



## LISBON

### PT1 City Centre Private Tour

In a city that many far-off cultures have influenced over time, there is still a village feel in each historic neighbourhood.

On foot in the part of the town we will visit today, it is possible to discover a few of the main points of the Portuguese capital - museums, monuments, and breathtaking views.



First, starting the morning right from the top: from the walls of Castelo de São Jorge (São Jorge Castle), a view over the entire city, the other hills, the Tagus, and the rooftops. It is a serene place to savour Lisbon, to watch this city for the first time, from the top of this stronghold conquered by D. Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, from the Moors in 1147.

As you walk down the slope, catch the 28 tram opposite the Portas do Sol viewpoint, to pass (and stop) at the mythical Lisbon's Cathedral Sé de Lisboa. It's a historic building with a Romanesque design, founded where there was once a mosque and where you can currently visit the Museu do Tesouro (Treasury Museum) and the cloisters. Returning to route 28, we head in the Downtown direction, an area of the Lisbon map that is perfect for walking. Heading up towards Chiado, it's time for lunch. Whether at a pavement café or a more exclusive restaurant, there's a wide and varied choice.

Rua Augusta is a pedestrian-only street that has lots of shops, cafés and restaurants. It is the main route leading to the river. In a building that houses a bank, no 96, you can see the foundations of the city, the remains of the ancient Phoenician and Roman city, in the Archaeological Centre [Núcleo Arqueológico] of Rua dos Correeiros. In the end, climb to the top of Arco da Rua Augusta, the Arch – the view over the downtown area and River Tejo is wonderful.



Passing under the Triumphal Arch, you will find yourself in one of the most beautiful squares, Praça do Comércio. The residence of the Kings of Portugal was here during the Age of the Discoveries and, on the right-hand side, in Ribeira das Naus were the port warehouses and the beach where the ships were built. This is the great entrance hall to the city, where you can spend some quality time near the river, on a terrace or strolling along the riverside. In the Lisbon Story Centre, you can have a good introduction to the history of the city. Amongst the many trendy restaurants, the historic Martinho da Arcada, frequented by the great Portuguese poet Fernando Pessoa, is still there.



### PT2 West Side Private Tour

This side of Lisbon is known as the Lisbon of the Discoveries, a historical period that is of great importance for Portugal.

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Belém was a popular neighbourhood, a busy harbour from which the ships and caravels set out on their great Atlantic voyages. Ships, oars, sails and ropes were part of the day-to-day bustle and the sailors would pray for divine protection in a small chapel dedicated to Saint Mary, before heading off to faraway destinations.

Belém is still an important district today, but for other reasons. Several monuments, museums and a large landscaped area beside the river make it a very pleasant place for a stroll.



Two of Lisbon's most emblematic monuments are here, the Jerónimos Monastery, on the site of the former chapel of Santa Maria, and the Tower of Belém.

These two jewels are worthy representatives of the Manueline style and are classified as World Heritage. You can see the ringed sphere of King Manuel I, who had them built, and a number of marine motifs, ropes, plants and even fantastic animals. The Monastery was built with 5% of the value of the spices brought back from the Orient. They included pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, which are part of Portuguese cuisine.

### PT3 Parque das Nações – the modern Lisbon Private Tour



It's worth setting a day for visiting the Parque das Nações, in the eastern part of Lisbon. It is an area of modern architecture, excellent for walking, cycling or skateboarding and spending some quality cultural and leisure time.

This was an old run-down industrial area that stretched for more than five kilometres along the River Tagus but was completely rebuilt to host the Lisbon Universal Exhibition of 1998 (Expo 98). Buildings and amenities of great quality were designed and later integrated into the



urban fabric of the city after the end of the event, thus creating the most modern area of the city.

One imminent landmark is the Oriente Station. Designed by the renowned Spanish architect, Santiago Calatrava, the complex structure of vertical lines is reminiscent of Gothic arches. Continue to the Portugal Pavilion, designed by Álvaro Siza Vieira in collaboration with Eduardo Souto de Moura, two of the most prominent Portuguese architects. Its structure is based on the idea of a sheet of paper sitting on two bricks and went from drawing board to reality using an impressive construction in pre-stressed concrete in the form of a visor. Right next door is the Atlantic Pavilion, designed by Regino Cruz. While its outer appearance resembles a spaceship or a marine animal, the wooden structure that supports the roof evokes a 16<sup>th</sup>-century ship.



Another space you simply must visit is the Lisbon Oceanarium, one of the largest in Europe, designed by Peter Chermayeff. The various marine environments on the planet are recreated so accurately that they almost seem real, and they surround a gigantic central tank populated by the most diverse species.

With every step in unique Lisbon, there's always something extraordinary to marvel at. A gorgeous building more interesting than the last, a particular historical event, a colourful street or a pleasant square, a beautiful shop or a lovely "café", restaurants with fantastic food and wine tasting, or the breathtaking views of the many belvederes of Lisbon.

These are some of the ingredients of the Portugal Dive Lisbon Private Tours.

But visiting Lisbon also means enjoying great food and fantastic wine. Therefore, we have included in this itinerary two fabulous dining experiences.

We will put together an event trying to emulate the typical Portuguese lunch or dinner:



enthusiastic people, and lots of discussions – maybe about the diving days we will have the following days – around a wine and cheese table in a historic Lisbon neighbourhood.

The last night we will go to a Fado Restaurant, an opportunity to listen to sounds that evoke the Portuguese soul. Fado is melancholic, with mourning voices expressing longing accompanied by an acoustic and a Portuguese guitar.

A national symbol included in UNESCO's list of World's Intangible Cultural Heritage, beyond the music, Fado is a sensory



experience, a journey through the history, art and gastronomy of Portugal. One more experience you'll never forget.

### Visiting Lisbon, in a nutshell



You may love Lisbon for the monuments, ideal conditions for the practice of sport or delicious gastronomy. Even for all these reasons and more. One thing is sure: all the time in the world won't be enough to enjoy all to do and see in the capital. Make your choice, and let Lisbon blow your heart away. Some of Lisbon's most popular attractions are not included in the habitual compilations of the top 10 tourist spots, and we will use the time we have to show you the best.

Despite the region having plenty to offer that goes beyond what you will find just in the city, the city itself creates unforgettable moments in unexpected places: for example, the romance of catching tram 28 and getting a glimpse of the inside of the houses that decorate the climb up to Graça. Or the unique feeling of arriving at Cascais by train, having travelled along the coast beside the mouth of the Tagus, although this one is mentioned here only to tease you and for you to know that you must come back.