

Sintra is like a page torn from a fairy tale. Celts worshipped their moon god here, the Moors built a precipitous castle, and 18th-century Portuguese royals swanned around its dreamy gardens.

In the 19th century King Fernando (Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the husband of Queen D. Maria II) bought the place and decided to built a romantic palace on the top of the mountain for his summer residence.



And so... Once upon a time, there was a princess named Maria, who lived in Palácio da Pena (Pena Palace) with her family: Her father, the king Dom Fernando; her mother, the Queen Maria II and her brothers and sisters. Maria wasn't like the other princesses. She liked to participate in all activities typical from the royalties at the time, especially outdoor activities like hunting, horse racing, rowing among others, but because of her royal condition she could only do that in secrecy. Maria watched the nobility's horse races amazed, although with the sadness of someone who wanted to participate but, due to being a girl and a princess, she couldn't. One day, a race was announced and Maria decided to try her luck and ask for her dad's permission to take part in the competition, but his answer was a clear no. King Fernando said that none of his daughters would ride a horse or take part in a horse racing, where only men were participating. The princess ran to the palace garden, her hiding place, to think of a solution. Persistent and determined like she was, Maria decided that she wouldn't give up and would prove that she deserved to compete. Her plan was to sign up as a noble horseman and to race under an armour. The racing day came and, helped by a trustworthy maid, she could finally look like a true horseman. The maid's husband worked at the stables of the palace, so he could get the princess a horse. The moment came. Maria was now among the horsemen, nervous but excited to start the racing and to do what she loved. Although she only had ridden on the palace garden, she really wanted to compete and to show her value. King Fernando, Maria's father, started the racing without suspecting that his daughter was competing too. Maria was smiling behind the helmet. She was there, not only for the competition, but for her passion, so winning was an easy task and she achieved her goal - she won the race.

The king was preparing to raise the horseman's hand to declare his victory, but Maria's long hair showed up and the true identity of the champion was revealed. The king was surprised, but also upset. He ended the competition and took his daughter back to the palace. After

some time trying to convince her father of the passion for horse racing, King Fernando finally understood Maria's point of view and was proud of her. Later on, for Maria's happiness, her father, the king, decreed that from that day on, every lady could participate in a horse riding competition on the kingdom. The persistence and passion of Maria opened doors for other ladies to practice sports without an "armour". This is just a story that goes along very well with the atmosphere of Sintra, but it is true that nowadays in Sintra you can experience air, water and land sports, from traditional ones like golf to radical ones like spelunking. The immense coastline with sandy beaches is very popular among surfers and bodyboarders. If you are a fan of heights you can also experiment Paragliding and feel astonished by the landscape. It has always been an excellent spot for outdoor activities in the nature.

Due to its exuberant vegetation some people come here to Bird watching, but the most adventurous one come here to go rock-climbing, trail running; mountain biking; hiking and trekking; orienteering; horse riding or even to go rappelling.

We challenge you to visit the fairy tale pink and orange 'Palácio da Pena' right on top of the hill, to find out the coordinates and the name of the place with good conditions for the practice of a radical sport very popular here and its name. Then dare yourself to overcome your own limits.

On the wall of the first arch, before the main entrance gate, you can see three different symbols. They are:

1- one

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2- three blossom

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3- one

3

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4- On the tower at the entrance you can observe the coat of arms of the Portuguese King, that transformed the remains of the monastery into a palace, and a date. When was the palace finished?

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5- Cross the drawbridge and go along the path. You'll arrive at a patio. Look around and you'll find a mythological Greek God, the messenger of the sea. His name is

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Here he mostly symbolizes the **Portuguese discoveries** during the 15th and 16th centuries. Portuguese sailors were at the vanguard of European overseas exploration, discovering and mapping the coasts of Africa, Canada, Asia and Brazil. In 1498, Vasco da Gama led the first fleet around Africa to India. The Portuguese explorations proceeded to southeast Asia, where they reached Japan in 1542.

Cross the arch and admire the landscape. From there you can see that you are close to the coast and that Portugal is lapped by the

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Ocean.



Now, enter the Palace and visit it.

This is a carved jade-green marble bust of King D. Fernando II, who resurrected the monastery on this place and built the palace, as a summer retreat, and surrounding park in the Romantic tradition.

While visiting the Palace look for the right details that will help you to get the answer for your challenge.

By now you should be entering the **Pantry**. How many coffee cups can you see on the table on your left side?

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The next room you can visit is the room where the royalties had their meals. It's the

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How many people came to have dinner? Count the plates on the table and write down the number.

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On the middle of the table you can see another reference to the Portuguese discoveries.

The

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ship was introduced in the mid-15th century and

aided Portuguese exploration.

You are now getting to know another important Portuguese King that also inhabited Pena Palace – King D. Carlos I. He reigned from 1889-1908 and inhabited the palace at a later date with his wife the queen Dona Amelia. He had an intense education and was seen as a patron of science and the arts. King D. Carlos I took a personal interest in deep-sea and maritime exploration.

Look around the **atelier** of King D. Carlos which is filled with canvasses painted by himself.

We are once again on the outside – in the terrace.

On your back stands the fairy tale pink and orange ‘Palácio da Pena’, overlooked by a bronze "warrior" statue standing on a rock, in front of you, representing the king as guardian of the royal residence.

What is the statue made of?

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And now you are ready to solve the enigmas... or to get close to the solution.

First...the name of the Place:

1	2	3	2	4	5

da

6	7	8	9	6	4	2

Then the coordinates:

N 38° AE.ABD

W 009° C(F - C).ACB

The last clue is in the cache hidden in the above coordinates. Once you get there, decrypt the code placed inside the box.

Enjoy it!