

Lisbon and Sintra Portugal & Regent Explorer

Portugal and Lisbon November 19 – 24:

Portugal is a very friendly place with so much history and so much art everywhere. We walked 24 miles in 3.5 days. We hired a private guide to show us the street art of Lisbon and another driver to show us Sintra Portugal where there are marvelous castles and palaces. The street art was absolutely amazing. Some of it was commissioned and famous artists did the work. We used a private guide who was just excellent. Our hotel was at the base of the Castle in the Alfama district, just perfect. Our room (204) was great, the restaurant a 5* and the staff were all so helpful. One day was very rainy, so we toured the Lisbon Oceanarium (<https://www.oceanario.pt/en/>), which was just excellent.

Our Hotel (We HIGHLY recommend it):

Santiago De Alfama

Rua de Santiago 10 a 14, 1100-494 Lisboa

21 394 1616

<http://www.santiagodealfama.com/santiago-de-alfama>

Our Guide for Street Art and Fado Music:

- Nuno Lopes de Paula (Getlostgolocal.com)
- He knows the history of the artworks and the sponsors and artists.
- Most important is that he teaches the history of the works and what they represent.
- His energy is endless and enthusiasm infections.
- If you are in Lisbon – Hire him!

Restaurants we liked:

- Hotel restaurant: **Audrey's Café** where we enjoyed great prawns and lamb.
 - Small menu and will custom cook whatever you ask for.
- **da Adraga**
 - <http://www.restaurantedaadraga.com>
 - On the water in Sintra with fabulous fish.
- **Esperança da se**
 - Rua Sao Joao da Praca 103 | Alfama, Lisbon 1100-519, Portugal
 - Italian restaurant with great Pizza and salads. Wine was wonderful and very inexpensive (from the Dora).

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Overview of the Regent Seven Seas Explorer:

The ship is a wonderful vessel with large computer-controlled stabilizers (think Humpback whale flippers) that prevent almost the entire roll in high seas (there is still some pitch). Our concierge level stateroom was spacious and had more storage space than we could fill. The bathroom was large and had drawers and shelf space to hold anything we could bring. We liked having 2 sinks, a tub and a shower. Having the laundry right down the hall was very convenient. The food was amazing at each of the restaurants. The pools were heated and well used. Bob enjoyed the lectures, and we found the evening entertainment to be mostly excellent. The best was Jeri Sager of "Cats" fame who was absolutely stellar. We met so many wonderful people on the ship.

Stops on the Cruise:

Madera: Funchal is a lovely town, which sure felt like Portugal in the architecture and paver stones.

São Miguel, Azores

We hired a private driver, Pedro Ferreira, who took us on a tour of Azores island São Miguel, Azores starting at Ponta Delgada and including to the amazingly beautiful blue and green lakes Lagoa Azul and Lagoa Verde. We enjoyed lunch in the town of Ribeira Grande "Restaurante O Silva" that was just excellent.

Azores Island Faial starting at Horta: It was foggy and rainy all day, but this island is so green and beautiful, even in the rain. Like San Miguel, this island has more cows than people.

Bermuda: It was a lovely, sunny day and took a very interesting taxi guided tour up to Hamilton and back, learning the history of the islands and the architecture. Then we wandered the pottery shops near the port, finding one that was very well done with great glazes.