



Palacio Mafra Library

# Libraries, Information and History in Lisbon

## An escorted study tour

8 – 11 November 2018





The rooftops of Lisbon

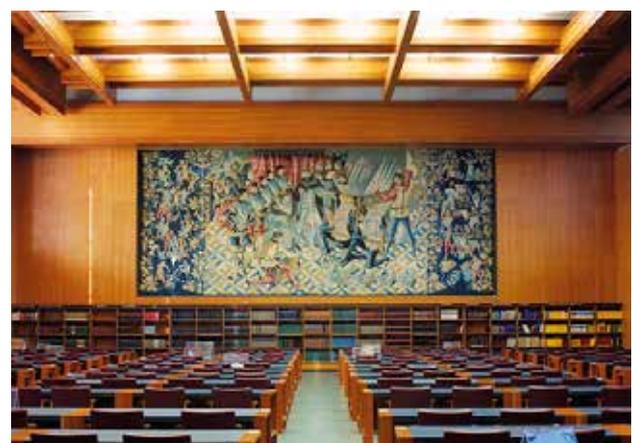
**Sprawling across steep hills overlooking the River Tagus, Portugal's capital boasts Gothic cathedrals, majestic monasteries, superb libraries and fascinating museums. The old city winds its way around tiny cobbled streets filled with Art Nouveau cafes, tumbling down to a port buzzing with cafes, restaurants and chic bars. It is also a city of bibliophiles, home to the oldest bookstore in the world and the largest book fair in Portugal, as well an array of beautiful and important libraries. Welcome to Lisbon, a city bursting with charm and history, with a relaxed ambience rare in a European capital.**

Bright yellow trams twist their way around the tree-lined cobbled streets and local *Lisboêtas* stroll through the old quarter, much as they've done for centuries, stopping for a *pastel de nata* and a tiny *bica* (espresso) at a cool tile lined cafe. Though the history of old Lisbon is still very much evident, the energy of Lisbon is vibrant and eclectic, with stylish bars and clubs filling old spaces in the port district, and restaurants and bars lining the narrow streets of the hilltop district of Bairro Alto, where jazz, reggae, electronica and fado fill the air.

Arrive in Lisbon and transfer to the heart of the old town and check into your hotel. In the afternoon take a guided tour of the National

Library of Portugal, the biggest library in the country containing a vast and diversified heritage covering almost ten centuries of history and culture. Continue to The Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, created in 1779 as an institution to promote the advancement of science and learning for the progress and prosperity of the country, and tour their library. Enjoy a welcome dinner in the evening.

Next morning visit the National Archive of Torre do Tombo, Portugal's national archive. One of the oldest institutions in Portugal, the archive dates back to 1378, when it was first kept in a tower of that name in Lisbon Castle. It was renamed the Instituto dos Arquivos Nacionais (Institute of the National Archives) in 2009 and



The National Library of Lisbon



Ajuda Palace Library

is home to many historic documents. Continue to Ajuda Library, one of the oldest in Portugal. The Library has been housed in its own wing of the Ajuda Palace since 1880. The special nature and wealth of its collections characterise it as a heritage library whose mission is to conserve, study and make available its holdings of documents. In the afternoon take a guided literature tour of Lisbon - including a visit to the oldest bookstore in the world, the Bertrand Bookstore, which has been trading in Rua Garrett since 1732. The evening is at leisure with the option of dinner and a *fado* show.

The following day drive to Mantra after breakfast for a guided walking tour of the magnificent Palacio Mafra Library. This monumental Baroque and Italianised Neoclassical palace-monastery was built between 1717 and 1755 and the Rococo library is the highlight of the palace. Situated at the back of the second floor, it rivals the grandeur of the library of the Melk Abbey in Austria, at 88m long, 9.5m wide and 13m high. The ornate wooden bookshelves contain over 36,000 leather-bound volumes, encompassing Western knowledge from the 14th to the 19th century including some bibliographical jewels, such as incunabula. The library is also known for its homing bats, which protect the books from silverfish.

Drive back to Lisbon via the fairytale town of Sintra, set amidst the cool, pine-covered hills of the Serra de Sintra. It was long favoured by

the Portuguese elite as a summer getaway, who built exquisite palaces, extravagant residences and decorative gardens. Today it is a one of Europe's greatest examples of the whimsical European romantic style of architecture, with Pena Palace as its crowning glory. Wander through the lovely town and return to Lisbon later in the afternoon. In the evening enjoy a farewell dinner with the group.

Transfer to the airport the next day for your return flight.

## Itinerary 8 - 11 November 2018

<b>8 Nov (Thur)</b>	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Am</b>	Arrive in Lisbon and transfer to My Story Tejo Hotel	
<b>Pm</b>	Guided tour of National Library followed by visit to library of Science Academy	
<b>Eve</b>	Welcome dinner	
<b>9 Nov (Fri)</b>	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Am</b>	Visit Lisbon Archives followed by visit to the Ajuda Library	
<b>Pm</b>	Guided literature tour of Lisbon	
<b>Eve</b>	At leisure or optional dinner and <i>fado</i> show	
<b>10 Nov (Sat)</b>	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>B D</b>
<b>Am</b>	Drive to Mantra. Guided walking tour of Palacio Mafra Library	
<b>Pm</b>	Drive back to Lisbon, stopping at Sintra village	
<b>Eve</b>	Farewell dinner	
<b>11 Nov (Sun)</b>	<b>Lisbon</b>	<b>B</b>
<b>Am</b>	Free time to explore Lisbon at your own pace	
<b>Pm</b>	Transfer to the airport for flight home	



Bertrand Bookstore

# My Story Tejo Hotel

Previously known as Lisboa Tejo, this hotel has been recently brought into the upmarket My Story Hotel group and is undergoing renovation at the time of writing. The freshly refurbished décor is stylish and contemporary within the iconic Pombaline style building and the rooms are comfortable and well appointed. Located in the heart of historic Lisbon in vibrant Baixa, the hotel has many of Lisbon's attractions on its doorstep.

The contemporary style of My Story Tejo Hotel



Steps in Sintra's old town

## The cost of the tour is £595 per person sharing (excluding flights and transfers) and includes:

- Tour leader and speaker (Liz McGettigan)
- 3 nights' accommodation at My Story Tejo Hotel

### Single supplement £160

- Breakfast daily
- Specialist hosted library visits
- Welcome and farewell dinner with wine
- All travel as per itinerary
- All admission fees as per the itinerary

## The cost excludes

- International flights to and from Lisbon and airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned
- All personal extras, such as tips, portorage, laundry, inoculations fees and drinks
- Travel insurance
- All optional excursions, tours and visits

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**Tour leader Liz McGettigan** is Director of Digital Library and Cultural Experiences SOLUS UK and President of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals in Scotland. She is an award-winning Library and Information Specialist and was named as one of Scotland's Top Tech 100 2017 driving the digital agenda in Scotland. Previously Head of Libraries and Information Service for the City of Edinburgh, Liz also initiated Edinburgh's innovative digital participation project. Liz was named as one of Scotland's Women of Inspiration last year on International Women's Day. She is Advisory Board member for Internet Librarian International and has presented her work around the world.

