

## NEW LISBON ATTRACTIONS FOR CULTURE VULTURES

*Striking Museum for Art, Architecture and Technology is one of five new museums and exhibits this year*



**9<sup>th</sup> August 2016** – Lisbon’s cultural panorama is receiving a great boost in 2016, with a series of brand new museums and exhibitions reinforcing the Portuguese capital’s attractiveness to ‘culture vultures’. Here are the highlights for this year – and a preview of what’s coming up in 2017.

### NEW FOR 2016

#### **Striking Museum for Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT) opens in October**

Aiming to become Lisbon’s hot new cultural hub, the much-anticipated Museum for Art, Architecture and Technology (MAAT) will comprise two parts – a brand new ultramodern building together with the Tejo Power Station, an example of 20<sup>th</sup> century Portuguese industrial architecture – both located in the district of Belém, bordering the Tagus River. The Tejo Power Station opened for visitors last month with four exhibitions currently on display, while the new building is scheduled to open on 5<sup>th</sup> October. The striking new construction has been designed by Stirling Prize-winning British architect Amanda Levete.

[www.maat.pt](http://www.maat.pt)

#### **New Money Museum opens in the grounds of former church**

The fascinating history of money and its relationship with society is what Lisbon’s new Money Museum is all about. The museum, which opened in April in the heart of the city, uses numismatics and notaphily collections of the Bank of Portugal to give visitors an educational experience on the evolution of money in the country and around the world. Located in the former Church of St. Julian, the interactive museum is also home to the only known archaeological remains of Lisbon’s 13<sup>th</sup> century wall – which were revealed during the renovation works.

[www.museudodinheiro.pt](http://www.museudodinheiro.pt)



### **New floor and never-seen-before exhibits at the National Museum of Ancient Art**

The National Museum of Ancient Art (NMAA) opened a new floor dedicated to Portuguese art this month. Comprising 16 rooms and displaying over 240 paintings and sculptures (some of them never exhibited before), two of the 'jewels' on display are the 'Panels of St. Vincent', from Portuguese artist Nuno Gonçalves, and 'The Adoration of the Magi', from Domingos Sequeira, acquired recently through an unprecedented fundraising campaign. The NMAA is home to the country's most important Portuguese public collection of art, ranging from paintings and sculpture to gold and silverware, as well as decorative arts from Europe, Africa and the Far East.

[www.museudearteantiga.pt](http://www.museudearteantiga.pt)

### **Maritime Museum reopens its 'Discoveries Room' after extensive refurbishment**

Following a complete refurbishment, Lisbon's Maritime Museum re-opened one of its most popular rooms for visitors in May. Upgraded with interactive features, the new-look 'Discoveries Room' recounts the role Portugal played in the Age of Discovery, which began in 1498 when explorer Vasco da Gama set off from Lisbon in search of the sea route to India. Located next to the UNESCO-listed Mosteiro dos Jerónimos, the museum houses a colossal collection of 17,000 items that celebrate Portugal's special connection with the sea, varying from paintings and maps to model ships and two ceremonial barges.

<http://ccm.marinha.pt/pt/museu>

### **New temporary exhibition puts Lisbon's relationship with fire in the spotlight**

Although Lisbon's catastrophic earthquake of 1755 has been well documented, not many people know that the city has been affected by numerous fires throughout its history. This lesser-known fact is being explored in a new temporary exhibition by the National Coach Museum. Running until April 2017, the exhibition displays a wide sample of fire engines and equipment from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The museum's recently opened extension won the prestigious CICA Architecture Prize last year, and has one of the world's largest collections of historical carriages belonging to the Portuguese royal family and nobility.

[www.museudoscoches.pt](http://www.museudoscoches.pt)

### **COMING UP IN 2017**

- **Jewish Museum:** The Jewish Museum, dedicated to the history of Judaism in Portugal, is scheduled to open in the first half of 2017. The museum will be located in Moorish Alfama, the city's oldest neighbourhood and an important Jewish quarter in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Francisco Fino Gallery:** After five years hosting exhibitions in different spaces across Lisbon, the Francisco Fino Gallery will 'settle' into a permanent location in 2017. The art gallery positions itself as a space of dialogue for artists, curators and art aficionados.



- **‘Multifunctional space’ for Hospital do Desterro:** Lisbon’s former Hospital do Desterro will be transformed into a “new experimental space open to the world.” The former hospital will be home to restaurants, shops, accommodation units and much more.

For more information, ideas and inspiration on visiting Lisbon please go to [www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com).

From the UK, direct flights to Lisbon operate from London, Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Bristol with TAP Portugal, British Airways, easyJet, Ryanair and Monarch. From Ireland, direct flights to Lisbon operate from Dublin with Aer Lingus and Ryanair.

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#### **About Lisbon**

Portugal’s national capital, Lisbon, boasts one of the longest histories, warmest climates and bustling nightlife of any major European city alongside its dramatic location sprawled along seven hills overlooking the river Tagus and the country’s west coast. Famed for its year-round sunshine and beauty, Lisbon’s grand architecture dazzles and its old-world charm mingles with chic streets, galleries, lively nightlife and a centre which gives way to sandy beaches just minutes away. It is also one of the most affordable capitals in Europe, perfect for a captivating city break or short haul escape.

[www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com)

#### **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 over 800 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.