

Brown's Apartments

APARTMENTS €€ (Map p54; ☎218 874 128; www.brownsapartments.com; Rua da Vitória 88; d from €80; 🏠🚿) This new apart-hotel offers small, smartly decorated rooms in an excellent location in Baixa. Comfortable beds, black-and-white photos on the walls, artful lighting, elevator access and oversized showerheads are nice touches – though minusers include the minimal service (rooms aren't cleaned daily) and minor design flaws (lack of closets/storage space, thin walls).

Lisbon Story Guesthouse

GUEST HOUSE €€ (Map p54; ☎211 529 313; www.lisbonstoryguesthouse.com; Largo de São Domingos 18; d with shared bathroom incl breakfast €45-80; 🏠🚿) Overlooking Praça São Domingos, Lisbon Story is a small, welcoming guest house with nicely maintained rooms, some of which sport Portuguese themes (the river-blue Tejo room, a handicraft-lined 'Culturas' room). Rooms range from cramped to spacious, and the best room has fine views and pays homage to Portugal's greatest writers. All eight rooms share three bathrooms. The shoe-free lounge, with throw pillows and low tables, is a nice touch.

Hotel Avenida Palace

HOTEL €€€ (Map p54; ☎213 218 100; www.hotelavenidapalace.pt; Rua 1 de Dezembro 123; d from €200; 🏠🚿🛁) Palatial certainly sums up this belle-époque hotel with its blingy chandeliers, polished marble and skylight. Rooms are lavish with plump beds, high-thread-count sheets and gilt mirrors. There's a tiny gym, a wood-paneled bar and a sublime lounge where high tea is served.

Residencial Alegria

GUEST HOUSE €€ (Map p54; ☎213 220 670; www.alegrianet.com; Praça da Alegria 12; d €58-78; 🏠) Overlooking a palm-dotted plaza, this lemon-fronted belle-époque gem is ablaze with pink geraniums in summer. Rooms are peaceful and airy with plaids and chunky wood, while corridors reveal stucco and antiques.

Travellers House

HOSTEL € (Map p54; ☎210 115 922; http://travellershouse.com; Rua Augusta 89; dm from €22; 🏠) Our readers enthuse about this super-friendly hostel set in a converted 250-year-old house on Rua Augusta. As well as cosy dorms, there's a retro lounge with beanbags, an internet corner and a communal kitchen. Tiago and Gonçalo know what makes travellers tick, from scrambled eggs for breakfast to activi-

ties such as wine-tasting, and – like it! – an honour system for the minibar.

Goodnight Hostel

HOSTEL € (Map p54; ☎213 430 139; http://goodnighthostel.com; Rua dos Correiros 113; dm/d €20/50; 🏠🚿) Set in a converted 18th-century town house, this glam hostel rocks with its fab location, retro design and friendly owner João. Goodnight has everything backpackers crave: from free wi-fi and breakfast to a communal kitchen and lounge. The high-ceilinged dorms offer vertigo-inducing views over Baixa.

Hotel Lisboa Tejo

HOTEL €€€ (Map p54; ☎218 866 182; www.evidenciahoteis.com; Rua dos Condes de Monsanto 2; s/d incl breakfast €113/130; 🏠🚿🛁) Once a broom-maker's, this town house has scrubbed up nicely into a contemporary hotel, combining original features such as brick vaulting with quirky wavy ceilings. Wood-floored rooms are cushy with cornflower-blue hues, theatrical chairs and satellite TV. Don't miss the Roman *poço* (well) near the entrance.

Lounge Hostel

HOSTEL €€ (Map p54; ☎213 462 061; www.lisbonlounge.com; Rua de São Nicolau 41; dm/d incl breakfast €20/60; 🏠) These ultrahip Baixa digs have a party vibe. Bed down in immaculate dorms and meet like-minded travellers in the hip lounge watched over by a wacky moose head. The fun team regularly organises events such as the Portuguese dinner with wine for €7. Free internet and breakfast sweeten the deal.

VIP Eden

APARTMENTS €€ (Map p54; ☎213 216 600; www.viphotels.com; Praça dos Restauradores 24; apt from €95; 🏠🚿🛁) The art deco Eden theatre has morphed into this apart-hotel on buzzy Praça dos Restauradores. Studios with kitchenettes are functional and clean. The biggest draw, though, is the rooftop pool, where you can splash, sunbathe and enjoy fine Lisbon views.

Residencial Duas Nações

GUEST HOUSE €€ (Map p54; ☎213 460 710; Rua da Vitória 41; d with/without bathroom €75/50) Bang in the heart of pedestrianised Baixa, this bright guest house makes a good sightseeing and shopping base. Painted in blues and yellows, rooms are decent, though the microscopic bathrooms are a blast from the '70s. Rooms on upper floors are quieter and open onto verandas.

Residencial Florescente

GUEST HOUSE €€ (Map p54; ☎213 426 609; www.residencialflorescente.com; RuadasPortasdeSantoAntão99; s/d from €45/65; 🏠🚿) On a vibrant street lined with alfresco restaurants, lemon-fronted Florescente has comfy rooms in muted tones with shiny new bathrooms and free wi-fi. It's a two-minute walk from Rossio.

Pensão Brasil-África

GUEST HOUSE € (Map p64; ☎218 869 266; www.pensaobrasilafrika.com; Travessa das Pedras Negras 8; s/d €25/35) Tucked down a quiet street, this old-school guest house near the *se* offers sunny, wood-floored rooms with floral prints. Shared bathrooms are spotless. There's everything you need to rustle up a light breakfast in the lounge.

Pensão Imperial

GUEST HOUSE € (Map p54; ☎213 420 166; 4th fl, Praça dos Restauradores 78; s/d with shower €25/40) Cheery Imperial has a terrific location, but you'll need to grin and lug it, as there's no lift. The high-ceilinged rooms with wooden furniture are nothing flash, but some have flower-draped balconies overlooking the *praça*.

Pensão Galicia

GUEST HOUSE € (Map p54; ☎213 428 430; Rua do Crucifixo 50; s/d with shared bathroom €25/40) Central for Baixa, this homey, no-frills guest house exudes crusty charm. Its 11 small rooms are decked out in chintzy pastels, rag rugs and old-style furnishings; the best have little balconies.

Pensão Gerês

GUEST HOUSE €€ (Map p54; ☎218 810 497; www.pensaoger.es.com; Calçada do Garcia 6; s/d €45/55; 🏠) Near

bustling Largo de São Domingos, this petite and family-run Gerês has basic but bright and airy rooms decorated with dark wood furniture and thin blue carpeting. Mattresses are a bit on the firm side.

CHIADO, BAIRO ALTO & AROUND

Well-heeled Chiado has high-quality accommodation options, with both boutique hotels and high-end hostels – though little in between. If you want to be central for nightlife, crash in loud and lively Bairro Alto, which is better for all-night partying than quality shut-eye. Light sleepers should pack earplugs. The hip Santa Catarina district is giving rise to a new breed of stylish hostels.

Hotel do Chiado

HOTEL €€€ (Map p58; ☎213 256 100; www.hoteldochiado.com; Rua Nova do Almada 114; d from €150; 🏠🚿) Fusing 19th-century charm with 21st-century cool, the well-located Hotel do Chiado offers plush rooms with perks such as cable TV and fluffy bathrobes. Go for a top-floor room with a bougainvillea-clad terrace affording views to the river and castle; room 712 is most coveted. Open from noon to midnight, the 7th-floor bar offers superb vistas for all.

Pensão Londres

GUEST HOUSE €€ (Map p54; ☎213 462 203; www.pensaolondres.com.pt; Rua Dom Pedro V 53; s/d €50/75) Opposite Miradouro de São Pedro de Alcântara lookout, Londres oozes art-nouveau charm with its cage elevator and stuccowork. Its high-ceilinged rooms feature decorative balconies and polished wood furniture; those on the 4th floor afford sweeping city views.

BIKING THE TEJO

With its steep, winding hills and narrow, traffic-filled lanes, Lisbon may not seem like the ideal place to hop on a bicycle. The city however is redefining itself with the addition of a new biking/jogging path that opened in 2010. Coursing along the Tejo for nearly 7km, the path connects Cais do Sodré with Belém, and has artful touches – including the poetry of Pessoa printed along parts of it. It passes beside a rapidly changing landscape – taking in ageing warehouses that are being converted into open-air cafes, restaurants and nightspots.

A handy place to rent bikes is a short stroll from Cais do Sodré: **Bike Iberia** (Map p54; www.bikeiberia.com; Largo Corpo Santo 5). Those looking for a longer ride, can bike out to Belém, catch the ferry to Trafaria, and then continue on another **new bike path** (also separate from traffic) that runs for about 6km down to the pretty beach of Costa da Caparica.

where **Tejo Bike** (www.tejobike.pt) rents quality mountain bikes, kids' bikes, go-carts and inline skates.