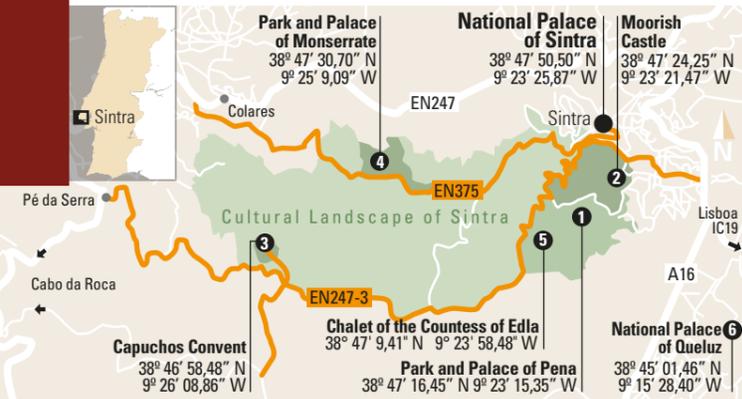


Sintra

National Palace of Sintra

NATIONAL PALACE OF Sintra

Parques de Sintra



From Lisbon → To Sintra: Train Sintra Line + 434 or 435 from Scotturb
 From Estoril/Cascais → To Sintra: Bus 403 or 417 from Scotturb + 434 or 435 from Scotturb



1 Park and Palace of Pena 2 Moorish Castle 3 Capuchos Convent

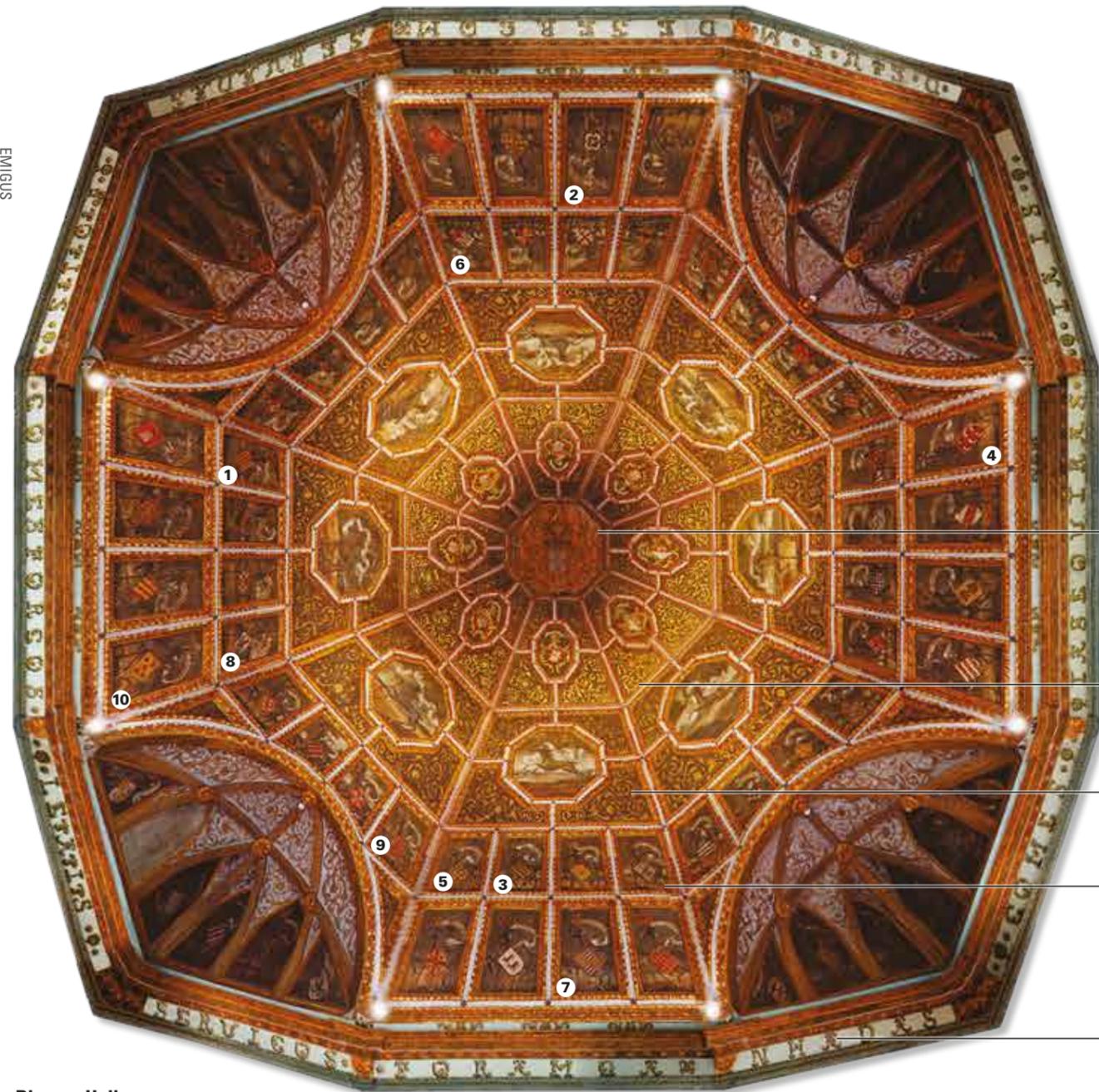


4 Palace of Monserrate 5 Chalet of the Countess of Edla 6 National Palace of Queluz

EMIGUS

The ceilings of the rooms in the National Palace of Sintra

The ceilings of the Palace's main spaces are notable for their harmonious blend of Gothic, Moorish and Renaissance elements that is so characteristic of the monument's architecture and heritage, and a living memorial to the major events in Portuguese history and the opening out into new worlds.



Blazons Hall

The models for the blazons in this room were taken from *the Livro do Armeiro-Mor* [Book of the Master Armourer] (1509) by João do Cró (or João do Cros) and *the Livro da Nobreza e Perfeição das Armas* [Book of the Nobility and Perfection of Arms] (c. 1521-1541) by António Godinho. The former – the richest and most important Portuguese armorial – was commissioned by Manuel I to identify all existing blazons at a time when the use of coats of arms was highly arbitrary. The latter book revises and supplements the former, becoming the national reference work on heraldry. The ceiling of Blazons Hall, an important heraldic record of the first quarter of the sixteenth century, remains a reference point that is still sought out today by Portuguese citizens and those of Portuguese descent all over the world.



1 Almeidas 2 Carvalhos 3 Castros 4 Costas 5 Cunhas 6 Henriques 7 Ribeiros 8 Silvas 9 Sousas 10 Tavares

11th century First reference to "two extremely strong castles" in Sintra, by the Arabian geographer Al-Bakrî	1147 The end of Muslim control after the conquest of Lisbon by Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal	1281 Royal letter from King Dinis ordering the Colares free Moors to maintain the Palace.	1413 In the palace King João I receives spies with information about the port of Ceuta whose capture marks the beginning of overseas expansion	1432 The birth of D. Afonso V in the palace, where he was also later to die in 1481	1481 Acclamation of King João II in the square to the North of the Palace	1499 In Sintra, King Manuel I receives news of the discovery of a sea passage to India	1501 In Sintra, King Manuel I hears of the discovery of Brazil	1584 Four Japanese Christian princes are welcomed in the Palace before continuing to Rome for an audience with the Pope	1674 King Afonso VI is imprisoned in a room in the Palace until his death	1755 The Lisbon earthquake damages the Palace	1910 Proclamation of the Republic and the Palace is declared a National Monument	1995 UNESCO classifies Sintra as a World Heritage Site	2012 Parques de Sintra-Monte da Lua, S.A. takes over the management of the monument.
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Information Prices



The Swan Room - Its current name is due to the painted ceiling, composed of 27 wooden panels in the Renaissance style, decorated with white swans in different poses. This decoration is first mentioned by the poet Luis Pereira Brandão around 1570.



The King of Portugal's Arms in Livro do Armeiro-Mor

The Portuguese royal arms, crowned with the winged serpent, the mark of the reigning Avis dynasty.

The coats of arms of the eight children of King Manuel I and his second wife Dona Maria, daughter of the Catholic Kings: six sons (coats of arms on an escutcheon) and two daughters (coats of arms on a lozenge).



The Magpie Room - This room is so named because of the painted ceiling that dates back to the 15th century, depicting 136 magpies. The birds hold the banner of King João I in their beaks, and in their claws grasp a rose that may refer to the House of Lancaster, the house of queen Philippa, his wife.

Eight large stags with white striped antlers.

On the next level down are the coats of arms of the kingdom's 72 most influential families.



The Galley Room - Domed ceiling, turn of the seventeenth to eighteenth century, with seascapes and vessels that are flying the flags of the Ottomans, Dutch, and Portuguese, who were the major naval powers of the period.

The inscription that circles the room refers to the coats of arms represented: "For they were won through efforts and loyal services and so they should be kept."



Palatine Chapel - Founded in the early fourteenth century, the Chapel has a carved wooden ceiling with latticework. The decoration is made of geometrical elements that form radial and star compositions. This Mudéjar woodwork from the fifteenth century is one of the oldest in Portugal.

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Parques de Sintra

Hispanic-Moorish tiles

Tiles arrived in Portugal through the Arabian culture that permeated the Iberian Peninsula, and then adopted new ceramic techniques and decorative styles. This influence continued after the Christian reconquest of the twelfth century and led on to a wide range of different types of tiles in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Wall coverings:



Archers' Room (relief tiles) The Swan Room (chequered) The Swan Room (sgraffito) The Swan Room (alicatado panels) Central patio (cuerda-seca) Central patio (cuerda-seca)



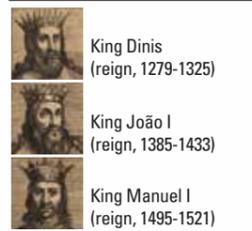
King Sebastião's room (cuerda-seca) Arab Room (alicatado panels) Crown Room (relief tiles) Palatine chapel (Aresta technique)

Ceramic flooring:



Prison room of King Afonso VI (alicatado panels and cuerda-seca) Palatine chapel (alicatado panels)

The major renovation projects in the Royal Palace. 13th-16th centuries



Heraldry Room

The most important heraldry room in Europe is an allegory for King Manuel I's centralised power. The tile panels (eighteenth century) depict bucolic and hunting scenes.

A Prison room of King Afonso VI

This is where Afonso VI was held for nine years under his brother's orders. It is the only room with iron bars. The rare Mudéjar tiled floor dates back to the fifteenth century.



Important works from the Palace collections:



King Sebastião's room
Celestial globe
Christoph Schissler, (c. 1531-1608)
Augsburg, Germany, 1575



Corridor of the Heraldry Room
Tapestry with the Portuguese Royal Arms
Brussels, sixteenth century



The Chinese Room
Chinese Pagoda
China, Qing dynasty
Late eighteenth - early nineteenth century



Palatine Chapel

Founded by King Dinis, the frescoes on the walls show the invocation of the Holy Spirit (fifteenth century) through the motif of doves carrying olive branches in their beaks. The tiled floor and wooden ceiling are among the oldest examples of Mudéjar work in Portugal.

National Palace of Sintra

The thousand year old history of the Paço da Vila de Sintra begins during the Muslim control of the Iberian Peninsula. Already mentioned in the eleventh century, the primitive Moorish fort - that would belong to the Portuguese Crown after the conquest of Lisbon by King Afonso Henriques (1147) - was first extended and improved in 1281 in the reign of King Dinis. New parts were added over time, and its silhouette has remained the same since the sixteenth century. The different heights of the spaces are adapted to the lie of the land. The intimate layout of open-air internal patios where running water can be heard, and the arched windows and richly decorated geometric tiled surfaces all show the Moorish influence of the craftsmen who built and decorated the Palace.

Kitchen

Designed to cater for hunting banquets, this kitchen has two 33 metre high chimneys. It displays the royal arms of Portugal and Savoy, that of Queen Maria Pia, the last of the royal inhabitants of the palace.

Manueline room

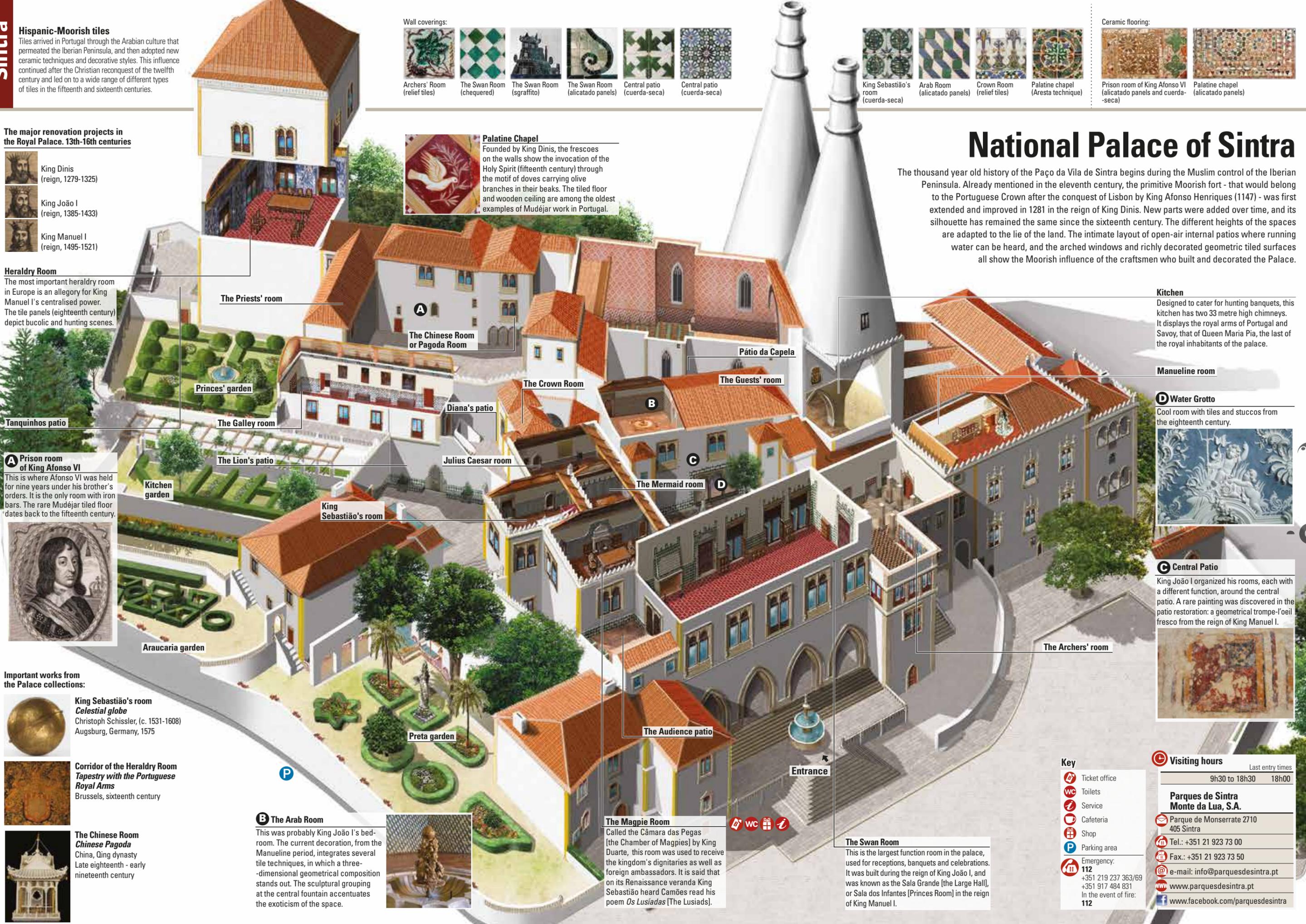
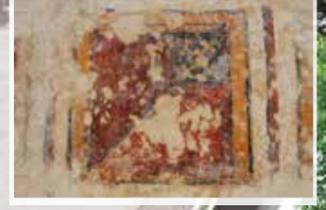
D Water Grotto

Cool room with tiles and stucco from the eighteenth century.



C Central Patio

King João I organized his rooms, each with a different function, around the central patio. A rare painting was discovered in the patio restoration: a geometrical trompe-l'oeil fresco from the reign of King Manuel I.



The Priests' room
The Chinese Room or Pagoda Room
Pátio da Capela
The Crown Room
The Guests' room
The Mermaid room
The Lion's patio
Julius Caesar room
The Archers' room
The Audience patio
The Swan Room
The Magpie Room
The Arab Room
Princes' garden
Tanquinhos patio
Kitchen garden
King Sebastião's room
Preta garden
Araucaria garden
Entrance

Visiting hours

	Last entry times	
	9h30 to 18h30	18h00

Parques de Sintra Monte da Lua, S.A.

Parque de Monserrate 2710
405 Sintra
Tel.: +351 21 923 73 00
Fax: +351 21 923 73 50
e-mail: info@parquesdesintra.pt
www.parquesdesintra.pt
www.facebook.com/parquesdesintra

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