

NEIGHBOURHOOD GUIDE

Baixa, Alfama

Lisbon, Portugal · Residentas Apóstolos

Baixa is the flat grid at the heart of Lisbon — rebuilt entirely after the 1755 earthquake by the Marquês de Pombal, which is why every street runs perfectly straight and every building looks related. It's the most walkable part of the city, five minutes from the waterfront, and within easy reach of Alfama's labyrinthine streets. Stay here and you can walk to everything.

Coffee & Breakfast

Café Nicola

Art Deco interior, Rossio square frontage. Order the tosta mista and a galão. Praça Dom Pedro IV 24.

Padaria Portuguesa

Local chain but genuinely good. Excellent croissants and the coffee is consistent. Multiple locations in Baixa.

→ *The best pastéis de nata in walking distance are at Confeitaria Nacional on Praça da Figueira — 5 minutes on foot.*

Lunch & Dinner

Zé da Mouraria

Honest Lisbon cooking in the Mouraria quarter. The grilled fish and arroz de pato are exceptional value. Rua João do Outeiro 24.

O Corvo

Small, precise, seasonal. One of the best lunch spots in the city. Calçada do Duque 19.

Time Out Market

35 restaurants under one roof at Cais do Sodré (15 min walk). Go for lunch on a weekday to avoid queues.

→ *Walk down to the waterfront at Praça do Comércio for sunset. The cafés facing the Tagus are overpriced but the view is free.*

Alfama on Foot

Castelo de São Jorge

The Moorish castle above the city. Go early, before 10am, to have the ramparts to yourself. Views over the entire city.

Miradouro da Graça

Less visited than Santa Luzia, equally good views. Bring a coffee from the kiosk.

Fado in Alfama

Skip the tourist fado restaurants on the main drag. Try Mesa de Frades (Rua dos Remédios 139) for the real thing — book ahead.

→ *Tram 28 runs through Alfama. Ride it uphill (eastbound from Praça da Figueira) but walk downhill — you'll see more on foot.*

Practical

Getting around

Baixa-Chiado metro (blue/green lines). Ferries to Cacilhas leave from Cais do Sodré (15 min walk) — worth the €1.30 for the view.

Supermarket

Continente Bom Dia on Rua do Ouro — best value in the neighbourhood.

BOOK DIRECT FOR THE BEST RATE

Your base in Baixa

Residentas Apóstolos puts you at the heart of this guide. Book directly at residentas.com for the lowest rate, flexible cancellation, and a welcome bottle of wine.