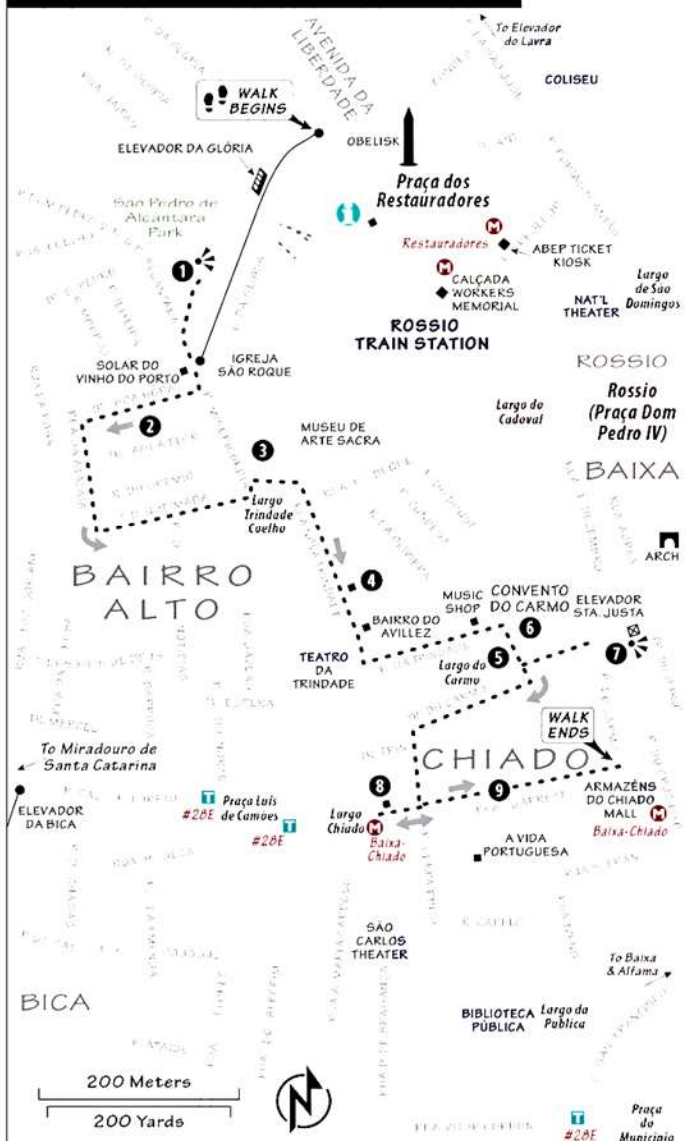


Bairro Alto & Chiado Stroll



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Whether strolling uphill or down, one of the joys of modern Lisbon is to simply walk this grand boulevard, dotted with monuments, statues, and food kiosks with inviting seating—perfect for enjoying a drink or snack.

BAIRRO ALTO AND CHIADO STROLL

The Old World-feeling Bairro Alto (High Town) and trendy Chiado perch just above the busy Baixa. This walk (rated ▲▲▲) connects dramatic viewpoints, leafy parks with inviting kiosk cafés, skinny streets lined with fado clubs, a dramatic church, an earthquake-toppled convent, Chiado's trendy dining and shopping scene, and a classic coffee house.

Getting There: Rise above the Baixa on the funicular called Elevador da Glória, located near the obelisk at Praça dos Restauradores (opposite the Hard Rock Café, €3.70 for two trips if you pay driver, €1.30 if zapping with Viva Viagem card, every 10 minutes); you can also hike up alongside the tracks.

Continuing along Rua Garrett, at the next corner (after the church, at #73) is the venerable **Bertrand** bookstore—according to Guinness, the oldest bookstore in continuous operation (since 1732) with English books and a good guidebook selection. A **Vida Portuguesa**—my favorite shop for Portuguese gifts (quality textiles, soaps, home decor, sardines, wine, and so on) is at the end of the street behind the bookstore (Rua Anchieta 11).

Along the main drag, you'll start to see more and more international chains before Rua Garrett ends abruptly at the entrance of the big **Armazéns do Chiado mall**. This grand, six-floor shopping center connects Lisbon's lower and upper towns with a world of ways to spend money (including a handy food court on the sixth floor). For Italian-style gelato, locals like **Santini em Casa**, a few steps downhill to the left as you face the mall (at #9).

Just a few doors down (walking with the park on your left), at the smaller but similarly chic **REAL "Slow Retail" Concept Store**, creative local vendors display their wares in a clean, cool, industrial-mod, space. You'll see stacks of coffee-table books, creative housewares, summer dresses, burlap backpacks, colorful shoes and sandals, hipster toddler garb, and horn-rimmed sunglasses (Mon-Wed 10:30-20:00, Thu-Sat until 23:00, closed Sun, Praça do Príncipe Real 20).

A bit farther down are more fun shops, including **Corallo**, where Bettina and Niccolò make their own chocolates and roast their own coffee (closed Sun, Rua da Escola Politécnica 4), and the old-school **Príncipe Real Enxovais**, specializing in top-quality linens for the home (daily, Rua da Escola Politécnica 12). And in the opposite direction, a block up Rua Dom Pedro V back toward the heart of Chiado, is the **Pelcor** cork products flagship store (described earlier).

This is also a great part of town to get a bite; for details, see the Chiado listings in "Eating in Lisbon," later.

• *Leaving the funicular on top, turn right (go 100 yards, up into a park) to enjoy the city view from the...*

① **Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara (Viewpoint)**

A tile map guides you through the view, which stretches from the twin towers of the cathedral (on far right, near the river), to the ramparts of the castle birthplace of Lisbon (capping the hill, on right), to another quaint, tree-topped viewpoint in Graça (directly across, end of trolley #28E), to the skyscraper towers of the new city in the distance (far left). Whenever you see a big old building in Lisbon, it's often a former convent or monastery. With the dissolution of monastic religious orders in 1834, these buildings were nationalized and are now occupied by hospitals, museums, schools, or the military.



In the park, a bust honors a 19th-century local journalist (founder of Lisbon's first daily newspaper) and a barefooted delivery boy. This district is famous for its writers, poets, publishers, and bohemians.

- *Directly across the street from where you got off the Elevador da Glória is **Solar do Vinho do Porto**, run by the Port Wine Institute—a good place to sample the famous fortified wine from northern Portugal (it's been closed for renovation but should reopen by the time you visit). If it's open, step inside—or consider returning later for a do-it-yourself tasting (for a description, see here).*

Next, walk directly across from the top of the funicular for a short detour into the old grid-plan streets of the Bairro Alto.

2 Bairro Alto Detour

The Bairro Alto is one of the most characteristic and appealing districts in Lisbon. Designed in the 16th century with a very modern (at the time) grid-plan layout, the district housed ship workers back when Portugal was a world power and its ships planted the Portuguese flag all around the globe. Today, the Bairro Alto is quiet in the morning, but buzzes with a thriving restaurant scene in the evening and a rowdy bar scene later—much to the chagrin of elder residents.

While it's fun to wander, follow this route for a good sampling: Go two blocks gently uphill on Travessa da Boa Hora, turn left on Rua da Atalaia, continue three blocks, and then head left down Travessa da Queimada until you cross the big street (leaving the Bairro Alto) and reach the small square, Largo Trindade Coelho.

- *On Largo Trindade Coelho is the...*

3 São Roque Church (Igreja São Roque)

Step inside and sit in a pew in the middle to take it all in (free; Mon 14:00-18:00, Tue-Sun 9:00-19:00—until 18:00 in winter, Thu until 20:00). Built in the 16th century, the ▲ church of St. Roque

9 Rua Garrett

As you stroll, notice the mosaic sidewalks, ironwork balconies, and fine shops. The streetlamps you see are decorated with the symbol of Lisbon: a ship, carrying the remains of St. Vincent, guarded by two ravens.



As you walk, peek into classy stores, such as the fabric lover's paradise **Paris em Lisboa**—imagine how this would have been the ultimate in *ooh là là* fashion in the 19th century (at #77, on the right). The next cross street, Rua Serpa Pinto, leads (in one block) to the **São Carlos Theater**—Lisbon's opera house. Celebrity chef José Avillez, whose eatery we passed earlier, and his culinary rivals have revitalized this sleepy quarter with several restaurants. (Avillez's Belcanto has often appeared high on the list of the “50 Best Restaurants in the World.”) Between here and the theater is the recommended **Burel Mountain Originals**, selling traditional and modern Portuguese wool and flannel products (see “Shopping in Lisbon,” later).



The statue out front is of the poet **Fernando Pessoa**, making him a perpetual regular at this café. He was the literary and creative soul of Lisbon in the 1920s and 1930s, when the country's avant-garde poets, writers, and painters would hang out here.

At the neighboring **Baixa-Chiado Metro stop**, a slick series of escalators whisks people effortlessly between Chiado Square and the Baixa. It's a free and fun way to survey a long, long line of Portuguese—but for now, we'll stay in the Chiado neighborhood. (If you'll be coming for fado in the evening—recommended places are nearby—consider getting here by zipping up the escalator.)

- *The Chiado district is popular for its shopping and theaters. Browse downhill on...*

—dedicated to the saint who protects the faithful from disease and plagues—is one of Portugal's first Jesuit churches. The painted-wood, false-domed ceiling is perfectly flat. The acoustics here are top-notch, important in a Jesuit church, where the emphasis is on the sermon. The numbered panels on the floor were tombs, nameless because they were for lots of people. They're empty now—the practice was stopped in the 19th century when parishioners didn't want plague victims rotting under their feet.



Survey the rich side chapels. The highlight is the **Chapel of St. John the Baptist** (left side of church, gold and blue lapis lazuli columns). It looks like it came right out of the Vatican...because it did. Made in Rome from precious materials, the chapel was the site of one papal Mass before it was disassembled and shipped to Lisbon. Per square inch, it was the most-costly chapel ever constructed in Portugal. Notice the mosaic floor (with the spherical symbol of Portugal) and, on the walls, three intricate, beautiful mosaics—a Vatican specialty, designed to take the place of real paintings, which were vulnerable to damage from candle

smoke and incense. Notice also the delicate “sliced marble” symmetry and imagine the labor involved in so artfully cutting that stone five centuries ago.

The chapel to the left of St. John the Baptist features a riot of babies. Individual chapels—each for a different noble family—seem to be in competition. Keep in mind that the tiles are considered as extravagant as the gold leaf and silver. To the left of the main altar, a glass case is filled with relics trying to grab your attention.

Between the Chapel of St. John the Baptist and the relics, find the **sacristy** where, along with huge chests of drawers for vestments, you can see a series of 17th-century paintings illustrating scenes from the life of St. Francis Xavier—one of the founders of the Jesuit order along with St. Ignatius of Loyola and Peter Faber (irregular hours, only open when staffed).

On your way out, you might pop a coin into a rack of fake candles and power a prayer.

The **São Roque Museum** (Museu de Arte Sacra) to the left as you leave the church, is more interesting than your typical small church museum (€2.50, same hours as the church). It’s filled with perhaps the best-presented collection of 16th- and 17th-century church art in town, and it’s well-described in English. The church and this art, rare survivors of the 1755 earthquake, illustrate the religious passion that accompanied Portugal’s Age of Discovery, with themes including the mission of the Jesuits and their response to the Reformation; devotion to relics; and devotion to the Virgin.

Stroll around this celebration of the Industrial Age, enjoy the view, then retrace your steps to the square in front of the convent. (The nearby *Leitaria Académica*, a venerable little working-class eatery with tables spilling onto the delightful square, can be handy for a pricey snack or drink.)

• *Continue straight up through Largo do Carmo, walking a block slightly uphill on Travessa do Carmo. At the next square, take a left on Rua Serpa Pinto, walking downhill to Rua Garrett, where—in the little pedestrian zone 50 yards uphill on the right—you’ll find a famous old café across from the Baixa-Chiado Metro stop.*

8 **Café A Brasileira**

Slinky with Art Nouveau decor, this café is a 100-year-old institution for coffeehouse junkies. A Brasileira was originally a shop selling Brazilian products, a reminder that this has long been the city’s shopping zone. Drop in for a *bica* (Lisbon slang for espresso) or a *pingado* (with a dollop of steamed milk; either costs €0.70 at the bar). A *pastel de nata* custard tart costs just €1.30—but the best place in downtown for one is just a short walk away (see “Exploring More of the Bairro Alto,” later). WCs are down the stairs near the entrance.



and Roman artifacts, medieval royal sarcophagi, and a couple of Peruvian mummies—all explained in English (€4—cheapskates can do a deep knee-bend at the ticket desk, sneak a peek, and then crawl away; Mon-Sat 10:00-19:00, Oct-May until 18:00, closed Sun year-round).

• *Facing the convent, take the little lane that cuts around its right side. Head up the stairs next to the Bella Lisa Elevador restaurant to reach the gray, iron...*



7 Elevador de Santa Justa

In 1902, an architect who had studied under Gustav Eiffel completed this 150-foot-tall iron elevator, connecting the lower and upper parts of town. The elevator's Neo-Gothic motifs are an attempt to match the ruined church near its top. It's free to peer through the railings from the entry-level ramp, but I'd spring for a ticket to climb the spiral stairs up to the top-floor lookout—with unobstructed views over the city (for details, see the sight listing on here).



• *Back outside in the church square (WC underground), visit the statue of a friendly lottery-ticket salesman. Two lottery kiosks are nearby. Locals who buy into the Totoloto (which, like lotteries everywhere, is a form of taxation on gamblers that helps fund social outreach programs) rub the statue's well-polished ticket for good luck.*

Continue (kitty-corner left across the square) downhill along Rua Nova da Trindade, following the tram tracks. At #20 (on the left), pop into...

4 Cervejaria da Trindade

The famous “oldest beer hall in Lisbon” is worth a visit for a look at its 19th-century tiles. The beautifully tiled main room, once a

dining hall for monks, still holds the pulpit from which the Bible was read as the monks ate. After monastic orders were abolished in 1834, the monastery became a brewery—you'll notice that while the oldest tiles have Christian themes, the later ones (from around 1860) are all about the beer. Among the Portuguese beers on tap are Sagres, the standard lager; Sagres Preta, a good dark beer (like a porter); and Bohemia, which is sweet, with more alcohol. At the bar in front you can get a snack and beer, while more expensive dining is in the back (see here).

- *Continue down the hill. You'll pass the recommended **Bairro do Avillez**—one of more than a dozen Lisbon eateries owned by celebrity chef José Avillez, who is helping to bring traditional recipes (like the ones at the *cervejaria* we just left) into the 21st century.*

*Continue until the next intersection, where signs point left to the ruined Convento do Carmo. Follow the inside trolley tracks downhill and to the left. Just before you reach the square, notice (on the left) the well-stocked music shop—selling (among other instruments) the unique Portuguese guitars used to perform *fado* music.*

You'll wind up in the leafy, inviting square called...

5 Largo do Carmo

On this square decorated with an old fountain, lots of pigeons, and jacaranda trees from South America (with purple blossoms in June), police officers guard the headquarters of the National Guard. Famous among residents, this was the last refuge of the dictatorial Salazar regime. The Portuguese people won their freedom in 1974, in a peaceful uprising called the Carnation Revolution. The name came when revolutionaries placed flowers in the guns of the soldiers, making it clear it was time for democracy here. For more history, see the sidebar.



- *On Largo do Carmo, check out the ruins of...*

6 Convento do Carmo

After the convent was destroyed by the 1755 earthquake, the Marquês de Pombal directed that the delicate Gothic arches of its church be left standing—supporting nothing but open sky—as a permanent reminder of that disastrous event. If you pay to enter, you'll see a fine memorial park in what was the nave, and (filling the former apse at the far end) a simple museum with Bronze Age