

The Tower of Belém - Just one of the seven wonders of Portugal

The Tower of Belém, or Torre de Belém in Portuguese, is a historic tower located in the city of Lisbon, Portugal. It was built in the 16th century during the reign of King Manuel I, and served as a fortress to guard the entrance to Lisbon's harbour.

The tower was constructed in the Manueline style, which was a mix of Gothic and Renaissance architecture unique to Portugal. The tower was designed by the architect Francisco de Arruda and construction began in 1514. It was completed in 1520 and was initially named the Tower of St. Vincent.



The Tower of Belém was strategically placed at the entrance of the Tagus River, and was intended to protect Lisbon from possible attacks from the sea. It was also used as a customs house and a lighthouse.

The tower's distinctive features include its octagonal shape and intricate carvings of maritime motifs, such as ropes, anchors, and sea monsters. The tower is also adorned with Manueline elements, including decorative turrets and balconies.

Over the centuries, the Tower of Belém has witnessed many significant events in Portuguese history. During

the Portuguese Restoration War in the 17th century, it was used as a prison. It was also a lookout point during World War II.

In 1983, the Tower of Belém was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction and one of the most iconic landmarks in Lisbon. Visitors can climb to the top of the tower to enjoy panoramic views of the city and the Tagus River.

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