

The Panoramic Tour of Sintra

28 October 2017

09:00 Departure from the conference center

Professional and experienced licensed guide during the tours.

Transportation by a comfortable AC non smoking Luxurious car / Van with professional driver.

18:00 Returning to the hotel

Price: ONLY TRANSPORTATION FREE

Most place charges the entrance fee.

Note: The museums **entrance fee and lunch** will be paid by the participants.

During the Tour will visit the Historical Places

Sintra National Palace

Quinta da Regaieira

Monserate Palace

The Moorish Castle

Historical Places Information

1. Sintra National Palace



The gothic styled **Palácio Nacional de Sintra** is situated in the heart of Sintra and was the most lived in royal residence, being continual used from the 15th century up until the fall of the monarchy in 1910. This is the palace that king Afonso VI (1650s) was imprisoned during his later life, as he was deemed, by his brother, too unstable to rule the country. The minimalistic gothic exterior is dominated by the two huge chimneys that rise out from the kitchens while the interior includes decoratively painted rooms that reflect the extensive history of the palace. The most famous of these rooms is the magpie room, which has paintings of magpies representing the gossiping and scheming of the queen's ladies in-waiting. As the National Palace is in the centre of town it is usually combined with exploring the historic centre of Sintra with its numerous cafes, restaurants and shops. The entrance fee is €10.00 and can get busy during the middle of the day.

The Entrance Fee: Nearly 10 €

2. Quinta da Regaleira



The **Quinta da Regaleira** is an extravagant 19th century gothic mansion that is surrounded with some of the most elaborate gardens of Sintra. The gardens are a joy to explore as they are filled with decorative fortifications, mystic religious symbols and a series of secret passages and caves. The central feature of the gardens is the initiation well, a well that was drained, expanded and possibly used for cult ceremonies. The Quinta da Regaleira takes about 2 hours to visit and the majority of the time will be spent exploring the amazing gardens. An adult ticket costs €6 and the mansion is a 5-minute walk from the centre of historic Sintra. The Quinta da Regaleira is a popular tourist attraction but not as popular as the Pena Palace or Palácio Nacional and never feels over crowded as most visitors are spread throughout the gardens.

The Entrance Fee: Nearly 6 €

3. Monserrate Palace



The Palacio de Monserrate is a 19th century mansion that contains the finest example of Islamic inspired architecture in Sintra. The palace prides itself on its beautiful small details; from the intricate geometrical patterns on the lattices, to the fine carved stone detail on the exterior and the stunning Indian inspired stone inlaying. The palace's fine detail is to such perfection that it could only be funded by England's richest man, Sir Francis Cook, a merchant who amassed a fortune exporting textiles and wool. The gardens are quiet and peaceful and contain exotic plants from Francis Cook's personal collection. Monserrate is 4km from the historic centre of Sintra and is served by the 435 bus route, which connects the train station, historic town, Palácio de Seteais and Palacio de Monserrate. Being the furthest palace from Sintra it is always much quieter than the other historical buildings.

The Entrance Fee: Nearly 14 €

4. The Moorish Castle



The Castelo dos Mouros was constructed by the Moors in the 9th century as a fortified observatory, with views over the sea and region. After the invasion of central Portugal by the Christian Crusaders in the 12th century the importance of this viewpoint waned and the castle fell into disrepair. The castle deteriorated further after fire (from lightning) and earthquakes during the 17th and 18th centuries. The all but forgotten castle was restored during the 19th century so as to be a major feature in the grounds of the Pena Palace. The castle is set amidst dense forests and from the battlements or towers are spectacular panoramic views over Sintra. The Moors castle and Pena Palace are often visited together but the more historically important Pena Palace should be visited first (unless the queues are too long).

The Entrance Fee: Nearly 8 €