



## From the castle to Bairro Alto

**If you're enjoying a visit to Lisbon, make sure to set aside a day for strolling relaxedly around the city's historic centre.**

Begin by admiring the breathtaking view over the city and the river from the Castelo de São Jorge. With the sun beating down from a seemingly endless sky, admire the intricate patterns of the thousands of roofs and the blue reflections of the river with the opposite bank in the distance. In order to arrive at this very special viewing point, we suggest that you use the city's most characteristic form of transport: the tram (either number 12 or 28).

Next, make your way down through the narrow streets and alleys of the typical old quarter of Alfama. In June, this part of the city is brightly decorated in order to celebrate the feast of Lisbon's patron saint, St. Anthony, providing a genuinely popular view of the capital and its life. In the Largo do Chafariz de Dentro, stop for a while to visit the Museum of Fado and listen to the city's own very personal soundtrack.

Carry on to Terreiro do Paço and appreciate the imposing grandeur of this large square opening onto the River Tagus. Between April and October, don't miss the opportunity to take a boat ride and enjoy an entirely different view of Lisbon from the river.

Amidst the daily hustle and bustle of the Baixa Pombalina, Lisbon's central downtown area, take a ride on the lift of the Elevador de Santa Justa, designed by one of Eiffel's disciples, all the way up to the city's Chiado shopping district. Enjoy a stroll through this historic part of Lisbon at its most bohemian and elegant and don't miss the opportunity to admire the modern art at the contemporary art museum, the Museu do Chiado. Take advantage of being in this fashionable district to do some shopping, or simply to do nothing by taking your seat on one of the pavement cafés and terraces and appreciating the pace and excitement of a capital city.

In Bairro Alto, the quintessential heart of the city's urban culture, there is a great abundance of clothes designers and design shops, and all kinds of different bars where you can go for some fun and entertainment later on in the evening. In the nearby Largo Trindade Coelho, don't forget to stop for a while and let your attention be caught by the imposingly austere façade of the Igreja de São Roque, stepping inside to admire its beautifully decorated interior. Give your eyes some time to rest their gaze on the view from the Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara, with its wonderful panorama of the castle, from where you started out on this brief tour. Have a peaceful and unhurried dinner at any time in Bairro Alto, and then step forth to enjoy all the excitement of the Lisbon nightlife.



### Points of interest along the Itinerary

- Castelo de São Jorge
- Museu do Fado
- Praça do Comércio
- The Pombaline downtown
- Elevador de Santa Justa
- The Chiado charm



## Points of interest along the Itinerary

### Castelo de São Jorge

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### Museu do Fado

Largo do Chafariz de Dentro,1

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Tel. : +351 21 882 34 70

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### Praça do Comércio

Praça do Comércio

Lisboa

### Elevador de Santa Justa

Rua de Santa Justa

Lisboa



## Suggestions

### The seven hills of Lisboa

Situated on the shores of the Atlantic, Lisbon was gradually built on the coastal hills more than 2,000 years ago. Today, visitors can discover the history of the city on foot, by climbing up to one of several different viewpoints. They are easy to find and are the best way of seeing how the city has developed.

Begin at the Castle, where Lisbon first came into being, and enjoy the magnificent view over the river. Walk along the narrow streets that form an amphitheatre as they wend their way down through the traditional old quarters of Mouraria and Alfama, and immerse yourself in the busy everyday life you see around you.

From the downtown area known as the Baixa, it is worth taking a ride up to the top of the Elevador de Santa Justa, a lift built by a student of celebrated architect Eiffel. Over a century old, it still carries people up to the best viewpoint in the heart of the city.

In Restauradores, choose between the two funiculars: on one side is the Elevador do Lavra, which will take you up to the Jardim do Torel; on the other side is the Elevador da Glória, which climbs up to the Jardim de São Pedro de Alcântara. Two different perspectives of the city.

From São Pedro de Alcântara, carry on to Chiado, the area of Lisbon preferred by Portuguese poets. Don't be surprised to see Fernando Pessoa join you for a drink, as he can still be seen sitting outside the Brasileira café. Very close by is the Jardim de Santa Catarina with its view over the port of Lisbon, where the giant Adamastor, who personifies the dangers that the Portuguese discoverers had to face, still watches over the Atlantic Ocean.

You can take a tram tour round the hills of Lisbon from Praça do Comércio. Discover the city's historic quarters and see how the city has grown in modern times.

As for the seven hills, which smack of the mythical city of Rome, locals often climb up to a summit to try to count them, only to end up getting lost. Come to Lisbon and try it for yourself.

### Lisboa by tram

Departing from Martim Moniz, the No. 28 heads up through the Graça neighbourhood, through its characteristic main Square and past the Church of São Vicente de Fora. Continuing through the Alfama, the tram takes you through some of the most picturesque sites in medieval Lisbon such as the steep Rua das Escolas Gerais and the Largo das Portas do Sol, with its fine views out down to the river below as well as up to the São Jorge Castle above. Continue on down to the Baixa past the Se, with its austere Romanesque façade and the Church of Santo António. As you approach the Baixa along the busy Rua da Conceição, take a look at the impressive early 20th century facades.

The tram again now embarks on an upward trajectory through to Chiado. There is a stop practically in front of the very popular Pastelaria A Brasileira café. Along the entire route, make sure you are paying attention to the architecture and the tiles that finish some facades, often in an Art Nouveau style reaching right up to the roof. On the way to Estrela, you get ringside seats for the Parliament building, formerly the Convent of São Bento, perched above an imposing stairway.

It is not difficult to understand why this route has become known as the "tourist tram".

### Fashionable Lisboa

Lisbon is moving with the times. It is innovative and daring whilst still maintaining a traditionally sophisticated ambience.

Take in this fashionable city as you wander the streets. Head up to the historic zones around the castle, Alfama, Madragoa and Bairro Alto.



Walk along the riverfront to see the variety of attractions on offer. Try the best in new Portuguese cuisine at the "Terreiro do Paço", "Olivier" or "Bica do Sapato" restaurants.

Or why not time your visit to coincide with leading exhibitions such as "Lisboa Fashion" (March and October) or "Experimenta Design".

Lisbon nightlife is as good as it gets. Forget the time and wake up late, the Lisbon sun will still be waiting. Catch all the latest beats at stylish disco venues like, "Lux" and "Kapital".

The range of top quality accommodation in Lisbon is also excellent. Stay at the Hotel Regency Chiado in the heart of the capital, or the Hotel Vip Arts on the banks of the Tagus in the Parque das Nações.

## Cruises on the Tagus

The cruise begins at the Praça do Comércio ferry terminal, lying in the shadow of the Castle and the Alfama.

Over to the left rises the Bairro Alto, with the Baixa downtown between these hill top neighbourhoods. Defining their midway point is the magnificent Praça do Comércio square, the entranceway to Europe at the peak of Portugal's maritime power. Sailing on past Cais do Sodré and its train station, there is Cais da Rocha, with its port and marina, before passing under the April 25th bridge. The cruise then proceeds to the Belém historic zone.

Here, there is something to grab the attention everywhere, try a frontal view of the huge Monument to the Discoveries. As the river opens up into the sea, emerging from behind the Viceroy of India Afonso de Albuquerque gardens and statues, looms the imposing Palace of Belém, the Monastery of Jerónimos and the Belém Cultural Centre. The next focal point is the Tower of Belém, formerly surrounded by water.

Your boat then begins a broad curve taking it away from the banks and opening up sweeping views of the city from across the river. After again passing Praça do Comércio and the Se appears the colossal Monastery of São Vicente de Fora.

The gentle pace and open boat deck invite passengers out to enjoy the breezes and the sun while appreciating views of the city only possible from out on the river. With the cruise over, head up to the top of any of the nearby hills and contrast the view from below with that from up above.

## Lisboa in the Bairro Alto

Just as soon as the sun sets, these narrow streets begin filling with entertainment seekers.

Often, and particularly on Friday and Saturday nights, the young clientele gather by the doors of bars, spilling out into the streets, listening to music, talking and laughing.

Move on over to Príncipe Real for one of the city's longest established and most distinctive venues, the Pavilhão Chinês, open from 2 pm to 2 am. This 'Chinese Pavilion' proffers a very unique and welcoming ambience. In itself, this bar is a type of museum with its tall display cases running the length of the various rooms and featuring pieces of indefinable value detailing the history of this city. Small tables, stools and benches complete the oriental-inspired decoration. The intimate ambience is enhanced by the soft music pitched to foster smoothly flowing conversation.

Another local landmark is Snob, on Rua do Século, just off the Príncipe Real square. Journalists, politicians and artists often drop in on this elegant and serene and rather old England style bar. And enhancing such charm, the owner, Sr. Albino, insists on keeping his famous clock without any hands - it ticks but tells no time so that nobody feels in any rush. And the bar is reputed to have the best toasted sandwiches in Lisbon. And that is not to mention its steaks.



## Useful contacts

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### Sé Catedral de Lisboa

Largo da Sé

1100-585 Lisboa

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### Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea - Museu do Chiado

Rua Serpa Pinto, 6

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### Igreja do Loreto - Lisboa

Largo do Chiado

1200-302 Lisboa

Tel. : +351 213 433 655

### Igreja de Nossa Senhora dos Mártires

Rua Garrett

1200-203 Lisboa

### Café A Brasileira

Rua Garrett, 120 1200 - 001 LISBOA

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### Convento do Carmo

Largo do Carmo

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### Igreja de São Roque - Lisboa

Largo Trindade Coelho

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