

## Olá Lisbon!

For three full months, Jürgen and I would be living in Lisbon, Portugal's capital and the oldest city in Western Europe. This is a city which has become extremely fashionable among both tourists and expats in the past few years, and it's no wonder. Lisbon boasts a fascinating history, affordable way-of-life, eclectic culture, excellent cuisine, thousands of things to see and do... and a whole lot of hills.



The hills were our first challenge after arriving. Our apartment was found in the neighborhood of Mouraria, at the top of an alley so steep that it requires stairs: 77 of them, to be exact. Adding to the difficulty, the streets and sidewalks are all made up of uneven cobblestone, requiring us to carry our suitcases rather than roll them. And then there was the heat; this was an early afternoon in mid-November, and it was t-shirt weather: not suitcase-lugging, hill-climbing weather.