

## August in the parks and monuments of Sintra

- **“The Art of Medieval Warfare” in the Moorish Castle**
- **“From the Park to the Hunting Grounds: Nature in Sintra and in Mafra”**
- **IGPOTY remains on exhibition in the Park of Monserrate**

Enjoying the green and the nature of August is the proposal for the parks and monuments of Sintra, which are putting on a full agenda of historical recreations, exhibitions and walking tours.

On the first August weekend, the historical recreation of **“The Art of Medieval Warfare”** returns to the **Moorish Castle**. On Saturday, **5 August**, from **10am to 6pm**, the event is dedicated to **“King Dinis and the Crossbow Squad (13<sup>th</sup> century)”**. This squad of crossbowmen theme ranges from their militia duties through to their royal privileges and obligations to establish a framework for their activities. At the end of each presentation, audiences may handle the weaponry used in the demonstration while under duly qualified supervision. There are also demonstrations of the weaponry and military devices of this period at 11am, 3pm and 5pm.

Furthermore, on Saturday, **19 August**, the main event comes with **“From the Park to the Hunting Grounds: Nature in Sintra and in Mafra”**, a joint visit program to Sintra and Mafra, which provides insights into the ecosystems prevailing in the Natural Park of Sintra – Cascais – a protected area incorporating the Hunting Grounds of Monserrate – and the magnificent historical and indigenous forest that makes up the National Hunting Grounds of Mafra. The visit begins at 10am in the Hunting Grounds of Monserrate before proceeding to the Hunting Grounds of Mafra at 2pm.

Additionally, for any enthusiasts of nature and photography, there is the ongoing exhibition in the **Park of Monserrate** of the **“International Garden Photographer Of The Year (IGPOTY)”** collection resulting from the world’s leading photograph competition and exhibition specialising in gardens, plants, flowers and botany, open to both professional and to amateur photographers. The annual winners make up the

exhibition that is inaugurated in Kew Gardens (United Kingdom) before subsequently touring various locations around the world, including the Park of Monserrate. This year, the exhibition is once again outdoors and integrated into the surrounding nature.

## PROGRAMMING

### **Equestrian Art Presentations**

**Training: regular sessions (schedule available at [www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira](http://www.arteequestre.pt/bilheteira))**

#### **Gala: 25 August**

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

### **There's Donkeys Here!**

#### **Every Saturday in August, 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.

- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged between 3 and 12
- **Duration:** 90mins
- **Price:** €10/participant
- **Pre-booking recommended:** [info@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto: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.
- **Target audience:** recommended for families with children aged between 3 and 12
- **Duration:** 90mins
- **Price:** €10/participant
- **Pre-booking recommended (weekdays):** [info@parquesdesintra.pt](mailto: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

### **The Art of Medieval Warfare – “King Dinis and the Crossbow Squad (13<sup>th</sup> century)**

#### **Saturday, 5 August, from 10am to 6pm, Moorish Castle**

The theme of the Crossbow Squad spans its militia role and their royal privileges and obligations to provide the framework for this historical re-enactment. This deploys a small squad of crossbowmen in the field, a unit led by their captain and duly equipped. At the end of each presentation, the public may handle the equipment used while under appropriate supervision. The weapons and military device demonstrations take place at 11am, 3pm and 5pm.

- **Target Audience:** everybody
- **Duration:** from 10am to 6pm
- **Price:** access included in the Moorish Castle entrance ticket
- **Note:** this activity is subject to cancellation should the weather conditions prove adverse.

### **Sundays at the Piano**

#### **Sundays, 6 August, 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.

### **From the Park to the Hunting Grounds: Nature in Sintra and in Mafra**

#### **Saturday, 19 August, 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](mailto: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**

#### **Saturday, 26 August, 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](mailto: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, 26 August, 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](mailto: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, 26 August, 2.30pm, 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](mailto: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.

### **Certainly a Most Rustic Farmyard!**

#### **Sunday, 27 August, 2.30pm, Farmyard of Monserrate**

Discover in family how this small farm located in the midst of the Sintra Hills may unfurl the past ways of living rural life in the country.

In the company of monitors dressed in the rural styles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this is the chance to learn how to make bread in the traditional fashion and, while the bread bakes in the wood-fired stove, you get to help your hosts with their daily tasks. Collecting eggs from the henhouse and giving carrots to animals in field, wandering the orchards and gardens to learn about the fruits and vegetables of this period and, in the herb garden, recognise the plants for making infusions and those for seasoning food with the help of your nose, represent some of the tasks on the to-do list.

In case of adverse weather, the time spent outdoors is switched to inside the four walls with the holding of an aroma workshop and using the aromatic plants to produce perfumed bags that each participant gets to take away. There is also a story telling session in which each participant gets invited to participate through deploying some of the accessories associated with the traditions of this region. At the end, there's the chance to savour the just-baked bread.

- **Audience:** recommended for families with children aged from 4 to 10
- **Duration:** 2h



- **Price:** €8/participant
- **Requires prior registration (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Note:** The running of this activity depends on a minimum number of participants

### **Cart Rides**

#### **Park of Pena**

The cart rides through the Park of Pena provide a true period means of travel between the Valley of Lakes and the Chalet of the Countess of Edla, passing through the Farm of Pena and the Garden of the Countess of Edla. This tour may be done on your own or accompanied by a specialist guide. This takes visitors on a tour of discovery of the history of this Park and its creators, the botanical species and animals that appear along the route in addition to the historical buildings and garden architecture encountered along the way.

#### **Regular cart rides**

From Thursday to Sunday and public holidays, 20-minute rides at the following times:

- Lakes-Chalet route: 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm
- Chalet-Lakes route: 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm

#### **Ticket price:**

- Adults (> 18 years) – €3.5 + Park of Pena entrance ticket
- Young persons (aged from 4 to 17) – €2 + Park of Pena entrance ticket
- Children under 3 – free

#### **Important information:**

- No reservations policy
- Tickets sold at the entrance ticket office
- We would recommend arriving around 15 to 20 minutes before the desired departure time

#### **Exclusive cart rides**

From Monday to Wednesday, 1 hour tours:

- Routes: Lakes => Chalet => Lakes or Chalet => Lakes => Chalet

#### **Ticket price:**

- €75 + Park of Pena entrance ticket

#### **Important information:**

- Prior reservation and payment necessary
- **Find out more at:** [www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-lazer/passeios-de-charrete/](http://www.parquesdesintra.pt/experiencias-e-lazer/passeios-de-charrete/)
- **For further information and reservations (weekdays from 9.30am to 6.30pm):** info@parquesdesintra.pt; +351 21 923 73 00
- **Notes:** these rides may include up to 6 adults or 4 adults and 4 children. This activity is subject to cancellation in the case of adverse weather conditions.

### **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.



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

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