Celebrating Easter in the parks and monuments of Sintra

- The International Garden Photographer of the Year Exhibition returns to the Park of Monserrate
- “There’s Donkeys Here!” and “Certainly a Most Rustic Farmyard!” with special sessions for Easter
- “Sundays at the Piano” makes its return to the Palace of Monserrate

Sintra, 6 March 2017 – April arrives brimming with almonds, pastries and other delights. In the parks and monuments of Sintra, we highlight the month of Easter with special sessions of our “There’s a Donkey Here!” and “Certainly It’s a Country Garden!”, where there shall be plenty of Easter egg hunting, and alongside “Sundays at the Piano” in the Palace of Monserrate.

Right on 2 April, “Sundays at the Piano” makes its return to the Palace of Monserrate. On the first Sunday of every month and through to October, the pianist Raúl Pinto is performing in the Music Room of the Palace of Monserrate from between 3pm and 5pm. The event, set in a relaxed atmosphere, nurtures the historical and aesthetic ambience of visits to Monserrate. Throughout these two hours, Pinto plays works from the romantic repertoire featuring composers including Chopin, Schubert, Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart.

Also taking place in Monserrate, this time in the Park, 6 April sees the inauguration of the International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) exhibition, the world’s leading competition and exhibition for the specialist photography of gardens, plants, flowers and botanical species and open to both professional and amateur photographers. Annually, the exhibition of the winning works gets inaugurated in Kew Gardens (United Kingdom) before going on tour to diverse locations worldwide and including the Park of Monserrate. This year, the exhibition is once again held outdoors and correspondingly integrated into the surrounding nature.

Already into Easter week, there are two options for some family friendly excitement and fun. On Saturday, 15 April, at 10am, 12pm and 3pm, there are special sessions of the
There's Donkeys Here! activity. In addition to learning about the history of donkeys and going out riding with these animals, participants get to participate in an Easter egg hunt among other surprises.

On the same day, at 2.30pm, in the Farmyard of Monserrate, the Certainly a Most Rustic Farmyard! activity also gets a special Easter edition. On this occasion, participants get to learn how to make the traditional folares (pastry) of the season in the company of monitors dressed as 19th century country folk. There is also a hunt for the eggs that prove to be very well hidden in the furthest corners of the Farmyard.

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**PROGRAM**

**Equestrian Art Presentations**
Training: regular sessions (schedule available at [www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira](http://www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira))
Gala: 31 March
The Henrique Calado Riding Ring regularly hosts training sessions and gala performances by the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art and that are open to the public.
- **Target audience:** all age groups over six
- **Price:** Galas - €25 // Training – €8 // Presentations – €15
- **Further information available at:** [www.arteequestre.pt](http://www.arteequestre.pt) / [info@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto:info@parquesdesintra.pt) / +351 21 923 73 00

**Sundays at the Piano**
Sundays, 2 April, 3pm, Palace of Monserrate
On the first Sunday of each month, in the Music Room of the Palace of Monserrate, Raúl Pinto takes to the piano from 3pm to 5pm. Performed in a relaxed environment, this event seeks to combine the aesthetic enjoyment of this Palace with a listened to component. According to the pianist, he plans to present "a recreation of the historical and aesthetic ambience of visits to Monserrate" through the performance of works from the Romantic period featuring composers including Chopin, Schubert, Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart.
- **Target audience:** everybody
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Price:** included in the Park of Monserrate entrance ticket.

**International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY)**
From 6 April to 8 October, Park of Monserrate
The International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) is the leading world photography competition and exhibition specialising in gardens, plants, flowers and botanical species and open to both professional and amateur photographers. Annually, the exhibition of winning works gets inaugurated in Kew Gardens (United Kingdom) before then going on tour to various different locations worldwide and including the Park of Monserrate. This year, the exhibition is once again outdoors and integrated into the surrounding nature.
- **Price:** included in the Park of Monserrate entrance ticket.
There’s Donkeys Here!
Every Saturday in March, 10am, midday and 3pm, Ferdinand II Hunting Grounds (next to the Convent of Capuchos)
Patient, affable and very calm, donkeys are great companions for children and adults on this adventure, which tells the path of history over the course of centuries, explaining the gentleness of these animals that neither kick nor bite (whenever treated with respect), are not nervous (when frightened, they stop still rather than fleeing), are strong and smart. There then follows a walk through the forest: the children get to ride while the parents lead with the reins.
On Saturday, 15 April, there are special Easter sessions with egg hunting in the forest alongside other surprises.
- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged between 3 and 12
- **Duration:** 90mins
- **Price:** €10/participant
- **Pre-booking recommended:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** the donkey walks are subject to cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions. Activity available every day of the week following prior reservation.

Certainly a Most Rustic Farmyard! – Easter Special
Sunday, 15 April, 2.30pm, Farmyard of Monserrate
Once again, the Farmyard fills with the colours, smells and flavours of festivity. On this occasion, the preparations are for celebrating Easter and participants get to learn how to make the delicious folares pastries, traditional to this festive season. In the charming company of monitors dressed as rural folk once did in the 19th century, there is also a hunt for the Easter eggs that have been well-hidden out across the extent of the Farmyard.
Should the weather prove adverse and we have to stay indoors, there is then an Easter egg decorative workshop. At the end, there are warm folares for everyone.
- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged between 4 and 10.
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Price:** €8/participant
- **Requires prior booking (weekdays):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants

Guided Tour of the Exhibition “Ferdinand Coburg fecit: the artistic activities of the king-consort” Sunday, 12 March, 3pm, National Palace of Pena
Within the framework of celebrations of the bicentenary of the birth of Ferdinand II, this exhibition unveils the artistic facets to the consort of Queen Maria II. Following a general approach to the history of the palace, the participants gain the opportunity to explore the taste for experimentation of this artist-king, especially across his range of engravings and paintings on ceramics, in a guided tour that leads through an unprecedented exhibition that equally marks the reintegration of the chambers of King Manuel II on the visit route.
- **Target audience:** all age groups
- **Duration:** 2h
- **Price:** adults: €16.5 (entrance ticket €11.5 + guided tour supplement €5) | Young Persons and Seniors: €14 (entrance ticket €9 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Requires pre-booking (weekdays):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants
From the Park to the Hunting Grounds: Nature in Sintra and in Mafra
Saturday, 18 March, 10am, Hunting Grounds of Monserrate, and 3.30pm, Hunting Grounds of Mafra

Joint visit program to Sintra and Mafra that conveys the diversity of the ecosystems of the Natural Park of Sintra – Cascais – a protected area that spans the Hunting Grounds of Monserrate – and the magnificent, ancient and indigenous forest that proves so characteristic of the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra. In the Hunting Grounds of Monserrate, visitors explore the natural history of the Sintra Hills, the particular microclimate that characterises this area and renders it so mystically special, concepts such as forest food, the ecological succession, invasive species, among others. Over the course of their tour, visitors shall certainly be surprised by the presence of wooden sculptures depicting the medium and large mammals that no longer exist in the Sintra Hills but that in a recent past did inhabit this landscape. In Mafra, along a less explored path, visitors get to view a mature forest and that, due to its protection by a surrounding wall, is able to guarantee excellent conditions to the more vulnerable species, with some at risk of extinction, that feed, breed and find shelter here.

- **Target audience:** all age groups
- **Duration:** 90mins in Monserrate, 2h in Mafra
- **Price:** adults €13/participant | Young persons and seniors: €11/participant | Family (2 adults + 2 children): €45
- **Requires pre-booking (weekdays):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants. Visits may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail.

Feel the Heritage – Discover the Park of Monserrate through the Senses
Sunday, 25 March, 10am, Park of Monserrate

In amongst the romantic ruins and waterfalls, the visitor gets to discover the Gardens of Monserrate through feeling, hearing and smelling. This makes it possible to touch the water in the waterfalls, to perceive variations in temperature and to learn about various botanical species through feeling textures and sensing exotic odours. In the surroundings of the Palace of Monserrate, this is the opportunity to discover all of the materials making up its facades.

- **Target audience:** focused on blind and visually challenged visitors but also open to everybody interested.
- **Duration:** 90mins.
- **Disabled persons price:** €8.25 (entrance ticket €3.25 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Regular price:** €11.5 (entrance ticket €6.5 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Requires pre-booking (weekdays):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** this activity counts upon the support of ACAPO – the Association of the Blind Amblyopia Sufferers of Portugal. We would recommend wearing comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate to the meteorological conditions prevailing. The visit may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail or adapted to the interiors of the Palace of Monserrate.

The Gardens of Monserrate without Barriers
Saturday, 25 March, 10.30am, Park of Monserrate

Visit targeting persons with mobility restrictions who are here able to explore the gardens with autonomy through recourse to equipment that overcomes the barrier posed by the slopes and facilitates the mobility of manual wheelchairs. This correspondingly enables exploration of the Fern Valley, the Mexican Garden, the Rose Garden, the Lawns and Lakes interspersed throughout the Park of Monserrate.

- **Target audience:** focusing upon visitors with mobility restrictions
- **Duration:** 90mins.
- **Disabled persons price:** €8.25 (entrance ticket €3.25 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Regular price:** €11.5 (entrance ticket €6.5 + guided tour supplement €5)
- **Requires pre-booking (weekdays):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- Note: visitors may either bring their own wheelchairs or make use of a wheelchair provided by Parques de Sintra (without any added cost). Open to those accompanying. The traction equipment adapts to the overwhelming majority of wheelchair makes. The visit may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail.

Sign Language Heritage
Saturday, 25 March, 2.30, Park of Monserrate
Visit to the gardens and Palace of Monserrate with a Portuguese sign language accompanied tour. The visit to the gardens, one of the most beautiful landscape creations of Romanticism in Portugal, which hosts over 3,000 species of plants from the four corners of the world and extending through the Fern Valley, the Mexican Garden, the Rose Garden and the Lawns before ending in the Palace of Monserrate.
- Target audience: focusing upon deaf visitors but open to everybody interested
- Duration: 90mins.
- Disabled persons price: €8.25 (entrance ticket €3.25 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Regular price: €11.5 (entrance ticket €6.5 + guided tour supplement €5)
- Requires pre-booking (weekdays): info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- Note: this activity counts upon the support and participation of APS – the Portuguese Deaf Association. We would recommend wearing comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate to the weather prevailing. The visit may be subject to cancellation should adverse meteorological conditions prevail or adapted to the interiors of the Palace of Monserrate.

Horse and pony trekking
Daily, Park of Pena
Horse riding provides visitors with a different means of exploring the routes and paths through the Park of Pena. The duration of the ride may vary from anything between 30 and 90 minutes or extend to between three and six hours. The longer trek programs correspondingly provide the opportunity to visit the other sites under the management of Parques de Sintra and even to scheduling lunch in a particular place. All of these horseback excursions are accompanied by the horse handlers who also serve to guide visitors along the routes.
Reaching a younger audience, Parques de Sintra also runs an activity that enables children to gain their first riding experience on a pony especially trained for this age group and also always accompanied by one of the animal’s handlers.
- Horse trekking: €15/30 min, €30/90 min, €50/3h, €100/6h (in addition to the Park of Pena entrance ticket)
- Pony rides: €7/15 minutes (in addition to the Park of Pena entrance ticket)
- Further information available and reservations at (weekdays): info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- Note: The running of this activity remains dependent on the meteorological conditions prevailing
- Find out more at: www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-taizer/passeios-a-cavalo/

Cart Rides
Park of Pena
Cart rides through the Park of Pena open up a voyage back through time along a route that spans the Fern Valley and the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, passing by the Farm of Pena and the Garden of the Countess of Edla. This ride may be taken on your own or accompanied by a specialist guide. This provides visitors with the opportunity to get up close to the history of this Park and its founders, the botanical and animal species that populate the length of this route as well as the historical buildings and garden nooks dotting the trajectory.
- These rides may be taken by up to six adults or four adults and four children
During the low season, available only following pre-reservation
- Price: €75/1h (in addition to the entrance ticket to the Park of Pena where these programs take place)
- Note: The running of this activity remains dependent on the meteorological conditions prevailing
- Find out more at: www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-lazer/passeios-de-charrete/
- Further information available and reservations at (weekdays): info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00

Exhibition “Ferdinand Coburg fecit: the artistic activity of the king-consort”
Open daily, National Palace of Pena
This exhibition reveals the hitherto unseen and extensive collection of sketches, engravings and manuscript documents acquired by Parques de Sintra in 2012, and alongside other objects incorporated in the meanwhile. The display also contains some of the pieces donated by descendants of the Countess of Edla, the monarch’s second wife, and others loaned by both private and institutional collections such as the National Museum of Ancient Art, the National Palace of Ajuda, the Casa de Bragança Museum-Library and, within the PSML universe, the National Palace of Queluz.
- Price: entrance ticket to the National Palace of Pena

The Contemporary Art “Point of View” Exhibition
Open daily, Park of Pena
A collective and site specific exhibition with artistic direction by Paulo Arraiano bringing together ten artists with different nationalities but all internationally recognised: Alberto Carneiro (Portugal), Alexandre Farto/Vhils (Portugal), Antonio Bokel (Brazil), Bosco Sodi (Mexico), Gabriela Albergaria (Portugal), João Paulo Serafim (Portugal), NeSpoon (Poland), Nils-Udo (Germany), Paulo Arraiano (Portugal) and Stuart Ian Frost (United Kingdom).
- Price: Entrance ticket to the Park of Pena
- Further information available at: www.penapointofview.com

“Stained Glass and Glass Objects: Ferdinand II Passion” Exhibition
Open daily, National Palace of Pena
The exhibition of an impressive set of stained glasses dating to between the 14th and 19th centuries, which includes the oldest stained glass work known in Portugal. There are also examples of the glass objects of the Palace of Pena, one of the most representative collections of the history of European glass existing in Portugal. Recently, this expanded to also include some of the pieces that formerly belonged to the glass collection of King Ferdinand II and that are held in the National Museum of Ancient Art reserve collection.
- Price: Entrance ticket to the National Palace of Pena
- Find out more at: www.parquesdesintra.pt/evento/exposicao-vitrais-e-vidros-um-gosto-de-d-fernando-ii/

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About Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua
Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua, S.A. (PSML) is an entirely state owned company founded in 2000 in order to meet the challenges arising out of the UNESCO classification of the Sintra Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage site. The entity does not resort to the State Budget and
the restoration and maintenance of the heritage in its care are ensured by the revenues resulting from sales at its ticket offices, stores, cafeterias and the rental of facilities for the hosting of events. In 2016, the sites managed by PSML (the 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, the Convent of the Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) welcomed 2,625,011 visits, around 83% of whom were international in origin. In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, PSML was distinguished with the World Travel Award for the “World’s Leading Conservation Company”. The PSML shareholders are the General Directorate of the Treasury and Finance (representing the Portuguese state), the Portuguese Institute of Nature and Forestry Conservation, the Portuguese Tourism Board and Sintra Municipal Council.

www.parquesdesintra.pt / www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra

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