



LISBON
Photography Retreat

APRIL 18 - 23, 2027

Dearest Friend,

Welcome to our 2027 Lisbon Photography Retreat, created in partnership with Casa Erica Retreats and Lyndsay Almeida Photography. Together, we'll journey into a city built for the eye, from sunlit streets to maritime history carved in stone. With a camera in hand, you're invited to slow down and let your eye find its own rhythm here.

We'll be based in Príncipe Real, a leafy, bohemian pocket of Lisbon, staying at Casa de São Mamede, a small, family-run hotel inside a restored 17th-century townhouse just steps from hidden gardens and generations-old shops.

Each day will unfold like a frame waiting to be found, with quiet mornings across Lisbon's seven hills and meals in small, family-run spots. Lyndsay will weave in shooting sessions and image reviews, where camera and light open new doorways. We'll wind through Alfama's oldest streets, tour Belém Tower and the Jerónimos Monastery, chase light in Sintra's Quinta da Regaleira, and gather for an evening of fado, the soulful music the Portuguese call saudade.

In the stillness between shoots, as light shifts over rooftop and river, your own way of seeing begins to surface. Our hope is that you return home carrying not just photographs, but a lasting sense of rest, joy, and belonging.

Lyndsay and Heather





PLACES WE'LL SEE



LISBON

Portugal's capital, built across seven hills above the Tagus River, and the launching point for the Age of Discovery that once connected Europe to Africa, Asia, and the Americas. An iconic city with a fascinating history.



ALFAMA - LISBON'S OLD TOWN

Lisbon's oldest neighborhood, a charming maze of narrow cobblestone streets that survived the great earthquake of 1755 and still carries the layered history of Moorish, medieval, and modern Lisbon.



SINTRA

A fairy-tale town in the hills outside Lisbon, once served as the summer retreat of Portugal's kings, who built a collection of romantic palaces and gardens into the misty, forested landscape. Its historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



BELEM

The exact spot from where Portuguese ships of discovery once set sail. Belém Tower and the Jerónimos Monastery are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The neighborhood also has a cluster of world-class museums, quiet botanical gardens, and a wide, open stretch of riverfront.



PRÍNCIPE REAL

Once a 19th-century aristocratic garden district, it's now one of Lisbon's most beloved neighborhoods. A leafy, bohemian pocket of design shops, cute eateries, hidden gardens, and quiet elegance, where we'll call home for the week.



ITINERARY



DAY 1 April 18: Arrival in Príncipe Real

We're getting an early start this time. Land in the morning, settle in at Casa de São Mamede, and spend the day getting oriented around Príncipe Real, including a wander through Embaixada, the old Moorish palace turned shopping arcade full of small Portuguese designers. Sunset drinks at Park, a rooftop bar before heading back to Embaixada that evening for Real Fado, since Sundays mean live fado right there in the courtyard.

DAY 2 April 19: Alfama

We'll head into Alfama early, while the streets are quiet and the light's still doing that low golden thing through the alleys. Laundry overhead, worn tile facades, cats on the stairs. We'll ride tram 28, climb up to Miradouro das Portas do Sol for the view, then let everyone loose to wander and shoot for a while. Dinner and fado at Clube de Fado closes the night, an intimate room built around old stone columns.

DAY 3 April 20: Belém

Belém trades Alfama's tangle for big open sky. We'll start at the Jerónimos Monastery, where Lyndsay will spend real time with everyone on light and shadow across all that carved stone. From there, a walk to Belém Tower, with a required stop at Pastéis de Belém for the original pastel de nata, warm from the oven since 1837. We'll take the afternoon slow along the river before heading back.

DAY 4 April 21: Sintra

A full day up in the cool, green hills. We'll start at Quinta da Regaleira, spiraling down the mossy initiatic well, then head up to Pena Palace, which looks almost unreal against the hillside on a foggy morning. Travesseiros at Piriquita are non-negotiable. Lyndsay will point out how differently light behaves up here compared to the city, good to know if you want your Sintra photos to actually feel like Sintra.

DAY 5 April 22: Tile Painting and LX Factory

A change of pace: a hands-on azulejo tile painting workshop, so you can make the patterns instead of just photographing them. Then LX Factory, the old industrial complex turned creative hub, all raw brick, street art, and small shops (the Ler Devagar bookstore alone, with its three-story printing press, is worth the visit). We'll end with sunset drinks on the LX Hostel rooftop, one more good excuse to grab the camera before dinner.

DAY 6 April 23: Departure

One last easy morning in Príncipe Real before we say goodbye, coffee in hand, maybe a last look back through everyone's photos from the week. No rush, just a good final stretch before heading to the airport.

A note on flexibility: we may adjust the order of days, restaurants, or specific stops as we get closer to the trip - nothing that changes the heart of the experience, just details we fine-tune along the way.

❖ A BOUTIQUE, TAILORED EXPERIENCE ❖



LODGING

We'll be staying at Casa de São Mamede. It's a small, family-run hotel set in a beautifully restored 17th-century townhouse in Príncipe Real, one of our favorite corners of Lisbon.

Every room is a little different, decorated with real care rather than the usual hotel sameness, and the staff are dedicated to warm, personal service. There's a quiet library downstairs for anyone who wants a slow afternoon with a book.



EVENTS & ADMISSIONS

Admission to all events and activities on the itinerary is included.



MEALS

Breakfast is included daily, along with one additional meal each day.

We're staying in the heart of Lisbon, surrounded by wonderful small restaurants and cafés, so we've left room in the schedule for you to explore the neighborhood and discover a few favorites of your own.



TRANSPORTATION

All transportation while with the group is included.

Airport transfers while not with the group are not included, but they are all quick, inexpensive Uber or train rides.

\$4100 DOUBLE / \$4800 SINGLE

A non-refundable deposit is due upon registration.

The balance will be due in equal payments at 90 and 60 days before travel.

Please see the FAQ page for our cancellation policy.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare, trip insurance, and airport transfers
- Alcohol — including wine, beer, and cocktails





PHOTOGRAPHY

Learn the art of photography from Lyndsay Almeida, a talented lifestyle and travel photographer, storyteller, and content creator with over a decade of professional experience. With her signature mix of creativity and clarity, she'll share techniques to make the most of your cell phone camera - covering composition, lighting, and editing - and will guide even the most hesitant beginner to create photos they're proud of.

If you sometimes struggle to capture the moment on your phone, or if you own a digital camera and want insider tips to refine your skills, this trip is the perfect fit. We'll focus on learning with our phone cameras for ease and accessibility, but you're welcome to bring any camera you'd like.

Along the way, you'll also receive a complimentary headshot of yourself taken by Lyndsay, plus an e-book of lessons to revisit whenever you need inspiration.

Lyndsay will seamlessly weave photography lessons into each excursion, showing you how to tell stories through images while capturing the charm of our surroundings. She'll also share her favorite tips for photographing the true heart and spirit of any location you explore.



Lyndsay Almeida

Lyndsay has a passion for telling stories through images. She believes travel is one of the best ways to become a better photographer. Travel exposes you to diverse landscapes, cultures, and perspectives, and challenges you to capture new environments in unique and creative ways. With an eye for detail and a love for adventure, Lyndsay's work is characterized by a blend of natural light, vibrant colors, and authentic emotions. She is excited to invite you on this retreat to see the world from a fresh perspective, encouraging a deeper connection with the places we visit and the people we meet.

Lyndsay Almeida

✦ NEXT STEPS ✦

1

REGISTER

Click the link below to register for the retreat.

2

DEPOSIT & WAIVER

Shortly after you register, you'll receive an invoice for your deposit, along with an attached waiver to sign and return.

3

WELCOME PACKET

Once we receive your deposit and waiver, we'll send along our welcome packet — complete with important dates, a packing list, and travel tips.

4

BOOK YOUR FLIGHT

Use our travel agent or book your own flight into Lisbon.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

TRAVEL & TRANSFERS

Our time together will be in Lisbon.

If you're interested in a Porto extension, either at the beginning or end of our time, it's very easy to do. There are inexpensive direct flights between Lisbon and Porto several times daily, and direct daily flights between New York and Porto. Please inquire if you'd like assistance.



FAQ



What kind of photography is this?

This is a beginner-friendly photography retreat, and all of our lessons are based around smartphone photography. That said, if you'd like to bring a "real" camera, Lyndsay will be happy to work with you too, and you'll still learn a lot. If you've joined one of our previous photography retreats, the lessons will feel familiar, though set against a very different backdrop, so there's still plenty of new ground to cover.



What level of mobility is needed?

A moderate level of fitness and mobility. Lisbon is a hilly city, and we will be doing a fair amount of walking. That said, we'll also be using tuktuks and taxis throughout the week, so we won't be covering long distances on foot.



Can you help me with what to pack?

Absolutely, and this is one of our favorite parts of getting you ready for the trip. Once you register, you'll receive a full retreat handbook, including a detailed packing guide tailored to this itinerary. Past guests have told us it takes a lot of the guesswork (and pre-trip stress) out of packing, so keep an eye out for it.



How do I get to the hotel from the airport?

Uber is widely used and very reliable in Lisbon, and the ride from the airport to our hotel takes about 20 minutes. You're welcome to arrange this yourself, but if you'd rather not worry about it, just let us know and we'll be happy to set it up for you.



Tell me about our hotel.

We're staying at Casa de São Mamede, a small, family-run hotel set inside a beautifully restored 17th-century townhouse in Principe Real, one of Lisbon's most charming, walkable neighborhoods. It has a lot of old-world character (think high ceilings, tile work, and a grand staircase) paired with genuine warmth from the staff. It's the perfect home base for wandering the neighborhood and heading out to each day's adventures.



What's the weather like in April?

Lisbon in April is generally mild and pleasant, more spring than summer. Daytime highs typically run in the mid-60s, with cooler evenings in the 50s. Rain is possible but usually passes quickly, alternating with long sunny stretches. Layers are your best friend: a light jacket or sweater for mornings and evenings, and something breathable for midday.



We're on our own for one meal a day. How does that work?

We'll be together for lunch each day, which will be our main meal. The area of Lisbon where we're based has a wonderful variety of restaurants within just a few minutes' walk, so you'll have plenty of flexibility for dinner. If you're tired at the end of the day and want something simple, it's easy to pop out for a light bite or order takeout to your room. If you're in the mood for a longer, more gourmet meal, that's easily accessible too. And if you're traveling solo, you're more than welcome to join Lyndsay or Heather for dinner – we'd genuinely love the company.



Can you accommodate dietary restrictions?

Yes, we're able to accommodate most allergies and requests. If you have a severe food allergy, let's chat before you register, just so we can make sure you feel comfortable.



What's your cancellation policy?

- 120+ days before the trip: full refund (deposit excluded)
- 60–120 days before the trip: 50% refund of the total retreat cost
- Within 60 days of the retreat: no refunds available



What if I need help with travel planning, flights, or plans before or after the retreat?

Heather sets aside a limited number of travel-planning consultation spots for each retreat, to help with flights, pre- or post-trip extensions, and anything else you're working out. These are \$150/hour with a two-hour minimum, and they tend to book up quickly – so if you think you'd like help, please let Heather know as soon as possible to reserve a spot.

GALLERY

