



What's Life Like in Lisbon

- Some questions for slow travelers

FOREWORD

When traveling, I often wonder what motivates people to leave their homes and discover new places. There must be an aspect of novelty, of discovering for the sake of discovering, but that can't be all, can it? Might traveling give us an opportunity to learn something about ourselves, the way a good book, a profound song or a beautiful movie does? And if that is the case, how do you go about it? Back when I started solo traveling, I used to seek out lists of "The Top Ten Most Beautiful Things To Do," both online and offline, but since then I've learned to appreciate a more inquisitive way of discovering a new place. It's not about finding the answers—it's about asking the right questions. That's how the idea for What's Life Like came to be: what are my favorite questions to ponder when an unfamiliar place invites me into its most colorful, historical and hidden spots? These questions allow me to pause and dig a little bit deeper into what it means to discover. They allow me to transform from a tourist into a traveler, to take a kind of mental stroll through each city, and I hope they have a similar effect on you.

The first What's Life Like series includes my favorite questions, tailored to the cities of Porto, Lisbon and Hamburg.

I often retreat to Lisbon to connect with its rich historical and cultural heritage. I wonder how, centuries ago, the first Portuguese explorers gazed out at the Atlantic, preparing for their heroic journeys to the shores on the other side of the sea. I can still feel their presence in the Praça do Comércio, and in Portugal's many naval strongholds and lighthouses.

- Kobe van Reppelen



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How much does one gram of street coke/hash
cost in Lisbon*?

* Tip: dress like a tourist and walk from Rossio to the Praça do Comércio. This works especially well for men. Don't worry; the reason why the police don't stop them is that they don't sell real drugs.



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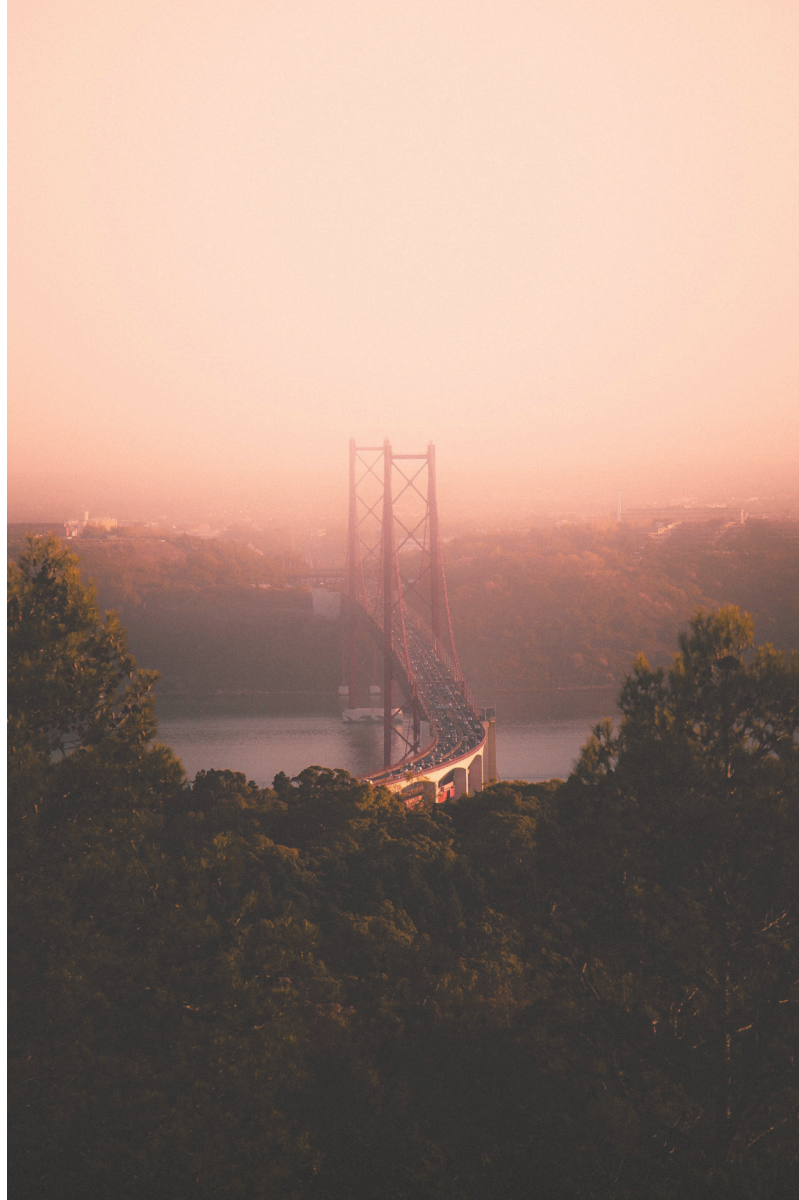
Who's the city's hero?



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If the local government were to ask you to redesign the city's flag, what colors would you use? Could you draw it right here?



AFTERWORD

I hope your time in Lisbon has allowed you to dive a little bit deeper into the Portuguese culture and language, the history of Portuguese cuisine and the uplifting vibes of the Alfama district. I regularly blog and share my travels on belgianboy.com, where you can find additional information and links to other city guides. I'm always happy to hear about your experience, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

I'm grateful for the help I've received from Alexander Beck, who assisted with the layout, book design, photo material and, more importantly, helped shape the idea behind this book. Charlotte De Baere, thank you for the lovely cover, and for expressing the soul of a traveler through color.

I also owe the team behind Unsplash and the photographers there a big thank you for their work, which greatly contributed to this book. Finally, my heart goes out to all the wonderful people I've met on my many travels.

ABOUT

I travel the globe in search of original stories. After having spent one year as an exchange student in Brazil (2009), I never really stopped looking for new experiences abroad. My curiosity often brought me to Portugal, which in many ways reminds me of the warmth, openness and good-spirited culture that I learned to love so much in Brazil. My first pilgrimage, from Lisbon to Santiago, took me into the lesser-known interior region of Portugal, and only increased my appreciation of Europe's westernmost country.



- Kobe van Reppelen, Summer 2018

