

The park houses various streams and natural springs. In terms of plant life, the main species are Japanese red cedars, ferns, fuchsias azaleas and various climbing plants.

Key features include the St. John the Baptist Chapel, a monument to emigrants and an animals' exhibition area (deers, Vietnam pigs, rabbits, parakeets etc).

The park also has belvederes offering views over the islands of Pico, Faial, Graciosa and Terceira.

Horta

Jardim Botânico

Address: Quinta de São Lourenço - Flamengos Horta - Ilha do Faial

Timetable:

From June to September: from Monday to Friday - 9am to 7pm - Saturdays Sundays and holidays - 10am-1pm / 14pm-5.30pm
From October to May: from Monday to Friday - 9am-12.30pm / 2pm-17pm - Saturdays Sundays and holidays - closed;

Other informations:

Area 5.600 m²

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking;

Access:

Buses;

The Jardim Botânico dos Flamengos in the city of Horta can be considered unique amongst its kind in the Azores being dedicated to scientific studies for the conservation cataloguing and propagation of botanical species.

Here there are all kinds of specialised gardens such as the one on the western side that contains exotic and native species of aromatic and medicinal plants the garden on the eastern side dedicated to the collection of plants from Macaronesia (those that are endemic to the Azores together with specimens from Madeira and the Canaries) and the one that contains exotic ornamental plants.

It is organised into small zones that reproduce the natural habitat of the various sets of plants: the vegetation that is characteristic of coastal areas and areas of low altitude; plants from mid to high-altitude areas; and in a ravine area species from the extremely humid Laurissilva (laurel-leaved) forest typical of mid to high-altitude areas.

The plants represented here belong almost exclusively to the vegetation of Macaronesia including 45 that are endemic to the Azores 6 that are common to the Azores and Madeira 5 that are common to Madeira and the Canary Islands and 2 that are common to Macaronesia as a whole.

Jardim Largo do Infante

Address: Largo do Infante Horta - Ilha do Faial

Timetable:

Free access.;

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets; Bar;

Access:

Buses;

Jardim da República

Address: Praça da República - Horta - Ilha do Faial

Timetable:

Free access.;

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets; Bar; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

The Jardim da República in Horta is a pleasant leisure area with wide avenues and grassed parterres, a small romantic lake edged with lava stones and a bandstand where concerts and other performances take place. Here you can discover the most important species such as araucaria (candelabra), ginkgo, ash, elm, oak, magnolia and kapok (cotton-silk) trees.

Close to the garden are some important examples of the city's most distinctive architecture, with buildings such as the Sociedade Amor da Pátria, the Coronel Silva Leal Primary School and the Império dos Nobres.

Parque da Alagoa

Address: Alagoa - Horta Ilha do Faial

Timetable:

Free access.;

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets; Bar;

Access:

Buses;

The Parque da Alagoa is in Horta, close to the Municipal Swimming Pool and the Praia da Conceição. Here, visitors can enjoy a few moments rest, take a stroll along its different paths and make the most of its picnic area and children's playground.

If you're keen on botanical plants, you can enjoy some of the species that tend to predominate in the Azores, such as the New Zealand Christmas trees, araucarias and Canary palms.

The Largo do Infante Garden is one of the places that you cannot afford to leave out of your visit to Horta. It is extremely popular amongst the local population, particularly on summer nights. One of its greatest attractions is its view over the Marina and out towards the island of Pico.

Along the garden's central path is a sculpture that pays homage to Prince Henry the Navigator, reminding us of his role in the history of the Portuguese Discoveries.

Amongst the species that are to be found in the garden are four magnificent Canary palms, some New Zealand Christmas trees and some tamarisks.

Parque Florestal do Cabouco Velho

Address: Cabouco Velho Salão - Horta - Ilha do Faial

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Altitude: 500m. Area: 5 ha.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

In the Cabouco Velho Forest Park, at an altitude of 500 metres, you have the chance to enjoy nature to the full. Footpaths, a picnic area, a threshing-floor and a children's playground will help you to enjoy some pleasant moments.

If you're fond of plants, you can discover some cryptomerias, pine-trees, cypresses and sequoias. Pay special attention to the endemic species, such as the lily of the valley tree, dogwood, Azores juniper and the pau-branco ("wood-white"), and enrich your botanical knowledge.

Ilha das Flores

Parque Florestal Luís Paulo Camacho

Address: Fazenda de Santa Cruz Santa Cruz - Ilha das Flores

Timetable:

Monday to Friday - May, June & October - 9am-5pm; July & August: 9am - 8pm; September: 9am - 7pm.

Saturdays, Sundays and Public holidays: May & June - 11am - 6pm; July, August & September - 9am - 8pm; October: 10am - 5pm.;

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

Access:

Buses;

Close to Santa Cruz on the island of Flores is the Parque Luís Paulo Camacho. It is characterised by a very broad range of botanical plants, most notably conifers and some examples of the local endemic flora.

Visitors can enjoy the park's picnic area and a small zoo containing exotic birds such as pheasants, widow-birds, Japanese quails, mandarin ducks, finches, New Zealand parrots, parakeets and various domestic birds, as well as a herd of deer.

On your visit to the park be sure to walk up to the view point with its superb view over the reservoir formed by the Ribeira da Fazenda dam.

Ilha de Santa Maria

Parque Florestal das Fontinhas

Address: Santa Bárbara Vila do Porto - Ilha de Santa Maria

Timetable:

Monday to Friday: 9am - 6pm;

Other informations:

Altitude: 400m. Area: 3 ha.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking;

Fontinhas Forest Park is to be found on the western slope of Pico Alto, the highest point on the island of Santa Maria. It has an extensive area of nurseries, with a spacious interior clearing ringed by cryptomerias.

The park's cool atmosphere and exuberant vegetation create an environment that is particularly well suited to recreational activities. Be sure to enjoy the picnic area and children's playground that are to be found here.

Amongst the various plant species that you'll find here, there is a predominance of cryptomerias, cedars, oaks and plane trees, agapanthus, fern trees, camellias and azaleas.

Ilha de São Jorge

Jardim da Praça da República

Address: Praça da República Velas - Ilha de São Jorge

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Area: 2,300 m²

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets; Bar; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

Situated in the main square of the town of Velas, this garden is particularly enhanced by its remarkable architectural setting, being framed by the Town Hall and the building that is home to the Velas Philharmonic Society.

The bandstand in this pleasant leisure area is the perfect venue for the concerts and performances that are regularly held here.

Parque Florestal das Sete Fontes

Address: Rosais Velas - Ilha de São Jorge

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Altitude: 350m-500m. Area: 12 ha.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

The Sete Fontes Forest Park is one of the most important nature reserves on the island of São Jorge and one of the island's largest parks, covering an area of 12 hectares. It is thickly wooded and has many footpaths and trails leading to leisure areas such as

Parque Florestal da Silveira

Address: Ribeira Seca - Calheta Ilha de São Jorge

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Altitude: 310m-400m. Area: 9 ha.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

The Silveira Forest Park runs alongside a stream where visitors will find various water-mills and bridges, and rich, exotic vegetation. The park's botanical heritage is characterised by its great diversity, particularly amongst its trees.

Here you can find araucarias (candelabra trees), pine trees, tulip trees, oaks, fern trees, planes and New Zealand Christmas trees, amongst others.

The park also includes a children's playground, a picnic area and a small zoo with ostriches, deer, Vietnamese pigs, pigeons, rabbits, parakeets and guinea pigs, as well as many other animals.

the children's playground and a picnic area. Along the way are lakes, streams and various springs which are the delight of all nature lovers.

Be sure to see the great diversity of plants that are to be found here, such as cryptomerias, ferns, fuchsias, azaleas and several different types of climber.

Inside the park, attention is drawn to the small chapel of São João Baptista, a monument built in homage to the emigrants, and a small zoo with deer, Vietnamese pigs, rabbits and parakeets, amongst others.

Be sure to visit the various viewpoints offering views over the islands of Pico, Faial, Graciosa and Terceira.

Ilha de São Miguel

Jardim Antero de Quental

Address: Rua Aristides da Mota, Largo do Colégio Ponta Delgada - Ilha de São Miguel

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Area: 4,000m²

Characteristics and Services:

Toilets;

This garden pays homage to Antero de Quental (1841-1892), one of the leading figures in 19th-century Portuguese literature, who was born on the island of São Miguel. It contains a monument alluding to the life and work of this famous poet.

The garden is decorated with features that are typical of the "art deco" style, particularly noticeable in the railings and the design of the pathways, which lend a special atmosphere to this leisure area.

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.

Ilha do Pico

Jardim dos Serviços Florestais de São Roque

Address: Cais do Pico São Roque - Ilha do Pico

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Area: 1 ha

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking;

Access:

Buses;

The Jardim da República in Horta is a pleasant leisure area with wide avenues and grassed parterres, a small romantic lake edged with lava stones and a bandstand where concerts and other performances take place.

Here you can discover the most important species such as araucaria (candelabra), ginkgo, ash, elm, oak, magnolia and kapok (cotton-silk) trees.

Close to the garden are some important examples of the city's most distinctive architecture, with buildings such as the Sociedade Amor da Pátria, the Coronel Silva Leal Primary School and the Império dos Nobres.

Mata dos Dragoeiros

Address: Rua do Carmo Madalena - Ilha do Pico

Timetable:

Tuesday to Friday: 9.15am - 12.30pm / 2pm - 5.30pm. Saturdays and Sundays: 9.15am - 12.30pm.

Closed Monday and Holidays;

Other informations:

Area: 1ha

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

Access:

Buses;

It is worth visiting the Mata dos Dragoeiros (Dragon Tree Wood) on the island of Pico and seeing one of the largest concentrations in the Azores of this species of tree that is native to Macaronesia.

The Mata is part of a rural vineyard that dates back to the 18th century and also contains the Wine Museum. Make sure to find out about the history of Pico's vineyards and appreciate the quality of this Azorean drink.

Parque Florestal do Mistério de São João

Address: Lajes - Ilha do Pico

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Altitude: 0-275 m. Area: 212 ha.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

Access:

Buses;

Located on the island of Pico, the park occupies a vast area on a

Jardim Florêncio Terra

Address: Largo da Misericórdia Horta - Ilha do Faial

Timetable:

Free access.;

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking;

Access:

Buses;

The Jardim Florêncio Terra, built in the nineteenth century is one of the oldest gardens in the city of Horta.

It is a pleasant leisure area, decorated with a bandstand, a small lake and several statues. It is worth taking some time to observe some of the park's large-sized trees, such as five dragon-trees whose tops are joined together and an araucaria.

Parque Florestal do Mistério da Prainha

Address: Prainha São Roque - Ilha do Pico

Timetable:

July to September: Monday to Friday: 8am - 8pm. Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10am - 8pm.

October to May: Monday to Friday - 8am - 8pm;

Other informations:

Altitude: 150m-200m. Area: 119 ha.

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

Access:

Buses;

You will find the Forest Park in an area of the island of Pico known as Mistério da Prainha (Mystery of the Beach) due to an historic volcanic event that dates back to 1562 and 1564. You can still see traces of the lava flow, slabs of compact rock, slag and volcanic rock formations.

It is currently a leisure area with various recreational facilities such as a children's playground, a multi-purpose sports park, and a picnic area. A network of forest trails, ideal for those who enjoy walking, will lead you to the grassy Baía de Canas (Cane Bay) area, the Parque das Endémicas (the Park of the Native Species) and a viewpoint, all of which reveal a vegetation that is composed essentially of pine-trees, fire-trees, hydrangeas and camellias.

Be sure to visit a traditional wine-cellar close to the entrance to the park and take the opportunity to sample the typical Pico wine.

Quinta das Rosas

Address: Madalena - Ilha do Pico

Timetable:

June - September - Monday to Friday: 8am - 8pm; Saturday, Sunday and Holidays - 10am - 8pm.

October to May - Monday to Friday: 8am - 4pm.;

Other informations:

Altitude: 135m - 150 m.

Area: 18 ha

Characteristics and Services:

Outdoor parking; Toilets;

south-facing slope. Altogether it covers an area of 212 hectares between the parishes of São Caetano and São João, and is known by the name of Mistério (Mystery).

Here, visitors will find leisure areas such as a picnic area and a children's playground. If you're a fan of botanical plants then you should know that the most predominant species here are the maritime pine and the cryptomeria.

Ponta Delgada

Campo de São Francisco

Address: Campo de São Francisco Ponta Delgada - Ilha de São Miguel

Other informations:

Altitude - 9 metres. Area - 12 hectares

Situated opposite the former Franciscan convent, Campo de São Francisco is one of the oldest public parks in the city, having been created in the 19th century.

It is one of the most popular night spots in Ponta Delgada, especially during the summer months, when a number of concerts are held in the park. The bandstand provides a perfect stage in the centre of this space.

During the Festas do Senhor Santo Cristo (Festival of Our Lord of the Miracles), Campo de São Francisco becomes a major venue in the city's cultural programme, and the park is filled with light, music and colour.

Jardim Sena Freitas

Address: Rua Marquês da Praia Ponta Delgada - Ilha de São Miguel

Timetable:

Free access.;

Other informations:

Area: 3,000m²

Situated in the centre of Ponta Delgada, the Jardim Sena Freitas is a highly popular place both for resting for a few moments and for enjoying a brief stroll amongst the brightly-coloured flower beds.

Around the garden are some interesting old palaces such as the Palácio do Marquês da Praia, the Solar dos Medeiros e Albuquerque and the Palácio da Conceição, the home of the Azores Regional Government. Amongst the various plant species in this botanical garden are a horse chestnut, Canary palms, a weeping willow, a tulip poplar, a robinia, a New Zealand Christmas tree, sabadillas and a Judas tree.

Centro de Portugal

Quinta das Rosas is a Forestry Reserve situated close to the town of Madalena, and provides a pleasant leisure space with a picnic area, some small lakes and other recreational facilities.

One of its most notable features is a Maroiço, a characteristic structure of the island of Pico, consisting of a mound built from loose stones whose purpose is to remove the excess stones from the soil.

There is a remarkable variety of botanical plants to be found on the Quinta, such as the tree fern originating from Australia, aucubas, camellias, hibiscus, trumpet plants and bush lilies. Also to be found here are a number of fruit trees such as avocado, almond and plum, as well as various large trees such as planes, palms, horse chestnuts, araucarias and dragon-trees.

Jardim do Campo Mártires da Pátria

Address: Largo Mártires da Pátria Ponta Delgada - Ilha de São Miguel

Timetable:

Free access.;

Characteristics and Services:

Toilets; Bar;

The Jardim do Campo Mártires da Pátria is in the centre of Ponta Delgada, close to some of the city's important buildings that you can include in your visit, such as the Municipal Cultural Centre, the Igreja da Conceição and the Palácio do Governo (Government Palace).

The gardens have a series of wide avenues and gentle steps lined by rows of bushes, such as babuls, combined with flower-beds of herbaceous plants. In the centre is a café with a terrace where you can rest for a while.

Castelo Branco

Jardim do Paço Episcopal

Address: Rua Bartolomeu da Costa 6000-642 Castelo Branco Tel: +351 272 344 277

Timetable:

October - 1 April: 9am - 5pm;

April - October - 9am - 7pm.;

Built on the orders of Bishop João de Mendonça at the beginning of the 18th century, the Garden of the Episcopal Palace is one of the most original examples of the Baroque in Portugal, and the distinguishing landmark of the city of Castelo Branco.

Laid out in the Italian style, the garden has various levels connected by steps with avenues and thematic walks marked out by flower beds ringed with ornamental box hedging. One of its most striking features is undoubtedly the large number of granite statues, especially those that line the steps and that represent the kings of Portugal arranged in chronological order. Perhaps the most curious aspect is that the statues of the kings who governed Portugal under Spanish rule, from 1580 to 1640, are smaller than those of the other kings.

There is no shortage of lakes beside the avenues, with water features and fountains interspersed with many other statues alluding to such diverse themes as the signs of the Zodiac, the seasons of the year, the four continents, the four moral virtues and the three theological virtues.

Construction of the Episcopal Palace in the garden began in the late 16th century and was built as the winter residence of the Bishops of Guarda. Today, it houses the Francisco Tavares Proença Júnior Museum, another of the city's main attractions.

Coimbra

Jardim da Sereia

Address: Praça da República, 3000-343 COIMBRA

Jardins da Quinta das Lágrimas

Address: Quinta das Lágrimas - Coimbra

Timetable:

16 March to 15 November - Tuesday to Sunday: 10am - 7pm;

16 November to 15 March - Thursday to Sunday: 10am - 5pm;

Closed in January;

Located in Coimbra, on the left bank of the River Mondego, the Quinta das Lágrimas estate occupies a total area of 18.3 hectares. In the centre you'll find a 19th-century palace, that now operates as a luxury hotel, surrounded by gardens filled with exotic plant species, some of which over 200 years old.

There are woodlands on the southern slope, which are ideal for taking long walks, complemented by the recently created Mediaeval Garden, the first of its kind in Portugal, in homage to the love story between Pedro and Inês. For this garden - where an attempt has been made to create a simple, enclosed environment - around 50 species of plants have been selected, whose existence prior to the Age of the Discoveries can be proven by historical engravings and documents.

The Quinta das Lágrimas estate has been cited as the setting for the forbidden romance between King D. Pedro I and D. Inês de Castro in several of the finest pages of Portuguese literature. However, it's almost certain that their romantic idyll actually

took place elsewhere. Nonetheless, the Gardens preserve a canal known as the "Cano dos Amores" (Canal of Love) where, according to legend, the waters transported love letters between the Estate and the Royal Palace. According to history, the same waters were turned red by the blood of D. Inês who was assassinated here and according to popular legend, the marks of her blood can still be seen on the rocks. There's a scientific explanation for this phenomenon - the marks are actually "Hildenbrandia Rivularis" red algae which grows here and spreads its colour. Halfway between reality and fiction, the gardens of the Quinta das Lágrimas estate maintain a romantic atmosphere that's well worth discovering.

Tomar

Mata Nacional dos Sete Montes

Address: Avenida Dr. Cândido Madureira - Tomar

Other informations:

Partially accessible for persons with motor disabilities

Located in the centre of Tomar alongside one of the city's main avenues, the 39-hectare "Mata dos Sete Montes" National Woodland is the city's main park. The woodlands provide a link to the castle. They are also known as the Convent Enclosure since they form an integral part of the convent and were used by the Order of Christ for growing and harvesting crops.

The wood's leafy vegetation includes centuries-old cypress trees, Judas trees, oak trees and olive trees, and harbour a miniature church in the form of a cylindrical tower known as the "Charolinha". This carved stone church appears to be a replica of the lantern towers of the Convent of Christ, built in accordance with plans drawn up by João de Castilho - the architect entrusted with the Renaissance works in the convent. Surrounded by a circular tank, the Charolinha is a "Casa de Fresco". It seems to be isolated from the world, a secret hidden retreat accessible via a stone bridge.

Viseu

Parque do Fontelo - Viseu

Address: Avenida José Relvas 3500-001 Viseu

A walk through this spacious leisure area in which the natural and historical heritage comes together can be an invigorating alternative to days spent in Viseu.

Here you will find swimming pools, a campsite, tennis courts and football pitches, a gymnasium and a jogging circuit inside a green area enriched by many kinds of ancient trees, where the environment has been so carefully preserved that it was awarded the Prémio Quercus 1993 - Iniciativa Autárquica ("Quercus Prize 1993 - Local Authority initiative").

The history of this fine space dates from 1149 when the Bishop of Viseu, D. Odório, bought the Herdade de Fontelo (Fontelo Estate).

Bishop João Homem began the construction of the palace in 1399, and this was continued by other prelates who succeeded him. Fontelo achieved its greatest splendour in the 16th century on the initiative of Bishop D. Miguel da Silva, a powerful church dignitary who coveted the papal tiara, and an enormously wealthy man with a taste for the Renaissance, when it became

one of the most exotic and opulent leisure estates in Portugal, much in fashion among the nobility and wealthy clergy in the 16th century.

In the same century, Bishop D. Gonçalo commissioned the chapel of S. Jerónimo (1563) and two porticos (1565), in one of which D. Gonçalo's coat of arms can be seen.

Nowadays, although reduced in size and splendour from how it must have been at the time of D. Miguel da Silva, the Parque do Fontelo is no longer for the exclusive pleasure of an elite but has become a wholesome area for leisure and sport accessible to all those who wish to enjoy it.

Lisboa Region

Lisboa

Jardim Afonso de Albuquerque

Address: Praça Afonso de Albuquerque Belém - Lisboa

Access:

Buses; Train stations;

With approximately 2 hectares located in Belém, the central feature is a monument to Afonso de Albuquerque, Governor of Portuguese India from 1507 to 1515, by the sculptor Costa Mota, with a neo-Manueline base by the architect Silva Pinto.

The layout was remodelled for the occasion of the Portuguese World Exhibition in 1940, resulting in its present shape laid out around the four fountains attributed to the sculptor Barata Feyo.

Jardim Botânico da Ajuda

Address: Calçada da Ajuda 1300-010 Lisboa Tel: +351 213 622 503 - Fax: +351 213 622 503

Website: <http://www.jardimbotanicodajuda.com>

Timetable:

July - September: 9am - 8pm;

September - July: 9am - 6pm.

Closed: Wednesday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.;

Access:

Buses;

Characteristics and Services:

Restaurant;

Situated in the parish of Ajuda, this is the oldest garden in Portugal, created on the orders of the Marquês de Pombal in 1768 as the Royal Botanical Garden of Ajuda.

It was the first botanical garden in Portugal specifically created to act as a museum and nursery for botanical species collected from all over the world. The garden is currently managed by the Higher Institute for Agronomics, which undertook a restoration project during 1994-1997 with a view to preserving its botanical origins by conserving and displaying the plants in a collection recording the spirit of scientific enquiry of the Portuguese explorers, and making it a place for leisure and relaxation.

Important aspects of this restoration include the restoration of the 40-spout Fountain in the centre of the garden's lower flower bed (a marvel of stone and water), and the re-creation of the

Jardim Botânico - Museu Nacional de História Natural

Address: Rua da Escola Politécnica, 58 1250-102 Lisboa

Tel: +351 213 921 800 - **Fax:** +351 213 970 882

E-mail: geral@museus.ulisboa.pt **Website:**

<http://www.museus.ulisboa.pt/jardim-botanico>

Timetable:

1st April-31 October: 9am - 8pm;

1st November-31 March: Monday-Friday and public holidays:

9am - 5pm; Saturday and Sunday: 9am - 6pm;

Closed: Christmas Day and New Year's Day;

Access:

Buses;

The Botanical Gardens were created in the 19th century on the site of the former Royal College of Nobles, to support the teaching of Botany and the Principles of Agriculture. They are linked to the University of Lisbon's National Museum of Natural History, and their superb collection of plants includes an important section devoted to named exotic species.

The Gardens are particularly proud of one of the largest collections in Portugal of cyclads - plants dating back to the age of the dinosaurs; also noteworthy are the stands of palm and fig trees and the collection of cacti and succulents.

The whole area covers approximately 4 hectares, and is densely wooded with hidden lakes, bridges and statues.

Jardim Botânico Tropical

Address: Largo dos Jerónimos 1400-171 Lisboa **Tel:** +351 21 363 70 23 - **Fax:** +351 21 362 02 10

Timetable:

10am - 5pm;

Closed: Public Holidays;

Access:

Buses;

The Tropical Garden Museum was founded in 1912 in the outer reaches of the Palace of Belém on the initiative of Henry Navel. The aim was to promote the study of the flora found in the former Portuguese colonies. It is currently managed by the Institute for Scientific Research.

botanical collection from seeds obtained from various botanical gardens around the world and Portuguese institutions. These new plants are arranged by phyto-geographical region - Brazil and South America, Australia and New Zealand, Macronesia, Central and Atlantic Europe, China and Japan, North and Central America, the Mediterranean Region and Africa - reflecting the history of their introduction into Portugal and their connection with the Voyages of Discovery.

Another highlight is the Scent Garden for the blind with labels in Braille and the plants displayed in raised beds to allow visitors to smell and touch them.

The garden also contains a group of small lakes, a flower-raising greenhouse and a natural grassy amphitheatre for outdoor performances.

Jardim da Estrela ou Guerra Junqueiro

Address: Praça da Estrela - 1200 Lisboa

Timetable:

Daily, from 7am to midnight;

Access:

Buses;

Characteristics and Services:

Restaurant;

The Guerra Junqueiro Garden, usually known as Estrela Gardens, is located in the parish of Lapa. It was built in the 19th century (1842) on the initiative of the statesman Bernardo da Costa Cabral, the Marquis of Tomar.

It is a naturalist garden of romantic design, inspired by the typical English Park, surrounded by a railing, with particularly interesting plants in terms of both quantity and variety.

Here we can find 4 lakes, a wrought iron bandstand, 2 children's playgrounds, one with iron swings and the other wooden, and a kiosk/municipal library.

Jardim da Torre de Belém

Address: Av. Brasília Belém - Lisboa

Access:

Buses; Train stations;

Until the middle of the 20th century, this was the site of the "Fábrica do Gás de Belém" (Belém Gas Works). The remodelling of the zone, with the planting of palm trees as a symbol of the new lands discovered by the Portuguese navigators, took place at the time of "Portuguese World Exhibition" (1940). The Belém Tower, one of Lisbon's most distinguished monuments, was improved by a new apron of gardens. Nearby is a marina - Doca do Bom Sucesso - for pleasure boats.

Here, we find a monument in honour of Gago Coutinho and Sacadura Cabral, who made the 1st crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in a seaplane, and a Memorial to Combatants of the Overseas War.

Jardim do Campo Grande

Address: Campo Grande - 1700 Lisboa

Website: <http://www.jardimdocampogrande.pt>

Characteristics and Services:

In these carefully tended gardens, broken up by lakes decorated by statues and discreet places of rest, there are many tropical and sub-tropical species, many of which are endangered. The highlight is the collection of Lauraceous, for the species common to the Azores and Madeira islands, and a lovely avenue of Washington palm trees.

In 1940, the Garden was integrated into the Exposition of the Portuguese World and promoted by Salazar as a way of showing off the species evocative of the then colonies.

Jardim da Praça do Império

Address: Praça do Império - Belém - Lisboa

Access:

Buses; Train stations;

It was built for the Portuguese World Exhibition (1940), which commemorated the 800th anniversary of the independence of Portugal and the 300th anniversary of the Restoration. The Illuminated Fountain was also built at that time.

The garden is composed of a combination of 32 coats of arms, whose designs of bushes and flowers represent the former Empire Provinces, and 4 peripheral ponds crowned by two imposing sculptural groups displaying the mythological figures of two horses with the tails of marine animals.

Nearby stands one of Lisboa's most distinguished monuments - the Mosteiro dos Jerónimos (Hieronymites Monastery) and the Belém Cultural Centre, a major exhibition and concert venue.

Jardim das Amoreiras ou Jardim Marcelino Mesquita

Address: Praça das Amoreiras - 1200 Lisboa

Timetable:

Free access.;

Access:

Buses;

The Marcelino Mesquita garden, named after the dramatist, poet and writer, is in the Parish of S.Mamede.

It was designed and inaugurated in 1759 by the Marquis of Pombal, with 331 mulberry trees. The intention was to stimulate the Portuguese silk industry, of which a major centre was the factory which stood near the square. Visitors to this small garden can see 10 different tree species, including some fine specimens of mulberry, a splendid group of ginkgos and a sycamore maple.

The garden is surrounded by a group of 18th century houses built as homes for the silk workers, by the Arpad Szénes-Vieira da Silva Museum (in the restored silk factory), dedicated to the work of the contemporary Portuguese artist Maria Helena Vieira da Silva and her Hungarian husband, the painter Arpad Szénes, a series of decorative panels on Rua das Amoreiras and the Nossa Senhora de Monserrate chapel under the arches of the aqueduct.

Here there is a children's playground, a small pond and an esplanade and kiosk.

Jardim do Príncipe Real ou Jardim França Borges

Address: Praça do Príncipe Real - Lisboa

Bar; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

In the 16th century it was a common known as the Campo de Alvalade.

The original park was an early 19th century garden built in the Romantic spirit. Horse races were first held here, and today a hippodrome keeps on operating near the garden for horseracing contests.

Jardins da Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian

Address: Av. de Berna, 45-A 1067-001 Lisboa

Timetable:

9am - 8pm;

Characteristics and Services:

Toilets; Bar; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

The Calouste Gulbenkian gardens form the setting for the arts foundation of the same name which itself has auditoriums and exhibition areas, the Modern Art Centre and a Museum with a library and restaurant/bar.

The spacious gardens were built in the 1950s in honour to the founder, Calouste Gulbenkian, and are ideal for all sorts of leisure and cultural activities. They are carefully landscaped and home to a wide variety flora.

The design of the Park's interior gardens and terraces was assigned to the Landscape Architects Gonçalo Ribeiro Telles and António Viana Barreto, who worked in close collaboration with the architects of the Foundation's building complex, Alberto Pessoa Pedro Cid and Ruy Athouguia.

Parque Eduardo VII

Address: Parque Eduardo VII - Lisboa

Access:

Buses;

Characteristics and Services:

Restaurant;

The Eduardo VII Park lies in the Parish of São Sebastião da Pedreira, north from Avenida da Liberdade, and offers panoramic views over the city. Originally known as Parque da Liberdade, the gardens were rechristened with the name of the British King Edward VII on his visit to Lisbon in 1903.

Since their earliest times the gardens have been a stage for fairs, exhibitions and various types of entertainment. Their design, with a central swathe of lawn flanked by Portuguese cobbles pavements, was by Keil do Amaral, and form one of the landmarks in the development of Lisbon.

Here we can find a Sports Pavilion built in 1932 in the João V style, renamed the Carlos Lopes pavilion as a tribute to the famous Portuguese athlete, a Greenhouse with an enormous variety of plants from all over the world, lakes, and various statues including a bust of King Edward VII and a monument to the 25th April Revolution by João Cutileiro.

Characteristics and Services:

Bar; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

The França Borges Garden is named as a tribute to the Republican journalist of the same name. It is located in the Parish of Mercês and is also known as Príncipe Real Garden.

Inspired in the English romantic fashion, the monumental, centuries-old Buçaco cedar, at more than 20 metres in diameter, is the pride and joy of the garden. The palaces around the garden are testimonies to the Romantic Lisbon of the 19th century. The property of Museu da Água da EPAL (EPAL Water Museum), the Reservatório da Patriarcal (Patriarcal Reservoir) lies beneath the park and was built at the same time.

There are various statues here, including one by Lagoa Henriques commemorating the 1st centenary of the death of Antero de Quental, as well as a refreshment kiosk, a lake, a children's playground with various swings and rest areas with games tables.

Parque do Monteiro-Mor

Address: Largo Júlio Castilho, 2 (Museus do Traje e do Teatro) 1600-495 Lisboa

Timetable:

June-September: 10am - 7pm;

October-May: 10am - 6pm.

Closed: Monday, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, May Day and Christmas Day. ;

Characteristics and Services:

Bar; Restaurant;

Access:

Buses;

Located in the Parish of Lumiar, Monteiro-Mor Park is adjacent to the National Costume Museum and the National Theater Museum. It dates from the 18th century and was laid out by the botanist Domingos Vandelli.

The park is built on various levels. The upper level is occupied by high shady trees, while younger trees grow below.

Here we can find a small garden area, a small stream and some artificial lakes.

Parque Recreativo dos Moinhos de Santana

Address: Rua Tristão Vaz - Alto do Restelo 1400-353 Lisboa

Timetable:

April - September: 9am-8pm; October - March: 9am-6pm. ;

Access:

Buses;

Characteristics and Services:

Restaurant;

Some 5 hectares in area, it has extensive grassy areas, lots of trees and shrubs, and water in abundance - a lake and waterfall. It has a wide variety of sporting and play facilities for all ages.

Here we can find a picnic areas, a children's playground, a skateboard circuit, a roller-skating rink, a fitness training circuit, an open-air amphitheatre seating 180 people and a bandstand.

There is also a children's playground, a viewpoint, a bandstand, a picnic area, the Club VII sports complex with tennis courts, gymnasium and swimming pool, and a restaurant.

Tapada das Necessidades

Address: Largo das Necessidades 1399-051 Lisboa

Timetable:

10am-6.30pm. Closed: 24 25 and 31 December 1 January and Easter Sunday. ;

Access:

Buses;

The Necessidades Tapada dates from 1604 and is located in the parish of Prazeres. In 1742, King João V acquired the surrounding farmland and built a large chapel, a convent and a palace for his own residence.

In 1843, King Fernando had the gardens redesigned by Bonard and transformed the vegetable garden into an English-style park. King Pedro V (19th century) commissioned the circular glasshouse, while King Carlos (end of the 19th century) built the tennis court and a Pavilion known as Casa do Regalo, which Queen Amelia used as her painting studio. Currently, the Forestry Commission operates from the tapada.

Here we can find three lakes: Palmeira, Estrelícias and Duque de Lafões, surrounded by exotic vegetation, a cascade, a fountain and a reservoir, and statuary including the "Virtudes" series.

Oeiras

Parques dos Poetas

Address: Rua S. Salvador da Baía, 2780 Oeiras

Website: <http://www.cm-oeiras.pt/voeiras/Turismo/Ondelr/Paginas/PatrimonioNaturaleAmbiental.aspx>

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

Porto

Parque da Fundação de Serralves

Address: Rua de Serralves, 977 4150-417 Porto

Website: <http://www.serralves.pt/pt/parque/>

Timetable:

Winter (October-March): From Tuesday to Sunday: 10am - 7pm;

Summer (April-September): From Tuesday to Friday: 10am - 7pm; Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10am - 8pm;

Closed: Monday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.;

Located right in the very heart of Porto, Serralves Park extends beyond Casa de Serralves across 18 hectares, including gardens, copses, a rose garden and a Romantic lake, to provide the ideal refuge for anyone wishing to escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

Beginning at Casa de Serralves, headquarters of the Foundation of the same name, there is the formal garden, "one of the most notable examples of landscape gardening of the 20th century. It stretches over 500 metres towards the river Douro. At the far end there is a stairway leading down to a Romantic lake set on a lower level. It was designed between 1932 and 1940 by Jacques Gréber (1882-1962) a French architect and landscape gardener who established a reputation in the United States and Canada designing French-style gardens for the wealthy. The Park has various points of interest, including the rose garden (currently undergoing restoration), the Relógio de Sol (Sundial) Garden, the Camellia Garden (where aromatic herbs and plants are on sale), in addition to the other well-tended areas of the park.

Another clinching reason to visit the park is the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art. The building was designed by architect Álvaro Siza Vieira and represents a landscaping project that harmoniously integrates into its surroundings".