



**Publication:** Mirror Online  
**Story Title:** Lisbon's glorious golfing coast strikes the right balance between city and sunshine breaks  
**Date:** 7 November  
**Circulation:** 46,558,736  
**Media Value:** £232,943 (329,963 Euros)

[OFFERS](#) [FANTASY](#) [BINGO](#) [DATING](#) [JOBS](#) [BUYSELL](#) [COMPETITIONS](#) [HOROSCOPES](#) [CARTOONS](#) [CROSSWORDS](#) [COOKIE POLICY](#)



I'm a Celebrity line-up and latest news >



**Mirror**  
WEBSITE OF THE YEAR



Our new FREE Mirror iOS app is here >

[Most read](#) [Videos](#) [Quizzes](#) [News](#) [Politics](#) [Football](#) [Sport](#) [Celebs](#) [TV & Film](#) [Weird News](#)




[TRENDING](#) [PARIS ATTACKS](#) [EAGLES OF DEATH METAL](#) [ISIS](#) [JIHADJI JOHN](#) [RONDA ROUSEY](#) [STORM ABIGAIL](#) [Technology](#) [Money](#) [Travel](#) [Fashion](#) [Mums](#)

[Lifestyle](#) [Travel](#) [Activity holidays](#)


## Lisbon's glorious golfing coast strikes the right balance between city and sunshine breaks

06:00, 7 NOV 2015    UPDATED 17:07, 15 NOV 2015    BY KEVIN PRICE


Kevin Price may have been golfing on the remotest edge of western Europe but he was still only a few minutes from buzzing capital Lisbon







193 SHARES



COMMENTS





**BID NOW ON RUGBY HISTORY**

- TEAM SIGNED JERSEYS
- SIGNED MATCH USED BALLS
- CAPTAINS SIGNED COLLECTION

**BUY NOW!**  
 Limited Edition  
 Exclusive 20 Union  
 Pin Badge Frame  
 Only £199.00

**RUGBY WORLD CUP 2015**  
 OFFICIAL LICENSED PRODUCT  
 TM © RWC Ltd 1996

Bidding starts as low as **£1.00**  
 Use Code: **RUGBY2015**  
 for free UK shipping

#### Next stop America: Cabo da Roca, Portugal

The golf instruction manuals tell you to clear your mind of everything other than: Picture the shot.

Which in plain English means: Don't think about the ocean to your right, the rough on your left or the bunkers up ahead. Grip it, rip it and imagine your **golf** ball landing on the green.

But as I stood over my shot with the Atlantic Ocean blowing gently in my face, the only thing I could picture was, er, Christopher Columbus on a small ship heading out to explore the New World.

That's right. The intrepid 15th century explorer who they made two dodgy movies about in the early 1990s.

There he was, stuck in my head, standing on his galleon steering a course for America, barking orders to his crew while being jeered by a horde of locals on the coast shouting: "You're going to fall off the edge, mate."

And that's all because someone happened to mention that the Oitavos Dunes golf course overlooks Portugal's Cabo da Roca, the most westerly point of continental Europe. Next stop, New York. For me, next stop the clubhouse and an analysis of my round.

Portugal is famed for its seafarers and its role in the Age of Discovery, when the Old World navigators headed out into the blue unknown – and you can see this iconic coastline from the ninth, 10th, 11th and 14th holes. It was enough to put me off course... on the course.

At least I was compensated by the spectacular Sintra mountains on one side and that damned Atlantic on the other.

Oitavos Dunes is a wonderfully natural links-style course with a landscape that could convince any visitor they were on a golfing coast in Ireland or Scotland. But the sun was shining, as it does most of the year, and I'd only left England three hours before.



Open venue: The Oitavos Dunes Golf Course in Cascais, near Lisbon

In contrast to the olde world charm of the golfing terrain, the ultra-modern Oitavos Hotel stands by the course like a giant glass TV studio. It's a wonderful 19th hole to enjoy elegant cuisine, a beer or a chilled white port, followed by a spa treatment to ease the pain of a bad round.

So that was the golfing highlight of day one of my Lisbon city break. That's right – a **city break**. It's a mere 25 minutes drive back to the centre.

Surrounded by such natural beauty, it's easy to think the golf courses here are way out in the Portuguese countryside. But that's the real beauty of a trip to the Lisbon golf coast... everything, everywhere is close by.

There's the big city buzz, the gastronomy and the luxury hotels and shops of Lisbon, one of Europe's most cosmopolitan cities. Or the laid-back charm of the historic and charming towns of Cascais and Sintra.

Indeed, the whole coastal area west of Lisbon is the antidote to the bitter holiday battle waged in homes up and down the country between golfers and their non-golfing partners.

The golfers want tee times, the non-golfer wants high tea. Greens or green parks.

Say Portugal to most golfers and they usually think of putting one foot in the Algarve. But there isn't a wealth of cultural activities for those who don't care much for sand, on or off, a golf course.

#### Haul



**DISNEYLAND PARIS**  
Feed your little film buff's Frozen obsession with a trip to meet the cast at Disneyland Paris



**FAMILY HOLIDAYS**  
Escape to Andalusia for some winter warmth



**SUNSHINE HOLIDAYS**  
Malta and sister island Gozo are small but perfectly formed for the ideal holiday



**SKI HOLIDAYS**  
Club Med's sensational Val Thorens ski resort really does live up to its name



**FAMILY HOLIDAYS**  
Spanish theme park PortAventura promises high times for visitors - and not just families



**SUNSHINE HOLIDAYS**  
Croatia's Dalmatian coast is spot on for a holiday with something for everyone



**SUNSHINE HOLIDAYS**  
Magical Menorca proves that less is more if you're looking for some Balearic bliss



**HOLIDAYS**  
Saint Omer is a French connection full of history and spectacular food



**TRAVEL TOP 105**  
Top Ten: Top 10 European city breaks



aircraft paint job to celebrate 20th anniversary

#### Travel Insurance



**Going on holiday soon?**  
Don't forget your travel insurance...

**Get a quote »**



#### Most Read In Lifestyle





In contrast, this coast caters wonderfully for the golf lover, and hater.

There are 20 or so great courses to choose from, with reasonable green fees, but they're all within easy reach of Lisbon.



History: Tower of Belem by Francisco de Arruda

Day two of the trip, and this meant two courses in one day. Our morning sporting activity was at the aptly named Lisbon Sports Club, a leafy, undulating parkland course that made us feel we were in Blighty. In a sense we were, as the club was established by British residents in the 1880s.

It moved to its current home in the 1960s and still has the air of a colonial country club with walls adorned with golfing memorabilia from great British courses.

But the club is far from stuffy, and warmly welcomes visitors, stressing that its handy location minutes from Lisbon airport means that golfers can play on the same day as they arrive or leave.

Another quick trip through the Lisbon hinterland and we were ready for an afternoon nine holes at the Montado.

This is a modern resort course but no less charming. No thoughts of Mr Columbus here but there are plenty of water challenges, man-made this time – lakes and streams abound – with a Tin Cup-style island green at the 18th.

A wine and cheese tasting at the Bacalhoa cellars afterwards was the perfect place to unwind after another day of play.

And so to Lisbon. We arrived late so it was fitting that we ate in a restaurant called Lisboa a Noite (Lisbon by Night). It's an elegant family place located in a restored wine cellar, serving Portuguese specialities such as salt cod, prawns in risotto and, for the adventurous, octopus in red wine.



Cafe society: Rua Augusta in Lisbon's Baixa district

The next day our guide had the job of trying to show us Lisbon in a few hours.

We discovered a charming, elegant city and one of many contradictions. The city's icon is the Belem Tower, a 16th century Gothic structure built on the banks of the River Tagus during the exploration boom. It's a compact city so most of the main sights are an easy walk away, or you can hop on one of the quaint old trams.



- 1 **DIET**  
Drop a dress size FAST and start your festive fun early with the 5:2 juice diet
- 2 **WINTER SUN HOLIDAYS**  
Canary Islands are hotter than ever for winter sun breaks after Sharm el-Sheikh troubles
- 3 **ANDY CAPP**  
Andy Capp - 16th Nov 2015
- 4 **INSOMNIA**  
Unable to sleep? Eleven ways you can trick yourself into dozing off
- 5 **MANDY**  
Mandy - 16th Nov 2015

## Digital Switching



## ★ Recommended On The Mirror



**X FACTOR**  
X Factor fans ask if Simon Cowell will fire Olly Murs after he announces results too early



**I'M A CELEBRITY GET ME OUT OF HERE**  
I'm a Celebrity EXTRA stars confirmed: Vicky Pattison, Ferne McCann and Spencer Matthews head into the jungle



**X FACTOR**  
Steve Brookstein's vile HIV tweet about Olly Murs sparks huge X Factor fan backlash



**X FACTOR**  
Olly Murs awkwardly IGNORES Harry Styles on X Factor as fans ask why 1D star is slurring



**PARIS ATTACKS**  
Anonymous declares war on Islamic State after Paris attacks in chilling video: 'We will hunt you down'



**BLACK FRIDAY**  
What is Black Friday 2014? Everything you need to know about the big sales day



**EUROVISION SONG CONTEST**  
Who won Eurovision 2015? Full Song Contest results

We walked to Baixa, the downtown area, passing by Rua Augusta, the main pedestrian street and then up to Saint George's castle which offers panoramic views of a city full of terracotta-coloured roofs which look like rows of flowerpots.

But the city has a distinctly modern feel too. There are designer emporiums and department stores. But more interesting were the traditional family-run corner shops. There's still a glove shop, a soap store and a place that sells nothing but canned fish. The Portuguese love sardines.

And they also go crazy over custard tarts. The historic Pasteis de Belem restaurant is where customers queue for the crumbly delicacies which are still a secret recipe.

Lisbon and its coast. As Columbus would have said: Plenty to discover.

## Get there

TAP Portugal flies from Gatwick to Lisbon from £121 return. [flytap.com](http://flytap.com)

Rooms at the Dom Pedro Palace hotel in Lisbon start at £85pn. [hoteldompedropalace.com](http://hoteldompedropalace.com)

Rooms at the Pousada de Cascais in Cascais start at £106pn. [pousadasofportugal.com](http://pousadasofportugal.com)

Oitavos Dunes Golf Course [oitavosdunes.com](http://oitavosdunes.com) Lisbon's Sports Club [lisbonclub.com](http://lisbonclub.com) Montado Golf Course [montadoresort.com](http://montadoresort.com)

Tourist info: [visitlisboa.com](http://visitlisboa.com) - [visitportugal.com](http://visitportugal.com)

**Time zone:** UK time

**Currency:** Euro £1 = 1.37

**Best time to go:** Tee time virtually year round



### BLACK FRIDAY

When is Black Friday 2015? Everything you need to know about the big sales day



### WEIRD SCIENCE

What is it? Weird glowing blue sea creature that eats jellyfish washes up on Australian beach



### HARRY STYLES

One Direction fans ask if Harry Styles is okay after he barely says a word during uncomfortable interview



Like Us On Facebook