

Travel guide

Sobreda

Almada

Costa da Caparica

Lisboa

Portugal

Almada

Our City Council



Almada is the city council our school belongs to. It is situated on the south bank of the river Tagus (the biggest river of the Iberian Peninsula) and next to the Atlantic Ocean.

The name of our city has its origin in the Arabic word المعدن (al-ma'adan), which means - the mine. This is due to gold mines explored by the Arabs when they dominated the Iberian Peninsula.



Sanctuary of Cristo Rei

Cristo Rei Sanctuary is one of the most iconic monuments in Lisbon.

The Statue of Christ stands high above the southern banks of the Tagus river. The monument was inaugurated in 1959 and it is still nowadays an important pilgrim destination in Portugal.

The statue of Cristo Rei is very similar to the Christ Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which was the first one to be built.

Parque da Paz

This beautiful park is located in the city of Almada. Peace Park (Parque da Paz) is the largest urban park in the municipality of Almada (50 hectares). It has an extensive network of paths, ponds and a vast wooded area. It represents a leisure space with 50 hectares of meadows, extensive lawns and paths that wind around a lake. It is considered the great lung of the city and it allows the population to enjoy a wide space and to meet nature in the big city.



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The City Hall

The City Hall (Paços do Concelho) belonged to the suburbs of the medieval town. It was constructed in the 18th century and it is related with the local administrative council power.



Medieval Museum of Almada

It is a museum created on the excavation site of houses from the medieval time. It congregates some archaeological artifacts gathered during excavation.

Garden of the Castle of Almada

The Castle of Almada goes back to the medieval time, having been destroyed by the Arabs in a battle with the Portuguese forces. Portuguese as winners in the battle restored the castle to its original state. The Castle gardens were created in the surroundings of the castle. The sightseeing points in the gardens offer privileged views over the river Tagus and the medieval quarters of Lisbon.



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Panoramic elevator of the Mouth of the Wind – Almada

The Elevator of the Mouth of the Wind connects the uptown or Old Almada to downtown and it leads the way to the edges of the Tagus river. From the panoramic interior of the elevator we can observe Lisbon and the estuary of the Tagus river.



Cerca House



Casa da Cerca was acquired by the City Hall of Almada in 1988 and it was transformed into a Centre of Contemporary Art in 1993. The first exhibition showed the work of the Portuguese painter, Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso.

In 2001, the Soil of the Arts- Botanical Garden was inaugurated. It aims to articulate the scientific and artistic source from a project inspired by the Portuguese traditional garden.

It includes the greenhouse and an outdoors amphitheater, it has also areas, where a great diversity of plants grow inspiring the plastic arts.

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Zagallos Manor

Zagallos Manor (Solar dos Zagallos) is situated in Sobreda.

It began to be built in the 17th century and it was at the time a property from the Zagallos family.

Nowadays it belongs to the municipality of Almada and it is a space where numerous cultural activities take place throughout the year.

The main building, the gardens and the three chapels preserve a vast collection of tiles, covering three centuries of tile history in Portugal.



25th April bridge

The **25 de Abril Bridge** (25th of April Bridge) is a suspension bridge connecting the city of Lisbon, capital of Portugal, to the municipality of Almada on the left (south) bank of the Tagus river. It has a total length of 2,277 metres.

It was inaugurated on the 6th August 1966.

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Museu do Oriente

Museu do Oriente, gathers collections that have the Orient as main theme, in the historical, religious, anthropological and artistic aspects. The Portuguese presence in Asian Collection consists of more than 2,000 artistic and documentary objects of different typologies, such as furniture, ivory, textiles, sacred art, porcelain, painting, sculpture, and graphic documents.

Belém riverside

Along the Tagus riverside we can find several points of cultural and historical interest to visit. In the area of Belém are installed some of the most beautiful and emblematic national monuments that tell us about the beginning of the Portuguese maritime expansion, with its 16th century buildings, such as Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, Torre de Belém and Padrão dos Descobrimentos.

There are several gardens in the same area that offer a pleasant contact with nature.

It is also possible to taste the world wide famous portuguese custard tarts-*pastéis de nata*.



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Mosteiro dos Jerónimos

The Jerónimos Monastery was built in the 16th century. The construction of the monastery and the church began with King Manuel I in 1501 and was completed 100 years later. It was built with the money that came from the profits of the pepper trade.

The Jerónimos Monastery was once populated by monks of the Order of St Jerome, whose spiritual job for four centuries was to comfort sailors and pray for the king's soul. When the order was dissolved in 1833, the monastery was used as a school and orphanage until about 1940.



It is considered an Unesco World Heritage Site .

Museu dos Coches



The Coach Museum gathers a collection of gala and tour cars from the 16th to the 19th centuries, mostly from the Portuguese Royal House. It allows the understanding of the technical and artistic evolution of the means of transport of animal traction, used by the European courts until the appearance of the automobile.

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Torre de Belém



Torre de Belém is a fortified tower on the bank of the Tagus River.

The tower was built in the early 16th century and it is a great example of the Portuguese Manuelino style. The architect was Francisco de Arruda

It was built on a small island in the Tagus River next to Lisbon shore. At that time the fortress was very important for the protection of Lisbon, because of its location and it was also a ceremonial gateway to enter Lisbon.

It's a Unesco Heritage Site and it was considered one of the Seven Wonders of Portugal in 2017.

Padrão dos Descobrimentos

The Discoveries Monument is an iconic monument located on the bank of the River Tagus. It was built in 1940.

The structure is dedicated to the adventurers and explorers who helped to establish Portugal as a 15th century superpower.

On the monument there are 33 figures related to the Portuguese maritime travels. On the ground there is a compass rose in which we can see the routes of the Portuguese discoveries.

Padrão dos Descobrimentos is 56 meters high and 20 meters wide.



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Alfama

Alfama is one of the oldest districts of Lisbon, and it is amazing to walk by the narrow streets and ancient houses.



Alfama became inhabited by the fishermen and the poor, and its condition as the neighbourhood of the poor continues to this day.

Alfama is a labyrinth of streets and it is best explored by simply getting lost in it. Around every corner or steep climb is a delightful tiny plaza, unique shop, funky café or a wonderful viewpoint.

Castelo de São Jorge

Saint George Castle is a Moorish castle. The strong walls and towers are from the medieval period of Portuguese history, in the 10th century. It was very important when the Christian forces defended Lisbon in the 12th century. When Lisbon became the capital of the kingdom in the 13th century, the castle was a fortified residence of Afonso III, the governor. In the 14th century, King John I married the English princess Philippa of Lancaster and dedicated the castle to Saint George, a warrior-saint.



From the castle we can see the historic centre of Lisbon and the Tagus river and it is one of the main touristic sites of Lisbon.

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Miradouro de Santa Luzia

This is one of the most romantic places in Lisbon. It's a terrace next to a small church of the same name, offering a beautiful panoramic view over Lisbon and the Tagus river. .



We can see The dome of the National Pantheon, Santo Estêvão Church and São Miguel Church.

At the centre there is a bougainvillea garden and two tile panels, one illustrating St. George's Castle being taken over from the Moors in the 12th century, and the other showing “Praça do Comércio” before its destruction by the earthquake of 1755.

Other small tiles with geometric shapes cover the walls of the terrace.

Sé de Lisboa

The Lisbon Cathedral “ Sé” de Lisboa is a Roman Catholic church .

It was the first religious building in the 12th century by the first king of Portugal, Afonso Henriques.

The architect of the Lisbon Cathedral was Mestre Roberto.

“Sé” has been modified several times and survived many earthquakes.

The monument has massive solid walls, two imposing clock towers and several archetypal styles, especially the Romanesque.



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Ribeira das Naus

Ribeira das Naus is a place in Central Lisbon which currently has touristic functions and in the past it was a place where many of the Portuguese explorers' ships were built.

Although swimming is not allowed, this is considered the "beach" of central Lisbon. From this place people can sit and admire the scenery.



Terreiro do Paço

Terreiro do Paço, also known as The Trade Square, is one of the largest squares in Europe.

It is located in Lisbon downtown, in front of the Tagus River, near the "Cais das Colunas".

This place was the Royal Palace of Portugal for two centuries and it was destroyed during the earthquake of 1755.

In the centre of the square, we can see the, 14m high, bronze equestrian statue of the King José I.

This beautiful square was built in 1775 by Joaquim Machado de Castro, the main Portuguese sculptor of the 18th century.