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Out of Sight, Out of Town

How to escape Lisbon this season

By Patricia Cintra

(/portugal/out-of-sight-out-of-town)

The Presidential via Website (<http://www.thepresidentialtrain.com/>)

If you are anything like us, you prefer going on vacation at the end of summer, to escape the madding crowd (and score some better deals). Nonetheless, we are always on the lookout for weekend escapes during high season. So if you are planning a weekend away from the city, look no further: From serene havens to deluxe rural estates, we've compiled a selection of accommodation and activities to do outside of Lisbon. Happy (short) travels!

The Literary Man



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(<http://www.savoteur.com/world/en/>)



via Website (<http://www.theliteraryman.pt/>)

Once upon a time, in the small village of Óbidos, a man decided to convert a monastery into a hotel/book store. And this is how this quaint literary hotel was born. Stay for a night or five in the former sleeping chambers of devout nuns, grab a book from the well-stocked bookshelves in the cellar (the hotel has a collection of over 45,000 titles) and relax. The Literary Man (<http://www.theliteraryman.pt/>) book collection includes pretty much everything: philosophy, gastronomy, health, travel, sports, landscapes. Even better? The hotel organizes literary dinners at its restaurant and also has a literary gin bar. So go ahead, take a sip of a Lolita (Amaretto Sour) while reading a noir novel. It will be one for the books.

Where: Rua D. João d`Ornelas, 2510 - 074, Óbidos - Leiria

Six Senses Douro Valley



via Website (<http://www.sixsenses.com/resorts/douro-valley/destination>)

☰ If you have to abandon the city just for a weekend, then you better do it right. Head to the magnificent World Heritage site of the Douro Valley and stay at the high-end Six Senses Douro Valley

(<http://www.sixsenses.com/resorts/douro-valley/destination>) resort. This renovated 19th-century manor sits on a hill overlooking the nearby hills and the Douro river. The expansive complex offers a plethora of rooms, suites and villas, a spa, several restaurants, a wine library and swimming pools. You'll return to Lisbon feeling brand new.

Where: Quinta de Vale Abraão, Samodães, 5100-758, Lamego, Portugal

The Presidential



via Website (<http://www.thepresidentialtrain.com/>)

If you are thinking about discovering the Douro valley, why not combine your love for good food with your love for travel? The Presidential (<http://www.thepresidentialtrain.com/>) team's offering is simple, yet irresistible: Travel and eat on board a presidential train while taking in the views of this romantic region. And with a fine dining experience curated and crafted by the Michelin-awarded Vila Joya restaurant (<http://www.vilajoya.com/en/cuisine/2-michelin-star-restaurant/>), you probably won't want to head back home. Just make sure to tell them.

Where: Book online (<http://www.thepresidentialtrain.com/>)

When: The next ride is scheduled for fall but you have to book in advance!

São Lourenço do Barrocal



via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/saolourencodobarrocal/>)

One other excellent way to escape the hustle and bustle of the city? Drive to the Alentejo region. More precisely to São Lourenço do Barrocal (<https://barrocal.pt>), a vast estate where reconnecting with nature is their mission — and it's exactly what you'll need; a few days in a quiet and peaceful environment. Renovated with the goal to promote the local community and the traditional way of life, the farming estate, spanning over 700 acres, is surrounded by olive trees and vineyards. Leave your tech gadgets in your room, walk around and breathe some fresh air. You will feel rejuvenated in an instant.

Where: São Lourenço do Barrocal, 7200-177, Monsaraz, Portugal

How: Book at reservations@barrocal.pt or by phone at +351 266 247 140

Solar Egas Moniz



via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/solaregasmoniz>)

This charming, family-run guest house is your go-to rural escape in the vicinity of Penafiel. The rustic-chic building has an outdoor pool, a wine cellar and a library. Come rest in the inviting, comfy sofas at the

☰ lounge after a walk in the countryside and you'll realize that Solar Egas Moniz manor (<http://solaregasmoniz.com/?lang=en/>) is ideal for both a romantic getaway or for a family gathering. Or, you know, for when you want to spend some quality time with yourself. 🔍

Where: Rua dos Monges Beneditinos, n.º 158, Paço de Sousa, 4560-380, Penafiel, Portugal

Pascoalini Geladeria



via Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pascoalini.geladaria>)

If going away for a few days is not an option right now, we have another suggestion: Why don't you spend the day in Santarém? Located only 65 km away from Lisbon, it is perfect for a day trip. Stroll around the gothic city center, visit Sá da Bandeira square (<http://godiscoverportugal.com/sa-da-bandeira-square/>) and the many churches the city has, but make sure to visit [Pascoalini](https://www.facebook.com/pascoalini.geladaria/timeline) (<https://www.facebook.com/pascoalini.geladaria/timeline>). This traditional ice cream shop offers a variety of innovative and unique ice-cream flavors that perfectly showcase the flavor palette of the region. Fancy an Azambuja tomato sorbet or a craft Bolina beer ice cream? If you veer towards more traditional flavors, Pascoalini also has a range of regional options like the 'Strawberry from the Farms of Almeirim,' the 'Melon from Almeirim' or the 'Figo Almostrer.' Who knew you could travel that far with just a scoop?

Where: Avenida Madre Andaluz 19A, 2000-210, Santarém

When: Mon.- Sat., from 8 a.m.-7.30 p.m.



By Patricia Cintra

Patricia, a journalist, believes that life is full of secrets. She travels around the world (and Portugal) to discover and share them with the Savoteur team. She grew up in Algarve but has lived in Lisbon for what feels like her whole life.



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A Joyride Through the Past



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