

LISBON

ENCOUNTER

KERRY WALKER

Lisbon Encounter

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Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighbourhood also gets its own colour, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighbourhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote 'areas of interest' – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

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KERRY WALKER

Kerry's love affair with Portugal began as an intrepid 11-year-old that wanted to climb the cliffs of the Algarve *alone*. She returned years later and fell for Lisbon – its Atlantic light and crisp *pastéis* (tarts), the disorientating lanes of Alfama and locals dragging her – yeah right! – on Bairro Alto bar crawls. She studied Portuguese translation as part of her MA at the University of Westminster. Born in Essex and based in Germany's Black Forest, she certainly lives up to her name, being an avid walker. Her itchy feet have taken her to 40ish countries, inspiring numerous articles, online guides and around 15 travel books, including Lonely Planet's *Portugal*.



KERRY'S THANKS

Heartfelt thanks to my fiancé, soul mate and travel companion Andy Christiani. I'm *muito obrigada* to Rafael Vieira for feeding me invaluable tips, and to CouchSurfing ambassador Nuno Ramos. Sincere thanks also to Carmo Botelho at Turismo de Lisboa, and to Jorge Moita, Joana Amendoeira, Olivier, Alberto Bruno and Carlos Martins for providing insight into life as a Lisboaeta. Finally, a big thank you to Korina Miller for entrusting me with this gig, and thanks to the entire Lonely Planet production team.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Paul Bernhardt's camera has lured him to countries as diverse as Mexico, Brazil, Lebanon, Iran and Mozambique. He cut his teeth as a press photographer in England, covering hard news, sport and features, before leaving the UK to settle in Portugal, where he has lived for over a decade and where he started to focus on more travel-related topics. His work has appeared in various magazines, guidebooks and newspapers around the world. Lisbon, his adopted city, is a frequent subject of his photo-reportage and he never tires of rediscovering its people, its culture and its history.



A touch of Paris in central Lisbon – Elevador de Santa Justa (p54)

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THIS IS LISBON

Lisbon is light fantastic; an Atlantic light that illuminates the yellow blaze of vintage trams and glitters on the river, bounces off Manueline turrets spiralling into cobalt skies and burnishes the castle gold at dusk. Finally the world is turning *its* spotlight on Portugal's dazzling capital.

'Lisa', as locals nickname her, is a beauty but not a conventional one. She's compared to Havana with her graffiti-slashed pastel houses, all-night street parties, kamikaze drivers and hash-peddlers; San Francisco with her blue waters, rickety trams and suspension bridge; London with her shabby-chic boutiques and revamped docklands; North Africa with the medinalike Alfama. Truth is, it's hard to bottle Lisbon's spirit. Her essence is unique.

Daydreamers sipping sundowners at giddy *miradouros* (viewpoints) in Graça, sparky creatives reinterpreting vintage in Bairro Alto, nostalgics feeling the mournful wail of fado in Alfama – Lisboaets are as multifaceted as the city they inhabit. And it's easy to see why they love it. Lisbon has got looks but it's her personality that'll seduce you, with genuine friendliness, infectious energy and surprise elements that keep you wanting more.

Shaped by a rollercoaster history that embraces theatre-going Romans, salt-encrusted explorers and Salazar dictatorship shackles, and influenced by former colonies in Brazil, Asia and Africa, Lisbon is a cultural one-off. Where else can you find grizzled men and vibrantly dressed Angolans sipping *ginjinha* (cherry brandy), one-pan family bistros alongside Zen-style sushi bars or retro tinned-fish shops next to cutting-edge design stores?

Neither time- nor trend-obsessed, locals like to keep it real. Sure, there are enchanting palaces, Unesco-listed monasteries and galleries galore, but to truly experience Lisbon, try to luxuriate in the everyday. Saunter Alfama's alleys where neighbours gossip over citrus-scented laundry. Be swept up in Santa Catarina street parties. Twist your tongue over Portuguese vowels and creamy *pastéis* (tarts). See the light, grab your camera, live the action.

Top Ice-cream seller awaiting the crowds at the Praça do Comércio (p54) **Bottom** Sampling Lisbon's culinary delights at A Batiuca (p73) in Alfama