



## Lisbon, Portugal

### Overview

#### Introduction

The hodgepodge of historical periods and cultures represented in Lisbon, Portugal, is a major source of its charm and travel appeal. A sprawling city on the banks of the Tagus River, Lisbon constantly reminds travelers that Portugal has been conquered several times, that it developed (and lost) its own illustrious empire and that, for much of the 20th century, it isolated itself from the rest of the world.



But when Portugal joined the European Union in 1986, it experienced a major economic boost. A completely new quarter sprang up on the banks of the Tagus. Lisbon is modernizing fast as a European travel destination.

As visitors to Portugal walk Lisbon's hills—or, better, take one of Lisbon's vintage trams—they'll find restored medieval facades, wonderful art-nouveau buildings, black-and-white mosaic sidewalks (known as *calcada*), fine museums and plenty of modern shops.

Lisbon's citizens seem to have absorbed their city's many-sided character. Visitors can witness the popularity of fado, the melancholy music that developed in Lisbon in the early-19th century. Though the performers sing about tragedy and distant glory, the audience is very much a part of modern Lisbon—a flourishing, fashionable business and leisure center.

### Highlights

**Sights**—Torre de Belem; Mosteiro dos Jeronimos; Padrao dos Descobrimentos; Se Cathedral; Elevador de Santa Justa; the view from Castelo de Sao Jorge.

**Museums**—Centro de Arte Moderna Jose de Azeredo Perdigao; Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga; Museu Calouste Gulbenkian; Museu Nacional dos Coches; Museu Nacional do Azulejo; Museu Berardo; Museu do Fado.

**Memorable Meals**—Seafood platter and steak sandwich at Sea Me; *acorda de marisco* (a seafood and bread dish) at Restaurante Pap'Acorda; meat dishes and Belgian beer at A Travessa; *pastel de belem* (custard tart) at Confeitaria de Belem.

**Late Night**—Barhopping in Bairro Alto; dancing the night away in one of the clubs in converted warehouses on Avenida 24 de Julho; a visit to Casino Lisboa.

**Walks**—A stroll through Alfama or Bairro Alto; window shopping in Chiado; a walk by the river in Parque das Nacoes or through one of the many parks and gardens.

**Especially for Kids**—Jardim Zoologico de Lisboa (the zoo); Oceanario de Lisboa; Museu da Marioneta; the playgrounds at Jardim da Estrela park.



## Geography

The heart of Lisbon is the historical center, which borders the Tagus River (known as the Tejo in Portuguese). After an earthquake destroyed most of the city in 1755, Lisbon was rebuilt around one of Europe's most beautiful piazzas: the Praca do Comercio, dominated by the equestrian statue of King Jose. The area surrounding the Praca do Comercio is called Baixa. Immediately to the north is the old Rossio Square. Much of this area is now a pedestrian zone, with metro links, as well as plenty of outdoor cafes and shops.

To the west of the Praca do Comercio is the trendy shopping district of Chiado and, farther west, the Bairro Alto, with its creative shops, fado bars and small businesses crowded in the old, twisted streets. To the east of Praca do Comercio is Castelo de Sao Jorge (St. George's Castle), which dominates the view toward the river. The castle was built upon the old Arab part of town. Spreading out from the castle, the neighborhoods of Alfama and Mouraria have narrow and winding streets that remind visitors of the Arab influence on the city.

The long riverfront, with its converted dock warehouses, is one of the many hot spots of Lisbon's nightlife. The docks extend westward under the 25 de Abril Bridge, which resembles San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

Farther west is the neighborhood of Belem, once a small fishing town. It was there in the 1500s that the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos (Monastery of Jeronimos) was built, along with the Torre de Belem (Tower of Belem), a fortress dominating the entrance to the river. Today, Belem is the location of Centro Cultural de Belem, the area's most important contemporary and performing-arts venue.

To the north of Lisbon's town center is the large and busy boulevard of Avenida da Liberdade, where the city's most fashionable shops and most active businesses are located.

Northeast of the city center is Parque das Nacoes, site of the 1998 World Expo. In this sprawling park, you'll find the Oceanario de Lisboa, as well as a massive shopping mall, good hotels, theme restaurants and some bars—this is a good area to stay in if you need to be close to the airport, but it isn't representative of the city and has none of the charm and history that makes Lisbon so popular.

Other neighborhoods worth noting are Lapa (the diplomatic quarter), Principe Real and the Santos Design District. All of them appear on most maps of the city.

## History

There is evidence of civilization in the area from as far back as the seventh century BC, but it wasn't until the second century BC that the Romans arrived. Around 60 BC, the Romans founded the colony of Felicitas Julia, which prospered as a trading center until the fifth century AD, when the Visigoths invaded. Their domination lasted more than 250 years, until Arabs and Berbers arrived from North Africa. The Arabs preserved what remained of the Roman civilization and developed their own cultural system.

In 1147, the Muslims who had settled in Lisbon were expelled by the Christians. Around 1256, Lisbon became the capital of the kingdom of Portugal, which by then had clearly defined its borders. Over the years, Lisbon grew into a prosperous capital, boosted by the riches taken from its colonies. It endured two major earthquakes (in 1531 and 1755), which destroyed two-thirds of the city.

The Marques de Pombal rebuilt Lisbon. Instead of restoring damaged buildings, he opted to demolish anything unstable. He also designed Lisbon's grid system, which runs from the Praca do Comercio up to his statue on the Marques de Pombal roundabout—it constitutes the central hub for the old quarter.



In the 20th century, Lisbon was still the capital of a colonial empire, but it was no longer wealthy and powerful. After a series of costly wars with Spain, the Portuguese monarchy gradually lost the respect of its citizens, who ousted the last king in 1910. After two decades of turmoil, Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar emerged as Portugal's unquestioned leader. Salazar, who ruled as prime minister for more than 35 years, isolated Portugal from the rest of Europe (thus keeping the country out of World War II) and clung to power through a brutal secret police force that censored virtually anyone who opposed him.

Salazar suffered a stroke in 1968 and was succeeded by Marcelo Caetano who maintained the dictatorial government until being overthrown by a military coup known as Carnation Revolution or the 25 April Revolution in 1974 that led to the establishment of democracy and a new Constitution. Consequently, the liberation of the Portuguese colonies in Africa provoked a boom in immigration to Portugal, creating a substantial African community in Lisbon. In 1986 Portugal joined the European Union.

Since the 1980s, Portugal has shifted from a fundamentally conservative policy influenced by the Catholic Church to adopting more liberal policies such as the legalization of abortion and gay marriage and the decriminalization of drugs.

Economically, Portugal had a boom after joining the EU. Major new highways improved connections within the country and to the rest of Europe. Railroads and other public transportation were modernized. Unemployment reached a record low of 3.7% in 2000, and the percentage of the population with higher education increased dramatically.

Severe austerity measures adopted as a result of a three-year IMF bailout that started in 2011 have had an impact on daily life in Portugal, but should not affect visitors to the country except when there are transportation or general strikes.

### **Potpourri**

Once a year, usually at the end of September, the city opens its subterranean district—a hidden world of Roman foundations and bridges—to the public for three days. The area beneath Rua da Conceicao was discovered after the earthquake of 1755. It is sealed by a block of metal because of unsafe conditions below.

Before Vasco da Gama left to find a new sea route to India, he prayed in an old mariners' chapel in Belem (now a neighborhood west of the center of Lisbon). The chapel was replaced with the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, where his remains now rest.

Amalia Rodrigues (1929-99), born in the poor port district of Alcantara, was Portugal's most famous fado singer. Older Portuguese men still burst into tears when they hear such immortal songs as "Cancao do Mar" ("Song of the Sea"), a touching, melancholy song.

Every year, more than 200 couples compete for the privilege of being married on 13 June, the Day of Saint Anthony. Around 30 happy couples are selected to be married in the small Igreja de Santo Antonio on this day, and they receive gifts and sponsorship from Portuguese companies for the lavish ceremonies.

In 1994, the German filmmaker Wim Wenders produced the dreamy movie *Lisbon Story*, which featured music from the local group Madredeus, now of international fame.

The film adaptation of Pascal Mercier's 2004 novel *Night Train to Lisbon*, starring Christopher Lee and Jeremy Irons, was released in 2013. The story takes place during the dictatorship of Antonio Salazar, the man who governed Portugal 1932-74 and had a profound impact on the country.

A large statue of Christ—inspired by the one in Rio de Janeiro—overlooks Lisbon from its location in Almada, on the south bank of the Tagus River.



## See & Do

### Sightseeing

Much of Lisbon is still relatively free of tourist traps. You can go inside lots of churches without being asked for an admission fee. In fact, among the dozens of churches scattered throughout the city, a few are authentic jewels. Igreja de Sao Roque, for example, is decorated with precious stones, and Igreja de Sao Vicente de Fora has extraordinary azulejos (painted tiles) in its cloister. If you find an open church, peek inside—you may find a very pleasant surprise.

Portuguese tiles, including the blue and white azulejos, are also on display at the Museu Nacional do Azulejo, one of our favorite museums in the city. Other prominent museums are the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga, which displays the country's artworks from the 1300s through the 1900s, and the Museu Calouste Gulbenkian, which also has an impressive and wide-ranging collection.

Be sure not to miss the Padrao dos Descobrimentos (Discoveries Monument) or Castelo de Sao Jorge, which hovers over the city and provides a breathtaking view. Today very little remains of Lisbon's pre-earthquake Manueline architecture—exceptions include the Torre de Belem and the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos.

The best way to visit these sites and to get a real sense of Lisbon is to walk. In fact, old neighborhoods, such as the Alfama and the Bairro Alto, are the proverbial mazes of twisting streets—sometimes so narrow that no car could possibly get through. Most tourist maps don't name all the streets, so relax and enjoy getting lost for a while.

If you are planning on covering a lot of ground, consider the Lisboa Card, a multipass that can save you money on transportation. It provides access to most public transportation, as well as discounted admission at various attractions.

### Historic Sites

#### Castelo de Sao Jorge

Rua de Santa Cruz do Castelo  
Lisbon, Portugal 1100-129

**Phone:** 21-880-0620

<http://www.castelodesaojorge.pt>

St. George's Castle sits on one of Lisbon's highest hills. It was occupied by the Romans in 205 BC, settled by Visigoths in the fifth century and later captured from the Moors by the Portuguese king Dom Afonso Henriques in 1147. After King Manuel I left the castle in the early 16th century, the place fell into ruins. It was extensively rebuilt in the 20th century on the remains of older fortifications.

Though it feels more touristy than ancient, there are breathtaking views of Lisbon from several of its 10 towers and its viewing terrace. You can relax on stone benches in the shadow of mighty trees after the hike up. Do not miss the periscope installed in the Ulysses Tower that offers a 360-degree view of Lisbon when weather conditions are right—sunny mornings are best. Check the timetable for guided tours in your language. There is also a small museum showing the archaeological finds from the site. A gift shop, restaurant and coffee shop are also on-site.

Daily 9 am-6 pm. 8.50 euros adults.

#### Elevador de Santa Justa

Largo do Carmo, Rua do Ouro  
Lisbon, Portugal 1150-060



**Phone:** 21-361-3000

<http://www.carris.pt/en/elevators>

Also called Elevador do Carmo, this eclectic, neo-Gothic iron lift was constructed between 1898 and 1901 by a student of Gustave Eiffel. Its two wooden cabins, which can carry 25 people, connect the Lower and Upper City. There is a great view (and cafe) over the Baixa from its platform, which you can access for free from Largo do Carmo.

Daily 7 am-9:45 pm October-May, 7 am-10:45 pm June-September. The lift costs 5 euros (free with Lisbon Card) and the upper viewpoint is an additional 1.5 euros.

### **Igreja de Sao Roque**

Largo Trindade Coelho, Bairro Alto  
Lisbon, Portugal 1200-470

**Phone:** 21-323-5065

<http://www.museudesao Roque.com>

This 16th-century church with an adjoining museum hides a work of art behind its rather modest facade. It survived the earthquake of 1755 almost unscathed. One of its most beautiful chapels, the baroque Chapel of St. John the Baptist, commissioned by King Joao V, was lavishly decorated with precious stones, exotic woods and richly painted tiles during the country's most opulent period. The entire chapel was constructed in Rome, and then disassembled and shipped to Lisbon in 1747.

Church open April-September Monday 2-7 pm; Thursday 9 am-8 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday-Sunday 9 am-7 pm. October-March Monday 2-6 pm Tuesday-Sunday 9 am-6 pm. Museum open April-September Monday 2-7 pm; Thursday 10 am-10 pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 2.50 euros; free on Sunday until 2 pm.

### **Mosteiro dos Jeronimos**

Praca do Imperio  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-362-0034

<http://www.mosteirojeronimos.pt>

King Manuel commissioned this monastery at the peak of Portuguese prosperity and power in 1501, but it was completed only in the late 1500s. It's one of the best examples of Portuguese architecture anywhere in the country, a mix of late flamboyant Gothic and early Renaissance style, embellished with exotic decorative elements found in India. Some of the interior columns are 82 ft/25 m tall, look like palm trunks and are decorated with nautical motifs, fantastic creatures and signs of the zodiac.

Beneath the gallery, it houses the elaborate tombs of Vasco da Gama, the first Portuguese navigator to reach India, and Luis de Camoes, Portugal's most famous poet (who was actually buried impoverished in an unknown mass grave). The royal tombs next to the ornate high altar are supported by marble elephants.

The monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is perhaps the best-known and most-visited landmark of the city—you won't be alone there.

Open daily except Monday October-April 10 am-5:30 pm; May-September 10 am-6:30 pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Admission to the church is free; admission to the cloisters is 10 euros.



### Mosteiro e Igreja de Sao Vicente de Fora

Largo de Sao Vicente  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-882-4400

<http://www.igespar.pt/en/patrimonio/pesquisa/geral/patrimonioimovel/detail/71213>

This church and monastery, built between 1582 and 1629 under the guidance of Italian master Filippo Terzi, is clad in white marble and decorated with precious paintings and sculptures. The cloister has some of the best azulejos (blue and white painted tiles) in the city. You can climb the church roof for a great view over Lisbon.

Tuesday-Saturday 8 am-1 pm and 2:30-5 pm, Sunday 8 am-noon. Admission to the church is free; admission to the monastery is 5 euros.

### Padrao dos Descobrimentos

Avenida de Brasilia  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-303-1950

<http://www.padraodosdescobrimentos.egeac.pt>

This monument from 1960, evoking a ship's bow, is a lesson in Portuguese history—along its sides are statues of some of the most important Portuguese explorers. You can take an elevator to the top of the monument, which provides a great view of the neighborhood and the river.

Open daily May-September 10 am-7 pm, daily except Monday October-April 10 am-6 pm (last entry 30 minutes before closing). 3 euros, free for children younger than 3.

### Se Cathedral

Largo da Se  
Lisbon, Portugal 1100-585

Lisbon's cathedral (*Se* is short for *sedes episcopalis*, the bishop's seat), the oldest church in the city, dates from 1147, and most likely was built on the site of an ancient mosque. Its original Romanesque design was transformed over the centuries, incorporating elements of various architectural and decorative styles. St. Anthony of Lisbon was baptized there, and members of the Portuguese nobility were buried there.

Visit the cloister and the adjacent museum, which details the cathedral's past. The prime object of the treasure is a golden ostensory dating from 1760. Under the garden of the cloister are remains of a street and canal from Roman times. There are occasional organ concerts—check locally for a schedule.

The cathedral is open daily 10 am-7 pm. Cloister and treasury museum open Monday-Saturday 10 am-5 pm. 2.50 euros to enter the cloister, 2.50 euros to enter the treasury museum.

### Torre de Belem

Avenida da India  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-362-0034

<http://www.torrebelem.pt>

Built between 1514 and 1520 as a lighthouse and a defense against pirates, the Tower of Belem was originally one of two towers flanking the Tagus River (it once stood on an island before the river silted up). The other tower was lost to the 1755 earthquake. The surviving tower is a beautiful example of the Manueline architectural style, with Moorish



influences. It's a UNESCO World Heritage site. From the terrace on the fourth floor (at 35 m/115 ft) there is a good view of the river and the surrounding suburbs.

Open daily except Monday October-April 10 am-5:30 pm, May-September 10 am-6:30 pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. 6 euros (free Sunday until 2 pm).

## Museums

### Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva Foundation

Praca das Amoreiras 56-58, Rato  
Lisbon, Portugal 1250-096

**Phone:** 21-388-0044

<http://www.fasvs.pt>

This museum is a small gem for those who are interested in modern Portuguese art and culture. Vieira da Silva was one of the most acclaimed modern painters in Portugal. She and her husband, Arpad Szenes, produced an impressive collection of work that's displayed there, along with the art of many of their contemporaries.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 4 euros.

### Centro de Arte Moderna Jose de Azeredo Perdigao

Rua Dr. Nicolau de Bettencourt  
Lisbon, Portugal 1050-078

**Phone:** 21-782-3474

<http://cam.gulbenkian.pt>

This museum, located in an old silk factory, houses part of the collection assembled by oil magnate and philanthropist Calouste Gulbenkian, who found asylum in Portugal during World War II. It is devoted to 20th-century and contemporary art, particularly the works of Portuguese artists. Excellent cafeteria and gardens.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5:45 pm. 5 euros adults.

### Lisbon Story Centre

Terreiro do Paco 78-81  
Lisbon, Portugal 1100-148

**Phone:** 21-194-1099

<http://www.lisboastorycentre.pt>

This multimedia space provides visitors with a deeper understanding of Lisbon's history, from the Phoenecians to the present day. An audio guide talks you through the major influences on the city over the centuries. The museum's highlight is a reconstruction of the day of the earthquake in 1755.

Open daily 10 am-8 pm. Last entry at 7 pm. 7 euros adults.

### Museu Berardo

Praca do Imperio  
Lisbon, Portugal 1449-003

**Phone:** 21-361-2878

<http://www.museuberardo.pt>



The biggest names of international contemporary and modern art such as Warhol and Picasso are represented at this 21st-century museum. It presents major temporary exhibitions together with the permanent collection belonging to Portuguese millionaire businessman Joe Berardo.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-7 pm. Free admission.

### **Museu Calouste Gulbenkian**

Ave. de Berna 45-A  
Lisbon, Portugal 1067-001

**Phone:** 21-782-3000

<http://www.museu.gulbenkian.pt>

The once-private collection in this museum includes artwork from ancient Egypt, the Islamic East and the Far East. The European galleries display art and decorative arts of the 14th-19th centuries; illuminated manuscripts; paintings by Rembrandt and Rubens; works by impressionists such as Turner, Monet, Degas and Renoir; French Louis XV and Louis XVI furniture; and Lalique glassware and jewelry.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 5 euros.

### **Museu da Marioneta**

Rua da Esperanca 146  
Lisbon, Portugal 1200-660

**Phone:** 21-394-2810

<http://www.museudamarioneta.pt>

Even if you have no special interest in puppets, this museum, housed in an old convent, is worth a visit. Its collection includes puppets from every continent and an in-depth history of puppetry in Portugal. You can put on your own Punch and Judy show or practice manipulating the frames and strings. There are often professional puppet shows held at the museum (check the website for details).

Open daily except Monday 10 am-1 pm and 2-6 pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. 5 euros adults, 3 euros children; free on Sunday morning. Some shows are priced separately.

### **Museu de Sao Roque**

Largo Trindade Coelho, Bairro Alto  
Lisbon, Portugal 1200-470

**Phone:** 21-323-5065

<http://www.museu-saoroque.com>

At the entrance of the Bairro Alto, this small museum displays paintings and religious articles connected to Igreja de Sao Roque. Of special interest are objects from the church's elaborate Chapel of St. John the Baptist.

April-September Monday 2-7 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday-Sunday 9 am-7 pm; Thursday 9 am-8 pm. 2.50 euros general admission.

### **Museu do Chiado-Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporanea**

Rua Serpa Pinto 4  
Lisbon, Portugal 1200-444

**Phone:** 21-343-2148





<http://www.museuartecontemporanea.pt>

This museum exhibits art from the 1850s to the 1950s, tracing the development from romanticism to modernism. Look for works by the Portuguese artist Almada Negreiros and fine sculptures by Auguste Rodin. Nice terrace cafe.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 4 euros, free on Sunday 10 am-2 pm.

### **Museu do Design e da Moda**

Rua Augusta 24  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-888-6117

<http://www.mude.pt>

This museum is devoted to design and fashion, and it displays approximately 350 objects from a private collection. There you will find items by Alvar Aalto, Philippe Starck, Christian Dior and Versace.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm in winter (till 8 pm in summer). Free admission.

### **Museu do Fado**

Largo do Chafariz de Dentro 1  
Lisbon, Portugal 1100-139

**Phone:** 21-882-3470

<http://www.museudofado.pt>

This museum documents the history and development of the traditional music known as fado. It includes audiovisual displays, costumes and a wonderful collection of Portuguese guitars. There is a re-creation of the Casa da Mariquinhas, a house of ill-repute made famous by a fado song. There's also a shop with books and recordings. There are fado concerts on some Thursday evenings.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm; last entry 30 minutes before closing. The documentation center is open Monday-Friday 2:30-6 pm (by appointment only). 5 euros.

### **Museu do Oriente**

Avenida Brasilia  
Lisbon, Portugal 1350-352

**Phone:** 21-358-5200

<http://www.museudoorientep.pt>

This museum, located by the river, is home to an extensive collection of Asian art and artifacts. Part of the collection is based around Portugal's presence and sphere of influence in the Far East with exceptional pieces from China and Japan. The remaining exhibition was donated by the Kwok On Museum Association in Paris in 1999 and covers religious and performing arts from countries spanning from Turkey to Japan. The museum has regular temporary exhibitions, talks and shows. There is also a cafe, restaurant and shop.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm , Friday till 10 pm. 6 euros adults.

### **Museu Nacional de Arqueologia**

Praca do Imperio (in the west wing of the Mosteiro dos Jeronimos)  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-362-0000



<http://www.mnarqueologia-ipmuseus.pt>

This is the country's main archaeological museum, with exhibits pertaining to the Iron Age and Portugal's Visigoth, Roman and Muslim cultures. It also has rooms devoted to ancient Egyptian and Greco-Roman art, coins and jewelry.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm. 5 euros.

### **Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga**

Rua das Janelas Verdes  
Lisbon, Portugal 1249-017

**Phone:** 21-391-2800

<http://www.mnarteantiga-ipmuseus.pt>

Housed in a 17th-century palace, this is perhaps the city's best museum. The gallery displays art from the 14th-19th centuries, including works by Cranach, Bosch, Holbein, Velasquez and Durer. The masterpiece of the collection is one of the most famous pieces of Portuguese art: the *Paneis de Sao Vicente*, built between 1467 and 1470 by Nuno Goncalves. The painted panels of this altarpiece depict the late Medieval Portuguese aristocracy and society. There are some ancient objects from Japan, Africa and China, as well. On-site is a cafe with a lovely garden.

Tuesday 2-6 pm, Wednesday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm. 5 euros. Free on Sunday until 2 pm.

### **Museu Nacional do Azulejo**

Rua da Madre de Deus 4  
Lisbon, Portugal 1900-312

**Phone:** 21-810-0340

<http://mnazulejo.imc-ip.pt>

The blue-and-white azulejos have a special place in Portuguese culture. You'll find unmistakable Arabic influences in the many tiled panels, which were used both as decoration and as a way of moderating the temperature of houses. The museum features a 65-ft-/20-m-long cityscape of Lisbon as it looked before the earthquake of 1755. It occupies a former convent that is one of the most attractive buildings in the city.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm (last entry 5:30 pm). 5 euros, free entrance on Sunday and holidays till 2 pm.

### **Museu Nacional dos Coches**

Praca Afonso de Albuquerque  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-361-0850

<http://musedoscoches.pt>

The wonderful collection at this museum, housed in the former equestrian school of the Palacio de Belem, includes richly decorated coaches from the 17th and 18th centuries—many of which are still in working condition. They all look as if they've just driven out of a fairy tale. Most fascinating are the three triumphal coaches of the Portuguese ambassador in Rome, dating from 1716. You can look down on them from the gallery.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm (last entry at 5:30 pm). 6 euros, free entrance on Sunday and holidays until 2 pm.



## Neighborhoods & Districts

### Alfama

Spreading downhill toward the river from Castelo de Sao Jorge, the Alfama evokes medieval Lisbon. This old Arab neighborhood is one of the most attractive parts of the city—we love to walk its narrow streets, peeking into its many alleys, courtyards and traditional shops. If you're lucky, you'll end up discovering an *arraial*, a spontaneous party in the middle of the street. On 13 June, the streets are full of people enjoying grilled sardines, wine and music as groups representing different neighborhoods parade along Avenida Liberdade in colorful costumes. The party is a citywide event in honor of Saint Anthony.

### Bairro Alto

This colorful neighborhood of bars, restaurants and fado houses has preserved some of old Lisbon in its architecture and narrow streets. In the evenings, the area comes alive with night owls of all ages and persuasions. Hold on to your wallet—pickpockets are fond of this area, too. The Bairro Alto is just northwest of Chiado.

### Baixa

At the base of hilly Alfama you'll find the flat, gridlike streets that characterize the area behind Praca do Comercio. The Baixa is full of banks, shops, cafes and restaurants. Some have been there for decades, while new shops and cafes are revitalizing what was becoming a rather neglected area. It's a popular spot for street performers.

### Chiado

Gradually climbing uphill to the west of the Baixa is the trendy shopping and restaurant district of Chiado. Home to the iconic Cafe a Brasileira, the Armazens do Chiado shopping center, and many design shops and familiar high street brands, this area is always busy with shoppers and restaurantgoers.

## Parks & Gardens

### Estufa Fria

Parquet Eduardo VII  
Lisbon, Portugal

The name translates to "cold greenhouse," and it's one of the most pleasant and most visited gardens in Lisbon. Visitors enjoy walks among a rich variety of plants, ponds, streams, waterfalls and statuary.

April-October daily 10 am-7 pm, November-March daily 9 am-5 pm.

### Jardim Amalia Rodrigues

Rua Marques Fronteira 18-28  
Lisbon, Portugal 1070-051

<http://www.cm-lisboa.pt/en/equipments/equipamento/info/jardim-amalia-rodrigues>

This landscaped garden sits atop Parque Eduardo VII and pays homage to Lisbon's most famous fado singer, Amalia Rodrigues. It also rewards visitors with sculptures and views over the city and the river. The glass-fronted lakeside cafe-restaurant Linha d'Agua is a perfect spot for refreshments, whatever the weather.

The gardens are open 24 hours. Free admission.

### Jardim Botanico da Universidade de Lisboa

Rua da Escola Politecnica, Principe Real  
Lisbon, Portugal 1250-102



**Phone:** 21-392-1800

<http://www.museus.ulisboa.pt/jardim-botanico>

Lisbon's main botanical garden, which spreads across 10 acres/4 hectares, lies very close to the heart of the city. It's one of the most beautiful of its kind in Europe and has a butterfly garden.

Open April-October daily except Monday 9 am-8 pm; November-March daily 9 am-6 pm. Butterfly garden open 21 March-15 November Tuesday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-5 pm. 2 euros adults, 1 euro children younger than 18.

### **Jardim Botânico Tropical**

Largo dos Jeronimos  
Lisbon, Portugal 1400-171

**Phone:** 21-360-9660

<http://www2.iict.pt>

Opposite the Jeronimos' Monastery in Belem, you can escape the crowds and take a stroll through the exotic tropical and subtropical foliage of this botanical garden. Art exhibitions are often held in the Palacio dos Condes da Calheta within the grounds; check the website for details and opening times.

Open November-January 10 am-5 pm, February, March and October 10 am-6 pm, April and September 10 am-7 pm and May-August 10 am-8 pm. 2 euros adults, 1 euro seniors and children.

### **Jardim da Estrela**

Praca da Estrela  
Lisbon, Portugal 1200-667

<http://www.cm-lisboa.pt/equipamentos/equipamento/info/jardim-da-estrela-jardim-guerra-junqueiro>

You'll find this family-friendly park opposite the Basilica da Estrela on the 25 and 28 tram routes. With shaded walkways, ponds, beautiful bandstands and several exercise posts, as well as a children's play area, this is a great place to grab a bench for a bit of people-watching.

Daily 7 am-midnight. Free.

### **Jardim da Fundacao Calouste Gulbenkian**

Ave. de Berna 45-A  
Lisbon, Portugal 1067-001

**Phone:** 21-782-3000

<http://www.gulbenkian.pt/Jardins>

The gardens of this museum and art gallery are a peaceful haven and a perfect place to relax away from the hustle and bustle of the city, even if you're not visiting the collections. With duck ponds and streams, grassy banks and a wide variety of plants and spaces, it's hard to drag yourself away.

Free.



## Recreation

Exercise is becoming increasingly popular in Lisbon. More and more Lisboans are spending their lunch breaks swimming or playing tennis in one of the many health clubs in the city.

Lisbon's weather encourages an active lifestyle, and cycling, jogging and walking paths are springing up around the city. Many parks are equipped with exercise routes and equipment.

Golf is very popular, and there are usually a handful of people enjoying watersports along the area's beaches.

## Beaches

### Estoril Coast and Cascais

Lisbon, Portugal

<https://www.visitportugal.com/en/node/73778>

Just a 40-minute train ride from Cais de Sodre station gets you to a string of cove-sheltered beaches 12 mi/19 km from Lisbon. Activities there include surfing, kite surfing, horseback riding, sailing, canoeing and diving. The calmer waters of Cascais Bay are ideal for waterskiing.

### Bird Watching

The preserves around Lisbon provide excellent environments for bird-watchers. About 15 mi/24 km to the south, the Serra da Arrabida Natural Park stretches out across an area of 26,690 acres/10,800 hectares. There you will find nature at its best—including a rare species of mountain goat that feeds exclusively on seaweed and shellfish.

To the south of the Setubal Peninsula, the equally stunning Natural Reserve of the Sado Estuary is best seen by boat, as it covers an enormous area of 57,230 acres/23,160 hectares. Not far away, the Natural Reserve of the Tejo Estuary extends from North of Alcochete to the estuary waters. The main attraction is the winter bird population of more than 70,000—including flocks of flamingos.

Even within the boundaries of the city, proximity to the ocean, mountains and river provides a diversity of habitats that support many different bird species. For an identification guide to bird species and the best places in the city to observe them, visit: <http://lisbon.avesdeportugal.info/index.html>.

### Birdwatching Lisbon

26 Estrada da Luz

Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 967-708-310

<http://birdwatchinglisbon.com>

Full-day and half-day tours are available on request. Prices include door to door transportation, use of optical equipment and guidance by experienced field ornithologists. Main destinations are Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve and Sado Estuary Nature Reserve.

Half-day tours 100 euros-130 euros per person. Full-day tours 160 euros-190 euros.

### Garden of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

45A Ave. de Berna

Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-782-3000



<http://www.gulbenkian.pt/Jardins/avifauna.html>

With a lake and large trees, moorhen as well as white wagtail and some serins can be found in this quiet, beautiful park.

### **Monteiro-Mor Park**

Largo Julio de Castilho, Lumiar  
Lisbon, Portugal

<http://lisbon.avesdeportugal.info/monteioromor.html>

Also known as the Sculpture Garden, this park has large trees and a wall that buffers the city noises. Ring-necked parakeet can often be seen there.

Open daily 10 am-6 pm. 2 euros, free on Sundays.

### **Golf**

#### **Penha Longa Hotel and Golf Resort**

Estrada de Lagoa Azul, Quinta da Penha Longa, Linho  
Sintra, Portugal 2714-511

**Phone:** 21-924-9011

<http://www.penhalonga.com>

The most eclectic course in the greater Lisbon area is also considered one of the best in Europe. There you'll find wonderful views of the Sintra hills and of the sea, as well as a hotel, spa, restaurant and other amenities.

#### **Lisbon Sports Club**

Casal da Carregueira (about 9 mi/16 km from central Lisbon)  
Belas, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-431-0077

<http://www.lisbonclub.com>

This 18-hole course is considered challenging, and it has many amenities on-site.

Daily 8 am-6 pm. Greens fees 61.50 euros Monday-Friday, 86 euros Saturday and Sunday; ask about promotional rates for afternoon and summer tee times.

### **Nightlife**

Lisbon's nightlife options include everything from cozy bars, chic nightclubs and frenetic discos to great live-music spots (especially African music). But many tourists in Lisbon spend their evenings listening to fado, the distinctly Portuguese music known for its wistful style. We think a night or two of fado is an absolute must: The music is not heard much outside the capital (except in the city of Coimbra), and it's easy to enjoy, even if you don't speak a word of Portuguese.

Fado, which translates loosely as "fate," is more about feelings than lyrics. Fado was first heard two centuries ago in brothels and taverns across Lisbon, and seedy dives in the Alfama neighborhood still provide the best performances.

Late-night hot spots include bars and restaurants in converted warehouses along the riverfront docks (the *docas* area); Parque das Nacoes, with a wide variety of bars along the river; and Bairro Alto, Lisbon's bohemian quarter and home to many bars of all persuasions. Cais do Sodre, the former red-light district, has become Lisbon's coolest nightspot.



Don't worry if a club has a sign at the door asking for a minimum consumption (*consumo minimo*) of 150 euros or even 500 euros. This is just to deter unwanted guests, as Portuguese law technically doesn't allow the restriction of public access to public places. Usually the *consumo minimo* is much less or is not charged at all.

## Shopping

Good shopping areas, besides the huge malls, are Chiado and Rua Augusta, with its many shoe shops; Avenida da Liberdade, with designer brands at top prices; and Bairro Alto for its trendy, alternative boutiques.

If you're looking for antiques, head for Rua D. Pedro V, near Bairro Alto, and Rua de Sao Bento, between Rato and the National Assembly.

Things to buy include cheese, port, lace, linen, cotton and embroidery, azulejos (decorative tiles) and other ceramics, and *filigrana* (filigree—exquisite, finely worked gold).

Be aware that you may ask about discounts, but haggling over prices in shops usually won't get you very far. If you have a Lisbon Card or a green Viva Viagem public transport ticket, it's worth asking if this entitles you to a discount.

**Shopping Hours:** Generally Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm. Most shops remain open during lunch. Large shopping malls are open daily 9 am-midnight.

## Department Stores

### El Corte Ingles

Ave. Antonio Augusto de Aguiar 31 (at the San Sebastiao metro stop—you can go directly from the metro into the store)

Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-371-1700

<http://www.elcorteingles.pt>

The only true department store in Lisbon, this branch of the Spanish chain is perhaps the only store in Lisbon where you can buy anything and everything—from groceries and gourmet foods to toys, toasters, automotive supplies and evening gowns—as well as grab dinner and attend a movie.

Open Monday-Thursday 10 am-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 10 am-11:30 pm, Sunday 10 am-8 pm.

## Galleries

### Arte Periferica

Centro Cultural de Belem, Loja 3

Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-361-7100

<http://www.arteperiferica.pt>

This fine alternative-art gallery showcases both established and unknown artists.

Daily 10 am-8 pm.

### Galeria 111

Campo Grande 113

Lisbon, Portugal



**Phone:** 21-797-7418

<http://www.111.pt>

Since 1964 this gallery has presented the top names of contemporary Portuguese art. It also hosts temporary exhibitions of international artists.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm.

### **ZDB-Ze dos Bois**

Rua da Barroca No. 59  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-343-0205

<http://www.zedosbois.org>

This alternative-art gallery supports multidisciplinary art, particularly by young, up-and-coming Portuguese artists.

Open Wednesday-Friday 6-11 pm, Saturday 3-11 pm; hours vary depending on the events taking place at the gallery.

### **Markets**

#### **Campo de Ourique Market**

Rua Coelho Rocha 100 (take trams 25 and 28)  
Lisbon, Portugal

Located in the Campo de Ourique neighborhood and reachable by Tram 28 from downtown, this food market has a variety of Mediterranean sights, sounds and smells. There you will find all kinds of fresh fruit such as oranges, avocados and olives, as well as seafood and snails.

Open Monday-Saturday 7 am-2 pm.

#### **Feira da Ladra (Thieves Market)**

Campo Santa Clara (Pateo Sao Vincente)  
Lisbon, Portugal

Lisbon's large, crowded flea market has every conceivable article, new or secondhand, you could ever want. However, as with any flea market, the origin of some of the items for sale may be questionable. Be sure to bargain.

Friday and Saturday 9 am-6 pm.

#### **Mercado Fusao**

Praca Martim Moniz  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 92-794-3671

<https://www.facebook.com/MercadoFusao>

Martim Moniz square celebrates the cultural diversity represented within the neighborhood with a fusion market every weekend. As well as world food from the kiosks, you can buy clothes, groceries and other assorted products, and enjoy concerts and DJs.

Saturday and Sunday 11 am-10 pm.





## Shopping Areas

### Armazens do Chiado

Rua do Carmo 2  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-321-0600

<http://www.armazensdochiado.com>

Lisbon's most beautiful shopping center, with six floors. The facade has been preserved from the devastating fire that engulfed it in 1988. Very popular with young people, and it has a great view from its food court on the top floor.

Daily 10 am-10 pm.

### Centro Comercial Colombo

Avenida Lusitana  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-711-3636

<http://www.colombo.pt>

This is one of the biggest shopping centers on the entire Iberian Peninsula, with more than 400 shops, a multiplex cinema and a large entertainment area.

Daily 9 am-midnight.

### Centro Comercial das Amoeiras

Avenida Engenheiro Duarte Pacheco  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-381-0200

<http://www.amoeiras.com>

It is a city unto itself, with streets and more than 300 shops, a multiplex cinema, 50 restaurants and cafes. It even has a church.

Daily 10 am-11 pm.

### Centro Comercial Vasco da Gama

Avenida D. Joao II, Parque das Nacoes  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-893-0601

<http://www.centrovascodagama.pt>

The design of this mall is interesting: It's near the river, so everything at the mall was made to remind you of a ship—deck chairs, hatches and other nautical details. The restrooms, especially the ladies', are worth a visit. The mall is always crowded.

Daily 9 am-midnight.



## Specialty Stores

### A Carioca

Rua da Misericordia 9  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-0377

<http://acarioca.pai.pt>

Smack in the middle of Chiado, this is the ultimate heaven for the caffeine-addicted. It is impossible to walk past the door when the coffee is being ground. If you are very lucky, some of the rare beans of the Arabic Sao Tome coffee will be in stock. If so, buy as much as you can afford: Coffee doesn't get any better than this. If you prefer tea, treat yourself to the Gorreana green tea picked on the Azores Islands.

Open Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

### Ana Salazar

Rua do Carmo 87  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-347-2289

<http://www.anasalazar.pt>

This is the shop of Portugal's most famous female fashion designer. You will find very wearable collections with a unique twist there, as well as shoes and bags. Expect designer prices, but pieces from previous collections can be bargains.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm.

### A Outra Face da Lua

Rua da Assuncao, Baixa  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-886-3430

<http://www.aoutrafacedalua.com>

This place sells secondhand clothes and art. It's also a tearoom.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm.

### A Vida Portuguesa

Rua Anchieta 11  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-346-5073

<http://www.avidaportuguesa.com>

For everything Portuguese from the past and present, head to this shop filled with fascinating pieces that make great gifts. From soaps to toys, everything comes wrapped in beautiful retro packaging.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday 11 am-8 pm.



### **Bairro Arte**

Rua Paiva de Andrada 2  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 91-057-1594

<http://www.bairroarte.com>

This shop is chock-full of arty, trendy gifts. Some items, such as the marble coasters with Lisbon street signs, would serve well as souvenirs. It has branches in Cascais, Bairro Alto and Chiado and will ship items.

Open daily 9 am-midnight (closes at 8 pm in January and February).

### **Coisas do Arco do Vinho**

Centro Cultural de Belem, Loja 7-C, Praca do Imperio  
Belem, Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-364-2031

<http://www.coisasdoarcodovinho.pt>

This wonderful wine shop offers a comprehensive array of Portuguese (and a few foreign) wines. Red-wine lovers should try Colares, a powerful, tannic wine made near Lisbon that can be difficult to find in the rest of the country. Wine-related products—glasses, decanters, corkscrews—are available, too.

Open daily except Monday 11 am-8 pm. (During July and August, the shop is closed on Sunday and open on Monday.)

### **Conservaria de Lisboa**

Rua dos Bacalhoeiros 34  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-886-4009

<http://www.conserveiradelisboa.pt>

Open since 1930, the shelves of this tiny shop in the Baixa are piled with colorful tins of fish and seafood. If you buy any, they will be wrapped in paper for you. You can preserve your visit in history by commenting in the guest book.

Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm.

### **DeliDelux**

Avenida Infante D, Henrique Armazem B Loja 8  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-886-2070

<http://www.delidelux.pt>

A trendy cafe and gourmet store with a view over the Tagus River stocked with the best Portuguese (and non-Portuguese) food plus an excellent collection of wines. The smoked hams of the *charcuteria* are a treat for gourmets.

Daily 10 am-10 pm in winter, 10 am-midnight in summer.

### **Fabrica Sant'anna**

Rua de Alecrim 95, Chiado  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-2537



<http://www.fabrica-santanna.com>

Probably the best manufacturer of azulejos, in business since 1741. You can have the tile panels custom made, and if you fear for your baggage allowance, have them shipped. Your kitchen, living room or bathroom will never look the same again.

Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-7 pm.

#### **GN Cellar**

Rua da Conceicao 20-26  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-885-2395

<http://www.garrafeiranacional.com>

A classy booze shop in the Baixa that specializes in spirits, as well as Portuguese and Madeira wines and port.

Daily 10 am-9 pm.

#### **Luvaria Ulisses**

Rua do Carmo 87-A, Chiado  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-0295

<http://www.luvariaulisses.com>

Pay close attention or you will walk right by this tiny, old-fashioned store, which sells only gloves. You can have your own pair custom made. If money is no object, choose the ones made of peccary leather. Only one customer at a time fits into Portugal's smallest store, and the ceremony to try on the gloves is alone worth the visit. Your hand will never be treated with more respect, and your elbow will rest on a little red cushion on the counter.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm.

#### **Madeira House**

Rua Augusta 133  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-343-1454

<http://www.madeira-house.com>

If you like beautiful handmade embroidery and can't make it to the Atlantic island of Madeira, this shop should be a priority. It sells Madeira lace at its finest: tablecloths, placemats and napkin sets. The most expensive works can cost thousands of euros, but remember that they take months to finish.

Monday-Friday 9:30 am-8 pm, Saturday 9:30 am-1:30 pm and 3-8 pm.

#### **Ouriversaria Alianca**

Rua Garret 50  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-3419

<http://ourivesaria-alianca.pai.pt>



This may very well be one of the most beautifully decorated jewelry shops you will ever come across, still showing off all its splendor from the early 20th century. This is the place to look for vintage art-deco silver, beautiful hairbrushes and hand mirrors, all designed in Portugal.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm, Sunday noon-8 pm.

### **Queijaria Nacional**

Rua da Conceicao 8  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 91-208-2450

<http://www.queijarianacional.pt>

For the best of Portuguese cheeses, try this little shop in the Baixa. It can vacuum pack your purchases so you can take them home with you.

Daily 10 am-8 pm.

### **Santos Oficios**

Rua da Madalena 87 (opposite Madalena Church)  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-887-2031

<http://www.santosoficios-artesanato.pt>

It is one of the best souvenir shops in Lisbon, with regional handicrafts such as ceramics, figurines and weavings of high quality.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm.

### **Teresa Alecrim**

Rua Nova Almada 76  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-1831

<http://www.teresaalecrim.com>

This is the place to go for handmade Portuguese linens and embroidered goods. The quality is high, and the prices are fair. It's not a tourist trap—locals shop there as well.

Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm.

## **Dining**

### **Dining Overview**

Lisbon offers everything from refined delicacies to humble regional recipes. Local ingredients, including seafood, are the base for most dishes. The most popular dining neighborhoods, with the biggest variety of restaurants, are Bairro Alto and Chiado.

Despite the depth of their traditional cuisine, Lisboans are fond of food from other parts of the world—especially dishes from former Portuguese colonies. Africa, Asia and the Americas are all represented in Lisbon's restaurant choices. Vegetarians will be glad to know that there are several excellent vegetarian restaurants in the city.



If you order regional food, be prepared for big servings. In quite a few places you can avoid those by ordering *uma meia dose* (half a meal).

Lisboans rarely sit down for a real breakfast. They'd rather stand by the counter, drinking a *bica* (espresso) and eating a pastry. Brunch, however, has become quite popular on weekends.

Lunch is no longer the event it used to be, but many people still go to a restaurant for a midday meal. Dinner, however, is becoming more important. Some people dress up when they go out for dinner, although in most places there are no strict dress codes.

Breakfast is usually eaten 7-10 am. Lunch is served noon-3 pm, with most people eating between 1 and 2 pm. Dinner is served 7:30-10:30 pm, though most restaurants remain open until the last customers have finished their coffee—usually around midnight.

Expect to pay the following for a single dinner, excluding drinks, tax and tip: \$ = less than 15 euros; \$\$ = 15 euros-25 euros; \$\$\$ = 26 euros-50 euros; \$\$\$\$ = more than 50 euros.

## Local & Regional

### Alma

Calçada Marques de Abrantes 92  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-396-3527

<http://alma.co.pt>

Famous for his TV cooking shows, chef Henrique Sa Pessoa opened this restaurant to further showcase his creativity in the kitchen. It's a small space but with a menu big on innovative dishes of contemporary Portuguese cuisine.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### A Travessa

Travessa do Convento das Bernardas 12 (take Tram 28)  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-390-2034

<http://www.atravessa.com>

This Luso-Belgian restaurant is housed in the converted Convento das Bernardas monastery. If you don't like mussels, there are always excellent fish dishes such as *tamboril flamejado* (seared monkfish); meat options including *pernil de pata negra assado no forno* (roast shank of black pig); and plenty of Portuguese dishes. Service is outstanding, the wine list is exhaustive, and the monastic setting with antique furniture is stunning—a beautiful courtyard opens up in summer. The fine Belgian beer should not be missed.

Monday and Saturday 8 pm-midnight, Tuesday-Friday 12:30-3 pm and 8 pm-midnight. \$\$\$\$\$. Accepts Visa and MasterCard.

### Cafe Fabulas

Calçada Nova de Sao Francisco 14  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-601-8472

<http://www.fabulas.pt>



Morning or evening, this popular cafe and restaurant is usually crowded. The inexpensive dishes—made from mostly organic ingredients—and drinks contribute to its popularity, as does its charming, cozy interior decorated with old mismatched furniture.

Monday-Thursday 11 am-midnight, Friday and Saturday 11 am-1 pm. Reservations accepted for groups of six or more. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Cafe No Chiado**

Largo do Picadeiro 10-12  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-346-0501

<http://www.cafenochiado.com>

This stylish cafe and restaurant is a good spot to relax after a performance at the nearby Teatro de Sao Carlos. A plate of the day features fish or meat, and the *arroz de pato* (duck with rice) is always a good choice. It has a good selection of salads, too.

Daily 10 am-2 am. Reservations recommended for dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Decadente**

Rua de Sao Pedro de Alcantara 81  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-346-1381

<http://www.thedecadente.pt>

This popular and stylish but informal restaurant serves modern Portuguese food at the back of the Independente Hostel. Sunday brunch is a bit hit-and-miss, but menu dishes are good quality and well-presented. The bar serves great cocktails, too.

Monday-Friday noon-3 pm, Saturday 12:30-4 pm for lunch; Sunday-Wednesday 8-11 pm, Thursday-Saturday 8 pm-midnight for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

### **Eleven**

Rua Marques de Fronteira  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-386-2211

<http://www.restauranteleven.com>

Delicious local cuisine prepared by chef Joachim Koerper. The restaurant has elegantly designed surroundings and a fabulous view of the old and modern parts of Lisbon.

Daily 12:30-3 pm and 7:30-11 pm. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Largo**

Rua Serpa Pinto 10-A  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-347-7225

<http://www.largo.pt>



An old cloister was given new life by Miguel Cancio Martins, a renowned Portuguese designer. It's now a restaurant where acclaimed chef Miguel Castro Silva serves imaginative dishes of Portuguese cuisine. The lunchtime menu is a good value.

Open daily. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Ponto Final**

Cais do Ginjal 72, Cacilhas  
Lisbon, Portugal

Cross the river with the ferry from Cais do Sodre, take a short walk along the river, and you'll find this restaurant right on the water. It offers magical sunset views across the city, excellent Portuguese cuisine and good wines. A great place to spend a summer evening. The cult movie *A Cidade Branca (The White City)* about Lisbon was filmed there.

Wednesday-Monday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Restaurante Pap'Acorda**

Rua da Atalaia 57, Bairro Alto  
Lisbon, Portugal

This restaurant offers up-to-date versions of classic Portuguese dishes, including *acorda* (various ingredients, usually including seafood, mashed into wet bread and often topped with an egg). The *pasteis de massa tenra* (meat pastries) are also delicious.

Open Monday-Saturday for dinner. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Sinal Vermelho**

Rua das Gaveas 89  
Lisbon, Portugal

Since the 1980s, this restaurant has been one of the most popular in the Bairro Alto district. The food is traditional Portuguese cuisine but with a few original surprises, and it's always served in a relaxed, informal ambience.

Monday, Tuesday and Saturday for dinner only; Wednesday-Friday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Taberna Ideal**

Rua da Esperance 112-114  
Lisbon, Portugal

This cozy, welcoming little restaurant serves Portuguese food with a modern twist. The menu is designed for sharing, but even if you're on your own, you'll be entering food heaven with such dishes as chicken liver and apples poached in balsamic vinegar.

Wednesday-Saturday for dinner, Sunday for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. No credit cards.

### **Tasca da Esquina**

Rua Domingos Sequeira 41C  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-099-3939 or 91-983-7255

<http://www.tascadaesquina.com>





Long known as one of the city's best chefs, Vitor Sobral decided to make his cuisine accessible to everyone. For that he created a low-cost menu that remains high on quality, made up of tapas-sized portions and served in a relaxed atmosphere. Although based on traditional cuisine, everything served has Sobral's personal touch.

Open Monday for dinner only, Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Tavares**

Rua da Misericordia 37  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-1112

<http://www.restaurantetavares.pt>

Portugal's oldest restaurant is a palatial space with a young chef who already has been awarded a Michelin star. The cuisine is mostly Portuguese but with international influences.

Open Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Cuisines**

#### **Italian**

##### **Casanostra**

Travessa do POCO da Cidade 60  
Lisbon, Portugal 1200-385

**Phone:** 21-342-5931

<http://www.restaurantecasanostra.com>

Serving refined Italian cuisine, Casanostra is a must for those who love Italian food.

Sunday-Friday 12:30-2:30 pm and 8-11 pm, Saturday 8-11 pm. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

##### **Esperanca**

Rua do Norte 95  
Lisbon, Portugal

This Bairro Alto restaurant serves fantastic gourmet pizza with such toppings as figs and truffles, as well as a range of more standard options. It also offers the famous Santini ice creams if you have room for dessert.

Open Monday-Friday for dinner; Saturday, Sunday and holidays for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

#### **Continental**

##### **Bica do Sapato**

Avenida Infante D. Henrique, Armazem B, Cais da Pedra (in front of Santa Apolonia train station, overlooking the Tagus River)  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-881-0320

<http://www.bicadosapato.com>



This enormous restaurant includes a fine-dining area, a cafeteria and a sushi bar. Aside from the sushi bar, the food is mostly Continental, but Portuguese ingredients are used wherever possible. The food is good, but the stylish contemporary decor and riverfront setting are the main attractions at Bica do Sapato—as are the people-watching opportunities. This is definitely a place to see and be seen—wear your best clothes.

Monday 5 pm-1 am , Tuesday-Saturday noon-1 am. Reservations recommended; try to get a table at the cafeteria. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Bistro 100 Maneiras**

Largo da Trindade 9  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 91-030-7575

<http://www.restaurante100maneiras.com>

Popular with Lisbon fashionistas, this is a classy place for cocktails, snacks or full meals. If you like getting dressed up to go out, this is a good place to go to be seen. The smoke-free area upstairs is cozy and has views of the river. Popular dishes include the beef steak, salmon burger and mushroom risotto.

Monday-Saturday 7:30 pm-2 am. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Seafood**

#### **Cervejaria Ramiro**

Avenida Almirante Reis 1  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-885-1024

<http://www.cervejariaramiro.pt>

A firm favorite among locals and tourists alike, this is the place to go for fantastic seafood and draft beer. It doesn't take reservations, so go early or be prepared to wait in line for a table, especially at peak times (have a beer while you wait). The restaurant provides iPads for tourists to help you decipher the menu. Try the tiger prawns and finish your meal with a steak sandwich. Be warned: It gets noisy and chaotic, so it's not the place for a quiet, romantic evening.

Tuesday-Sunday noon-12:30 am. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

#### **Doca Peixe**

Doca de Santo Amaro, Armazem 14  
Lisbon, Portugal 1350-353

**Phone:** 21-397-3565

<http://www.docapeixe.com>

The daily selection of grilled fish is really worth the wait and the slightly high prices.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

#### **Gambrinus**

Rua das Portas de Santo Antao 23  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-1466



<http://www.gambrinuslisboa.com>

In a city where seafood is part of almost every menu, Gambrinus has for decades stood out for the quality of the seafood offered. Although it's not cheap, if you're a seafood lover this is a classic Lisbon experience you won't want to miss.

Daily noon-1:30 am. \$\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

### **Sea Me**

Rua do Loreto 21  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-346-6465

<http://www.peixariamoderna.com>

Thoroughly recommended for seafood lovers, especially those who like Japanese food. Sea Me's chef, Filipe Rodrigues, combines the best of Portuguese and Japanese cuisine and adds his own special twist to classics and innovative dishes alike.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations essential on weekends. \$\$-\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

### **Steak Houses**

#### **Cafe Buenos Aires**

Rua do Duque 22  
Lisbon, Portugal

There's a definite South American atmosphere in this cozy, unpretentious restaurant with mismatched wooden furniture and low lighting. Its steaks are imported twice a week from Argentina and melt in the mouth. There is a second location at Calçada do Duque 31B.

Open daily except Monday for dinner. Reservations recommended, although you may be able to squeeze in for an early sitting if you turn up without one. \$\$ . No credit cards.

#### **Cervejaria da Trindade**

Rua Nova da Trindade 20-C  
Lisbon, Portugal 2715-311

**Phone:** 21-342-3506 or 93-990-0844

<http://www.cervejariatrindade.pt>

This combination noisy steak house and seafood restaurant is located in a former brewery. It's worth a visit just to look at the azulejos (tiles).

Daily 10 am-midnight. \$\$-\$\$\$ . Most major credit cards.

#### **Cervejaria Portugalia**

Rua da Cintura do Porto de Lisboa, Armazem 63 (near the Cais do Sodre metro stop)  
Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-2138

<http://www.portugalia.pt>



This landmark steak house and brewery gets very busy in the summer. The meal quality varies, but its steak specialty, *bife a Portuguesa*, is usually reliable. There are additional locations dotted around the city, including in the major shopping malls.

Daily noon-1:30 am. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### La Brasserie de l'Entrecote

Rua do Alecrim 117

Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-347-3616

<http://www.brasserieentrecote.pt>

This restaurant is decorated like an art-deco French brasserie. Its signature dish is grilled entrecote with french fries—the only other menu option is grilled *seitan*, for those who don't eat steak. It has good wines, a nice selection of other French beverages and wonderful desserts.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### La Paparrucha

Rua Dom Pedro V 18-20

Lisbon, Portugal

**Phone:** 21-342-5333

<http://www.lapaparrucha.com>

The house specialty is steak based on Argentinean and Brazilian traditions, to be enjoyed as you look out on a fabulous view of the city.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Security

#### Etiquette

Lisboans are generally a relaxed, friendly and laid-back people.

**Personal Introductions**—In business situations, it's common to shake hands when greeting someone. Women often kiss on each cheek, but men should allow the woman to offer her cheek first.

**Conversation**—When talking, be sure to maintain eye contact. Light conversational touching may be acceptable in informal situations.

**Body Language**—Don't stretch in public as this is considered rude. Also, don't turn your back toward someone in the group you are with. (If you do, apologize and don't repeat the offense.)

**Business Entertaining**—Always use a knife and a fork to eat your meals, and never use your fingers unless you are eating finger food.



## Personal Safety

Lisbon—like Portugal in general—has one of the lowest violent-crime rates in Europe. However, crime does exist, from pickpockets on the trams to purse snatchers in the street. You can walk about at night, but avoid deserted or badly lit streets. (Be especially mindful in the Bairro Alto and avoid Baixa late at night.) Keep an eye on your belongings and avoid setting them down where they can be stolen.

Some areas on the outskirts of town can be dangerous, though there's little reason travelers would want to be there anyway. Parts of the Avenidas Novas turn into an unsecure streetwalker area at night, and the Rua da Palma and lower part of the Avenida Almirante Reis can also be dicey.

Ask your hotel's concierge or front-desk staff about any area you want to visit. If you need assistance on the street, many Portuguese, particularly younger people, speak English and are willing to help. The nationwide emergency phone number is 112. There's a police station with 24-hour service for tourists (PSP-Esquadra de Turismo) in the Palacio Foz next to the Turismo on Praca dos Restauradores. Phone 21-342-1634.

For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

## Health

In general, the food is safe to eat, the water is fine to drink and there are no problems with public sanitation. No health certificates or vaccinations are required.

In emergencies, go to the Hospital de Sao Jose, Rua Jose Antonio Serrano (metro: Martim Moniz, phone 21-884-1000) or Hospital de Santa Maria, Avenida Prof. Egas Moniz (metro: Cidade Universitaria, phone 21-780-5000).

Pharmacies (*farmacias*) are almost everywhere. Every *farmacia* lists the nearest one open in the late evening or 24 hours. You can also call 1820 for more information.

Smoking is prohibited in all public places, including restaurants and bars, although some have special (separate) smoker sections, as allowed by law. You may also find some establishments that have opted to permit smoking. As a consequence, smoking in bars, especially in Bairro Alto, is still fairly common.

For the latest information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

## Disabled Advisory

As an ancient city with many old buildings, Lisbon has places where disabled visitors will experience some difficulty getting around. Most hotels and restaurants and a good number of attractions offer access to disabled tourists. Unfortunately, some places are still impossible for people with special needs to enter. The wild local parking habits are also not helpful when trying to cross a street with a wheelchair. Lisbon's hotels have taken notice of the requirements of the disabled. There are many good hotels with excellent access for wheelchairs.

The bus operator Carris provides a special door-to-door service for those in wheelchairs but a special card has to be applied for to use it. It runs on pre-established routes Monday-Friday 6:30 am-9:30 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 8 am-noon and 2-10 pm. You must contact Carris 48 hours in advance to arrange for a pick-up. More than 40% of its fleet is accessible for people with reduced mobility and 30% has room for wheelchairs and an access ramp. For more information, phone 21-361-3141 or stop by any Carris booth (look for the small orange kiosks). <http://www.carris.pt>.



The tour operator Accessible Portugal organizes special Portugal tours for people with disabilities. It uses cars and buses specially equipped for wheelchair access and books rooms in hotels catering to disabled visitors. You can also rent wheelchairs and other equipment there. Rua Joao Freitas Branco, No. 21D, Lisbon. Phone 21-720-3130. <http://www.accessibleportugal.com>.

Several beaches, including Cascais, Estoril, Faro and Albufeira, have ramps and facilities for people with reduced mobility.

## Facts

### Dos & Don'ts

Do take it slowly. Doing things *devagar* still is an honored Portuguese tradition; doing them *amanha* (tomorrow or the day after), even more so. Never appear impatient.

Don't talk when a fado singer is performing, as it is considered deeply insulting. Portuguese people will remain absolutely silent during a song.

Do try to get a window seat when flying to Lisbon. The landing approach is often spectacular.

Don't say *gracias*—that's Spanish. Women should say *obrigada*, and men, *obrigado* (I am thankful or obliged).

Do remember the names of some Portuguese soccer stars, such as Luis Figo, Cristiano Ronaldo and coach Jose Mourinho. The Portuguese are typically mad about soccer, and saying a few nice words about the quality of Portuguese soccer is a great way to start a conversation.

Don't confuse Portuguese bullfights with those of Spain. The bull is never killed in Portugal.

Do say *com licenca* (with your permission) to say excuse me if you want to get past someone or end a telephone conversation. *Desculpe* or *desculpa* is used more as an apology if you have done something wrong or if you are trying to get someone's attention.

Don't jump the line at bus and tram stops; stay in line and hop inside in order.

Don't be afraid to send back unsolicited appetizers in restaurants. The waiter will usually bring a few dishes to your table, but they aren't freebies, so decide whether or not you want to pay for them before tucking in.

## Geostats

**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Citizens of Canada and the U.S. need passports, proof of sufficient funds and onward passage. However, citizens of the U.S. and Canada do not need a visa for stays of up to 90 days. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

**Population:** 2,843,410.

**Languages:** Portuguese.

**Predominant Religions:** Christian (Roman Catholic).

**Time Zone:** Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.



**Voltage Requirements:** 220 volts.

**Telephone Codes:** 351, country code;

## Money

### Taxes

In Portugal, the majority of purchases and transactions are subject to IVA, also known as the value-added tax (VAT), which is 23%. There are also reduced VAT rates: 6% for essential products, hotels, books and newspapers; and 13% for food and agricultural supplies. The tax is almost always included in the price; when it is not, this fact should be clearly noted. Look for the small print on the bottom of the price tag—the end price is probably there.

With a little paperwork, non-European Union residents can obtain a tax refund for purchases of more than 50 euros before tax in a single store during a single visit. This only applies to items you are carrying in your luggage and to private individuals. You need to present three things to the VAT refund officer at the airport before departure to get a refund: the article you purchased, the receipt and a refund form (which must be picked up at the place of purchase). If you don't have these three things, then your refund will be denied. Note that only *unused* articles are eligible for a refund: If the article looks used, then you won't get your money back. If everything is in order, the VAT refund officer will give you a final form to be mailed in for your refund. (For your own convenience, see the VAT officer before checking your bags and have your purchases in an easy-to-reach place.)

Some larger stores have a streamlined process: They handle most of the paperwork and then mail the refund to you, sometimes minus a fee. Private VAT refund services, located at the airport, will give you an immediate refund minus a fee, which is usually a percentage of the refund.

If you are traveling to other countries in the EU, you'll have to claim your refunds at your final exit point from the EU. In other words, if you're traveling on to Spain and France and are departing the EU from Paris, you have to claim the VAT refunds from all three countries at the airport in Paris.

### Tipping

In Portugal, tipping is not as important as in some other parts of the world. Every clerk, server and attendant receives a full salary. Tipping is considered an act of appreciation, not a duty.

In hotels, you may wish to offer a one or two euros to the bellhop who carries your suitcases up to the room. In taxis, round the bill up to the next euro if you liked the way the driver treated you. In restaurants, add a few euros, but only if you enjoyed the food and the service.

### What to Wear

Portuguese people are conscious of what they wear and many people spend considerable sums of money on clothing and the way they look. But there is a fairly relaxed attitude toward the way others are dressed. You can dress up if you want to when you go out to fancy restaurants, the theater or stylish nightclubs, but don't worry too much if you're just sightseeing or bar-hopping in Bairro Alto or Cais do Sodre. Discos will usually refuse entry to men in shorts or sneakers.

Women should cover their shoulders and wear reasonably modest skirts when entering a church, and men should be wearing at least a T-shirt and long shorts.

Even summer nights can be cool, so take a light jacket or a sweater if you plan to spend time by the river. Many bars and restaurants with outdoor seating provide blankets.



For business meetings, dark suits with a tie are de rigueur, and shirts with short sleeves are considered inappropriate. Also avoid very colorful ties. Only remove your jacket when your business partner initiates the move. It is considered a lack of respect if your leather shoes are not clean, since shoeshiners are available everywhere.

## Communication

### Telephone

All phone numbers in Portugal have nine digits. Every number in Lisbon begins with a 21, followed by seven digits. You must dial all nine digits, even when calling within the city. Toll-free numbers begin with 800. If you need to find a number within Portugal, you can access a directory by dialing 118.

To call abroad, you must dial the international code, which is 00, plus the country code, and omit the first zero if the telephone number begins with one. If you need assistance placing a call or international directory assistance, dial 1820. This is Portugal Telecom's "number that tells you everything" and can help you with anything from postal codes to booking tickets or making dinner reservations.

Portugal has three mobile-phone companies: Vodafone, TMN (Portugal Telecom) and Optimus. They are strong competitors, and calling between networks can be more expensive than a regular call. Mobile numbers begin with 9. Instead of paying for expensive roaming, you can buy prepaid SIM cards if your device is SIM-free. Several outlets at the airport sell them or you can buy them from any mobile phone shop in the city.

Making calls is easy: You can find phone booths that accept cards (phone cards or credit cards). Coin-operated pay phones have gradually been phased out and are now rare. Cards to use the phones may be purchased from any newsstand and at reception of most hotels.

### Internet Access

Most hotels offer Wi-Fi, often for free in the public areas, but do check first. Reception can be patchy and you may need to go to the lobby in order to get a decent signal.

Likewise, many bars, cafes and restaurants offer free Wi-Fi to customers—simply ask staff for the code.

Portugal Telecom (PT) is the largest service provider for Wi-Fi connections. There is usually a fee for access. You can find the location of hot spots and buy an e-Voucher in the PT-shops or online (<http://www.ptwifi.pt>). They cost 2 euros for 30 minutes, 3 euros for one hour, 20 euros for one day or 50 euros for one week.

Many hot spots are found in the vicinity of post offices, shopping malls, McDonald's restaurants, gas stations and many hotels and cafes. The hot spots in parks and at *miradouros* are called *jardins digitais*.

If you buy a pre-paid SIM card and your phone has 3G or 4G capabilities, you will be able to access the Internet via a Portuguese mobile phone provider. Rates vary but are likely to be cheaper than roaming charges with your normal provider at around 1 euro for 30 megabytes of data.

### PT Internet Shop

On the corner of Rossio square, Portugal Telecom (PT) has set up a communications shop where you can use its computers and make long-distance phone calls. Daily 9 am-9 pm. 1.50 euros for 30 minutes of Internet or 2 euros for unlimited surfing. Praca Dom Pedro 4. Lisbon, Portugal.

You can pick up free copies of *Welcome Lisboa* from many city center cafes, hotels, shops and bars. Organized by geographic area, it contains listings for restaurants, shops, hotels and attractions.





## Transportation

Most of the time, you won't need to concern yourself with transportation matters. The heart of the city can be explored on foot if you can manage the hills. If you would rather not walk, take one of the vintage trams. The metro is good for covering long distances, particularly to Parque das Nacoes, and there's a suburban train line connecting Lisbon's Cais do Sodre station and Cascais, with a stop in Belem, a neighborhood also reachable by taking Tram 15. Frequent, modern buses connect you with the rest of the city.

Every Lisbonian seems to travel by car. In fact, the number of motorized vehicles entering the city each day is astounding. Rush hour is terrible, particularly if there are any accidents. We don't recommend renting a car in Lisbon. Public transportation is your best bet unless you are pressed for time, in which case a taxi might get to your destination faster. Taxis are plentiful and affordable, though the cabbies tend to drive on the wild side, so wear your seat belt.

Consideration should be given to purchasing a Lisboa Card. It allows free, unlimited travel on all public transport in the city including the metro, trams, funiculars, Carris buses and CP train lines. It also includes admission to 26 museums, attractions and historic buildings. It can be purchased from all Turismo de Lisboa booths and you'll find one at the airport. They can also be ordered online. A 24-hour card costs 18.50 euros adults, 11.50 euros children ages 5-15. A 48-hour card costs 31.50 euros adults, 17.50 euros children. A 72-hour card is 39 euros adults, 20.50 euros children. <http://www.askmelisboa.com/en/catalog/lisboa-card-0>.

## Air

Lisbon International Airport (LIS) is a pleasant facility with the usual amenities. It has undergone extensive renovations, though it's still rather small, so finding your way around it shouldn't be a problem. Because it is only 6 mi/10 km from the city center, connections are generally fast and trouble-free.

Lisbon airport now has two terminals for international departures, but this only affects passengers flying with certain carriers. There is a free shuttle bus connecting the two terminals, and all flights arrive at Terminal 1. Phone 21-841-3500. <http://www.ana.pt>.

## Metro

If you haven't got a Lisbon Card, Zapping or a daily travel pass, you will need to buy a Viva Viagem card for 0.50 euros (rechargeable for one year) then add trips at 1.40 euros each. A single trip can be combined with Carris services to complete a journey within the space of one hour. Ticket machines are available at the entrance to every metro station and major stations have manned ticket booths. Daily 6:30 am-1 am. . Lisbon, Portugal. Phone 21-350-0115. <http://www.metrolisboa.pt>.

## Taxi

Several taxi companies, in addition to private taxis, operate in the city. Taxis are beige, though there are still a few black cars with green roofs left—the original colors of taxis in Portugal. Taxis can be hailed on the street or arranged by phone. (There is an extra charge for ordering a taxi by phone.)

All taxis are metered. Drivers will charge you an extra 1.60 euros for putting luggage in the trunk and/or for transporting animals. Prices increase by 20% after 9 pm and on Saturday, Sunday and holidays.



## Seville, Spain

### Overview

#### Introduction

Exploring the labyrinthine old city of Seville, Spain, might give you a clue as to how Sevillanos in the 1500s developed the skills to become masters of global navigation. Even with today's GPS apps, finding your way through the maze of narrow winding streets can still pose a challenge. But you'll know it's worth the effort when you glimpse a plant-filled patio with a trickling fountain or stumble upon a lovely plaza alive with people enjoying drinks and tapas.



Seville offers plenty to see and do. First there are the Moorish gems adapted and the Gothic and baroque trophies erected during the centuries when the city was a dominant commercial hub. Then there are the sights maintained from the two international fairs hosted in the 20th century when Seville reclaimed its place on the world stage. And if you're lucky enough to witness a Semana Santa procession, or see Sevillanos decked out in their flamenco finery at the Feria de Abril, or catch a whiff of orange blossoms and jasmine, then you'll truly understand what it means to be in the capital of Andalusia.

#### Highlights

**Sights**—The Cathedral and the Giralda; the Real Alcazar; Hospital de los Venerables; Casa de Pilatos; Plaza de Espana; Metropol Parasol; the neighborhood of Triana.

**Museums**—Museo de Bellas Artes; Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo in the Monasterio de la Cartuja; Museo Arqueologico.

**Memorable Meals**—A romantic dinner at Abantal or Egana Oriza; lunch in the quaint Antigua Abaceria de San Lorenzo; traditional tapas at Enrique Becerra or Cervceria Giralda or innovative tapas at Eslava or La Azotea; interesting ice-cream flavors at Heladeria La Fiorentina.

**Late Night**—Having drinks on a riverside terrace or a hotel rooftop; watching and hearing flamenco at a *tabla*o or bar; tapas-bar-hopping around the Alameda.

**Walks**—Up the twisting ramps of the Giralda; anywhere along the river; through the shady lanes of Parque de Maria Luisa.

#### Geography

Seville is in southern Spain in the western half of the state of Andalusia. By train, it's about 90 minutes to Cadiz on the Atlantic coast, at least two hours to Malaga on the Mediterranean coast and three hours to Granada in the east. The metropolitan area lies in the fertile plain of the Guadalquivir River. Upward of 70% of the tourist sights are found in the old city (*casco antiguo*).

The old city is a large district along the eastern bank of the river, further divided into barrios (neighborhoods). Starting in the south and moving around the edges in a counter-clockwise direction are the barrios of Santa Cruz, San Bartolome, La Macarena (at the top), San Lorenzo, Museo and El Arenal. At the center of the old city are the barrios of Alfalfa (south) and Encarnacion-Regina (north). Though it's not officially a barrio, most Sevillanos use the designation *centro* to refer to a central rectangular slice of the old city that overlaps with parts of Santa Cruz, Alfalfa and Encarnacion-Regina. It encompasses the cathedral and Real Alcazar, the Ayuntamiento (town hall), the main shopping areas around calle Sierpes and calle Tetuan, the small square known as la Campana and Plaza de la Encarnacion.



Familiarizing yourself with the location of the city's main squares and using them as points of reference will also help you a great deal in terms of orientation. The main squares, moving from south to north, are Plaza del Triunfo (cathedral), Plaza Nueva and Plaza San Francisco (the Ayuntamiento sits in the middle of those two squares), la Campana and the adjacent Plaza del Duque, Plaza de la Encarnacion (where the umbrella-shaped structure called Metropol Parasol is) and la Alameda de Hercules.

The names of streets often change in midcourse, but there are a few principal thoroughfares. Paseo de Cristobal Colon runs along the river from the Torre del Oro to the Maestranza bullring. Avenida de la Constitucion runs from Puerta de Jerez in the south, skirting the western side of the cathedral and arriving at Plaza de San Francisco. North of there it's called calle Sierpes, which takes you to la Campana. Traveling to the east, Martin Villa, later becoming Larana and then Imagen, takes you to Plaza de la Encarnacion. Traveling to the north from la Campana, Tarifa becomes Amor de Dios, which leads you directly to the Alameda. You'll no doubt become disoriented at some point, but chances are you won't become hopelessly lost. And because much of the old city is pedestrianized, you won't have to worry too much about cars.

On the western side of the river is the popular neighborhood of Triana. It's connected to the old city by three bridges: Puente del Cachorro in the north, Puente de Isabel II (also called Puente de Triana) in the center and Puente de San Telmo in the south. To the north of Triana is an area known as la Isla de la Cartuja, which was redeveloped for Expo '92. It's also connected to the old city by three bridges: Puente del Alamillo in the north, Puente de la Barqueta in the center and Puente de la Cartuja in the south. To the south of Triana is another residential neighborhood called Los Remedios, where the annual Feria de Abril is held.

Moving back to the eastern side of the river, to the south of the old city and the Real Alcazar is a very green neighborhood dominated by Parque de Maria Luisa. It was laid out for the 1929 fair, and many of its pavilions are still in use, most notably the Plaza de Espana complex. Farther to the north and to the east of the old city is the neighborhood of San Pablo-San Justo, where the main train station, Santa Justa, is located. Just south of there is the neighborhood of Nervion, which has a large soccer stadium and the city's main shopping mall.

## History

Artifacts and structures tell the story of Seville's rich history. A hoard of gold jewelry and other finds unearthed near Seville called the Carambolo treasure are an indication that either Phoenicians or Phoenician-influenced Iberian people were settled in the Guadalquivir valley as early as the eighth century BC. Pottery found around Seville and nearby Carmona also points to a later Carthaginian presence. More substantial are the Roman remains from the third century BC onward, when Seville was known as Hispalis. Five tall columns from a temple, sections of an aqueduct, and the footprint of streets and houses are still visible in the city. The nearby ruins of the Roman city of Italica, the birthplace of Trajan, are also well-preserved.

Germanic groups such as the Silingi Vandals and Visigoths migrated into the Iberian peninsula in the fifth century AD, eventually wresting control from the weakened Roman empire. Hispalis came to be called simply Spalis. Isidore of Seville was bishop of the city 600-636, and he compiled an influential encyclopedia of knowledge handed down from late antiquity called *Etymologiae*, recorded the history of the Goths, Vandals and Suevi, and was influential in converting the Visigoth rulers from Arianism to Roman Catholicism.

In 711-712 an army of Arabs and Berbers conquered nearly the entire Iberian peninsula in the name of Islam. Ishbiliya, as Seville became known, remained a predominantly Muslim city for more than 500 years. For the first centuries it was overshadowed by Cordoba, the Umayyad capital of Muslim Iberia (al-Andalus). When Cordoba fell to the Castilians in 1031, Ishbiliya emerged as an independent *taifa*, or emirate, under the Abbadid dynasty. Al-Mutamid is a well-known ruler (and poet) from that period.



After a string of successes by Christian armies pushing down from the north, the *taifa* rulers turned to a Berber dynasty from Morocco—called the Almoravids—for military assistance. Their support turned into domination of what remained of al-Andalus (1091), and then they too were overtaken by another Berber group called the Almohads (1172). Examples of the Almohad's defensive structures also still stand in the Torre del Oro and a segment of the old city walls in the northeastern part of the old city.

In 1248 the King of Castile and Leon, Ferdinand III, captured Seville. The city underwent a significant demographic shift, with Muslims and Jews departing in large numbers and an equally large number of Christians arriving from other parts of Castile. In the mid-1300s, King Pedro I set about rebuilding the Real Alcazar. He enlisted the service of many builders and artisans from Muslim areas, with resulted in a symbiotic style called Mudejar.

While seeking approval for his overseas venture, Christopher Columbus lodged in Seville's Carthusian monastery. For Seville, Columbus' "discovery" of the New World meant great prosperity. The Seville-based institution Casa de la Contratacion controlled all trade to and from the new colonies, and many of the ambitious explorers of the day, including Ferdinand Magellan and Amerigo Vespucci, met in the trade council's chambers in the Real Alcazar to map out and launch their endeavors. A merchants' exchange, called the Lonja, was established at the end of the 16th century and attracted traders from all over Europe. Additionally, most of the gold and silver hauled back to Spain from the Americas was minted in Seville. With so much wealth available in what was then Spain's largest city, the real estate market boomed. In addition to grand private homes, many public buildings were erected over the next two centuries in Gothic, Mudejar, Renaissance and baroque styles.

In the mid-1600s, a steady string of wars took their toll in and around the Hapsburg domains, devastating epidemics and the silting up of the Guadalquivir River. Cadiz took over as Spain's main center of international trade, but the cultural and arts scene in Seville continued to flourish under the influence of such artists as Velazquez, Murillo and Zubarán, whose works can still be seen in the Museo de Bellas Artes and other local buildings. Even Spain's greatest author, Miguel Cervantes, resided in the city for a time.

In 1728, construction began on the huge Real Fabrica de Tabacos, where tobacco was processed into cigars. In 1785, the process of converting the now decrepit merchants' exchange into the central archive for all documentation related to Spain's exploration and colonization of America began.

With revolutions occurring in the American colonies and then the Peninsular War (1808-1814) brought about by Napoleon's invasion, the early part of the 19th century brought economic hardship and political instability. But by midcentury Seville began to develop once again. A British entrepreneur named Charles Pickman established a ceramics factory in the former Carthusian monastery in 1841; the first Feria, originally organized as a livestock fair, was held in 1847; and the first fixed bridge spanning the river, the Puente de Isabel II, was completed in 1852. Rail links with other cities were established, and the old city walls were dismantled, allowing a new network of roads to be laid out. By the end of the century, Seville was supplied with electricity.

Near the beginning and again at the end of the 20th century, Seville organized two important international fairs. The Ibero-American Exposition of 1929 had the aim of improving relations with Spain's former colonies in the Americas, and showcasing the city's progress, and the Universal Exposition of Seville (Expo '92) commemorated the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. Both fairs had a lasting impact on the city's infrastructure.

The Spanish Civil War occurred 1936-39. In 1931, during the last local elections held prior to the outbreak of the war, Republican politicians won 57% of the vote in Seville. Nevertheless, in the early days of the war Nationalist forces gained control of the city and eventually used it as a bridge to transport Franco's Army of Africa to the mainland before launching attacks on other parts of the country and finally gaining control. Political reprisals and repression also ensued, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives in Seville. After the civil war, development continued during the dictatorship with several new residential areas being constructed, including Los Remedios, where the Feria was moved in 1973.



Following the death of Franco in 1975 and the restoration of democracy, Seville continued to develop its infrastructure, thanks in huge part to projects associated with Expo '92. One in particular was the high-speed rail link with Madrid. In 1982, Seville was named capital of Andalusia, and local politician Felipe Gonzalez served as president of Spain from 1982 to 1996.

In addition to being a center for regional government and administration, Seville today continues to focus on commerce, technology and tourism.

### **Potpourri**

It's often remarked that Sevillanos have a propensity for describing colors with greater precision. Nothing is ever just blue or red; it's invariably *azul coral* (coral blue) or *rojo quisquilla* (shrimp red). Perhaps the abundance of natural light has made them more keenly aware of subtle differences in tones.

A high-rise building going up on Cartuja Island is the subject of controversy, even threatening for a time to put the city's three UNESCO World Heritage sites—the Cathedral, the Real Alcazar and the Archivo de Indias—on the list of heritage sites at risk. The basic argument is that the tall modern tower interferes with the historical integrity of its setting.

Wondering what the NO8DO emblem you see everywhere means? According to legend, King Alfonso X used it to express gratitude for his subject's loyalty when his son tried to take the throne away from him. The figure 8 represents a length of yarn, called a *madeja* in Spanish. So NO8DO means "no me ha dejado," or "it (meaning Seville) hasn't abandoned me."

Until the mid-1800s there were no permanent bridges spanning the Guadalquivir River in Seville, only a pontoon-style structure between the old city and Triana. The first real bridge, Puente de Isabel II (also called Puente de Triana), was built in 1852. It was designed by Gustave Eiffel, the same designer of Paris's famous tower.

Bones of contention: For more than a century both Seville and Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic have claimed to hold the remains of Christopher Columbus. A Spanish forensics team compared the bone fragments in the tomb in Seville's cathedral, positively matching the traces of DNA to bones known to be of his brother and his son. Authorities in the Dominican Republic remain unconvinced and refuse to allow the bone fragments there to be exhumed and DNA tested.

Strangely enough, Seville has an Olympic Stadium although it has never hosted the Olympic Games. Twice the city launched a bid to become the host city, but efforts proved unsuccessful both times.

The best indication of Seville's good weather, averaging 2,898 hours of sunshine a year, is the fact that a solar power complex west of the city provides enough power to meet the electricity needs of all of the households in the city.

One of Spain's most tabloid-friendly celebrities, Cayetana Fitz-James Stuart, also known as the Duchess of Alba, resides in Seville's Palacio de las Duenas. No stranger to controversy, the duchess made headlines in 2011 when she married a businessman 24 years her junior (she was 85). She is an avid fan of bullfighting and holds more titles than anyone else in world—no less than 40.



## See & Do

### Sightseeing

To help you organize your sightseeing in Seville, it's a good idea to focus on a particular theme or geographic area and let that guide you. Of course, there are some things that every visitor to Seville should see, namely the cathedral, which is very impressive in terms of both size and decorative detail, and the Real Alcazar, a palace complex spanning the city's Muslim and Christian eras. The city's third UNESCO World Heritage site is the Archivo de Indias. Its exhibits will appeal primarily to people interested in the history of Seville's role in the Americas, but the general public will no doubt appreciate its handsome architecture. Fortunately, all three sites are close to one another, forming a veritable epicenter of sightseeing. And that's where you should start.

If you want to see art, then head to the Museo de Bellas Artes and the Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo. Both are housed in beautiful former monasteries; the first has a good permanent collection ranging from medieval to 20th-century art, with a strong focus on Seville's best painters in the 17th century, and the second has well-curated changing exhibits of contemporary artists. Two former hospitals, the Hospital de los Venerables and the Hospital de la Caridad, display religiously inspired art in striking architectural settings. Finally, if you'd like to gain some insight into the art of fine living, two palatial residences shouldn't be missed: Casa de Pilatos and Palacio de Lebrija.

History buffs, in particular, have a range of options. Those interested in the city's and region's Roman past should visit the Museo Arqueologico and the Antiquarium. The bulk of exhibits at the archaeology museum focuses on nearby Italica, but the Carambolo treasure is also a highlight. The Antiquarium preserves *in situ* the excavated remains of Roman houses and streets. If your focus is the city's Muslim past, then the Giralda and Torre del Oro are must-visits (in addition to the Real Alcazar, of course). The Pabellon de la Navegacion tells the story of navigation and seafaring in an interesting and interactive way (even kids will be entertained). The Centro de Interpretacion de la Juderia and the Castillo de San Jorge shed light on darker episodes in the city's history.

Of course, sightseeing can involve more than just museums and monuments. For some fresh air and exercise, you could explore by foot or on bike the lovely Parque de Maria Luisa with its many pavilions and the grand Plaza de Espana. A stroll or bike ride along the river, crossing the various bridges, is also recommended. There are some nice gardens along the riverbank on the Isla de la Cartuja side as well. If you'd like to get a bird's-eye view of the city, then the viewing platforms at the Metropol Parasol are unbeatable, and the Torre Schindler, which is part of the Pabellon de la Navegacion, has probably the best view of the river and city together.

If your interests are more general, then you could go about seeing the city neighborhood by neighborhood. The *centro* is not just the commercial heart of the city. It also has some lovely buildings, such as the Ayuntamiento (town hall), and beautiful squares where you can relax and people-watch. Santa Cruz is perhaps the most picturesque neighborhood, but El Arenal (especially the bullring), Encarnacion-Regina, La Macarena (especially around the Alameda) and Triana all have their own character. Finally, if you prefer to be guided around the city, then there's a wide range of tours available, including walking tours, bus tours, boat tours, tours by bike and even tours by kayak.

### Historic Sites

#### Antigua Fabrica de Tabacos

San Fernando 4  
Seville, Spain 41004

A veritable palace of 18th-century industrial architecture. In its day, the Royal Tobacco Factory was the second-largest building in Spain, produced a significant amount of Europe's tobacco products and employed thousands—mostly women called *cigarreras*, epitomized by the opera heroine Carmen. Industrial operations were relocated in the 1950s, and the complex was adapted to serve as offices for the university's administration.



Monday-Friday 8 am-8:30 pm. Guided tours in Spanish are offered Friday 9:30 am-12:30 pm and 4-6 pm, and Saturday 9:30 am-12:30 pm, subject to an advance reservation. No tours given in August. Free.

### **Archivo General de Indias**

Avenida de la Constitucion s/n  
Seville, Spain 41071

**Phone:** 95-450-0528

<http://en.www.mcu.es/archivos/MC/AGI/index.html>

This stately building first served as a merchants' exchange before it was adapted to house the immense trove of documents related to the exploration and administration of the Spanish colonies in the Americas. Although primarily a research facility, its temporary exhibitions and impressive space attract visitors interested in history.

October-March Monday-Saturday 9:30 am-4:45 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-1:45 pm. April-September daily 9:30 am-7 pm. Guided tours are given at noon and 1 pm. Free.

### **Ayuntamiento**

Plaza Nueva 1  
Seville, Spain 41001

Seville's handsome town hall is more a place of official business than it is a tourist site, but a limited number of public tours are offered. Even if you don't take a tour, check out the beautiful Renaissance facade facing Plaza San Francisco.

Guided tours in Spanish only. Reservations for tours must be made in advance. Closed to tours in July and August. 4 euros.

### **Basilica de la Macarena**

Becquer 1  
Seville, Spain 41002

**Phone:** 95-490-1800

<http://www.hermandadellamacarena.es/en>

This church in the neo-baroque style is definitely upstaged by the venerated Virgin adorning its altarpiece. Her procession through Seville on the early morning of Good Friday is probably the most eagerly awaited during Semana Santa. The Treasury museum in the annex testifies to the Virgin's devoted following, with exhibits of sumptuous processional accoutrements (garments, floats) as well as brilliant uniforms donated by bullfighters to their patron saint.

Monday-Saturday 9 am-2 pm and 5-9 pm, Sunday and holidays 9:30 am-2 pm and 5-9 pm. Reduced hours during Holy Week. The Virgin's "dressing room" is open to visitors Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning. Adults: 6 euros with audio guide, 5 euros without. Seniors and children ages 6-15: 4 euros with audio guide, 3 euros without. Free for children age 5 and younger when accompanied by an adult.

### **Casa de Pilatos**

Plaza de Pilatos 1  
Seville, Spain 41003

**Phone:** 95-422-5298

<http://en.fundacionmedinaceli.org/monumentos/pilatos>



This private residence erected at the end of the 15th century is the city's most famous house museum. Its sumptuous spaces are decorated in an interesting mix of styles—a testament to how tastes evolved over time—and they contain a fine collection of antiquities and works of art.

November-March daily 9 am-6 pm, April-October daily 9 am-7 pm. Admission to all areas 8 euros; lower level only 6 euros. Free for children younger than 10.

### **Cathedral and the Giralda**

Plaza del Triunfo (enter through the Puerta del Principe)  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 902-099-692

<http://www.catedraldesevilla.es>

First off, the superlatives: the largest Gothic structure in Europe, one of the biggest religious buildings in the world, the tallest altarpiece, the longest nave, and the list goes on. Construction on the cathedral began in 1402 and continued for centuries, resulting in a mix of Gothic, Renaissance and baroque adornments. Two elements survive from the 12th-century Almohad congregational mosque that formerly occupied the site: two sides of the courtyard called the Patio de los Naranjos and the majestic Giralda, the mosque's minaret onto which a belfry was later added. Highlights inside the cathedral include the tomb of Christopher Columbus, the super-gilded high altar in the main chapel, and many fine examples of paintings, frescoes, sculptures and iron grille work throughout. Also take the time to walk around the exterior of the cathedral to see the ornately carved gates. A climb to the top of the Giralda (ramps, not steps) will reward you with nice views.

September-June Monday 11 am-3:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-5 pm, Sunday 2:30-6 pm; July and August Monday 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 am-2:30 pm, Sunday 2:30-6 pm. Last admittance 30 minutes before closing. 8 euros adults, 4 euros seniors and students ages 16-25. Free for children age 15 and younger when accompanied by an adult. Free on Monday at 4:30 pm with a previous reservation through the website. Audio guides 3 euros.

### **Hospital de la Caridad**

Temprado 3  
Seville, Spain 41001

**Phone:** 95-422-3232

<http://www.santa-caridad.es/index2.html>

This charity hospital dates from the 17th century—and it still serves a humanitarian function by caring for the sick and the poor. Its church, just like that of the Hospital de los Venerables, is a fine example of the local baroque style and contains paintings by Murillo and Valdes Leal.

Monday-Saturday 9 am-1 pm and 3:30-7 pm, Sunday and holidays 9 am-12:30 pm. 5 euros adults (audio guide in English included, although only a limited number of them are available—you may have to wait for one).

### **Hospital de los Venerables**

Plaza de los Venerables 8  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 95-456-2696

<http://www.focus.abengoa.es/ingles/index2.htm>

This wonderfully preserved 17th-century hospital and church in the local baroque style originally served as an infirmary and residence for elderly and ill priests. Today, it is the headquarters of a cultural foundation and a venue





for exhibitions and concerts. It also houses the Centro Velazquez, a research center and exhibition space devoted to the legacy of the famous painter who was born in Seville. Audio guides are available in English.

Daily 10 am-2 pm and 4-8 pm (last admittance 30 minutes before closing). 5.50 euros adults, 2.75 euros seniors and students. Free for children age 12 and younger. Free on Sunday 4-8 pm.

### **Iglesia Colegial del Salvador**

Plaza del Salvador 3  
Seville, Spain 41004

Seville's second-largest church after the cathedral. Originally constructed in 1674, the baroque structure contains three large and impressive altarpieces.

Monday-Saturday 11 am-6 pm, Sunday 3-7 pm. 4 euros adults; audioguide 2.50 euros. Combined ticket for the cathedral and this church costs 8 euros for adults; audioguide 3 euros.

### **Metropol Parasol**

Plaza de la Encarnacion  
Seville, Spain 41003

**Phone:** 606-635-214

<http://www.metropolsevilla.com>

The city's newest landmark was the result of a revitalization project for a public square. Often described as looking like a canopy of trees, clouds, mushrooms and even waffles, most people agree that the shade provided by the striking steel-and-wood structure is a good thing. The complex houses a market, shops and restaurants. Take a look at the city's skyline from the rooftop viewing platforms and walkways or at its Roman past beneath the surface in the Antiquarium archaeology museum.

The viewing platform (*mirador*) is open Sunday-Thursday 10:30 am-midnight, Friday and Saturday 10:30 am-1 am. 3 euros for the viewing platform, including a free drink at the bar; free for children age 11 and younger.

### **Palacio de Lebrija**

Cuna 8  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 95-422-7802

<http://www.palaciodelebrija.com>

An aristocratic mansion now open to the public as a house museum. Among its displays are artifacts from the nearby Roman ruins of Italica—the mosaic pavement in the main patio is the most striking example—as well as Etruscan ceramics, Persian, Greek and Roman sculptures, jewelry and furnishings.

Monday-Friday 10 am-7:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm and 4-6 pm, Sunday 10 am-2 pm. Special hours for July and August: Monday-Friday 9 am-3 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm, closed Sunday. 5 euros for the lower level, 8 euros for both levels (including a guided tour).

### **Palacio de San Telmo**

Avenida de Roma s/n  
Seville, Spain 41013

Construction on this grand baroque building with several interior courtyards began in 1682. Originally a school for mariners, it was purchased in 1849 by the Duke and Duchess of Montpensier, who had close ties to the Spanish and



French monarchs. It remained their private residence until 1897, when the extensive gardens were willed to the city of Seville (later becoming the Parque de Maria Luisa) and the residence was left to the Archdiocese. After 1989 the building assumed its current function as the seat of the Junta de Andalucía, the body that governs Andalusia.

Because it houses official government offices, access to the building is restricted. However, guided tours in Spanish are sometimes given on Thursday afternoon (reserved mostly for groups), Saturday morning and afternoon, and Sunday morning. Reservations must be made in advance by phone Monday-Thursday 9 am-7 pm, Friday 9 am-3 pm. Free.

### **Plaza de Toros de la Maestranza and Museo Taurino**

Paseo de Cristobal Colon 12  
Seville, Spain 41001

**Phone:** 95-422-4577

<http://www.realmaestranza.com>

One of Spain's most famous bullrings. Guided tours (45 minutes, available in English) take visitors through the actual bullring then to a gallery of paintings, the museum, the bullfighters' chapel and the horse stables.

Open daily June-August 9:30 am-11 pm, May and October 9:30 am-8 pm, November-April 9:30 am-7 pm. Closes at 3 pm on the day of bullfights. Reservations required. 7 euros adults, 4 euros seniors and students age 25 and younger, 3 euros children ages 7-11.

### **Real Alcazar**

Patio de Banderas s/n  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 95-450-2324

<http://www.alcazarsevilla.org/?p=129>

This royal palace complex holds historical and architectural significance for Seville. Although some traces of its Muslim past prior to the Castilian conquest are preserved, the most significant part remaining today was commissioned in 1364 by King of Castile Pedro I. Because he drew on the services of Muslim craftsmen from Seville and beyond, his palace's facade, halls and patios display some of the best examples of Mudéjar style in Spain. Subsequent rulers, including Ferdinand and Isabella, and Charles V, left their mark with additions and alterations. The Sala de los Almirantes is where many expeditions to the Americas and Magellan's circumnavigation of the globe were discussed and mapped out. Don't neglect to visit the gardens after soaking up the history and atmosphere of the palace interiors.

Open daily October-March 9:30 am-5 pm, April-September 9:30 am-7 pm. 9.50 euros adults, 2 euros seniors and students ages 17-25, free for children age 16 and younger. Free April-September on Monday at 6 pm and October-March on Monday at 4 pm.

### **Torre del Oro**

Paseo de Cristobal Colon s/n  
Seville, Spain 41001

**Phone:** 95-422-2419

<http://www.visitasevilla.es>

This tower was constructed during the Almohad period to help defend the city and the port. Today it houses a small Maritime Museum with a collection of maps, models of boats and instruments of navigation.



Monday-Friday 9:30 am-6:45 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10:30 am-6:45 pm. 3 euros adults; 1.50 euros seniors, students and children ages 6-14; free on Monday.

### **Torre de los Perdigones**

Resolana s/n  
Seville, Spain 41010

**Phone:** 95-490-9353

<http://www.torredelosperdigones.com>

Although by no means one of the city's major sights, this 148-ft/45-m tower does have an interesting device called a *camera obscura*. Using mirrors and magnifying glasses, it projects real-time moving images onto a screen. The views of La Cartuja Island and the Expo '92 grounds are especially good.

Open daily except Monday (and in case of rain) 11:30 am-5 pm. Guided tours given every 45 minutes. *Camera obscura* and tower: 4 euros adults, 2.50 euros children ages 5-12. Tower only: 1.50 euros.

### **Museums**

#### **Antiquarium**

Plaza de la Encarnacion (part of the Metropol Parasol complex)  
Seville, Spain 41003

<http://www.metropolsevilla.com/antiquarium-sevilla>

Archaeological remains were discovered (mostly Roman, ranging from houses, streets, water wells and mosaics to fish-salting vats) while excavating the site for an underground parking garage in the 1990s. The city decided to preserve them *in situ*.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm, Sunday 10 am-1:30 pm. 2 euros adults.

#### **Castillo de San Jorge**

Plaza del Altozano s/n (next to the Mercado de Triana)  
Seville, Spain 41010

These are the archaeological remains of a 12th-century castle that later served as the headquarters for the Spanish Inquisition. The audio guide and an interactive room provide information about the history of the inquisition, the moral judgments handed down, the abuse of power and the victims.

Monday-Friday 9 am-1:30 pm and 5:30-7:30 pm; Saturday 10 am-1:30 pm and 5-7:30 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-1:30 pm. Free.

#### **Centro de Interpretacion de la Juderia de Sevilla**

Ximenez de Enciso 22  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-404-7089

<http://www.juderiadesevilla.es>

The center seeks to recount the lives, history and culture of the residents of Seville's medieval Jewish quarter. In addition to the permanent exhibition, there are guided tours and cultural activities.

Monday-Saturday 10:30 am-3:30 pm and 5-8 pm, Sunday 11 am-7 pm. 6.50 euros adults, 5 euros pensioners and students age 25 and younger.



### **Monasterio de Santa Maria de las Cuevas** Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporaneo

Americo Vespucio 2 (second entrance at Camino de los Descubrimientos s/n; C1 and C2 buses stop outside the entrances)

Seville, Spain 41092

**Phone:** 95-503-7070

<http://www.caac.es/english/frame.htm>

The Cartuja monastery complex has served the city in a variety of ways during its six centuries: an influential monastery that commissioned important works of art (many of them are on display in the Museo de Bellas Artes); a spiritual retreat and temporary residence for visiting monarchs and VIPs (such as Christopher Columbus); and a factory for pottery, china and ceramic tile (thus the tall kiln smokestacks). Its latest chapter began with restoration in the 1980s, later becoming one of the main venues for Expo '92. Today the monastic complex accommodates a fascinating program juxtaposing the original religious spaces with contemporary art—at times you don't know what to look at first, the architecture with its remnants of beautiful tile panels and frescoes or the contemporary paintings and light and video installations. Exhibitions change about every six months. There are also concerts, workshops and shows; consult the website for full schedule.

Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-9 pm, Sunday 11 am-3 pm (last entry 30 minutes before closing). 1.80 euros for either the monument or the temporary exhibitions, 3.01 euros for the complete visit. Free Tuesday-Friday 7-9 pm and Saturday 11 am-9 pm.

### **Museo Arqueologico**

Plaza de America s/n

Seville, Spain 41013

**Phone:** 95-512-0632

<http://www.museosdeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/museos>

Artifacts discovered at sites near Seville and farther afield in Andalusia range from the Paleolithic period all the way to the Middle Ages. Highlights include Roman mosaics and sculptures from Italica (including busts of local boys Trajan and Hadrian) and replicas of the Carambolo treasure (Phoenician-influenced gold jewelry). Housed in the 1929 fair's Renaissance Pavilion.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-8:30 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-5 pm. 1.50 euros; free for students, children and citizens of the European Union.

### **Museo de Artes y Costumbres Populares**

Plaza de America s/n

Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 954-712-391

<http://www.museosdeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/museos>

A wide-ranging display of Andalusian folk arts and traditions, including embroidery and lace, ceramics, furniture, metalworking and personal weapons. Housed in the 1929 fair's Mudéjar Pavilion.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-8:30 pm, Sunday and holidays 9 am-5 pm. 1.50 euros, free for citizens of the European Union.



### **Museo de Bellas Artes**

Plaza del Museo 9  
Seville, Spain 41001

**Phone:** 95-478-6500

<http://www.museosdeandalucia.es/culturaydeporte/museos>

The museum's 14 galleries present a chronological survey of Spanish painting and sculpture, starting with medieval, Renaissance and baroque art on the ground floor and continuing with more baroque and 19th- and 20th-century art on the second floor. Prominent attention is paid to local artists such as Zurbaran, Murillo and Valdes Leal. The building, a former convent, is itself a work of art with lovely courtyards and decorative features.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-8:30 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-5 pm. 1.50 euros adults.

### **Museo del Baile Flamenco**

Manuel Rojas Marcos 3  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 954-340-311

<http://www.flamencomuseum.com>

The world of flamenco dance is explained through audiovisual displays and exhibits, performances, dance classes and workshops.

Daily 10 am-7 pm. A one-hour flamenco performance is given daily at 7 pm. Museum only: 10 euros adults, 8 euros seniors and students. Museum and performance: 24 euros adults, 18 euros seniors and students.

### **Pabellon de la Navegacion**

Camino de los Descubrimientos 2  
Seville, Spain 41092

**Phone:** 954-043-111

<http://www.pabellondelanavegacion.es>

This impressive building resembling the upturned hull of a ship was built for Expo '92. Today it has a permanent exhibit examining human and technical accomplishments in the field of navigation and seafaring. Its interactive displays in Spanish and English are fun and clever (kids will enjoy them), and the models of ships are also interesting. Temporary exhibitions are presented from time to time. A 164-ft/50-m tower, called Torre Schindler, offers a great view of the city, and probably the best views of the river.

November-April Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-7:30 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-3 pm. May-October Tuesday-Saturday 10 am-8:30 pm, Sunday and holidays 10 am-3 pm. Last entry 15 minutes before closing. 4.90 euros adults; 3.50 euros seniors, students and children age 13 and younger.

### **Neighborhoods & Districts**

#### **El Arenal**

Historically speaking, this neighborhood, occupying the southwestern part of the old city along the eastern bank of the Guadalquivir River, was the site of the city's port and royal shipyards, replaced today by moorings for boats offering river cruises. A strong *torero* character permeates the area thanks to the Maestranza bullring. The Maestranza Theater is the city's prime venue for opera and classical music. Surrounding those two anchors are many tapas bars, restaurants and posh cocktail bars.



## El Centro

It's not an official designation, but Sevillanos often refer to a central rectangle in the old city stretching from the cathedral in the south to more or less Plaza de la Encarnacion in the north as *el centro*. In some cases it overlaps with the barrios of Santa Cruz, El Arenal and Alfalfa. It is unquestionably the commercial heart of the city. At the center of the center is the Ayuntamiento (town hall), which sits between Plaza San Francisco and Plaza Nueva.

## Isla de la Cartuja

This large area north of Triana, sandwiched between the original course of the Guadalquivir and its diverted course, is referred to as Cartuja Island even though it is a peninsula. Since serving as the location for Expo '92 it has been Seville's most strikingly modern district. Several of the fair's pavilions and facilities have been adapted or incorporated into cultural and recreational spaces, or they are used by the university or by scientific and technological research centers. In the southern part of the zone is the controversial high-rise tower called Torre Cajasol (or Torre Pelli after its architect). Nearby is the 15th-century Carthusian monastery, which not only lends its name to the area but also houses the Centro Andaluz del Arte Contemporaneo. Farther to the north are the Isla Magica theme park and the Olympic Stadium. A nice park also stretches along the river, complete with a bike and pedestrian path. Spanning the river are three modern bridges: the Puente de la Cartuja, the Puente de la Barqueta and the Puente del Alamillo. The latter is an impressive cantilever spar cable-stayed bridge designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava. Twenty-six cables are strung between the deck of the bridge and a tall, leaning pylon. The bridge has a pedestrian walkway above the flow of traffic. Just to the north of the bridge is the large Parque del Alamillo.

## La Macarena

Technically speaking, the administrative district called La Macarena is located to the north of the old city and outside the city walls, but most locals refer to the northeastern part of the old city as La Macarena. Removed from the tourist hubs of Santa Cruz and Arenal and the commercial maze of the *centro*, La Macarena retains a more traditional, slightly alternative flavor. A significant stretch of the medieval city wall, complete with towers, constructed during the Almohad period, is preserved along the northeastern edge. At the northwestern end of the wall is the Puerta de la Macarena, one of the original gates to the old city (although later remodeled). Next to it is the Basilica de la Macarena, home of the city's most venerated sculpture of the Virgin Mary. Just to the north is the large 16th-century Hospital de las Cinco Llagas, which today houses the Andalusian Parliament. One of the area's main streets, calle San Luis, runs south from the arched gate. Farther to the west is calle Feria, a popular street with many shops and bars and an indoor market. On the western edge of the neighborhood is the Alameda de Hercules, a tree-lined park at the center of one of the city's busiest nightlife scenes. Just to the south of the district is the Palacio de las Duenas, a private residence belonging to the Dukes of Alba. (The current Duquesa de Alba is a darling of the gossip press and a local icon.) Not far from there is Plaza de la Encarnacion and the Metropol Parasol complex.

## Santa Cruz

Seville's most charmingly romantic—and most visited—neighborhood is teeming with narrow, winding streets and alleys, plant-filled patios and shaded plazas. It occupies the southeastern portion of the old city, abutting the Real Alcazar. In medieval times, it, and parts of neighboring San Bartolome, served as the *juderia*, the Jewish quarter. Many of the city's major historical monuments and museums are located there or nearby. There are some other interesting sights, such as the three Roman columns at the corner of calles Marmoles and Aire (two others from the site were moved to the Alameda de Hercules), the building where the painter Velazquez was born (calle Padre Luis Maria Llop 1) and the home of the painter Murillo (calle Santa Teresa 8). Hotels, restaurants, bars and souvenir shops abound. Calle Mateos Gago and Plaza Alfalfa are especially popular spots for tapas. Just to the east of the neighborhood is the Jardines de Murillo, a lovely landscaped park.



## Triana

This district across the river to the west of the old city cultivates and preserves an independent character more than any other neighborhood in the city. Long associated with gypsies, flamenco artists, bullfighters, seafarers, and a pottery and ceramics industry, it's an interesting mix of traditional residential and commercial areas—a great place for leisurely strolls. Three churches there warrant a visit. The Iglesia de Santa Ana, thought to be Seville's oldest church, features paintings of the Virgin and her mother, St. Anne. The Capilla de los Marineros houses a much-adored figure, la Esperanza de Triana. And the parish church of Nuestra Señora de la O has several expressive baroque sculptures. Triana is also a popular night spot with many restaurants, bars and clubs, especially along the river on calle Betis.

## Parks & Gardens

### Alameda de Hercules

La Macarena  
Seville, Spain 41002

This tree-lined promenade was first laid out in the 16th century, making it one of the oldest parks in Spain and, in fact, Europe. At the southern end of the long rectangular park are two Roman columns that were moved from their original location in the Santa Cruz neighborhood. Statues depicting Hercules, the legendary founder of Seville, and Julius Caesar, the so-called restorer of the Roman city, were later placed atop the columns. Today, the Alameda is at the center of a bustling concentration of cafes, restaurants and bars, many of which have outdoor seating. It is especially popular at night. It is located more or less in the center of the northern part of the old city.

### Parque del Alamillo

Seville, Spain 41092

<http://www.parquedelalamillo.org>

Sitting on the far northwestern bank of the Guadalquivir River and just north of the Isla de la Cartuja neighborhood is the expansive Alamillo Park, a popular place for picnics and outdoor sports such as cycling or in-line skating. Alamillo opened shortly after the 1992 Expo in an area of the city already known by the same name, and now houses examples of local flora and fauna. Children will enjoy the numerous playgrounds and miniature railroad (check website for opening dates) and Sunday workshops. The park also hosts a number of events, both cultural and sporty, and was expanded in 2013 to 300 acres/120 hectares, making it one of Spain's largest urban parks.

Open November-March 7 am-8 pm, April-September 7 am-10 pm. Free entrance; consult website for activity fees.

### Parque de Maria Luisa and Plaza de Espana

The city's main park was first laid out in the early 1900s. It later became the focal point of the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition. In addition to the landscaped greenery and decorative fountains, several of the fair's original pavilions remain—two of the most impressive ones are on Plaza de America and serve as museums for archaeology and Andalusian folk arts. The Plaza de Espana ensemble was the headquarters and centerpiece of the 1929 exposition. Each of Spain's 48 provinces is represented by a tiled alcove, and the four bridges, also covered in ceramics, symbolize the four Spanish crowns of Castile, Leon, Navarra and Aragon. The opulent Teatro de Lope de Vega, also located in the park, is still one of the city's most popular performing-arts venues. The park stretches along the east bank of the Guadalquivir River, just south of the old city.



## Shopping

Shopping opportunities are always close at hand in Seville's old city. Clothing, footwear and accessories are popular items among fashion-conscious Sevillanos. Top-name Spanish designers to look out for include Victorio & Lucchino (they have their design studio in the house where Velazquez was born), Adolfo Dominguez, Purificacion Garcia and Roberto Verino. Other interesting Spanish fashion shops include Uterque, Bimba & Lola, Loewe (especially for fine leather goods), Zara, Mango, H.E. and Massimo Dutti.

For souvenirs, consider hand-embroidered silk shawls (*mantillas*), bags and other products made of natural leather, Spanish wines and liqueurs, cold-pressed extra-virgin olive oil and other gourmet products, local ceramics, and CDs of flamenco and other Spanish music. Decorative fans also make nice souvenirs, and you'll probably have occasion to use them before leaving Seville.

Shopping central starts just north of the town hall on Plaza Nueva, especially along calle Tetuan and calle Sierpes and the streets branching off of them. Just east of there, calle Cuna has a high percentage of small, locally owned businesses. Another interesting area with an ever-increasing number of shops showcasing young, local designers is Soho Benita, centered on Plaza Alfalfa and Plaza de la Encarnacion. The greatest concentration of souvenir shops can be found in Santa Cruz. El Postigo market is a good place to see and purchase local handicrafts.

**Shopping Hours:** Generally, Monday-Friday 9:30 or 10 am to 1:30 or 2 pm and 5-8 pm. Saturday hours are similar in the morning, but many stores do not open again in the afternoon. Almost all shops are closed Sunday unless they sell souvenirs or goods and services related to the tourist trade. Department stores, shopping malls and big chain-affiliated shops generally remain open throughout the day (they don't close for lunch). Banks and public offices usually do not reopen in the afternoon. Many smaller businesses close completely or have reduced hours in August. Many department stores and other shops are open on Sunday in December. Nationwide sales dates, regulated by the government and called *rebajas*, run in January, February, July and August.

## Department Stores

### El Corte Ingles

Plaza del Duque 8

Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-459-7000

<http://www.elcorteingles.es>

The top brand of department stores in Spain, selling all the typical department store merchandise. The basement food department is worth checking out. There are several stores in Seville (the store at Plaza de la Magdalena 1 has mostly housewares and also a supermarket), but the Plaza del Duque location is the main store. The fifth floor hosts a gourmet food store and a new venture, the Gourmet Experience, where several of the city's celebrated restaurants offer snacks and drinks. The terrace is also breezy and offers great views.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm.

## Galleries

### Galeria Rafael Ortiz

Marmoles 12

Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-421-4874

<http://www.galeriarafaelortiz.com>





This gallery promotes young local artists and showcases more established international artists.

Monday 6-9 pm, Tuesday-Friday 11 am-1:30 pm and 6-9 pm, Saturday 11 am-1:30 pm.

### **Galeria Weber-Lutgen**

Fray Diego de Cadiz 9  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-490-9471

<http://www.galeria-wl.eu>

Several interesting shows of emerging Spanish (primarily Andalusian) artists are organized each year, with a special focus on videos and installation pieces in addition to paintings.

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 11 am-2 pm; Tuesday-Friday 5:30-8:30 pm.

### **Markets**

If you're looking to put together a picnic lunch, or you just enjoy having a look at the meats, seafood and fresh produce available locally, you could visit one of Seville's food markets: Mercado del Arenal (calle Pastor y Landero, near the bullring), Mercado de la Encarnacion (in the Metropol Parasol complex), Mercado de la Feria (calle Feria in La Macarena) or Mercado de Triana (Plaza Altozano in Triana).

Markets are generally open 8 am-2 pm every day but Sunday.

### **Mercadillo de Arte**

Plaza del Museo (in front of the Museo de Bellas Artes)  
Seville, Spain

Paintings, sketches, engravings and sculpture are sold at this weekly open-air arts market. Artists young and old display and offer for sale their works in a wide range of styles.

Sunday 9 am-3 pm.

### **Mercado de Artesania El Postigo**

Arfe s/n  
Seville, Spain

Around 20 local workshops sell their traditional and contemporary arts and crafts in this converted food market. Everything from jewelry to glassware to leather goods, textiles, engravings, fashion accessories and ceramics. Exhibitions featuring local handicrafts are also mounted from time to time.

Monday-Friday 10 am-8 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-3 pm.

### **Shopping Areas**

#### **Centro Comercial Plaza de Armas**

Plaza de la Legion 8  
Seville, Spain

This former train station, built in 1889 in striking neo-Mudejar style, was adapted to serve as a shopping mall. It's somewhat small but centrally located. Mostly clothing and accessories stores and some fast-food restaurants. Parking available.



Shops are open Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm.

### **Nervion Plaza**

Avenida Luis de Morales s/n (there's a metro station nearby)  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-498-9131

<http://www.nervionplaza.com>

Seville's largest shopping mall with mostly clothing, footwear and accessories stores, as well as a multiscreen theater, restaurants and basement parking.

Shops are open Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm. The restaurant area is open until 1 am.

### **Soho Benita**

Centro  
Seville, Spain

<http://sohobenita.com>

This neighborhood has an ever-growing number of interesting shops with original merchandise, supported by a group of young designers and business owners. You'll find everything from vintage and designer clothing, accessories such as jewelry, bags and backpacks, paintings and prints, Japanese fabric sold by the meter, books and magazines to street-art-influenced silkscreen T-shirts. It's located between Plaza Alfalfa and Plaza de la Encarnacion, primarily in the streets Perez Galdos, Santillana, Ortiz de Zuniga and Don Alonso el Sabio.

### **Specialty Stores**

#### **Artesania Textil**

Garcia de Vinuesa 33  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-421-5088

<http://www.artesania-textil.com>

Hand-embroidered silk shawls in addition to accessories such as combs and fans.

Monday-Friday 9 am-1:30 pm and 5-8 pm.

#### **Botellas y Latas**

Regina 14  
Seville, Spain

A one-stop shop for Spanish wines and liqueurs, olive oils, cheeses, pates, cured meats, sausages, spices, seasonings and other gourmet products.

Monday-Friday 10 am-2 pm and 5:30-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm.

#### **Calzados Mayo**

Plaza Alfalfa 2  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-422-5555

<http://www.calzadosmayo.com>



The entire getup for wannabe flamenco artists: shoes, boots, skirts, shawls and castanets. Everything but the skill and the attitude.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-2 pm and 5-9 pm; closed Saturday afternoon June-September, unless otherwise noted.

### **Ceramica Santa Ana**

San Jorge 31  
Seville, Spain

A family business specializing in ceramics with local designs produced in its factory on the premises. In the small showroom you can peruse the wide variety of hand-painted tiles, dishes and bowls. It also carefully packs items for shipping or traveling.

Monday-Friday 9:30 am-1:30 pm and 5-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm.

### **Convent Confections**

Typical confections prepared by nuns in Seville include *roscos* (little rings similar to sand tarts), *magdalenas* (light muffins), *tortas* (cakes), *yemas de San Leandro* (made with egg yolks, sugar and lemon) and *huesos de santo* (made with marzipan). *Torrijas* (sort of like fried French toast) are very popular during Lent and Semana Santa. Another Holy Week and Christmas specialty are *pestinos* (fried dough with anise, ground almonds, sesame seeds, lemon and orange peel, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves). You'll often find a window at the convent where the nuns sell their goods. If the nuns are cloistered, there will be a revolving window used for the transaction. Just ring the bell and place your order. Confections can usually be bought at the convents of Santa Paula, San Leandro, Santa Ines and Santa Ana, among others.

### **El Caballo**

Adriano  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-421-8127

<http://web.elcaballo.com>

This Seville-based family business sells finely crafted all-natural leather goods such as bags, wallets, coin purses, briefcases, belts and key holders. Many of its designs are inspired by the art of saddle making. Logically, it also sells saddles.

Monday-Friday 10:30 am-2:30 pm and 5:30-8:30 pm, Saturday 11 am-9 pm.

## **Dining**

### **Dining Overview**

Andalusia renders a bounty of high-quality meats, fresh produce and seafood that is showcased in Seville's restaurants. In fact, dining out is one of the best things about visiting Seville. Other cuisines, particularly Italian and some Asian, are available, but the overwhelming emphasis is on local and regional specialties.

Some of the most common meat items on the menu include *jamon de jabugo* (air-cured ham from black Iberian pigs), *rabo de toro* (stewed oxtail), *solomillo al whisky* (pork tenderloin in a whiskey sauce), *albondigas* (meatballs) and *chuletas de cordero* (lamb chops). *Chacinas* are cured meats, such as *jamon* or *lomo*, along with sausages, like *chorizo* and *salchichon*. *Morcilla* is black pudding. *Ropa vieja*, literally "old clothing," is made with shredded meat, and *pringa* is a dish with slow-cooked meats that is usually eaten with bread.



Popular seafood dishes include *bacalao* (cod, usually in the salt-preserved variety), *chipirones* (small squid), *chocos* (cuddlefish), *gambas* (shrimp), *langostinos* (larger prawns), *sardinas* (sardines, usually grilled) and *boquerones* (anchovies, usually fried). *Pescaito frito* is either a single variety or an assortment of small fish or fillets. *Croquetas* are ubiquitous, made with different ingredients such as *bacalao* or ham and cheese, or whatever cooked meats happen to be on hand (*croquetas de puchero*).

Some of the more popular vegetables include *espinacas* (spinach, often paired with garbanzo or chickpeas), *berenjenas* (eggplant) and *alcochofas* (artichokes). Traditional cold soups include gazpacho, *salmorejo* (a thicker version of gazpacho topped with chopped hard-boiled egg and pieces of cured ham) and *ajo blanco* (a puree of almonds, water, garlic, olive oil and vinegar).

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of *el tapeo*. Enjoying tapas is practically an institution in which the line between dining and nightlife is often blurred. For instance, you'll find tapas bars, or *bodeguitas* or *cervecerias*, where you can enjoy a full meal, and more formal establishments that reserve an area where tapas can be enjoyed. So, a tapa doesn't have to be a mere snack; several different tapas, or larger portions called *raciones*, can be ordered, making them a filling lunch or dinner. Sevillanos, like many other Spaniards, regard tapas in both gastronomical and social terms, with groups of people often ordering together and sharing dishes.

Another addition to the dining scene is gastrobars, which have sprung up everywhere in Seville. They can range from casual to very stylish, but the emphasis is always on carefully prepared, innovative food. That may involve updated versions of local and traditional dishes or daring fusions with international accents.

Beer and wine are the most common drinks to accompany food. Rioja and Ribero del Duero (*tintos*, or reds) and Rueda (*blanco*, or white) are standard Spanish wine choices, but regional varieties are gaining more and more attention. Sherry wine is also a popular aperitif, and it is made in the nearby Sherry Triangle.

Breakfast is usually a light affair consisting of coffee or tea, freshly squeezed orange juice and toasted bread (*tostadas*) topped with either tomato pulp and olive oil or butter and marmalade. Sweet baked goods are also popular. Generally speaking, breakfast is served in any bar or cafe. Another option for first thing in the morning, or last thing at night, is *churros y chocolate*.

Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than 15 euros; \$\$ = 15 euros-30 euros; \$\$\$ = 31 euros-60 euros; and \$\$\$\$ = more than 60 euros.

## Local & Regional

### Abades Triana

Betis 69A  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-428-6459

<http://www.abadestriana.com>

Seasonally adapted Andalusian cuisine in a contemporary format. But the view is the real attraction: The floor-to-ceiling glass-enclosed dining room looks out onto the river and stares the old city right in the face—a very romantic sight at night. There are also outdoor terraces. Not surprisingly, it does a brisk special-events business.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations are recommended, but they are sometimes difficult to get for weekend dinners. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.



### Abantal

Alcalde Jose de la Bandera 7 and 9  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-454-0000

<http://www.abantalrestaurante.es>

A handsomely designed atmosphere paired with an equally contemporary approach to food. We recommend partaking in the seven- to nine-course chef's menus offered daily, with wines paired by the sommelier. One of only two restaurants in Seville with a Michelin star.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Antigua Abaceria de San Lorenzo

Teodosio 53  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-438-0067

<http://www.antiguaabaceriadesanlorenzo.com>

This *abaceria*—a once-popular type of neighborhood grocery store selling provisions and often offering samples with a glass of wine—has updated and expanded into a quaint restaurant. There are dining nooks among the well-stocked shelves. In addition to daily specials, it serves traditional Andalusian dishes and *tablas* of cheeses and *chacinas*, which are boards of assorted cheeses and/or cured meats and sausages. They're perfect for sharing. Friendly service with a personal touch.

Thursday-Monday for lunch and dinner, Saturday and Sunday for breakfast as well. Reservations recommended on the weekend. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Bodega Dos de Mayo

Plaza de la Gavidia 6  
Seville, Spain

Tasty traditional tapas with lots of fish and seafood options. Casual, comfortable and friendly atmosphere—place your order at the bar and they call out your name for pickup. There are a few tables at the rear, otherwise you can eat at the bar or counters. There is also a terrace facing a lovely plaza. It can get busy on weekends.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended for a table on the weekends. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Cerveceria Giralda

Mateos Gago 3  
Seville, Spain

A local institution serving many favorites—try different dishes by ordering tapas-size portions. Full portions (*raciones*) are also available. Outdoor seating is on a busy sidewalk with a lot of foot traffic. The two dining rooms inside might be a better choice.

Daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. \$-\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.



### Corral del Agua

Agua 6  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-422-4841

<http://www.corraldelagua.es>

Traditional and authentic Spanish offerings prepared from fresh regional ingredients. The cream of gazpacho and *albondigas de la abuela* (grandmother's meatballs) deserve special mention. Indoor and outdoor seating, with some tables arranged around a nice marble fountain.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner; groups only from mid-November until mid-February. Reservations required if you want to secure a table on the patio. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### El Aljibe

Alameda de Hercules 76  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-490-0591

<http://www.alaljibe.com>

The seasonally changing menu revolves around quality, fresh ingredients sourced locally. The cold and warm tapas and half-size portions feature local and international influences. A tasting menu is also offered. The nicely refurbished house has various dining possibilities: indoor dining rooms on two floors, an outdoor patio and a rooftop terrace. The staff is attentive but notoriously slow.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended if you want rooftop seating. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### El Rinconcillo

Gerona 40  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-422-3183

<http://www.elrinconcillo.es>

Founded in 1670, it's the oldest still-operating bar in Seville (and it's been in the hands of the same family since 1858). In the meantime it has expanded into a full-size restaurant, while retaining its incomparable atmosphere. Tapas and a full menu, including tasting menus. Spinach with garbanzos is a perennial favorite.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Enrique Becerra

Gamazo 2  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-421-3049

<http://www.enriquebecerra.com>

No upstart, trendy gastrobar, this is the real thing in terms of traditional tapas and other local dishes. Two restored 17th-century houses were combined to provide several inviting dining rooms in addition to a bar. A wide-ranging choice of tapas and more substantial dishes, with daily specials offered. Excellent wine selection as well.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed Sunday. Also closed Saturday in July and August. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.



### **Eslava**

Eslava 3  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-490-6568

<http://www.espacioeslava.com>

This restaurant (and the adjacent tapas bar) reinvents traditional Andalusian dishes made from market-fresh ingredients, including organic produce from its own garden. Cozy atmosphere. Its lasting popularity is well-deserved.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. Reservations are taken for the restaurant only. You can have a drink in the bar while waiting for a table in the restaurant, but it's generally a good idea to reserve a table in advance. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **La Albahaca**

Plaza de Santa Cruz 12  
Seville, Spain

Andalusian dishes with an international twist in addition to Basque specialties are served in an exquisite old villa complete with Roman columns and lovely tiles.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **La Azotea**

Jesus del Gran Poder 31  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-511-6748

<http://www.laazoteasevilla.es>

Tasty food and warm ambience. Its concept is based on a seasonal menu and a weekly menu, so freshness is guaranteed. Choose from tapas at the bar or *raciones* with table service.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **La Hosteria del Laurel**

Plaza de los Venerables 5  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-422-0295

<http://www.hosteriadellaurel.com>

Although this is a hotel bar and restaurant, even locals like to frequent it for tapas and full meals. The lovely location, offering both dining room and terrace seating, may have something to do with that. Incidentally, the writer Jose Zorilla once stayed at the hotel, and it is said that he drew inspiration from it for his famous play, *Don Juan Tenorio*, based on the Don Juan legend.

Daily for lunch and dinner; closed Sunday in July and August. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Simun Vintage**

San Felipe 11  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-404-7213



<http://simunvintage.blogspot.com.es>

Nice tapas and *raciones* prepared by a young team and presented in a straightforwardly modern space. A blackboard behind the bar (and sometimes its blog) announces what's on offer—mostly fusion creations using meats and seafood plated up with eye appeal. A good selection of wines by the glass.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Taberna El Panduro**

Dona Maria Coronel 17  
Seville, Spain

Traditional recipes using local ingredients are tweaked for greater originality. The food is good quality for the price, and service is attentive. Pleasant and casual, a no-frills ambience. The straight-back wooden chairs aren't conducive to a long stay.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. Closed on Sunday in summer. Reservations recommended on weekends. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards except American Express.

### **Cuisines**

#### **Italian**

### **Al Solito Posto Alameda**

Alameda de Hercules 16  
Seville, Spain 41002

**Phone:** 95-490-8985

<http://www.alsolitoposto.org>

Well-known throughout Andalusia for its traditional, authentically prepared Italian food, with a particular focus on Milanese recipes. Wide selection of pizzas, and Italian and Spanish wines. The outdoor terrace is a pleasant spot to dine.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended on weekends. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **La Casa del Tesorero**

Santander 1 (opposite the Giralda)  
Seville, Spain 41001

**Phone:** 95-450-3921

<http://www.lapiemontesa.com>

A charming restaurant housed in the Casa de la Moneda, where gold and silver from the Americas were once minted. The cuisine melds dishes from the Italian regions of Piedmont and Tuscany.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended on weekends. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Osteria L'Oca Giuliva**

Mateos Gago 9  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 95-421-4030

<http://www.ocagiuliva.es>





A stand-out Italian restaurant with its house-made pastas, pizzas and *crostones*. Plenty of vegetarian options, too. Cozy atmosphere, good service. The menu of the day is a good deal.

Daily except Monday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended on weekends and holidays. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

## Spanish

### Egana Oriza

San Fernando 41 (next to the Murillo Gardens and across from the Antigua Fabrica de Tabacos)  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 95-422-7254

<http://www.restauranteoriza.com>

A good choice if you want to celebrate a special occasion or just enjoy an elegant meal. The menu reflects the chef's Basque background and the traditions of his adopted Andalusia, with a particular emphasis on seafood. In addition to the main dining room, there are other less formal spaces, including a terrace.

Monday-Saturday for lunch and dinner. Closed in August. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### El Mordisco

Harinas 13  
Seville, Spain 41001

The modern cuisine at this gastrobar is based on traditional Spanish cooking with nods to international influences. Tapas, half portions and full portions (*raciones*) available. It also has several fixed-price menus. Plenty of small bistro tables with bar stools but no actual table seating.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Closed Monday and Sunday evening in August. Reservations available. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Vineria San Telmo

Paseo Catalina de Ribera 4  
Seville, Spain 41004

**Phone:** 95-441-0600

<http://www.vineriasantelmo.com>

The husband-and-wife team carefully selects dishes and wines from all over Spain, offering a well-rounded variety of starters, salads, and warm and cold tapas, not to mention outstanding desserts. Definitely solicit their advice in terms of wine pairings. The terrace facing the Murillo Gardens is nice but can be a bit noisy because of the heavy traffic on the adjacent street. The dining room is very pleasant.

Open daily for lunch and dinner (or a late breakfast after 10:30 am). Reservations recommended on weekends. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

## Zelai

Albareda 22  
Seville, Spain 41001

**Phone:** 95-422-9992



<http://www.restaurantezelai.com>

A bar and restaurant with a sleek, modern design complemented by the artful presentation of the innovative and well-executed dishes. Definitely not your traditional tapas bar. It tends to be rather crowded, which may be a drawback if you're looking to have a quiet and relaxing dinner. Unfortunately there are only a few tables at the rear of the bar.

Tuesday-Saturday for lunch and dinner, Sunday for lunch only. Reservations are required for a table, otherwise you can enjoy the tapas at the bar or counter. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

## Seafood

### Freiduria Puerta de la Carne

Santa Maria de la Blanca (at the corner of Cano y Cueto, near the Murillo Gardens)  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-441-1159

<http://www.freiduriapuertadelacarne.com>

This popular establishment dates from 1929. Sevillanos flock there for the fried fish and seafood, such as *pescaito frito* (small fish), croquettes and *chirpirones* (baby squid). Order what you want by the weight (a quarter kilo is good for one person) and they'll hand it to you wrapped in paper. A waiter will take your drink order if you're lucky enough to secure one of the tables outside (if not, then it's takeaway). A genuine local experience.

Sunday for lunch and dinner, Monday-Saturday dinner only. \$. Visa only.

## Jaylu

Lopez de Gomara 19  
Seville, Spain

**Phone:** 95-433-9476

<http://www.restaurantejaylu.com>

A small, cozy seafood restaurant with a devoted local clientele. Very fresh fish and shellfish straight from Sanlucar de Barrameda and Huelva.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

## Security

### Etiquette

In Spain, it is common to exchange kisses on the cheeks or shake hands when meeting. Kisses are almost always exchanged between friends, or when introducing one friend to another, or when any two women meet. When a woman and a man meet for the first time, it's usually left up to the woman to decide between a kiss and a handshake—the man should wait for her to offer her cheek. Kisses on the cheek are also sometimes exchanged between two male friends. In most situations, though, men shake hands. Children are always kissed. And now the technique: At the very least, the cheeks should softly touch. Lead with the right cheek and then rotate to the left cheek.

When you're clinking glasses for a toast, it's important to look the other person in the eyes.

Smoking is prohibited in most public indoor spaces (restaurants, bars, cafes, offices). However, many bars and restaurants have outdoor spaces where smoking is permitted.



## Personal Safety

The risk of personal harm as the result of a crime is very low in Seville. It's generally safe to walk anywhere around the city center, even at night.

However, petty theft, such as pickpocketing, is something you definitely need to guard against. Consider carrying money, credit cards and other valuables somewhere besides in a back pocket. If you're carrying a backpack, make sure that it is securely closed and can't be easily opened. Don't set bags or purses down at your feet or in empty seats next to you in outdoor cafes—keep a hand on them or fasten them to something so that they cannot be grabbed easily. Be particularly vigilant in crowded spaces, such as on trains and buses or at train and bus stations. Never leave valuables in clear sight in a parked car. Be aware that petty thieves may take advantage of situations in which you tend to be distracted, for instance while talking on the phone, reading emails or texting.

In the heavily touristed areas of the city, someone may offer you a sprig of rosemary or try to read your palm. Unless you'd like to pay for this, do not accept. Simply shake your head or say no, and you'll be left alone.

## Health

Tap water is safe to drink in Seville, and sanitation levels are generally high. The most important health issue to be on guard against is heat exposure and sunstroke. You can purchase bottled water most anywhere in the city.

Most doctors and some health-care providers have at least a basic knowledge of English. Your hotel can also assist you in locating an English-speaking doctor should you need one. The U.S. Consulate in Seville (Plaza Nueva 8, E2 No. 4; phone 954-218-751; visits by appointment only) has a list of doctors and health-care providers by specialty and public and private hospitals and clinics.

In an emergency, call 112. Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, the main hospital providing urgent care in Seville, is south of Parque de María Luisa at Avenida Manuel Siurot s/n (phone 955-012-000). Hospital Universitario Virgen Macarena is just north of the old city at Ave. Dr. Fedriani 3 (phone 955-008-000).

Pharmacies (*farmacias*) are widely available. If the one nearest you happens to be closed during the lunch break or at night, a schedule will be posted listing pharmacies in the neighborhood that are open 24 hours a day on a rotating basis.

## Disabled Advisory

Most street intersections have cuts in the curb for wheelchairs. However, a large number of streets and sidewalks are made of cobblestones, which might diminish comfort. Public buses and the Metro-Centro trams have low floors, making them easier to access. Some buses are also equipped with ramps that fold out. Train and metro stations have elevators that lead directly to the platforms. Special taxis suitable for wheelchairs can be ordered by calling the numbers listed in the Transportation section. In addition, people in wheelchairs are permitted to use the many bike lanes.

Because the majority of sights are historical buildings, it hasn't always been easy to adapt them to special needs. In some cases, special ramps or lifts have been installed. The cathedral is wheelchair-accessible, and the Giralda has a series of ramps instead of steps, so nothing stands in the way of going to the top so long as you have the human or mechanical power to propel you. The Real Alcazar is also wheelchair-accessible, although help may be needed to get up or down a step or two. Generally speaking, an effort is made to make tourist sites accessible to everyone—just ask for guidance or assistance. Some of the hotels in the lower price range do not have elevators. Tourist offices have guides and maps (in Spanish) specifically for people with special access needs.



## Facts

### Dos & Don'ts

Do resist the temptation to order paella at restaurants (no matter how many touristy restaurant placards advertise it) because paella is not a local dish, and most of the time what's being peddled isn't freshly prepared. In fact, try to avoid any restaurants that have poorly translated menus in many languages—you'll not only pay more, but the quality will most likely be inferior.

Don't eat those pretty oranges growing on the trees. Seville oranges are very bitter and are only used to make orange marmalade, which is popular with the British but surprisingly not so popular with the Spanish.

Do take Spanish classes if you have the time. There are many language schools in Seville offering a wide range of instruction.

Don't miss out on Seville's biggest festivals if you have a flexible travel schedule: Semana Santa (from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday) and La Feria del Abril (in April to early May). Be sure to book your accommodations far in advance.

Do try to adjust your schedule (and stomach) to Spanish dining hours. Lunch is usually served after 2 pm and dinner usually starts after 9 pm, or even later in summer. If you eat lunch at noon or dinner at 7 pm, you're likely to be the only one in the restaurant (if one is even open).

### Geostats

**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Canadian and U.S. citizens need a passport, proof of onward passage and sufficient funds. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

**Population:** 700,169.

**Languages:** Spanish.

**Predominant Religions:** Christian (Roman Catholic).

**Time Zone:** 1 hour ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the last Sunday in March to the last Sunday in October.

**Voltage Requirements:** 220 volts.

**Telephone Codes:** 34, country code; 954 and 955, Seville city codes;

### Money

#### Taxes

The value-added tax in Spain is called by its abbreviation IVA (pronounced *ee-bah*). The basic rate is currently a whopping 21%. There is a reduced rate of 10% that applies to such things as passenger transport, hotels and restaurants. The lowest rate of 4% applies to items such as basic food and drink (not purchased at a restaurant) and pharmaceuticals.

Visitors to Spain not residing in the European Union are eligible for a reimbursement of the tax that they pay on some merchandise. The procedure can be a bit complicated, but it's basically as follows. The tax refund is valid only for purchases of 90.15 euros (taxes included) or more. Look for stores displaying a "tax-free" sticker and request an



invoice and an IVA-refund form detailing the value, tax rate and nature of the purchase. When departing Spain, you will need to have the completed form stamped by customs—do this before you check your luggage because they may need to see the purchased items. This is important even if you will be returning home from another EU country. If you are departing the EU from another member country, final processing of your refund claim will be handled by that country's customs. You can mail in the stamped form up to three months from the date of purchase and wait to receive your refund in the form of a check in euros, or you can get an immediate cash refund (minus a service charge) at the Tax-Free Shopping refund window, which is usually located in the airport departure area.

### **Tipping**

In Spain, there's no clear-cut mathematical formula for calculating tips. In fact, tipping is not considered obligatory. In cafes, bars and taxis spare change is usually given, which essentially means rounding the bill up to the nearest euro, or a bit more if the tab is just short of a full euro. The same applies to tapas bars. In fine restaurants, provided you're pleased with the service, a gratuity of between 2 euros-5 euros would be considered generous.

### **What to Wear**

The No. 1 rule in Seville is to protect yourself from the summer sun. Sunscreen, a hat and sunglasses are essential. In spring and autumn, a light jacket or sweater is also a good idea for the cooler mornings and evenings. In winter, even though you'll probably encounter sunny days, you'll need to take along warm clothing—preferably something that can be layered so you can make adjustments should the weather warm up during the day. Some form of rain gear is also recommended October-April. Comfortable shoes are important year-round, especially since you're likely to be walking on cobblestones.

Casual clothing is totally acceptable, especially in summer. Displaying a bit of style sense definitely won't be considered a wrong move either, especially if you want to gain entry to one of the more posh dance clubs (athletic shoes are not welcomed there). But generally speaking, when it comes to clothing, there are really no set rules or restrictions.

Be aware that it is considered bad taste to wear a flamenco dress in the street, and that attendance at religious ceremonies requires a more demure outfit. Most locals take pride in their dress and look smart for even a quick trip to the supermarket.

In business situations, it's common for men to wear a suit (coat and tie) and for women to wear a business suit with either a skirt or pants.

### **Tangier, Morocco**

#### **Overview**

#### **Introduction**

The closest major African city to Europe, Tangier was once known as the Pearl of the Mediterranean. Sadly, its reputation today is lackluster, to say the least. It has more than its share of pestering touts and crowded, rundown streets. Nevertheless, we enjoyed the city on our last trip. It's not nearly as interesting as Fez or Marrakesh, but it still has the anything-goes aura that, over the years, has attracted such writers as Paul and Jane Bowles, William Burroughs, Allen Ginsburg and Tennessee Williams, the artists Delacroix and Matisse, and the guitarist Davy Graham.



Once you escape the busy port area, it's easier to appreciate Tangier's nice setting: hills flanking a broad bay with a long stretch of beach. Neither the new nor the old section of the city has an abundance of standout sights or



monuments, but no doubt something will spark your interest while walking around them. The Museum of Moroccan Arts and Antiquities in the casbah section of the medina is your reward for climbing the hill.

Technically, it's possible to see Tangier as a day trip from Spain, but keep in mind that it's not representative of all of Morocco. The one- and two-day package tours of the city offered by a number of companies in Spain are worthwhile for people who have little or no experience traveling in developing countries—it's easy to get lost in the maze of streets on your own. (The crowded streets in the old part of the city can get particularly claustrophobic if you've lost your way.) Day trips from Tangier can be made to the towns of Chefchaouen, Tetouan or Asilah. Tangier is 150 mi/240 km north of Rabat.

## **Tenerife, Canary Islands**

### **Overview**

#### **Introduction**

Santa Cruz is the largest city on Tenerife, which is the largest island in the Canary Islands chain. The harbor is a major source of revenue and is often a stop on cruises between Europe and the Caribbean. Santa Cruz hosts one of the world's largest Carnivals, second only to the festival held in Rio de Janeiro.



The island capital itself is an elegant city of wide avenues, intimate plazas, modern sculptures and flower-filled parks. It's a good place to visit a museum or art gallery or simply wander around and take in the colonial architecture of its older buildings.

## **Cape Verde**

### **Overview**

#### **Introduction**

If you're expecting the landscape to be green on all of the Cape Verde islands, you'll be disappointed. But if you're looking for a cool, tranquil refuge from the heat, crowds and chaos of the African continent, you'll get what you're looking for in this windswept archipelago.



Cape Verde's mild weather, friendly people, clean ocean air, mountainous landscapes and tidy towns more than compensate for its lack of lush foliage (droughts have plagued these islands off the coast of West Africa). It's a surprisingly attractive destination. Its beautiful beaches and intriguing mix of cultures and people are reminiscent of Brazil or the Caribbean. And what's more, every year it sponsors one of the most spontaneous, joyous Carnival celebrations in the world.

Poverty, unemployment and the state of the economy were key issues in February 2006, when incumbent leader Pedro Pires of the ruling African Party for the Independence of Cape Verde (PAICV) again won presidential elections. Tourism is the biggest growth sector of the economy.

## **Geography**

This archipelago, about 400 mi/645 km west of Senegal, contains 10 islands (one uninhabited) and eight islets (none inhabited) in two different chains, the northern Ilhas do Barlavento (Windward Islands) and the southern Ilhas do Sotavento (Leeward Islands). They range from flat and sandy to mountainous and volcanic (reaching 10,000 ft/3,050 m above sea level). Less humid than many tropical islands, they're somewhat stark and barren—droughts there can last for decades, but there are green islands, most notably Santo Antao, which has spectacular mountain scenery, and Sao Nicalau. Brava, the smallest and wettest of the islands, is known for its rich vegetation and is often called the Island of Flowers.



## History

Cape Verde (the name of this island nation translates to "Green Cape") was uninhabited when the Portuguese first came upon the islands in 1455; in later years it became an important transshipment point for the Portuguese slave trade to the Americas. After relatively dry conditions were found to make sugar growing impractical, Cape Verde became an important supply station, restocking passing ships with food and fresh water. A North American connection was established in the 1800s, when New England whalers visited and took aboard supplies and additional crewmen.

Portugal, the last European country to give up its African colonies, held on to Cape Verde until 1975. That year, Cape Verde won its independence and attempted a union with Guinea-Bissau, another ex-colony of Portugal. The plan fell through, but the two countries still share similar flags. Today Cape Verde steers an independent course, although its leading political party has strong ties to Cape Verdean emigres in America. (It's said that there are as many Cape Verdeans in the northeastern U.S. as there are in Cape Verde.)

## Snapshot

Black- and white-sand beaches, deep-sea fishing, volcanoes, hiking, mountain climbing, scuba diving the wrecks off Boa Vista and Sal, windsurfing at Santa Maria on Sal, surfing, island-hopping, culture and relaxation are among the islands' chief attractions.

Cape Verde is for adventurous, experienced travelers who want to get away from it all and enjoy water-related activities in unusual settings, island-hopping and exploring, or who want to expand their experience of Carnival. Quality hotels of an international five- and four-star standard are found on the islands of Sal, Sao Tiago, Sao Vincente and Boa Vista. Many new self-catering apartments are being built.

Praia and Mindelo have a vibrant nightlife. On Sal, there's live music most nights in the tourist restaurants and in the upscale hotels that line the beachfront, and there are bars, discos and live-music clubs in all the tourist areas of the most popular islands.

Although some local crafts are available to buy (there's a colorful, African-style market on Sao Tiago), the Cape Verde Islands are not the best place for people who like to shop.

## Potpourri

Many species of birds and plants on Cape Verde exist nowhere else in the world. The closest relatives of some of the plants are in East Africa, not West Africa as you might expect.

Marine turtles are among the most important species on the islands. The turtles breed year-round.

Mountain paths are steep, but locals, forced by the topography to take roads over mountains rather than between them, have made cobbled paths in some surprising places.

Music that blends African, Latin and European rhythms is everywhere on the islands and, increasingly, local bands are appearing on the international world-music scene. The rich-voiced singer Cesaria Evora, known as "the barefoot diva," is the biggest international star.

There's often a shortage of change on Cape Verde, so it's best not to have high-value banknotes.

The Cape Verde Islands were an important stop on slave routes to the new world. Slaves were brought to Sao Tiago and taught Latin and Catholicism—and encouraged to eliminate any fantasies of freedom. Upon reaching the New



World, these "trained" slaves were worth much more than the other, "undocinated" survivors of trans-Atlantic sailings.

During Carnival parades in Mindelo, streets are cleared by "mud boys"—young boys daubed in mud who keep the crowds back from the floats.

Charles Darwin was impressed by the bleak beauty of the Cape Verdes, noting that "the novel aspect of an utterly sterile land possesses a grandeur which more vegetation might spoil."

The Cape Verde Islands (Cabo Verde in Portuguese) get their name from their geographical location off the coast of Cap Vert, Senegal.

More than 300,000 Cape Verdeans—called Americanos on the islands—live in the northeastern U.S. (Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, primarily). They are descended from Cape Verdeans who began fleeing the islands in the early 1800s on whaling ships and found work as seamen in the U.S. Many in Cape Verde depend on their overseas relatives for financial support.

There is excellent big-game fishing for tuna, wahoo and marlin.

## **See & Do**

### **Shopping**

Anyone going to the Cape Verde Islands for shopping is bound to be disappointed. There are some local handicrafts, but they're very basic. Bargaining is not the norm.

**Shopping Hours:** Monday-Friday 8 am-noon and 3-7 pm. Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

## **Dining**

### **Dining Overview**

Seafood lovers will be in paradise, for there's a wide range from which to select. The lobster is great (and cheap). So are the tropical fruits, vegetables and *cachupa* (corn and bean stew). There's a strong Portuguese influence in the Creole-style cooking and seasoning. Spicy Portuguese sausage known as *linguica* or *chourico* is excellent but may be hard to find. Grogue is the local sugarcane brew, and Coral is the local beer. Try some of the wine made on Fogo. But give the locally grown coffee a pass—it isn't very good.

## **Security**

### **Personal Safety**

Crime is not much of a problem in the Cape Verde Islands, but it's increasing as tourism develops, and it's a good idea to take precautions in Praia. Keep your eye out for pickpockets and petty thieves. Bag-snatching gangs operate in Sao Vicente and Mindelo, where aggressive begging can also be a problem. For the latest information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.





## Health

Standards of medical care are not high. Take along all prescription medicine you need for the trip. Sanitary conditions in restaurants may pose problems for travelers. Hot, freshly cooked food should be safe (especially if it's included on a package tour), but peel fresh fruit and raw vegetables before eating them, make sure meat is cooked thoroughly, avoid local dairy products and assume the tap water is unsafe—stick with prepackaged or boiled drinks. Cholera has been a problem. There is a risk of contracting malaria on the island of Sao Tiago, so consult your physician about obtaining malaria suppressants if you'll be traveling there September-December. Take along insect repellent. Consult your doctor also about immunizations for hepatitis A and typhoid. Skin infections are common: Even the smallest wound should be disinfected and covered with a bandage. The sun can be very strong, so use sunscreen and wear a hat. Don't forget a comfortable pair of walking shoes.

For more information, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

## Facts

### Dos & Don'ts

Don't keep too many extra escudos when leaving Cape Verde, as the money can't be converted outside the country.

Do try scuba diving if you enjoy sunken ships. There are a number of good wreck dives around the islands.

Don't step on the dikes built in the mountainous interior to protect the islands' thin soil from erosion—there are harsh penalties for damaging them.

Do try to meet some of the local residents, whose culture and appearance reflect a mixture of Africa and Portugal. We were reminded of northeastern Brazil.

Do bring a flashlight—electrical service in Cape Verde is not dependable.

Don't always expect the water in the ocean to be warm. The water is colder around Cape Verde than anywhere else along the West African coast.

Don't expect immaculately clean surroundings.

Do listen to some of the local music. *Mornas* are thought to be a combination of English sea chanteys, sad Portuguese fados, Brazilian *modhinas* and the rhythms of West Africa. *Coladeiras* are better for dancing.

Do take your own reading matter with you. There are relatively few books available in English.

Do dress more conservatively when visiting towns and when trekking.

Do ask people before photographing them. Some people object vociferously.

Do be patient.

## Geostats

**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Passport, visa and proof of onward passage needed by Canadian and U.S. citizens prior to arrival. Reconfirm travel document requirements with your carrier before departure.

**Population:** 418,224.



**Languages:** Portuguese (official), Crioulo (a mix of Portuguese and African dialects), some English and French..

**Predominant Religions:** Roman Catholic, Protestant..

**Time Zone:** 1 hour behind Greenwich Mean Time (-1 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is not observed.

**Voltage Requirements:** 220 volts. European-style two-pin sockets are used.

**Telephone Codes:** 238, country code;

## Money

### Banking Hours

Monday-Friday 8 am-2 pm. Some banks stay open until 4 pm.

### Tipping

Tip about 10% for good service.

### What to Wear

Take casual clothes and beachwear. Hikers should take walking boots and a sun hat, and hiking poles are useful. Sunscreen is essential. Pack insect repellent and cover up in the evenings, as mosquitoes can be irritating.

## Recife, Brazil

### Overview

#### Introduction

The northeastern coastal city of Recife presents a contrast with its colonial center and beaches lined with modern high-rise buildings. Nicknamed "the Venice of Brazil" for its canals and bridges, Recife is a poor but culturally vibrant city 1,155 mi/1,860 km north of Rio de Janeiro.



Plan two nights to see the city's historic center, with its many old mansions and impressive 17th- and 18th-century baroque churches, and to relax upon the sweeping white-sand beach of Boa Viagem, Recife's version of Copacabana. Additionally, Recife has a number of interesting museums, including the Museu do Homem do Nordeste, which offers a great introduction to the culture and history of the Brazilian Northeast.

Take time to browse at the Casa da Cultura (an old prison converted into a shopping mall), or shop for Brazil's finest ceramic tiles at the Brennan Ceramics Workshops, just outside of town (there are also many startling sculptures there). Recife has a fantastic Carnival that rivals those in Rio de Janeiro and Salvador.

Several half- and full-day excursions are possible, including visits to Olinda, a beautiful small colonial town with gilded baroque churches (World Heritage site); the stunning white sand beaches in and around the resort towns of Cabo de Santo Agostinho, Porto de Galinhas and Tamandare (20-65 mi/30-110 km south); the island of Itamaraca (30 mi/50 km north—good beaches, a 17th-century Dutch fort and one of the oldest churches in Brazil); and Caruaru (85 mi/135 km west—a typical town of the Northeastern interior famed for having the biggest outdoor market). Tours to traditional sugarcane plantations outside Recife are also available. 1,155 mi/1,860 km north of Rio de Janeiro.



## Salvador, Brazil

### Overview

### Introduction



Salvador, Brazil's coastal former capital, is a striking city 750 mi/1,200 km northeast of Rio de Janeiro. It lies on the beautiful Bay of All Saints (Bahia de Todos os Santos), the second-largest bay in the country. There is a strong African influence derived from the slaves brought to work in the sugarcane fields more than 400 years ago.

Salvador is divided into an Upper Town and a Lower Town; both are linked by the art-deco Lacerda elevator, which offers outstanding views. The Pelourinho is the largest intact colonial center in the Americas. Its twisting, narrow cobblestoned streets are lined with pastel mansions and stunning baroque churches and convents. Colorful open-air markets, an amazing array of popular and religious festivals (including Afro-Brazilian Candomble ceremonies) and fantastic beaches make this an excellent place to stay for two or three nights.

No tour of the city is complete without seeing the Igreja de Sao Francisco—although it's relatively plain on the outside (as are most Portuguese churches in Brazil), the inside is covered in gold leaf and is as ornate as it is beautiful. Also visit the Farol da Barra, a 16th-century fortified lighthouse that overlooks the Bay of All Saints and the island of Itaparica.

The Igreja do Bonfim is where believers from the northeast go to worship and pay for the promises they made in return for miracles (don't miss the Room of Miracles, where pilgrims leave wooden, silver or wax replicas of body parts in need of miraculous healing—you'll be amazed by the number of arms, legs, heads, hearts and lungs dangling from the ceiling). Dozens of other stunning colonial churches are sprinkled throughout Salvador's center and colonial district, including the Cathedral Igreja Nossa Senhora Rosario dos Pretos (built by and for slaves), Igreja do Carmo and Igreja Nossa Senhora da Conceicao.

Shopping is good at boutiques in the Barra and Pelourinho neighborhoods, as well as at shopping malls such as Barra and Iguatemi. The touristy Mercado Modelo is great for small, kitschy souvenirs. The chaotic but colorful Sao Joaquim market has interesting and authentic Afro-Brazilian artifacts.

You can see other reminders of the city's past at the Museu Carlos Costa Pinto and the Museu de Arte Sacra. The city's culture is celebrated in the Museu da Cidade (Yoruba tribal displays) and the Afro-Brazilian Museum (with good explanations about Afro-Brazilian religions). Try to attend a *candomble* religious ceremony at a traditional house or *terreiro*, and watch *capoeira*, an amazing combination of martial arts and African folk dance (don't take pictures of the participants unless you are willing to pay for the privilege).

Salvador also has a great Carnival celebration. Billed as the largest street party in the world, it is seven days of nonstop revelry that has grown so big it threatens to eclipse even Rio de Janeiro's Carnival.

North of Salvador are the lovely fishing villages and beaches of the Coconut Coast, including Arembepé, Imbassai and the more upscale Praia do Forte, which borders the Sapiranga Ecological Reserve. The reserve protects one of Brazil's last areas of ancient Atlantic rain forest. Itaparica, a lush island 12 mi/19 km southwest, has several nice beaches and a great view of Salvador across the bay. Every hour, the Sao Joaquim Ferry makes the 45-minute crossing. A high-speed launch also makes the trip in 15 minutes.

*Note:* Salvador has more than its share of poverty and crime. When you're having a soda or beer in an open bar or cafe (particularly in the Pelourinho), be prepared for beggars with cups or glasses to ask you for a drink. Crime directed at tourists can be a problem. However, both the Pelourinho and the beaches at Barra are well-supervised by special tourist police. For safety's sake, however, dress simply and take taxis after dark.



## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### Overview

#### Introduction

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—sensuous, chaotic, sophisticated, open and friendly—is one of South America's gems. The Cidade Marvilhosa (Marvelous City), as Brazilians call it, displays a unique blend of contrasts: old and new, tremendous wealth amid crushing poverty, an urban metropolis nestled around mountains and a huge forest.



All of Rio de Janeiro is symbolically embraced in the outstretched arms of *Cristo Redentor*, the statue of Christ the Redeemer atop Corcovado Mountain.

The 2016 Summer Olympics will be held in Rio, making it the first South American city to host the Olympic Games, and tourism to Brazil is expected to increase significantly. Rio will also be an important host city to the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The finals will be played in the upgraded Maracana stadium, which was reopened in 2013.

Rio is undergoing major infrastructure improvements in efforts to upgrade its transportation system and adopt environmental initiatives in preparation for the Olympics. According to the Brazil Tour Operators Association, hotel capacity will more than double. Football (soccer) stadiums are being rebuilt, world-class sports facilities are being designed, and the historic quarter and port area are being rejuvenated.

Rio de Janeiro plays host to what some call "the biggest party in the world" during the four-day holiday that is Carnival, which takes place just before Lent in February or early March. Street parties take place throughout the city, and the colorful samba schools parade through the city's Sambadrome to the sound of heavy drum beats.

But if the buzz of the city becomes too much—during Carnival or otherwise—there's always an easy escape to the beautiful coast or to the lush Tijuca Forest that surrounds Rio de Janeiro's mountainous slopes, where you can hike, bike or jump under a waterfall.

#### Highlights

**Sights**—Copacabana and Ipanema beaches; sunset from Arpoador rock; the view from atop Pao de Acucar (Sugar Loaf) or Corcovado Mountain; nature in Tijuca Forest and Jardim Botânico; a soccer match at the Maracana stadium.

**Museums**—Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro; Instituto Moreira Salles; Museu Chacara do Ceu; Museu de Arte Contemporânea-Niterói; Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil.

**Memorable Meals**—An all-you-can-eat barbecue at a *churrascaria* such as Fogo de Chao, Marius or Porcao; *moqueca*, a spicy Bahian seafood dish, at Siri Mole & Cia; *feijoada* (black-bean stew) at the Casa da Feijoada; fresh seafood at Satyricon; coffee and pastries at the belle époque Confeitaria Colombo; sushi with the celebs at Sushi Leblon; brunch in Parque Lage; a tropical *suco* at any of the juice stands around the city.

**Late Night**—The lively bars in Ipanema, Leblon and Copacabana; a quiet drink at one of the outdoor cafes near the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas; live samba in Lapa; a beer at Jobi at Madrugada.

**Walks**—A Sunday stroll by the beach along Avenida Atlântica in Copacabana or Avenida Vieira Souto in Ipanema; a walk around Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas; a leisurely walk around the colonial neighborhood of Santa Teresa.



## Geography

Rio lies on the southeastern coast of Brazil. The city has everything it could want within arm's reach: ocean, mountains and the world's largest urban forest (in Tijuca National Park). The city is divided into four parts: Zona Sul (South Zone), Zona Oeste (West Zone), Zona Norte (North Zone) and Centro (downtown).

Bordered by Zona Sul, Zona Norte and Guanabara Bay, Centro is the commercial and historic heart of the city. Edging Zona Sul, with beaches fronting the Atlantic and extending southward on the coast, are the famous *bairros* (neighborhoods) of Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon. The Barra da Tijuca, with its giant malls and extensive beaches, is farther southwest, in Zona Oeste.

Rio's notorious slums, called favelas, are found throughout the city. Many are in Zona Norte, but the largest in Brazil (and in South America) are in Zona Sul.

## History

The name Rio de Janeiro, which means "River of January" in Portuguese, alludes to the fact that Portuguese sailors thought Guanabara Bay was a river delta when they first sailed into it on 1 January 1502. After successfully battling the French for control of the bay, the Portuguese established a fortified city, which in 1568 became the city of Rio. Initially eclipsed by Salvador, Brazil's first colonial capital on the coast to the north, as well as other cities in the gold-rich interior, Rio became the capital of Brazil in 1763.

With the beginning of the coffee boom in the early 1800s, Rio began to prosper. In 1808, the Portuguese royal family fled from the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and settled in Rio, initiating one of the city's golden ages. For more than 10 years, Rio was the seat of the Portuguese empire, which turned the colonial outpost into a cosmopolitan city.

In 1822, when Portugal granted independence to Brazil, the king's son Pedro stayed in Rio and was crowned emperor of Brazil, making him the only reigning monarch in the Americas. As an imperial capital, Rio had a population of more than 100,000 and was one of South America's busiest ports, shipping Brazil's rubber, coffee and sugar to the rest of the world.

Over the following decades, the government widened avenues, filled in swamps, eradicated yellow fever and even tore down bothersome hills to make space for construction. The formerly bucolic colonial capital of low, tile-roof buildings and dirt streets increasingly resembled a modern metropolis, and by 1920, its population had swollen to 1 million people.

After World War II, the city was further remodeled to make space for the automobile. A growing middle class began to abandon traditional Zona Norte enclaves for Zona Sul neighborhoods—Copacabana, Ipanema and Leblon—that were rendered more accessible by buses, cable cars and automobiles. In 1960, Brazil finished the construction of the new inland national capital, Brasilia, and gradually moved most government offices to the planned city. Though some say Rio has never recovered its lost prestige, it remains Brazil's main tourist destination and an important cultural center.

## Potpourri

Fed up with traditional candidates, voters once cast 400,000 votes for a write-in candidate who lived in Rio Zoo. A chimp named Tiao, which means "Big Uncle" in Portuguese, took third place in the 1988 balloting for mayor. Similarly, in 2010 a clown named Tiririca received more votes than any candidate in the congressional elections and was given a seat in congress.



In Brazil, motels are for rent-by-the-hour rooms, not overnight stays. Some motels, however—including Vip's (<http://www.vipsmotel.com.br>) on Avenida Niemeyer in Leblon—are very luxurious and may offer better overnight deals than the five-star-hotels.

Legend has it that Tom Jobim and Vinicius de Moraes composed "The Girl from Ipanema" on a bar napkin while sipping a couple of drinks just blocks from the beach at a spot called Bar Veloso, since renamed Garota de Ipanema.

A small lane in Copacabana, Beco das Garrafas, near the luxury hotel Copacabana Palace, is known as the birthplace of bossa nova and used to be frequented by the likes of Sergio Mendes in the 1960s. The name comes from the fact that disgruntled local residents used to throw *garrafas* (bottles) at the musicians to try to get them to keep the noise down.

During Rio's Carnival, besides the famous procession through the Sambadrome, there are dozens of *blocos* (street parties). The Carmelitas *bloco* in the Santa Teresa neighborhood is based on the order of nuns of the same name who lived in the area (and party attendees dress in appropriate attire).

Gavea Rock, the enormous outcropping in the Zona Sul, resembles a gigantic sculpture and allegedly sports ancient inscriptions on one of its sides. Some believe Gavea Rock is the burial place of a Phoenician king, and others believe it to be one of the 12 vortices on Earth.

The section of the beach in Copacabana in front of the Marriott Hotel has long been known for its beach soccer. Nilton Santos, star of the Botafogo club and the national team, who retired in 1964, played regularly on this strip of sand.

Celebrity sightings are common on the beaches of the Zona Sul. Wait long enough and musician Chico Buarque or the hottest *telenovela* actress will stroll along. Rarely must they dodge autograph seekers or paparazzi; Cariocas tend to be nonchalant about such encounters.

## See & Do

### Sightseeing

Rio is a feast of natural and urban attractions that can be enjoyed as sweeping panoramic views or inspected up close. Most visitors opt for a panoramic view as an introduction to the city. The best spots are Pao de Acucar (Sugar Loaf) and Corcovado Mountain, though the more energetic might choose to hike up Gavea Rock. A gondola can take you up Sugar Loaf for a 360-degree view of Rio and Guanabara Bay.

The landmark statue of Christ with outstretched arms on Corcovado Mountain is reached via a funicular train. On a clear day, you'll be rewarded with wonderful views of the city, the bay and Tijuca Forest. For Gavea Rock, it is best to go with a local friend or a tour guide.

When you're ready to examine the city in more detail, head for the legendary beaches in the Zona Sul (South Zone) neighborhoods. The most famous beaches are Copacabana and Ipanema, though Leblon (next to Ipanema) and Leme (next to Copacabana) are worth experiencing also. Cariocas, as residents of Rio are called, are fun-loving and charming, and the cast of colorful characters you'll see strolling and lounging on the beach is just about the only thing that can compete with the city's spectacular natural setting. The beach is often known as the most democratic place in Rio.

You can combine people-watching and sightseeing by taking a walk through several neighborhoods. Rio's Centro (downtown) is a great place to see a mix of old and new, colonial and modern. The Arcos da Lapa—arches that were



part of an immense aqueduct built in the 1700s—are at the center of Lapa, a bohemian neighborhood south of Centro that has made a full comeback after years of neglect and has a number of good antiques stores, bars, clubs and restaurants.

West of Lapa is the hilly Santa Teresa neighborhood, with its narrow, winding streets, stone stairs and late-19th-century houses—it has an artistic, counterculture feeling, and there are many interesting small galleries and museums to explore. You can take the scenic *bondinho* (streetcar) or a cab up to Santa Teresa.

If you choose to spend some time indoors, you'll find that Rio's museums run the gamut from the culture-oriented Edison Carneiro Folklore Museum to the campy Carmen Miranda Museum. The National History Museum and the National Fine Arts Museum are must-sees, as is the Contemporary Arts Museum in Niteroi.

For a look at Rio's religious heritage, visit the Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Gloria for its art and impressive architecture, as well as the Sao Bento Monastery.

Sooner or later, you'll be drawn back outdoors: Two good spots are the Jardim Botânico and the massive Tijuca Forest (keep an eye out for monkeys).

## Historic Sites

### Cristo Redentor

Rua Cosme Velho 513  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2558-1329

<http://www.corcovado.com.br>

The famous giant statue of Christ the Redeemer, with arms outstretched over the bay, is perched on Corcovado Mountain. As Rio's most instantly recognizable landmark, it's well worth a trip to see both the statue and the view, but be sure to choose a clear day. The statue itself is free to visit; the issue is how to get there. Many of the better hotels and travel agencies can help arrange a visit. You can go on your own by taking a taxi to the Corcovado train station.

Funicular trains depart every half-hour daily 8 am-8 pm, last ascent at 7 pm. (Elevators and escalators with panoramic views make the final ascent to the statue possible for everyone.) The train round-trip costs R\$46 adults.

### Escadaria Selaron

Escadaria Selaron 24, Lapa  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

In 1994 well-traveled Chilean painter Jorge Selaron started working on his iconic tile staircase, which has become one of the major attractions of Lapa. For many years, he added colorful tiles made by himself or donated to him from all over the world. In January 2013, Selaron was found murdered at the stairs, and many people fear that his unique creation may not be maintained forever. Most Rio visitors have their photo taken on the colorful stairs, but do go during the day because the area is unsafe at night.

### Igreja de Nossa Senhora da Gloria do Outeiro

Praca Nossa Senhora da Gloria 135  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22211-110

**Phone:** 21-2557-4600

<http://www.outeirodagloria.org.br>



The Church of Our Lady of Glory on the Knoll, a unique octagonal church, was built in 1714. The main altar has carvings by renowned Brazilian artist Mestre Valentim. The church was designed so the cooling breeze of the sea could flow through it. There is also a museum of sacred art at the church.

The museum is open Tuesday-Friday 9 am-noon and 1-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 9 am-noon. The church can be visited Monday-Friday 9 am-5 pm (closed for lunch noon-1 pm) and Saturday and Sunday 8 am-noon. Masses are held on Sunday at 9 and 11 am. Museum admission is R\$4.

### **Ilha Fiscal**

Avenida Alfredo Agache (access is through the Centro Cultural da Marinha, at the end of Praca 15)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2104-5274

<http://www.mar.mil.br/dphdm>

This island, reached by a short boat ride, is home to the 1881 neo-Gothic palace where the last imperial ball was held. The palace's showpiece is a beautiful inlaid floor, made from several rare Brazilian woods, that covers an area of 10,800 sq ft/1,000 sq m.

Open to visitors Thursday-Sunday with guided tours starting at 12:30, 2 and 3:30 pm April-August and 1, 2:30 and 4 pm September-March. Closed the second weekend of the month. R\$20 adults; R\$10 students, children age 12 and younger, and seniors.

### **Mosteiro de Sao Bento**

Rua Dom Gerardo 68  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20090-030

**Phone:** 21-2206-8100

<http://www.osb.org.br>

One of Rio's better examples of baroque architecture. Masses are held Monday-Saturday at 7:30 am, Sunday at 10 am and 6 pm. Gregorian chant is sung at the 7:30 and 10 am Masses.

Daily 7 am-6 pm. Proper clothing is required.

### **Pao de Acucar**

Ave. Pasteur 520, Urca  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22290-240

**Phone:** 21-2546-8400

<http://www.bondinho.com.br>

Sugar Loaf Mountain is not only an easily recognizable landmark, but it also offers a wonderful panoramic view of the city. All main tour companies run excursions, or ask your cab driver to leave you at the Sugar Loaf gondola station at Urca's Praia Vermelha. The cable car, which departs every half-hour, first takes you up the hill called Morro da Urca and then to the top of Sugar Loaf. To enjoy a truly spectacular view, arrive an hour before sunset and watch the sun go down and the city light up.

Daily 8 am-9 pm. Adults R\$62.





## Museums

### Biblioteca Nacional

Ave. Rio Branco 219, Centro  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3095-3879 , or 21-2220-9484 to reserve an English-language tour

<http://www.bn.br>

The National Library in Rio is the biggest library in South America and one of the largest in the world, housing approximately 9 million items. It includes books brought to Brazil by Portuguese King Dom Jose I. It's a fascinating neoclassical building that can be visited by guided tour only.

Open Monday-Friday 9 am-8 pm, Saturday 9 am-3 pm. Guided tours in English (R\$2) run at 1 pm and can be reserved by phone.

### Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil

Rua Premeiro de Marco 66, Centro (near Praca XV)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20010-000

**Phone:** 21-3808-2020

<http://www.bb.com.br>

Set in a beautiful neoclassical building dating from 1880, this is one of the most exciting cultural spaces in Rio de Janeiro. The building is complete with many original features such as the huge old "safe" doors. It often houses groundbreaking exhibitions such as modern works from young Brazilian artists and rare photos of Rio. It also has a brasserie, small cafe, theater, cinema and Wi-Fi. Casa Franca gallery next door is also worth a look.

Open daily except Monday 9 am-9 pm.

### Instituto Moreira Salles

Rua Marques de Sao Vicente 476, Gavea  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3284-7400

<http://ims.uol.com.br>

This attractive cultural center, the former home of the wealthy Moreira Salles family, is a stunning example of Brazilian modernist architecture. Set in leafy Gavea, it hosts major exhibitions of modern painting and photography. There's also an elegant tearoom with an outside area beside a pool and a cinema.

Tuesday-Friday 1-8 pm, Saturday and Sunday 11 am-8 pm.

### Museu Carmen Miranda

Aterro do Flamengo (in front of Ave. Rui Barbosa 560)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2334-4293

<http://carmen.miranda.nom.br>

Nicknamed the "Brazilian Bombshell" because of her exuberant performances in Technicolor musicals, Carmen Miranda was the first Brazilian singer to become internationally known. In the mid-1940s, she was one of Hollywood's best-paid stars. On view are her signature hats, dresses, shoes and other memorabilia, and there's a video library of her movies. Guided tours for groups are available by appointment.



Open Tuesday-Friday 10 am-5 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 2-5 pm. Free.

### **Museu Chacara do Ceu**

Rua Murinho Nobre 93, Santa Teresa  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20241-050

**Phone:** 21-3970-1126

<http://www.museuscastromaya.com.br/chacara.htm>

This beautiful museum, housed in a modernist mansion and surrounded by lush gardens, has an eclectic collection of fine furnishings and Brazilian and international art. Works by Dali, Picasso, Monet and Matisse were lost to theft during Carnival 2006.

Open daily except Tuesday noon-5 pm. R\$2; free on Wednesday.

### **Museu da Imagem e do Som**

Ave. Atlantica 3432, Copacabana  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2146-1579

<http://www.mis.rj.gov.br>

The spectacular architectural addition to the Copacabana seafront sits on the spot where the infamous Help Discotheque was demolished in 2010. The city is keen to clean up the area, as Help drew seedy characters to the neighborhood. Brazil's entire movie and musical history, from Bossa Nova to Samba, can be seen and heard at the MIS—excluding the scantily clad Help girls, who for two decades danced there. The design, by the New York architectural firm Diller Scofidio and Renfro, breaks from the traditional Copa apartment block routine.

### **Museu da Republica**

Rua do Catete 153, Catete  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3235-3693

<http://www.museudarepublica.org.br>

This impressive house, Catete Palace, was built between 1858 and 1867 by a coffee plantation owner and it housed some of the most important political debates in Brazilian history when various presidents called it home. It now houses the Museum of the Republic. It has several eclectically and elaborately designed rooms, although the most famous is that where former Brazilian President Getulio Vargas famously committed suicide. His pajamas, with the deadly bullet hole, are on display.

Tuesday-Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 2-6 pm. R\$6 regular admission, free for children younger than 10 and seniors.

### **Museu de Arte Contemporanea-Niteroi**

Mirante da Boa Viagem  
Niteroi, Brazil 24210-390

**Phone:** 21-2620-2400

<http://www.macniteroi.com.br>

Designed by renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, this striking art museum houses a permanent collection of more than 1,000 works by contemporary Brazilian artists. It also has a great panoramic view of Guanabara Bay. You can take a taxi across the long bridge to Niteroi, but, particularly on clear days, we recommend you take the ferry



from Praca 15—it's a less expensive way to get there, and you can admire the view of Rio along the way. From the ferry docks in Niteroi, take a taxi or Bus 47-B to the museum.

Open daily except Monday 10 am-6 pm; the patio is open daily from 9 am. R\$10 adults.

### **Museu de Arte do Rio**

Praca Maua 5, Centro  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20081-240

**Phone:** 21-3037-2741

<http://www.museudeartedorio.org.br>

The city's newest art museum was opened in 2013 across from Rio's boat terminal. Spread over four floors, the museum showcases a growing selection of international paintings, including excellent works of abstract art. More endearing to the locals are old landscape paintings of the city. The roof terrace on the sixth floor offers visitors a magnificent view of Rio.

Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm. R\$8 adults.

### **Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro**

Ave. Infante Dom Henrique 85 (in the Aterro do Flamengo, near Santos Dumont Airport)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20021-140

**Phone:** 21-3883-5600

<http://www.mamrio.com.br>

This spacious museum with a stunning view of Guanabara Bay houses the most important individual collection of Brazilian modern art, that of Gilberto Chateaubriand, which is displayed in temporary exhibitions. There is also a small cinema and a shop selling Brazilian design pieces.

Monday-Friday noon-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-7 pm. R\$12 adults, R\$6 students and seniors, R\$12 for families on Sunday.

### **Museu do Folclore Edison Carneiro**

Rua do Catete 181  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2285-0441

<http://www.cnfcp.com.br>

A great place to learn about Brazil's roots. The items on display represent the entire country: Afro-Brazilian objects, ceramics, toys, ritual vestments and popular art. It is organized around the themes of life, religion, festivals and art. The museum is located in the shaded gardens of Parque do Catete, which is also the site of the former presidential palace, now the Museu da Republica. English-language audioguides are available.

Tuesday-Friday 11 am-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 3-6 pm. Free.

### **Museu do Indio**

Rua das Palmeiras 55, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22270-070

**Phone:** 21-3214-8719

<http://www.museudoindio.gov.br>



Established as the scientific and cultural arm of the National Indian Foundation, this museum has one of the most important collections of artifacts from the indigenous people of Brazil in some creative audio and visual displays. There's also a shop where you can buy native crafts, as well as a cafe and a research center.

Tuesday-Friday 9 am-5:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday 1-5 pm. Free admission.

### **Museu Histórico Nacional**

Praca Marechal Ancora (next to Praca 15)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20021-200

**Phone:** 21-3299-0300

<http://www.museuhistoriconacional.com.br>

This site has two beautifully restored 18th-century structures that form the National History Museum: the House of Armaments (1764) and the House of Trains (1762). Together they illuminate Brazilian history with more than 257,000 objects: weapons, carriages, paintings and sculptures.

Open Tuesday-Friday 10 am-5:30 pm; Saturday, Sunday and holidays 2-6 pm. R\$8. Free on Sunday.

### **Museu Nacional**

Parque Quinta da Boa Vista, Sao Cristovao  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20940-040

**Phone:** 21-2562-6900

<http://www.museunacional.ufrj.br>

This large mansion was once the home of the Brazilian imperial family. Today it's one of Rio's most complete and interesting museums, with more than a million pieces on display: zoology, archaeology, theology, botany and classical antiques. See the biggest meteorite discovered in the Southern Hemisphere (it weighs 5.36 tons/4,860 kg).

Monday noon-5 pm, Tuesday-Sunday 10 am-5 pm. R\$6 adults.

### **Museu Nacional de Belas Artes**

Ave. Rio Branco 199 (near Cinelandia metro station)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20040-008

**Phone:** 21-2219-8474

<http://www.mnba.gov.br>

The National Museum of Fine Arts has some 200 works by Brazilian artists from the 17th-19th centuries, housed in a 1908 French Renaissance building. It houses the largest easel painting in Brazilian art history, an impressive war scene from the battle of Arai. There's also a gallery with paintings by non-Brazilians such as Picasso, Matisse and Nicolas-Antoine Taunay.

Tuesday-Friday 10 am-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-5 pm. R\$4 regular admission; free on Sunday and during the ongoing building renovations.

### **Museu Villa-Lobos**

Rua Sorocaba 200, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22271-110

**Phone:** 21-2226-9818

<http://www.museuvillalobos.org.br>



If you are a fan of Brazilian music, the Villa-Lobos museum is dedicated to Heitor Villa-Lobos, who is considered the greatest living classical composer in the Americas. He even conducted the New York Philharmonic orchestra in Carnegie Hall. The museum contains instruments and other artifacts from his musical career.

Monday-Friday 10 am-5 pm. Entrance free.

### **Oi Futuro Flamengo**

Rua Dois de Dezembro 63, Flamengo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3131-3060

<http://www.oifuturo.org.br>

An important and innovative cultural space in Rio, Oi Futuro Flamengo houses various exhibitions, often pretty fresh and cutting edge, as well as the permanent interactive museum of telecommunications. It also has a huge library of art books.

Monday-Friday 11 am-5 pm. Free.

### **Parks & Gardens**

#### **Claudio Coutinho Trail**

Praca General Tiburcio (Vermelha Beach), Urca  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This trail, named after a famous former Brazilian football (soccer) coach, starts at the base of the hill called Morro da Urca and offers wonderful views of nearby Sugar Loaf and the surf crashing below it.

Daily 6 am-6 pm. Free.

#### **Ilha de Paqueta**

Piazza San Roque 31, Island Paqueta  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20397-090

**Phone:** 21-2544-6667 (ferry)

<http://www.ilhadepaqueta.com.br/paqueta.htm>

This small, picturesque island in Guanabara Bay is a popular spot for a walk or a picnic: No cars are allowed on the island. In addition to the sandy (but heavily polluted) beaches, there are a few interesting colonial buildings to explore. Cycling is very popular, and you can rent a bike near the quay for around R\$3 an hour.

There is a small tourist kiosk just as you leave the terminal on the main street where you can pick up a map of the island (closed for lunch noon-1 pm). You can also hire a horse-drawn cart for about R\$15.

Ferries depart from Praca 15 daily (nine crossings, the first leaves for the island at 5:15 am, the last ferry leaves the island at 10:15 pm). The ferry takes about 70 minutes and costs R\$4.50 (R\$9 return).

#### **Jardim Botânico**

Rua Jardim Botânico 1008  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22470-180

**Phone:** 21-3874-1808

<http://www.jbrj.gov.br>



Created by Dom Joao VI as a royal garden to display plants from other regions, the Botanical Garden is now a lovely place for walking or bird- and monkey-watching. The gardens are so insulated from urban noises that you may think you're in the countryside, and temperatures are blissfully cool on hot days. Highlights include the orchid house and the majestic rows of imperial palms. There is also a museum, an outdoor cafe, a gift shop and a sensory garden for the visually impaired.

Daily 8 am-5 pm. R\$6 entry.

### **Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas**

Zona Sul (between avenidas Epitacio Pessoa and Borges de Medeiros)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.lagoarodrigodefritis.com.br>

The shore of this natural lagoon in Zona Sul is a good place for a walk—have some ice cream as you stroll. There's a great cycling and jogging track, too, where chic Cariocas work out or walk their fancily clad dogs. Kiosks serve everything from Italian to Japanese food. You can hear Brazilian music and jazz played in the evening after 9 pm at stands around the lagoon. Very popular on weekends and during the summer. Bikes can also be hired, as well as pedalos.

### **Parque Brigadeiro Eduardo Gomes**

More commonly known as the Aterro do Flamengo, this is one of the world's largest parklands along the sea. It faces Flamengo Beach, stretching from the Modern Art Museum near Centro to the Botafogo neighborhood. It has a public harbor, jogging trails, bike lanes, soccer fields (where you will often see people playing into the early hours), a skate park, the Carmen Miranda Museum and restaurants. It's a very popular hangout on weekends, when top-notch free concerts are held there. We recommend that you visit only during daylight hours. You can enter the park from any point along Avenida Praia do Flamengo.

### **Parque do Catete**

Rua da Catete 153, Catete  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This attractive park is behind the Palacio do Catete, which now houses the Museu da Republica. The 19th-century gardens with a water feature running throughout provide a peaceful respite to busy Catete. There is also a small museum for children and often exhibitions or concerts in the park, as well as access to a small arts cinema. The gardens can be accessed via the Museu da Republica or Rua da Catete or from Flamengo beach side.

### **Parque Lage**

Rua Jardim Botânico 414, Jardim Botânico  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3257-1800. Toll-free 21-3257-1821 to organize guided tours Monday-Friday 9 am-6 pm

<http://www.eavparquelage.rj.gov.br>

Parque Lage is actually inside Tijuca Forest, and one of the trails begins there. You can get a great brunch in the attractive mansion house, which now houses the Visual Arts school of Parque Lage. It has been used as a location for several international music videos and often has some great music and arts events.

Open daily 8 am-6 pm. Free.



## Tijuca Forest

Estrada da Cascatinha 850, Alto da Boa Vista (the main entrance is at Praça Alfonso Vizeu)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20531-590

**Phone:** 21-2492-2253

<http://www.parquedatijuca.com.br/amigosdoparque.php>

Part of the Tijuca National Park, this is one of the world's largest urban forests. By the mid-19th century, Tijuca Forest was practically deforested, first for lumber, then for coffee plantations. In 1861, the government recognized that deforestation was hurting local rainfall, leading to a shortage of potable water. The forest is now one of the city's most important protected areas. If you're lucky, you'll see monkeys and a variety of butterflies. Beautiful spots include the Cascatinha (a lovely waterfall), the Mayrink Chapel, the Lago da Fada (Fairy Lake), the Acude da Solidao (Solitude Dam) and several caves. We recommend you take a Jeep tour, which can be arranged through most hotels. If you're determined to go on foot without a guide, the best place to start is Cascatinha, which is close to the main park entrance. Just remember that many people get lost in the forest, so stay on the marked trails at all times.

Daily 8 am-7 pm. Admission is free.

## Nightlife

If you want to taste Rio's nightlife, check out live music of all genres in small clubs or the avant-garde dance clubs that showcase the latest in modern rhythms. The city's nighttime offerings reflect the free-spirited and easygoing nature of Cariocas and cater to all tastes and budgets. Be sure to try a caipirinha, Brazil's national cocktail that is made with *cachaca* (a rum made from sugarcane), sugar and lime.

Nightclubs and many bars are open until at least 3 am, even during the week. Some clubs have a cover charge, and others have a *consumacao minima* system in which you have to spend a certain amount on drinks. The most expensive places have both. Take cash; few places accept credit cards, so call ahead to check.

## Shopping

Ipanema and several shopping malls are Rio's prime shopping spots. Because Brazil has some of the largest gem mines in the world, gems and jewelry are an excellent value. Both H. Stern and Amsterdam Sauer have headquarters in Rio. Look for them on Ipanema's Avenida Visconde de Pirajá, which is also filled with specialty boutiques. (Avoid designer-name products sold by street vendors: They're fake.)

When buying antique religious icons, be sure to ask for proof of origin: An organized crime ring pilfers objects from colonial churches and sells them through antiques dealers in Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo and other major cities.

In a country with such a rich musical heritage and so many contemporary singers and bands, it would be a shame not to buy a few CDs or traditional instruments.

**Shopping Hours:** Generally Monday-Friday 10 am-6 pm and Saturday 10 am-2 pm. During the summer (December-March), many stores stay open on Saturday until 7 pm, especially in Ipanema and Copacabana. Shopping malls are often open Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm. There is an increasing number of 24-hour grocery and convenience stores. Most open-air markets operate 7 am-3 pm. The larger shopping malls usually open after 3 pm on Sunday.

## Galleries

If you'd like to buy some Brazilian art, the Cassino Atlantico shopping arcade (Ave. Atlantica 4240, Copacabana, next to the Sofitel Rio Palace) has two or three galleries selling art at reasonable prices. You'll also find some artwork in the Santa Teresa neighborhood, where many Carioca artists live—try the area around Largo dos Guimaraes, on the



*bondinho* route up from Centro. Twice a year (May and November), Santa Teresa artists hold a collective open house in their ateliers. There's also the slightly touristy "hippie fair" on Sunday in Ipanema, where you're sure to find many different kinds of paintings—together with a fair amount of junk.

There is an increasing number of smaller galleries exhibiting street art in Rio. They are often inside shops.

### **Galeria Jean Boghici**

Rua Joana Angelica 180  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Owner Jean Boghici was among the pioneers in dealing Brazilian modernists. The gallery still specializes in work from the mid-20th century.

Open Monday-Saturday 2:30-7:30 pm.

### **Homegrown**

Rua Maria Quitéria 68, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2513-2160

<http://www.homegrown.com.br>

This shop, located above a bar, displays street art.

Monday-Friday 8 am-6 pm.

### **Laura Marsiaj**

Rua Teixeira de Melo 31-C  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2513-2074

<http://www.lauramarsiaj.com.br>

This gallery of contemporary art is a great place to check out avant-garde Brazilian artists.

Tuesday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 3-8 pm.

### **Markets**

Rio has several excellent open-air markets where you'll find fresh-cut flowers, fruits, vegetables, meats and cheeses. Try Praca General Osorio in Ipanema on Tuesday, Rua Domingos Ferreira in Copacabana on Wednesday, and Praca Santos Dumont in Gavea or Praca Nossa Senhora de Paz in Ipanema on Friday.

### **Babilonia Feira Hype**

Jockey Club, Rua Jardim Botânico, Tribuna C, Gavea  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.babiloniafeirahype.com.br>

Every few weeks, part of the swanky Jockey Club is taken over by this fashionable arts-and-crafts market. It's a great place to buy clothes and jewelry from Rio's up-and-coming designers, as well as crafts. It also has designer brands for lower prices. The outdoor food court has lots to choose from, and you can sit and watch the horse races in the shade of Corcovado. It's best to check the newspaper for details.

When open, Saturday and Sunday noon-10 pm.





### **Cobal do Humaita**

Voluntarios da Patria 448, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This permanent produce market is also a popular spot for lunch and dinner.

Open Tuesday-Saturday 8 am-6 pm, Sunday 8 am-noon.

### **Feira de Sao Cristovao**

Campo de Sao Cristovao, Zona Norte  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.feiradesaocristovao.org.br>

Started more than 50 years ago by migrant workers, this market is now an explosion of music, dancing, food, art and produce from northeastern Brazil that attracts 60,000 people each weekend. On Saturday the carnival atmosphere really gets going after midnight, with music and dancing (mostly the traditional *forro*) that can continue until daylight. The market winds down Sunday afternoon, usually finishing at about 6 pm.

Tuesday-Thursday 10 am-6 pm, Friday-Sunday 10 am-9 pm.

### **Hippie Fair**

Praca General Osorio (an easy walk from Ipanema hotels and about 10 minutes by taxi from Copacabana)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.feirahippieipanema.risoleil.com>

This fair has it all: contemporary Brazilian art, leather goods, knickknacks, jewelry, Bahian snacks, handmade instruments and live music. As is the case at all of Rio's outdoor markets, you can try to bargain (you are more likely to haggle successfully at the end of the day). It's worth a trip even if you decide not to buy anything.

Sunday 7 am-7 pm.

### **Shopping Areas**

#### **Avenida Visconde de Piraja**

This Ipanema avenue is one of the chic places to shop in Rio. You'll find the city's major jewelers, H. Stern and Amsterdam Sauer, and an abundance of boutiques and bikini shops. Be sure to explore the many small shopping arcades, where some of the best shops are tucked away. One of the most interesting of these arcades, Forum de Ipanema (Ave. Visconde de Piraja 134; <http://www.forumdeipanema.com.br>), brings together many of Rio's top designers under one glitzy roof.

#### **Barra Shopping**

Ave. das Americas 4666, Barra de Tijuca  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 21043-090

**Phone:** 21-4003-4131

<http://www.barrashopping.com.br>

The biggest and arguably the best shopping mall in the city—the only problem is that it's far away. The taxi fare from Copacabana or Ipanema is around R\$35, but there are also numerous buses from the Zona Sul.

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm, Sunday 3-9 pm.



## Rio Sul

Rua Lauro Muller 116, Botafogo (just minutes from Copacabana)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22299900

**Phone:** 21-3527-7257

<http://www.riosul.com.br>

Zona Sul's largest shopping mall, Rio Sul is full of department stores and lots of clothing shops, plus a food court and movie theater.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm, Sunday 3-9 pm.

## Sao Conrado Fashion Mall

Estrada de Gavea 899, Sao Conrado  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2111-4444

<http://www.fashionmall.com.br>

This glitzy mall is a shopping paradise for affluent Cariocas in search of the latest domestic and foreign designer labels. The impressive food court is one of the best in town.

Open Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm, Sunday 3-9 pm.

## Shopping Leblon

Ave. Afranio de Melo Franco 290, Leblon  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2430-5122

<http://www.shoppingleblon.com.br>

A suitably Leblon experience with designer shops in a pleasant environment. There is even a Starbucks accompanied by a pianist. There is also a food court upstairs, plus cinemas.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-10 pm, Sunday 1-9 pm.

## Specialty Stores

### Amsterdam Sauer

Ave. Rio Branco 156, Loja C, Centro  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22410-002

**Phone:** 21-2283-5962

<http://www.amsterdamsauer.com.br>

This world-famous jewelry store offers precious stones from Brazil. Tours of its workshop are offered. Museum and international showroom on Rua Garcia D'Avila in Ipanema (phone 21-2512-1132).

Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-4 pm.

### Bumbum

Estrada Do Portela 395, Apt 201  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2268-7507



<http://www.bumbum.com.br>

Bumbum, one of the famous Carioca bikini brands, churns out sexy beachwear, and the beaches of the Zona Sul all serve as open-air runways of the latest trends. Quality is high, the material high-tech, durable and stretchable, and prices don't have to be high unless you want your bikini hand-embroidered, sequined or embellished with diamonds. It stocks larger sizes, too, as well as *sungas* (men's bathing suits), beach dresses, beach bags, hats, sarongs, chunky jewelry and belts. Bumbum has shops in all major Rio shopping malls.

### **Casa Oliveira**

Rua da Carioca 70  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20050-008

**Phone:** 21-2508-8539

<http://www.casaoliveirademusica.com.br>

One of several good music shops selling instruments on this specialist street. The famous *berimbau*, from Bahia, is this store's specialty.

Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

### **Daqui do Brasil**

Ave. Ataulfo de Paiva 1174, Store F  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2529-8576

<http://www.daquidobrasil.com>

This charming little store features articles of contemporary Brazilian design such as household items, jewelry, toys and clothing accessories.

Open Monday-Friday 10 am-9 pm, Saturday 10 am-6 pm, Sunday noon-6 pm.

### **Galeria River**

Rua Francisco Otaviano 67  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2267-5899

<http://galeriariver.com.br>

This shopping gallery has been around since the swinging 1960s. Conveniently located behind the surfers' beach at Arpoador (between Copacabana and Ipanema), its boutiques are devoted to Cariocas' favorite beach activities: surfing, swimming, tanning and skating. Tanned shoppers walk dripping and barefoot through the main corridors in search of gear. It's a great place to pick up cool shades, bikinis, surfboards or skateboards.

Monday-Saturday 9 am-7 pm.

### **Glorinha Paranagua**

Rua Visconde de Pirajá 365, Loja 2, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Tropical stylish handbags made of bamboo, linen, soft leather, gold cork and striped straw.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-8 pm.



### H. Stern

Rua Visconde de Pirajá 490, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2274-3447

<http://www.hstern.com.br>

This world-famous jewelry store features precious stones and excellent designs. At its main store in Ipanema, you can also tour the workshop and visit a small museum. It has other stores in Centro (at Ave. Rio Branco 128-A), at the airports and other locations around the city.

Open Monday-Friday 8:30 am-6 pm, Saturday 8:30 am-12:30 pm.

### Maria Bonita

Rua Vinicius de Moraes 149, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2523-4093

<http://www.mariabonita.com.br>

Established by the late Maria Candida Sarmento in 1975, "Pretty Mary" is probably the most established Carioca fashion brand, and its timeless, elegant collection by Danielle Jensen ranks among the best—but certainly not cheapest—buys in Rio.

Monday-Friday 9 am-8 pm, Saturday 9 am-4 pm.

### Maria Oiticica

Rua Elvira Machado 18, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2275-4197

<http://www.marioiticica.com.br>

Why make jewelry of expensive gold, silver and diamonds when you have Amazonian seeds, fish scales and bark from exotic trees such as *tucuma*, *morototo*, *buriti* and *babacu*? The only thing these jewels and accessories don't like is water. They do look beautiful, though, and purchases support rainforest preservation and help Amazonian communities survive on the production of arts and crafts. There are also branches in Leblon, Ipanema and Gavea.

Monday-Friday 10 am-8 pm, Saturday 10 am-3 pm.

### Novo Designo

Museu de Arte Moderna, Ave. Infante Dom Henrique 85 (in the Aterro do Flamengo, near Santos Dumont Airport)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2524-2291

<http://www.novodesenho.com.br>

Small but great showroom for contemporary Brazilian design: lamps, clocks, housewares, office accessories and creative toys. It also sells a fabulous collection of arts and crafts made in small communities from all over Brazil.

Tuesday-Friday noon-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday noon-7 pm.



### **Osklen**

Rua Maria Quitéria 85, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2227-2911

<http://osklen.com>

An ethical-minded, ecofriendly Brazilian label, blending urban chic with a casual but exuberant touch of Brazilian nature. Carioca fashion at its best, and quite affordable, too. This is where the cool locals shop. There are locations all over Rio; the flagship store is in Ipanema

### **Parceria Carioca**

Rua Jardim Botânico 728, Loja 108  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2259-1437

<http://www.parceriacarioca.com.br>

Designer Flavia Torres creates beautiful and funky costume jewelry, as well as colorful bags and sandals.

Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-2 pm.

### **Pe de Boiù Artesanato Brasileiro**

Rua Ipiranga 55, Laranjeiras  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2285-4395

<http://www.pedeboi.com.br>

Beautiful Brazilian arts and crafts: decorated pots, basketware, folkloric and religious objects, finely woven textiles and hammocks.

Monday-Friday 9 am-7 pm, Saturday 9 am-1 pm.

### **Quiosques Biscoito Fino**

Rua Lauro Muller 116, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2279-3605

<http://www.loja.biscoitofino.com.br/quiosques>

This Brazilian music label has stands or kiosks in two shopping malls, Rio Sul, Fashion Mall and Shopping Gavea.

### **Salinas**

Rua Visconde de Pirajá 351, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2227-5637

<http://www.salinas-rio.com.br>

Bikinis are probably the most important item of clothing in a Carioca woman's wardrobe, and no one does them better than Salinas. There is something so effortlessly cool and Brazilian about these bikinis. There are various shops throughout Rio; the largest one in Ipanema is in the Forum gallery.

Monday-Saturday 10 am-7 pm.



### Toca do Vinicius

Rua Vinicius de Moraes 129-C, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22411-010

**Phone:** 21-2247-5227

<http://www.tocadovinicius.com.br>

Fans of bossa nova and such Brazilian singers and composers as Tom Jobim, Vinicius de Moraes, Chico Buarque and Caetano Veloso will love this friendly little place.

Open daily 9 am-10 pm.

### Verve

Rua Garica D'Avila 149, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2247-0352

<http://vervelingerie.wordpress.com>

Often called "lingerie with bossa," this great Carioca label swings for sure. Its nightgowns, bras and panties are sexy, playful, comfortable and—most importantly—come in sizes that follow international standards. There are also shops in Gavea, Barra and Sao Conrado.

Monday-Friday 10 am-7 pm, Saturday 10 am-3 pm.

### Dining

#### Dining Overview

Eating well in Rio is a pleasure equal to what you will experience in any of the world's great cities. For a classic local favorite, go to a *churrascaria*, a Brazilian barbecue restaurant. Most of them operate under the *rodizio* system (all-you-can-eat, served at your table). Fans of Japanese food will be pleased to know that many *churrascarias* in the Zona Sul have sushi and sashimi as well. We also recommend you try a restaurant that specializes in *comida baiana*, a spicy African-influenced cuisine from Bahia (in northeastern Brazil).

The national dish, traditionally eaten on Saturday, is *feijoada*, a delicious black-bean stew made with large pieces of pork, sausage and smoked meat. It is served with rice, *farofa* (toasted manioc meal), kale and—to refresh the palate—pieces of orange.

For a fast, cheap meal, go to one of several restaurants that sell meals by the kilo (*comida a kilo*). Food is arranged buffet style, and you help yourself. What you pay depends on the weight of your plate. Vegetarians will usually find one hot dish and a good variety of salads in any of the more upscale *comida a kilo* restaurants in the Zona Sul or Centro.

Juice bars are ubiquitous in Rio de Janeiro, especially in the Zona Sul. Be sure to sample Rio's overwhelming variety of tropical fruits and fresh juices (*suco*), served at juice bars on just about every corner. The caipirinha is also found everywhere: It's made with *cachaca*, a rumlike liquor made with sugarcane, mixed with crushed ice and lime juice.

Like southern Europeans, Cariocas eat late, often dining after 9 pm. Many a la carte dishes are for two people to share, so it's a good idea to confirm this before you order. Most menus will also include cheaper individual meals (*pratos executivos*) at lunch. Lunchtimes are busiest noon-2 pm. Some Cariocas start the day with breakfast in a bakery (*padaria*). There is a *padaria* on virtually every street, with mouthwatering displays of food.



Expect to pay within these general guidelines, based on the cost of a dinner for one, not including drinks, tax or tip: \$ = less than R\$30; \$\$ = R\$30-\$60; \$\$\$ = R\$61-\$100; and \$\$\$\$ = more than R\$100. Some establishments don't accept credit cards, so call beforehand to be sure.

## Local & Regional

### Casa da Feijoada

Rua Prudente de Moraes 10B  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2247-2776

<http://www.cozinhatipica.com.br>

Brazil's traditional black-bean stew is customarily eaten on Saturday, but at this place you can order the *feijoada* any day of the week. It's best to go for lunch and skip dinner the night before. Contrary to Brazilian custom, you are allowed to pick your own pieces of meat, which will suit those who don't fancy ears, feet and tails. Also on the menu are regional dishes from throughout the country. For drinks, try a *batida de limao* (lemon cocktail).

Monday-Saturday noon-midnight, Sunday noon-11 pm. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Espirito Santa

Rua Almirante Alexandrino 264, Santa Teresa  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2507-4840

<http://www.espiritosanta.com.br>

A culinary trip deep into the Amazonian forest offered by acclaimed chef Natacha Fink, who serves up ribs of *tabaqui* fish with a pesto of *jambu* herb, Catupiry fondue with Brazil-nut puree, and exotic fruits with names you have never heard of. Great caipirinhas, too.

Wednesday-Monday noon-midnight. Reservations recommended. \$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Fogo de Chao

Avenida Reporter Nestor Moreira, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

<http://www.fogodechao.com.br>

Opened in 2011, this *churrasqueria* has lured in Rio's most serious carnivores with its distinctive "gaucho style." The restaurant enjoys a privileged location above Baía de Guanabara, and you can see the Pao de Azucar from its terrace, which has been transformed into a lounge space. Arguably the best *rodizio* in town, as well as excellent Red Angus prime beef (they'll cut it in 17 different ways), shoulder steak (the signature dish) and lamb cutlets. For about R\$100 you can eat as much as you like, including a buffet with excellent antipasti, vegetables and salads.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Frontera

Rua Visconde de Pirajá 128, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3289-2350

<http://www.frontera.com.br>



If you are looking for healthy food in a hurry, Frontera is a good option. Food is charged by weight. There's a fantastic selection of salads, meats and hot dishes. There is also a good sushi bar, although sushi is weighed separately. There are several branches throughout Rio, including Copacabana, Leblon and Ipanema.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Manoel & Joaquim**

Rua Barao da Torre 162, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2522-1863

<http://www.manoelejuaquim.com.br>

This chain of bars and restaurants (known as *botequins*) has caught the Carioca imagination. Cozy and informal, they're brightly decorated with the characters of Manoel and Joaquim (the names most used by Brazilians when telling jokes about the Portuguese). The appetizers are highly rated, including the Brazilian version of chicken fingers (*frango a passarinho*), which are deep-fried with lots of garlic.

Daily noon-1 am. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Marius**

Ave. Atlantica 290, Copacabana  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2104-9000

<http://www.marius.com.br>

This is one of Rio's best *churrascarias* in a great beachfront location. More than a dozen kinds of grilled meats, including lamb, frog legs and the coveted *picanha* (choice marinated sirloin). Meat is brought to the table already cut—as opposed to the traditional way of taking still-sizzling meat on a spit to your table and cutting it to order. Marius also has an excellent seafood restaurant next door.

Daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Porcao**

Avenida Infante Dom Henrique, Aterro do Flamengo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22640-020

**Phone:** 21-3389-8989

<http://www.porcao.com.br>

When Rio's rich and famous—actors and soccer players—want a Brazilian-style *churrascaria* feast, they head to this restaurant, known for its happy-pig logo. Start with a caipirinha as an aperitif. Pace yourself at the wonderful and abundant salad bar, and then flag down the servers making the rounds with sizzling spits of juicy beef, chicken and pork (this "rotation" of meat is called *rodizio de carne*, a time-honored Brazilian culinary tradition). There are several branches throughout Rio.

Daily for lunch and dinner (it's packed on Sunday afternoons). \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Siri Mole & Cia**

Rua Francisco Otaviano 50  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2267-0894





<http://www.sirimole.com.br>

If you want Bahian food, this is the place. This small but comfortable establishment makes some of the best, most exotic dishes in Rio. *Siri mole* is a crab with a soft shell. Don't miss the house specialty: shrimp or fish *moqueca*, a spicy seafood stew with tomatoes, fresh cilantro, palm oil and coconut milk.

Open Monday for dinner only, Tuesday-Sunday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Zaza Bistro Tropical

Rua Joana Angelica 40  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2247-9101

<http://www.zazabistro.com.br>

This charming candlelit restaurant in a blue house with pink shutters has an upper floor with low tables where you take off your shoes and recline on silk cushions. The menu is contemporary with strong tropical and Asian accents. Sample dishes such as duck with *jabuticaba* sauce (made with Brazilian grapelike berries) or grilled tuna with oysters and passion fruit. On Sunday, the *feijoada* stew from the state of Pernambuco is accompanied by traditional northeastern music (R\$6 cover charge). Great view from the terrace.

Monday and Tuesday 7:30 pm-12:30 am, Wednesday and Thursday noon-12:30 am, Friday noon-1:30 am, Saturday 1 pm-1:30 am, Sunday 1 pm-12:30 am. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Cuisines

#### Asian

#### Azumi

Rua Ministro Viveiros de Castro 127, Copacabana  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

While Sushi Leblon may be the most glamorous Japanese restaurant in Rio, Azumi, tucked away in the backstreets of Copacabana, is certainly the most authentic. It has some great dishes; try the spicy squid and shiitake mix or the excellent grilled octopus.

\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

#### Nam Thai

Rua Rainha Guilhermina 95-B, Leblon  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22441-120

**Phone:** 21-2259-2962

<http://www.namthai.com.br>

This small, friendly restaurant pioneered Thai cuisine in Rio. The *gaeng khiew wan gai* (sliced chicken breast with green curry, basil and sweet pepper) is the best you will find in Rio, but it also serves hot curries with deliciously tender duck and beef slices. The lunch menu features Chinese dim sum appetizers on most days.

Open Tuesday-Sunday for lunch and dinner, Monday for dinner only. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.



### **Sawasdee**

Rua Dias Ferreira 571, Loja A, Leblon  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2511-0057

<http://www.sawasdee.com.br>

Successful Asian-fusion restaurant with Thai influences. There are several branches; one of the most pleasant with outside seating is in Leblon.

### **Sushi Leblon**

Rua Dias Ferreira 256  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2512-7830

<http://www.sushileblon.com>

Expect excellent sushi, sashimi and tempura, and you can try sea-urchin sevice. Large and festive, this restaurant is in the heart of Leblon's nightlife area and a great place to people-watch. You are quite sure to rub shoulders with actors, models, artists and other celebrities there.

Open daily for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Accepts American Express and Visa.

### **Ten Kai**

Rua Prudente de Morais 1810, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2540-5100

<http://www.cozinhajaponesa.com.br/tenkai>

This multifloor sushi place serves up the traditional offerings with ingredients that are shipped directly from Japan. The eel sushi is a real treat.

Open Monday-Friday for dinner, Saturday and Sunday for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **French**

#### **Eca**

Ave. Rio Branco 128  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2524-2300

<http://www.hstern.com.br/eca>

Located in the basement below the luxury jeweler H. Stern, this sophisticated eatery is a calm oasis in the midst of Centro's hustle and bustle. The creative dishes mix French techniques with tropical ingredients: Try the pork fillet with green risotto, and do not miss the delicious chocolate desserts. (The chef is Belgian, after all.)

Open Monday-Friday for lunch. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

#### **Olivier Cozan Le Cafe & Restaurant**

Rua Vinicius de Moraes 130  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2247-5351



<http://www.oliviercozan.com.br>

This classy French restaurant is located in the heart of Ipanema. Try the *cotriade*, a delicious Breton seafood stew. The restaurant is on the upper floor; the ground floor has an airy bistro with a cheaper but still attractive menu. Go on a Saturday to try the famous *cassoulet*. Excellent wine list.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Olympe

Rua Custodio Serrao 62, Jardim Botânico  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22470220

**Phone:** 21-2539-4542

<http://olympe.com.br>

Chef Claude Troisgros is widely acclaimed for his innovative French cuisine that integrates native ingredients, which he collects during his expeditions to the Amazon rain forest, resulting in surprising, delicious dishes. Try the *codorna* (quail) filled with *farofa* and raisins and spiced with garlic and cilantro. The best idea is to go for the tasting menu, a four-dish trip into culinary wonderland.

Open Monday-Thursday and Saturday for dinner, Friday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Accepts MasterCard and Visa.

### Fusion

#### Iraja

Rua Conde de Iraja 109, Botafogo  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2246-1395

<http://www.irajagastro.com.br>

Pedro de Artagao, one of Rio's most creative and rebellious chefs, runs this plant-decorated bistro-restaurant. Iraja could almost be called a lab for new, creative dishes, with innovation particularly well-displayed in the simple grilled *bacalhau* (codfish) and *piracucu*, a huge Amazon fish, as well as the Black Angus fillet. For dessert, don't miss the *maracuja* (passion fruit) mousse and the cocktail list. Locals have been slow to warm up to this kind of modern Brazilian fusion cuisine, but visitors from Sao Paulo and abroad always seem to leave happy.

Monday-Thursday noon-3:30 pm and 7:30 pm-midnight, Friday noon-3:30 pm and 7:30 pm-1:30 am, Saturday noon-1:30 am, Sunday noon-midnight. Reservations required. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Zuka

Rua Dias Ferreira 233  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-3205-7154

<http://www.zuka.com.br>

This minimalist bistro has a chef who revels in such offbeat combinations as eel with foie gras, and lamb chops with pureed peas, mint and cardamom.

Open Monday for dinner only, Tuesday-Sunday for lunch and dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.



## Italian

### Capricciosa

Rua Vinicius de Moraes 134, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2255-1626

<http://www.capricciosa.com.br>

Nobody makes better pizza in Rio than this small chain, which has four locations around town. The flour is imported from Naples, and it only uses top Italian ingredients, such as buffalo mozzarella or Parma prosciutto. The pizzas have thin, light crusts and come in more than 40 different varieties. The antipasti selection is also excellent.

Daily for dinner. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Cipriani

Ave. Atlantica 1702 (in the Hotel Copacabana Palace)  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22021-001

**Phone:** 21-2548-7070

[http://www.belmond.com/copacabana-palace-rio-de-janeiro/rio\\_restaurants](http://www.belmond.com/copacabana-palace-rio-de-janeiro/rio_restaurants)

This place is considered by many to be the best Italian restaurant in the city, thanks to the attentive service, classical ambience and the deft talents of chef Francesco Carli, former chef de cuisine of the Hotel Cipriani in Venice. His surprising inventions range from a mushroom soup with sun-dried meat *farofa* to guinea fowl accompanied by a Piedmontese cheese fondue.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### Gero Ipanema

Rua Anibal de Mendonca 157  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22410-050

**Phone:** 21-2239-8158

<http://www.fasano.com.br>

Rogério Fasano, one of São Paulo's gastronomic legends, opened this Italian eatery—his first restaurant in Rio. Socialites, artists and political bigwigs flock there to savor such specialties as partridge and radicchio risotto, white polenta with squid or tuna medallion with lemon, said to be a favorite dish of Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bündchen. An affordable three-course lunch is served Monday-Friday, and on Saturday and Sunday, even celebrities have to wait for a table.

Monday-Friday noon-4 pm and 7 pm-1 am, Saturday noon-1:30 am, Sunday noon-midnight. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### La Trattoria

Rua Fernando Mendes 7, Loja A, Copacabana  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2255-3319

<http://www.latrattoriario.com.br>

This charming, family-run trattoria, located close to the Copacabana Palace hotel, opened in 1976 and consistently serves some of the best pasta dishes in Rio. Checkered tablecloths and walls decorated with historic maps from Italy add a rustic touch to the friendly, simple restaurant. Mario Pautasso, who emigrated from Piedmont to Brazil more



than 60 years ago, still runs the show in the kitchen. Try the truffle and mozzarella filled agnolotti verde, his signature dish, or spaghetti with shrimps and mushrooms.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Margutta**

Ave. Henrique Dumont 62  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 22410060

**Phone:** 21-2259-3718

<http://www.margutta.com.br>

This is one of the best Italian restaurants in Rio. The menu includes a wide variety of seafood dishes. Particularly good are the *risotto ai funghi secchi* (rice with dried mushrooms) and the *pesce alla neroni* (fish with tomatoes and herbs). Excellent wines.

Monday-Thursday 7 pm-1 am, Friday-Sunday noon-1 am. Reservations recommended. \$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

### **Seafood**

#### **Satyricon**

Rua Barao da Torre 192  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

**Phone:** 21-2521-0627

<http://www.satyricon.com.br>

This is one of the most celebrated restaurants in the city, with the best in fresh and seasonal seafood. The menu features various fish carpaccios, as well as a sushi bar. When the season is right, try the fresh lobster with tagliatelle. If the choices overwhelm you, just order the *misto de crustaceos*, a selection of the best seafoods. Very formal atmosphere, impressive wine list. Buffet on Saturday.

Monday-Thursday and Sunday midnight-noon, Friday and Saturday noon-1 am. \$\$\$\$\$. Most major credit cards.

#### **Shirley**

Rua Gustavo Sampaio 610, Leme  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

This simple restaurant serves some great Spanish-style seafood, especially the spectacular king prawns. Try the paella or the *zarzuela*, both of which come in generous portions. The place is small, so it can get crowded at times, especially on Friday and Saturday.

Daily for lunch and dinner. \$\$\$\$. No credit cards.

### **Security**

#### **Etiquette**

Remember one fact above all others: The heritage of Brazil is Portuguese, not Spanish. Statements and actions that tend to lump the country's culture in with that of the Spanish-speaking nations of South America will not be well-received.



**Appointments**—Appointments should be made well in advance, but spontaneity is very common, particularly when socializing. Punctuality is rare: As a visitor, you should be on time, but expect to wait for your Brazilian counterpart. If you need to deal with any government bureaucracy, your chances of business success will increase if you employ a Brazilian agent (a *despachante*). They are often invaluable for cutting through red tape.

**Personal Introductions**—Shake hands with everyone, and maintain steady eye contact. In Brazil, women often greet both men and women with a kiss on each cheek. (*Note:* In Sao Paulo it's only on one cheek, so act accordingly if you meet a Paulista. In other areas of Brazil it's three kisses.) If your acquaintance has a professional title, you will learn it when introduced. Until directed otherwise, use the professional title or the more standard titles (Senhor, Senhora). Brazilians will often use such titles with first names. Note that it is typical for a person to have two surnames, one from the mother, followed by one from the father. Unlike Spanish America, the father's surname usually comes last. For example, Senhor Joao Gaspar Figueiredo would be called "Senhor Figueiredo."

**Negotiating**—Small talk nearly always precedes discussions of business. A solid personal foundation is used to build a rapport, and that takes time. Do not become impatient if negotiations fail to be direct and to the point. Relations tend to become relaxed and informal rather quickly, but allow your host to set the pace.

**Business Entertaining**—Business should take a backseat to socializing during meals. Dinner usually takes place between 7 and 10 pm, but formal dinner parties can last into the wee hours.

**Body Language**—Body space tends to be close, with polite gesturing and touching common. Know that the "OK" sign (thumb and forefinger touching in a circle) is a vulgar gesture in Brazil. To signal "OK," give the thumbs-up sign.

**Gift Giving**—Gifts are not a major part of doing business in Brazil. Take along a small gift such as flowers, candy or wine if you're invited to someone's home.

**Conversation**—Standard cautions apply. Early on, avoid politics and religion. Ask questions about Brazilian culture rather than offering opinions about it. Brazilians are generally interested in what foreigners think of their country and may ask your opinion. You may want to prepare a diplomatic answer. You will probably be expected to know the names of a couple of Brazilian musicians and the fact that Brazil is a five-time champion of the World Cup soccer competition. Soccer (*futebol*) is a good icebreaker, and soap operas (*telenovelas*) are attentively followed by many women.

## Personal Safety

There have been many moves by the government in Rio in the past few years to tighten up security in the city with the introduction of measures such as 24-hour policing in the favelas. In the beach areas, simple steps such as brighter street lighting have been taken. However, although the crime rate is not as high as it was in the 1990s, it is still a problem. Theft in the street is common and it may be with a weapon, such as a knife or gun. The key to staying safe is to be aware and keep your wits about you: Avoid poorly lit and deserted areas; don't wear expensive (or expensive-looking) jewelry, clothing, shoes or watches; keep your wallet in a front pocket or, better yet, in a concealed money belt; and don't carry large amounts of cash.

If you wear a backpack, be especially vigilant, since hands can easily slip inside it behind your back. Never take valuables to the beach, including expensive footwear—just a towel and some money for a cold drink. Be alert on city buses—they've been known to attract thieves. Speaking English loudly in public places may also attract unwanted attention. If you are approached and threatened, the best thing is to keep calm and give it up. Don't resist; it's not worth it.

When using ATMs, make sure no one is hovering around you. Use a machine located inside a bank building or shopping mall and preferably during the day. Only keep a small amount of cash in your pocket, concealing more in a



money belt. Don't flash or count money in public. With important documents such as passports or plane tickets, carry a photocopy with you and leave the original in a secure place such as the hotel safe.

It's generally safe to walk in the Zona Sul tourist areas during the day or evening (after dark, make sure to stay on busy, well-lit main thoroughfares), but be careful in the Centro (downtown) after office hours and on weekends. The city's Zona Norte is made up largely of industrial areas, poorer residential areas and favelas, and you're probably not likely to be walking there.

Also be careful in the sex-club area around Rua Prado Junior in Copacabana. Prostitution is legal in Brazil, and areas with a large number of working girls and brothels attract a higher rate of crime. Brazil is cracking down on brothels in the wake of the country's increasing international stature and high-profile events. An early-evening stroll along the well-lighted and restaurant-packed Avenida Atlantica is a better alternative if you want to experience the colorful Copacabana nightlife, although it can become more dangerous late at night. Always stay on the hotel side; never walk on the beach side after dark. Be aware if you are walking along the beach sidewalks at night. It's not a good idea to walk down the beach side of Ipanema or Copacabana after a certain time. If no one else is doing it, you probably shouldn't, either.

At night, no matter where you are, it is always safer to take a taxi, particularly if you are unfamiliar with the neighborhood. Robberies do occur in broad daylight, too.

An increasing amount of police patrol the beach areas of Barra, Leblon, Ipanema, Copacabana and Leme. A special branch of the civil police, DEAT, is trained to deal with all crime related to tourists and foreigners. Its offices are located in Leblon in front of the Casa Grande and Scala theaters on Avenida Afranio de Mello Franco. Phone 21-3399-7170.

For more information, contact your country's travel-advisory agency.

## Health

Some locals drink filtered tap water, and it is safe to do so. However, many Cariocas prefer bottled water. Bottled water (*agua mineral*) is readily available in hotels, restaurants, supermarkets and drugstores. Food sold by street vendors is generally safe to eat, but make sure it has been freshly cooked and take note of the appearance of the vending stand: Sanitation standards are not always up to par. Watch out for inexpensive lunch counters, which also vary greatly in cleanliness. Food served in higher- and moderately priced restaurants is generally safe, although a crackdown in 2013 revealed that some elite restaurants had serious hygiene issues.

Private hospitals and clinics are clean and well-equipped and provide the same level of service you would expect in North America. The best hospital in Rio is Copa D'or, Rua Figueiredo de Magalhaes 875, Copacabana (phone 21-2545-3600; <http://www.copador.com.br>). Doctors and hospitals often expect immediate cash payment before treatment is given, so it is imperative you check your insurance coverage before your trip.

We do not recommend that you seek treatment in the free public hospitals; standards are not always as high as those in private hospitals, and you may be regarded as a burden on an already overstretched public health service. Your hotel should be able to recommend a competent doctor and arrange an appointment.

For a medical emergency, call 193 (Portuguese only). The excellent Ambulance Service (controlled by the fire department) does not respond to residence calls, including hotels.

Many pharmacies (*farmacias*) are open around the clock, including City Farma Flamengo (Rua Marques de Abrantes 37, Flamengo), City Farma do Leme (Ave. Prado Junior 237, Copacabana) and City Farma Leblon (Rua Dias Ferreira 618, Leblon).



For more information about localized outbreaks of dengue or yellow fever or other concerns, contact your country's health-advisory agency.

### **Disabled Advisory**

There is no official government agency that provides accessibility information. However, Centro de Vida Independente, a nongovernmental agency, can offer advice on traveling in Brazil with a disability. Rua Marques de Sao Vicente 225, Gavea. Phone 21-2512-1088. <http://www.cvi-rio.org.br/cvi.asp>.

People with reduced mobility who need a taxi should call Coopertramo (phone 21-2209-9292 or 21-8243-2958) or Transcoopass (phone 21-2209-1555).

### **Facts**

#### **Dos & Don'ts**

Do try to dress like the locals. You may be on vacation, but the thieves are not. The more you blend in, the better. For instance, don't wear that new Brazilian national soccer shirt you just bought. Save it for the post-trip homecoming party.

Don't take your camera, wallet or purse to the beach. Take a little spending money, a towel and a bottle of sunscreen. Leave the rest behind.

Do buy a bikini when you are in Rio. Anything you take from home will be horribly outdated from a Brazilian point of view. Fortunately, string *tangas* are no longer as fashionable as they once were.

Don't wear a Speedo-style bathing suit if you are male. Buy a stylish Brazilian *sunga*, which are modeled on men's full briefs. Surfing shorts should never be worn for swimming, only for walking to the beach.

Do try the local food and beverages. Brazil is a great place to eat and drink. But if you want local ambience, don't go to dinner too early. Brazilians don't eat dinner until around 9 pm.

Do arrive on time for business appointments, but don't arrive on time for dates or informal social gatherings. If you arrive at a house party at the appointed hour, the hosts will still be getting ready. Cariocas are also famous for inviting people to their homes when they first meet them, but don't take the invitation literally.

Don't try to drive in the city and do be careful when crossing the street—even if the signal is in your favor.

### **Geostats**

**Passport/Visa Requirements:** Passport, visa and proof of onward passage and/or sufficient funds are required of Canadian and U.S. citizens. There is a departure tax of about R\$90 that is normally included in your air ticket. If not, you pay the departure tax (in U.S. dollars or reals) when you check in at the airport. The Brazilian government usually awards a three-month tourist visa. It is renewable for another three months at the Policia Federal office located on the third floor of Terminal 1 at the Antonio Jobim International Airport.

All U.S. citizens must have a passport when traveling by air to or from Bermuda, Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America and Mexico. Reconfirm travel-document requirements with your carrier prior to departure.

**Population:** 11,959,725.





**Languages:** Portuguese. Most major tourist hotels and upscale restaurants have staff members who speak English. Spanish is also widely understood (if not spoken), and a surprising number of establishments have staff who speak Japanese.

**Predominant Religions:** Christian (Roman Catholic, Protestant), traditional Afro-Brazilian religions.

**Time Zone:** 3 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (-3 GMT). Daylight Saving Time is observed from the first Sunday in October until the last Sunday in February.

**Voltage Requirements:** 110 volts. Most outlets are adaptable for two kinds of plugs: plugs with two flat prongs and plugs with two round prongs.

**Telephone Codes:** 55, country code; 21, city code for Rio de Janeiro;

## Money

### Taxes

A 7.5% sales tax is included in the price of most products and services. However, there are many exceptions, and some taxes range as high as 53%, so ask first if you have any doubt. By law, merchants cannot display the tax separately on your receipt. A 10% hotel occupancy tax and a 5% service tax are included in hotel prices. It's a good idea to confirm that taxes are included in any price you are quoted.

### Tipping

In restaurants, a 10% service charge is included in the bill. In better restaurants, an "optional" 10% is calculated at the end of the bill, to be paid according to your discretion (pay it unless service was problematic). Tip a cabdriver no more than 10%—most Brazilians don't tip cabbies at all. In a hotel, tip the bellhop about R\$1 per luggage item.

### What to Wear

Rio is the land of almost perennial tropical dress. Its beach weather lasts a good six months of the year and seems to affect the entire city's dress code. In the seaside neighborhoods of Ipanema, Copacabana, Leblon and Barra da Tijuca, swimsuit-and-sandal-clad beachgoers mix freely with casually dressed shop clerks. A suit is the norm only for Rio's downtown business district. Casual dress is acceptable in most restaurants—even bathing suits are acceptable in the outdoor cafes along the beach. At night, most locals change into trousers, dresses or skirts. A sweater or jacket is probably necessary at night during the winter.

### Transportation

Taxis are the best and safest option for getting around Rio. Depending on where your hotel is, the metro (subway) is the second-best option. Driving a car or riding a bus can be a nerve-wracking experience for tourists—many Cariocas, especially city bus drivers, maneuver like race-car drivers, and traffic laws are inconsistently enforced. Rent a car only for out-of-town trips. In the summer, if you do ride a bus, be sure to take an air-conditioned one (called an *executivo*).

### Air

Rio has two airports. Antonio Jobim International Airport (GIG), known locally as Galeao or Tom Jobim, handles all international flights and some domestic ones. It's 9 mi/15 km north of Centro (about a 30-minute drive under normal traffic conditions). Terminal 1's international arrival hall has an efficient Riotur information desk (open daily 8 am-11



pm), where you can find maps, brochures, bus schedules and also reserve a hotel room. There are also several ATMs. Phone 21-3398-5050 for information or 21-3398-4597 for flight information.

Santos Dumont Airport (SDU) handles a select number of domestic flights. It's in the heart of Rio, 0.5 mi/1 km east of Centro. Phone 800-727-1234 for information. <http://www.infraero.gov.br>.

## Public Transportation

### Buses

Riding a regular city bus in Rio is an adventure: There are no schedules or maps, space is tight, there are no storage compartments, and drivers don't speak English. On the positive side, bus service between the Centro and Zona Sul runs 24 hours a day, and you rarely need to wait long.

The front of the bus indicates the final destination, and the major stops and avenues traveled are written on the side of the bus. Safe alternatives are the green and blue minibuses (some of them air-conditioned) that circulate along the beaches from Copacabana to Leblon, stopping at hotels and restaurants. Large buses with TVs and air-conditioning (*ar condicionado* printed on the side) travel to more distant areas of the city.

Board large buses at the back, pay the fare collector (*trocador*) and then pass through the turnstile. Board minibuses at the front. The standard fare is around R\$3 per journey, although certain routes and air-conditioned buses may cost slightly more.

There are also many smaller white vans that run along the beach areas. These are usually quite safe, although unlicensed and sometimes crowded. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### Metro

Rio's subway system is inexpensive, efficient and air-conditioned. The only problem is that many parts of the city are not served, although four more lines are in the planning stages.

Line 1 runs from Tijuca in the Zona Norte to Ipanema in the Zona Sul, passing near the Sambodromo and tourist locations downtown. Flamengo Park and the beaches of Flamengo and Copacabana are also accessible from this line.

Line 2 runs to Zona Norte and ends in Botafogo, where you'll need to change lines if you want to go to the beach areas as far as Ipanema or General Osorio. A connecting bus can be taken to Leblon, Gavea and Barra da Tijuca from outside the station. Line 2 runs between the Botafogo station to stops in Humaita, Lagoa, Jardim Botânica and Gavea for no additional cost.

Tickets can be purchased only at subway stations. Easy-to-read route maps are posted in subway cars and stations. The standard fare is R\$3.20 per journey and R\$4.15 for Barra bus extension.

If you want to use the bus, make sure you ask for *superfície*. Hours of operation are Monday-Saturday 5 am-midnight, Sunday and holidays 7 am-11 pm. . Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Toll-free 800-595-1111 (Portuguese only).

<http://www.metrorio.com.br>.

### Taxi

There are two kinds of taxis in Rio: yellow cabs and radio taxis. Yellow cabs are more plentiful and economical (20% cheaper, on average), but it's rare to find a driver of a yellow cab who speaks English. They are most commonly hailed in the street. (The drivers of yellow cabs tend to exaggerate fares, so make sure the meter is at R\$2 when you get in—and that the meter works.) Expect to pay R\$20-\$25 for a ride between Centro and Ipanema.

Many of the radio taxi drivers have some knowledge of English. To request a bilingual driver, you'll have to order the cab by phone, and you should expect around a 30-minute wait. Radio taxis have stands at many major hotels and at



both airports. "Special" radio taxis are better cars, but their drivers sometimes don't work the meter, so ask in advance how much the fare will be. Your safest bet is to have a hotel desk clerk or doorman hail a cab for you.

People with reduced mobility should call Coopertramo (phone 21-2560-2022) or Transcoopass (phone 21-2590-2300).

### **Train**

Rail service in Rio is limited to suburban lines and a commuter train. We don't recommend it: The system is chaotic, run-down and poorly policed.