PRINTABLE ITINERARY

A 3-Day Lisbon Itinerary

From our guide **Top 10 Things to Do in Lisbon**. Print it or save it to your phone.



Three days is the sweet spot for a first visit, with two days in the city and one in Sintra. Here's a simple plan that groups nearby sights together, so you spend less time on hills and more time enjoying them.

Day 1: Alfama, the Castle and Baixa

Start early at São Jorge Castle, then wander down through Alfama to the Sé and the viewpoints of Santa Luzia and Portas do Sol. In the afternoon, explore the Baixa and the riverside Praça do Comércio. End the day with dinner and fado in Alfama.

Day 2: Belém, LX Factory and Sunset

Take Tram 15E to Belém for the Jerónimos Monastery, the Belém Tower and a warm pastel de nata. Stop at LX Factory on the way back, then catch the sunset from Miradouro de Santa Catarina before an evening in Bairro Alto.

Day 3: Sintra

Catch an early train from Rossio, visit Pena Palace first and then Quinta da Regaleira. Head back to Lisbon in the late afternoon. With a fourth day, add Cascais or the Oceanário.

The 10 places at a glance

1. Get Lost in Alfama

Getting there: Tram 28 or Tram 12 to Largo das Portas do Sol, or walk uphill from Baixa or Santa Apolónia metro station.
Time needed: Half a day, including the castle.
Best time to go: Early morning, before tour groups arrive, or late afternoon for warm light on the rooftops.
Insider tip: On Tuesdays and Saturdays, the Feira da Ladra flea market fills Campo de Santa Clara at the eastern edge of Alfama.
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2. Ride Tram 28

Getting there: Martim Moniz metro station (Green Line) is beside the first stop.
Time needed: Around an hour for the full route, longer at busy times.
Tickets: Use a navegante occasional card (the reloadable card that replaced Viva Viagem) or the Lisboa Card. Tickets bought on board cost more.
Insider tip: Tram 12 runs a shorter loop through Alfama and Baixa in the same vintage carriages, and is usually much quieter.
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3. Explore Belém

Getting there: Tram 15E from Praça da Figueira or Praça do Comércio, or a short train ride from Cais do Sodré to Belém station.
Time needed: At least half a day, or a full day with LX Factory and MAAT.
Tickets: Book the monastery and tower online where possible, and check opening days before you go, as many monuments close one day a week.
Insider tip: The monastery's church is free to enter, so you can still see Vasco da Gama's tomb if the cloister queue is long.
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4. Taste the Original Pastel de Nata

Time needed: Half an hour.
Best time to go: Mid-morning on a weekday, when the Belém queue is shortest.
Good to know: Use the takeaway counter at Pastéis de Belém if you're in a hurry. It's usually quicker than waiting for a table.
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5. Watch the Sunset from a Miradouro

Getting there: Tram 28 stops close to Graça and Santa Luzia. Santa Catarina is a short walk from Chiado.
Time needed: An hour or so, ideally with a drink.
Best time to go: Arrive about an hour before sunset to find a good spot.
Insider tip: Senhora do Monte is a steep climb but much less crowded than Santa Luzia and Portas do Sol.
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6. Hear Fado in a Traditional Venue

Time needed: An evening.
Tickets: Book a table ahead at the better-known fado houses, especially at weekends.
Good to know: Most fado houses serve dinner first, so performances often start later in the evening.
Insider tip: Fado from Coimbra, sung by men in student capes, has a different style. Lisbon fado is more personal and raw.
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7. Eat at the Time Out Market

Getting there: Cais do Sodré metro (Green Line) and train station are across the road.
Time needed: An hour or two.
Best time to go: Mid-afternoon, or early evening before the dinner rush.
Insider tip: The traditional produce market in the other half of the building still trades in the mornings, and is a good place for fruit and local cheese.
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8. Browse LX Factory

Getting there: Tram 15E or a bus to Alcântara, or the train from Cais do Sodré to Alcântara-Mar.
Time needed: One to two hours.
Best time to go: Sunday for the market, or a weekday afternoon for a quieter visit.
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9. Visit the Oceanário de Lisboa

Getting there: Oriente metro station (Red Line), then a ten-minute walk.
Time needed: Two to three hours.
Tickets: Buy online to skip the ticket queue, especially at weekends and in school holidays.
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10. Take a Day Trip to Sintra

Getting there: Trains run from Lisbon's Rossio station to Sintra. A circuit bus links the station with the palaces.
Time needed: A full day.
Tickets: Book palace tickets online in advance, as Pena Palace uses timed entry.
Best time to go: A weekday morning outside July and August, when Sintra is at its most crowded.
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Getting Around Lisbon

Lisbon is best explored on foot, with public transport for the longer hops. The metro has four colour-coded lines and is quick and cheap. The Red Line runs to the airport.

Trams are part of the experience, though they can be slow and crowded. Tram 28 and Tram 12 cover the old town, and Tram 15E is a modern line to Belém. **Buses** fill in the gaps, and **trains** from Rossio and Cais do Sodré reach Sintra and Cascais.

Opening times, prices and transport change often, so check with each venue or operator before you go. For the full guide, photos and FAQs, see https://toptravelinsider.com/top-10-things-to-do-in-lisbon/.