

National Palace of Sintra



Although it is millenary and has existed since the Moorish period, the palace we see today in the centre of the town is the result of additions made since the time of King Dinis, but mostly from the early 15th century, when the Portuguese kings began to spend more time in Sintra in search of coolness to escape the summer heat of Lisbon.

From the outside, the most striking feature of the National Palace of Sintra are the two enormous chimneys that give it an unusual shape. But it is easy to see that they are there for practical reasons and served the enormous royal kitchen. Inside, the rooms are decorated with furniture and art from the periods when the palace was most used. The Mudejar tile decorations are particularly interesting and worth looking at.

Highlights of the National Palace of Sintra: The Swan Room, the main reception area; Manueline decorative elements (doors and windows) and tiled coverings (geometric Mudejar decoration proves the Moorish connection of the craftsmen); intimate open-air interior courtyards.

The Moorish Castle



From the Arab occupation of the region, some ruins of the Moorish fortification still remain. The Moorish Castle served as a watchtower after conquest by Christian kings who restored and enlarged it.

Its location overwhelms any visitor. Perched high on a cliff, it looks like a real fortress, unbeatable and impassable. Any army that dared to think of taking Sintra doubted that it would succeed.

This is an unmissable place in Sintra that you can still visit partially for free. From the road to the entrance gate, there is a beautiful footpath that you can follow at your leisure, with some archaeological finds, lofty rocks, steps and platforms along the battlements and even a small chapel that has been transformed into a museum. And the pedestrian trail back to the town centre is a divine immersion in the midst of the geological and forest elements of the Serra de Sintra.

Quinta da Regaleira



Quinta da Regaleira is a place of magic and mystery, and a must-see on any visit to Sintra. The romantic architecture of the palace and the lush park are the agglutinating elements of this Luscious Philosopher's Mansion, a wonder nestled in the dense vegetation of the Sintra Mountains.

The palace was completed in 1910, when millionaire Carvalho Monteiro bought the property from the Viscondessa da Regaleira in 1892 and decided to fill it with exoticism and eccentricity. The work is by the Italian architect Luigi Manini (author of the Palácio Hotel do Buçaco), with Roman, Gothic, Renaissance and Manueline influences.

The garden is a representation of the cosmos in a paradisiacal ambience that does not deny the existence of the Dantean netherworld. Amongst other distinctive features, take a closer look at the intricate chapel. Each element exists for a reason, although many are obscure and enigmatic as it is widely held that Quinta da Regaleira is associated with the Portuguese Freemasons.

Walk through the park and past towers, lakes, wells - the Initiation Well is one of the most photographed in the world - underground tunnels, fountains and statues.

Pena Palace



Pena Palace is the most popular palace in Sintra, and probably in the whole of Portugal. The vivid shades of yellow, red and lavender of the towers of this romantic palace travel the world.

Like a crown on top of a mountain covered in lush vegetation, Pena Palace is more than an impressive work of art, it is a sensory experience in every sense. If the opulent salons impress with their sublime decoration and rich furnishings, a walk through the Pena Palace Park completes the cycle of wonderment with idyllic gardens, sounds of nature and floral scents.

The best viewpoint of Pena Palace is at Cruz Alta with superb views over the whole palace complex, the Sintra mountains and the sea on the horizon!

We advise you to start your day very early. Pena Palace opens for visits at 9:30 am and fills up quickly (really quickly). Start inside Pena Palace, you might still be able to visit it without too many people, and reserve the gardens of Parque da Pena for later.

HISTORICAL CENTRE OF THE TOWN OF SINTRA



Medieval Town Hall, Clock Tower and Jail



Sintra town hall

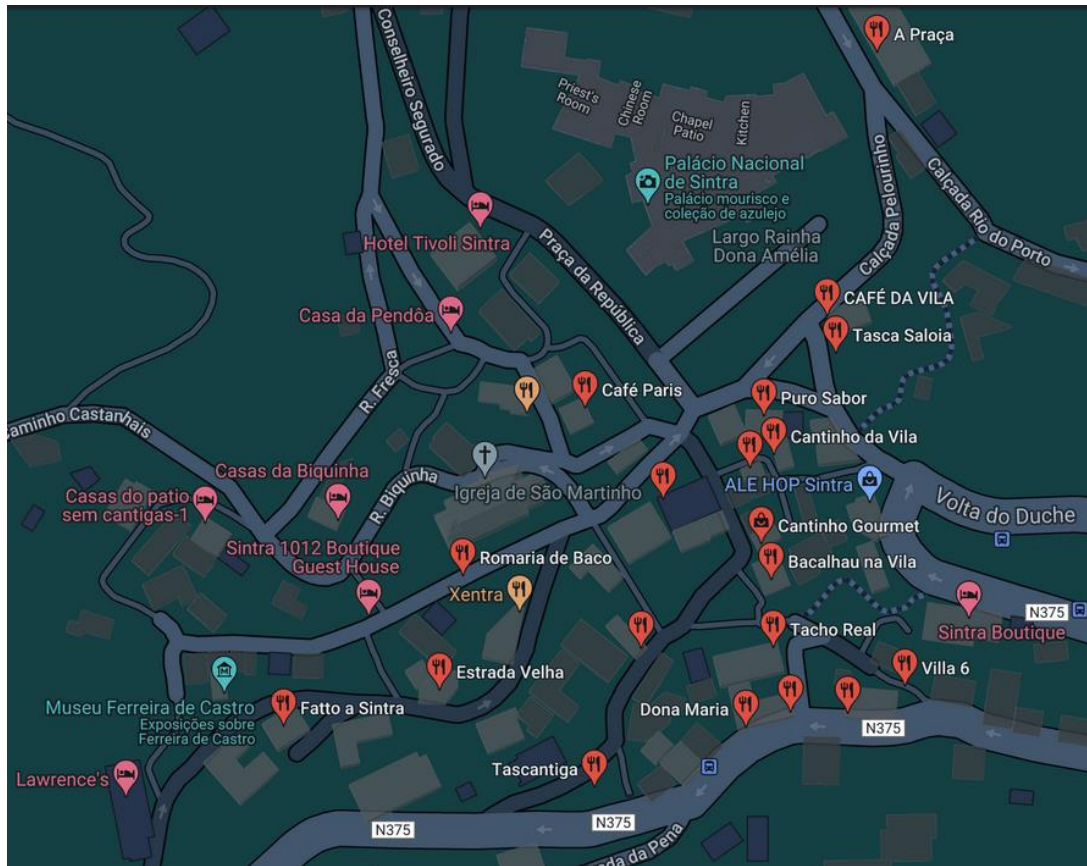
You can't leave Sintra without trying the best medieval confectionery that made the town famous: travesseiros, queijadas de Sintra



The Piriqueta is the main factory of travesseiros, also these are often referred to as the 'Travesseiros of Piriqueta'. Those who visit Sintra should try them at Piriqueta. The sweet is made of puff pastry with a filling of almond cream

The Piriqueta is already considered a landmark in Sintra and must stop for tourists visiting this charming village. Open since 1862, the establishment became famous for its queijadas. Piriqueta currently has two units, one right of the main entrance of the alley of Sintra and the other on the same street but higher up – just keep going.

MAPS



Restaurant Bacalhau na Vila (Arco do Terreirinho 3, 2710-623 Sintra)



