

# THOUSANDS OF WINTERING WADERS AND WATERFOWL FLOCK TO LISBON

*Birdwatchers rejoice as Lisbon prepares for the annual bird migration*



24 October 2017 – In November, Lisbon will become a birdwatchers' paradise when thousands of waterbirds migrate to the Tagus estuary, Portugal's largest wetland and one of the most important in Europe. Every year, over 120,000 waders, waterfowl and other aquatic birds from northern Europe arrive to enjoy the mild climate along the tranquil mouth of the Tagus River, some resting before continuing south and others staying throughout the winter.

Among the autumn visitors are thousands of Greater Flamingos, making a stunning spectacle, but these are not the only guests, with herons, stilts, geese and many others all arriving during this period. And while November through to January are the best months to spot migrating birds, an area bird list that includes over 250 species makes this a year-round destination for bird lovers.

Covering over 14,000 hectares and less than half an hour's drive from the centre of Lisbon, the Tagus estuary is also a nature reserve aimed at protecting wintering and breeding populations of aquatic birds. A good starting point for visitors is a trip to the [EVOA](#) – the Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area - with hidden trails and hides that are strategically located for birdwatching, and a visitor centre with exhibitions and interactive learning activities. Entry is €12 per person and includes a guided birdwatching tour and access to the latest exhibition.

Visitors can enjoy birdwatching as a specialist short break or even as a day trip, during a city stay. There are several companies devoted to offering specialist birdwatching excursions, including:

- [Birds & Nature Tours](#) has half day (morning or afternoon) and full day guided tours of the Tagus estuary, which are available for €100 (half day) and €150 (full day) per person. The company also offers a 5-day itinerary, including guide fees, field guides, ground transport,



full programme of birdwatching at two wetlands, airport transfers and hotel accommodation, starting from €1,290 per person, based on two people sharing a room.

- [Estrela D'alva Tours](#) offer a unique perspective on birdwatching with water rides on board their river boat Rio-a-Dentro, which takes guests on a three to four-hour journey navigating the many intricate creeks and estuaries of the Tagus. Prices start from €95 per person, including a professional guide.

The estuary is not the only place to spot birds in Lisbon. Gulls and pallid swifts can be spotted in the districts of Belém and the Parque das Nações and from Cais do Sodré, one of the city's trendiest suburbs, large flocks of common starlings arrive and roost in the trees around the railway station.

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, Glasgow 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.

-ENDS-

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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