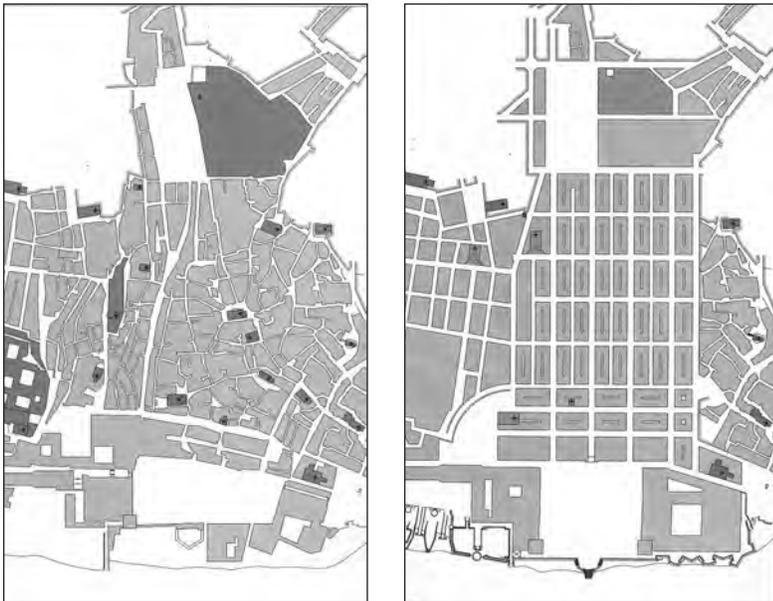**Baixa Pombalina**

The Pombaline Lower Town (Baixa Pombalina or simply Baixa - Portuguese pronunciation: *bayxha pombahlinah*) area covers about 235,620 square metres of central Lisbon. It comprises the grid of streets north of the Praça do Comércio (Commerce Square), roughly between the Cais do Sodré (Sodre's Pier) and the Alfama district beneath the Lisbon Castle, and extends northwards towards the Rossio and Figueira squares and the Avenida da Liberdade, a tree-lined boulevard noted for its tailoring shops and cafes.

The Baixa Pombalina is an elegant district, primarily constructed after the 1755 Lisbon earthquake. It takes its name from Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo, 1st Marquis of Pombal, the Prime Minister to Joseph I of Portugal from 1750 to 1777 and key figure of The Enlightenment in Portugal, who took the lead in ordering the rebuilding of Lisbon after the 1755 earthquake. The Marquis of Pombal imposed strict conditions on rebuilding the city, and the current grid pattern strongly differs from the organic streetplan that characterised the district before the Earthquake. However, the plan respected the old pattern through placing the major open spaces in approximately the same locations and by incresing the connectivity between them, such as the connection between the Praça do Comércio (south) and the Rossio (north).

The Pombaline Baixa is one of the first examples of earthquake-resistant construction. Architectural models were tested by having troops march around them to simulate an earthquake. Notable features of Pombaline structures include the 'Pombaline cage', a symmetrical wood-lattice framework aimed at distributing earthquake force, and inter-terrace walls that are built higher than roof timbers to reduce fire contagion.

It was placed on Portugal's "tentative list" of potential World Heritage Sites on 7 December 2004, which declares it superior to the planned areas in Edinburgh, Turin and London; in particular, the submission states that the plans for the reconstruction of London after the Great Fire in 1666 "does not implement overall principles" like those achieved in the Pombaline. All the buildings in this distric followed strict design guidelines which give the streets a uniform and elegant overall appeal. Most streets there have been pedestrianized, generating a pedestrian-friendly environment which is completed with street fairs, vendors, and restaurant seatings.The major axis of the Baixa terminates with a monumental arch leading into the Praça do Comércio, a space of superior urban design quality. The square has its southern side open to the Tejo River and similarly designed elegant baroque buildings with pedestrian arcades defining the other sides.

Images of the Baixa showing the monumental arch leading to the Praca do Comercio and the pedestrian arcade around the plaza.

Plans of the Baixa before (left) and after the earthquake.

Rossio

The Rossio, located in the Pombaline Downtown, has been one of its main squares since the Middle Ages. The current name of the Rossio pays hommage to Pedro IV, King of Portugal as well as first Emperor of Brasil (as Pedro I). His bronze statue is seen on top of a column in the middle of the square. The Rossio became an important place in the city during the 13th and 14th centuries, when the population of the city expanded to the lower area surrounding the Lisbon Castle hill. The name "rossio" is roughly equivalent to the word "commons" in English, and refers to a commonly owned terrain.

It has been the setting of popular revolts and celebrations, bullfights and executions, and a popular meeting place. Some of the cafés and shops of the square date from the 18th century, like the Café Nicola, where poet Manuel Maria Barbosa du Bocage used to meet friends. Other traditional shops include the Pastelaria Suíça and the Ginjinha, where the typical Lisbon spirit (Ginjinha) can be tasted. The building of the Maria II Theatre and the Public Gardens to the north of the square only made the area more attended by Lisbon high society in the 19th century. Nowadays it is constantly populated by Lisboners and tourists.

Around 1450, the Palace of Estaus, destined to house foreign dignataries and noblemen visiting Lisbon, was built on the north side of the square. After the Inquisition was installed in Lisbon, the Palace of Estaus became its seat, and the Rossio was frequently used as setting for public executions. The first auto-da-fé took place in 1540.

In 1492, King John II ordered the building of one of the most important civil and charitative infrastructures in old Lisbon, the All-Saints Royal Hospital (Hospital Real de Todos os Santos). The Hospital was finished in 1504, during the reign of King Manuel I, and occupied the whole eastern side of the square. Old pictures show the façade of the Hospital to consist of a long building with an arched gallery. The portal to the chapel of the Hospital, facing the Rossio, had a magnificent façade in manueline style.

Near the northeastern corner of the square, in the neighbouring Praça Santo Domingo, is located the Palace of the Almadas, recognisable by its early 18th century red façade. In 1640, this Palace was the meeting point of Portuguese noblemen who conspired against Spain and led to the independence of Portugal from Spanish rule. The building is also called the Palace of the Independence for this reason. Another important building is the Praça Santo Domingo is the Convent of Santo Domingo which was established in the 13th century.Their church was greatly damaged by the 1755 Earthquake and was rebuilt in baroque style; its façade dominates the small St Domingo square.

Most buildings around the Rossio date from the reconstruction of the Pombaline Downtown after the great 1755 Lisbon Earthquake, which levelled most structures in the area, including the magnificent All-Saints Hospital. Only the Palace of the Independence survived the catastrophic earthquake. The rebuilding of the Rossio was undertaken in the second half of the 18th century by architects Eugenio dos Santos and Carlos Mardel, responsible for the typical Pombaline appearance of the buildings around the square.

From the Pombaline reconstruction dates the Bandeira Arch (Arco da Bandeira), a building at the south side of the square with a baroque pediment and a big arch that communicates the Rossio with the Sapateiros Street. The Rossio became linked to the other main square of the city, the Praça do Comércio, by two straight streets: the Áurea and the Augusta Streets.

After a fire in 1836, the old Inquisition Palace was destroyed. Thanks to the efforts of writer Almeida Garrett, it was decided to build a theatre in its place. The Teatro Nacional D. Maria II, built in the 1840s, was designed by the Italian Fortunato Lodi in neoclassical style. A statue of the renaissance Portuguese playwright Gil Vicente is located over the pediment of the theatre. Ironically, some of Gil Vicente's plays had been censured by the Inquisition back in the 16th century.

Left: General view of the Rossio square.

Below: The Rossio Train Station.

In the 19th century the Rossio was paved with typical Portuguese mosaic (done with small colored granite cobble stones) and was adorned with bronze fountains imported from France. The column with the statue of King Pedro IV was erected in 1874. At this time the square received its current official name, never accepted by the people.

Between 1886 and 1887 another important landmark was built in the square: the Rossio Train Station (Estação de Caminhos de Ferro do Rossio). The station was formerly known as Estação Central (Central Station) and that designation still appears in its façade.It was commissioned by the Portuguese Royal Railway Company and was designed between 1886 and 1887 by Portuguese architect José Luís Monteiro. It was built in one the most important squares of Lisbon, the Rossio, and connected the city to the region of Sintra Trains gain access to the station, which is in the central urban area of Lisbon, through a tunnel which is more than 2600m long. This tunnel was excavated under the city and is considered one of the most important works of engineering of Portugal dating from the 19th century. It was completed in 1890, and soon after Lisbon's Circle Line with a connection to the North Line also opened. The station became Lisbon's main passenger terminus until 1957, from that date only a few long distance trains terminated at Rossio, mainly Oeste Line services, until the early 1990s.

The beautiful Neo-Manueline façade dominates the northwest side of the square and is a Romantic recreation of the exuberant Manueline style, typical of early 16th century Portugal. Its most interesting features are the two intertwined horseshoe portals at the entrance, the clock in a small turret and the abundant sculptural decoration. Inside, the platforms are connected by ramps to the façade level and are covered by a cast-iron structure executed by a Belgium firm. The station is an important example of Romantic (façade) and Cast-iron (platform cover) architecture in Portugal. Beside the station there is a Beaux-Arts style building, the Hotel Avenida, opened in 1892 and also designed by José Luís Monteiro.

Castelo de São Jorge

The Castle of São Jorge (Portuguese: Castelo de São Jorge; Portuguese pronunciation: *kasteloh dhe saoh jorgi*) is a moorish castle that occupies a commanding position overlooking the city of Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, and the broad Tagus River (Portuguese: Rio Tejo) beyond. The strongly-fortified citadel, which, in its present configuration, dates from medieval times, is located atop the highest hill in the historic center of the city. The castle is one of the main historical and touristic sites of Lisbon.

Although the first fortifications on this Lisbon hilltop are known to be no older than the second century BC, archaeological research has shown that humans have occupied the site since the sixth century BC, and possibly earlier. The hill was employed in early times by indigenous Celtic tribes, and others, probably Phoenicians, Greeks, and Carthaginians, have also left their cultural footprints there. Afterwards, Roman, Suebic, Visigothic, and Moorish settlers lived where the castle now stands.

In the context of the Christian Reconquista, the castle and the city of Lisbon were won from the Moors by King Afonso Henriques with the help of northern-European crusaders associated with the Second Crusade. (The Siege of Lisbon, which took place in 1147, was the only notable success of that failed crusade.) According to an oft-repeated legend, the knight, Martim Moniz, noticed that one of the doors to the castle was open, and he prevented the Moors from closing the door again by throwing his own body into the breach. He sacrificed his life but, in doing so, allowed Christian soldiers to enter.

Ownership of the castle helped Lisbon to protect itself against the Moors during the last years of the twelfth century. When Lisbon became the capital of the kingdom, in 1255, the castle became the royal palace, the Alcáçova. It was extensively renovated around 1300 by King Dinis I. Between 1373 and 1375, a new city wall was built around Lisbon (locally, called the Cerca Nova or the Fernandina) by King Ferdinand I, of which some remnants survive. This wall, which partially replaced the old Moorish walls, was designed to encircle previously-unprotected parts of the city. It had 77 towers and a perimeter of 5400 metres, and it was completed in only two years. The castle and the city resisted the Castilian army several times during the 14th century, notably in 1373 and in 1383–4.

View of the Castelo Sao Jorge with the Alfama neighborhood in fhe foreground.

At about this time, in the late 14th century, the castle was dedicated to Saint George by João I, who had married the English princess, Philippa of Lancaster. George, the warrior-saint, usually represented fighting a dragon, was popular in both countries. From the 14th to the early 16th century, one of the towers (the Torre de Ulisses or Torre Albarrã) of the castle housed the archives of the kingdom. For that reason, the National Archive of Portugal is still called the Torre do Tombo, that is, the Tower of the Archive. Eminent chroniclers like Fernão Lopes and Damião de Góis worked there.

As the royal palace, the castle was the setting for the reception of the navigator and hero, Vasco da Gama, when he returned after discovering a maritime route to India. King Manuel I received him there, in 1498, with all appropriate honors and celebrations. Also in the castle, the pioneering playwright, Gil Vicente, staged, in 1502, his Monólogo do Vaqueiro, to honour the birth of Manuel I's son and heir, the future João III.

During the early 16th century, as Manuel I built a new royal palace on the edge of the Tagus river (the so-called Ribeira Palace), the old castle began to lose importance. An earthquake in 1531 damaged the castle, and this only contributed to further decay and neglect. In 1569, King Sebastian ordered the rebuilding of the royal apartments in the castle of São Jorge, because he intended to use it as his residence. However, this project was never completed. Starting in 1580, when a Portuguese dynastic crisis opened the door to sixty years of Spanish rule, the castle was used as a barracks and a prison.

The great 1755 Lisbon earthquake severely damaged the castle and contributed to its degradation. Inspired by the horrendous trauma of the earthquake, in 1788, the first geodesic observatory in Portugal was assembled at the top of one of the towers of the castle; it is called the Torre do Observatório. From 1780 to 1807, the charitable institution Casa Pia, dedicated to the education of poor children, was established in the citadel.

The castle's period of neglect ended in the 1940s, when an extensive renovation was undertaken. Most of the incongruous structures added to the castle compound in earlier centuries were demolished. The castle then became a big tourist attraction, known especially for the wonderful views of Lisbon that it offers.

The castle's blueprint is roughly square in shape, and it was originally encircled by a wall, to form a citadel. The castle complex consists of the castle itself (the castelejo), some ancillary buildings (including the ruins of the royal palace), gardens, and a large terraced square from which an impressive panorama of Lisbon is visible. The main entrance to the citadel is a 19th-century gate surmounted by the coat-of-arms of Portugal, the name of Queen Maria II, and the date, 1846. This gate permits access to the main square (Praça d'Armas), which is decorated with old cannons and a bronze statue of Afonso Henriques, the Portuguese monarch who took the castle from the Moors. This statue is a copy of the 19th-century original by the romantic sculptor, António Soares dos Reis, which is located near Guimarães Castle in central Portugal.

The remnants of the royal palace are located near the main square, but all that is left are some walls and a few rebuilt rooms like the Casa Ogival. It now hosts the Olissipónia, a multimedia show about the history of Lisbon. The medieval castle is located toward the northwest corner of the citadel, at its highest point. Hypothetically, during a siege, if attackers managed to enter the citadel, the castle was the last stronghold, the last place available to take refuge. It is rectangular in shape, and it has a total of ten towers. A wall with a tower and a connecting door, divides the castle courtyard into halves. A series of stairways allow visitors to reach the walkway atop the wall and the towers, from which magnificent views of Lisbon can be enjoyed. The Tower of Ulysses (where the Torre do Tombo archive used to be) now has a periscope that allow tourists to have a 360-degree view of the city.

Apart from its main walls, the castle is protected, on its southern and eastern sides, by a barbican (barbacã), a low wall that prevented siege engines from approaching the main castle walls. The northern and western sides of the castle, on the other hand, were naturally protected by the steep hillside sloping downward from the castle's foundations. The castle is also partially encircled by a moat, now dry. The main entrance is fronted by a stone bridge across the moat. On the west side, there is a long curtain wall extending downhill, ending at a tower (the Torre de Couraça). This tower served to control the valley below, and it could also be used to escape, in case the castle was taken by enemies.

Alfama

Alfama (Portuguese pronunciation: alphamah]) is the oldest district of Lisbon, spreading on the slope between the Castle of Lisbon and the Tejo river. Its name comes from the Arabic Al-hamma, meaning fountains or baths. It contains many important historical attractions, with many Fado bars and restaurants.

During the times of Moorish domination, Alfama constituted the whole of the city, which later spread to the West (Baixa neighbourhood). Alfama became inhabited by the fishermen and the poor, and its condition as the neighbourhood of the poor continues to this day. The great 1755 Lisbon Earthquake did not destroy the Alfama, which has remained a picturesque labyrinth of narrow streets and small squares. Lately the neighbourhood has been invigorated with the renovation of the

Left: Partisl view of the Alfama.

Below: One of the narrow medieval streets.

The Alfama is connected to the Baixa by a street car.

The Centro Cultural de Belem, *a cultural center that holds art exibits and events. The roof has a nice garden and cafe with views to the River Tejo.*

The Torre de Belem, *only 100 yards away from the Cultural Center by the River Tejo.*

old houses and new restaurants where Fado - Portuguese typical melancholy music - can be enjoyed.

Overlooking the Alfama is the mediaeval Castle of São Jorge, royal residence until the early 16th century and now offering the best views of the city. In the slopes of Alfama there are other terraces (miradouros) from which to see the city, like the Miradouro de Santa Luzia, near the church of the same name and over remnants of the Moorish city walls, and the Miradouro das Portas do Sol (Gates of the Sun). Near Miradouro of Santa Luzia is located the Museum of Decorative Arts (Museu de Artes Decorativas), a 17th century mansion with magnificent interiors.

Among the churches of the Alfama are Lisbon Cathedral (12th-14th centuries), the oldest of the city and located to the West of the neighbourhood, the Convent of the Grace (Convento da Graça, 18th century), near the Castle, the mannerist Monastery of São Vicente de Fora (late 16th-18th century), where the Kings of the House of Braganza are buried, and the baroque Church of Santa Engrácia (17th century), now converted into a National Pantheon for important Portuguese personalities.

Belém Cultural Centre

The Belém Cultural Centre (its title translated into English) (CCB - Centro Cultural de Belém), located in the Belém quarter of Lisbon, is the largest building with cultural facilities in Portugal. CCB includes very complex areas such as an auditorium for opera, ballet, symphony concerts and congresses, high security meeting halls, and a 7,000 m² exhibition area. Also located in CCB is the Jacques Delors European Information Centre.

The Belém Cultural Centre has 140,000 m² of construction area and was prepared in a very short period (1989-1992). The client of the project was the Portuguese State through the Secretaria de Estado da Cultura (State Agency for Culture). Completed in 1992, it occupies a total of 100,000 m² and is the work of architects Vittorio Gregotti and Manuel Salgado; the interior was planned by Daciano Costa. The building won the International Stone Architecture Award at the Verona Fair in 1993, and hosted important events like the summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Torre de Belem

The Torre de Belem is a beautiful and original monument, unrivalled in the whole world. Its harmonious and distinctive shape is sharply outlined against the sky and the water of the River Tagus, and the delicate decoration of its stone suggests to those who feast their eyes upon it the appearance of a finely carved jewel. It was, however, seen differently by those living at the time of its construction, for whom the tower was a formidable and fearsome defensive fortress at the entrance to the river estuary, which was the function that its founder D. Manuel I had intended for it.

As happens with the nearby Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, the memories evoked by the Torre de Belem are associated with the era of the Discoveries. Belem is an area that is full of memories from Portuguese history, for it was also from here that Gago Coutinho and Sacadura Cabral took off in their sea plane Lusitania in 1922, heading for Rio de Janeiro to complete the first ever air crossing of the South Atlantic. The tower was built on a basalt island located close to the right bank of the Tagus, opposite the beach at Restelo, but, with the progressive southward creeping of the shore over the years, it is now practically ''moored'' to the bank itself. Construction began in 1514 under the supervision of the architect Francisco de Arruda. By 1520, it was complete, and ever since then it has remained for posterity as one of the world's most beautiful examples of military architecture. 49

The Torre dc Belem was an essential part of the defensive system for the mouth of the River Tagus, providing crossfire with the fortress of Sao Sebastiao da Caparica on the south bank. It consists of a quadrangular tower reminiscent of the keeps of mediaeval castles and a polygonal bastion, itself a fine example of the period's advanced defensive technology, being designed to support heavy artillery, with embrasures shaped rather like hatchways reaching almost to sea level.

The sentry posts on each corner of the bastion are crowned by melon domes, denoting the influence of the style that was used in fortifications in Morocco, where Francisco de Arruda worked and certainly sought inspiration. Apart from these oriental features, the predominant decoration used in the tower is Manueline, as seen in the stone rope that encircles it, the heraldic motifs and even the famous rhinoceros, the first sculpted stone representation of this animal in Europe. The tower's most decorative side is the one facing south. Along this runs the loggia, with its finely carved limestone balustrade. Above the loggia are the shield of D. Manuel I and the armillary spheres. On the wall of the small cloister built into the terrace of the bastion is an 18th century statue of the Virgin and Child, Our Lady of Safe Homecoming, crowned by a canopy.

Once inside the tower, which is composed of several rooms, it is well worth making the effort to climb up to the top storey, from where you will be rewarded with a remarkable panoramic view that takes in the wide river estuary and the western part of the city of Lisbon, all of which is so evocative of' this period in Portuguese history

Bairros Alvalade and Areeiro - Neighborhoods

Both neighbourhoods, Alvalade and Areeiro are the result of the Portugal's "Estado Novo" dictatorship from the mid 1930s, and the ideas to tackle growth and low income housing in Lisbon. President Duarte Pacheco's "development politics" were part of the planned expansions in order to respond to habitation problems within the city and to enable the de-centralization of services and population to the periphery. The project was realized in expropriated terrains with a strong public and municipal control, taking advantage of an area in between main traffic axis and railway. Each of the two neighbourhoods was designed in different moments. Areeiro was planned in 1938, for 9000 inhabitants, with 2680 dwelling in 32 hectares. The first stage of construction started in 1940 and the second stage started in 1948. Alvalade was planned in 1945. This larger plan was designed for 45 000 inhabitants, in 12 000 dwellings located in an area of 230 hectares.

Views of Bairro Alvalade. Mixed-use tower blocks marking a corner (top), and mixed use walkups (lower)

 In 1948 Alvalade was already partially built. Both neighbourhoods were meant to relocate the incoming inhabitants from precarious areas of the city center, like the area of "Martim Moniz". The latter was demolished in the beginning of the 40's but the Faria da Costa plan destined for this neighbourhood was never implemented. To manage the articulation of the new urbanized areas with the pre-existing urban tissue was a well achieved goal. The space continuity - of which the most refined example is the connection between Alvalade, Areeiro and Avenidas (adjacent neighbourhood from the beginning of the 20th century) – synthesized in one single extension between the axis of two previously existing main avenues (Avenida da República and Avenida Almirante de Reis), that before were defined as two different city sectors with opposed sociocultural standards. This synthesis could be framed in the "corporative spirit" to conciliate different social status, dominant in the contemporary political ideology.

The introduction of innovative modern urban forms is evident and only in a very general way, is the neighbourhood similar to other reticulated neighbourhoods of Lisbon. The main difference resides in the application of the adapted neighbourhood unit concept. The acceptance of a new multifunctional urbanized area through this project helped to reverse the "zoning" tendency that kept on being accentuated in the expansions of the city since the end of the 19th century.

Views of Bairro Areeiro showing the mxed-use tower blocks.

EXPO 1998

The Expo '98 (1998 Lisbon World Exposition) was an official specialised World's Fair held in Lisbon, Portugal from May 22 to September 30, 1998. The theme of the fair was "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future," chosen in part to commemorate 500 years of Portuguese discoveries. The Expo received around 11 million visitors in 132 days, while 155 countries and organizations were represented.

The idea to organize a World's Fair in Portugal originated in 1989 between two Portuguese, António Taurino Mega Ferreira and Vasco Graça Moura, who were in charge of organizing the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's arrival in India in 1498. Once Government support was obtained, Ferreira led the bid at the Bureau of International Expositions, which in 1992 declared Lisbon the winner, against the other contender Toronto, Canada. The state company Parque Expo was formed to make the Fair a self-sustaining event, with revenue coming from admission tickets and, especially, sales of real estate and parcel lots at the Expo's site.

The area chosen for the exposition was a 5 kilometres (3.1 mi)-wide strip that covered 50 hectares (0.19 sq mi) in Lisbon's east-end alongside the Tagus river. Expo '98 was fully built from scratch. Every building was pre-sold for after-Expo repurposing thus ensuring that, after the Expo closed, the site would not be left semi-abandoned, as had happened with previous expos, particularly Seville Expo '92. To support the expected influx of visitors, an extensive access program was devised, including:

- a new bridge across the river, the Vasco da Gama Bridge (then the longest in Europe)
- a new line along the Lisbon Metro, with seven stations (five of which were ready for opening day)
- a new multi-modal transportation terminal, Gare do Oriente (Orient Station), featuring trains, metro, buses, and taxis, designed by world-famous architect Santiago Calatrava.

Expo '98 opened on 22 May 1998 with 141 countries and 14 international organizations featured in individual pavilions: almost every exhibitor respected the Expo's theme "The Oceans: A Heritage for the Future". There were additional thematic pavilions dedicated to Water, Sea Knowledge, Virtual Reality (paid), Future, Oceans, and Oceanophilia; and exhibitions: "Leonardo Da Vinci@expo98 - La Dinamica dell'Acqua", "Roads of the Porcelain", and "Shells and Man". Additional attractions included: a 15,000-seat Utopia Pavilion with a resident theatrical show, Camões Theater, nautical exhibition, Garcia de Orta tropical gardens, Swatch Pavilion, "World of Coca-Cola" exhibition, Expo Adrenalin, 120 metre-tall observation tower (paid), funicular (paid), and the nightly water-show "Acqua Matrix".

One of the five major theme pavilions at Lisbon's Expo 98, the Utopia Pavilion was among the most popular. Reflecting the Exposition's overall theme of "The Oceans: a Heritage for the Future" and designed by the renowned François Confino and Philippe Genty, the pavilion featured a large-scale multimedia spectacle that presented the oceans as stimulators of imagery, taking visitors on a voyage from the creation of the world to the present day. Combining traditional stage technology with highly innovative special effects and mechanical controls, gsmprjct intégration handled all of the logistics and technical direction for the project. Housed in a custom-built covered stadium with a seating capacity of 10,000, the show was performed over 500 times, making it the first time that a World's Fair show was staged for over 3 million people.

1 - Portuguese Pavilion
2 - Ceremonial Plaza
3 - Knowledge of de Seas Pavilion
4 - Pavilion of The Future
5 - Water Gardens/Vitalis Park
6 - Oceans Pavilion
7 - Press Centre
8 - Utopia Pavilion (Multipurpose)
9 - North International Area
10 - South International Area
11 - International Organizations Area
12 - National Organizations Area
13 - Pavilion Macao
14 - Sea Entrance
15 - North Entrance
16 - Sun Entrance
17 - Oriente Station
18 - Central Services Area
19 - VIP Entrance
20 - Tagus Entrance
21 - Parking
22 - Olivais Dock
23 - Sony Plaza
24 - Dock Amphitheatre
25 - Garcia da Orta Gardens
26 - Vasco da Gama Tower
27 - Restaurants, Shops e Services
28 - Camões Theatre/Jules Verne Auditorium
29 - Portugal Telecom Pavilion/Voyage to Oceania
30 - Floating Restaurants
31 - Nautical Exhibition
32 - Service Entrance
33 - Nautical Exhibition Support Building
34 - Swatch Pavilion
35 - Unicer/Water Pavilion

The Oceania Virtual Reality Pavilion was the biggest hit of Lisbon's Expo 98, attracting over half a million visitors in a four-month period. Despite being the only pavilion at Expo 98 that required an additional admission fee, people spent hours waiting in line for this breathtaking 30-minute thrill ride that made use of seamlessly integrated simulators, virtual reality visors, and interactive projections. The payoff was a ride in a 45-person simulated submarine with a 70mm film, a 3D stereoscopic viewing system with custom content, and custom-designed motion simulators. The ride simulated a voyage to an underwater base where visitors discovered the ruins of a lost civilization and encountered a sea monster before escaping back to the surface in Teleport capsules.

The Oceans Pavilion, built to be the Lisbon Oceanarium after the Expo closed, had the longest lines. Other popular pavilions, with lines of up to five hours on busier days, included Portugal (by architect Álvaro Siza Vieira), Spain, Sweden, Germany, and Virtual Reality.

Total number of visitors reached 10,128,204, for a duration of 132 days. Expo '98 closed its doors on 30 September 1998. The site remained closed until February 1999, when it reopened as Parque das Nações (English: Park of the Nations), a free-access park, keeping the gardens, Oceanarium (Europe's then largest aquarium), observation tower, funicular, and the Virtual Reality pavilion. Other buildings were re-purposed for the opening, including:

- the main entrance (Porta do Sol or Sun Door), converted to Centro Vasco da Gama, a regional shopping mall.
- the main exhibition pavilions, converted to Feira Internacional de Lisboa (Lisbon International Exhibition Fair).
- Utopia Pavilion, converted to Pavilhão Atlântico, Lisbon's main multi-purpose indoor arena.
- Knowledge of the Seas Pavilion, converted to Knowledge Pavilion, a hands-on science museum.
- Future Pavilion was converted to a bowling alley but was subsequently demolished, and the site is now the Casino Lisboa.

Within Parque das Nações, every building or vacant parcel lot was sold for office or living space, to offset the Expo's costs. The Virtual Reality Pavilion is currently scheduled for demolition. The area today is thriving, modern, stylish, and safe, attracting 18 million tourists a year to its gardens, museums, commercial areas and modern buildings. It has also become permanent residency for up to 25,000 people and one of Lisbon's premier business centers, with many multinational corporations basing their headquarters in its main avenue.

Parque Expo has lived beyond Expo '98, not just being still the manager of Parque das Nações but, having acquired the know-how in urban conversion and planning, sells its advising and consultancy services to other cities around the world.

The pavillion of the Oceans.

The aquarium.

The cable car was a popular attraction.

Orient Station is a multi-modal transit station (bus, metro, train) built for the Expo that continues to serve the district. Designed by famous architect Santiago Calatrava.

Cascais (town near Lisbon)

Cascais is a coastal town in Cascais Municipality in Portugal, 30 kilometres west of Lisbon, with about 35,000 residents, and it one of the richest municipalities in Portugal. Nowadays, it is a popular vacation spot for both Portuguese and foreign tourists. It is located in the Estoril Coast (named after Estoril, a civil parish), in the Greater Lisbon subregion. It is easily reached from Lisbon by car or by frequent inexpensive commuter trains. It has the ruins of a castle, an art and sea museum, as well as parks and the charming cobbled streets of the historic centre. Cascais is surrounded by popular beaches, such as Guincho Beach to the west, and the lush Sintra mountains to the north. Some of its shoreline is cliff-y, attracting tourists for its seascapes and other natural sights such as the Boca do Inferno.

The town has many hotels and tourist apartments as well as many good restaurants of varying cost. It is a fine base to use for those visiting Lisbon and its environs who prefer to stay outside of the city yet in an equally urban and sophisticated environment. It is also becoming a popular golf destination, with over 10 golf courses nearby. Surfing, sailing, windsurfing, and kitesurfing are also popular in the region around Cascais due to favourable weather, wind, and sea conditions. This former fishing village gained fame as a resort for Portugal's royal family in the late 19th century and early 20th century.

Cascais originated in the 12th century, and depending administratively on the town of Sintra, located to the north. In its humble beginnings, Cascais lived from the products of the sea and land, but already in the 13th century, its fish production served the capital Lisbon, located nearby. During the 14th century, the population increased to the outside of the walls of its castle. Its prosperity led to the administrative independence from Sintra in 1364. The village and its surroundings were owned by a feudal lord; the most famous of them was João das Regras (died 1404), a lawyer and professor of the University of Lisbon that was involved in the ascension of King John I to power as the first King of the House of Aviz. Since the Middle Ages, Cascais lived from fishing, maritime commerce (it was a stop for ships sailing to Lisbon), and from agriculture, producing wine, olive oil, cereals, and fruits. Due to its location close to the Tagus estuary, it was also seen as a strategic post in the defence of Lisbon. Around 1488, King John II built a small fortress in the village, located by the sea. This medieval fortress was not enough to repel the invasion and in 1580, Spanish troops led by the Duque of Alba took the village during the conflict that led to the union of the Portuguese and Spanish crowns. The fortress was enlarged towards the end of the 16th century by King Philip I (Philip II of Spain), turning it into a typical renaissance citadel with the characteristic flat profile and star-shaped floorplan. Various fortresses were built on the coast around Cascais during the 17th century, and many of them still exist. In 1755, the great Lisbon earthquake destroyed a large portion of the village. Around 1774, the Marquis of Pombal, prime-minister of King José I, took protective measures for the commercialisation of the wine of Carcavelos and established the Royal Factory of Wool in the village, which existed until the early 19th century. During the invasion of Portugal by Napoleonic troops in 1807, the citadel of Cascais was occupied by the French, with General Junot staying some time in the village.

This situation of decadence started to change when King Luís II decided to turn the citadel of Cascais into his summer residence. From 1870 to 1908, the Royal Family came to Cascais to enjoy the sea, turning the somnolent fishing village into a cosmopolitan address. The citadel gained electric light in 1878, the first in the country, thanks to King Luís. The village gained better roads to Lisbon and Sintra, a casino, a bullfight ring, a sport club, and improvements in the basic infrastructure for the population. The railway arrived in 1889. Many noble families built beautiful mansions in Cascais, as can still be seen in the centre and surroundings of the town. In 1896, King

Carlos I, a lover of all maritime activities, installed in the citadel the first oceanographic laboratory in Portugal. The King himself led a total of 12 scientific expeditions to the coast, only ended in 1908 with his assassination in Lisbon.

Another important step in the touristic development of the area was given in the first half of the 20th century in neighbouring Estoril, in which a casino was built and the infrastructure for luxury vacations was created around Monte Estoril. Due to Portugal's neutrality in World War II and the town's elegance and royal past, Cascais became home to many of the exiled royal families of Europe, including those of Spain, Italy, Hungary and Bulgaria. Nowadays, Cascais and its surroundings are a famous vacation spot for the Portuguese and foreigners, aiming at both the "jet-set" and normal tourism, who seek to enjoy its beaches.

Sintra (town near Lisbon)

A town in Sintra Municipality in Portugal, located in the Grande Lisboa subregion and the Lisbon Region. The town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site on account of its 19th century Romantic architecture. It has a population of c. 33,000 inhabitants. Sintra has become a major tourist attraction, with many day-trippers visiting from nearby Lisbon.

Attractions include the fabulous Pena Palace (19th c.) and the castle Castelo dos Mouros (8th or 9th century, reconstructed in the 19th century) with a breath-taking view of the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park, and the summer residence of the kings of Portugal Palácio Nacional de Sintra (largely 15th/16th century), in the town itself. The Sintra Mountain Range, one of the largest parks in the Lisbon area, (Serra de Sintra) is also a major tourist attraction. In 1809 Lord Byron wrote to his friend Francis Hodgson, "I must just observe that the village of Cintra in Estremadura is the most beautiful in the world."

The town was already described in the 11th century by the Arab geographer Al-Bacr and later by the poets Luís de Camões and Lord Byron (Childe Harold's Pilgrimage - 1809). The Moors built the Castelo dos Mouros in the 8th or 9th century. When Afonso Henriques recaptured Sintra in 1147, he ordered the construction of a church (Igreja de São Pedro de Canaferrim) inside the castle walls. In 1493, Christopher Columbus sailing for the Spanish crown, was blown off course by gale force winds and fearing for the survival of his ship, spotted the Rock of Sintra. Despite the awkwardness of seeking safe harbor in Portugal, Columbus had no choice under the circumstances and sailed from there into the Port of Lisbon. In 1507, Diogo Boitac built the Hieronymite monastery of Nossa Senhora da Pena on the nearby hilltop. In 1527 king Manuel I commissioned to Nicolau Chanterene the large, white marble and alabaster altarpiece for the chapel. This retable is his finest work. In 1808, it was the site of the signing of the controversial Convention of Sintra, which ended the first French invasion of Portugal.

In 1995 Sintra was designated World Heritage Site for the "Cultural Landscape of Sintra". It includes:
- Quinta da Regaleira including the Palace and the Chapel
- Pena National Palace
- Sintra National Palace
- Monserrate Palace
- Seteais Palace
- Castle of the Moors (Castelo dos Mouros)

Óbidos (town near Lisbon)

Town in Portugal of approximately 3,100 inhabitants and municipal seat of the municipality of Óbidos, located in the Oeste Subregion, of the historical district of Leiria, in Portugal. The area of the town of Óbidos is located on a hilltop, encircled by a fortified wall, but divided between the two parishes of São Pedro and Santa Maria in the municipality of Óbidos. It remains a well-preserved example of medieval architecture; its streets, squares, walls and its castle are a popular tourist destination.

The name "Óbidos" probably derives from the Latin term oppidum, meaning "citadel", or "fortified city". Roman occupation of the area was confirmed by archaeological excavations, revealing the existence of a Roman city civitas near the hilltop on which the village and castle were established. This Roman settlement is most certainly the mysterious Eburobrittium[1], cited by Pliny the Elder as situated between Collipo (near present-day Leiria) and Olisipo (Lisbon). Archeological surveys determined the remains of a forum, baths and other Roman structures near the settlement.