

## GO BIRDWATCHING... AS THOUSANDS OF WINTERING WADERS AND WATERFOWL ARRIVE AT LISBON'S TAGUS ESTUARY



**21<sup>st</sup> November 2014** – This month, thousands of waders will migrate to Lisbon's 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 settle in Lisbon to spend a milder winter along the tranquil Mouth of the Tagus River.

November – January is the best period for birdwatching enthusiasts to spot migrating birds. However, with an area bird list that includes over 250 species, such as Greater Flamingos, Black-shouldered Kites and Squacco Herons, The Tagus Estuary Nature Reserve is a year-round destination for nature lovers. Covering over 14,000 hectares, the Tagus estuary is not only the largest wetland in Western Europe but is also a nature reserve aimed at protecting wintering and breeding populations of aquatic birds.

Located less than half an hour's drive from the centre of Lisbon, birdwatching can either be enjoyed as a specialist short break or daytrip easily incorporated into a city stay. A good starting point for visitors is a trip to the [EVOA](#) – the Tagus Estuary Birdwatching and Conservation Area, formed of 70 hectares – which, as well as featuring hidden trails and hides strategically located for birdwatching, has a visitors' centre with exhibitions and interactive learning activities. Entry to the EVOA is €12 per person and includes a guided birdwatching tour and access to the latest exhibition.

There are also several companies devoted to offering specialist birdwatching excursions:

- [Birds & Nature Tours](#) has half day (morning or afternoon) and full day guided tours of the Tagus estuary starting from €90 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 €1,150 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 3-4 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.

Direct flights to Lisbon operate from London, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh and Bristol with TAP Portugal, BA, easyJet and Ryanair.

For more information on Lisbon please visit [www.visitlisboa.com](http://www.visitlisboa.com).

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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 Portugal'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 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 organization established through an alliance of public and private bodies operating in the tourist sector. It now has around 700 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.