Parks and monuments of Sintra welcome in spring with music from the Romantic era and many new events

- “Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena” ongoing between 1 and 30 March
- Carnival edition of the “Voyage to the Court of the 18th century” in the National Palace of Queluz
- “Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Botanical Garden of Queluz”
- “The Fairy’s Path” in the Park of Monserrate
- “The Consecration of Spring” in the Gardens of the National Palace of Queluz

**Sintra, 11 February 2019** – In March, it is not only the Mardi Gras Carnival that brings animation to the parks and monuments of Sintra. In a triumphal entrance, spring brings with it a “bouquet” of new activities that both celebrate nature and trigger the imagination whether in searching for fairies and elves or unravelling classical mythology. And, as music represents a privileged means of evoking emotions and memories, there is no better way to pay due tribute to the new season than a cycle of concerts inspired on the Romantic period.

From 1 to 30 March, eighteenth century music shall again enliven the evenings of the **Great Hall of the National Palace of Pena**, with the fifth edition of “Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena”, a joint initiative between Parques de Sintra and the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Musical Studies, with its artistic direction ensured by its maestro Massimo Mazzeo. Throughout five weekends, this revives the intimate spirit of the evenings that took place there over the course of the second half of the 19th century on the initiative of Ferdinand II, the “king-artist”, and his second wife, the Countess of Edla. In ten concerts, that reflect the seven proposed programs, this explores the interactions between the musical styles and the vocal genres that characterised the romantic period and its cultural ambiences, in particular the literary facet with a particular emphasis on the figure of Gustave Flaubert.
On 2 March, at 3pm, the National Palace of Queluz enters into the joy and exuberance typical of Mardi Gras Carnival with a “Voyage through the Court of the 18th century” especially dedicated to this theme. In a festive and highly creative ambience, which carries us back to the Baroque period, everything starts out with a mask-making workshop. This is followed by a tour of this palace, which once hosted many, highly sophisticated parties, in which the participants, accompanied by characters from this period, get actively involved in a moment of music and dance from the 18th century amidst the sumptuous splendour of the palace’s rooms.

On 17 March, at 3pm, it’s time to discover “The Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Botanical Garden of Queluz” in the company of Fernanda Botelho, a specialist in this field. In the recently restored Botanical Garden of Queluz, attention is cast onto the various families of plants it hosts while discovering the importance of knowing about their scientific names. This also serves as the foundation of the explanation of the therapeutic, culinary and horticultural riches. This is the point of departure for a series of visits that Fernanda Botelho shall be guiding throughout 2019 focusing on the botanical heritage present in various of the historical gardens of Sintra and the forest of the Convent of Capuchos.

Following the official arrival of the new season, on 23 March, the Gardens of the National Palace of Queluz, at 10.30am, host the “Consecration of Spring”. This involves a visit guided by Filomena Barata, of the Clenardvs Association, that applies an interpretation of the statues and some of the botanical species to reveal the divinities of nature, classical mythology and the myths bound up with the seasons of the year. The spring edition opens up a cycle of four visits that take place on the dates commemorating the solstices and the equinoxes.

On the following day, 24 March, also at 10.30am, in the Park of Monserrate, the hunt is on for “The Path of the Fairies”. In exploring this magic scenario, parents and children are to follow smooth melodies and seek out the beings that inhabit the forests. On the way, there are intriguing places, fully capable of capturing the imagination. In this immersive activity, which stimulates contact with nature, surprises are guaranteed.
“Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena”
Friday, 1 March until Saturday, 30 March, National Palace of Pena
Throughout the month of March, music from the Romantic period shall again enliven the evenings of the National Palace of Pena, invoking the spirit of the intimate evenings that took place there over the course of the second half of the 19th century hosted by Ferdinand II, the “king-artist” and his second wife, the Countess of Edla. Over the course of five weekends, the Great Hall of this monument welcomes ten concerts that convey the seven proposed programs.
The fifth edition of this cycle is dedicated to the interactions between the musical and cultural ambiances of this period, in particular the literary with a particular emphasis on the figure of Gustave Flaubert and alongside an exploration of the musical styles and vocal genres that characterised the Romantic period through these successive voyages through time to the interiors of the 19th century salons.
The Musical Evenings at the Palace of Pena cycle is a joint initiative between Parques de Sintra and the Centre of Portuguese Eighteenth Century Musical Studies and with its maestro Massimo Mazzeo serving as artistic director.
- For further information: www.parquesdesintra.pt

Voyage to the Court of the 18th century –Carnival Special
Saturday, 2 March, 3pm, National Palace of Queluz
In a festive ambience and with great creativity, which takes us right back into the 18th century, this year’s Carnival celebrations at the National Palace of Queluz start off with a mask making workshop following which the participants, accompanied by period characters, get involved in a moment of 18th century music and dance in one of the palace’s former party venues.
- Target audience: Recommended for families with children aged over 6
- Duration: 2h
- Ticket: €9/participant
- Requires prior booking: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00 (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm)
- Note: The running of this activity requires a minimum number of participants

Families in the Forest
Saturday, 16 March, 11am, Farmyard of Monserrate/ Monserrate Hunting Grounds
A unique opportunity for families to set off in discovery of nature where there is the time and place to run, climb, play, to let creativity flourish and make shelters and works of art from natural materials. Playing, whether in the sun or rain, stimulates the acquisition of individual and collective competencies, team spirit, complicity, valuation and respect both for others and for biodiversity.
The sessions, held by Parques de Sintra and by the Bloom Movement, incorporate Sharing Nature activities, a learning methodology inspired on Flow Learning, which values the application of the entertaining component to games, activities and workshops that enable participants to deepen their relationships with themselves, with other persons and the natural world through the means of play.
The Bloom Movement (www.movimentobloom.org.pt; www.facebook.com/Movimento.Bloom) is a non-profit environmental association that has run Sharing Nature Portugal since 2012 with the goal of fostering, encouraging and promoting the conservation of the surrounding environment alongside children and their families, through initiatives that seek to establish bonds with nature so that they begin playing active conservation roles.
- Target audience: Recommended for families with children aged between 4 and 12
- Duration: 2h
- **Ticket:** €8/participant
- **Requires prior booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00 (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm)
- **Note:** The running of this activity requires a minimum number of participants. We recommend the wearing of comfortable clothing, which may get muddy, and waterproof boots. Participants should bring a complete change of clothing in a small backpack (including trousers, socks, underwear, t-shirt, jumper).

**From the Park to the Hunting Grounds: Nature in Sintra and in Mafra**
Saturday, 16 March, 10am, Monserrate Hunting Grounds, and 2.30pm, Mafra Hunting Grounds

A joint visit program to Sintra and Mafra, which opens up insights into the diversity of the Sintra – Cascais Natural Park ecosystems – a protected area that includes the Monserrate Hunting Grounds – and the magnificent and historical indigenous forest making up the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra. In the Monserrate Hunting Grounds, visitors explore the natural history of the Sintra hills, their peculiar microclimate, and concepts such as forest food, ecological succession, invasive species, among others. Along the route, visitors are surprised by the presence of wooden sculptures of the medium and large scale mammals that once roamed the Sintra hills in the recent past. In Mafra, along less explored paths, visitors are taken on a tour of discovery of this mature forest that, given its walled protective enclosure, has guaranteed excellent conditions for vulnerable, where not at risk of extinction, species that are here able to feed, reproduce and find shelter.

- **Target audience:** everybody
- **Duration:** 90m in Monserrate, 2h in Mafra
- **Ticket:** Adults: €13/participant | Youths and seniors: €11/participant | Families (2 adults + 2 children: €45
- **Requires prior booking (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The holding of this activity requires a minimum number of participants. The visits are subject to cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions.

**The Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the Botanical Garden of Queluz**
Sunday, 17 March, 3pm, Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz

In 2019, Fernanda Botelho, a medicinal plant specialist, is leading a cycle of visits that take the recently restored Botanical Garden of the National Palace of Queluz as their point of departure in order to highlight the various families of plants found there and the importance of knowing their scientific names. These tours correspondingly explore the therapeutic, culinary and horticultural riches present in the historical gardens of Sintra and the grounds of the Convent of Capuchos.

Design and orientation: Fernanda Botelho

- **Target audience:** everybody
- **Duration:** 2h / 2.5h
- **Ticket:** €15/participant
- **Requires prior booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00 (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm)
- **Note:** The tour is subject to cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions.

**Ringing in the Farmyard**
Saturday, 23 March, 9.30am (Commemorations of Tree Day and Water Day), Farmyard of Monserrate

Ringing, the scientific technique that, while simple, enables the gathering of information about birds (weight, sex, age, among others) through the temporary capture and attaching of an
identification ring to each individual. This session ensures participants not only gain the opportunity to observe the captured examples up close but also to learn how to distinguish between the various types of birds, their main characteristics and the importance of the ringing process to avifauna conservation efforts.

- **Target audience:** everybody
- **Duration:** 2.5h
- **Ticket:** free of charge
- **Prior registration required:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00 (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm)
- **Note:** Restricted to 15 participants. We recommend wearing comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to the respective meteorological conditions. The session may be subject to late cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions.

**Feel the Heritage**
**Saturday, 23 March, 10am, Park of Monserrate**
In amongst the romantic ruins and waterfalls, visitors discover the Gardens of Monserrate through touch, hearing and smell. There is the chance to touch the waterfall, feel variations in temperature and learn about various botanical species, feeling their textures and drawing in their exotic fragrances. Around the Palace of Monserate, this enables the discovery of all the materials making up the facades.

- **Target audience:** targeting blind and visually challenged visitors.
- **Duration:** 90m
- **Ticket price for registered disabled persons:** entrance ticket + €5 guided tour supplement
- **Regular ticket:** entrance ticket + €5 guided tour supplement
- **Requires prior booking (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** this activity counts on the support of ACAPO – the Blind and Partially Sighted Association of Portugal. We recommend wearing comfortable footwear and clothing appropriate to the respective meteorological conditions. The visit may be cancelled in case of adverse weather or adapted only to the interior of the Palace of Monserate.

**Gardens of Monserrate without Barriers**
**Saturday, 23 March, 10.30am, Park of Monserrate**
Guided tour for persons with mobility restrictions who may move about the gardens with autonomy due to equipment that breaks the barrier of slopes and facilitates the mobility of manual wheelchairs. This opens up contact and exploration of the Fern Valley, the Mexican and Rose Gardens, the Lawn and Lakes in the Park of Monserate.

- **Target audience:** targeting visitors with mobility restrictions
- **Duration:** 90m
- **Ticket price for registered disabled persons:** entrance ticket + €5 guided tour supplement
- **Regular ticket:** entrance ticket + €5 guided tour supplement
- **Requires prior booking (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** visitors may bring their own wheelchairs or opt for one provided by Parques de Sintra (at no extra cost). Open to accompanying individuals. The traction equipment adapts to the great majority of wheelchairs. The visit may be cancelled in case of adverse meteorological conditions.

**Heritage in Sign Language**
**Saturday, 23 March, 2.30pm, Park of Monserrate**
Visit to the gardens and Palace of Monserrate with a Portuguese Sign Language guided tour. The visit to the garden, one of Portugal’s finest examples of Romanticism inspired landscapes, which contains over 3,000 species of plants from every corner of the world. Taking in the Fern Valley, the Mexican and Rose Gardens and the Lawn before ending in the Palace of Monserrate.

- **Target audience:** targeting deaf visitors
- **Duration:** 90m
- **Ticket price for registered disabled persons:** entrance ticket + €5 guided tour supplement
- **Regular ticket:** entrance ticket + €5 guided tour supplement
- **Requires prior booking (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** this activity counts on the support of APS – the Portuguese Deaf Persons Association.

**The King’s Treasure**  
**Saturday, 23 March, 3pm, National Palace of Sintra**

In a palace with over 700 years of history, packed with secrets for discovery, participants are invited to follow clues, resolve puzzles and complete tasks to finally learn just what and where is the king’s treasure. This is a game of clues through which participants embark on the discovery of the history of the National Palace of Sintra in a different and stimulating fashion.

- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged over 8
- **Duration:** 90m
- **Ticket:** €9/participant
- **Requires prior booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity requires a minimum number of participants.

**The Consecration of Spring**  
**Saturday, 23 March, 10.30am, Gardens of the National Palace of Queluz**

Myths take us back to a time when the union between man and nature and the divine did not need words of expression. “The Consecration of Spring” opens up a cycle of four visits about classical mythology and the myths that underlie the seasons of the year. On the dates celebrating the solstices and equinoxes, the proposed itineraries through the gardens of the National Palace of Queluz unveil the divinities of nature through the interpretation of the statues and some of the botanical species.

Design and orientation: Filomena Barata, Clenardvs Association

- **Target audience:** everybody
- **Duration:** 90m
- **Ticket:** €12/participant
- **Requires prior booking:** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The holding of this activity requires a minimum number of participants. The tour is subject to cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions.

**The Path of Fairies**  
**Sunday, 24 March, 10.30am, Park of Monserrate**

Entering into the quiet depths of the forest, our attention get drawn to the marvellous creatures moving in amongst the vegetation. Following smooth melodies, passing by gigantic trees, are they dragonflies or fairies? Are they errant elves? Without understanding just how, the place of arrival begins approaching. Who will be living there? Just what will be revealed?
- **Target audience**: recommended for families with children aged between 3 and 6
- **Duration**: 90m
- **Ticket**: €8/participant
- **Requires prior booking**: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note**: The holding of this activity requires a minimum number of participants. The session is subject to cancellation in case of adverse meteorological conditions.

**Equestrian Art performances**

**Gala**: Friday, 29 March, 9.30pm, Henrique Calado Riding Ring (Calçada da Ajuda)

“Equestrian Art Mornings”: regular (calendar at [www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira](http://www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira))

The Henrique Calado Riding Ring regularly hosts the “Equestrian Art Mornings”, an initiative that reveals the daily activities ongoing at EPAE, and thematic galas.

- **Target audience**: everybody over the age of 6
- **Ticket**: Galas - €25 // “Equestrian Art Mornings” – €8
- **For further information**: [www.arteequestre.pt](http://www.arteequestre.pt) / info@parquesdesintra.pt / +351 21 923 73 00

**There’s a Donkey Here!**

*Every Saturday in March, 10am, 12pm and 3pm, Fernando II Hunting Grounds (alongside the Convent of Capuchos)*

Patient, affable and very calm, donkeys are great partners in this adventure for children and adults alike on this extraordinary adventure. With the presentations made, it’s time to tell of the history of these animals down through centuries, explaining their gentleness, how they do not kick or bite (when treated with respect), they are not nervous (when frightened, they stop still rather than flee like their horse “cousins”), are strong and indeed intelligent. Take a ride through the forest; children on top and the adults leading the animals by hand and all shall enjoy a pleasant trek through the forest.

- **Target audience**: recommended for families with children aged from 3 to 12
- **Duration**: 90m
- **Ticket**: €10/participant
- **Requires prior booking** (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm): info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note**: The rides may be cancelled in case of adverse meteorological conditions. This activity is available during weekdays subject to prior booking.

**Horse and pony trekking**

*Daily, Park of Pena*

Horse rides in which visitors take a different means of exploring the paths and bridleways of the Park of Pena. The horse ride duration may vary from between 30 and 90 minutes or from 3 to 6 hours. In the longer program, there is the scope for visiting the other sites under Parques de Sintra management and even schedule lunch at a particular spot. All rides take place in the company of the horse handlers who guide visitors along the way.

Thinking of children, Parques de Sintra also runs an activity that enables younger persons to gain their first riding experience on a pony especially trained for this purpose and also accompanied by one of the handlers.

- **Horse rides**: €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 and reservations**: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note**: these rides always depend on the prevailing meteorological conditions
Cart Rides
Park of Pena
Cart rides through the Park of Pena provide a genuine journey through time over the route stretching from the Valley of the Lakes and the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, taking in the Farm of Pena and the Garden of the Countess of Edla. This trip may be free or accompanied by a specialist guide. The passengers are taken off in discovery of the history of this park and its creators, its botanical species and the animals that appear along the way in addition to the built heritage and the garden nooks revealed along the route.
- The ride may include up to six adults or four adults and four children
- From 1 October and throughout the low season, only available following prior reservation
- Ticket: €75/1 hour (in addition to the Park of Pena entrance ticket, where these programs take place)
- Note: Holding this activity always depends on the prevailing meteorological conditions
- Find out more: www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-lazer/passeios-de-charrete/
- Further information and reservations: info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00

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 in the wake of the UNESCO classification of the Sintra Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage site. The company does not receive any state budget funding and hence ensures the restoration and maintenance of the heritage under its management through the revenues generated by the ticket offices, stores, cafeterias and renting out spaces for events. In 2017, the areas under PSML management (Park and National Palace of Pena, National Palaces of Sintra and Queluz, Chalet of the Countess of Edla, the Moorish Castle, the Palace and Gardens of Monserrate, Convent of Capuchos and the Portuguese School of Equestrian Art) received around 3.2 million visitors, around 80% of which were international in origin. The company also received the World Travel Award for Best Conservation Company in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. The PSML shareholders are the General Directorate of the Treasury and Finance (which represents the State), the Institute of Nature and Forestry Conservation, Portugal Tourism and the Municipal Council of Sintra.


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