



# Moorish Castle



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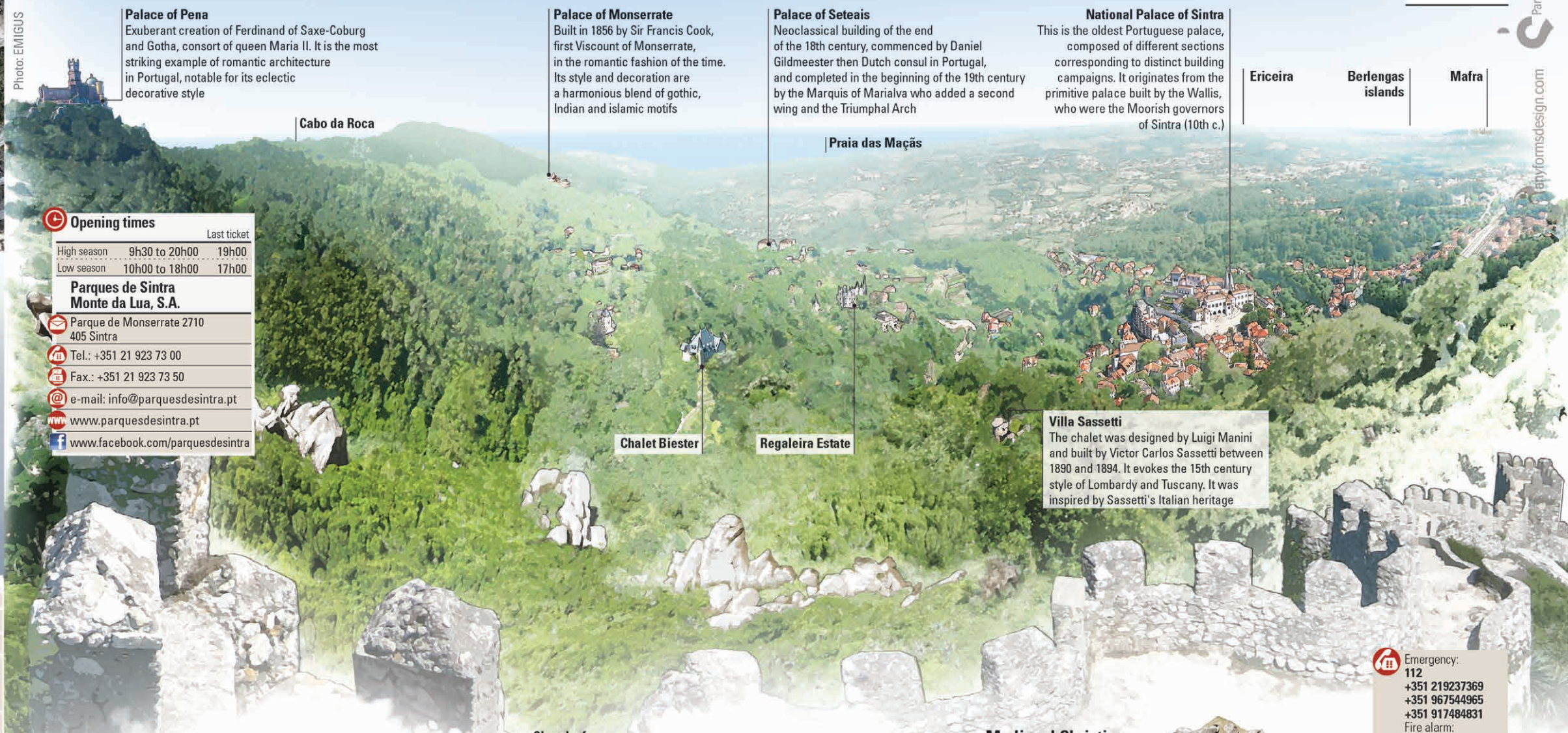
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CASTELO  
**Mouros**

## Panoramic view over Sintra

With privileged views of the Atlantic Coast, the Sintra hills and its surrounding fields, the Moorish Castle is strategically located to defend both the local territory and the maritime access to the city of Lisbon

Photo: EMIGUS



**Palace of Pena**  
Exuberant creation of Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, consort of queen Maria II. It is the most striking example of romantic architecture in Portugal, notable for its eclectic decorative style

**Palace of Monserrate**  
Built in 1856 by Sir Francis Cook, first Viscount of Monserrate, in the romantic fashion of the time. Its style and decoration are a harmonious blend of gothic, Indian and islamic motifs

**Palace of Setaeis**  
Neoclassical building of the end of the 18th century, commenced by Daniel Gildmeester then Dutch consul in Portugal, and completed in the beginning of the 19th century by the Marquis of Marialva who added a second wing and the Triumphal Arch

**National Palace of Sintra**  
This is the oldest Portuguese palace, composed of different sections corresponding to distinct building campaigns. It originates from the primitive palace built by the Wallis, who were the Moorish governors of Sintra (10th c.)

**Opening times** Last ticket

High season	9h30 to 20h00	19h00
Low season	10h00 to 18h00	17h00

**Parques de Sintra Monte da Lua, S.A.**

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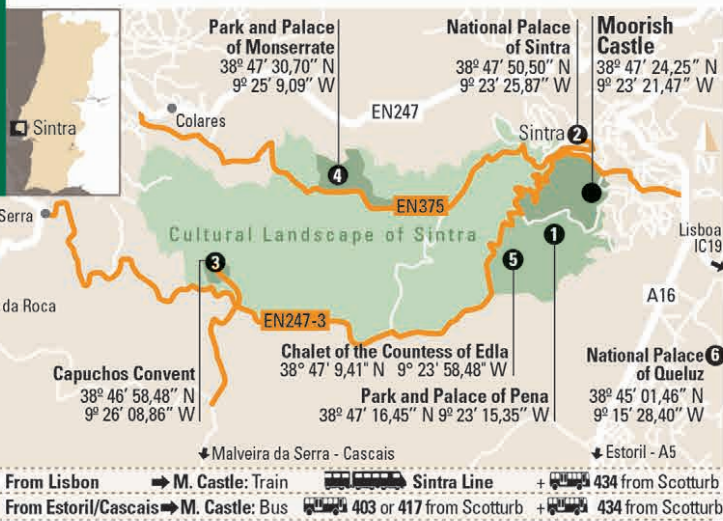
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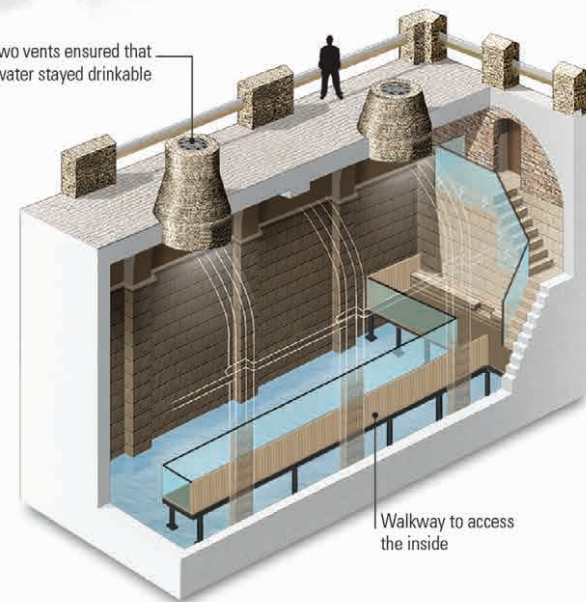
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### Parks of Sintra



### Cistern

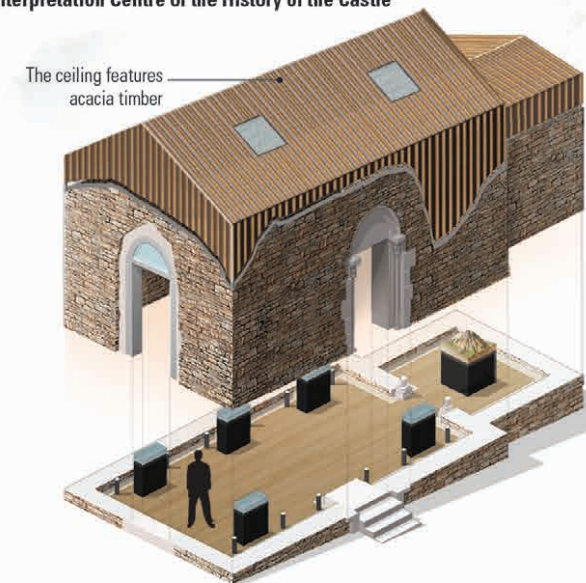
Two vents ensured that the water stayed drinkable



Walkway to access the inside

The reservoir was built using granite blocks from another construction. Some stonemason marks can be seen on the inside (12th c.). The inside is accessed via a broken arch doorway (13th c.). There being no record of the water ever dying up, legend says there is a Moorish king buried underneath

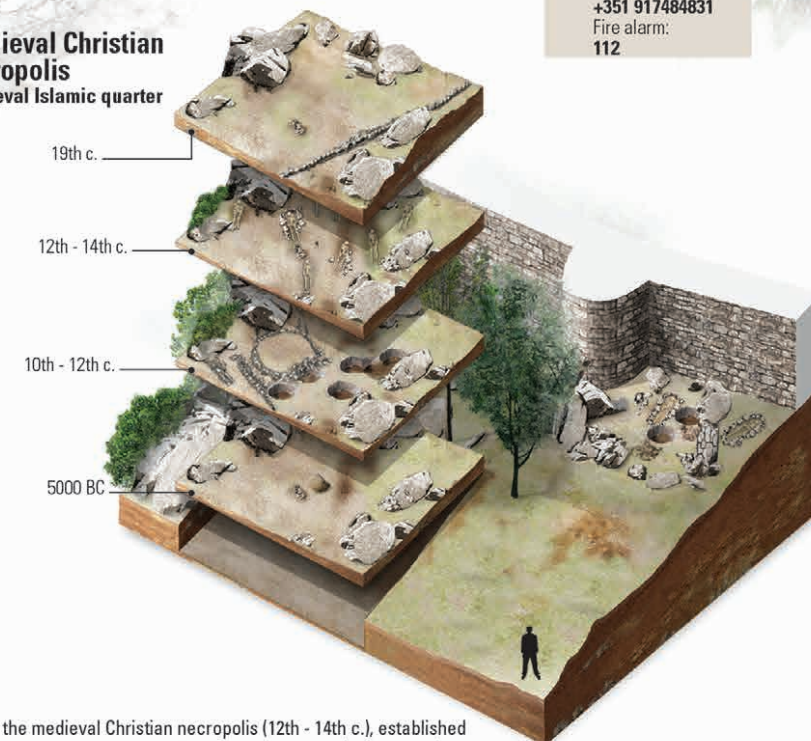
### Church of São Pedro de Canaferrim Interpretation Centre of the History of the Castle



The ceiling features acacia timber

Founded in the 12th century, it functioned as a parish church until the 14th century. There are remnants of mural painting in the chancel. Nowadays, objects collected in the archaeological digs are exhibited, through which the castle's history can be relived

### Medieval Christian necropolis Medieval Islamic quarter



Site of the medieval Christian necropolis (12th - 14th c.), established over the top of the former medieval Islamic quarter (10th-12th c.). Evidence has also been found of Neolithic and Chalcolithic occupation, the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman times












**Emergency:**  
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+351 219237369  
+351 967544965  
+351 917484831  
Fire alarm:  
112

Information Prices

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**History of the Portuguese flags, from the foundation to the Republic**

1143 <b>Afonso Henriques</b> 	1185 <b>Sancho I</b> 	1248 <b>Afonso III</b> 	1385 <b>João I</b> 	1481 <b>João II</b> 	1495 <b>Manuel I</b> 	1557 <b>Sebastião</b> 	1640 <b>João IV</b> 	1816 <b>João VI</b> 	1834 <b>Maria II</b> 	Since 1910 <b>Republic</b> 	
Afonso III (1211-1223)		Dinis (1279-1325), Afonso IV (1325-1357), Fernando (1357-1367), Pedro		Afonso V (1433-1438), Duarte		João III (1521), Henrique (1578-1580), Rule by the Filipas		Afonso VI (1656-1683), João V (1706-1750), José (1750-1777), Maria I		Miguel (1826-1828), Pedro IV (1828-1834), Pedro V (1853-1861), Luís (1861-1889), Manuel III (1889-1908)	
Used by Afonso Henriques, similar to the arms of his father, count Henry of Burgundy		Afonso III, not being the first born, could not use the arms of his father without alteration and added a red border with gold castles, possibly influenced by his marriage to Beatrice of Castille		Ordered the removal of the fleur-de-lys introduced by João I (master of the Order of Avis) and that the lateral 'quinas' be placed vertically		The royal coat of arms, surmounted by an open regal crown, is set in a white background		Coat of arms surmounted by the closed royal crown with five arches was the symbol of the Restoration		The armillary sphere behind the coat of arms symbolised the kingdom of Brasil. After the death of the king it was removed from the coat of arms	

# Moorish Castle

Military fort built around the 10th century by the Muslim populations that occupied the Iberian peninsula. It acted as a control tower for the Atlantic coast and land to the north, serving as an outpost for the city of Lisbon

**Sintra in arabic characters**

Idealised to symbolise the origin of the castle



**Door of Betrayal**

Small escape door to the outside. It also allowed enemies to access the inside, and so was called the "Door of Betrayal"

**Royal Tower**

So-called as it was one of the places where King Ferdinand II painted. It has a privileged view over the Palace of Pena


- Key**
-  Ticket office
  -  Toilets
  -  Service
  -  Viewpoint
  -  Binoculars
  -  Store
  -  Cafeteria
  -  Parking area
  -  Public transport
  -  Footpath
  -  Route for persons with reduced mobility
  -  Ramped route
  -  Route with steep slopes
  -  Wheelchair lift

-  Smoking areas
-  Do not light fires
-  Do not pick plants
-  Do not litter
-  Fountain water not suitable for drinking
-  Do not smoke except in specified locations
-  Traffic prohibited
-  Pets not allowed, except guide dogs

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Public transport. Bus nº434, Scotturb. Departs from the railway station and the Sintra Tourism Office

Lakes Entrance (Pena Park)

<b>5000 BC</b> The slopes at the Moorish Castle were occupied by Neolithic communities	<b>8th c.</b> Muslims conquered Al-Andalus; current Portuguese and Spanish territory	<b>10th c.</b> The castle was established, administratively dependent on the Caliphate of Córdoba	<b>11th - 12th c.</b> Final occupation of the castle's Islamic quarter, visible in the preserved archaeological sites	<b>1109</b> Castle invaded by King Sigurd I of Norway, known as the "the Crusader"	<b>1147</b> Following the conquest of Lisbon by King Afonso Henriques, the castle's Muslim rule ended	<b>1839</b> King Ferdinand II initiated a campaign to restore and renovate the castle and surroundings in the free, romantic style of the 19th century	 <b>1995</b> UNESCO lists the Sintra Hills where the castle is located, as Cultural Landscape, World Heritage	<b>2000</b> Parques de Sintra - Monte de Lua took over managing the monument	<b>2013</b> The "Conquering the Castle" project, co-financed by the Portuguese Tourism Office, reinstated paths, restored walls and revitalised the surrounding landscape
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**Conquering the Castle**  
With the support of the Portuguese Tourism Board



**Castle Keep**

Encompassing the castle tower, this is where the civil or church authorities resided. It was the last stronghold in the castle in the event of enemy attack

**Old stables**

Traces of the castle's medieval Islamic quarter are visible here. The area served as the stables in the medieval Christian and modern periods. Evidence has also been found of Neolithic and Chalcolithic occupation, the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman times

**Access to the castle and Pena by Santa Maria**

**Curtain Wall**

The different construction/repair phases of the wall can be seen, from the large 12th c. ashlars at the base to the 19th/20th c. parts at the top.

**Historical Interpretation Centre of the Moorish Castle**

Exhibition of the most important finds collected in the archaeological digs of the Castle



**Tomb**

Built by King Ferdinand II for the human bones exhumed during the road and church works

**Archeological investigation site**

Place where the medieval Islamic quarter and medieval Christian necropolis were located

**Second circle of walls**

Increases the fortified area in order to protect the burgh and the populations that settled on the hill



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São Pedro Sintra Cascais Lisbon

Main entrance (Pena Park)

Park of Pena

Access to the castle

Access to the castle

Entrance

Cistern

Arms Square

The largest area of the castle, allowing the concentration of a military garrison

Granaries

Structures carved out of the rock to store cereals and legumes. This method of preserving food has been described in several Arabic agriculture texts.

Guardhouse