



THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES LIVERY COMMITTEE
The Livery Committee International Travelling Club presents

4 nights in Lisbon

MONDAY 09TH TO FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023

Lisbon has a special charm, a hilly coastal town with pastel-coloured buildings and a mildly Moorish feel and is rich in culture and gastronomically interesting. It is one of the world's oldest cities, and the oldest city in Western Europe, influential from Roman times onwards as an important maritime and commercial centre. It is best known as the starting point for Vasco da Gama's voyages of discovery in the 15th century. Trade brought wealth and patronage which is well testified in the splendid architectural ensembles of the city; palaces, municipal squares, cathedrals, castles and rich museum collections. Founded by the Phoenicians and then conquered by the Greeks and Carthaginians, the Romans took charge from 205 BC until the collapse of the empire. In 711 the Islamic Moors of North Africa invaded the Iberic peninsula and governed Lisbon for nearly 433 years. King Alfonso I managed to retake the city from the Moors in 1147 supported by a fleet of the second crusade. By the 16th century maritime trade routes and colonies in Asia, Africa and South America were well established and these made Lisbon a phenomenally wealthy city. On 1 November 1755, Lisbon suffered a terrible earthquake that destroyed a large part of it. Sebastião José de Carvalho (1st Marquis of Pombal) used the riches from his mines in Brazil to rebuild Lisbon Baixa area with large Classical style avenues.

We will stay at the comfortable 4 star hotel BessaHotel Liberdade located on the most prestigious avenue of central Lisbon.
<https://liberdade.bessahotel.com/en/en-home/>

OUR PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Monday 09 October

Arrival and private coach transfer to the hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 2: Tuesday 10 October – Morning departure by private coach heading to the district of **Belem**. On arrival there we start with coffee accompanied by the famous **Pasteis de Belem** (aka Pasteis de Nata), traditional custard filled small cakes sprinkled with cinnamon, the best in the country. Later a short walk takes us to the **Jeronimo Monastery**, a magnificent 16th century monastery and a UNESCO World Heritage site, commissioned by King Manuel I and one of the most important examples of Manueline architecture in the city. Later a short drive takes us to the nearby 16th century **Torre de Belem** (exterior only), of similar architectural style as the monastery and also a UNESCO World Heritage site. The tower was part of the defensive system of the city. A further short drive to the **Monument to the Discoveries**, from where Vasco da Gama embarked on his voyage to India in 1497 and where Christopher Columbus anchored briefly on his way back from the Americas. Lunch by the banks of the River Tagus included. After lunch, we drive to the excellent **Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga** where we spend the rest of the afternoon. Founded in 1833, the museum houses a vast collection of paintings, sculptures, metal works, furniture, and other decorative art forms from the Middle Ages to the early 19th century. Evening at leisure.



Torre de Belem

DAY 3: Wednesday 11 October – This morning we travel by coach to the UNESCO World Heritage site of **Sintra**, the former summer retreat of the Portuguese Royal Family. On the highest of Sintra's hills stands the spectacular **Palacio de Pena**, an eclectic medley of architectural styles. The building's long history starts in the medieval ages when the King Joao II built a sanctuary on the site. Damaged by lightning and later destroyed by the Great Lisbon Earthquake in 1755, it laid in ruins until the middle of the 19th century when King Ferdinand II rebuilt it as his summer residence. We will also visit the **Palacio Nacional de Sintra**, located in the heart of town, featuring a pair of strange conical chimneys rising high above this Royal Palace. The history of the palace goes back to the 8th century Moorish

domination of the region as the seat of the ruler of the day. In the 12th century King Afonso Henriques conquered the village and took the palace for his own use. Lunch will be provided in a restaurant opposite the palace. In the afternoon, we return to Lisbon and visit **Queluz Palace**, originally a hunting lodge it was transformed in the 17th century into a delightful Rococo Summer Palace which was extended and partially redecorated in the 18th century. Evening at leisure.



Queluz Palace

DAY 4: Thursday 12 October – Morning drive to the **Alfama district** the oldest part of the city. In 1150, King Afonso Henriques recaptured Lisbon from the Moors and built a cathedral on the site of an old mosque for the first bishop of Lisbon, the English crusader Gilbert of Hastings. The **Se' Cathedral** was heavily damaged by the 1755 Lisbon earthquake but rebuilt and renovated over the centuries. Today it features a blend of architectural styles with nine Gothic chapels and a treasury with illustrated manuscripts. Next a visit to the **Decorative Arts Museum** where there are more than 1,300 exhibits, a range of items dating back to as early as the 15th century: from Chinese porcelain to Portuguese furniture, Flemish tapestries, and European silverware. Our next visit is to the splendid 17th century church and monastery of **Sao Vicente da Fora** located outside (fora) the old city walls, one of the most important monastery and mannerist buildings in the country. The church and monastery feature impressive artistic works of the period such as Joaquim Machado de Castro's 18th century baroque canopy over the altar flanked by life-size wooden statues and the sacristy of the monastery exuberantly decorated with polychrome marble and painting. Lunch will be arranged in **Baxia**, the lowest part of the city where some of the most beautiful squares are located such as Rossio, Praca dos Restauradores and Praca da Figueira, elegant neo-classical buildings and a vast number of cafes and restaurants. In the afternoon, there will be visits to the **Museu Nacional do Azulejo**, a stunning collection of tiles and later the **Basilica da Estrela**, a vast, domed cathedral built at the end of the 18th century and set on a hill above the city it is one of Lisbon's famous landmarks. Dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 5: Friday 13 October – Morning hotel check out and transfer to the airport, stopping en-route to visit the **Calouste Gulbenkian Museum**. The museum houses one of the world's most important private art collections. It includes works from Ancient Egypt to the early 20th century, spanning the arts of the Islamic World, China and Japan, as well as the French decorative arts and impressionist painting.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Air Portugal flights in standard cabin with 23kg of checked luggage:
09 October Heathrow / Lisbon 13:45 / 16:25 TP1359
13 October Lisbon / Heathrow 15:05 / 17:45 TP1350
- 4 nights' accommodation at the 4* Hotel Bessahotel Liberdade
- Two dinners and three lunches with drinks
- Private coach transport
- All entrance fees in line with the programme
- Local professional guide; personal audio system
- Gratuities, except for driver and guide

Millennium Tours Director Tony Giambruno will accompany us.

This visit is proposed on behalf of the Livery Committee International Travelling Club and it will be possible if we have a minimum of 25 participants. If you are interested in joining us, please contact tony@millenniumtours.co.uk and you will be sent an application form to book. Party number will be limited to 30 members max, and participants will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

Practicalities:

- (1) PRICE £1,395 PER PERSON SHARING STANDARD DOUBLE ROOM.
- (2) SOLO TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT £295 (DOUBLE ROOM FOR SINGLE USE).
- (3) DEPOSIT OF £250 PER PERSON PAYABLE UPON BOOKING.
- (4) OPERATED BY MILLENNIUM TOURS LTD – ATOL 10040