

# Eating where the teenagers are: Pão Pão, Queijo Queijo

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In Belém, directly to the east of the *Mosteiro dos Jerónimos* is a block of small shops, the most famous one of which being the *Pastéis de Belém* which sells the, um, *Pastel de Belém*, the Belém version of the unofficial dessert of Portugal. ([This photo of a group of people eating](#) was taken in front of the Pastéis de Belém shop. You can see the blue awnings in the background.) The place is always packed shoulder-to-shoulder with tourists. So turn around, leave the store, and walk back toward the *Mosteiro dos Jerónimos*. At about where the pink building is in the photo referenced above is a tiny shop called *Pão Pão, Queijo Queijo*, which means Bread Bread Cheese Cheese. If the photo doesn't help, here's how you find it: It's the one packed to the gills with teenagers. Now, following the teenagers to decide where to eat is a hit-or-miss affair. You might find an awesome little shop, or you might end up at McDonalds. I lucked out and scored a major win.

Here's how you enjoy lunch at Pão Pão, Queijo Queijo:

- Read the menu board posted outside to decide what you want. Have your dictionary handy since it's only in Portuguese.
- Join the mob-like approximation of a line that snakes out the door.
- When you reach the register near the door, place your order and pay for it. You will receive an order slip.
- Join the mob inside the store and try to work your way to the counter where all the food is.
- Get the attention of somebody behind the counter. You are competing with two dozen other people at this point, so it may take some effort.
- Hand the person your order slip and do your best to answer questions like "Do you want sauce?" and "For here or to go?" The correct answers are "Only a little" and "To go", by the way.
- Receive your sandwiches, grab some extra napkins, and walk across the street to the park.
- Enjoy your sandwich in the park while taking in the view of the *Ponte 25 de Abril* (the April 25 Bridge), then take a nap in the warm sunshine.

Second only to salt in the Portuguese diet appears to be ranch dressing/mayonnaise/whatever that white sauce is. (Hence the need for extra napkins and the correct answer of “Only a little.”) If you’re not careful, you’ll find your sandwich drowning in approximately ten cubic meters of the stuff. But once you get past that, you have a tasty sandwich with warm meat and crunchy slaw on a crisp baguette. It’s sort of a Portuguese version of a Vietnamese sandwich.

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