

**DESTINATION
LISBON**

10 REASONS TO HONEYMOON IN LISBON

If honeymooning on the Algarve, don't dare miss out on the charms and romance of Portugal's capital city, recommends Lisa Hughes.

1 Rooftops, domes and historical landmarks make Lisbon's skyline as eclectic as its character and the city offers any number of romantic viewing points. Take a ride on the Santa Justa Lift for **sweeping views** of the old town or have a bird's eye view across the city's terracotta-tiled rooftops from St George's Castle. Get a panoramic view as far as Lisbon's Golden Gate Bridge, the 25 April Bridge, from the Tower of Ulysses, the castle's 16th century camera obscura. A short stroll from the castle is Portas do Sol, a terrace with the most postcard-perfect views of Lisbon. www.castelodesaojorge.pt

2 Part of Lisbon's charm lies in its quirky **mix of old and new**. In Belem the ultra-modern contemporary art gallery, Museu Berardo, sits easily with the nearby UNESCO sites, the Belem Tower and Jerónimos Monastery. The latter gothic monastery and its dramatic cloisters are high on any Lisbon checklist for a reason and the Belem Tower, one of the 'Seven Wonders of Portugal', is one of the most iconic symbols of the city. www.torrebelem.pt

3 You won't find a better spot for **people watching** than Praça do Comércio (also known as Terreiro do Paço) the brightly painted square overlooking the expansive Tagus river. This classical square houses cafes and restaurants so you can grab a bite and watch the world go by. For history fans, the recently opened Lisboa Story Centre offers a whirlwind guide to local history or stop off at a kiosk for a Ginjinha, a cherry flavoured shot served in an edible chocolate cup. www.lisboastorycentre.pt



Clockwise from top: Luxury hotel Pousada del Palmela in Francisco; Ride the vintage yellow trams; Colourful vistas at Alfama; Terrace dining at Palmela.

4 Exploring the compact city on foot is easy but the real Lisbon way to get around is by tram. Images of the **vintage yellow trams** adorn everything from fridge magnets to guide books and stepping on board is like stepping back in time. Route 28 is the one most hotly tipped and as a result it tends to be overrun by tourists, but it's worth it for the picturesque hilltop views in Castelo and Alfama.

5 Inject some old world charm into your getaway with a day trip to Portugal's romance capital. If fairytale castles, epic mountains and traditional cafes are what you're after, you'll love **Sintra**. Located about an hour's drive from Lisbon, Sintra is a UNESCO site since 1995 and a stroll through its characterful streets is magical in all seasons. Pay a visit to the Royal Palace in the historic town centre and take a horsedrawn carriage ride up into the mountains to enchanting Pena Palace. www.sintraportugal.net

6 Lisbon's best kept secret is also its most delicious. The tile-clad Antiga Confeitaria de Belém café serves the city's **famous custard tarts**, Pastéis de Belém, using a recipe that's still top secret today. A word of warning – one is just never enough. For lunch, Tasca da Esquina is a hotspot with stylish locals and the sleek Pedro e o Lobo is one of the city's best restaurants. Lovers of fine wine should escape to the countryside for lunch and a tasting at Quinta de Sant'Anna, a quietly romantic winery in the rolling hills outside Lisbon. www.quintadesantana.com

7 Estoril and Cascais are just an hour away so you can easily escape the city buzz and unwind on a beach at the **'Portuguese Riviera'**. Relax on the marina in Cascais, go for a game of golf in Estoril or head further south to Cabo da Roca, the westernmost point in mainland Europe. For something a bit more active, hit the waves at Ericeira where Irish company Surf Holidays offer beginners surf packages www.surfholidays.com

8 Stay somewhere unforgettable and check into one of Pousadas de Portugal's **exclusive properties** which range from historic houses to castles and monasteries. In Lisbon, the Pousada del Palmela is a luxury hotel tucked away inside the original castle walls. Dine outdoors under the old convent cloisters before retreating to your room to enjoy incredible views across the countryside. www.pousadas.pt

9 After dark, Lisbon's narrow side streets come alive with an infectious beat and none more so than in the bustling Bairro Alto district. But, if you want to strike Lisbon's romantic heart, track down **traditional Fado music** in a 'Fado house' such as Adega Machado or Café Luso. Similar to the Irish Sean Nos singing style, Fado is a powerhouse of emotion and there won't be a dry eye in the house. www.cafeluso.pt / www.adegamachado.pt

10 Despite its hip status, Lisbon is surprisingly affordable. The lively Baixa and Chiado districts have upmarket **boutiques** and high street favourites side by side along elegant streets. To bag something unique, the famous flea market Feira da Ladra is open every Tuesday and Saturday in the medieval Alfama district. Lisbon's designer brand mecca is the tree-lined Avenida da Liberdade (the 10th most luxurious avenue in the world, no less) with Louis Vuitton, Prada and Gucci flogging their finest threads. ■



Clockwise from top Hit the waves at Ericeira; Belem Tower; Rossio Square; Historic accommodation at Palmela; Unmissable custard tarts, Antiga.

Need to know

- * Book a **Lisboa Card** (from €18.50) before you go to enjoy free public transport, access to museums and key landmarks. For foodies, the **Lisboa Restaurant Card** is a must. Starting from just €8.10 per couple, you can sample the latest Portuguese cuisine in 40 top restaurants for less.
- * Go to www.visitlisboa.com for more information about visiting Lisbon.