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Fundação da Casa de Bragança

The Fundação da Casa de Bragança was established in 1933, in accordance with the will of Queen Dona Amélia, to safeguard the collections of the House of Bragança.

The museum currently comprises three areas: the Ducal Palaces (the Ducal Palace, the Armoury and the Carriage Collection) in Vila Viçosa, the Museum of Bragança and the Castle, which houses the Archaeological Collection and the Hunting Collection.

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0 Main Staircase

The Main Staircase is the entrance of the Bragança, a prominent family of the Portuguese nobility. Construction began in 1501 on the orders of Jaime, 4th Duke of Bragança.

With the rise of the House of Bragança to the throne of Portugal in 1640, the family moved to Lisbon, and the Ducal Palace in Vila Viçosa became one of the kingdom's many royal residences.



16th century. Unknown painting. **Left:** Duke of Aveiro in the Moor's Square in Fez. **Right:** Portuguese Duke Jaime, the 4th Duke of Bragança.

Left: The Reading Room of the Library. **Right:** The steps of the Main Staircase.

1 The Tapestries Room

The tapestries from Brussels and Arras (the 17th and 18th centuries) adorn the walls in the first room of our visit. These pieces share the space with Portuguese furniture from the same period.

On the left hang a two-seat of the Holy Family, a notable example of the Portuguese tapestry from Arraiolos.

To the right, a portrait by Vicente Lopes depicts Duchess of Cadaval, the last Queen of Portugal. Queen Amélia was the wife of King Carlos I and mother of King Manuel II, the last monarch of Portugal.

The Queen actively supported many social causes, including the prevention of tuberculosis. She founded the Portuguese Red Cross and created the first kitchens for the poor. Along with these social activities, Queen Amélia was also a great patron of the arts and culture, and a talented artist herself. An important collection of her drawings and watercolours is on display in the Museum of the Casa de Bragança.

The last King of Portugal, Manuel II, seven in the throne at 19, after both his father, King Carlos, and his older brother, Prince Luís Filipe, were assassinated on the 1st of Feb. of 1908. He ruled as King of Portugal for just over two years and went into exile in England after the Republican revolution of 1910. His wife, Queen Dona Amélia, died in 1951, but to the creation of the Fundação da Casa de Bragança, which she founded and presided over, she had long entrusted her collections.



Portrait of King Manuel II, oil on canvas, Alda Telles, 1946.



The Dark Tree (Vila Cabrão), pastel on canvas, 1920.

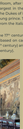
2 The Giant's Room

This room takes its name from the ceiling frescoes, painted in 1600, which depict the biblical story of David and the giant Goliath.

Most of the rooms in the Ducal Palace were built in the 16th century, when it underwent extensive alterations, including the addition of a new wing and the painting of the ceiling. A young age, Some remarkable examples of this work can be found in the Hercules Room and The Dark Tree (1920).

The Talavera de la Reina tiles, dating from the 17th century, are especially striking in the next room, the Medusa Room, complete the decoration.

As we move on to the Medusa Room, we walk past the **Duchess' Oratory**. This prayer room houses the splendid 17th century painting by Marcos da Cruz and a depiction of the Immaculate Virgin by Pedro Alexandrino. From the early 18th century, the altarpiece has over 900 relics, as are the ones in the Medusa Room.



The Duchess' Oratory

3 The Medusa Room

Once again, the room takes its name from the ceiling fresco, which tells the story of Perseus and Medusa.

King Carlos commissioned a series of portraits by a group of artists, known as the Lisbon School, and many of these portraits on display are variations of Portuguese Masters from culture, which hang in the room. Of the 17th century are the portraits by Bernardim Preto and Domingos Sequeira. Portuguese monarchs from Maria I (1734-1816) to Carlos (1863-1908).



Left: Portrait of King Carlos I, pastel on canvas, 1903. **Right:** Portrait of Queen Amélia, oil on canvas, 1903.

4 The João VI, Portugal and Brazil Room

Inspired by the Imperial and Royal rooms between Portugal and Brazil, this room tracks the path of João VI (1767-1826) as Duke of Bragança and Prince Regent of Portugal, Brazil and the Algarves, and then as King of Portugal and King of Portugal.

The cultural and artistic settings in which João VI moved, including during the time at the Palace, are evoked in the room by the portraits of his family, the Portuguese royal court and the Brazilian court. Among the paintings, the beautiful *Meeting of D. João VI in the Biblioteca*, signed by Domingos Sequeira, the portrait of Maria da Glória, the future Queen Maria II, by Jean-Baptiste Debret, and works of second music composed by Marcos Portugal.

Some significant pieces in the room are the 19th century Brazilian furniture and the **Persian Room**.



Persian Room

Here we find a portrait of Isaac, the 4th Duke of Bragança, who was born in the Palace of Vila Viçosa in 1610. He ascended to the Portuguese throne as King Sebastião Felix Mascarenhas and Duke of Bragança through the revolt known as the Restoration, after 60 years under the Spanish Crown. Also here is the Duke of Bragança Manuel's Baroque sculpt's depicting Hope and Charity, and a portrait of Princess Maria Francisca of Assis Isabel Xavier de Paula Maria Joaquina Gertrudes Rita Joana de Bragança, the future Queen Maria II of Portugal, who was born in the Palace in 1819. She married her uncle Prince Consort Dom Carlos II. This marriage, however, was not a happy one and the couple lived separately for most of their lives.



Above, 1st Duke of Bragança, oil on canvas, Pedro Alexandrino de Carvalho.

5 The Dukes' Room

This room is also known as the Tudesco' Room, after the panel of honour' Tudesco, of Germanic origin, which hangs on the wall. The panel, which is ceiling is decorated with 16 portraits of the Dukes of Bragança, up to King Manuel II. Among the portraits are those of Queen Dona Catarina, who married the King João III of Portugal, and the wife of Prince Consort Duarte Pio, Duquesa de Bragança.

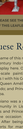
Some significant pieces in this room are the 17th century Spanish tapestries portraying *Episodes of the Life of Achilles*, based on cartoons by Peter Paul Rubens, and the 18th century Portuguese tapestries of the Duchy and the works of armour from Italy, 16th century and Germany, 17th century.



Left: Portrait of Queen Dona Catarina, oil on canvas, 1552. **Right:** Portrait of Queen Dona Amélia, oil on canvas, 1903.

6 The Virtues' Room

In this room, we are under the protection of the seven theological and cardinal virtues: Faith, Hope, Charity, Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance, as well as Wisdom, included to fill in the eighth corner of the ceiling.



Left: Portrait of Queen Dona Amélia, oil on canvas, 1903. **Right:** Portrait of Queen Dona Amélia, oil on canvas, 1903.

7 The Hercules Room

The painted ceiling depicts Hercules' Labours, the mythological hero and the first one of the many notable fireplaces in the Palace. Beside the fireplace are Chinese porcelain "aquarium", which used to be filled with water and live fish.

Hercules was, various tradition making process is listed in the Manual Inventory of Arraiolos Tufted Carpets, and also National Museum of Ancient Art. Among the furniture in the Pedestrian's Room also dates from the 18th century and can be viewed here.



Left: Portrait of Queen Dona Amélia, oil on canvas, 1903. **Right:** Portrait of Queen Dona Amélia, oil on canvas, 1903.

8 The Golden Room

Unlike the previous rooms, the 19th century and come from the collections of the Palácio das Necessidades. The ceiling in this room is believed to be the oldest in the Palace that has not been later redecorated. Its, the oil paintings on the 17th century wood panels remain remarkably vivid.



King Carlos' bedroom **Queen Amélia's bedroom**

9 The Royal apartments

As we enter the chambers, we find more works by King Carlos I and Queen Amélia's, several portraits painted drawing D Westchester. The Queen's bedroom is the last room we will visit on the tour of the Royal apartments.

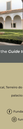


2 mouchoirs d'amants, King Carlos I, pastel on cardboard, undated.

These were the private apartments of King Carlos and Queen Amélia. A visit to these rooms is the only way to see the Royal Family's private living quarters as they were left by the revolution in 1910.

As we reach the Queen's dining room, we get a glimpse of the Duchess' Garden, which was designed by Queen Amélia. The Queen's bedroom is the last room in the **Royal apartments** and is dominated by a portrait of Queen Amélia, the wife of King Carlos and artistic who were his contemporaries.

Among King Carlos' and Queen Amélia's personal drawings and paintings, along with paintings of two of the yachts he used for his oceanographic research expeditions.



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10 The Chapel

The chapel, first built in the 16th century, underwent successive alterations, including a renovation in the 19th century.

The Palace's chapel is still used for Mass. The Bragança family remains attached to the Roman Catholic faith to the general public. The ceremonies are open to the public on the last Sunday of the month. Entrance is free and no booking can be cancelled online.

Queen Amélia in Sintra, oil on canvas, Veloso Salgado, 1898.

11 The Indo-Portuguese Room

The name of this room comes from the 17th century Indo-Portuguese furniture that can be found here. Among the large-scale paintings depicting King Carlos I with his General Staff, by Carlos Reis, and the Battle of Vila Viçosa, by Miguel Ângelo and Pinto Luiz Filipe, by José Malhoa.

The piano was a gift from the English community in Lisbon to Prince Royal Luís Filipe, who died in 1908 and was one of the victims of the regicide of 1908. After being used in the chapel for many years, the piano is now in the Dining Room, where it is played when the music would reach the dining room during the Royal Family's meals.



Queen Amélia in Sintra, oil on canvas, Veloso Salgado, 1898.

12 The Dining Room

As we enter, the **Persian Room** is to the left and contains pieces from various periods, including the 17th century Portuguese chairs and the Brazilian furniture. Among the paintings, the Portuguese scenes from the 17th to the 19th century and Italian majolica from the 16th to the 19th century.



The dining room table is set with the 19th century Portuguese silver and Vista Alegre porcelain. The Royal Family's meals were served in two shifts, the first one at 1 p.m. and the second one at 8 p.m. Every day of the month, Entrance is free and no booking can be cancelled online.

Queen Amélia in Sintra, oil on canvas, Veloso Salgado, 1898.

13 The Kitchen

A monumental space in royal residence, the kitchen was improved and enlarged over the centuries. Ovens, farmhouses, cellars and storerooms were added and/or added around it.

The visit comes to an end in the kitchen with its impressive and rich collection of over 500 pieces.

Among the pieces on display are those of stone from the Ducal Palace. First building phase. The Armoury is located on the right. The tiled car opens onto the large courtyard. The Ducal Palace's Chapel, with its bell Tables, currently occupied by the Carriage Collection.

Cloister

For more detailed information, see the **Guide to the Ducal Palaces**, available in our shop.

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