A TOURIST'S GUIDE TO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

LISBON • SINTRA • ÉVORA AND ELVAS
Lisboa, Sintra, Évora and Elvas are historical cities with a centuries-old heritage, which contain cultural assets classified as having World Heritage status. This heritage is the living expression of a legacy from the past that is an integral part of the present and hands down memories and experiences specific to each community.

To know these cultural assets is also to discover the places and sites to which they belong. They invite us to partake in the recognition of a territory and its landmarks that take us back to a distant past and a memory exercise, but also provide us with a glimpse of contemporaneity. All these places are indeed part of everyday life and are our references in that they mark the life and the landscape around us.

To evoke these examples of our heritage is a duty but also a pleasure. Through thematic itineraries, we can get to know and interrelate various cultural resources, including built and intangible heritage, historical memory and contemporary creation.

These Tourist Guides, which arouse our desire to stroll around and enjoy the presence of these objects in the landscape, focus on certain favourite sites: Lisboa, Sintra, Évora and Elvas.

In Lisbon, the Monastery of Jerónimos and the Tower of Belém were classified as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1983, because they are unique testimonies to a variant of European late Gothic – the “Manueline” style - but also to the expansion and discovery process that changed the view of the world from the 16th century onwards.

Fado, too, a valuable form of expression of urban culture, has its epicentre in Lisbon. As a traditional and authentic style of urban music, it was listed as Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO in 2011.

The Cultural Landscape of Sintra was listed as World Heritage in 1995, because it is a site created by man and nature, with enormous wealth in its buildings and landscape, incorporating developments of various types - from palaces to rural houses, from monasteries to small chapels including the Park and gardens from various periods.

Évora was the second Portuguese historic centre to be listed as World Heritage in 1986. The beauty and harmony of the city were especially highlighted in the opinion of ICOMOS that referred to it as the "golden age", i.e. the 16th century.

The Garrison Border Town of Elvas and its Fortifications were listed as a historic and cultural site by UNESCO in 2012. Elvas is valued for its authenticity and integrity, since it underwent little change in the last stages of its establishment as one of the largest garrison towns in Europe.
Lisbon was indeed the seat of a vast Empire, larger than the kingdom could accommodate. It was an Empire built through the effort of thousands of Portuguese, Europeans and all peoples in the world – people who would arrive here and depart from here in an incessant search of a destiny. The dream, however, survived: when Lisbon wanted to become a New Rome, at the time of King João V; when it was a renovated city after the 1755 natural disaster; when we look at the city’s enigmatic coat-of-arms with the sailing ship, the saint and the ravens; and when we read what Fernando Pessoa, one of Lisbon’s most famous poets, wrote: Empire, Destiny and Dream.

Sintra is a case apart. Here, it seems that the dream inspired men: as a *locus amoenus* in the Middle Ages and then as a place for the Court to cool down during the hot Summers. It was from the mountain top that King Manuel watched the return of the ships from India, from Vasco da Gama’s second voyage, aware that he was building an Empire and a Destiny. When destiny so determined, and the Empire was undone, Sintra once again became a land of dreams for Romantic writers such as Beckford, Byron and Almeida Garrett who glimpsed the intense poetry of a mythical landscape among the leafy woods.

Évora emerged as one of the most important cities in the imperial mesh of the province of Lusitania. For the same reason, too, it was the city where an ancient, larger-than-life past was dreamt of during the Renaissance, by such Portuguese literary figures as André de Resende. Empire and dream, together in a tranquil, wholesome landscape. This was also the Empire that Portugal preserved on dry continental land, through the powerful garrison town of Elvas, the “kingdom’s fortress”.

LISBON
A GATEWAY
TO THE WORLD
In the early 15th century, and more especially the 16th century - a period of strong urban growth - it was built as the “city of the discoveries”, and this pattern was maintained in the 17th century until the great 1755 earthquake which partially destroyed it. The earthquake marshalled together the most innovative and decidedly rationalist forces to rebuild the city. As a hub for conquest and sea trade navigation, Lisbon invented itself to respond to the new needs.

The Itinerary starts at the Western tip of the city, in Belém and Restelo, the departure point for the great armadas of the Discoveries, where the most emblematic memorials stand - the Tower of Belém and the Monastery of Jerónimos, true “symbols” of the construction of a heritage ideology. They tell us about the Empire - what was built and what has been lost - but also about what remained in us as an indelible mark of spiritual expansion, more than dominance and conquest. This heritage guides us, therefore, in different directions: “16th Century Lisbon”, along the banks of the Tagus, directly encompassing the memory of the Discoveries; along the “Seven Hills” where the city displays its own centuries-old history; and “Enlightened Lisbon”, a city rebuilt in the 18th century, to be discovered both in the Baroque amenities of the Joanine period and in the Pombaline urban developments.

And there is still the Fado, a magic word that is an integral part of Lisbon’s identity: music that conveys the “saudade” (longing) that is felt and sung.
TORRE DE BELÉM (1)
A fortress consisting of a hexagonal bulwark, capped by a recessed tower that follows mediaeval tradition. It combines a "modern" military system - the first of its type to be built in Portugal - with a "mediaeval" military system - the traditional "tower" - epitomising the very essence of the "Manueline".
C- 38º41'29'' N; 9º12'57'' W

MUSEU NACIONAL DE ARTE ANTIGA (3)
This is a true national treasure of all artistic genres. It houses the richest collection of art exhibits in Portugal.
C- 38º42'18'' N; 9º09'38'' W

MOSTEIRO DOS JERÓNIMOS (2)
This could well be considered the monument of Portuguese monuments. It is a hall-church with an almost flat vault, unique worldwide. The cloister is regarded as a true masterpiece of world architecture.
C- 38º42'31'' N; 9º08'03'' W

CASAS DOS RICOS / FUNDAÇÃO JOSÉ SARAMAGO (5)
Commissioned by Brás de Albuquerque, the son of the famous conqueror of India and the Persian Gulf, Afonso de Albuquerque. It houses the José Saramago Foundation (1922-2010), a Portuguese writer awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1998.
C- 38º42'31'' N; 9º08'03'' W

IGREJA DA CONCEIÇÃO VELHA (4)
The magnificent south-facing façade is all that survives from the former church, which was heavily shaken and partially destroyed by the 1755 earthquake.
C- 38º42'31'' N; 9º08'03'' W

CASA DOS BICOS / FUNDAÇÃO JOSÉ SARAMAGO (5)
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C- 38º42'31'' N; 9º08'03'' W

IGREJA DE S. VICENTE DE FORA (9)
Originally founded in 1173 as a Romanesque monastery. The construction of the current building was commissioned by King Filipe II and is his greatest patronage initiative. The convent’s building is richly decorated with 18th century tiles.
C- 38º42'53'' N; 9º07'41'' W

PANTEÃO NACIONAL (IGREJA DE SANTA ENGRÁCIA) (10)
The Church (National Pantheon) was designed by João Antunes (1645-1712), with a centred layout and with undulating and recessed wall panels, and it represents his masterpiece. The centred layout evokes the perfect circularity and centrality of the communion wafer or the Blessed Sacrament.
C- 38º42'53'' N; 9º07'28'' W

ALFAMA (6)
This was the merchants’ and fishermen’s quarter of the Arab period, the al-Hama, so called because it contained medicinal water sources. It spread beyond the old wall built by the Romans and reinforced by the "Moors".
C- 38º42'44'' N; 9º07'48'' W

LARGO AND CONVENTO DO CARMO (7)
One of the most celebrated ruins in Lisbon, the result of the 1755 earthquake. This is the Church of Carmo whose construction was organised by Nuno Álvares Pereira, the Constable of the Kingdom.
C- 38º42'43'' N; 9º08'26'' W

CASTELO DE S. JORGE (8)
Founded during the Islamic period, the castle rests on the hilltop that would witness the birth of Lisbon. Over the following centuries it became the royal residence, the so-called Palace of Alcâova, a function which it kept until the late 15th century. It holds a scenic position on the hill bordering the old town and the centre of Lisbon which provides a magnificent panoramic view.
C- 38º43'29'' N; 9º06'49'' W

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C- 38º43'29'' N; 9º06'49'' W
The works in the Lisbon Cathedral started around 1150. It became one of the main cathedrals in the kingdom. With the 1755 earthquake was partially destroyed. Restoration works only really started in the 1930s. Here you can see the Cathedral Treasury, with liturgical implements and imagery from the Middle Ages to the 19th century.  

C- 38º42'35'' N; 9º07'58'' W

**IGREJA DE SANTO ANTÓNIO À SÉ** (12)  
One of the most popular churches in Lisbon, is located on the site where Fernando de Bulhões, later St. Anthony, was born. Next to the church can be visited the Santo António Museum.  

C- 38º42'35'' N; 9º07'58'' W

**IGREJA DE S. ROQUE** (13)  
This building dates from the 16th century. The simple façade, the result of a 19th-century reconstruction and restoration, hides one of the most exuberant and representative Baroque interiors combine to form a unique scenic environment. Adjacent to and adjoining the church is the Museum of S. Roque.  

C- 38º42'48'' N; 9º08'36'' W

**CHIADO** (14)  
This was the quintessentially commercial and affluent district in the late 19th century. But the reconstruction of Chiado, under the direction of architect Álvaro Siza Vieira, winner of the Pritzker Prize in 1992, revitalised the area, and today it is one of the most cosmopolitan parts of Lisbon and a ‘must visit’ place.  

C- 38º42'37'' N; 9º08'33'' W

**BASÍLICA DA ESTRELA** (15)  
A markedly Baroque work with Rococo elements, this was the first church in the world to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The high altar displays the canvas A Consagração da Devocão do Coração de Jesus (The Consecration of the Devotion to the Heart of Jesus) and The precious Nativity of Estrela deserves special attention.  

C- 38º42'48'' N; 9º07'37'' W

**MÃE DE ÁGUA IN AMOREIRAS** (17)  
A vast vaulted construction containing a tank with a capacity of about 5,500m3, the building where it was collected and stored, is an example of “Baroque” monumentalisation of the city with the building of a large-scale public amenity.  

C- 38º43'17'' N; 9º09'20'' W

**POMBALINE CITY CENTRE** (18)  
The earthquake on the morning of 1 November 1755 had a devastating effect on Lisbon. The Marquis of Pombal particularly distinguished himself, first in rescuing people and belongings, and subsequently by organising an urgent response to the chaos that had been installed, when he ordered plans for a new town to be drawn up.  

C- 38º42'41'' N; 9º18'14'' W

**PRAÇA DO COMÉRCIO** (19)  
This is one of Europe’s most beautiful old squares and its scale is consistent with the Enlightenment principles of centrality and policing. Opening on to the Tagus, it establishes with the river a purposeful connection that already points to a landscaping intention. It’s the grand entrance “hall” to the city.  

C- 38º42'28'' N; 9º08'11'' W

**STATUE OF KING JOSÉ ON HORSEBACK** (20)  
This equestrian statue is the only one of its kind in Portugal. It is also the ultimate statement on the reconstruction of Lisbon after the earthquake.  

C- 38º42'28'' N; 9º08'11'' W

**MUSEU DO FADO** (21)  
Having gained national prominence, especially after Fado being listed as Intangible Heritage of Humanity, the museum holds conferences and concerts by fado singers, as well displaying a permanent exhibition dedicated to fado and having an important documentation centre with discography, publications, sheet music and posters.  

C- 38º42'39'' N; 9º07'39'' W
SINTRA
THE MOUNTAIN
OF THE MOON
**Sintra - The Mountain of the Moon** A trip to Sintra, a land of dreams and myths, makes for the most fortuitous intersection between literature and landscape. The mountain is the main feature of this amazing landscape, and its freshness was the stimulus not only for the establishment of the Arabs but also for the Portuguese monarchs, often alternating their time in Lisbon with a welcome sojourn to Sintra when the city heat became unbearable.

You will discover the most magnificent palaces in Portugal and the humblest of saloio homes on the mountain paths and the town roadways, in a unique marriage recognised since the Middle Ages. The cultivators of romanticism and figures such as Garrett, Beckford, Byron and one of the most “Portuguese” kings ever seen (albeit of German birth), King Fernando II, helped Sintra make its mark on the world as part of the Grand Tour and the refined journeys of the elite. They contributed to the construction of a new identity, recreated from past identities - of Moors and the Knights Templar - reinventing a landscape that is justly classified “as cultural”, which echoes the poetry and music. There is also the Sintra “floodplain” - the area immediately to the north of the great mountain - which deserves attention not so much for its remaining monuments but for its anthropological and vernacular interest. Here fertile lands intermingle with the roughest areas swept by coastal winds.
**PALÁCIO NACIONAL DE SINTRA (1)**
Anyone visiting Sintra, is immediately struck by the clear white outline of the Town Palace, which dominates with its two immense cones that correspond to its colossal chimneys. King João I devoted much attention to the palace immediately after the conquest of Ceuta (1415). In 1505, King Manuel introduced into the palace the hybrid features that result from the meeting of “Moorish” fashion with the European Gothic.

C- 38º47'32'' N; 9º23'18'' W

**RUINS OF IGREJA DE S. PEDRO DE CANAFERRIM, SINTRA (2)**
The former parish church of the town, in Romanesque style, is situated within the walls, in the castle area.

C- 38º47'32'' N; 9º23'18'' W

**CASTELO DOS MOUROS, SINTRA (3)**
The Castle of the Moors is the most visible feature close to the town, as you look down from the top of the Mountain. Dating from the 7th or 8th century, this was the fence to a new, sumptuous mansion.

C- 38º47’33’’ N; 9º23’20’’ W

**CONVENTO DOS CAPUCHOS, SINTRA (4)**
Founded in 1560 by the Capuchin Franciscan friars of the Arrábida Mountain who had a preference for Land’s ends and sacred hills. Starkness is the dominant feature, built in a vernacular language out of “poor” materials.

C- 38º46’57’’ N; 9º26’08’’ W

**TMOS DO MONGE, SINTRA (5)**
This is the best known megalithic monument in the Sintra area and is located on one of the Mountain’s summits, accompanied by two triangulation pillars.

C- 38º46’34’’ N; 9º26’30’’ W

**CAPELA DE NOSSA SENHORA DA PENINHA OR PENHA, SINTRA (6)**
The foundation of the current chapel dates from the 17th century. Inside, the decoration dating from the 18th century endowed its high altar with Baroque giltwork, but it is the set of tiles from 1711 that deserves special attention.

C- 38º46’04’’ N; 9º27’36’’ W

**QUINTA DA REGALEIRA, SINTRA (7)**
A world of reality and fiction, cross-crossing like nowhere else in the world. The neo-Manueline style chosen by its commissioner, the business magnate Carvalho Monteiro, incorporates the historical and symbolic vein that he wanted to see marked in stone. The most spectacular piece in the gardens is called the initiation well.

C- 38º46’09’’ N; 9º23’25’’ W

**CHALET DA CONDESSA, SINTRA (10)**
The Chalet of the Countess is a chalet-orné or cottage constructed around 1866-1867. This small residence became better known as “Chalet of the Countess” because the King and his second wife, the Countess of Edla, spent many moments of leisure.

C- 38º45’58’’ W

**PARQUE DA PENA, SINTRA (9)**
With the creation of the Pena Park, a craygy and arid, dry and rocky part of the mountain found a new lease of life and finally asserted its genius loci. From the Pena Palace, it is possible to descend the hillside, walk around this park and admire the impressive flora that grew here.

C- 38º47’09’’ N; 9º23’25’’ W

**ígEIRA DE NOSSA SENHORA DA ASSUNÇÃO, CASCAIS (15)**
A Roman villa from the first century, it was expanded and changed until the 4th century AD. The most monumental ruin is what remains of the walls of a large apse, providing traces of an early Paleochristian church.

C- 38º50’13’’ N; 9º22’58’’ W

**IGREJA DE NOSSA SENHORA DA PENHA, SINTRA**
This is a simple building, but the sacristy has a remarkable collection of 18th century figurative tiles depicting scenes from the Old Testament. Amongst their collection of paintings, there are several panels by Josefa d’Óbidos, an important painter from early Portuguese Baroque.

C- 38º41’42’’ N; 9º25’15’’ W

**PALÁCIO DE MONSERRATE, SINTRA (11)**
One of the choice spots of the Romantics on the Sintra hillsides was the temporary residence of William Beckford. It was then extensively remodelled, giving rise to a new, sumptuous mansion.

C- 38º47’38’’ N; 9º23’14’’ W

**CARO DA ROCA, CASCAIS (12)**
Here, there are two of the most important avatars of sacred geography: the sacred mountain and the legendary land’s end. It is the most westerly point in Europe and visitors can collect a certificate testifying that they have been to this extremity of the continent.

C- 38º46’59’’ N; 9º29’75’’ W

**CAPELA S. MAMEDE DE JANAS, JANAS (13)**
This is a building with a centred layout with a concentric porch next to which is the sacristy and support facilities. The small village of Janas is one of the most typical urban settlements.

C- 38º49’59’’ N; 9º26’11’’ W

**ROMAN AND MEDIAEVAL RUINS OF ODRINHAS (14)**
A mansion commissioned in 1904 by the aristocrat of Irish origin, George O’Neill. It consists of a grand tower whose foundation rests on a rock formation at the edge of the sea. In addition to the museum, you can visit the chapel and garden.

C- 38º47’31’’ N; 9º23’18’’ W
ÉVORA AND ELVAS
LANDS OF LIGHT
In this region, monumental pre-historic treasures reveal a vigorous, organised rural civilisation, conservative for sure, but almost untouched for about 2,000 consecutive years. The built heritage here deserves a long visit.

Évora is a city of colours - the ochre façades and stuccowork - which turns into a kaleidoscopic white sheet as the living fabric of an ancient city combines with the monuments in marble. The nearby places like Estremoz and Vila Viçosa are crystalline towns, really “white” towns which become an ode to stone and to a very generous land that gives us wine and olive oil. How has the Alentejo, which here we call the land of light, retained its personality? These immense defence works in Elvas modified the terrain and “fortified” it like protective breastplates - such as culture and heritage.

Évora and Elvas - Lands of Light For those visiting the Alentejo, what is immediately striking is the landscape of this Portuguese region. It is a seemingly dull and placid landscape, with a succession of low rolling hills and plains. The mild spring is contradicted by the high temperatures that are felt here in the summer, and by sudden drops in temperature, especially in winter, with the dawn and the days bathed in dew. There is never a shortage of light - here it is the main feature.
THE SO-CALLED “TEMPLO DE DIANA”, ÉVORA (1)
Built at the dominant point of the Évora Acropolis, this temple would have been the main feature of the Roman forum, and was probably built in the first decades of the 1st century. This was the heart of the Roman city and the busiest square in the Historic Centre.

CATEDRAL DE ÉVORA (2)
This has the characteristics of what is known as “Southern Gothic”. The diaphanous transparency of the interior gives way to massive walls and large windows with pointed arches in the Gothic style. Its foundation dates back to 1186, only twenty-one years after the celebrated conquest of the city.

“CASAS PINTADAS”, ÉVORA (3)
In the old Palace of the Inquisition, stands out this remarkable group of frescoes with profane themes inspired by moralistic subjects and various fables by Aesop.

CASA CORDOVIL, ÉVORA (4)
The so-called Cordovil House, with its balcony covered by a conical pinnacle, is one of Évora’s landmarks. The Manueline style is provided by the beautiful, yet seemingly fragile window in the Moorsyar taste.

PALÁCIO DOS CONDES DE BASTO OR PAÇO DE S. MIGUEL, ÉVORA (7)
The main body of the Palace, to the west, has three rooms decorated in frescoes created between 1578 and 1583.

CROMELEQUE DOS ALMENDRES, ÉVORA (8)
Located at 400m altitude in the Serra de Monfurado, this is the largest megalithic enclosure in the Iberian Peninsula and one of the largest and more complex in Europe. Probably an archaeoastronomic centre.

CROMLEQUE DO XAREZ, MONSARAZ (11)
A quadrangular cromelech - a great rarity. In all, it comprises 55 menhirs.

IGREJA DO CONVENTO DE S. FRANCISCO, ÉVORA (5)
Another striking building is the Church of the Convent of St. Francis of Évora, also known as an integral part of the appropriately named Convent of Gold. It is one of the most important examples of late Portuguese Gothic. The church of the Convent of St. Francis has a totally original layout and an uncommon scale for the time.

CAPELA E CONVENTO DO BOM JESUS, HERDADE DA MITRA, VALVERDE (9)
Built between 1544 and 1550, the little chapel of Valverde is considered one of the jewels of the Portuguese Renaissance.

CAPELA DOS OSSOS (CHAPEL OF BONES) IN THE CONVENTO DE S. FRANCISCO DE ÉVORA (6)
Established in the 17th century, as a Baroque sensibility began to emerge, its allegorical sense provides a spectacular display of the brevity of Life.

CROMLEQUE DO XAREZ, MONSARAZ (11)
A quadrangular cromelech - a great rarity. In all, it comprises 55 menhirs.

CERVEÇO DE BOSQUES, VILA VIÇOSA (12)
Vila Viçosa, seat of the Bragança dynasty. Under the aegis of Teodósio I (1505-1563), the layout of the Palace was modified: the “manor house” became a Palace in the manner of the most up-to-date European models. It is a case study, since two different concepts of space are at play: the mediaeval (or late mediaeval) in the Reguengo Palace, and the “modern” or Italian fashion, in the extensive, monumental stately façade facing the square.

CASTELO DE ESTREMOZ, ESTREMOZ (13)
The Tower of the Castle of Estremoz, part of the pentagonal wall of the castle and about 27 metres high, is an aesthetically and technologically advanced mediaeval military building.

FORTALEZA DE ÉVORAMONTE, ESTREMOZ (14)
The powerful Palace of Évoramonte has the look of an artillery platform. It is an imposing building of plastered masonry, square in design, with four bastions or semicircular towers at the angles.

C- 38º50'30'' N; 7º35'31'' W
C- 38º46'18'' N; 7º42'57'' W
C- 38º46'56'' N; 7º25'18'' W
C- 38º34'21'' N; 7º54'18'' W
C- 38º34'16'' N; 7º54'21'' W
C- 38º34'07'' N; 7º54'31'' W
C- 38º46'56'' N; 7º25'18'' W
C- 38º46'56'' N; 7º25'18'' W
C- 38º46'56'' N; 7º25'18'' W
MURALHAS ABALUARDADAS DE ELVAS (FORTIFIED WALLS OF ELVAS) (15)

The urgency to defend the kingdom to reaffirm its independence from Spain led to the strengthening of the Portuguese borders. This is one of the best preserved bulwarked military enclosures in the whole of Europe. It is still largely intact, not having been absorbed by urban growth and preserving all its complementary buildings.

C- 38º53'00'' N; 7º09'46'' W

IGREJA DAS DOMÍNICAS, ELVAS (16)

The Dominican Church is a building of central layout, and a statement of the early Portuguese Renaissance. The originality of the building is enhanced by the uncertain, polychrome facing of “patterned tiles” that cover the walls and dome of the temple from top to bottom.

C- 38º52'50'' N; 7º09'50'' W

IGREJA DO CONVENTO DE S. DOMINGOS, ELVAS (17)

What remains today is the remarkable Convent Church, one of the purest examples of what is referred to as “Portuguese Mendicant Gothic”.

C- 38º52'45'' N; 7º09'36'' W

AQUEDUTO DA AMOREIRA, ELVAS (18)

The most monumental section is the Rossio de S. Francisco crossing, with over seven kilometres long.

C- 38º52'41'' N; 7º10'17'' W

FORTE DE SANTA LUZIA, ELVAS (19)

The layout of the Fort follows principles generally attributed to the “Dutch method”. Inside the fort, right in its central core and at an underground level, the old Chapel of Santa Luzia in the Gothic-Manueline style was preserved, serving as the garrison’s chapel. Here you can find also the Military Museum.

C- 38º52'52'' N; 7º09'51'' W

FORTE DE NOSSA SENHORA DA GRAÇA OR FORTE DE LIPPE, ELVAS (20)

This is a Vauban-type fortification that corresponds to the “arrival” of a type of fortification and also its demise. It has the typical star layout. Contrary to what the external profile hints at, inside the mount is an incredible maze of underground corridors, oval rooms and curved walls.

C- 38º34'21'' N; 7º34'26'' W
roads
FROM LISBON:
LISBON - SINTRA: A 5 – A 9 – A 16
LISBON - ÉVORA: A 2 – A 6
LISBON - ELVAS: A 2 – A 6
FROM MADRID:
MADRID - ELVAS: A 5 - A 6
MADRID - ÉVORA: A 5 - A 6
MADRID - LISBOA: A 5 - A 6 - A 2
MADRID - SINTRA: A 5 - A 6 - A 2 - A 16

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