

FIVE GREAT
Christmas shopping
EXPERIENCES

NEW YORK

Make an impression back home with Saks 5th Ave, Tiffany and Bloomingdale's carrier bags and wrapping. Don't miss the 125-stalls Winter Village at Manhattan's Bryant Park. Free ice skating on the park's Citi Pond is a must-do NYC experience. nycgo.com



1

KRAKOW

Poland's second city's Christmas market is terrific value – it's the zloty not the euro! Set by the imposing Cloth Hall, there are stalls galore specialising in amber jewellery, stained glassware, sweets and wood. Worth it for the sausages alone. krakow-info.com



2

COLOGNE

No one does Christmas markets like the Germans, and Cologne has them to spare, from the main market in the shadow of the cathedral to the Harbour Market, Angel Market and Heumarkt skating rink, plus loads more. Wunderbar!saga.co.uk/mag-travel



3

BUDAPEST

Vörösmarty Square is a treat for foodies' palates and budgets alike. Try roasted goose washed down with the fruit and rum-based punch, *krampampuli*. Bring home *lepény* (bread pizza), fantastic handmade strudel, spiced meats and pastries. budapestbylocals.com



4

DUBAI

Dreaming of a bling Christmas? Enjoy winter sun and air-conned Santa and snowmen-filled malls galore for a 'land that taste forgot' shopping experience. Head for Al Fahidi street market for more authentic goods. visitdubai.com



5

tiny family-run *tascas*, flavours from former colonies, and exotic creations from a new generation of chefs. Try *percebes* (goose barnacles), washed down with Super Bock lager at the hole-in-the-wall Cervejaria Ramiro. For affordable delicacies from top chefs, head for the Mercado da Ribeira food court and gorge on regional treats from salt-cod fritters to steak, cheese and chocolates – and, of course, those inimitable custard tarts. 🍮



www
FIND OUT MORE
For hundreds more inspiring articles about destinations around the world, visit saga.co.uk/mag-travel

Take a break to
LISBON



For historic character and vibrant modernity, Portugal's capital is hard to beat, says **Susie Boulton**

Set on seven hills, Lisbon is a coastal city of big vistas, old world charm and *fado* songs. Vintage yellow trams rattle along steep streets, washing flaps across cobbled alleys and sardines sizzle on braziers. But alongside is the cool new city of contemporary culture, chic hotels, great food and vibrant nightlife.

Lisbon packs most of its attractions into two areas: the city centre and Belém. Exploring the steep streets of the centre on foot requires stamina. The famous tram No 28, which travels a picturesque route, packs in tourists like sardines. The No 12 takes a similar route but is less crowded. Other options are the metro, taxis, tuk-tuks, a river hop-on/hop-off service or amphibious HIPPOtrip tours. A 24-hour pass costs €6 and covers trams, buses, metro and funiculars.

For the best views, head up to Castelo de São Jorge, the Moorish fortress crowning the



Café culture in the Rua Augusta; a traditional tram; custard tarts; and, right, vistas abound

eastern hill. Below it lies kasbah-like Alfama with its warren of narrow streets, taverns and sudden *miradouros* (viewpoints) where the red rooftops sweep down before you to the sparkling Tagus estuary.

For the coolest bars, along with older *casas de fado*, head to the Bairro Alto (High Quarter). It leads a double life: sleepy by day, thriving at night, while neighbouring Chiado is über-chic for shopping.

Tram 15 takes you to Belém. Its exuberant monastery and exquisite Torre de Belém mirror the spirit of Portugal's golden Age of Discoveries. The explorers set off from here on their historic voyages. Don't miss the Museu Coleção Berardo, a great (free) collection of modern art – or the divine *pastéis de nata* (custard tarts, made to a secret recipe) at Antiga Confeitaria de Belém.

The city has a thriving culinary scene with sparkling displays of seafood, tasty tapas in