

Belem Tower, officially the **Tower of Saint Vincent**, is a 16th-century fortification located in [Lisbon](#) that served as a point of embarkation and disembarkation for Portuguese explorers and as a ceremonial gateway to Lisbon.



I don't know the exact history about the Belem Tower while I heard it because of the Pastel de Belem. I found there is no specific connection between the tower and pastel de nata, though most visitors (at least Chinese visitors) believe so...Interestingly, this is because Pastel de nata is the most popular Portugal food in China so eating it usually is a very important tour task and Chinese usually identify the relationship by the names (beautiful mistake about info ☺).



When I visit the Belem Tower I found it is related to the colonial history, but actually in the wiki it doesn't specify this content about colonial. It is a military architect and then become a symbol to commemorate the Europe's Age of Discoveries. Specifically, the Chinese page of Wiki pointed it is built to celebrate the success of Da Gama while there is no contents about Da Gama in the English version. I am curious about the deviation of knowledge.

Anyway, this is a good place for me to meditate and call back. This architect saw the progress of globalization. And also, this Tower let me miss my home country that on the other side of Eurasia. Therefore, it may have a lot of symbolic meanings that I don't know yet.

I haven't got into the inside of the Tower as most tourists just enjoy the landscape outside. However, one of my Portugal friends said to me that the view inside is really fascinating and most tourists missed it. And now I knew it is a prominent example of the

Portuguese [Manueline](#) style that I haven't hear before. Therefore, I would like to visit again. I think knowing the details about the culture heritages is very meaningful for a newcomer (not visitor).



Also, there is Padrão dos Descobrimentos near the Belem Tower, the Portuguese [Age of Discovery](#) (or "Age of Exploration") during the 15th and 16th centuries.



When my friends come to Lisbon next time, I want to be more comfortable to introduce these stories as for them I am a "local residence" .