
Gardens, Parks and Forests

Azores

Ilha de São Miguel

Parque Terra Nostra

Address: Largo Marquês da PraiaFurnas - Povoação - Ilha de São Miguel

Timetable:

April - July: 10am - 7pm;

August: 10am - 7.30pm;

September - October: 10am - 7pm;

November - March: 8am - 5pm.;

Other informations:

Average altitude - 200m.

Area - 125 ha.

Guided tours can be made by appointment with the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets; Bar; Guided Tours; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

The history of Terra Nostra Park is connected to the development of the village of Furnas as a thermal spa and summer resort.

This Romantic-style botanical garden was built in the 18th and 19th centuries and is one of the most popular sites on the Island of São Miguel, visited by both locals and foreign visitors who are attracted by the chance to bathe in the geothermal swimming pool, and marvel at the magnificent views and the variety and riches of the exotic vegetation.

The park is divided into two zones: the upper zone, occupied by footpaths through the dense woods, and the lower zone between the Amarela stream and the Serpentina lake, where visitors may wander around footpaths, lawns, pools and fountains. Key features include the thematic gardens of Cycas palm trees, endemic plants, camellias and ferns, and the avenues of palm trees and ginkgos. The main species are oak, black cottonwood, black poplar, Japanese red cedars, araucarias, tulip-trees, camellias, ferns, hydrangeas, azaleas and rhododendrons.

The park also has a thermal pool with brownish iron-rich water at a temperature of around 25°C.

Lisboa Region

Sintra

Parque da Pena

Address: Estrada de Monserrate 2710-405 Sintra

Timetable:

Winter (25 October to 1 March): 10am - 6pm (Last ticket 5pm);

Summer (From 2 March to 24 October) 9.30am - 8pm (Last ticket 7pm);;

Access:

Buses; Train stations;

Characteristics and Services:

Guided Tours;

The fruit of King Fernando II's vivid imagination, Pena Park reflects the intellectual and artistic trends of the 19th century, the era of Romanticism. Together with the architect Baron de Eschwege and the engineer Baron Kessler, King Fernando drew up plans for the entire parkland that surrounded the Pena Palace.

Rejecting the formal rigidity of classical gardens and respecting the rugged terrain, the fertile soil, the unique climate of the Sintra mountain and the breathtaking views, Fernando II attempted to simulate an almost perfect state of nature. Just as the Pena Palace is based on architectural follies inspired from opera settings and distant lands, the Park was also designed with diverse contrasting environments distinguished by the presence of many surprising and exotic features. In order to implement this idea King Fernando integrated the vestiges left by the Jeronimo monks in the park and the palace.

He designed lakes connected via waterfalls and imported species from the four corners of the world into the forests and woodlands - Japanese Cedars, ferns from New-Zealand, cedars from the Lebanon, candelabra trees from Brazil, arborvitae from North America and countless specimens from Portugal - a total of over 2000 species. The King also littered the park with extravagant pavilions, fountains, springs, small secluded corners and miradors.

The visiting time for the park's sign-posted itinerary is normally around 1 hour and 15 minutes (around 4 km).

On arrival in Sintra, there are signs indicating the way to Pena Park. There are also public transport buses from the town centre to Pena Park.

Porto and the North

Vila Nova de Famalicão

Parque da Devesa

Address: Rua Fernando Mesquita,nº 2453 - D,
Antas4760-034 Vila Nova de Famalicão
E-mail: parquedadevesa@famalicao.pt **Website:**
<https://www.parquedadevesa.com/>

Other informations:

It is forbidden any behaviour that disturbs the fauna or damages the flora of the Park (namely, feeding the animals, cutting or plucking flowers, shrubs and trees, fishing or hunting);
It is forbidden any type of behaviours that disturb or endanger the users of the Park (namely, bathing in the whole area of the Park; camping, making fire, cooking, riding with dogs without a leash and/or without a muzzle, riding with bicycles outside the main itinerary, aeromodelling and other similar activities);
It is forbidden any type of behaviours that causes pollution in the Park (namely, traffic of cars or motor vehicles - except vehicles of the security or rescue forces and only when in service, abandonment of garbage, noisy activities and inscription or display of advertising);
It is forbidden any behaviour that causes damage to any equipment or property in the Park.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets; Bar; Guided Tours; Restaurant;
Signposted routes; Park area: 27 hectares;

Access:

Buses;

The Devesa Park is a recent urban green space located near the city centre of Famalicão. With its 27 hectares, the park is a privileged place for contact with nature, leisure, conviviality and sport, which is a vehicle of excellence for environmental education and sustainability, and an added cultural, civic and ethical value, proposing to contribute to the integral growth of citizens with respect for people, for nature and for future generations.

The Pelhe River, which runs through the park in all its extension, contributes to its beauty and pleasantness, which contribute to the respective riparian gallery, the lake, the centenary oaks, the redwoods and other large trees, as well as granitic rocks.

In addition to leisure and contact with nature, the park provides culture and education, to which the buildings located there, the Casa do Território, the Amphitheatre and the Educational Services contribute.

Awareness of the protection of natural resources, through the promotion of activities that promote the increase of biodiversity, the change of attitudes and behaviours, and that disseminate good environmental practices, is one of the essential components of the park's mission, in which Urban Gardens also play an important role.

Located in rural farms abandoned decades ago, the Devesa Park, whose project, by Arch. Noé Diniz, was based on the requalification of the Pelhe River, a river that crosses the city of Famalicão, and on the reconstruction of pre-existing farm buildings, reconverting them for other uses, with respect for the original moth.

As a result of a partnership for urban regeneration, and corresponding to the old aspirations of the local populations, the Devesa Park emerged as an opportunity to qualify a rural space that was abandoned, enhancing its biodiversity and constituting itself as an environmental area, leisure and qualifying of the living conditions of the population of the municipality and the wider region, and simultaneously of the image and

attractiveness of the city.

The construction of the Park included the depollution and renaturation of the banks of the River Pelhe, which crosses it, the implantation of a lake, the requalification of the rural buildings of the old deactivated farms, transforming them into cultural and educational equipment, the reinvention of the water mill and the recovery of the tanks, the construction of an open-air amphitheatre and a network of footpaths, the cleaning of weeds and the preservation of native vegetation or of landscape value, and the planting of about 37,000 more specimens of trees and shrubs of diverse species.

The park was inaugurated on September 28, 2012, and its management has been the responsibility of the Devesa Park Management Multidisciplinary Team (EMGPD) since January 2014.

Visitors to Devesa Park have at their disposal an audio guide, which can be consulted with a tablet or smartphone, allowing them to take guided tours of the park at their own pace. The application is called "Audite DLL" and is available, free of charge, on Google Play.