About Lisbon

Set over sprawling hills and close to beautiful sandy beaches, Lisbon is Western Europe's oldest city, and is the largest city in Portugal. A thriving centre for culture and commerce, Lisbon is often flaunted as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Portuguese culture is an incredible amalgamation of foreign influences, from the extensive expeditions the Portuguese explorers made all over the world, to the Moorish and Roman invasions. In the streets of the city, travellers will be spellbound by the busy and energy of Lisbon, from the artists performing, businessmen bustling in their suits, vendors selling hot chestnuts, or children playing in the parks. The city itself is littered with historical landmarks, from the Baroque architecture to restored palaces, castles and regal churches.

5 top facts about Lisbon

Graffiti

Lisbon has a great deal of street art, with walls, floors and buildings demanding your attention. The city even has tours dedicated to street art and graffiti – take a tour and there's a good chance it could lead you to the unexpected.

Seven hills

Like Rome, Lisbon was built on seven hills, and is known as cidade das sete colinas – the city of seven hills.

Baixa

Baixa in downtown Lisbon is the city's main shopping and banking district. The ornate city centre is flagged by tiled art deco shop fronts, pastry shops and tailors. The baroque streets are named according to the shopkeepers and craftsman who traded in the area.

Custard

Pasteis de nata is a Lisbon delicacy. The sweet custard tart is reproduced throughout the city, but according to locals there is only one place to get them: Casa Pastéis de Belém was the very first bakery to sell the pastry and is still open today.

Guinness World Records

The Church of Santa Engrácia in Lisbon has entered the Guinness World Records as having the longest construction time of any church. Work began in the 17th century and was only completed in 1966.

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