

Sunday Ride

13rd and 27th of November 2011

Enjoy a special day-off and connect with the land, see, air and fire...

Convent Mafra - Mafra

10:00AM

Visit to the Palace, Convent and Basilica

The National Palace of Mafra is one of the most spectacular Baroque monuments in Portugal, its construction symbolizes the absolutist reign of King D. João V. The palace has some 1,200 rooms of which the most impressive is the Library, from the 18th century and contains 36,000 books and manuscripts. In addition there is the Convent, an important and significant part of the religious heritage of Portugal. However, the most stunning feature of the Palace is the Basilica, a masterpiece of Baroque architecture and famous for its Carillon – unique in the whole world for its size and beauty of its mechanism.



Beach and lunch - Ericeira

12:30AM

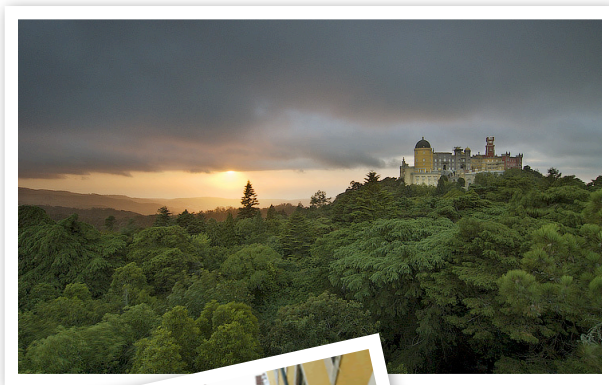


Visit the Ericeira beach

Washed by the Atlantic is considered by many one of the best beaches in Europe for the practice of Surfing, having received some world championships. Here we can enjoy the contact with the sea and the wind, and for the most courageous and if the weather allow it, can go for a swim.

Lunch at Ericeira beach

In this land of fishermen will have lunch at a restaurant where we can taste the famous Portuguese fish and other grilled delicacies.



SINTRA

Known as Monte da Lua (Moon hills) by the Celts, Sintra has always been a place of deep mysticism.

A beautiful and magical town at the foot of the mountain range of the same name, its unique characteristics have led UNESCO to classify it as a World Heritage place. It was even necessary to create a special category for the purpose - that of "cultural landscape" - taking into account its natural riches as well as the historic buildings in the town and mountain. Endowed with luxuriant vegetation, the mountain is part of the Sintra-Cascais Natural Park.



Sintra had a major effect on the development of European Romantic architecture (Pena Palace; Monserrate) in the 19th century. Its interest, however, is by no means limited to one or two important buildings, but is represented in the diversity of its palaces and parks; elegant manor houses, with their gardens and forests; mansions and chalets surrounded by a dense vegetation; long sections of walls winding around the highest of the peaks of the mountain, reminding us of past centuries; convents conducive to meditation, surrounded by mossy cliffs and murmuring fountains; austere churches and chapels, as well as smaller, more "human" commonplace chapels, several of which comprise secular areas as Faith and Art and finally, archaeological remains which are often thousands of years old and which take us back to our deepest roots.

Qta da Regaleira - Sintra

15:00PM

Guided visit to Qta da Regaleira.

This is a fabulous assemblage of styles and constructions (gardens, wells, towers, statues, mysterious grottoes, etc.), which architect Luigi Manini(1848-1936) succeeded in imbuing with exceptional characteristics.

The origins of this Quinta (palace and estate) which is currently known as the Quinta da Regaleira date back to 1697 when José Leite purchased a huge tract of land at one end of the Old Quarter of Sintra.

The highlight of the visit, there shall call upon the adventure of the Knights Templar, or the ideals of the masters of Freemasonry, to descend into the initiatic well by a huge spiral staircase. And deep down, with our feet on an eight-pointed star, is like being immersed in the womb of Mother Earth.

Then, we can only go through the labyrinthine caves of darkness, to win the light reflected on amazing lakes.

Tips:

wear comfortable shoes and bring a flashlight because the caves and passages have in low light.



Free Time - Sintra

17:00PM

Free time to discover the streets of Sintra and an indispensable snack at Piriquita a famous pastry, for its cakes “Travesseiros” and “Queijadas”.

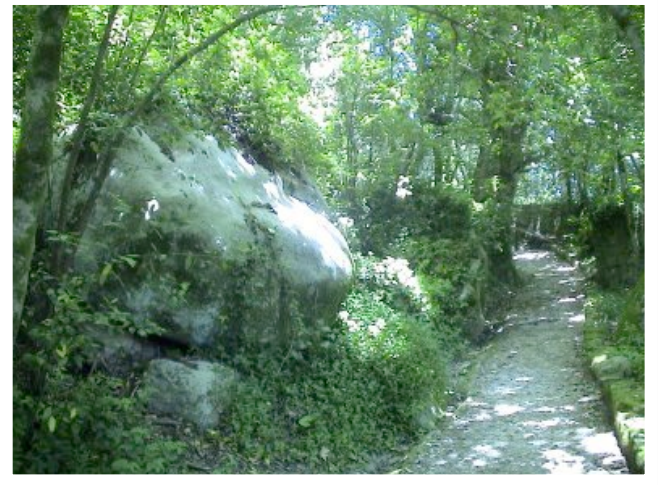


Walk in the mountain

18:30PM

An unforgettable tour in Sintra mountain at nightfall with a very experienced guide Francisco. He will lead us to discover the mountain by walking trails and paths of charm. We will reconnect ourselves with the earth, surrounded by forest with its smells, sounds, and shadows; we will rediscover senses that in our daily stress lives we forget.

... the rest is surprise!



Tips:

Bring warm clothes for the mountain; it is too wet and cold at night with temperatures around 5 ° C, and comfortable shoes.

Magusto Night

20:30PM

Discover the charms of a traditional Portuguese feast with the celebration of the summer of St. Martin. Where there are plenty of roasted chestnuts, bread, and sausages, soup "caldo verde". And what better to celebrate than a camp fire?! ...



Tour

Mafra Monastery, walk on the beach and lunch, guided tour of the Qt Regaleira; guided tour in the Mountain; Magusto.....95€