

SANTA MARIA MAIOR: CHIADO, ROSSIO, PRAÇA DO COMÉRCIO, ALFAMA

Santa Maria Maior is the civil parish situated between Misericórdia and São Vicente. It includes the neighborhoods of Alfama, Baixa and part of Bairro Alto. Rich in history, Santa Maria Maior tell the story of the historic part of Lisbon.

Ribeira das Naus. Situated on the bank of the Tagus river, Ribeira das Naus separates Cais do Sodré from Praça do Comércio. Once a boatyard, today it is a sought-after spot for sunbathing. Although bathing is forbidden, this riverside area is seen as the beach of central Lisbon.

Praça do Comércio. At the center stands a statue of King José focusing his eyes on the river. Lisbon's vastest square was once a port, before being destroyed by the 1755 earthquake and tsunami. Today, a symbol of the the Pombaline architectural style.



Rua Augusta and the Rua Augusta Arch (*Arco da Rua Augusta*). Rua Augusta is Lisbon's busiest pedestrian street. It connects Praça do Comércio to the Rossio square in a wonderland of classic cobblestone designs, street performances and cafés. A street famous for its time-honored stores, it is also known for its Rua Augusta Arch. Facing the Praça do Comércio Square, the arch is equipped with an elevator which grants tourist the opportunity to overlook the view from the top.

MUDE – Museu do Design e da Moda. MUDE is a design and fashion museum located at Rua Augusta. It is considered to be one of the best design

museums in Europe. The museum features several great names in design such as Charles & Ray Eames, Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Dior and Vivienne Westwood.

Rossio Square (*Rossio*). Surrounded by shops, cafés and restaurants, Rossio hides its past quite well. This square was the stage for bullfighting, military parades and bonfires of the Inquisition. Rossio now hosts a monument dedicated to King Pedro IV standing between two baroque fountains.

D. Maria II National Theater (*Teatro Nacional D. Maria II*). This neoclassical theater finds itself in the Rossio Square. It is one of the most acclaimed theaters in Lisbon and it aims to strengthen the relationship between the community and this fine art.

Chiado. The place where celebrated writers came to write is now a cultural neighborhood packed with old bookstores, theaters and churches. Very close to Bairro Alto, Chiado is the place to meet before a night out. Despite the buildings dating back to the 18th century, Chiado has stood the test of time by being one of the most active areas in Lisbon.

Café A Brasileira. If you have seen the statue of Fernando Pessoa, you know you have reached the A Brasileira. Opened in 1905, it is the city's oldest café. It was a popular spot for last-century intellectuals and academics and the Art Deco-style interior design continues to attract large crowds.

Santa Justa Lift (*Elevador de Santa Justa*). Open to the public since 1902, the Santa Justa Lift stands tall at 45m. It connects Chiado to the Largo do Carmo.

Carmo Convent (*Convento do Carmo*). Dating back to the 14th century, it was an example of the Gothic style of architecture in Lisbon. However, it was almost fully destroyed by the 1755 earthquake.

São Jorge Castle (*Castelo de São Jorge*). A Moorish castle sitting on top of a hill, the São Jorge Castle offers a picture-perfect view of the river and the city. It was built in the mid-11th century as a part of the defense system for those who lived on the citadel.

Tram 28 (*Elétrico 28*). The well-known yellow tram that connects Martim Moniz to Campo de Ourique. Passing by Graça, Alfama, Baixa and Estrela, this iconic tram ride stops by some of the most relevant neighborhood in Lisbon. Ever since its inauguration in 1914, it has been a common sight in the old streets of the city.



Miradouro das Portas do Sol. Another one of Lisbon's most beautiful lookout points. This time, the eyes meet with the streets of Alfama. The place for an evening drink, it is sometimes possible to hear the echoing sounds of the Fado coming from the neighborhood below.



Sé de Lisboa. It is one of the oldest monuments in Lisbon. Built in the 1100s, it is a Roman Catholic church.

Miradouro de Santa Luzia. Introducing its visitors to the neighborhood of Alfama, this lookout point allows a panoramic view of the city. By the Church of Santa Luzia, it is possible to find two tile panels. One is representative of the Comercio Square before the 1755 earthquake, while the other showcases the São Jorge Castle being taking over from the Moors in 1147.

Alfama. The oldest district in Lisbon is where the most traditional elements of the city can be found. Much like its soul, Alfama smells of grilled fish, echoes the sound of Fado and serves emblematic Portuguese cuisine.

Fado is a music genre highly associated with the city of Lisbon. Originating from the 1820s, it has a similar meaning from the Portuguese word *saudade*. The lyrics of Fado often express melancholic and nostalgic feelings, usually combined with a narrative of the life at sea. Together with the sound of a guitar, the voice of those who sing it resound through the *casas de fado*. Some of the most renowned are Café Luso, Faia and Senhor Vinho. Since 2011, Fado has been a part of UNESCO's World's Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Fado Museum (*Museu do Fado*). This museum is a celebration of the cultural heritage of Fado. It aims to value this art form as an identifying token of the city.

How to get there:

Train: Rossio Station, Santa Apolónia Station

<https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en>

Tram: 12E, 15E, 28

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

Buses: 711, 714, 735, 736, 737, 745, 759, 760, 790, 794 Aerobus Line 1 (City Center)

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

Subway: Cais do Sodré Station (Green Line), Terreiro do Paço Station (Blue Line),
Baixa-Chiado Station (Green/Blue Line), Rossio Station (Green Line),
Restauradores Station (Blue Line)

<http://www.metrolisboa.pt/eng/>