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**Travel Around Lisbon And Portugal And Exploring Its Beauty**

**By Rob Carlton**

Lisbon, Portugal and its history has been written about on so many pages, its monuments have

been described in many different ways so that it gives you the feeling that time has never passed, not only because its architecture has been kept intact even though it was terribly hit by an earthquake in 1755, but also because the people themselves are patient and not in a hurry.

On flying into the airport and getting comfortably installed in your hotel, pull out your easy readable map and begin at the Plaza do Comercio, on the River Tagus. From there, you can go towards the water and the port or into the city to visit the austere church and the history opening up before your eyes. So now it is about time that someone gave curious knowledge seekers a curious view of Lisbon.

Everywhere you go, you are surrounded by music. In the streets you can hear the music from the birds, when shopping the piped in music accompanies you, so why not delve into the music which is so typical of Portugal and in particular, Lisbon with the Fado.

**Discover Lisbon's Heart – Fado**

Fado, which means destiny, is thought to have come from the nostalgic ballads sung on long journeys or from the Lundum songs of the black slaves from Brazil. It was usually sung in brothels or not very recommendable pubs because its lyrics talked about inner forbidden passions. But thanks to Amalia Rodrigues, who has been compared to such well known singer like Ella Fitzgerald or Edith Piaf, the Fado has become internationally known.

Amalia used poems from the greatest Portuguese poets, starting from the anthology of medieval music up to now, wearing the classical dress and black shawl to add the finishing touch. The Fado, initially accompanied by the classical guitar and by the twelve string lute and sometimes by the saxophone, is an intense sound with so much feeling behind it. Who would pass up the opportunity to spend a night lit by candlelight, soaking up history through music?

And one may ask themselves, how do we know where to go to listen to the best of Fado? In Lisbon there are quite a lot of places. Go to the tourism office and get a good street map of Lisbon. Then start

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with The House of Fado and Guitar, a sort of mini–museum, so you can read the history and come into contact with it for the first time. It is found in one of the most typical neighborhoods called Alfama. There, in Alfama, if you just roam about the streets after dinner, the sound will reach your ears without you even having to go look for it. Or even better, visit the house where Amalia Rodrigues lived and discover her dresses and jewellery. Or head to the Neighbourhood da Mouraria, old Moorish area of Lisbon and the cradle of Severa, the first mythical Fado singer. And before you go sightseeing in other parts of Portugal like Porto, Fatima, Faro or Albufeira, go into a record shop and nose around looking for the latest Fado singer such as Camane or Misia.

After this enriching experience, start out from Lisbon, to sightsee its surrounding towns. You hit on the River Duero and the city of Porto or sometimes called Oporto. This zone and the Mino River Valley are the most fertile vineyards where the renown Oporto wine is produced. From spring until the fall, when the grapes are collected, the landscape is like a canvas painting done in all the hues of green

imaginable. Whatever the weather may be at the time of your visit, a few tours to the wine cellars with a sample taste of the most distinctive wines is well welcomed. And if you are fortunate enough for a visit to The Azores Islands (

<http://www.lisbon-and-portugal.com/azores/azores-islands.html>

) or to

Madeira, do the same and try their delicious wine. From the 16th century sailors had used these islands as a resting place on their long journeys. During their stay, they of course enjoyed the local wine, almost freshly squeezed. So when they set sail, they loaded up with wine but realized that the wine had a better flavor after having been through warmer weather and this heating process has added greatly to the whole complicated process in producing what is called vintage wine.

So other than monuments, you can see that a good glass of wine and Fado music can make your trip to Lisbon a memorable one.

Robert Carlton publishes for

<http://www.lisbon-and-portugal.com>

a free website with resources and

infos on Lisbon and Portugal. He also published articles on the history of Portugal

<http://www.lisbon-and-portugal.com/travel/history-of-portugal.html>

and various other Lisbon related

topics.

## Amazing Portugal

By Johnathan Bakers

The western part of the Iberian Peninsula, the part bathed by the Atlantic Ocean is the traditional country of Portugal. Long ago, the territory between the northern part of Portugal and Spain were not very well defined and the cultural aspects were very similar. But then the Castrena culture made its first appearance with grass thatched huts in a round formation in the north and then the Romans took over, separating the two territories. From the beginning of the 5th century Braga was named capital of Portugal, then it was invaded by the Visigods and finally, as almost all the Iberian Peninsula, the Arabs moved in, leaving a tremendous influence, especially their architecture, culture and was of governing.

But all this is quite old, and even though it is interesting to know, when visiting Portugal (

<http://www.lisbon-and-portugal.com/travel/portugal.html>

)and its capital city Lisbon, many people are

looking for actual entertainment and fun places to visit along with historical ones. Lisbon, Portugal's Proud Capital In Lisbon, where the majority of the tourist start their visit after having arrived at the airport, there are various excursions to do around the city. There are museums of all kinds: – Museum do Chiado which is located in one of the most enchanting areas of Lisbon. Here you can find Portuguese and French Art. It is open on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and all other days except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Science Museum which is located at the main entrance to the Science University has as its principal objective to be education with over 60 interactive themes using physics, chemistry and maths. It is open from monday to friday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 2 to 5 and not open on Sundays. – Museum do Carmo which is installed in the ruins of the monastery and has an excellent archaeological collection from many different periods. – National Museum of Ancient Art which is found in the area called Belem near the river in the Palace of onde Alvor. It is the most important museum in Portugal having 65 halls taking in a lot of Portuguese painters and sculptors and all the combinations that the portuguese made when it had all its colonies. Extremely interesting and takes time to see. Open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday, and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sundays are free.

And Lisbon is also known for its open air entertainment like: – Eduardo VII Park found right next to the Marques de Pombal Square. This park was created to commemorate the English King Eduardo VII's visit to Lisbon in 1903. The Gym Pavillion Carlos Lopez is beautifully decorated on the outside with tiles. And the Estufa Fria ( greenhouse) where you can find all kinds of plants from all over the world which were brought to lisbon and have been adapted to the climate change there. – Tapada da Ajuda is a 200 acre park once used for hunting but now there are various activities like a children's park, recreation area and an Astronomy Observatory . – Botanical Gardens which was founded in 1873 and considered one of the best in all Europe. There are over 2,500 species including palm and banana trees. Being as it is situated on a hill, the different level connected by steps makes its beauty even more enhancing and delightful for the eye to see. It is open in winter from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and in summer from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Portugal's nice lodging Lisbon needs quite a few days to visit it so if you have need some ideas on hotels, here you go. The

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Four Seasons–Ritz is the tops with beauty gardens and a great view of Eduard VII Park. Or maybe Carlton palace Hotel which is a 19th century palace with tropical gardens. Coming down a little the Comfort Principe with a panoramic view restaurant and good service and quality. On the busy Ave. Liberdade in a small neoclassical Moorish palace called Veneza, nice pensions like As Janelas Verdes which is a 17 room restored old house from the 18th c. near the Museum of Ancient Art and for those just wanting to lay their heads down, some nicely kept campings or youth hostels. But once you are in

Portugal you have to take full advantage and see places like Sintra, Porto, Albufeira in the Algarve region and an extra special get away to Madeira or the Azores Islands. It's all lovely.

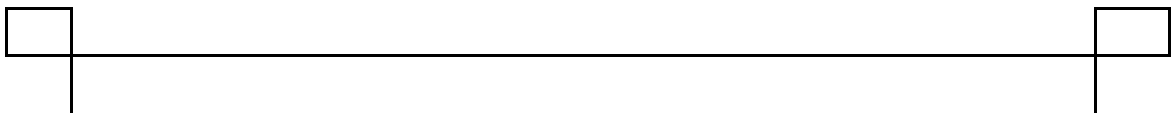
Johnathan Bakers is a successful author and regular contributor to the

<http://www.lisbon-and-portugal.com>

website. John is also publishing on topics like Portuguese culture and history.



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