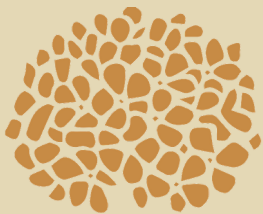


# 15 UNCOMMON SPOTS IN LISBON AND AROUND

THAT THE AVERAGE TOURIST DOESN'T VISIT



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ON THE COVER  
View from Miradouro Nossa Sra. do monte

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*The Secret Spots Revealed*

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## 2. Mercado de Algés (alternative to Mercado da Ribeira)

If you're planning to visit Lisbon, maybe someone recommended you to go to Mercado da Ribeira food market. It's a very trendy place, but too noisy and can get very touristy. There are two more food markets in Lisbon that are worth going to - Mercado do Campo de Ourique and Mercado de Algés. The Campo de Ourique market is inserted in a very beautiful residential neighbourhood. You can combine it with visiting the Estrela Church and garden, too. Plus there are almost no tourists, mostly locals from the nearby companies go to have lunch there, or dinner after work.

The most alternative of the 3 is Mercado de Algés. I've never seen a tourist there, well maybe except for my parents. It's smaller than the rest, but you find a lot of good foods ranging from traditional to grilled steaks to sushi and italian. It's also smaller and less overwhelming. There is a terrace which gets very full on weekend nights. The neighbourhood is not of interest, but the place is very easy to reach. Just take the the train from Cais do Sodre and stop at Algés station. Then walk straight for some minutes until you see it on your right.

## 1. Subterranean Graffiti Gallery Alcantara

Lisbon doesn't disappoint the fans of street art. I first found this gallery when I wanted to go to the "docas" under the 25th of April Bridge from LX factory in Alcantara. I never even assumed that in the tunnel existed such amazing graffiti. To reach the tunnel go to the train station of Alcantara-Mar first. The paintings tell the story of Lisbon - the 28 tram, the bridge, Belém, the water aqueduct, this and much more you'll find in the underground world of Alcantara.







### 3. O BAIRRO DA MADRAGOA

Together with Alfama, this is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in Lisbon that survived the 1755 earthquake. Streets are small and narrow, colours of the buildings are cheerful and azulejos (tiles) are lonely and waiting to be photographed.

The streets are empty and it looks like time has stopped there, whereas pretty Alfama is full of people all day. If you happen to be here during the celebrations of the Santos, streets become even more beautiful with the typical decoration. The Museum of Old Art - Museu de Arte Antiga is a must visit if you are into museums. It used to be the most important museum in Portugal from the 12th to the 14th century. The museum presents art in from of painting, sculptures and designs from Europe, Asia and Africa that were brought during the great discoveries of the world. If you are not the museum type, it has its own open-air cafe-restaurant with an amazing atmosphere and a view of Tejo.

If you happen to stay for dinner or come here in the afternoon, you'll be lucky, because Madragoa is full of restaurants. It's much less touristy and crowded when compared to Bairro Alto or Alfama. Some of the best restaurants I can recommend are O Varina da Madragoa - typical Portuguese restaurant, A Osteria - typical Italian restaurant, A Travessa - for a splurge. This restaurant is in a beautiful convent. Food is amazing, Belgian-inspired cuisine with Portuguese ingredients.



#### 4. Jardim Botânico de Lisboa

Summer in Lisbon can get really hot and noisy, cars, people, small and steep streets, all this can tire a normal person. If you feel any of these, you are in a serious need of visiting a quiet garden. In the center of Lisbon, this is the Botanical Garden of Principe Real. Entrance is 5 E for adults, but it offers peace and relaxation from the hectic city. Trees and plants are very beautiful and a way to connect to nature for a little while. You can spend there from 30 minutes to 2 hours, it's a beautiful small world on its own.



## The Secrets of Lisbon Revealed



#### 5. Palacio Chiado

This renovated palace is a home to various restaurants. I can recommend the sushi, it's a bit pricy, but fish is very fresh and they make some seriously good fusion sushi. Have a drink at the bar or enjoy any of the other restaurants. Even if you don't do any of these, just enter to see the decoration, the whole palace was renovated and ceilings newly painted from local artists. Well worth the visit.

#### 6. 9 Hotel Mercy Esplanade

Please don't tell anyone about it. I love just as it is - quite and with a few people, and a spectacular view of the river and Alfama. My recommendation is spicy margarita or a simple glass of wine for a leisurely afternoon.





## 7. São Roque Church

You might not be a fan of churches. But this one is impressive. Its woodwork is covered in pure gold from Brazil. It's said to be the most expensive church decoration in Europe.

## 8. A Ginjinha no Rossio

The sweet cherry liqueur ginjinha is originally from Obidos, but this small bar has been in Lisbon since ... and is very famous amongst locals, if you know one, it'll be one of the first place they'll bring you to before you begin the night.

## 9. A Manteigaria

If you've read my article about the best Portuguese foods, you must be curious to know where this other place is that the Lisbonenses take their pastel de nata of the day. You'll certainly find tourist there, but locals can't deny it - it's one of the two best pasteis de nata places that exist today. Their "secret" is that instead of margarine, they use butter, from where the name of the place comes from - "Manteigaria" (manteiga means butter in Portuguese). My personal preference is this one, but I love the original as well. Let me know which one is your winner after you return from your journey.





## 10. Take ferry to the other side

I think too few people take the ferry to Almada and it's cheap - just 1.25 for a ride. Take it at sunset and enjoy the view of Lisbon. The ride is only about 10 minutes, but it offers some spectacular views. When you get off don't think it's over. Now comes the best part - the food. You're in Cacilhas - seafood paradise. Just begin walking right and you'll see all the typical seafood restaurants. But if you want something more intimate and romantic and if it's a warm night continue further until you reach ...Food is amazing with modern touch, though not the classic seafood place, their dishes are original and homemade.



# Water Always Brings Happiness



## 11. Boat on Tejo

I've worked with guests of Lisbon since 2013 and not too many had asked me about a boat or yacht private tour. Well I can't recommend it enough. Just don't choose a speed boat or something with noisy engine, it'll ruin the ambiance. Enjoy Belem, Lisbon, Almada and 25 of April Bridge views on this beautiful adventure.

## 12. Capricciosa Lounge

If you happen to be in Lisbon in Summer and want to go to the beach, but have no car, Capricciosa is the place to go. This is actually the name of an Italian restaurant, not the beach itself. The beach is called Carcavelos. It's crowded, too much. Years ago, I'd never even put a foot on it, but sometimes I wanted a nice place to enjoy the view to which I don't need to drive for an hour or so and found out about Capricciosa lounge (not the restaurant itself, it's separated). You've got enormous sun beds, and with view of the sea, nice music, even DJ-s for a sunset party, but still it's chilling and relaxing compared if you were down at the crowded beach itself. My favourite drink is Sangria with sparkling wine and red fruits and mini-calzone. Go after 17h in Summer, days are long and you'll enjoy it more. Tip: take a hat and strong sunscreen, they have no





### 13. Casa Independente no Intendente

Shabby-Chic side of Lisbon. This place, like many old buildings in Lisbon used to be abandoned and demolishing. But today it's has a very shabby-chic ambience being an art center during the day and housing a bar and a restaurant that makes it perfect for the night as well.

### 14. Monserrate Palace

Monserrate is in the guides, but few people have it as their first choice of palace in Sintra and not even as their second. It's not that impressive as Palacio da Pena, or at least not on the outside. On the inside it has some extremely beautiful ornaments from Arabic style that are still being recovered.

Unfortunately furniture was sold, but this makes the place somehow special and lonely, and with much fewer visitors. For and for most people the gardens are the highlight of the palace, with the lush vegetation and impressive old trees, nature lovers won't be disappointed.







## 15. VILA BERTA

There are a lot of places that have the name Vila. They are like closed communities. Normally it's a separate street or a building that has an inside pátio.

In Lisbon they are pretty common. But Vila Berta is uncommon. The street itself is relatively large. The houses are massive with huge terraces like nothing I've seen before. It's a very quite small street worth the visit. If you are exploring Feira da Ladra or Mouraria neighbourhood, don't pass it. It will amaze you as there is nothing equal to it in Lisbon and will make you feel the local life.



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