



Lisbon

WWW.ENCHANTEDWANDERINGSTRAVEL.COM



HISTORY



Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in western Europe. After the Celts settled in the region, it was found by the Phoenicians. They established a settlement called Ulissipo, which was then conquered by the Greeks and Carthaginians. In 205 BC, the Romans won the Second Punic War against the Carthaginians and occupied the city, calling it Olissipo. Ancient Lisbon was integrated into the Roman province of Lusitania, but when the Roman Empire collapsed, it was invaded by Germanic tribes and was controlled by the Kingdom of the Suebi until 585.

While there are archeological proofs that the area has been inhabited since 30-thousand years-ago, the city of Lisbon emerged as one of the most coveted-after cities from the shore of the Atlantic, such as when the Old World used to be configured. As legends maintain, Lisbon was founded by the Greek traveler and hero Ulysses, while returning from the Trojan War, its original name, Ulissipo or Olissipo, meaning "enchanted port." And, since all nations – from Phoenicians, Celts, and Romans to Arabs and even Spaniards – coveted after dominating the city, this was indeed an enchanted place.

In the Beginning

The first human inhabitants were probably the Neanderthals, who gradually became extinct about 30,000 years-ago when modern humans entered the Iberian Peninsula. During the Neolithic period, the region was inhabited by an unknown people who lived in farming communities near the coast.

In the first millennium, BC Celtic people started trickling into the Iberian Peninsula, settling northern and western Portugal around 700 BC. Dozens of citânias (fortified villages) popped up, such as the formidable Citânia de Briteiros. Further south, Phoenician traders, followed by Greeks and Carthaginians, founded coastal stations and mined metals inland.

Amália Rodrigues

Amália Rodrigues is a Portuguese fadista (fado singer) and actress. Known as the 'Rainha do Fado' ("Queen of Fado"), Rodrigues was instrumental in popularising fado worldwide and traveled internationally throughout her career. She became one of the most important figures during the genre's revival in the twentieth century and was a leading female fadista during her 50-year recording and stage career. Rodrigues remains an iconic figure and inspiration to other fado and famous music artists such as Madredeus, Dulce Pontes, Mariza, and Cristina Branco. As of 1999, she had sold over 30-million records worldwide. Amália remains the best-selling Portuguese artist in history.

Treaty of Lisbon

In 1580, when the Spanish Habsburgs took over administration of Portugal. For the next 60-years, the city was run by the dual Spanish-Portuguese throne, until the Portuguese Restoration War returned independence to Portugal. The revolution began with a coup organized by the city's nobility and was a significant milestone in the history of Lisbon. Final autonomy was ensured with the 1688 Treaty of Lisbon between the countries of Spain and Portugal.



MONEY

MONEY



The currency used in Portugal is the EURO, introduced in 1999. Since 2002, the former currency Portuguese Escudo is no longer available and replaced by the Euro currency. Notes come in seven different denominations: 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 euros.

There are eight coins: 2 and 1 euros, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, 1 cents.

Credit Cards

Many Portuguese shops, restaurants, and museums will accept international cards, especially in more touristy areas. American cards like Visa, Mastercard, and American Express are accepted in a majority of locations. Most major UK and Australian debit cards and credit cards will also be accepted.

Visitors from the USA

Visitors from the EU, Britain, Canada, and the US do not need a visa.



Debit Cards

If you're traveling to Portugal with a Visa or Mastercard on hand, you'll be covered almost everywhere in the country. You'll be good with an American Express card in some places, too.

ATM

Most bank branches in Portugal have automated cash points, Multibanco, as well as most supermarkets and the main shopping areas in most towns or cities. You'll also find ATMs at the airport as well as major Railway stations. Euronet cash machines can often be found outside shops and are widely available throughout Portugal. The Euronet machines don't charge for withdrawals; however, your home bank may still apply a charge.

If there's a charge for withdrawal and an option to pay the ATM fee in the local currency then always select this option. Dynamic currency (or DCC) allows you to always be able to see how much you're being charged in your home currency. However, paying in the local currency means your home bank is responsible for the conversion rate. Your home bank is more likely to charge you a favorable exchange rate than the ATMs operating in the bank. It might be tempting to convert the charge immediately using DCC, but it'll probably cost you more.

Like most European countries, ATMs in Portugal will accept credit and debit cards backed by Visa, Mastercard, Eurocard, and Maestro. Many shops will also apply a €10 limit, and a lot of small bars will only accept cash. It's wise to make sure you always have a little cash on you to be safe.

Multibanco and Euronet ATMs are widely available. Multibanco ATMs have a €200 withdrawal limit, but you can repeat the withdrawal twice in one day. However, your home banks withdrawal limit will still apply. If you do end up using a Euronet ATM, your bank has higher limits for you. Then you may be able to withdraw more than €200 each time.

Always make sure you tell your home bank that you'll be traveling, so they don't put a stop on your card due to suspicious behavior. Many banks cautiously block cards if they aren't expecting foreign activity.

HELPFUL INFO

Climate

Lisbon and its metropolitan area have a hot dry subtropical or a typical Mediterranean climate with short and very mild winters and warm summers.

Electricity

In Portugal, the standard voltage is 230-V, and the frequency is 50-Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Portugal if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 to 240-V (as is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). The power plugs and sockets are of type F.

Technology & Communication

Even if everyone does not yet well know it, the connected travelers always travel with their pocket WiFi. It is the best solution to any avoid data roaming in Portugal. Portable WiFi provides constant WiFi access everywhere in Portugal. It will allow you to avoid all the last minute calls or webpage check with the call that may cost you a lot in voice Roaming or data roaming.

In Portugal, all the biggest cities, and almost 90% of the population is covered with 4G LTE. Using a Mobile WiFi in Portugal will then allow you to remain always connected with high-speed internet (4G LTE) almost everywhere. Portable WiFi for Portugal will enhance the travel experience.

Portable WiFi rental for Portugal is always a great solution for tourists. The device offers a great data package and the highest Internet speed you can obtain, which is 4G LTE.

Moreover, the travel network providers will generally be based locally, which means that travelers can access local prices, which are always cheaper in Portugal. But your mobile network providers have to negotiate from abroad and cannot guarantee you new rates.

The primary mobile network providers in Portugal are Vodafone, TMN, and Optimus.



Infrastructure & Transport

Transport in Portugal is well-developed and diversified. Portugal has a 68,732-km (42,708-mi) network of roads, of which almost 3,000-km (1,864-mi) are part of a 44 motorways system. Brisa is the largest highway management, the concessionaire. With 89,015-km², Continental Portugal has four international airports located near Lisbon, Porto, Faro, and Beja. The national railway system service is provided by Comboios de Portugal. The major seaports are located in Leixões, Aveiro, Figueira da Foz, Lisbon, Setúbal, Sines, and Faro.

In Case Of An Emergency

In Portugal, the national emergency number is 112. If you call this number, you can be connected to the firefighters, police, and ambulances, so it is usually the very first number that people use in case of emergency.



Language

The language spoken in Lisbon is Portuguese, but English is widely spoken by all people who work within the tourism industry.

LGBT Travel

Like most major cities, Lisbon hosts an annual Pride Parade (Lisbon Marcha do Orgulho LGBT) which takes place every year in June. The march itself is separate to the Pride Village Party (Arraial Lisboa Pride), which usually takes place a week later.

Religion

The most predominant religion in Portugal is Christianity, mainly Catholicism. Portugal has no official religion, though, in the past, the Catholic Church was the state religion.



Getting There

There are many ways to get to Lisbon, and all of them are easy to use. With the airport just a few minutes from the center of the city, stations with international rail links and various ports for cruise ships, there are many options for getting to the capital of Portugal. If you prefer to come by car, there are excellent roads from various points north and south along the border with Spain.

Air

Land at the Lisbon international airport which is just a mere 7-km from the center of the city. Served by the leading international airlines and only 3-hours away from the main European capitals, it is very easy to reach.

Train

It is just as easy to reach the center of the city. National and international trains arrive every day at Santa Apolónia station, which is very close to all the traditional neighborhoods and Terreiro do Paço. But if you would like to add a unique architectural experience to your arrival, get off at Gare do Oriente, whose Calatrava-designed lines impress even those who see it every day.

Sea

Those arriving by sea have one of the best views of Lisbon – from the river – and can moor in 3 different places, all near the center. If you come by cruise ship, you can dock at Alcântara, Rocha Conde de Óbidos or Santa Apolónia. If you arrive by yacht, there are several marinas as you sail up the river.

Car

The best ways to enter Lisbon are via the A1 and A2, which both have national and international connections along their course. The landscape is beautiful, and mobility around the region compensates the long hours of driving. After all, there is more to Lisbon than just the city.



Driving

The historic center of Lisbon has high volumes of traffic, and it is often easier to avoid and catch the metro or a taxi. Taxis and Uber in Lisbon are surprisingly cheap (ensure the meter is used) and can often be the most convenient way to travel around Lisbon.

Traffic drives on the right-hand side of the road and the national speed limit of Portugal is 90-km-per-hour. This is reduced to 50-km-per-hour for towns or built-up areas and increases to 120-km-per-hour on freeways or expressways.

While driving in Lisbon always carry all of your travel documents (driver's license and insurance documents) as the police can request these in the unlikely event of an incident. In Portugal, seat belts are legal and must be worn by the driver and all passengers. Drinking limits are very tight, so it is best not to drink and drive.

THE EXPERIENCE

Culture

The ancient Europeans both highly praised Lisbon for its geographical position on the banks of the Tagus River and its fertile soil. It became a battlefield for the Phoenicians, Greeks, and Carthaginians but was taken over by the Romans in 205 BC.

The legendary Moors, who invaded in 714, resisted repeated Christian attacks for 400-years but were not finally expelled until 1147, when King Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, took a hand. In that same year, he demolished the city's main Moorish mosque and ordered a cathedral to be built on the same site.

Lisbon became the official capital of Portugal in 1255. In the 15th and 16th centuries, Lisbon boomed as the epicenter of the vast Portuguese empire after explorer Vasco da Gama found a sea route to India. The magnificent Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, founded in the capital in 1501, is one of several monuments to Portugal's Great Age of Discovery still standing.

By the 1700s, Lisbon had become the center of international trade in gold, as well as spices, silks, and jewelry, but at 9.30 am on November 1st, 1755, everything changed when three major earthquakes hit the city, unleashing a devastating fire and tsunami.

Although as many as a third of Lisbon's 270,000 inhabitants died and much of the city was flattened, a massive rebuild, which created today's formal city grid system, was undertaken by the Marquis of Pombal just a short time later.

Today, Lisbon is a cultural haven with world-class music, opera, and ballet in abundance. The Portuguese Symphony Orchestra and Portuguese National Ballet Company are renowned throughout the world, as is the Gulbenkian Orchestra and Choir.

Bullfighting is a mainstay of traditional Portuguese culture, but unlike the Spanish version, the Portuguese matadors fight on horseback, and the bull is not killed in the ring.

Bucket List

- Walk through Alfama Neighbourhood
- Check out the views from São Jorge Castle
- Indulge in a little Queijo da Serra & Portuguese Wine Picnic
- Mingle with the Locals
- Visit the Local Markets
- Take in the view from Rua Augusta Arch
- Step Inside Jerónimos Monastery
- Take a day trip to Sintra & Cascais
- Eat yourself stupid at Pastéis de Belém
- Visit Belem Tower
- Ride the streets in a sidecar
- Step Inside Lisbon Cathedral
- Visit Carmo Convent
- Visit the Lisbon Aquarium
- Ride the tram lines
- Step inside the National tile museum
- Visit Praca do Comercio



Family Travel Highlights

HippoTrip
Castelo De Sao Jorge
Telecabine Lisboa
Jardim Zoologico
Fragata D. Fernando II E Gloria
Hill TramCar Tour
Quinta Da Regaliera
Ocenario De Lisboa
Jamor Adventure Park

Tourism Authority

The Lisbon Tourism Association – Visitors & Convention Bureau was established in 1997, and its main objectives are:

- Sustained tourism development in its area of intervention
- The promotion of Lisbon as a tourist destination in leisure articles
- The promotion of Lisbon as a venue for congresses, fairs and as an incentive trip destination
- The provision of Information and support for visiting tourists

Foods To Try

Pastéis de Nata

Bifana Sandwiches

Bacalhau

Sardinhas (Sardines)

Caldo Verde

Piri Piri Chicken

Chouriço

Alheira

Azeitão Cheese

Ginjinha

Drinks To Try

Ginjinha

Vinho Verde

Port



Photography Hot Spots

Bairro Alto

Ascensor da Bica

Santa Justa Lift

Alfama

Miradouro das Portas do Sol

Castelo de São Jorge

Rua Augusta Arch

Belem Tower

Souvenirs To Buy

Ceramic Tiles: Azulejos

Cork Accessories

Port Wine

Olive Oil

Portuguese Desserts

Silver and Gold Jewellery

Ceramics

Fado Merchandise

