important: Always validate tickets before boarding. Inspectors check frequently with steep fines for invalid tickets.

What to Buy & Where

Traditional Portuguese Products:

- **Azulejo tiles:** Decorative ceramic tiles - buy reproductions or antiques. Shops throughout Alfama and Chiado.
- **Cork products:** Bags, wallets, accessories. Portugal produces 50% of world's cork. Ecological and unique.
- **Port and Portuguese wine:** Buy from specialty wine shops or Garrafeira Nacional for authentic selection.
- **Conservas:** Gourmet tinned fish in beautiful retro packaging. Visit Conserveira de Lisboa.
- **Pastéis de nata:** Can't take fresh ones home, but buy the Pastéis de Belém tin with recipe.
- **Embroidered linens:** Traditional Madeira embroidery and Portuguese textiles.
- **Ceramics:** Hand-painted pottery, especially from Alentejo and Caldas da Rainha.
- **Rooster of Barcelos:** Iconic Portuguese symbol - colorful ceramic roosters in all sizes.

Shopping Areas:

Baixa-Chiado: Mix of international brands and traditional shops. Rua Augusta for mainstream shopping.

Príncipe Real: Boutique designers, concept stores, antiques. Embaixada building houses independent designers.

LX Factory: Creative goods, local designers, vintage items, unique souvenirs.

Feira da Ladra: Flea market in Alfama (Tuesday and Saturday) for antiques, vintage, and curiosities.

Avenida da Liberdade: Luxury brands - Prada, Louis Vuitton, Gucci.

Bargaining:

Haggling is acceptable at *flea markets and some antique shops*, but not in regular stores. Prices in shops are fixed.

Annual Events & Celebrations

Major Festivals:

- **Santo António Festival (June 12-13):** Lisbon's biggest celebration honoring the city's patron saint. Street parties in Alfama, grilled sardines, *marchas populares* parades, marriages at the cathedral. The night of June 12-13 is magical citywide celebration.
- **Festas de Lisboa (throughout June):** Month-long festivities with concerts, street parties, traditional food. Neighborhoods compete in decorating streets.
- **Rock in Rio Lisboa (June, biannual):** Massive music festival attracting international headliners to Parque da Bessa.
- **NOS Alive (July):** Major music festival at Passeio Marítimo de Algés featuring rock, indie, and electronic acts.
- **Lisbon Book Fair (late May-June):** Annual tradition in Eduardo VII Park with hundreds of book stalls.
- **ModaLisboa (March & October):** Portuguese Fashion Week showcasing designers.

Public Holidays:

Businesses close on: New Year's Day (Jan 1), Carnival (February/March), Good Friday/Easter, Freedom Day (April 25), Labor Day (May 1), Portugal Day (June 10), Lisbon Day (June 13), Assumption (Aug 15), Republic Day (Oct 5), All Saints (Nov 1), Independence Day (Dec 1), Immaculate Conception (Dec 8), Christmas (Dec 25).



Sample Day-by-Day Itineraries

Day 1: Historic Center & Alfama

Morning: Start at Praça do Comércio, walk through Arco da Rua Augusta to Rua Augusta. Stop for coffee at a traditional café. Visit Lisbon Cathedral. Climb to Castelo de São Jorge (arrive by 10 AM). Explore castle grounds and enjoy panoramic views.

Lunch: Traditional Portuguese lunch in Alfama at a family tasqueria.

Afternoon: Wander through Alfama's maze-like streets. Visit Miradouro de Santa Luzia and Portas do Sol. Browse the National Pantheon. Take Tram 28 from Alfama to Baixa.

Evening: Dinner and authentic fado performance in Alfama (book in advance).

Day 2: Belém District

Morning: Take Tram 15 to Belém. Visit Jerónimos Monastery when it opens (arrive early, 9:30 AM). Explore the monastery and cloisters thoroughly.

Mid-morning: Walk to Monument to the Discoveries and optionally go to the top. Visit Belém Tower (20-minute walk along river or take tram).

Lunch: Pastéis de Belém for original custard tarts. Lunch at a Belém restaurant.

Afternoon: Visit MAAT or Berardo Museum. Stroll along the riverfront gardens.

Evening: Return to Cais do Sodré area for Time Out Market Lisboa dinner with variety of food options.

Day 3: Bairro Alto, Chiado & Modern Lisbon

Morning: Take Elevador da Glória to Bairro Alto. Visit São Roque Church and museum. Walk to Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara for views.

Mid-morning: Explore Chiado's bookshops, boutiques, and cafés. Coffee at A Brasileira. Visit Carmo Convent ruins.

Lunch: Chiado restaurant or head to Príncipe Real for trendy eateries.

Afternoon: Visit Gulbenkian Museum and gardens. Alternatively, explore Príncipe Real neighborhood's shops and Jardim do Príncipe Real.

Evening: Return to Bairro Alto for dinner and nightlife. Bar hopping in the neighborhood.

Day 4: Day Trip to Sintra

Morning: Take early train to Sintra (7:30-8:00 AM from Rossio). Take bus 434 to Pena Palace. Explore Pena Palace and park (2-3 hours).

Lunch: Picnic in palace grounds or restaurant in Sintra town.

Afternoon: Visit Quinta da Regaleira (2 hours exploring wells, grottos, and gardens). Optional: Moorish Castle or Monserrate Palace if time permits.

Late afternoon: Explore Sintra historic center, try travesseiros and queijadas pastries.

Evening: Return to Lisbon. Relaxed dinner in Lisbon neighborhood.

Day 5: Tiles, Markets & Riverside

Morning: Visit National Tile Museum. Learn about azulejo history and techniques.

Mid-morning: Explore Feira da Ladra flea market (if Tuesday or Saturday). Browse Santa Clara market area.



Lunch: Lunch in Graça neighborhood. Visit Miradouro da Graça.

Afternoon: Visit LX Factory for creative shopping and coffee. Walk to nearby MAAT if not visited earlier.

Late afternoon: Sunset river cruise on the Tagus (2 hours).

Evening: Dinner in Cais do Sodré or Bica neighborhood. Final night exploring favorite area.

Instagram & Photography Locations

Iconic Photo Spots:

- **Tram 28:** Classic shot of yellow tram on narrow Alfama streets. Best locations: Rua da Bica, Portas do Sol. *Timing:* Early morning or late afternoon for soft light.
- **Elevador de Santa Justa:** Photograph the neo-Gothic lift from below or take it for rooftop platform views. *Best time:* Sunset from the top.
- **Rua da Bica:** Iconic steep street with Bica funicular and colorful buildings. *Position:* Stand at the bottom looking up or top looking down.
- **Pink Street (Rua Nova do Carvalho):** Vibrant pink-painted street in Cais do Sodré. *Best light:* Late afternoon when pink glows warmly.
- **Miradouro das Portas do Sol:** Alfama's terracotta roofs cascading to river with São Vicente dome. *Golden hour:* Late afternoon.
- **Praça do Comércio:** Symmetrical yellow arcades and triumphal arch. *Best angles:* From the water's edge looking back, or through the arch to Rua Augusta.
- **25 de Abril Bridge from MAAT:** Modern museum with red bridge in background. *Sunset spot:* Walk on MAAT rooftop.
- **Pena Palace (Sintra):** Colorful palace on misty mountain. *Best time:* Early morning when crowds are minimal and mist adds atmosphere.

Hidden Gems:

Tram Depot: Vintage trams at Carris Museum or depot.

Street Art Locations: Calçada da Glória, Avenida Fontes Pereira de Melo for colorful murals.

Alfama Laundry Lines: Traditional washing hung between buildings on narrow streets.

Azulejo Facades: Buildings covered in decorative tiles throughout the city - explore to find hidden examples.

Photography Tips:

Visit popular spots early morning (before 8 AM) to avoid crowds. Golden hour (hour before sunset) provides the most flattering light for Lisbon's pastel buildings. Bring wide-angle lens for narrow streets and panoramic viewpoints. Overcast days work beautifully for tile photography, reducing harsh reflections.

Power & Adapters

Voltage: 230V

Frequency: 50Hz

Plug Type: Type C and Type F (European two round pins)

Do You Need an Adapter?

- **European travelers:** No adapter needed - same plugs as continental Europe.
- **UK travelers:** Yes, UK uses Type G (three rectangular pins).
- **US/Canada travelers:** Yes, North America uses Type A/B (flat pins) and 110V. You'll need both adapter and most modern electronics will handle voltage difference.
- **Australia/New Zealand travelers:** Yes, need adapter from Type I.



Where to buy: Adapters available at airport, electronics stores, and many hotels lend them. Better to bring from home as airport prices are inflated. Most hotels provide adapters on request.

USB Charging: Many accommodations now have USB ports. Modern electronics (phones, laptops, cameras) typically have universal voltage (110-240V) - check your device specifications.

Portuguese Cuisine & Dining

Must-Try Dishes:

- **Pastéis de Nata:** Creamy custard tarts with flaky pastry - try the original at Pastéis de Belém.
- **Bacalhau:** Salted cod prepared 1000+ ways. Try *bacalhau à brás* (shredded with eggs and potatoes) or *bacalhau com natas* (with cream).
- **Sardinhas Assadas:** Grilled sardines, especially popular during June festivals. Eaten whole with bread.
- **Caldo Verde:** Traditional kale soup with chorizo and potatoes - simple, hearty comfort food.
- **Arroz de Marisco:** Seafood rice similar to paella but soupier, packed with shellfish.
- **Polvo à Lagareiro:** Roasted octopus with olive oil and garlic, served with baked potatoes.
- **Francesinha:** Though from Porto, available in Lisbon - sandwich with meats, covered in cheese and beer sauce.
- **Açorda:** Bread-based dish with garlic, coriander, and often seafood or egg.

Petiscos (Portuguese Tapas):

Small plates perfect for sharing: *presunto* (cured ham), *alheira* (smoked sausage), *peixinhos da horta* (green bean tempura), *pataniscas de bacalhau* (cod fritters), *queijo da serra* (mountain cheese).

Sweets & Pastries:

Bolo de Arroz (rice muffins), **Travesseiros** (almond puff pastries from Sintra), **Queijadas** (cheese tarts), **Bola de Berlim** (cream-filled donuts).

Drinks:

Ginjinha: Cherry liqueur served in chocolate cups.

Port Wine: Fortified wine from Douro Valley - try white port as aperitif.

Vinho Verde: Young, slightly sparkling wine.

Bica: Portuguese espresso - order 'bica' for espresso, 'galão' for latte-style, 'meia de leite' for half coffee/half milk.

Dining Tips:

- Lunch is typically 12:30-2:30 PM, dinner 7:30-10:30 PM. Many restaurants close 3-7 PM.
- **Couvert:** Bread, butter, olives brought to table are NOT free - you pay if you eat them (€1-3 per person). Politely refuse if unwanted.
- Tipping: 5-10% for good service. Not obligatory but appreciated.
- Restaurants with English menus in tourist areas can be pricier - venture to neighborhood tasquerias for authentic, affordable meals.
- **Prato do Dia:** Daily special is usually excellent value and freshly prepared.

Where to Eat:

Traditional: Ramiro (seafood), Cervejaria da Trindade (historic beer hall), Solar dos Presuntos (classic Portuguese).

Casual: Time Out Market Lisboa (food hall with top chefs' stalls), neighborhood tascas in Alfama.

Modern: Belcanto (2 Michelin stars), 100 Maneiras, Mini Bar.

Seafood: Any marisqueira - fresh from Atlantic daily.



Tourist Passes

Lisboa Card

The comprehensive city pass offering **unlimited public transportation** (metro, buses, trams, funiculars, trains to Sintra and Cascais) plus free entry to 39 museums and monuments including Jerónimos Monastery, Belém Tower, and National Tile Museum. Discounts at additional attractions, shops, and restaurants. Available for *24 hours (€21)*, *48 hours (€35)*, or *72 hours (€44)*. Best value if visiting multiple paid attractions and using transport extensively. Includes fast-track entry at some monuments. Purchase online or at tourist offices.



www.lisboacard.org

Viva Viagem Card

The standard **rechargeable transport card** used by locals and visitors for metro, buses, trams, and funiculars. The card costs €0.50 (one-time, reusable) and can be loaded with individual journeys (€1.65 each), 24-hour passes (€6.80), or Zapping credit. Zapping allows pay-as-you-go with discounted fares. Must be validated each journey. Can be shared if loaded with individual tickets, but not with day passes. Available at metro stations from machines or ticket windows. Essential for any Lisbon visit.

Carris/Metro Day Pass

Unlimited rides on Lisbon's **metro, trams, buses, and elevators** for 24 hours from first validation. Costs €6.80 when loaded onto a Viva Viagem card. Good value if taking 4+ journeys per day. No monument entries included (unlike Lisboa Card). Simple option for transport-only needs. Can purchase additional consecutive days. Validated simply by tapping card on readers when boarding.

Sintra-Cascais Day Pass

Unlimited travel on the **Sintra-Cascais train line** connecting Lisbon to both destinations, plus Sintra's local buses (including the 434 bus to palaces). Costs approximately €16 for 24 hours. Essential for Sintra day trips as the hop-on-hop-off bus 434 alone costs €7. Includes journey from Lisbon to Sintra/Cascais and all local transport in Sintra. Purchase at train stations. Note: Does NOT include palace entries, which must be booked separately.

