



LISBOA

Legend has it that Lisboa was founded by Ulysses however more recent findings suggest that Lisboa was most likely founded by the Phoenicians and started out called as “Allis Ubbo” which means “enchanted port”.

Regardless of who founded Lisboa, the biggest influence were the Moors and the influences are visible in the structure of the city that after all was ruled by the Moors for 450 years.

In the 12th century the Christians *reconquered* the city but it was not until the mid-13th century that Lisboa became the country’s capital.

With the beginning of the Portuguese Age of Discoveries, Lisboa enriched as a spice and jewellery trade centre.

The breakthrough for Portuguese expansion came in 1498 when Vasco da Gama discovered the sea route to India. This was indeed the beginning of a golden age, characterized by the Manueline architectural style named after King Manuel I, with its typical decorative use of maritime motifs.

The prosperous city suffered an enormous setback on November 1, 1755 when the city centre was almost completely destroyed in an earthquake. It was quickly rebuilt and the central commercial area we see today still retains much of this layout.

Over the centuries the city has changed, but the last few years it has embraced the boom of Technology and Tourism and prepared itself for the future.

Lisboa held an enormously successful international EXPO in 1998 and European Football Championship in 2004.

Combining this to the mediterranean climate, colours, gastronomy, history, diverse culture life and the breathtaking landscape in the surrounding, Lisboa has achieved the second place in the “Best European City Destination” of 2015.

Lisboa is an historic capital, a potpourri of unusual character and charm, where 800 years of cultural influences mingle with modern trends and life styles creating spectacular contrasts.

Richly captivating Lisboa Invites You!

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Not to miss in Lisbon

Baixa (downtown) - the busy financial and shopping area.

Praça do Comércio, the magnificent «Black Horse» Square with its Triumphal Arch facing the River Tagus, the Cathedral, the City Hall, the Carmo Convent, etc.

Alfama - charming ancient Moorish quarter with narrow winding streets and picturesque white washed houses. On top of the hill is the St. Jorge's Castle from where you have fantastic view over the city and the river Tagus.

Bairro Alto - a typical "quarter" in the city centre where the nightlife is lively and where you will find some of the more famous Fado houses, where Fado (the traditional "blues" of Portugal) is performed.

Belém - the westernmost part of the city, known for its UNESCO world heritage monuments and other important and emblematic buildings (Tower of Belém, Jerónimos Monastery, Discovery's Monument, Cultural Centre, Royal Coaches Museum, Ajuda Royal Palace and the Presidential Palace).

This area is also appreciated by the local inhabitants for its leisure and recreational areas. It was from the Belém river shore, near its graceful Tower (1515), that the ships of Vasco da Gama and other famous explorers set sail.

Parque das Nações (Nations Park) – this was the site of the world Expo'98, leaving its legacy of avant-garde architecture along the river Tagus to Lisboa. The area is today a residential area including some spectacular constructions such as the Vasco da Gama Tower, the old oil refinery Galp Tower, the Pavilhão de Portugal (designed by the awarded Portuguese architect Siza Vieira), the Oceanarium and the superb "Atlantico Dome" - Lisbon's multipurpose hall for sports, shows, meetings and exhibitions.

Mini Cruise Tagus River - A mini cruise is a real must as its offers a complete view over the city. Centuries of history will emerge from its monuments scattered along the hills always with a window open to the river.





General traveller's information

Official Language

The official language is Portuguese.

Currency

The unit of currency in Portugal is the Euro €.

Sales Tax

Sales tax (VAT) is included in prices quoted. For non EU residents, tax free shopping schemes are available in many shops, which give substantial savings to visitors.

Climate

Due to the influence of the Atlantic Ocean, Lisboa has a pleasant climate throughout the year. The agreeable temperatures in the summer months are an open invitation for a walk by the river, or to spend an afternoon in one of the many street cafés to be found all over the city. Although the temperatures may fall somewhat in the autumn and winter months, sunshine is almost always a constant feature.

		JAN/MAR	APR/JUN	JUL/SEP	OCT/DEC
Air	°C	17.1	21.8	26.3	17.2
Temperature	°F	62.8	71.2	79.3	53.0
Sea	°C	14.9	17.5	19.5	16.1
Temperature	°F	58.8	63.5	67.1	60.0

Time Zone

The time zone in Portugal is GMT/UTC and GMT/UTC +1 in summer.

Electric Current

Voltage: 220/380 volts at a frequency of 50 Hertz. All sockets follow European standards. To use American-type plugs, a 220-volt transformer should be used together with an adapter plug.

Accessibility

Lisboa International Airport (Portela) is located close to the city centre (7 km), about 15-20 minutes transfer to most of the centrally located hotels. The Airport is served by daily direct flights operated by the traditional air lines as well as by many of the low cost companies operating in Europe.

The Lisboa Underground (Metro) has a station just outside the arrival hall. There is also an Airport shuttle bus (AeroBus) with several stops in the city centre, every 30 minutes (last stop: Cais do Sodré).

Public Transportation

The joint fleet of the two public transportation companies Carris (buses and trams) and Metro (underground) covers the entire city with regular bus and tram routes as well as underground lines.

Buses and Trams Website: <http://carris.transporteslisboa.pt/en/home/>

Metro Website: <http://www.metrolisboa.pt/eng/>



Taxis

The city is served by 3.500 taxis and a taxi ride from the airport to the city centre should cost between 8.00 € and 15.00 €. The usual urban taxi fares are:

- Day (06.00h to 21.00h) - 3.25 € + 0.10 €/km;
- Night, weekend and holidays: 3.90 € + 0.10 €/km;

Taxis are widely used by the locals, and in comparison to the taxi fares in other countries, the Lisboa taxis are still to be considered a rather inexpensive means of transportation.

T: +351 214 660 101 / +351 214 659 500

Health Requirements

With the exception of vaccination certificates for persons coming from areas where yellow fever is endemic, at the present there are no special health requirements.

Medical Care

Clinics and hospitals provide 24 hrs emergency service. The national emergency phone number is 112.

Working Hours

Buses: 24 hours (everyday)

Underground: 06:30 – 01:00 (everyday)

Banks: 08:30 – 15:00 (Monday to Friday)

Shopping Centres: 10:00 – 24:00 (everyday)

Shops: 09:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 19:00 (Monday to Friday) | 09:00 – 19:00 (Saturday)

Embassies: 09:00 – 15:00 (Monday to Friday)

Post Offices: 08:30 – 18:30 (Monday to Friday)

Pharmacies: 09:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 19:00 (Monday to Friday) → for afterhours' service please consult www.farmaciasdeservico.net

Meal times: 12:00 – 14:00 (Lunch) | 20:00 – 22:00pm (Dinner)

Hotel Check in/out Policy

Normal check in time at hotels is 14.00h. The established check out time is 12.00h. Should you need guaranteed occupancy before 14.00h on the day of your arrival, the previous night should be reserved.

Gratification

The gratification is optional, but usually we give 10% in taxis, restaurants and cafeterias.

