

Portugal

IADE University,
Lisbon

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IADE - Creative University

Experiences at the host university

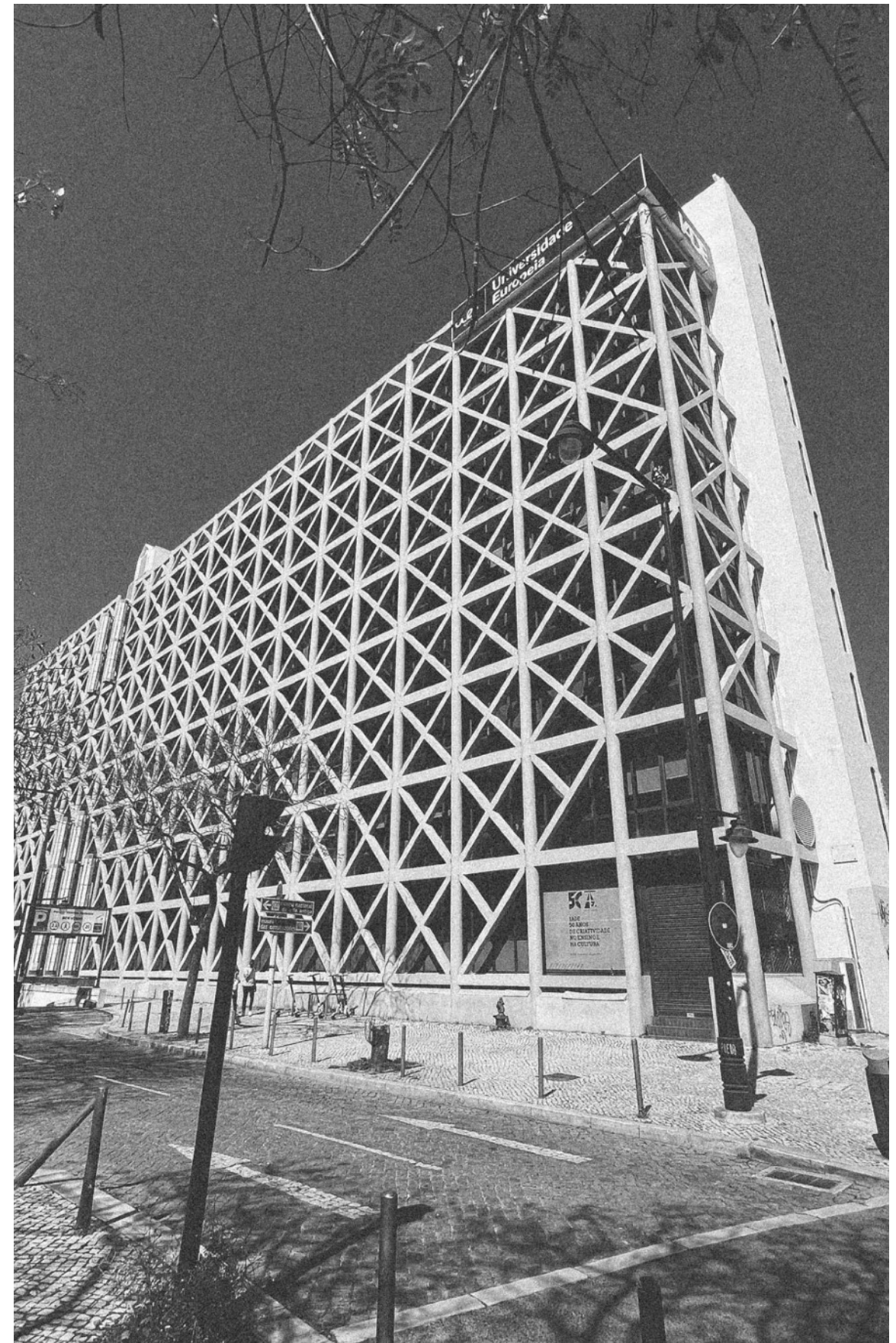
About IADE

IADE is a university based solely on creative studies and you'll therefore find all sorts of creative minds there working on every kind of creative project. The school is very modern with iMacs installed in most classrooms and smartboards. I was there doing the pandemic and the school was fully prepared for online classes.

The school is situated in downtown Lisbon in the "Santos" area close to cool bars, cafés, restaurants and all sorts of transportation options.

Communication

Portuguese people are extremely friendly and helpful and this counts as well for the people working at the international office at IADE. They will answer you quickly regarding any sorts of problems or confusion school related. However, not everything works as smoothly or quick as we're used to in North of Europe - Portuguese



IADE looks great from the front perspective



IADE looks less good from behind

people do have a bit more chill mindset about some matters and we therefore didn't receive our welcome kit and student cards before the last week of the semester for instance. This didn't affect the stay however.

Classes

Classes and teachers were good, motivated and professional. Doing this semester we worked across

classes and with students from programming studies on one big project about making a video game. It was an intense semester and it is as well considered the toughest one of the *Global Design* study which I joined. Although I'm not very interested in video games and there was way more school work than I hoped for, the semester was in particular good regarding team work experience as it was key during this project to be organised, to communicate and to

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make use of each others skills to succeed on this huge project done in groups of 7 people.

I chose to study *Global Design* at IADE and the subjects as well as *learning goals* are very different from the KEA semester. I still found the subjects and teachings very useful however and unless you're very behind at KEA already it won't be a problem.

I can highly recommend classes with Manuel Lima (UX/UI) and Bruno Nobre (interaction design).



Some of the work from the game project



Living in Lisbon

Everyday life & things to do

Where to meet people

School is the best place to make friends. Apart from that - make sure to use the offerings for exchange students! Tons of social activities are planned for erasmus students in Lisbon including everything from surfing classes and cultural walks to bar crawls and boat trips.

What to do in Lisbon

Lisbon is the capital of Portugal and it therefore offers everything to expect from a modern european big city. Portugal was once a huge colonial power which is easy to spot today as Lisbon is packed with great monuments, wide squares, pompous churches, castles and ruins. Apart from that, Lisbon is a very modern city with the pulse on the trends. You'll find every kind of food and you can even visit Copenhagen Coffee Lab (a chain) if you miss cinnamon rolls or rye bread. There are plenty of vegetarian and vegan options, technology and digital solutions are everywhere, you'll find plenty of art, popup events and street art and the city is highly LGBTQ friendly.

The city itself is built on steep hills, it's full of narrow winding streets, it has many viewpoints, small cafés and restaurants. It's kept very authentic and it's truly beautiful! oh, and it has trams. Many!



The city is full of trams. They're convenient and fun.



Lisbon





My favourite thing about Portugal is the weather. You're guaranteed sunshine most of the time and there is plenty of things to do outside.

Lisbon also has a variety of beautiful parks and by simply taking the train along the coast you'll find a beautiful beach at almost every train stop.

Everyday costs

Students get a discount price on travel cards and it's therefore only 30€ pr. month for unlimited bus, train, metro and tram travelling in Lisbon + surrounding cities.

Renting a room is easy to find and Lisbon is full of foreigners making shared apartments - prices for a room start around 300€.

Food and supermarkets are amazing - everything is extremely fresh and of much higher quality than in Denmark. Going to the supermarket feels like Irma or Meny but the prices are cheaper than Netto. If you like to cook then this will be heaven. Vegetables are big,

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tasty and cheap, meat is very high quality, they care for animal welfare, and the fish is completely freshly caught with a huge assortment everywhere. 1 big piece of salmon is 2.4€ or you can pick a random fish for down to 1€ - they'll cut out the intestines for you so it's ready to cook. Restaurants are cheap and local places will serve you fresh fish starting at 7€. If you're lazy then you'll be happy to realise that Uber Eats is way cheaper than Wolt. Going with an Uber is also very affordable and if you pay more than 60 cents for coffee it's considered overpriced - and the coffee is good. Always.

Sadly I didn't experience much night life due to corona but I heard quite a lot of good stuff about it.

In short, Lisbon is very beautiful, full of culture and very affordable.



Places to go

Day trips and other destinations

I sure hoped to travel more during my stay and go for more weekend trips, but this wasn't possible because corona and the very packed semester. Here is a few recommendations though.

Sintra

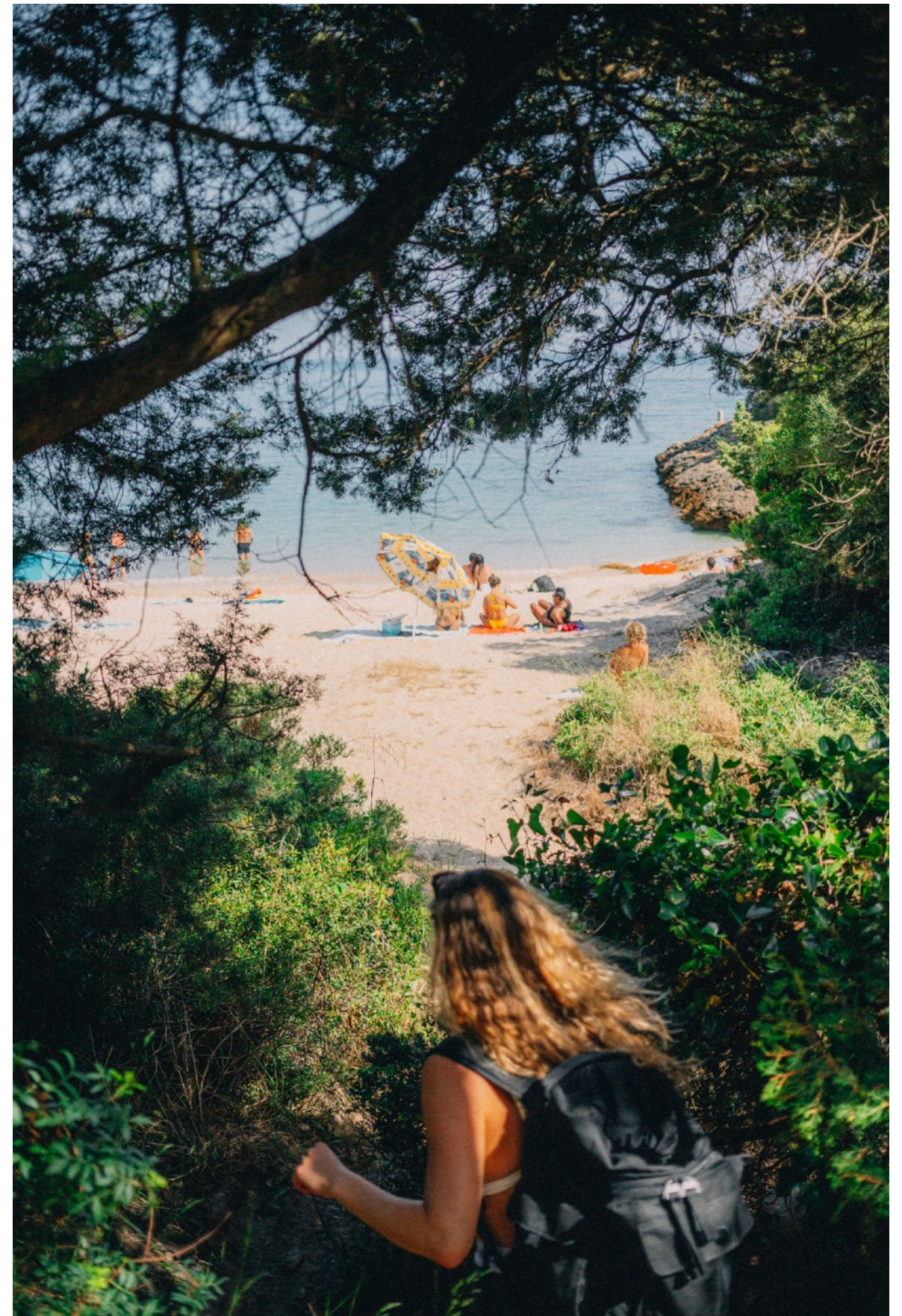
A beautiful city to visit for a day trip around an hour away from Lisbon with train. It features a colourful castle on a mountain (quite ugly imo), a micro climate, exotic gardens, beautiful nature and it has several spots on the UNESCO list. It's quite touristic though.

Sesimbra and Setubal

This is some of my favourite places to visit close from Lisbon. Around an hour south of Lisbon with bus you'll find these charming small cities surrounded by beautiful beaches. The cities are not super interesting but the beaches are very beautiful and some of which requires an uber and a bit of trekking through rough terrain. They're worth it though!



Beach close to Setubal



A couple of pictures from a couple of beaches. Setubal left, Sesimbra right



Sesimbra to the top left and Sintra on the two others



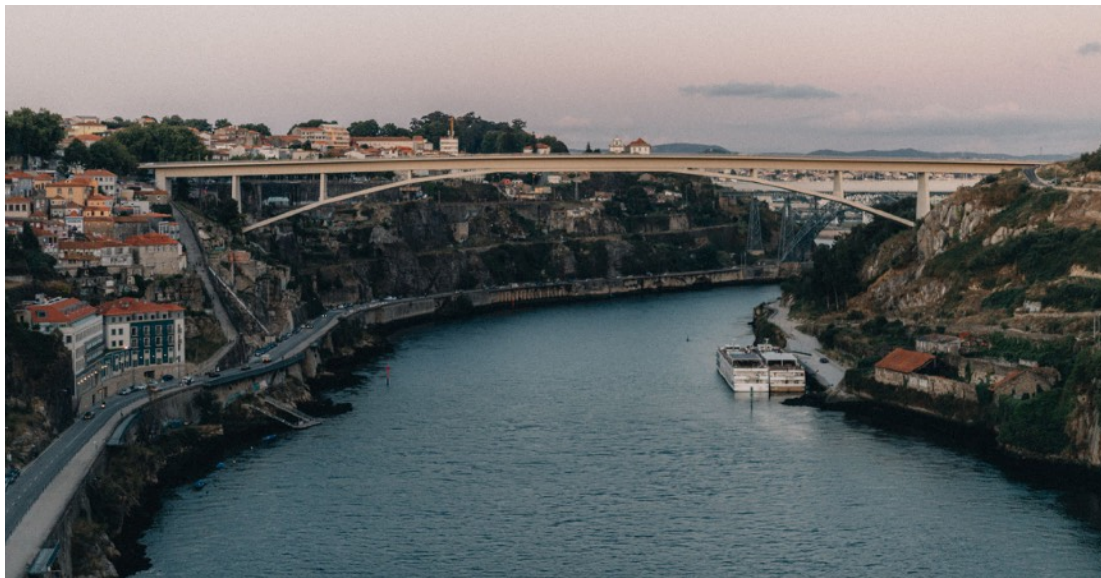
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Porto

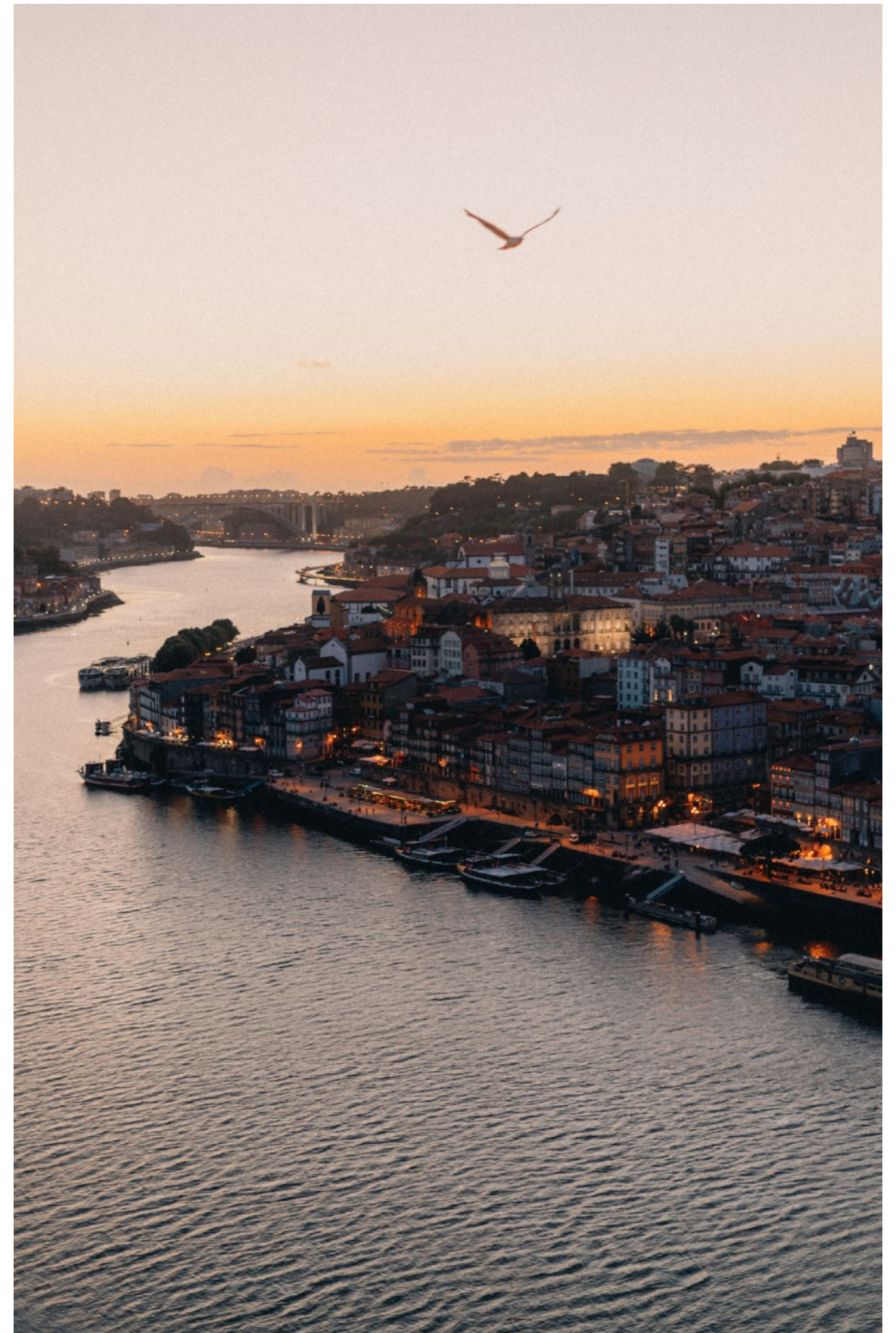
This is one of the bigger cities in Portugal apart from Lisbon. It's in the north of Portugal 3-4 hours from Lisbon with bus. Portuguese people are tired of Lisbon in general because of tourism, the busy vibe and the foreigners moving there which makes house prices too expensive for the locals. Instead, they speak very warmly about Porto as it's a less popular destination for foreigners to settle for good. It's still very touristic but it is indeed as well very beautiful. This is where port wine is from and make sure to make use of that!

Algarve

This is a region in the south of Portugal. I recommend to rent a car and go for a road trip here as there is so many beautiful destinations to visit. You'll find the most stunning beaches surrounded by cliffs and mountains and the water is crystal clear. I did a week roadtrip in Algarve and it was my favourite experience in Portugal.

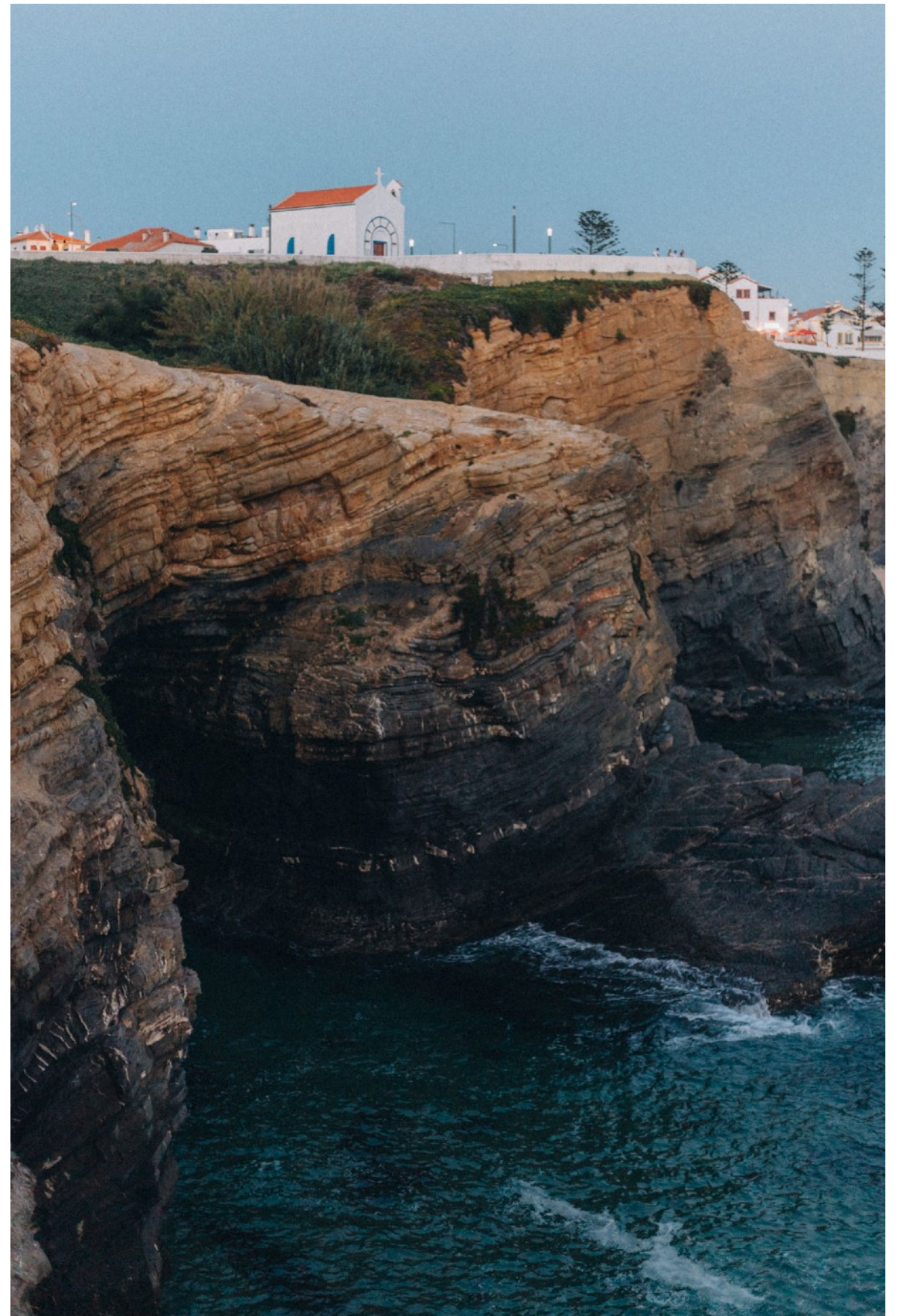


Porto on both pictures





Algarve





Algarve



Should you go to Lisbon?

Definitely!

I enjoyed every bit of my stay in Lisbon even though many things were quite different than expected. Things were mainly different because corona and the school work but it didn't ruin my experience at all as Portugal is such a lovely, beautiful and welcoming country.

I'll be back in Portugal soon for sure!

