

PORTUGUESE FORTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF POLITICAL AUTHORITIES

military tourism on demand



View of Lisbon Coast and city

*in atlas "Civitates Orbis
Terrarum" de Georg Braun e
Frans Hogenberg, Cologne,
1572.*

TOURISM in PORTUGAL

Increased In the last decade. Receipts in **2025** reached **29.1** billion euros, **5% more** than in **2024**

- **TURISMO DE PORTUGAL** - national agency responsible to promote and reenforced the touristic sector and help operators to innovate.
- **TURISMO MILITAR** - Ministry of Defence's brand/concept to promote military history and to certify projects, routes and sites with the seal **TM Portugal**.
- **APTМ - TURISMO MILITAR** - private association created in 2015 to promote military tourism.



PORTUGUESE MILITARY HERITAGE

- **Portugal's mainland**, along with the **Azores** and **Madeira** archipelagos, features a vast and diverse fortified military heritage. **A total of 819 sites**
- **Furthermore**, this heritage consists, since our **Age of Discoveries**, of an extensive military architectural legacy spread across **four continents**.
- Defensive structures spanning **from the pre-Roman era to World War II**, illustrating centuries of military engineering:

Hillforts – Castles – Battlefields – Walls – Towers – Forts – Citadels

Watchtowers – Fortresses – Batteries – Lines – Lighthouses

- Between **Lisbon** and **Cascais** – 18 coastal forts + 2 sea fort

CARETAKERS and ADMINISTRATORS

- The majority of these sites are managed by the **Ministry of Culture** and operate as a network;
- Some fall under **municipal administration**;
- Some are leased to **private cultural companies or hotel chains** for commercial use;
- Others await leasing through a national program for the re-use called **“REVIVE”**;
- A few are managed by the **Ministry of National Defence** and the **Armed Forces** (Navy, Army and Air Force);
- And two are under the **Presidency of the Republic**.
- One is a private house.

PORTUGUESE FORTIFICATIONS UNDER CONTROL OF POLITICAL AUTHORITIES

Military Tourism on demand

While **most of these sites are open to the public**, the scenario changes for these three cases:

TORRE DO BUGIO also known by **FORTE DO BUGIO**

CIDADELA DE CASCAIS (Palácio da Cidadela and Forte de N^a. Sr^a. da Luz)

FORTALEZA DE SÃO JULIÃO DA BARRA or **FORTE DE SÃO JULIÃO DA BARRA**

As they are **not conventional, publicly accessible spaces**, different access rules apply.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO



EMACO guided visit, july 9th 2022, photo by Catarina Macedo.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO



Bugio Fort, aerial view, 1930-1932, photo by Alberto Carlos Lima, in AFCML, Photographic Archives of Lisbon Municipality.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO



Bugio Fort, maintenance works, 1930-1932, photo by Alberto Carlos Lima, in AFCML, Photographic Archives of Lisbon Municipality.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO

BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTE

- Once a small wooden fort, built on a sand bank in the middle of the Tagus River, to defend from constant attacks by English and Dutch corsairs;
- Was redone and reenforced during our **3rd. Dinasty** (1581 – 1640) under the Spanish Crown.
- In **1693**, to guide the sailors a **lighthouse tower** was built inside;
- In **1755**, with the **Lisbon hearthquake** it came down, it was rebuilt in 1758.
- The Fort served simultaneous as a **prison**;
- Served as a battery to provide crossfire to the Oeiras coast;
- The lighthouse had a **resident keeper** from the **1940** until its automation in **1982**.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO

MANAGEMENT

The **fort and lighthouse** are managed by the **Portuguese Lighthouse Directorate** (Direção de Faróis), which operates under the **National Maritime Authority** within the **Portuguese Navy**.

The organization is responsible for the maintenance and operation of 57 lighthouses, as well as the preservation of their historical heritage, some can be visited.

LEGISLATION

- Torre de São Lourenço (commonly Torre do Bugio) - Classified as Monument of Public Interest by the Government Decree nº41/191 of 18 July 1957.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO

VISITATION

The chance to visit Bugio is very limited

- Public visits are strictly limited due to structural safety concerns and difficult access (only by sea).
- A special permit from the Portuguese Lighthouse Directorate, is necessary to organize a visit;
- Visits are only granted once or twice a year;
- Access is limited to the summer months to ensure safe docking;
- Visits depend on the river and sea conditions.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO

CULTURAL GUIDED TOURS

Organized by **EMACO**, a local cultural association, officially recognized as a **UNESCO Club** for the cultural landscape of the Tagus Estuary.

Organizes visits **since 2005**.

- The number of visitors depend of the visiting days authorized each year.
- Tickets costs 30€ per person.
- Boats depart from the “Oeiras Marina”.
- Registration by email.



<https://espacoememoria.org>

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO

EMACO TOURS STATISTICS

2023

- 2 visiting days (2 shifts)
- 600 visitors

2024

- 3 visiting days (4 shifts)
- 1000 visitor

2025

- 4 visiting days (4 shifts)
- 1000 visitors



EMACO visit, July 9th 2022, photo by Catarina Macedo.

FORTE do BUGIO / TORRE do BUGIO

OTHER TOURS...

BOAT TOUR OPERATORS

- Boat trips close to the fort, only for a closer look.
- Sunset tours

Time: about 30 minutes tour

Tickets cost: from 30 to 80€

Touristic Operators:

- Aquastart - Marina de Oeiras
- SeaEO – Tours
- BORK You



FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

Before 1950



Vista aérea, arquivo municipal de Oeiras

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

After 1950



Vista aérea, arquivo municipal de Oeiras

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTE

- **16th CENTURY** – Age of the Discoveries, Portuguese **King Manuel I**, decided to build a Fortress at the entrance of the Tagus River, to reinforce the defence of Lisbon from the constant attacks;
- His son **King João III**, nominated Architect and Engeneer Miguel de Arruda to draw its plan.
- **Regent Queen Catherine of Austria**, grandmother of the future **King Sebastian**, continued the Works.
- The Works finished with another Regent Don António in 1579.
- The **Fortress** served, since **1573**, as a prison “the Dungeons of São Julião da Barra”;
- King Sebastian died in a battle - **Sucession Crisis – 3rd DYNASTY – Under the Spanish Crown** (1581 – 1640).

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

- **3RD DINASTY**
- King Filip, ordered the construction of two Bulwarks to reenforce the defence.
- Nominated **architects and military engineers, Frei Vicêncio Casale,** and **Nicolau de** Langres to draw the plan.
- **4th DINASTY**
- **1640** - Portuguese **King D. João IV,** reinforced the defence built the Revelin;
- **1693** – The lighthouse tower was built;
- **1755** - with the **Lisbon hearthquake** the tower came down, 10 ears later it was reconstructed.
- The lighthouse had a resident keeper until its automation in **1982.**

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

XXth CENTURY

- **1936's** - Its function as prison ended;
- **1947** - The Fortress was decommissioned as a military defence unit;
- **1949 to 1951** - Following Portugal's entry into NATO in 1949, Salazar and the Minister of War decided to build a residence for representative functions to host high-ranking NATO officers (Eisenhower and Montgomery);
- **1960's to early 1990's** - the "Palace" served as the official residence of the Minister of War, along with the small summer residences and swimming pool under the rule of the **General Staff of the Armed Forces**.
- As of **1994**, authority was transferred from the General Staff of the Armed Forces, to the **exclusive control of the Office of the Minister of Defence**.
- Three Ministers used it as a permanent residence.

FORTALEZA DE SÃO JULIÃO DA BARRA

From 1960 to 2008



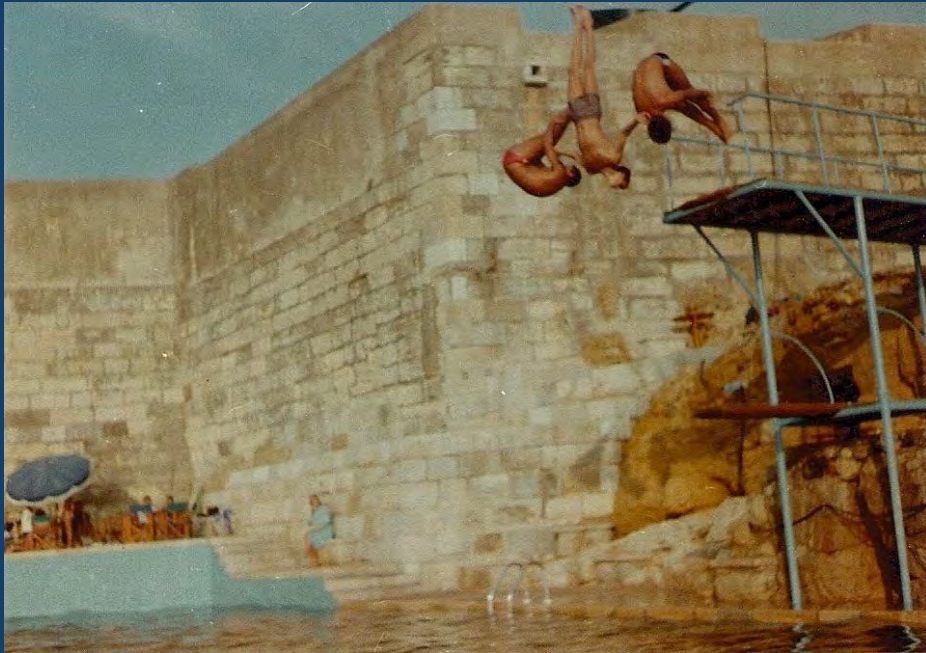
During these decades, social activity in the fortress was very intense and lively.

- High-ranking military officers and their families could spend their summer holidays in the small houses that had been converted into summer residences.
- On Sundays, the fortress chapel was still in use; the priest held Mass and performed weddings and baptisms for resident military personnel and high-ranking officers.
- Officers and their immediate family members had an access card to the swimming pool.

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

From 1960 to 2008

During the summer months, up to 100 people occupied the pool on weekends.



FORTALEZA DE SÃO JULIÃO DA BARRA

From 2008 to the present

2008 a changing year...

The Minister of Defence, Nuno Severiano Teixeira (Socialist Party Government 2006 – 2009), an historian, intended that such an important fortress deserved to be visited by the public.

- Choose not to live in the fortress, which is the official residence by right of office.
- Used it only for the National Defence official events;
- Initiated a cultural program of exhibitions, conferences, and plays, centered around military history and the heritage of the fortress;
- Set a regulation for renting specific spaces for corporate events.
- And opened the fortress for free guided group tours, on demand.

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

THE CULTURAL GUIDED TOURS:

- Announced only on *Portal da Defesa Nacional*, and a special request form is required;
- Subject to the Fortress's official agenda;
- Must be authorized by the Cabinet of the Minister of National Defence;
- Guided by an employee of the “Protocol and Communication Office” of the Ministry of National Defence;
- Currently, these visits remain free.



FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

VISITING RULES

- Upon request and authorization;
- Groups of 8 to 25 People;
- Lasting 1.5 to 2.hours;
- Morning visit - 10 a.m
- Afternoon visit - 14 p.m
- The gate closes at 16 p.m;
- **Open to all** (Schools, university students, researchers, and lifelong learners).

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Adult Participants:** Full name and ID number.
- **School Groups (Minors):** Full name and ID number of teachers only.

If an official event suddenly appears un the calendar ...

- Already authorized tours must be canceled, and reschedule... **Groups**

FORTALEZA de SÃO JULIÃO da BARRA

STATISTICS

Since 2008, the fortress has received an estimated **10,347 visitors**

2023

- Number of visits = **39**
- Visitors = **835**

2024

- Number of visits = **20**
- Visitors = **369**

2025

- Number of visits = **34**
- Participants = **672**

2026 so far...

- Number of visits = **17**
- Participants = **307**



Military Heritage - Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces

MINISTER of DEFENCE

- Fortres of São Julião da Barra

Directly Under the MOD

- **CPHM** - Portuguese Comission of Military History

Feb. 2026

DGAPDN – General Directorate for Armement and Assets

- **Military Tourism**
- Direção de Serviços de Património e Turismo Militar (DSPTM),
- Divisão de Património e Turismo Militar (DPTM).

- **Chief of Staff of the Navy and the National Maritime Authority**

- **National Maritime Authority**
- **DGAM** (General Directorate of Maritime Authority)
- **DF** (Lighthouses Directorate)
 - ❖ Fort of Bugio

NAVY

- **CCM** - Navy Cultural Commission

ARMY

- **DHM** - Directorate of Military History and Culture

AIR FORCE

- **DHCFA** - Directorate of Historical and

CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL



CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL



CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL

From XIX to XX Century

BRIEF HISTORICAL NOTE

- The fortified complex of Cascais, a town by the Atlantic, which history goes back to 1364, comprises:
 - Fortress of Nossa Senhora da Luz,
 - Tower of Santo António
 - The Citadel Palace.
- **XIV Century** – Tower and city walls
- **XVI Century** – Its Governor was also Governor of the Fortaleza de São Julião da Barra e Forte do Bugio;
- **1870** – The Governor's house was transformed into the Royal Summer Palace.



CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL

XXth CENTURY

- **1927 – 2003** – Under the Army, Heavy Artillery Battery N°3;
- **1928-1945** - President Óscar Carmona chose the Citadel Palace as his official residence, where he lived with his family;
- **1959** – Instruction Centre of the Anti-Aircraft and Coastal Artillery Regiment;
- **2003** – Decommissioned as a military defence unit and was given to Cascais Municipality;
- **2007-2011** - Rehabilitation project of the Palace. Since then, it has hosted several heads of state visiting Portugal
- **Since 2011**, it has been open to the public as a cultural space, featuring a hotel, restaurants and art galleries, while the Palace/Museum remains the President's summer residence.

CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL



CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL

The former reserved Military fortified complex is now a public Space.



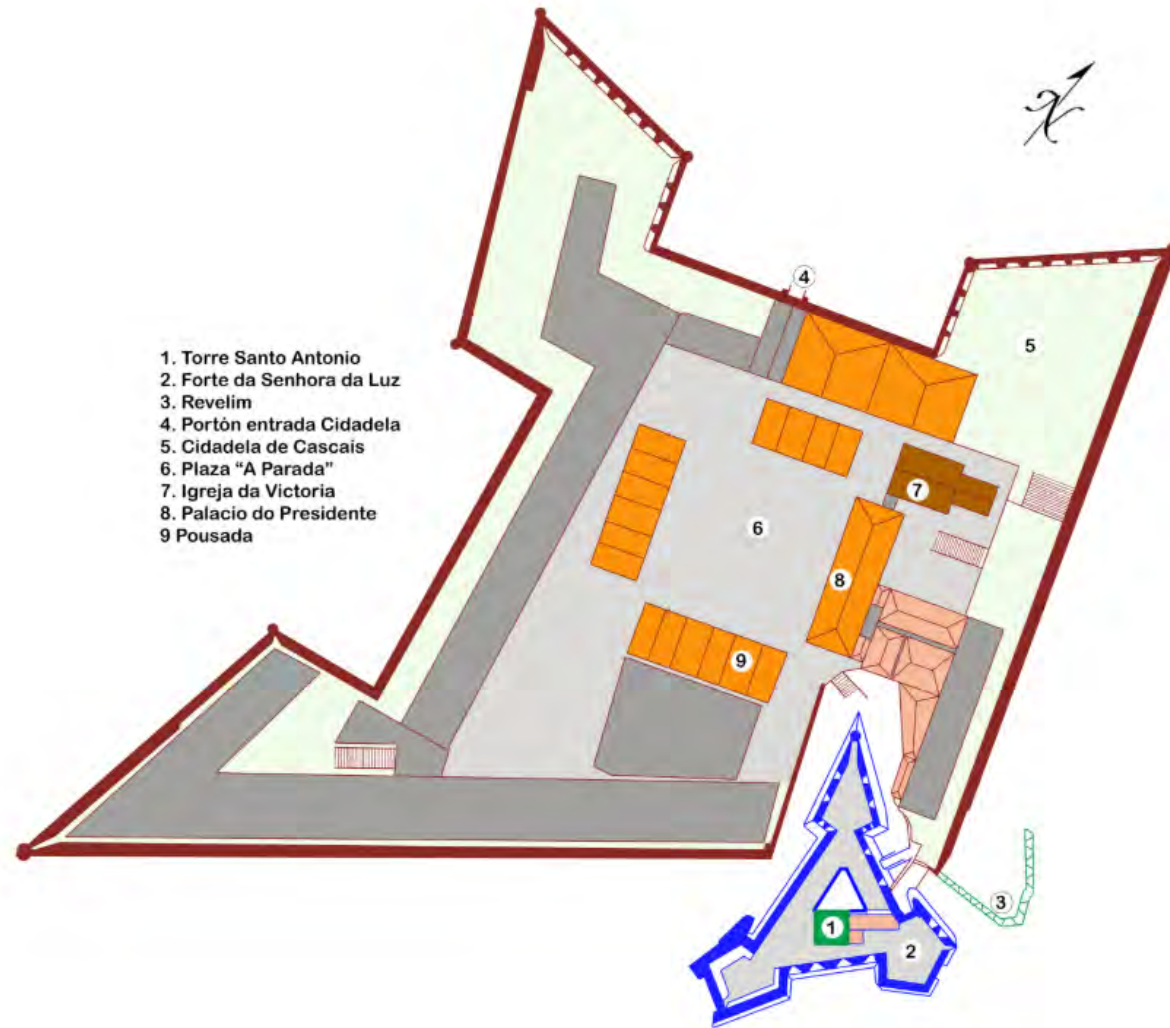
CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The PRESIDENTIAL PALACE



CIDADELA de CASCAIS / FORTALEZA de Nossa Senhora da Luz



CIDADELA de CASCAIS



CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL

GUIDED VISITS

Are announced on Museu da Presidência and on the Municipality of Cascais Cultural websites

Guided visits are upon prior booking with specific days for:

- **School Groups**
- **General Public Groups**
- **General tours**

Visiting hours: 11:30 am, 2:30 pm and 4 pm.

Closes: Mondays, 1st January, Easter Sunday, 1st of May, December 25th.

ENTRANCE

- Free access to Fortaleza de N. Sra. da Luz.
- Palace and Galery depending on the age from 2€ to 10€
- Special discounts for groups
- First Sunday of each month free
- Schools, journalists, AICA Members, ICOMOS Members and former combatants in war theaters free
- Cascais citizens free

CIDADELA de CASCAIS / The CITADEL

CANCELATIONS

- Visits can be cancelled or the circuit can be changed **due to the President's schedule.**
- Visitors are advised to call ahead to confirm.

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

- Visitors are subject to a mandatory search for dangerous objects conducted by a Police officer (**PSP**).
- **Security guidelines** for unauthorized items and restricted behaviors is provided.

STATISTICS

Since **2012**, the **Citadel** and the fortress grounds, can be visited freely, so there's no way to know a specific number of visitors.

The only area with an entrance fee is the Palace Museum.

Presidential Palace/ Museum

2023

- Number of visits = ? Visitors = ?

2024

- Number of visits = ? Visitors = ?

2025

- Number of visits = ? Visitors = ?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE ...

CASCAIS CITADEL

We hope the Citadel continues with the same spirit of openness to the public.

BUGIO FORT

- Will it be possible to schedule more visits?
- Will it be restored to create a better museological experience?
- Will the ***Navy Cultural Commission*** begin offering guided tours?

SÃO JULIÃO DA BARRA FORTRESS

- Will it be open on weekends, as in the past?
- Will the Ministry of Defence follow the example of the Presidency of Republic and open the site for a similar public cultural Project ?
- Will it be possible to visit the “Lighthouse of São Julião da Barra” in a perspective of a lighthouse and marine tourism?

Thank You