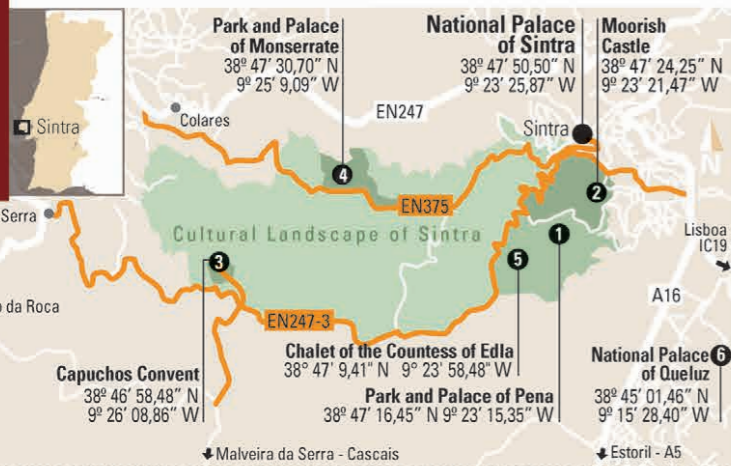


Parques de Sintra



From Lisbon → To Sintra: Train Sintra Line + 434 or 435 from Scotturb
From Estoril/Cascais → To Sintra: Bus 403 or 417 from Scotturb + 434 or 435 from Scotturb



The ceilings of the rooms in the National Palace of Sintra

The ceilings of the Palace's main spaces are notable for their harmonious blend of Gothic, Moorish and Renaissance elements that is so characteristic of the monument's architecture and heritage, and a living memorial to the major events in Portuguese history and the opening out into new worlds.



Blazons Hall

The models for the blazons in this room were taken from *the Livro do Armeiro-Mor* [Book of the Master Armourer] (1509) by João do Cró (or João do Cros) and *the Livro da Nobreza e Perfeição das Armas* [Book of the Nobility and Perfection of Arms] (c. 1521-1541) by António Godinho. The former – the richest and most important Portuguese armorial – was commissioned by Manuel I to identify all existing blazons at a time when the use of coats of arms was highly arbitrary. The latter book revises and supplements the former, becoming the national reference work on heraldry. The ceiling of Blazons Hall, an important heraldic record of the first quarter of the sixteenth century, remains a reference point that is still sought out today by Portuguese citizens and those of Portuguese descent all over the world.



11th century First reference to "two extremely strong castles" in Sintra, by the Arabian geographer Al-Bakrî	1147 The end of Muslim control after the conquest of Lisbon by Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal	1281 Royal letter from King Dinis ordering the Colares free Moors to maintain the Palace.	1413 In the palace King João I receives spies with information about the port of Ceuta whose capture marks the beginning of overseas expansion	1432 The birth of D. Afonso V in the palace, where he was also later to die in 1481	1481 Acclamation of King João II in the square to the North of the Palace	1499 In Sintra, King Manuel I receives news of the discovery of a sea passage to India	1501 In Sintra, King Manuel I hears of the discovery of Brazil	1584 Four Japanese Christian princes are welcomed in the Palace before continuing to Rome for an audience with the Pope	1674 King Afonso VI is imprisoned in a room in the Palace until his death	1755 The Lisbon earthquake damages the Palace	1910 Proclamation of the Republic and the Palace is declared a National Monument	1995 UNESCO classifies Sintra as a World Heritage Site	2012 Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua, S.A. takes over the management of the monument.
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Information
Prices

The King of Portugal's Arms in Livro do Armeiro-Mor



The Portuguese royal arms, crowned with the winged serpent, the mark of the reigning Avis dynasty.

The coats of arms of the eight children of King Manuel I and his second wife Dona Maria, daughter of the Catholic Kings: six sons (coats of arms on an escutcheon) and two daughters (coats of arms on a lozenge).

Eight large stags with white striped antlers.

On the next level down are the coats of arms of the kingdom's 72 most influential families.

The inscription that circles the room refers to the coats of arms represented: "For they were won through efforts and loyal services and so they should be kept."



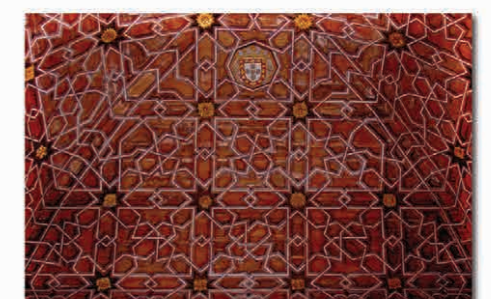
The Swan Room - Its current name is due to the painted ceiling, composed of 27 wooden panels in the Renaissance style, decorated with white swans in different poses. This decoration is first mentioned by the poet Luís Pereira Brandão around 1570.



The Magpie Room - This room is so named because of the painted ceiling that dates back to the 15th century, depicting 136 magpies. The birds hold the banner of King João I in their beaks, and in their claws grasp a rose that may refer to the House of Lancaster, the house of queen Philippa, his wife.



The Galley Room - Domed ceiling, turn of the seventeenth to eighteenth century, with seascapes and vessels that are flying the flags of the Ottomans, Dutch, and Portuguese, who were the major naval powers of the period.



Palatine Chapel - Founded in the early fourteenth century, the Chapel has a carved wooden ceiling with latticework. The decoration is made of geometrical elements that form radial and star compositions. This Mudéjar woodwork from the fifteenth century is one of the oldest in Portugal.

Hispanic-Moorish tiles

Tiles arrived in Portugal through the Arabian culture that permeated the Iberian Peninsula, and then adopted new ceramic techniques and decorative styles. This influence continued after the Christian reconquest of the twelfth century and led to a wide range of different types of tiles in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Wall coverings:



Ceramic flooring:



The major renovation projects in the Royal Palace. 13th-16th centuries



King Dinis (reign, 1279-1325)

King João I (reign, 1385-1433)

King Manuel I (reign, 1495-1521)

Heraldry Room

The most important heraldry room in Europe is an allegory for King Manuel I's centralised power. The tile panels (eighteenth century) depict bucolic and hunting scenes.



Palatine Chapel

Founded by King Dinis, the frescoes on the walls show the invocation of the Holy Spirit (fifteenth century) through the motif of doves carrying olive branches in their beaks. The tiled floor and wooden ceiling are among the oldest examples of Mudéjar work in Portugal.

National Palace of Sintra

The thousand year old history of the Paço da Vila de Sintra begins during the Muslim control of the Iberian Peninsula. Already mentioned in the eleventh century, the primitive Moorish fort - that would belong to the Portuguese Crown after the conquest of Lisbon by King Afonso Henriques (1147) - was first extended and improved in 1281 in the reign of King Dinis. New parts were added over time, and its silhouette has remained the same since the sixteenth century. The different heights of the spaces are adapted to the lie of the land. The intimate layout of open-air internal patios where running water can be heard, and the arched windows and richly decorated geometric tiled surfaces all show the Moorish influence of the craftsmen who built and decorated the Palace.

Kitchen

Designed to cater for hunting banquets, this kitchen has two 33 metre high chimneys. It displays the royal arms of Portugal and Savoy, that of Queen Maria Pia, the last of the royal inhabitants of the palace.

Manueline room

D Water Grotto

Cool room with tiles and stucco from the eighteenth century.



C Central Patio

King João I organized his rooms, each with a different function, around the central patio. A rare painting was discovered in the patio restoration: a geometrical trompe-l'oeil fresco from the reign of King Manuel I.



Important works from the Palace collections:



King Sebastião's room
Celestial globe
Christoph Schissler, (c. 1531-1608)
Augsburg, Germany, 1575



Corridor of the Heraldry Room
Tapestry with the Portuguese Royal Arms
Brussels, sixteenth century



The Chinese Room
Chinese Pagoda
China, Qing dynasty
Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century

B The Arab Room

This was probably King João I's bedroom. The current decoration, from the Manueline period, integrates several tile techniques, in which a three-dimensional geometrical composition stands out. The sculptural grouping at the central fountain accentuates the exoticism of the space.



The Maggie Room

Called the Câmara das Pegas [the Chamber of Magpies] by King Duarte, this room was used to receive the kingdom's dignitaries as well as foreign ambassadors. It is said that on its Renaissance veranda King Sebastião heard Camões read his poem *Os Lusíadas* [The Lusíads].

The Swan Room

This is the largest function room in the palace, used for receptions, banquets and celebrations. It was built during the reign of King João I, and was known as the Sala Grande [the Large Hall], or Sala dos Infantes [Princes Room] in the reign of King Manuel I.

Key

- Ticket office
- Toilets
- Service
- Cafeteria
- Shop
- Parking area
- Emergency: 112
- +351 219 237 363/69
- +351 917 484 831
- In the event of fire: 112

Visiting hours

	Last entry times	
High season	9h30 to 19h00	18h30
Low season	9h30 to 18h00	17h30

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