

The Priory of Sagres – information to members visiting Lisbon

Lisbon city is the capital of Portugal and the centre of the Lisbon Metropolitan area. Lisbon is located in western Portugal on the North bank of the Tagus (Tejo) River, and it is the westernmost capital city in continental Europe and serves as the country's chief port, largest city, and commercial, political, and tourist centre. The general outlines of the city remain as they have been for hundreds of years.

Lisbon was designated a European City of Culture in 1994, and in 1998 it hosted the World's Fair (Expo '98). That event sparked the city's biggest renewal project since the rebuilding by Marques de Pombal following the 1755 earthquake.

A city of balconies and beautiful views, the main promenade, the wide, gently sloping Avenida da Liberdade is a treelined boulevard which leads north from the city centre to Marquês de Pombal roundabout, where there is a statue of Pombal. The Baixa (or downtown Lisbon) remains rigorously protected from change.

East of the Baixa lies Alfama (Arabic: Al-Ḥammah; "Hot Spring"); one of the oldest quarters of the city, it has a blend of Roman and Moorish architecture and narrow streets that crowd between a jumble of houses. In this area, on the hill where Lisbon was first founded, the Castle of St George (Castelo de São Jorge) towers over the city. The castle is Moorish in origin and was named after England's Patron Saint in honour of an alliance made in 1386 between Portugal and England.

While visiting, and if you like to absorb as much as possible during your short stay, the top attractions to visit are the Castelo de São Jorge, the Museu São Roque, The Mosteiro de Jerónimos, Belém Tower, and the Padrão dos Descobrimentos monument. If you just want to wander on foot then visit the Bairro Alto, Alfama and experience the view from Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara.

Nothing is far away and the Palácio da Rocha do Conde d'Óbidos, where we are holding our investiture and Gala Dinner, is conveniently located between the city centre and the Tower of Belém.

Getting about is simple: go by foot, tram, metro, bus (including the hop on hop off yellow buses) black cab, uber or even Tuck Tuck. You can also purchase a one day or weekend ticket which allows you to travel free on public transport and also gives you free entrance to most museums.

An abundance of information is available on the web especially at:

<https://lisboapatrimoniocultural.pt/monumentos-museus-e-patrimonio-cultural-de-lisboa/>