

Lisbon

Where to stay

A Casa Das Janelas Com Vista

A small green door is all that marks this cool boutique hotel, nestled in Bairro Alto's labyrinthine alleys. Inside, a narrow staircase descends to an all-in-one living, dining and reception area, with its hotchpotch of quirky furnishings. Continental breakfast is served at a long communal table. Upstairs, the dozen bright rooms are



A Casa Das Janelas Com Vista

individually styled, with clean lines and fresh white linens. Most have tiny balconies with great river views. **Details** Doubles cost from €114 (£97) B&B (casadasjanelascomvista.com); 35 Rua Nova do Loureiro, Bairro Alto

The Independente

Old meets new at this grand, bohemian hotel on the outskirts of the hip Bairro Alto. Founded by four Lisbonite brothers, the Independente is half-luxury hostel — with triple-deck bunk beds in the dorms — and half-hotel. On the top floor there are four expansive suites with balconies. Each is bright and traditional, with antique furnishings. Its restaurant, the Decadente, is highly rated and a popular haunt of locals and tourists (booking is essential in the evenings). **Details** B&B suites cost from €103, a night in a nine-bed mixed dorm from €15 (theindependente.pt); 81 Rua Sao Pedro de Alcantara, Bairro Alto

Hotel Dom Carlos Liberty

With 59 rooms and a business hotel-style entrance, this is a good base for budget-conscious travellers, rather than those with an eye for cool interiors. The rooms are a decent size, with comfy beds and zippy internet. There's a small gym on the top floor — with views of the castle — and a lounge area with honesty bar. **Details** B&B doubles cost from €80 (hoteldomcarlosliberty.com); 13 Rua Alexandre Herculano, Marques de Pombal

Teatro B&B

Check into this glitzy, theatre-themed B&B near upmarket Chiado. Tucked



Praca do Comercio, Lisbon's largest plaza

GETTY IMAGES

Athens

Where to stay

Fresh Hotel

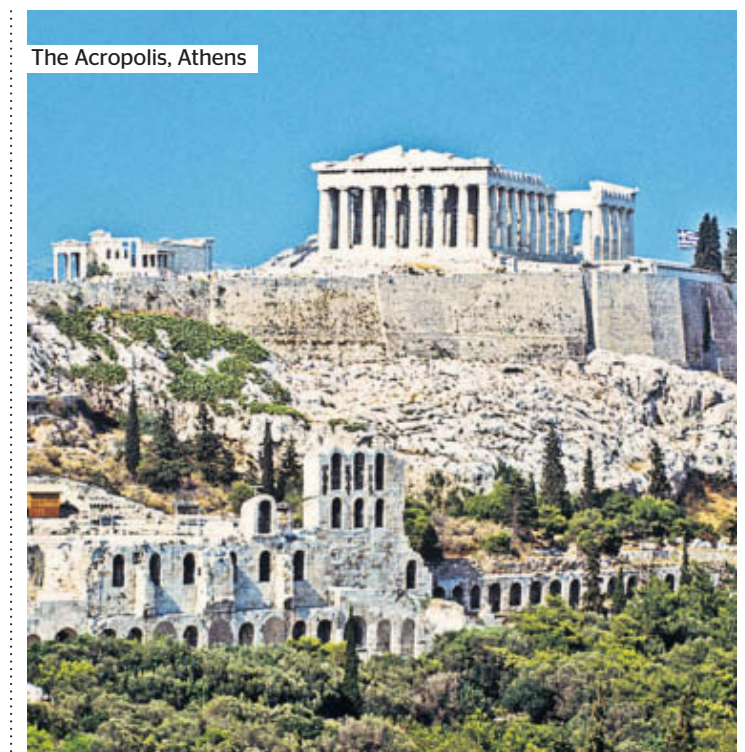
You can't miss the pink and aquamarine front of this member of the Design Hotels group. Fresh Hotel is in a bustling central neighbourhood with cheap fashion shops and market stalls. Expect furniture by Philippe Starck, Charles Eames and Zaha Hadid throughout. The rooftop bar and pool are supercool. **Details** B&B doubles cost from €100 (£86) (freshhotel.gr); 26 Sophocleous

Wyndham Grand

This towering 276-room hotel opened last December in the Metaxourgeio district to the north of the city centre (about a 20-minute walk from the Acropolis). Its highlight is the superb ninth-floor cocktail bar/restaurant



Wyndham Grand



The Acropolis, Athens

Where to eat in Athens

Karamanlidika

On a corner near busy food markets in the central district of Psiri, Karamanlidika serves wonderful Greek-Turkish food featuring fiery sausages and tasty cheeses (there's a deli to buy supplies) and is much loved by locals. My spicy sausage, egg and yoghurt starter was served sizzling in a copper dish. The taramasalata was first-rate and my main course of ham, egg and tomato was simply delicious. **Details** Three courses cost from €16 (karamanlidika.gr); 1 Sokratous Street

Estrella

Opened last November, Estrella is one of the city's hottest new restaurants. It's on a quiet street in the heart of the central Monastiraki district and specialises in brunches. I can highly recommend the smoked salmon with eggs on muffins with a side salad, as well as the sweet, moreish bougatsa croissant and cream pudding, and the super-spicy bloody marys. **Details** Two courses cost about €10 (no website); 24A Romvis

Mavro Provato

This is a hangout of actors, artists and writers on a tucked-away corner in the Pagrati residential district. The food is excellent, with small plates such as pasta with vegetables and a rich soy sauce, and veal in a red wine sauce. The owner has kept prices low (despite great popularity) out of respect for those suffering during recent tough economic times. Booking a table is advised. For a drink near by, check out the cool Chelsea Hotel bar on a corner of Varnava Square. **Details** Three courses cost from €15 (kamauroprovato.gr); 31 Arrianou

Café at the Acropolis Museum

This is a marvellous spot for lunch after seeing the Acropolis and checking out the fantastic Acropolis Museum. The terrace has sunshades and faces the citadel. Simple, tasty soups are €7, as are generously sized salads, while baked chickpeas with rosemary and smoked pork is €9. A glass of white wine is €4. **Details** Three courses cost about €20 (theacropolismuseum.gr); 15 Dionysiou Areopagitou Street



Estrella

Where to eat in Lisbon

Tapas-Bar 52

This cosy tapas bar on the fringes of Bairro Alto is popular with young local couples. The walls are decked with photographs of film stars (who the waiter, tongue in cheek, assures have visited). The bacalhau (salted cod) with rice and egg comes recommended. **Details** Tapas dishes cost about €6 each (00 351 213 432 389); 52 Rua Dom Pedro V, Bairro Alto

Time Out Market

Foodies rejoice: this place has more than 40 of Lisbon's best (and tastiest) restaurants under one roof. Opened in 2014, the huge market hall is already a Lisbon institution. Each restaurant has a small show kitchen, serving their most popular dishes. Try O Prego da Peixaria — one of the city's best-known restaurants — for Chilean beef sandwiches (€11.50). Other tips include the chef Henrique Sa Pessoa's namesake outlet and Monte Mar for seafood. **Details** Prices vary (timeoutmarket.com); Avenida 24 de Julho

Beira Gare

This joint is for the seriously thrifty. Expect no pleasantries as you elbow your way through the locals towards the bar (table service costs more). Order a bifana, a spicy pork bap prepared from one of the giant pots bubbling in the window. It's a Lisbon favourite and best wolfed down with mustard. A small beer comes unrequested. **Details** A bifana with small beer costs €3.50 (don't ask for a bill, just hand over the coins); Praça Dom Joao da Camara

Bonjardim

Forget Nando's, this is the place to try Portugal's favourite no-nonsense dish of peri peri chicken. In a side street just off Restauradores Square, this family-run restaurant has become so popular it inhabits three buildings. Half a chicken is yours for €5.50. Order some fries — sorry, "French potatoes" — and smother the chicken in the fiery glaze that is left on the tables in egg cups. **Details** Mains cost about €6 (00 351 213 424 389); 11 Travessa de Santo Antao

Queijaria Nacional

After a day ticking off Lisbon's central sights, head to Queijaria Nacional, a deli selling more than 30 varieties of cheese alongside cured sausages and black pig ham. A short stroll from Praça do Comercio, Lisbon's main plaza, the cute shop has a communal dining table at the front and a few more in a vaulted room at the back. Try the sharing boards, which make a great appetiser. **Details** The mixed board costs €18.50 (00 351 912 082 450); 8 Rua da Conceicao

away from the main thoroughfare, the hotel is a find in the notoriously expensive district. Everything here is OTT. The standard double rooms have baroque wall hangings and plush black furnishings, as well as huge arty headboards designed to resemble the velvet stage curtains at the theatre. **Details** Small B&B doubles cost from €83, standard B&B doubles from €88 (teatrobb.com); 36 Rua da Trindade, Chiado

their own kitchenette, living/dining area and separate bedroom. The standard bedrooms are bright and beautifully furnished. The highlight on a sunny day is the patio, a great place to relax with a book and a cold beer. The hotel provides free afternoon snacks. **Details** B&B doubles cost from €105, one-bedroom apartments from €125 (shiadu.com); 19 Travessa do Caldeira, Santa Catarina

By Ben Clatworthy

Ben Clatworthy was a guest of Visit Lisbon (visitlisboa.com) and TAP Airlines (flytap.com). TAP flies from Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester to Lisbon from £82 return

Casa do Patio

This small property in the old district of Santa Catarina was once occupied by monks, but has been converted into a chic hotel with four apartments and nine bedrooms. The apartments each have



Teatro B&B

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ABTA WINNER 2016

Tom Cheshyre was a guest of the Greek National Tourism Organisation (visitgreece.gr) and Easyjet, which has Gatwick-Athens flights from £46

Budget tip

Entrance to the Acropolis is free on Sundays from November 1 to March 31; usually the entry price is €10 in the winter (November 1 to March 31) and €20 in the summer.