

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.



What brings you to Lisbon?			



How many different nationalities have you met in your hostel/hotel?			



What would the Marquês de Pombal think about modern-day Lisbon?			



Do you find fado music boring or inspiring?				



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.

What's the real price you pay for an €8 lunch?			



Do people honk a lot in Lisbon?			



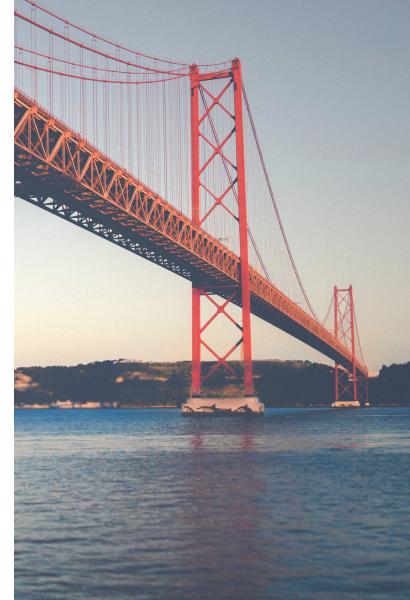
If somebody wanted a quiet place to read, where would you send him/her?			
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What's the nicest way to greet a local?			



Which side of the river has the most beautiful view?			
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Who's the city's hero?				



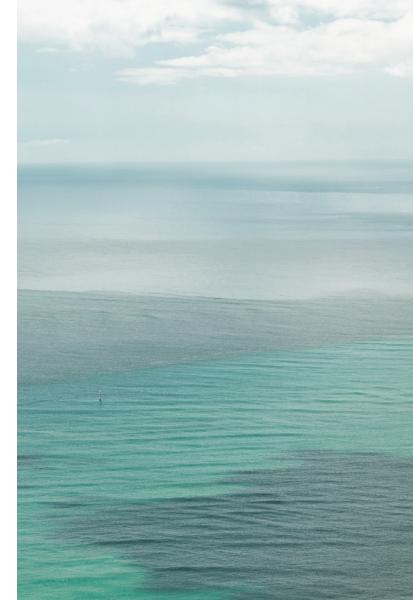
Would you live in the City Hall? Why or why not?			



Can you describe how wine is made, in five steps?		



While in Lisbon, should you visit Sintra?	



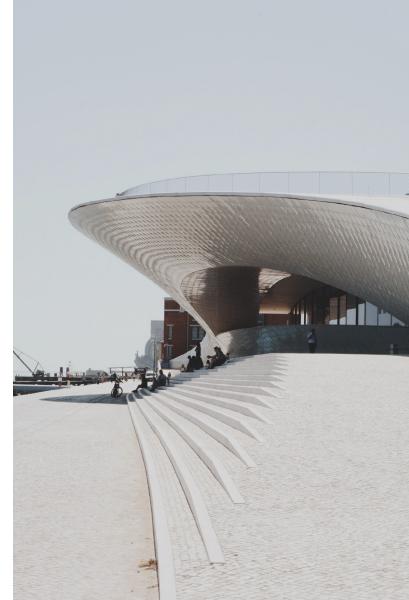
Where in the city would you propose to your girlfriend/boyfriend?		



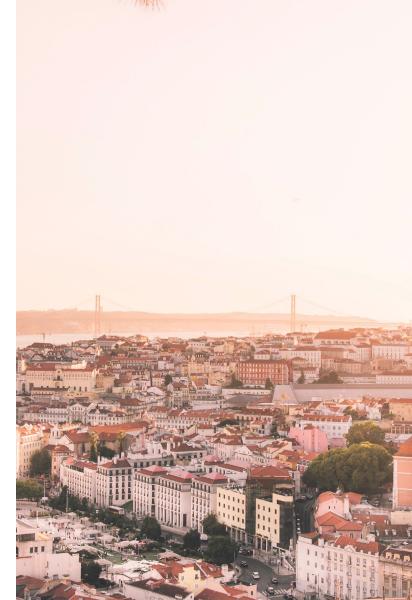
What other city does Lisbon remind you of?		



What song(s) does Lisbon remind you of?



If you were to recommend your favorite miradouro (viewpoint) to a friend, which one would it be?



Of all your friends, who would appreciate this city most? Would you like to send him/her a postcard?



If you had a disposable camera with only 24 photos, where would you use them?	
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How long should you stay in Lisbon to get to know the city?	



If you were to move to Lisbon, how long would it take you to learn Portuguese?		
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What's the difference between a Portuguese and a Brazilian?	



How do you make a great pastel de nata? What's the recipe, and what's the secret ingredient?



What's your second impression of Lisbon?		
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What's the nicest written word that you've seer in the street?			en
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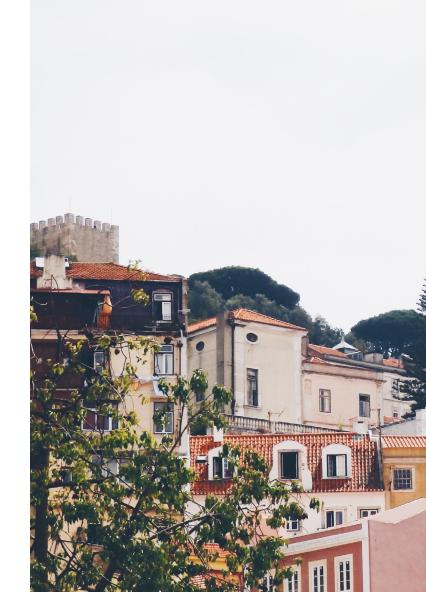
If the local government were to ask you to redesign the city's flag, what colors would you use? Could you draw it right here?



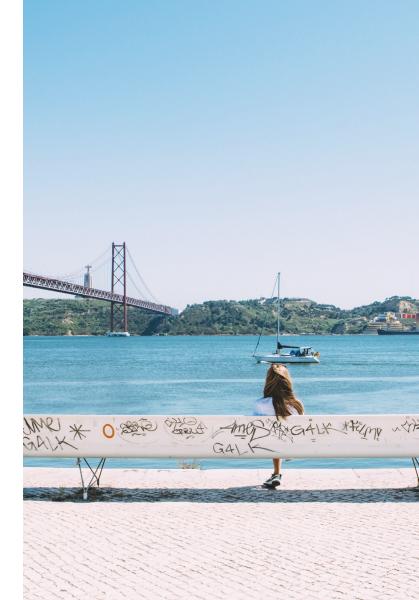
What's the Portuguese translation of your favorite word?



What's currently your favorite song/earworm? Does it fit your feelings toward this city?	



What is certainly worth its price in Lisbon?					



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

