



Lisbon & Around

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Why Go?

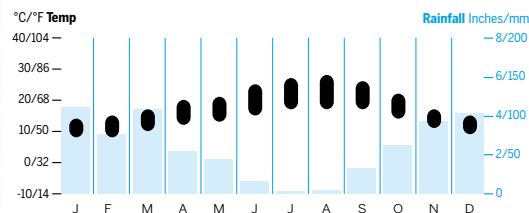
Spread across steep hillsides that overlook the Rio Tejo, Lisbon has captivated visitors for centuries. Windswept vistas reveal the city in all its beauty: Roman and Moorish ruins, white-domed cathedrals, grand plazas lined with sun-drenched cafes. The real delight of discovery, though, is delving into the narrow cobblestone lanes.

As yellow trams clatter through tree-lined streets, *lis-boêtas* stroll through lamplit old quarters, much as they've done for centuries. Gossip is exchanged over fresh bread and wine at tiny patio restaurants as fado singers perform in the background. In other parts of town, Lisbon reveals its youthful alter ego at bohemian bars and riverside clubs, late-night street parties and eye-catching boutiques selling all things classic and cutting-edge.

Just outside Lisbon, there's more – enchanting woodlands, gorgeous beaches and seaside villages, all ripe for discovery.

When to Go

Lisbon



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ 100 Maneiras (p100)
- ➔ Belcanto (p98)
- ➔ Taberna Ideal (p103)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Casa Balthazar (p92)
- ➔ Chiado 16 (p92)
- ➔ Casa Amora (p94)

May After the winter rains, late spring is lovely, with sunny days and flowers in bloom.

Jun Early summer brings festivals, warm weather and perfect beach days.

Sep Lisbon is pure magic, with cooler days and nights and a lack of summer crowds.

Lisbon's Neighbourhoods in a Nutshell

Baixa, near the riverfront, and Rossio, just north of there, are the heart of old Lisbon, with pedestrian streets and picturesque plazas. Follow the rattling trams to the east and you'll reach Alfama, with its medina-like lanes, and tiny, fado-filled restaurants. Above the Alfama looms the ram-parts of an ancient castle, with great viewpoints here and in other parts of the aptly named Castelo neighbourhood.

A steep climb west of Baixa leads into the swanky shopping and dining district of Chiado; further uphill lie the narrow streets of nightlife-haven Bairro Alto. Nearby Santa Catarina, with its tiny bars and old-fashioned funicular, has a more laid-back vibe. Further downhill towards the river is Cais do Sodré, a red-light district turned hipster centre, with late-night bars and eateries.

The World Heritage sites of Belém lie further west along the river – an easy tram ride from Baixa or Cais do Sodré.

FREE LISBOA

It's easy to enjoy Lisbon without breaking the bank as its biggest draws are outdoors: from astounding views at hilltop *miradouros* (lookouts) to tranquil squares and magical strolls in the Alfama.

Many museums have free admission on Sunday mornings. For a free cultural fix on other days, visit the design showcase of MUDE (the Museu de Design e da Moda; p63), tour underground Roman ruins at Núcleo Arqueológico (p66), and sample free wine at ViniPortugal (p83). Gawk at gorgeous churches like the Sé (p71), Igreja de São Roque (p67) and the surreal Igreja de São Domingos (p66). Also, don't miss Belém's avant-garde (and always-free) Museu Coleção Berardo (p81). Most hostels also offer free walking tours.

Panoramic Views

- **Largo das Portas do Sol** Stunning angles over Alfama's jumble rooftops, with the Tejo beyond.
- **Miradouro de Santa Luzia** (p86) A fountain, bougainvillea and blue-and-white *azulejos* (tiles) depicting the Siege of Lisbon in 1147.
- **Miradouro da Graça** (p109) Pine-fringed square, with cafe, that makes a great spot for sundowners.
- **Miradouro da Senhora do Monte** Relaxed vibe and the best views of the castle on the hill opposite.
- **Jardim do Torel** Little visited with a concealed indoor-outdoor cafe (go down the steps on the right) with a DJ or live music most summer weekend nights.
- **Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara** Great views, drinks and people-watching just below Bairro Alto.

DON'T MISS

Eating a *pastel de nata* (custard tart), having an afternoon swizzle of *ginjinha* (cherry brandy; p106) or sampling market fare at Mercado da Ribeira (p117).

Best Day Trips

- **Cascais** (p130) Charming seaside village.
- **Costa da Caparica** (p138) – Beautiful beaches, great surf.
- **Sintra** (p121) Enchanted woodlands dotted with palaces, mansions and gardens.
- **Cacilhas** (p104) Waterfront restaurants a ferry ride away.
- **Queluz** (p135) Portugal's answer to Versailles.

Off the Beaten Track

The neighbourhood of Madragoa with its narrow lanes and charming restaurants, is reminiscent of Alfama, but with a fraction of the tourists. It's west of Baixa; take tram 25 from Praça do Comércio to get there.

Resources

- www.visitlisboa.com Official tourism website.
- www.lisbonlux.com City guide.
- www.spottedbylocals.com/lisbon Insider tips.
- www.golisbon.com Dining, drinking and nightlife insights.