

# An 18th Century Experience

Come and join us for a fantastic experience.

Leave the hotel for a 20 minutes bus drive to the town of Mafra where you will have the opportunity to visit the fabulous 18<sup>th</sup> Century National Palace including an exclusive visit to the carillons.



*The Mafra National Palace is a monumental Baroque and Italianized Neoclassical palace-monastery located in Mafra, Portugal. Its dimensions are so huge that it dwarfs the city. The palace-monastery is said to be Portugal's attempt to rival the Spanish palace at Escorial outside Madrid, Spain.*

*The palace, which also served as a Franciscan monastery, was built during the reign of King John V (1707-1750), in consequence of a vow made by the king in 1711, who promised to build a convent if his wife, the Queen Mary Anne of Austria, gave him descendants. The birth of his first daughter, the princess Barbara of Braganza, made the king initiate the construction of the palace.*

*This vast complex is among the most sumptuous Baroque buildings in Portugal. The palace was built symmetrically from a central axis, occupied by the basilica, and continues lengthwise through the main façade until two major towers. The structures of the convent are located behind the main façade. The building also includes a major library, with about 40,000 rare books.*



*The basilica is decorated with several Italian statues and includes six historical pipe organs and two carillons, composed of 92 bells.*

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Leaving the Palace we will take our bus again for a 5 minutes drive to the “Tapada Nacional de Mafra” which has been awarded for its acknowledged environmental practices by the Faculty of Leisure of the Buckinghamshire Children University College in the United Kingdom.



*The Tapada Nacional de Mafra was created in Mafra, Portugal, during the reign of king João V, following the building of the Mafra National Palace, as a park for royal and court recreation.*

*Covering over 8 square kilometers, the park holds different species of deer, wild boar, foxes, birds of prey and many others coexisting in an unusually rich and diversified natural habitat. A favorite of the Portuguese monarchy for hunting and other leisure pursuits, the Tapada de Mafra took on a noble connotation that has done much to aid its preservation and continuity its natural heritage ensures it is an excellent location for environmental awareness and education programmes. The Tapada is also open for walking, mountain biking, horse riding, archery and crossbow shooting activities.*



We will then board a small train for a panoramic visit where you will be rewarded with the presence of some species running free such as foxes, jennets, mongeese and a great variety of birds such as the Barbary partridges, cuckoos, larks, thrushes, song thrushes, Kingfishers, owls among other animals which

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Complete the portrait of the preserved wild life in the National Tapada de Mafra.

*In the last few years the Tapada has become an important place of study, investigation and experiments for many scientists working in the most important national universities. Their results have influenced the management of this area very positively.*

To complete this visit a marvelous dinner which main dish will be game will be served in this bucolic and peaceful atmosphere.

Enjoy!