

# Gardens & Palaces of Lisbon and Sintra

**Destination:** Portugal  
**Trip code:** EEGDT



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Based in Ericeira on the Atlantic coast in a seafront hotel, just outside Lisbon, this trip ventures to the area's most opulent historic palaces and stylish gardens. We'll follow in the footsteps of Portuguese royalty at Queluz Palace and Sintra's Royal Palace and explore the beauty of the formal gardens of the Fronteira Palace. There's time to admire the ornate architecture of Jerónimos Monastery and to uncover the secrets of the gardens of Quinta da Regaleira with its unique 'initiation well' and extensive network of tunnels. The trip also includes a visit to the romantic hilltop Pena Palace and its surrounding gardens.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Good quality en-suite accommodation in one of our European partner hotels
- Half Board – continental breakfast and evening meal
- The guidance and services of our knowledgeable HF Holidays' leader, ensuring you get the most from your holiday
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- All transport to and from gardens on a comfortable, good-quality mini coach
- All gardens admissions costs (please note this does not include entrance to private homes or castles, for

which there is a separate admission fee)

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Explore the mysterious gardens of Quinta de Regaleira
- Discover hidden viewpoints in the romantic gardens of Palacio Nacional da Pena
- Experience the harmony between the gardens and architecture of Palacio de Queluz
- Enjoy the Monserrate Palace Gardens, planted with species from around the world and planted by geographical origin

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Once you arrive at Lisbon Airport, you will be met and taken to your hotel in Ericeira. There will be time to settle in and meet your Tour Manager and fellow guests before dinner.

### Day 2: Sintra Royal Palace And Park & Palacio De Monserrate

Enjoy a day in Sintra visiting the Royal Palace, parts of which date back a thousand years. The heavy Moorish influence plays out in the details of this distinctive building. You'll also be delighted by the Monserrate Palace – often overlooked as it lies just outside the historic centre of Sintra. This stunning 'summer house' is a blend of Indian, Gothic and Arabic styles. Its garden contains a variety species from around the world and is planted by geographical origin.

### Day 3: Fronteira Palace & Queluz Palace

We begin today with a visit to the beautiful gardens at the Fronteira Palace, which were created in the 1660s. The formal gardens' most eye-catching feature are the richly decorated walls adorned with coloured, glazed tilework following a blue and white theme. There are also many statues, stairways and fountains plus a large area of box hedging laid out to make geometric patterns. The gardens surround a sumptuous 17th century building which is privately owned by the Marquesses of Fronteira. Next up is Queluz Palace, the exquisite national palace which was one of the last great Rococo buildings to be designed in Europe. The palace was once home to Queen Dom Maria and her husband (who was also her uncle!) Dom Pedro III; the queen sadly suffered from mental health issues following the death of first her husband and then her son. The palace is surrounded by French influenced formal gardens complete with lakes, fountains and statues; the Tiled Ceramic Canal is decorated with typical 18th century scenes in glazed tiles.

### Day 4: Jerónimos Monastery & Tropical Garden

Today we discover the incredible 14th century Jerónimos Monastery – one of the most decorative religious buildings in the country and historically associated with the early explorers. This UNESCO World Heritage Site houses the tomb of famed explorer, Vasco de Gama, and features a cool contrast of interiors with vast vaulted ceilings. The ornately decorated cloisters are magnificent; each column is adorned with a different carving, with scenes of sea monsters, coils of rope, coral and other nautical themes. The monastery gardens date back to 1940 and feature hedges cut in the shape of various municipal coats of arms plus a large fountain. We'll also visit the nearby tropical gardens which house a wide range of tropical and sub-tropical species from around the world.

### Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day which gives you the opportunity to explore the local area or relax at our seafront hotel which has a well-equipped spa and outdoor swimming pools.

**Ericeira:** Go for a wander through the narrow, winding streets of Ericeira and perhaps sample some of the delicious pastries on offer in its patisseries. You could then make your way to one of the sandy beaches and watch the surfers bounce over the waves.

**Lisbon:** If you would like to do some exploring on your own in Lisbon, it can be reached using an express bus along the motorway and then get around using the city's efficient Metro system. You could explore attractions such as St George's Castle, the cathedral, aquarium and several world class museums including the Gulbenkian. Take a ride on a vintage city tram to view more of the city - an experience not to be missed!

## **Day 6: Lisbon Eduardo VII Park - Estufa Fria & Gulbenkian Foundation Gardens And Exhibition**

The Eduardo VII Park is the largest public park in Lisbon and offers a stunning view of the city. You'll also visit the Esufa Fria or 'cold greenhouse' which was built in the 1930s before we move on to Gulbenkian Foundation Gardens and Exhibition.

## **Day 7: Sintra Palacio Nacional De Pena & Quinta Da Regaleira**

A visit to the Pena Palace and Park makes for a stunning end to the week. Lush green forests encircle this romantic-style hilltop palace. Wander through the park to discover hidden pathways leading to breathtaking viewpoints. The gardens of the decorative 20th-century mansion of Quinta da Regaleira are a real treat! Uncover the maze of hidden tunnels and learn about the concealed symbolism and connections with ancient secret orders.

## **Day 8: Departure Day**

Depart after a leisurely breakfast.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

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### **Hotel Vila Galé Ericeira - Lisbon Coast**

Located in a traditional village in an enviable sea front location, the historic 4-star Hotel Vila Galé Ericeira is a local landmark building, listed for its unique green tiling. Low tide exposes the rocks immediately in front of the hotel and a lovely sandy beach. Guests can relax at the health club which offers sauna, Turkish bath, hot tub and spa treatments. Rooms with balconies and sea views are available.

#### **Accommodation Info**

#### **Rooms**

All the 202 en-suite bedrooms are spacious and offer a high standard of comfort.

Each room has:

- Air conditioning
- Wi-Fi
- TV
- Telephone
- Room safe
- Minibar

## Facilities

Outside the hotel is a swimming pool overlooking the sea and attractive gardens.

Inside, there are several bars, main restaurant and a wellness centre with a sauna, Turkish bath, gym and Jacuzzi, which are free of use for guests of the hotel. A wide range of health and beauty treatments are also available for a small charge.

The hotel also offers a laundry service and free Wi-Fi.

## Food & Drink

Our holidays at Ericeira are on a Half Board basis and include breakfast and evening meal.

### Breakfast

There is an extensive selection of hot and cold options for breakfast from a self-select buffet.

### Lunch (Payable Locally)

You can buy ingredients for your picnic lunch in the nearby shops. On some days it may be possible to visit shops on the walk, or eat in a local café; your leaders will advise you of the options.

### Evening Meal

The evening meal is served in the open, airy restaurant, which offers a varied buffet catering for most diets, including vegetarians. If you have any special dietary requirements, please speak to the hotel staff on arrival.

### Drinks

The hotel has a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine and spirits.

## Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our Guided Walking holidays continues into the evening.

Enjoy a glass of wine or local beer before hearing about the next day's walks. On most evenings you can enjoy the hotel's entertainment programme or take a walk on the beach. Alternatively relax in the bar with a drink and chat with your fellow guests or walk into Ericeira for an ice-cream or coffee in one of the many pavement cafés.

One evening we have arranged for a speaker to come and talk to our groups about this very interesting region.

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### *THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION*

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Book your holiday 'with flight' and choose between Heathrow or Manchester flights to Lisbon airport. For flight times and prices please see the Dates & Prices tab.

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The coach transfer takes approx 45 minutes to the Hotel Vila Galé Ericeira.

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## THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION

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Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

- We can book you a seat on the **HF Holidays' transfer coach** from Lisbon airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights\* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £19.00
- Why not let us book you a **private taxi transfer** at a cost of £65.00 per single taxi journey?

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

\* Please note that HF Holidays is not responsible for your onward travel if you fail to meet the transfer coach

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### What To Bring

Guests should bring stout, comfortable footwear for rough, wet or uneven terrain in gardens.

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## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any



errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

## MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

## YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## PEACE OF MIND

### ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any

subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

**Document produced:** 30-09-2020

