

Lisbon's Family Favourites Celebrated Ahead of World Youth Day



From L-R: Cascais beaches, Castelo de São Jorge, Oceanário de Lisboa. [Download all images here.](#)

28 June 2023, Chosen as the host destination for World Youth Day in August 2023, Lisbon will welcome young people from across the world as they head to the city to engage with the Pope. To mark the occasion, Visit Lisboa has picked out a wide range of attractions that make the city such an inspiring destination for families.

Oceanário de Lisboa

Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2023, Oceanário de Lisboa is one of the largest and most spectacular aquariums in Europe. Located in the futuristic district of Parque das Nações, it's home to a fantastic array of marine life with over 8,000 sea creatures and four different marine habitats offering a mesmerizing spectacle that will fascinate children for hours. New exhibitions this year include 'Forests Underwater' by legendary aquarist Takashi Amano, and 'ONE, the Ocean as you never felt it', which brings together incredible underwater images captured between mainland Portugal, the Azores and Madeira.

Pavilhão do Conhecimento (Pavilion of Knowledge)

Another favourite in Parque das Nações is the interactive Pavillion of Knowledge science and technology museum, which aims to make science accessible through exhibits and activities that encourage hands-on learning. Throughout July and August the museum is geared towards kids aged 6 to 12 with displays that include the Circus of Physics, which explores the science behind circus acts, and the Doing Workshop, with more than 500m² of space filled with Tinkering and Making activities that encourage kids to build, play and experiment.

Jardim Zoológico de Lisboa (Lisbon Zoo)

Lisbon Zoo is an impressive oasis of biodiversity in the heart of the city. Visitors can encounter over 2,000 animals of 300 species, ranging from giraffes to exotic birds and reptiles, with a large new savannah opened in 2023 for the resident African bush elephants. The zoo offers a host of engaging activities such as feeding pelicans, watching sea lions perform, or taking a cable car ride for aerial views. The commitment to conservation and education makes this more than just an enjoyable day out.



Tram 28

The iconic yellow Tram 28 is a vintage tramway that passes through many of Lisbon's most charming and oldest districts, including Graça, Alfama, Baixa, and Estrela, for a unique journey through the city's history. The ride gives families a fantastic and leisurely way of exploring Lisbon's rich tapestry of past and present, and passes highlights that include majestic Lisbon Cathedral and the hilltop Miradouro da Graça, for spectacular views of the city.

Belém District

Family-friendly attractions in the historic district of Belém transport families back to Portugal's Age of Discoveries, with the 16th century Belém Tower that protected the city from naval attack, and nearby Jerónimos Monastery, an architectural masterpiece, particularly gasp-inducing. For hungry explorers, the famous Pastéis de Belém bakery serves Lisbon's renowned custard tarts that are still made using the original, secret recipe.

Castelo de São Jorge

Perched on the highest hill in the Alfama district, Castelo de São Jorge is a captivating medieval fortress with sweeping views of Lisbon. While parents appreciate the history, children can explore the Camera Obscura, enjoy the gardens, or meet the resident peacocks. The castle's thrilling tales of knights and battles are sure to fire up the kids' imaginations.

Museu da Marioneta (Puppet Museum)

The Museu da Marioneta, located in the Convento das Bernardas in the historic district of Madragoa, is entirely dedicated to the history of puppets and puppet theatres. It houses a unique collection that covers everything from traditional Portuguese marionettes to complex Asian shadow puppets, with interactive displays that make it a hit with children.

Lisbon's coastal position makes it a perfect spot for beach-lovers, and there are lots of family-friendly beaches nearby. They include:

Carcavelos Beach

Carcavelos Beach is one of the most popular beaches near Lisbon, attracting families with its expansive sandy shore, calm waters, and numerous facilities. It is easily accessible by train from the city centre, making it an ideal choice for a day trip. Alongside swimming and sunbathing, families can hire surfboards and bodyboards.

Praia da Rainha (Queen's Beach)

Located in Cascais, a charming coastal town just a 40-minute train ride from Lisbon, Praia da Rainha is a small but beautiful beach tucked away between cliffs. Its clear waters are great for swimming, and the surrounding restaurants provide a convenient spot for lunch. The town of Cascais itself is worth exploring, with its lovely historic centre, marina, and the child-friendly Museum of the Sea.

Costa da Caparica



On the south bank of the Tagus River, Costa da Caparica boasts a long stretch of sandy beaches. It's popular with families and during the summer months a mini train service runs along the 8-km stretch of beach. Costa da Caparica can be reached from Lisbon by bus or ferry, adding to the sense of adventure.

For more information, ideas and inspiration on visiting Lisbon, please go to www.visitlisboa.com

-Ends-

Notes to editors

About Turismo de Lisboa

Turismo de Lisboa is a non-profit organisation established through an alliance of public and private bodies operating in the tourist sector. It has around 900 associated members. Since its inception in 1998, the main objective of this association is to improve and increase the promotion of Lisbon as a tourist destination and therefore enhance the quality and competitiveness of the city.

For media information and images, please contact Hume Whitehead Ltd:

Laura Boo (laura@humewhitehead.co.uk / 020 3375 4056 or 020 3375 4050)

Daniel Johnson (dan@humewhitehead.co.uk / 07429 256 670)