

## Lisbon

Portuguese culture can be traced back to prehistoric times, reflecting a rich legacy from Roman and Moorish invasions. Archaeological remains show prehistoric cave paintings at Escorial, the Roman township of Conimbriga, the Temple of Diana in Évora and the typical Moorish architecture of such southern towns as Olhão and Tavira.

Flemish, French and Italian influences have enriched Portugal's arts and Portuguese discoverers introduced the Orient to their home. Brazil's gold and jewels lit up the Baroque era. Evidence of Lisbon's rich historic past is evident in its varied architecture that can be found throughout the city.



The Castle of São Jorge (English: Castle of Saint George) is the Castle of Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, located in the highest hill of the historic center of the city. It is one of the main historical and tourist sites of the city, with archaeological research showing human occupation existing there at least from the 6th century BC.

The Jeronimos Monastery (Hieronymites Monastery) and the nearby Belem Tower were classified as UNESCO World Heritage monuments in 1983. The magnificent monastery built around 1450 is Vasco de Gama's final resting place. A symbol of the Age of Discovery, the Belem Tower was built in the early 16th century and is located at the entrance to Lisbon's harbour.

Lisbon is the capital and largest city in Portugal. The Lisbon region is the wealthiest region in Portugal, well above the European Union's GDP per capita average - it produces 45% of the Portuguese GDP. It is also the political center of the country, as seat of government and residence of the Head of State.



Discover treasures in the various museums in Lisbon such as the Glubenkian Museum and the National Museum of Ancient Art.

Take a charming ride around Lisbon and its hills on one of the 1930's trams or funiculars. No visit is complete without travelling through the old quarters and picturesque neighbourhoods.

If you would like to take a day trip and have a car, you can visit Cascais village and then drive to Guincho beach. There are very good seaside restaurants serving grilled fish and other seafood dishes and nice wines. The center of the village is a worthwhile visit. The beach is famous for surfing and windsurfing. .

Another day trip is to Sintra, a famous a picturesque village, another UNESCO World Heritage site. It has narrow

streets and beautiful old houses. You can also visit Palacio da Pena e Castelo dos Mouros. There are good hotels and typical restaurants. Try the famous queijadas de sintra.

Upcoming Events in Lisbon

### **Events in Lisbon**

#### **Aveiro Festas da Ria**

The Festas da Ria (Festival of the Estuary), should not be missed if you are in central Portugal in July or August, when the city of Aveiro comes to life. Given its vital role in the life of the region, the Ria estuary has a Festival specially dedicated to it. The high point of the event is the regatta of seaweed boats - colorful seaweed fishing vessels that are dedicated to catching seaweed vegetation from the estuary - which constitutes one of the local population's traditional economic activities in the area.

The event's program also includes performances, exhibitions, radical sports, and handicrafts and gastronomy exhibitions.

[www.rotadaluz.pt](http://www.rotadaluz.pt) 

#### **Moda Lisboa/Estoril**

Moda Lisboa/Estoril is a fashion event, which takes place in Cascais in March and October.

Here you will have the chance to have a look at the main Portuguese fashion designers, as well as discover the younger ones.

Where: Casino Estoril.

[www.modalisboa.pt](http://www.modalisboa.pt) 

#### **Portugal Half Marathon**

The Portugal Half Marathon takes place around Nations Park in Lisbon each September with a mini marathon (five miles long) for the less fit.

Formerly known as the Lisbon Half Marathon (there are two, one in March and one in September), the September half marathon is now known as the Portugal Half Marathon to avoid confusion. It takes place at the opposite end of the city from the March one, starting on the Vasco da Gama Bridge.

When: 28 Sep 2008 (annual)

Where: Nations' Park

Opening Hours: 10.30am

[www.portugal-half-marathon.net](http://www.portugal-half-marathon.net) 

#### **Festival Musidanças**

During November, Lisbon's French-Portuguese Institute sways to the music of Festival Musidanças. Music, dance, food, traditional crafts and painting from Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) countries draw crowds from all over the capital.

Highlights in 2008 included performances by Guto Pires, Terranaçom, Braima Galissa and FernandoTerra, among many others.

When: Nov - Dec 2008 (annual)

Where: Institut Franco-Portugais

[www.musidancas.com](http://www.musidancas.com) 

### **International Interior Design Exhibition**

The Feira Internacional de Lisboa hosts the International Interior Design Exhibition (Intercasa), showcasing the latest trends in decorating, home textiles, furniture and lighting.

The exhibition is divided into various sections focusing on the commercial and industrial sectors, digital exhibits, household appliances, kitchen and bathroom designs, and audio and video in the home.

When: 4 - 12 Oct 2008 (annual)

Where: Feira Internacional de Lisboa

Opening Hours: Daily 10am-8pm

Photos and information courtesy of:

[www.portugalvirtual.pt](http://www.portugalvirtual.pt) 

[www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) 

[www.golisbon.com](http://www.golisbon.com) 

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