

Lisbon, Portugal

The port in Lisbon is located in the center of the city with easy access to many historical sites, shopping, and eateries. The city has creative cobblestone streets, eccentric tilework ornamenting the buildings and streets that look a bit more like staircases. While the sights are walkable from the port, the terrain is steep; tuk tuks are the preferred method to sight see, buses aren't permitted in the historic area.

History

Lisbon is the capital and largest city of Portugal, with a population over 500,000. Lisbon is the second oldest European capital, after Athens, predating other capitals by centuries. Recent archaeology finds Iron Age peoples occupied the site from the 8th to 6th centuries BC.

Local Flavors

- Bacalhau - Codfish
- Ameijoas a bulhao pato - Clams with sauce
- Bifinas - Portuguese pork sandwich
- Sardinhas - sardines
- Cozida a Portuguesa - Portuguese mixed meat boil.
- Polvo a lagareiro - Octopus in olive oil.
- Queijo de azeitao - semi-soft cheese made from unpasteurized sheep's milk.
- Queijo Serra da Estrela - soft, yellow cheese made from sheep's milk.
- Caldo verde - soup made with chouriço sausage, shredded Portuguese cabbage, potatoes, onions, garlic, and olive oil.



Unique Animals

Animals unique to this region of Portugal are: Portuguese ibex, Red squirrel, Cantabrian brown bear, Egyptian vulture, Red deer, Black stork, Red fox, Pin-tailed whydah, Common genet, European badger, European wildcat, Griffon vulture, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, Portuguese viper and the Common chameleon.



Unique Plants

Plants unique to this region of Portugal are: Florist kalanchoe, Tree aeonium, and the Bigleaf hydrangea.



Language

Portuguese, English is also widely spoken.

Currency

The Euro.

Driving

Your US driver's license is valid, drive on the right side of the road.

Sites to See

- Belém Tower - 16th century fortification served as a ceremonial point of embarkation and disembarkation for explorers.
- Jerónimos Monastery - Erected in the early 1500s, it's the most prominent example of the late Portuguese Gothic Manueline style of architecture in Lisbon.
- Pantheon - Built as the Church of Saint Engratia in 1682, and became the National Pantheon in 1916. The large dome was only completed in 1966, making it the monument that took the longest to complete in all of Portugal. There's an expression in Portugal for something that takes forever: "a job like St. Engratia." (Visitors are able to climb the dome and also take in the views from the rooftop.)
- São Jorge Castle - This site on Castle Hill has been occupied since the 8th century BC, fortifications date back to the 2nd century BC.
- Lisbon Cathedral - Cathedral of Saint Mary Major more often called Lisbon Cathedral is the oldest church in the city, built in 1147.
- Santa Justa Lift - an elevator, in the historic center of Lisbon. Placed at the end of Rua de Santa Justa, it connects the lower street of Baixa with the higher street of Largo do Carmo.
- Monument of the Discoveries - Completed in June 1940, the Monument to the Discoveries represents an idealization of Portuguese exploration.
- Carmo Convent - founded in 1389, after an earthquake in 1755, the building was abandoned; currently the ruins are used as an archaeological museum.
- 25 de Abril Bridge - suspension bridge named for the date of the revolution.
- Marquis of Pombal Square - Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, 1st Marquis of Pombal, 1st Count of Oeiras, the prime-minister who ruled from 1750 to 1777.



Guided Tours

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