



LISBON

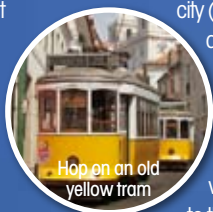
SKY TRAVEL'S JO SINNOTT SHOWS US THE SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF PORTUGAL'S LIVELY CAPITAL, REVEALING WHY THIS TIME OF YEAR IS EXTRA SPECIAL...

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Sun 31 May, 5pm, Sky Travel (669)

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Just a couple of hours away from the UK by plane, Lisbon enjoys around 220 days of sunshine a year. Situated on the Costa Azul, it has long been a favourite of couples wanting a weekend break and families looking for something special for a summer holiday. The city sprawls seven hills and is divided into bairros (districts), making it a gem to explore on foot. Even getting lost can be a pleasure, with the ancient architecture and Moorish past of the Alfama quarter making it a stunning place to ramble through. Take in the colour, history and food or dance the night away. Whatever you fancy, there's something in Lisbon that's right for you.



Hop on an old yellow tram

WHERE TO STAY

Situated in the heart of the city, the lavish Tivoli Lisboa (tivolihotels.com) with its Terraço Bar and restaurant has fantastic views of the city. But if you're aiming for five-star luxury on a three-star budget, the Hotel Britania (heritage.pt) is perfect. Designed by the famous Portuguese modernist architect Cassiano Branco, this charming hotel is situated in a quiet location but is still within reach of all the amenities and sights.

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

For lunch with a panoramic view, dine at Casa do Leão Restaurant in Castelo de São Jorge (golisbon.com). If you love seafood, the 5 Oceanos restaurant (5oceanos.pt) is a must. And a meal at Sr. Vinho (srvinho.com), situated in the beautiful Lapa quarter, will satisfy even the most refined palates. It's a fado restaurant, so you'll hear traditional Portuguese music played on acoustic guitars.

WHERE TO GO

Variety is the spice of life – and Lisbon has heaps. Take the historic route around the city (golisbon.com) in the Alfama quarter during the day. By night, visit the Bairro Alto, a maze of cobbled streets with bars and restaurants that come alive with parties. For great views over the city, take a trip to the Castelo de São Jorge then visit the Elevador de Santa Justa, a lift and viewing platform built in neo-Gothic style. Climb even higher in a cable car to see one of the world's longest bridges, Ponte Vasco da Gama, and stop off at the Oceanário de Lisboa (oceanario.pt) in the Parque das Nações (Nations Park), home to the largest collection of sealife in the world.

WHERE TO SHOP

Head to downtown Baixa where you'll find beautiful architecture as well as rows of



Cafés in Baixa



The Festas de Lisboa



The city sparkles as night falls



Sardines are a speciality

shops and cafés, including hidden boutiques and well-known high street shops and department stores. If you still haven't quenched your thirst for shopping, Centro Vasco da Gama is retail heaven!

GETTING THERE

Fly to Lisbon from Gatwick or London Heathrow with **TAP Portugal**. Fares start from £50 one-way, inclusive of taxes, fees and in-flight services. For reservations, see flytap.com or call **0845 601 0932**.

WHEN TO GO

The Festas de Lisboa in June, a festival to commemorate the saints, is a truly fantastic time of year to visit Lisbon (see visitlisboa.com for more info). The evenings come alive with street parades, as children and adults all take part in celebrations that are broadcast live on TV. Bands play in the streets and stalls selling delicious freshly cooked sardines feed the hungry dancers in a carnival with an atmosphere you'll never forget.

The Castelo de São Jorge stands on Lisbon's highest hill