New “Donkey Reserve” in Sintra

with activities for children and adults

- Reserve in the Ferdinand II hunting grounds next to the Convent of the Capuchos (Sintra)
- Programs: families, schools, birthday parties and guided tours
- Focus on caring and preserving the domesticated donkey (a threatened species)
- Partnership between Parques de Sintra and the AVPB – the Association for the Usage and Preservation of Donkeys
- Nuno Markl and Ana Galvão are project sponsors

Sintra, 19 October 2015 - Parques de Sintra in partnership with the AVPB - the Association for the Usage and Preservation of Donkeys – run the Donkey Reserve that is now launching new projects that target both children and adults: Donkey Reserve – Rides and Environmental Awareness Training.

Located in the grounds surrounding the Convent of the Capuchos, this project seeks to contribute towards continuing to care for and boost the profile of this threatened species, thus correspondingly organising a range of different activities designed to bring about interaction between children, adults and the donkeys. Throughout many centuries, this animal played a crucial role in the services it provided man, especially in local economic activities and rural life in general.

The Donkey Reserve provides access to a range of programs and actions that ensure contact with, raise awareness and provide knowledge about these animals to whoever is visiting Sintra, in addition to providing yet another means of exploring the surrounding natural heritage.

The project runs various types of programs and actions, targeted at different publics but consistently with the objective of conveying knowledge and fostering a reflection on the positioning of human beings as regards the role of animals down through the centuries. This seeks not only to share best practices around the issues of animal wellbeing but also implement all the activities able to foster interest and enthusiasm for biodiversity, placing human beings as an integral part of this natural world.
Visiting times:
March to September: from 10am to 6pm
October to February: prior reservations required (info@parquesdesintra.pt or +351 21 923 73 00)
Closed: 1 January and 25 December
www.parquesdesintra.pt/reserva-burros

Activities

Family Program: There’s Donkey Here!
Patient, affable and very calm, donkeys prove great assistants to both children and adults along this adventure that traces the course of their history to explain how these animals are gentle, slow to kick or bite (whenever treated with respect), are not nervous (whenever startled, they stop rather than fleeing like their horse “cousins”), are rather gluttonous, strong and sharp of mind! Take a ride through the forest: the children in the saddle while the adults lead the animals by hand.
Target groups: families with children aged between 3 and 12
Dates: 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 10am and midday
Duration: 90 minutes
Price: €10/participant

Birthday Program: Donkeying Around
Calm and fond of fun, donkeys are excellent company for celebrating a birthday. Let’s find out about their history, characteristics and curiosities and learn how to calculate their age without knowing when they were born. These celebrations may feature either a tour through the forest or donkey-back orienteering for all guests.
Target groups: children aged between 3 and 12
Duration: 2 hours + 1 hour for birthday tea
Price: €300/group (up to 20 children)

Teambuilding and birthday parties (youth and adults): Build a Team with your Donkey!
A pleasurable gymkhana that challenges all to step back in time, discovering the origins of donkeys, their evolution and their main characteristics, testing the dexterity of the group in interacting with these affable animals. The participants have to overcome challenges through team working: agility in mounting the donkey, handling direction, gathering objects and participating in target based and other traditional games (with and without the donkey).
Target groups: youths and adults (> 12 years)
Duration: 2 hours and 30 minutes
Price: €450 (including up to 30 persons/session)
Stag/Hen Nights: Giddy Up Donkey, I'm off to Church!

Ideal to surprise your friend who is just about to marry, this proposal is both fun and original. The program is ideal for anyone who enjoys open air activities and the company of friends. The group participates in the “donkey driving class”, thereby getting to know these animals better: their origins, evolution, characteristics, threat of extinction and how they should be handled, fed, groomed, ridden and harnessed. The bride or groom becomes skilled in handling the animal and awarded a personalised donkey driving license.

**Duration:** 2 hours and 30 minutes

**Price:** €450 (including up to 30 persons/session)

**Guided Tour**

Guided tour of the Reserve and interaction with the animals (whilst not including any ride)

**Target groups:** general public

**Price:** €5/person

**Notes:**
- Prior reservation is recommended for all activities ([info@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto:info@parquesdesintra.pt) or +351 21 923 73 00)
- Please wear comfortable shoes (preferably closed), clothing appropriate to the climate conditions prevailing (skirts are not recommended) and a hat and bring sun-tan lotion, water and a snack (there is no cafeteria service);
- Children should wear a cycling helmet or similar (either supplied by the reserve or brought from the house);
- A School's Program is also available.

**About Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua**

Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A. (PSML) is an exclusively state owned company, founded in 2000 following the classification by UNESCO of the Sintra Cultural Landscape as World Heritage. The company makes no recourse to the state budget and hence the restoration and maintenance of the heritage under its management is secured only by ticket sales, store and cafeteria revenues and income from renting facilities for events.

In 2014, the sites under the management of the PSML (Park and National Palace of Pena, the National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the Moorish Castle, the Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, Convent of the Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) received approximately 1,928,000 visits, around 86% of which were international in origin. In 2013 and 2014, the company picked up the World Travel Award for Best Conservation Company.

The PSML shareholders are the General Directorate of Treasury and Finances (representing the Portuguese state), the Institute of Nature and Forestry Conservation, Tourism of Portugal and Sintra Municipal Council.

[www.parquesdesintra.pt](http://www.parquesdesintra.pt) or [www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra](http://www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra)

**Press Information:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comunicação Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:comunicacao@parquesdesintra.pt">comunicacao@parquesdesintra.pt</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel.: +351 21 923 73 00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>