



TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

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Lisbon, Portugal



If San Francisco had a Cousin

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A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

Portugal has been a republic since King Manuel II was overthrown in 1910. It had a parliamentary democracy from 1910 to 1926 until a military coup overthrew the government. António de Oliveira Salazar ruled as dictator until 1974 where political rights were suppressed and democratic institutions did not exist. After a revolution, democracy was reinstated, and a new constitution was implemented in 1976 and revised in 1982, and one more time in 1989 paving the way for privatization and a free market economy. Portugal has a president that can serve a maximum of two 5 year terms. According to Freedom House Portugal has a rating of 95 meaning free, but corruption and illegal information sharing is a major issue. According to the EIU democracy index, Portugal receives a score of 7.82 meaning Flawed Democracy ranking 28th in the world and 15th in Europe.

Lisbon, Portugal



Some quick tips for Lisbon :

- Being on the ocean fish and seafood is really big, so plan your meals accordingly
- Most attractions you need tickets for, but you can buy almost all of them on sight
- Seeing the sunset over ocean is a must!

EXPERIENCES

I only had one full day in Lisbon, but felt that I was able to see the main attractions with good planning. It is a really walkable city, just very hilly, and the only place you will have to Uber to is Torre de Belém. This was mainly so I could sightsee, but the city is full of life and I definitely want to return to see the nightlife in the city. Situated right on the Atlantic, the ocean breeze on your face just really adds to the feel and vibes of the city.

The Cathedral of Lisbon is the oldest church in the city. Construction began in 1147, and the building has survived many earthquakes. There were fires in 1755 due to an earthquake that ruined a lot of the files in the cathedral. It is in the style of Romanesque and proto- Gothic. The city had been ruled by the Arabs, and this was the first building from the Catholics after they regained control over the Iberian peninsula. At the time of its construction only Christians could live in and around Lisbon.

SÉ DE LISBOA



CARMO CONVENT



The convent is in Medieval style and is a former Catholic convent. Part of it was ruined in the 1755 Lisbon Earthquake, and you can still see the side of the building (southern face) that was destroyed during the earthquake. It was founded in 1389 by Constable D. Nuno Álvares Pereira, and was constructed in 1393. In 1407 the presbytery and apse was completed, and in 1423 the residential cells were completed and friars began to move in. Today the church inside is an archaeological museum.

Lisbon Portugal



ARCO DA RUA AUGUSTA



This huge arch was built and the mail commercial street and can be seen for miles down the street. It was built to commemorate the city's reconstruction after the 1755 earthquake. It was initially supposed to be a bell tower, but that idea was changed and it was transformed into an arch. They did not finish building the arch until 1873 (over 100 years to build this, crazy!!), and it took so long due to the size of the figures on top of the arch and the size of the arch itself. It is situated within Commerce Square and is right on the ocean.

MIKE DAVIS



I happened to stumble upon this clothing store called Mike Davis, and was very confused. Don't worry I asked them if I could get a discount because my name is Michael Davis and sadly they said no. The brand was created in 1976, and was inspired by various sports including tennis. The Davis inspiring the name, is the same as the Davis Cup in Tennis. Surprisingly, there are a bunch of these stores throughout Portugal. I got a shirt with the brand name, and plan on wearing it everywhere.

SANTA JUSTA LIFT

The Santa Justa Lift is a very unique tourist attraction. It was built in the 19th century during the industrial age. At the time of its construction iron was a form of art and it has many neo-gothic features. It used to be a very big part of the public transport network within Lisbon. It connected the higher and lower streets for pedestrians. The streets in Lisbon are very different in elevation, so this worked to connect them. However, due to modernization today in transportation and urban planning, it serves as a tourist attraction that provides panoramic views of the city.



Lisbon, Portugal

CASTELO DE SAN JORGE DE LISBOA



Human occupation of this castle dates back to the 8th century, and it is believed to have started to be built in the 1st century. It is on the highest hill within the center, and is 6000 m² in area. Over the course of history it has traded hands between groups of Christians and Moorish people from North Africa. In the 13th century, the castle was home to the royal palace, but was damaged by earthquakes in 1290, 1344, and 1356 (so many earthquakes here). After more earthquakes affected the castle during the 1500s and 1600s, it became restored. It was declared a national monument in 1910.

PONTE 25 DE ABRIL

Wait I thought this was about Lisbon... this looks like San Francisco?!?!
Okay well this is Lisbon, and the bridge connects Lisbon to Almada, and is the 46th longest suspension bridge in the world. Originally it was named the Salazar Bridge after the prime minister that ordered its construction, but after the Carnation Revolution overthrew his regime the bridge was renamed for April 25th which is the date of the revolution. The color is influenced from the Golden Gate Bridge, and both bridges were built by the same company. It is sometimes seen as the sister bridge to the Golden Gate Bridge.



TRAM 28



Okay your seriously telling me this is not San Francisco. Yes yet again another similarity between the cities are its trams. In Lisbon the trams have been in operation since 1873, and covers 31 kilometers with six lines. Tram 28 is a famous line to tourists that brings them around to the popular tourists attractions within the city. A big reason for the trams was the huge slopes the city is on causing city planners to believe that this was the most affordable option to accommodate the streets within the city.

Lisbon, Portugal



TORRE DE BELÉM



The tower is an old military installation within the city, and was very important during the age of discovery in Portugal as explorers would leave from here in the first European trade with China and India. After it was used as a defense against invaders, it was used as a prison, lighthouse, and a place to collect taxes within the city. In 1983 it was declared a UNESCO heritage sight. It was constructed from 1516-1519 and designed by King John II of Portugal. During the 1600s it served as the customs entry point into Lisbon (that would be intimidating to have to sail to as an international trader lol). They began preserving it at the end of the 20th century.

PADRÃO DOS DESCOBRIMENTOS

This monument is located where ships departed to trade with India and China, and celebrates the Portuguese age of exploration during the 15th and 16th centuries. It was built in 1939 by José Ângelo Cottinello Telmo and Leopoldo de Almeida. It romanticized the idea of exploration. The person on the edge of the monument is Henry the Navigator who is looking into the ocean going along with the idea of exploration. There are 33 figures total on the monument (16 on each side) and then one of Henry the Navigator (because he is special I guess). Each figure is supposed to show movement to the front representing the unknown sea showing the influence of others in the age of exploration.



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!