



Museu da Presidência da República

ENGLISH



Museu da Presidência da República

Tuesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(last entry at 5:30 p.m.)

Guided group tours available via pre-booking

Guided tours of Belém Palace and the gardens

Saturdays: 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m.

(tour availability is dependent on the presidential schedule)

Closed

1 January | Easter Sunday | 1 May

25 December

Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

(last entry at 12:30 p.m.)

Getting here

Tram: 15 €

Bus: 28, 201, 714, 727, 729, 751

Train: Belém Station (Cascais line)

Boat: Belém Ferry Terminal

Museu da Presidência da República

Palácio Nacional de Belém

Praça Afonso de Albuquerque – 1349-022 Lisboa

(+351) 21 361 46 60 / 21 361 49 80 (bookings)

museu@presidencia.pt

www.museu.presidencia.pt

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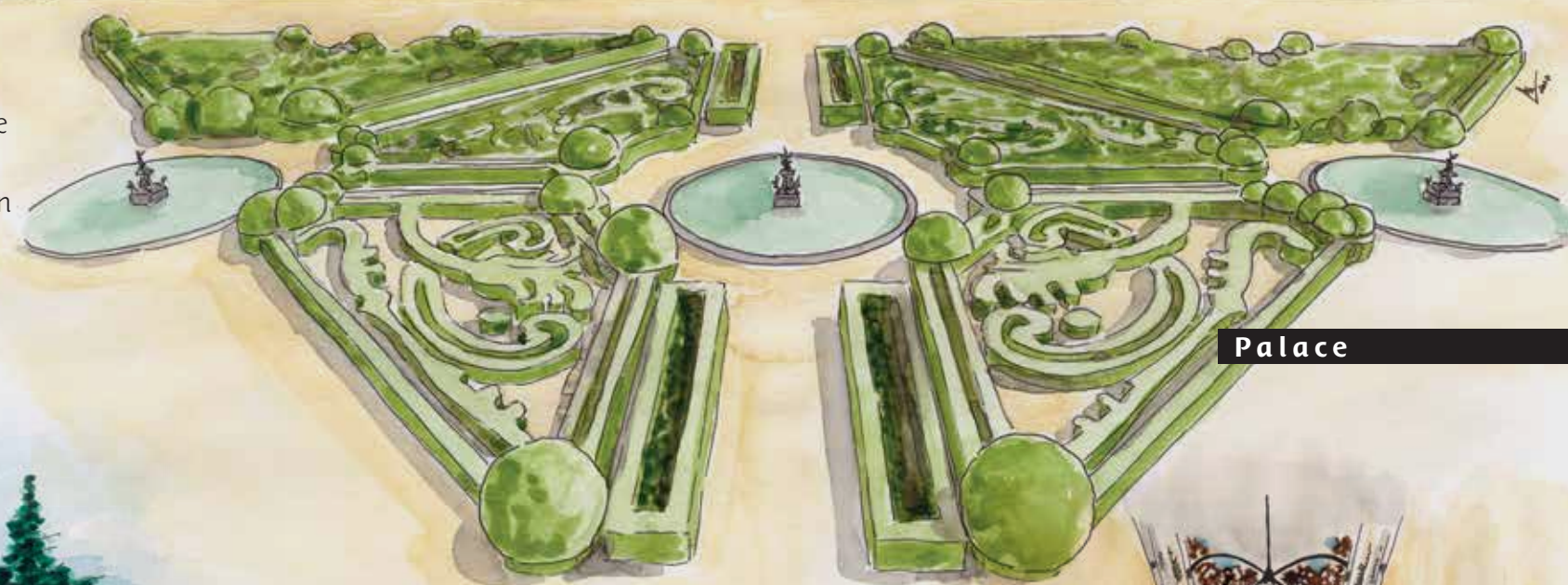
NATIONAL PALACE OF BELÉM

Classified as a national monument in 2007, Belém Palace became the seat of the presidency after 1910.

With a history spanning more than five centuries, Belém Palace has served as the official residence of the President of the Republic since the election of the first President, Manuel de Arriaga.

In the mid-sixteenth century, D. Manuel of Portugal, a figure of the Portuguese Renaissance, constructed the main building of the palace on land leased to monks from the Order of St. Jerome.

In 1726, the property was acquired by King João V to serve as his holiday residence and remained in the royal family's possession until 1908. From then on, guardianship was entrusted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which used Belém Palace to host visiting foreign officials until the foundation of the Republic in 1910.

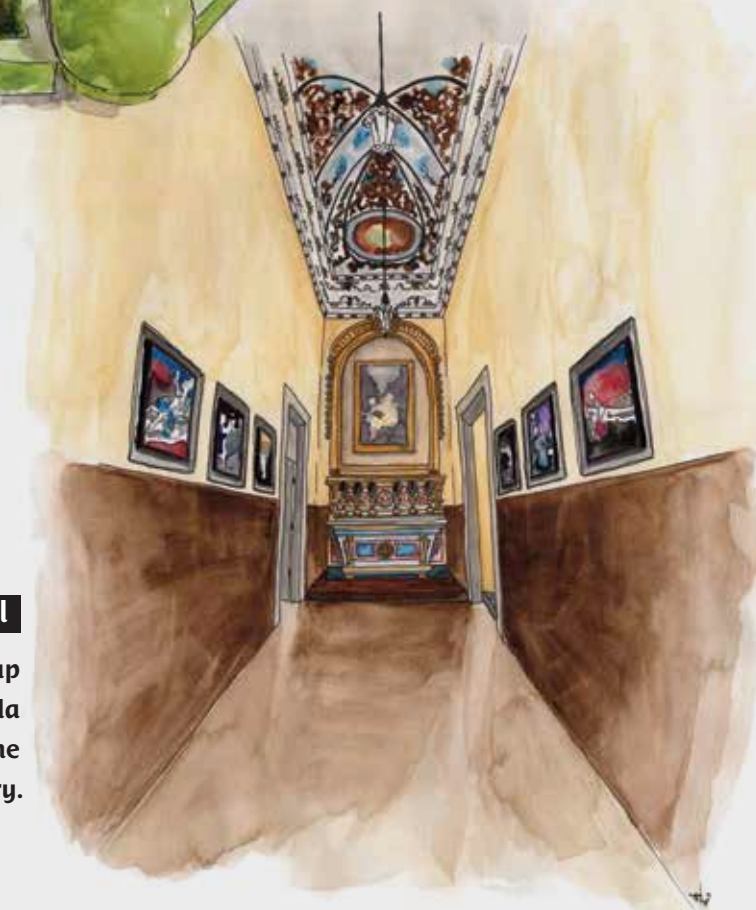


Palace



Cascade Gardens

Constructed under the orders of Queen Maria I, the imposing structure of the Cascade Gardens once housed exotic birds. An image of Hercules marks the garden's central axis.



Chapel

In 2002, the chapel received a group of eight pastel paintings by Paula Rego, which portray the life of the Virgin Mary.

MONARCHY

Used as a summer residence and sometimes as the main residence, Quinta de Belém, as it was known then, hosted successive generations of kings and queens, survived the Great Earthquake of 1755, housed various exotic animals and was the birthplace of princes.

FIRST REPUBLIC

During the First Republic, presidents including Bernardino Machado and Manuel Teixeira Gomes chose to reside at Belém Palace and paid a monthly rent. This requirement was abolished as late as 1928.

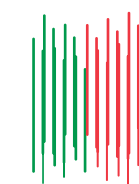
MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND THE NEW STATE

During the presidencies of Óscar Carmona and Américo Tomás, Belém Palace was reserved for state ceremonies, receptions and official meetings. Francisco Craveiro Lopes, however, lived there from 1952 to 1958, refurbishing one wing of the palace to serve as the head of state's private residence.

DEMOCRACY

To date, António Ramalho Eanes was the last President to reside at Belém Palace. The presence of the head of state at Belém is now signalled by the presidential flag hoisted above the building's main façade.

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Museu da Presidência da República

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Museu da Presidência da República (MPR) is a presidential museum that represents one of the most important repositories of information and knowledge about the history of the Portuguese Republic and the institution of the presidency. The culmination of a project initiated by President António Ramalho Eanes, the museum was inaugurated by President Jorge Sampaio on 5 October 2004.



Bringing together a collection of objects that had become dispersed and on the verge of becoming forgotten, MPR now contains thousands of items that include personal effects, portraits, gifts of state, honorary decorations and documents. MPR is also responsible for valuing the historical heritage of Belém Palace and the Citadel Palace of Cascais. Finally, the museum oversees an important collection of cars that have been at the service of presidents of the Republic since 1910. This collection is currently on display at Museu da Alfândega in Porto.

With a view to forging closer ties between the institution of the presidency and civil society, and fostering greater citizenship, MPR has an active cultural and educational programme that includes temporary and itinerant exhibitions, educational workshops, guided tours, symposia, training initiatives and an extensive editorial project.



Gallery of Official Portraits

The Gallery of Portraits features painted portraits of every former President, arranged in chronological order of mandate. Beyond its documentary value, each painting is also an artistic object.

To this day, the republican regime continues the tradition of

having each chief of state portrayed. For the fledgling Republic, the President's portrait underscored the dignity of the office and reinforced its symbolic power. However, not all portraits were executed during the President's term of office; some were commissioned posthumously. More recently, it has become customary to have one done at the end of every President's mandate.

The array of painters represented reflects the important artistic dimension with which the presidential portrait is imbued: Columbano Bordalo Pinheiro (Manuel de Arriaga, Teófilo Braga and Manuel Teixeira Gomes); Martinho da Fonseca (Bernardino Machado); Henrique Medina (Sidónio Pais, João do Canto e Castro, António José de Almeida, Óscar Carmona and Américo Tomás); Romano Esteves (José Mendes Cabeçadas); Carlos Reis (Manuel Gomes da Costa); Eduardo Malta (Francisco Craveiro Lopes); Francisco Lapa (António de Spínola); Joaquim Rebocho (Francisco da Costa Gomes); Luís Pinto Coelho (António Ramalho Eanes); Júlio Pomar (Mário Soares); Paula Rego (Jorge Sampaio) and Barahona Possolo (Aníbal Cavaco Silva).

Founding of the Republic and the National Symbols

The revolution of 5 October 1910 ushered in a republican regime in Portugal. In its wake, the republic's new leaders put a priority on redefining the nation's symbols – the flag and the anthem.

A Portuguesa, a march composed by Alfredo Keil (music) and Henrique Lopes de Mendonça (lyrics) in 1890 as a protest against the British Ultimatum, was consecrated as the National Anthem on 19 June 1911.

On the same day, a new national flag, elected by the Provisional Government based on a committee's recommendation a few months prior, was approved. The colours red and green, associated with the defence of Portugal's independence over the course of its history, were promoted by republicans, beginning with the military uprising of Porto on 31 January 1891, which pushed for the establishment of a republic.

With the passing of a Republican Constitution in 1911, conditions were ripe for the election of the first President of the Portuguese Republic.



Alfredo Keil



Henrique Lopes de Mendonça

Postcard with the National flag and anthem, c. 1910



Official portrait of Manuel de Arriaga

Powers of the President of the Republic

The President of the Republic is the head of state and the only institution in Portugal in which sovereign power is invested in a single person.

Under the terms of the Constitution, the president "represents the Portuguese Republic", "guarantees national independence, the unity of the state and the regular functioning of democratic institutions" and acts as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

The President has the power to dissolve the Assembly of the Republic, dismiss the government and appoint the prime minister and other members of the government. The President also promulgates or vetoes laws proposed by the Assembly of the Republic or the government and decides whether national referenda can be held.

In addition to the wide array of constitutional powers, the President of the Republic, by virtue of being directly elected and therefore democratically legitimated, wields symbolic and informal influence, including reserve power and the power of words.



Lions' Chair, traditionally the President's chair

The Republic and its Presidents

The history of the Portuguese Republic is divided into three periods: the First Republic (1910-1926), the Military Dictatorship and the New State (1926-1974) and Democracy (1974-).

Imbued with roles and powers that have changed in accordance with constitutions and epochs, and mandates that have ranged from days to decades, each President has made a mark on the history of the Portuguese Republic.

First Republic

Manuel de Arriaga (August 1911 – May 1915)
Teófilo Braga (May 1915 – October 1915)
Bernardino Machado (October 1915 – December 1917)
Sidónio Pais (December 1917 – December 1918)
João do Canto e Castro (December 1918 – October 1919)
António José de Almeida (October 1919 – October 1923)
Manuel Teixeira Gomes (October 1923 – December 1925)
Bernardino Machado (December 1925 – May 1926)



Manuel de Arriaga

Bernardino Machado



Gifts of State

State visits are special occasions aimed at reinforcing diplomatic, economic and cultural relations between nations.

During these visits between heads of state, gifts are customarily exchanged. Symbolic in value, these gifts also bear cultural, historical and economic meanings from the countries they represent. The law is silent when it comes to ownership of gifts received in the



Offered by the President of URSS to President Francisco da Costa Gomes (1976)

which recovered a significant collection of objects that had hitherto been dispersed.



Offered by the King of Morocco to President Jorge Sampaio (1998)

Offered by the President of Greece to President António Ramalho Eanes (1981)



Military Dictatorship and the New State

José Mendes Cabeçadas Júnior (May 1926 – June 1926)
Manuel Gomes da Costa (June 1926 – July 1926)
Óscar Carmona (August 1926 – April 1951)
Francisco Craveiro Lopes (August 1951 – August 1958)
Américo Tomás (August 1958 – April 1974)



Óscar Carmona

Américo Tomás



Democracy

António de Spínola (May 1974 – September 1974)
Francisco da Costa Gomes (September 1974 – July 1976)
António Ramalho Eanes (July 1976 – March 1986)
Mário Soares (March 1986 – March 1996)
Jorge Sampaio (March 1996 – March 2006)
Aníbal Cavaco Silva (March 2006 – March 2016)
Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (March 2016 -)

Mário Soares



António Ramalho Eanes



Honoric Orders

The President of the Republic is the Grand Master of Portuguese Honoric Orders and wears the Sash of the Three Orders, an honour exclusive to the office. As Grand Master, he awards all honours and oversees their organisation and functioning.

Honoric Orders or orders of merit have a long and deeply rooted tradition in European civilisation. They express a higher form of public recognition for services that an individual or institution, either Portuguese or foreign, has contributed to the benefit of the country and the community.

Currently, the President of the Republic is the Grand Master of nine honorific orders, each of which pertain to a specific area of achievement and contribution. These orders are organised into three groups: Ancient Military Orders (Tower and the Sword; Value, Loyalty and Merit; Christ; Aviz; Saint James of the Sword); National Orders (Prince Henry the Navigator; Liberty); and Orders of Civil Merit (Merit; Public Instruction; Entrepreneurial Merit: Agriculture, Business and Industry).



Grand Collar of the Order of the Tower and the Sword



Sash of the Three Orders