

Title:

Amazing Portugal

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Summary:

The western part of the Iberian Peninsula, the part bathed by the Atlantic Ocean is the traditional country of Portugal. Long ago, the territory between the northern part of Portugal and Spain were not very well defined and the cultural aspects were very similar. But then the Castrena culture made its first appearance with grass thatched huts in a round formation in the north and then the Romans took over, separating the two territories. From the beginning of the 5th century ...

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Article Body:

The western part of the Iberian Peninsula, the part bathed by the Atlantic Ocean is the traditional country of Portugal. Long ago, the territory between the northern part of Portugal and Spain were not very well defined and the cultural aspects were very similar. But then the Castrena culture made its first appearance with grass thatched huts in a round formation in the north and then the Romans took over, separating the two territories. From the beginning of the 5th century Braga was named capital of Portugal, then it was invaded by the Visigods and finally, as almost all the Iberian Peninsula, the Arabs moved in, leaving a tremendous influence, especially their architecture, culture and was of governing.

But all this is quite old, and even though it is interesting to know, when visiting Portugal (<http://www.lisbon-and-portugal.com/travel/portugal.html>) and its capital city Lisbon, many people are looking for actual entertainment and fun places to visit along with historical ones.

Lisbon, Portugal's Proud Capital

In Lisbon, where the majority of the tourist start their visit after having arrived at the airport, there are various excursions to do around the city.

There are museums of all kinds: - Museum do Chiado which is located in one of the most enchanting areas of Lisbon. Here you can find Portuguese and French Art. It is open on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and all other days except Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Science Museum which is located at the main entrance to the Science University has as its principal objective to be education with over 60 interactive themes using physics, chemistry and maths. It is open from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 2 to 5 and not open on Sundays. - Museum do Carmo which is installed in the ruins of the monastery and has an excellent archaeological collection from many different periods. - National Museum of Ancient Art which is found in the area called Belem near the river in the Palace of Alvor. It is the most important museum in Portugal having 65 halls taking in a lot of Portuguese painters and sculptors and all the combinations that the Portuguese made when it had all its colonies. Extremely interesting and takes time to see. Open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. from Wednesday to Sunday, and Tuesday from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Sundays are free.

And Lisbon is also known for its open air entertainment like: - Eduardo VII Park found right next to the Marques de Pombal Square. This park was created to commemorate the English King Eduardo VII's visit to Lisbon in 1903. The Gym Pavillion Carlos Lopez is beautifully decorated on the outside with tiles. And the Estufa Fria (greenhouse) where you can find all kinds of plants from all over the world which were brought to Lisbon and have been adapted to the climate change there. - Tapada da Ajuda is a 200 acre park once used for hunting but now there are various activities like a children's park, recreation area and an Astronomy Observatory. - Botanical Gardens which was founded in 1873 and considered one of the best in all Europe. There are over 2,500 species including palm and banana trees. Being as it is situated on a hill, the different level connected by steps makes its beauty even more enhancing and delightful for the eye to see. It is open in winter from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and in summer from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Portugal's nice lodging

Lisbon needs quite a few days to visit it so if you have need some ideas on hotels, here you go. The Four Seasons-Ritz is the top with beauty gardens and a great view of Eduardo VII Park. Or maybe Carlton Palace Hotel which is a 19th century palace with tropical gardens. Coming down a little the Comfort Principe with a panoramic view restaurant and good service and quality. On the busy Ave. Liberdade in a small neoclassical Moorish palace called Veneza, nice pensions like As Janelas Verdes which is a 17 room restored old house from the 18th c.

near the Museum of Ancient Art and for those just wanting to lay their heads down, some nicely kept campings or youth hostels.

But once you are in Portugal you have to take full advantage and see places like Sintra, Porto, Albufeira in the Algarve region and an extra special get away to Madeira or the Azores Islands. It's all lovely.