



## INTRODUCING SINTRA

Sintra, with its imposing mountain range bestrewn with palaces, churches and estates, stretching out in a green carpet towards the ocean, the fascination of its urban housing in the Vila Velha (Old Quarter), its modern Estefânia district and the villages which give colour to its surrounding countryside, enjoys an excellent location both on account of its unparalleled beauty and cultural and natural interest.

The municipal district of Sintra is unrivalled, within the Portuguese historical and geographical context, owing to a combination of the valorous traces of human evolution throughout all stages of its historical development and the majesty of its natural surroundings.

Such traces include pre-history with its fabulous collection of tholoi and cromlechs, the Roman occupation with the remains of its seigniorial villas, enriched by a large number of archaeological findings, of which São Miguel de Odrinhas represents a prime example.



There is also the Moslem era with its water-mills, local dialects and particularly the Moorish Castle.



The Middle Ages which saw an expansion of Sintra's urban centre under the shadow of the Royal Palace, and in which beautiful gothic style churches, such as the Church of Santa Maria, were built.

The Renaissance, with the results of the golden period of the Portuguese expansion mirrored in the beautiful Manueline works of the Royal Palace or in the building of the Monastery of Nossa Senhora da Pena. This was the time of the brilliant palatial soirées of Luisa Sigea and the Vincentian plays. The stages of such aristocratic constructions are places as the Quinta da Penha Verde, or, the Solar dos Ribafria.

Above all these periods, the romanticism is the one that marks a brilliant revivalist cycle which was to have a decisive and alluring effect on Sintra and its environment. The constructions of this era are the Pena Palace, the Quinta de Monserrate, Quinta do Relógio and Quinta da Regaleira, as well as the verdant Pena and Monserrate Parks.

On the basis of the above and together with the beauty of its environment and mystery which defies description, Sintra, in the words of Robert Southey, is, "the most blessed place to be found upon the whole of the habitable globe". Classified during the 19th Session of the UNESCO Committee, which took place on 6th December 1995, Sintra is one of those magic places where nature and man combined in a perfect symbiosis, as if they wanted to surprise us and fill us with emotion in the beauty of their work.



## WHERE IS SINTRA?

Sintra is located about 30 km northwest of Lisbon and just a short drive from Cascais and Estoril.





#### WHILE VISITING SINTRA, YOU SHOULDN'T MISS:

##### Palácio Nacional de Sintra (Sintra National Palace)

Made up of various constructions built over successive eras, it is one of the most important Portuguese examples of royal architecture and has therefore been classified as a National Monument.

This palace is thought to have been originally a palace of the Moorish walis. Its current layout results from two phases of building works: the first one, in the reign of King John I (15th century), and the second in that of D. Manuel I (16th century).

It has the greatest collection of Mudéjar tiles in the country. It is topped by two large twin chimneys built over the kitchen, which have become the symbol of Sintra.



##### Palácio Nacional da Pena (Pena National Palace)

This palace is the most accomplished and remarkable example of Portuguese Romantic architecture. Built at approximately 500 metres above sea level, it goes back to 1839, when the prince consort D. Fernando II of Saxe-Coburg (1816-1885) bought the ruins of the Hieronymus Monastery of Our Lady of Pena and began to make it into a small palace. To oversee the work, he called Baron Eschwege, whose inspiration for this remarkable edifice came from palaces in Bavaria. Extremely fanciful, Pena's architecture uses not only Moorish, gothic and Manueline motifs, but also the Wagnerian spirit of Central Europe's, Schinkel castles.



##### Palácio de Seteais (Seteais Palace)

Nowadays a de luxe hotel, Seteais Palace was built in the last quarter of the 18th century by the Dutch Consul, Daniel Gildemeester. At the end of that century, the property was sold to the 5th Marquis of Marialva, Royal Chamberlain, who added a second wing to the original construction, connecting them by an arch surmounted by the Royal coat-of-arms and a medallion with the effigies of Dom João VI and Queen Carlota Joaquina. The work was completed in 1802.

##### Quinta da Regaleira e Jardins (Regaleira Palace and Gardens)

This is a fabulous assemblage of styles and constructions (gardens, wells, towers, statues, mysterious grottoes), which Manini succeeded in imbuing with exceptional characteristics. Although having a semblance of a scene from opera, the Quinta da Regaleira has alchemical and sacred connotations.



#### HOW DO I GET TO SINTRA?

**By car** - The distance from Lisbon to SINTRA is 30 km. When leaving Lisbon take the IC19 Motorway, directly to Sintra. It will take from 20/40 minutes, depending on the traffic.

**By Train** - This is the best public transport to get Sintra. Tickets will cost around €1,50. For more information, please consult the website [www.cp.pt](http://www.cp.pt).

**By Taxi** - You may catch a taxi anywhere in Lisbon to go to Sintra and a trip will cost you approximately €25.

##### Where will I stay?

Please visit [www.cm-sintra.pt](http://www.cm-sintra.pt) to find a list of hotels in Sintra and in its municipality.

##### Where will I eat?

Please visit [www.cm-sintra.pt](http://www.cm-sintra.pt) to find a list of restaurants in Sintra and in its municipality.

##### What can I see and do?

Please visit [www.cm-sintra.pt](http://www.cm-sintra.pt) to find a complete range of services that will ensure a pleasant stay.

#### Contact Information:

If you have any questions or doubts, please contact the Sintra's Tourism Information Office that will conveniently answer all your questions at [dtur@cm-sintra.pt](mailto:dtur@cm-sintra.pt) or by telephone: 00 351 219 231 157.

You can also contact directly the ICORIA 2007 staff by the e-mail [6icoria@escs.ipl.pt](mailto:6icoria@escs.ipl.pt).