

Castle - Convent of Christ

Opening times: 9.00 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. (last entry at 6.00 p.m.)



This unique set of monuments, classified as World Heritage by UNESCO in 1983, consists of two distinct but intimately bound parts: one military, the Castle, founded in 1160 by Gualdim Pais, built with three fortified enclosures within which the various annexes of the religious part were built - the Convent.

This was the headquarters of the Order of the Temple until 1314, and of the Order

of Christ from 1357. Portuguese architecture is impressively documented in a stroll through Portuguese History:

The Templar church at the castle (the octagonal oriental influenced 12th century "Charola") is evidence of the Romanesque period. The Gothic style is visible in two cloisters dating from the time of Infante D. Henrique, Administrator of the Order of Christ. At the start of the

16th century, Manueline style appears in all its splendour, superbly illustrated by the "Capitulo" Window. The enlargement of the Convent, which started with D. João III, and lasted until the 18th century, is marked by the arts of the Renaissance, Mannerism and Baroque periods, seen, for instance, in the Lodgings Cloister, the main Cloister and in various architectural ornaments.

Also worthy of attention is the group of the eight cloisters of the Convent built in the 15th and 16th centuries, the High Choir, the House of the "Capítulo", the Refectory, the Cross Chapel, the Court Rooms and the Philippine Sacristy, all from the 16th and 17th centuries.



Pegões Aqueduct

Built between 1593 and 1613, during the Philippine period, this monumental construction of 180 arches which spreads over six kilometres was built to supply

Access from the Leiria Road.

