# ROUTE CASCAIS MARITIME FORTIFICATIONS

Over the centuries along the shoreline surrounding the mouth of the River Tagus many military structures have been built to defend the coast so as to dissuade enemy troops from landing and prevent attacks from pirates and corsairs. This route has been organised into two outings between Carcavelos and the Cabo da Roca point, and presents the history of the buildings that since the end of the twentieth century have protected the entry to the bar of the River Tagus, the point of access to the city of Lisbon. It also passes through areas of landscape interest, such as the Avencas Protected Marine Area and the Guincho/Oitavos Dune System.



The Charm of the Atlantic Coast





Outing cascals-guincho

- NOSSA SENHORA DA LUZ FORTRESS CASCAIS TOWER
- 2 CASCAIS CITADEL
- SANTA MARTA FORT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
- **4** FACHO WATCHTOWER
- 5 NOSSA SENHORA DA GUIA FORT
- **5** SÃO JORGE DE OITAVOS FORT
- SÃO BRÁS DE SANXETE FORT CABO RASO LIGHTHOUSE
- 3 GUINCHO BATTERIES OF THE CRISMINA, GALÉ AND ALTA
- 9 GUINCHO FORT

Route: 11,2 km



ROUTE CASCAIS MARITIME FORTIFICATIONS



#### Nossa Senhora da Luz Fortress Cascais Tower

Passeio Maria Pia, Cascais

#### **\** Lat. 38.693792° | Long. -9.418424°

This building dating from before 1850 is classified as a Monument of Public Interest and was originally the bulwark fortifications of the old Cascais Tower, in order to reinforce coastal defences against invasion during the dynastic crisis. On the side facing the patio one can still see the original tower built by King Dom João I in 1488 to protect the town and as a watchtower for Lisbon, which had quickly become obsolete. The Fort was duly garrisoned and armed during the Philips Dinasty (1580s to 1620s), although at the end of the sixteenth century a greater fortification was already being planned, which was at the origin of the Citadel, completed after the restoration of Portuguese independence in 1640. It would house Junot's troops at the time of the first French invasion (1807-08) and 241 political prisoners, in 1833-34, at the time of the liberal wars. Later on it was the location for a Fishing School and a Naval Radio Station (1939-92).

In 1987 the first archaeological soundings were taken, which would allow the reopening of the accesses to all of the bulwarks, and the identification of the structure of the tower built by King João. In 2014, on the occasion of the commemorations of the 650th anniversary of the town of Cascais, the Nossa Senhora da Luz Fortress opened to the public.











### 2 Cascais Citadel

Avenida D. Carlos I, Cascais

#### **Lat. 38.694395º** | Long. -9.419764º

This Monument of Public Interest was built by King Dom João IV after the restoration of Portuguese independence in 1640, and is the largest and most impressive monument in the Borough of Cascais. The gate of arms was the only access to the inside, which was constructed around a central patio with four blocks leading off it: that of Santa Catarina, near to the former Houses of the Governor -- where from 1870 King Dom Luis and Queen Dona Maria Pia set up the Cascais Royal Estate - those of São Pedro and of St<sup>o</sup> António, which were intended for garrisons and supplies, and that of São Luís, where the hospital was located. A large square-shaped cistern was built under the patio, with its dome resting on nine columns. Also of particular note in the construction is the Chapel of Our Lady of Victory.

The project to adapt the Citadel into a residence for the Royal Family was entrusted to the architect Joaquim Possidónio Narciso da Silva. In order to do so he sketched the connection from the Governor's House to the Santa Catarina Pavilion, which was next to the Parade Square, resizing rooms, decorating vestibules and halls, and creating a banquet hall, as well as a direct connection to the upper choir of the Chapel of Our Lady of Victory. King Dom Luis died at the Cascais Royal Estate in 1889, being succeeded by King Dom Carlos, who promoted profound alterations to the building, where he set up the first Portuguese laboratory of marine biology in 1896, which involved adding a third floor over the former Santa Catarina Pavilion.

After 1910 the palace received the Presidents of the Portuguese Republic, and even functioned as the official residence of President Óscar Carmona from 1928 to 1945. After many years without any use, and now in a state of serious deterioration, it would undergo a thorough intervention of restoration and rehabilitation in 2007 and 2008. Today it is an official residence for the President of the Republic and is also open for guided tours promoted by the Museum of



the Presidency of the Republic to its state rooms and others full of history. In the Citadel, which from 1959 to 1993 housed the Instructions Centre of the Cascais Antiaircraft Artillery, now functions as the Cascais Monument and Historic Hotel. The project received the National Award for Urban Regeneration in the category of Best Intervention for Tourism Use 2013.



Contraction and the second second





#### Santa Marta Fort Lighthouse Museum

Rua do Farol de Santa Marta, Cascais

#### Lat.38.690907° | Long. -9.42137°

This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest was built after 1640 as a part of the defence plan for the bar of the River Tagus, headed by the Count of Cantanhede, and is thus an element in a large set of fortifications intended to defend the coast from Peniche to Setubal. It possesses a large battery in relation to the size of the fort and which possesses three juxtaposed rectangular bodies of differing areas from which it could cross fire with the Citadel battery and defend the small entrance to the Ribeira dos Mochos watercourse. In 1868 the need to reinforce maritime signage in the north corridor of the Tagus Bar forced the building of a lighthouse on the upper battery of the fort, which had since lost its military function. This would be increased in size in 1936, and then it became a part of the network of automated lighthouses in 1983, after which it no longer needed the regular presence of a team of lighthouse keepers.

The Santa Marta Fort and Lighthouse would receive an innovating project of musealisation begun in 2007, through a protocol between the Portuguese Navy and Cascais City Council. Although continuing to guarantee maritime signalling, the lighthouse has become a museum that shows four centuries of histories and experiences, taking on its role as a space for the revealing and divulging of the plural universe of Portuguese lighthouses.







### Gacho Watchtower

Avenida da Vigia do Facho, Cascais

#### **\** Lat. 38.692096° | Long. -9.430923°

In 1805 this building classified as a Monument of Public Interest, with its date of construction unknown, possessed a garrison made up of one corporal and one soldier. It is the only surviving building of a model that was also built at Cabo da Roca point, at Oitavos and in Parede, although the coherence of its position on the coast in relation to the rest of the fortification complex remains to be explained. The building is rectangular, with only one, domed compartment, which served for accommodation and as a storehouse. It had an outside, stone staircase providing access to a small, flagged terrace, from which the duty watchman scanned the horizon. At the sight of danger he would ring the alarm bell on the western wall.







#### In State Senhora da Guia Fort

Estrada Nacional nº 247

Lat. 338.695354<sup>e</sup>| Long. -9.45219<sup>e</sup>

Work on this building classified as a Monument of Public Interest began in 1642, next to the place where, according to the report prepared by the Marquis of Fronteira, in 1675, the invading Spanish army invaded in 1580 under the command of the Duke of Alba. The strategic importance of the area thus justified the urgency in building a fortification to defend it, becoming operational in 1646.

The fort is simple in structure, and remained almost intact until the 1755 earthquake, when it was severely damaged. In 1928, now no longer in service, it was given to the University of Lisbon Science Faculty in order to set up the Bocage Museum; and in 1999, to



the Portuguese Sea Institute, which set up the Guia Maritime Laboratory, which carries out research into marine ecology (deep water and coastal systems) and marine eco-physiology (physiology of growth, nutrition and reproduction of marine species).





#### São Jorge de Oitavos Fort

Estrada Nacional nº 247

#### **\** Lat. 38.699673<sup>°</sup> | Long. -9.468278<sup>°</sup>

This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest dates from 1642 and 1648, on a site where the existence of large flat slabs of stone between the tides allowed hostile landings. It crossed fire with the São Brás de Sanxete Fort to the northwest and the Guia Fort to the east, in order to defend this coastal area, a mission for which it also possessed a curious line of rifle defences.

The São Jorge Fort is a five-sided polygon with dimensions and internal organisation that are different to similar buildings, and it seems not to have undergone major alterations over the times. It was abandoned after the Liberal Wars and was occupied by the Fiscal Guard in 1889.

In 1999 it was granted by the General Directorate of



State Heritage to the Municipality of Cascais with the aim of turning it into a museum. It reopened in 2001 after major restoration works which returned it to its original plan. Besides the extensive battery, possessing artillery units, in the building housing the barracks it has a gunpowder house, storerooms and the kitchens, in an exhibition vouching for the forts relevance for the advanced defences of the Tagus Bar, and showing aspects of its functional organisation and life experiences in times of war and peace.











### São Brás de Sanxete Fort | Cabo Raso Lighthouse

Estrada Nacional nº 247

#### Lat. 38.709428° | Long. -9.485621°

This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest dates from the reign of King Dom João IV, after the restoration of Portuguese independence in 1640. It is located in an exceptional geographical position, at Cabo Raso, and has remained practically unaltered over the centuries. After the victory of the Liberal faction it was decommissioned and left abandoned, until it was granted to the Ministry of the Navy in 1893 in order to set up a lighthouse.

The architecture of the fort can still be made out,



but the dominant image is that of the lighthouse tower, built in 1915. The sound alarm is made up of an interesting mechanism, which now may receive the denomination of industrial archaeology. Its sea view, its closeness to the sea and to the Sintra mountain range provide it with a altitude of contemplation and rest in contact with nature.





### Ouincho Batteries Crismina | Alta | Galé

Estrada Nacional nº 247

- Lat. 38.722781º | Long. -9.478138º Bateria da Galé
- **Lat. 38.7228288º | Long. -9.475805º** Bateria da Alta
- Lat. 38.722851º | Long. -9.4781970º Bateria da Crismina

This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest is what remains of a set of three batteries located to the south of Guincho Beach: the Galé Battery, the Alta Battery and the Crismina Battery. The set was planned and built in1762, under the direction of the Count of Lippe, the reformer of the Portuguese army, when Portugal entered the Seven Years' War.

The batteries sought to compensate for the deficiencies in this stretch of coastline in relation to a Franco-Spanish attack, so the choice of the places for its construction followed a strategic plan. Along with the Guincho Fort, the Galé Battery, set on a rocky outcrop, intended to prevent an enemy landing on the long beach separating the two fortifications. In parallel, in joint fire with the Alta Battery, would defend the nearby inlet. The Alta and Crismina Batteries would also protect the beach that they bordered.









These fortifications were deactivated in the nineteenth century. The Muchaxo Estalagem Inn and Restaurant was built over the Galé Battery, and the Guincho Hotel over the Alta Battery. The Crismina Battery is in a very poor state of repair, and has a project for restoration approved for the site.







### Ouincho Fort

Estrada do Abano



This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest, and also known as the Abano Fort, was built in 1642 during a reformulation of the defence system of the bar of the Tagus. It is a square shape, and was aimed at preventing possible enemy landings of the vast Guincho Beach, as well as the inlet of Abano Beach, as well as functioning as a watchtower with visual communication to the Roca Fort to the north, and to the São Brás de Sanxete Fort, to the south, on Cabo Raso.

At the end of the nineteenth century its structure was altered due to the possible collapse of the rocky platform beneath it. After its deactivation, the story of the Guincho Fort was marked out by periods of abandonment and lease to private citizens for leisure purposes. In 2016 the State placed it in a competition for private leasing for a period of 30 to 50 years.

On Guincho Beach a dune system starts that is a



part of the Guincho/Oitavos wind corridor. This dune system continues due to the particularity of the winds and the availability of sand on the Guincho and Crismina beaches, which is transported over the Cabo Raso rock platform, then returning to the sea further to the south, between Oitavos and Guia. This is an active and semi-open system, which is extremely unstable due to the constant shifting of sand particles on the North by Northwest to South by South East winds.







Let us go and discover the examples of military architecture that exist along the coastline of this area!

- SANTA CATARINA FORT | SEIXAS HOUSE
- 2 NOSSA SENHORA DA CONCEIÇÃO FORT | PALMELA HOUSE
- SAO ROQUE FORT | CASAL DE SÃO ROQUE HOUSE
- SANTO ANTÓNIO DO ESTORIL FORT SCHRÖTER HOUSE
- 5 CRUZ DE SANTO ANTÓNIO DA ASSUBIDA | FORT BARROS HOUSE
- SÃO PEDRO, SÃO TEODÓSIO OR POÇA FORT
- SÃO JOÃO DA CADAVEIRA FORT
- SANTO ANTÓNIO DA BARRA FORT
- DISCOVERY PROJECTORS OF PAREDE BATTERY
- SÃO DOMINGOS DE RANA OR JUNQUEIRO FORT



Degree of difficulty: **moderate** 





### Santa Catarina Fort Seixas House

Rua Fernandes Tomás, n.ºs 2-4, Cascais



The now lost Santa Catarina Fort was built after 1640 as part of the plan coordinated by the Count of Cantanhede. It is located on a small promontory to the east of the bay, guaranteeing the defensive "closing down" of the town through a sequence of walls and curtains for marksmen that joined it to the Nossa Senhora da Luz Fortress. Its firepower thus protected the town until what followed, to the east, being a line of fusiliers that extended to the Nossa Senhora da Conceição Fort or Fort dos Inocentes.

It is square in shape, following the model for the majority of the fortifications of the period. It was normally abandoned in times of peace, and in 1777 it still possessed eight pieces of artillery in a good state,



yet it did not need a permanent garrison due to its proximity to the Cascais Citadel. In 1821 it stopped being recognised as of military use, so that in 1876, now in a poor state of ruin, it was taken by the surge in civil construction that at the time was happening in Cascais. In 1916 Henrique de Seixas bought what was left from the State, then building the Casa Seixas, one of the calling cards of the town and where the Captaincy of the Port of Cascais now functions.





### Nossa Senhora da Conceição Fort | Palmela House

Paredão de Cascais, Praia da Duquesa



The remains of the walls of the Nossa Senhora da Conceição Fort or Fort dos Inocentes have been classified as a Monument of Public Interest, like the Palmela Palace, which was built over the former bulwark. It was intended to defend the adjoining beaches from enemy landings, and was already operational in 1646, possessing a battery that was greater than that of similar constructions. It had three bronze and three iron guns, operated by three artillerymen, twelve soldiers and a corporal. It was stripped of its artillery in 1834 after the liberal victory and was acquired in 1868 by the Duke and Duchess of Palmela in order to build their summer house there. By 1873 this was now one of the calling cards of the town of Cascais.









### São Roque Fort | Casal de São Roque House

Paredão de Cascais, Praia do Tamariz

#### 💊 Lat. 38.703699º | Long. -9.402118º

From 1642 on the now lost Sao Roque Fort was a part of the set of fortifications built after the restoration of Portuguese independence. It was located on the western end of the Tamariz Beach and defended the beach and landing stage along with the Santo Antonio Fort and the Fort of the Cruz de Santo António da Assubida.

It was rectangular, with similar sized areas of battery and barracks, and although it underwent important construction work in 1805, in time for the Napoleonic invasions, in 1829 it was unoccupied and "the object of no artillery", so it was demolished in 1887, when the railway was built. Close to it were the São Roque Hermitage, the memory of which is perpetuated in the Casal de São Roque house, which was built in 1901 by the architect Raul Lino.







### O Santo António do Estoril Fort | Schröter House

Paredão de Cascais, Praia da Tamariz

#### 💊 Lat. 38.703057º | Long. -9400237º

Almost halfway along the Tamariz Beach, previously called the Santo Antonio Beach, on one of the rocks not much above the waters of the sea, for centuries there existed the Santo Antonio Fort, which defended this area against a possible enemy landing with the support of the São Roque Fort to the west and the Santo António da Assubida Fort to the east. When the building work was finished in 1646 its command was given to Captain Francisco de Vilhegas, who had a corporal, three artillerymen and twelve soldiers, like the Sao Roque Fort.

After a long period of abandonment and decay, it was repaired in the context of the Guerra do Rossilhão war, ca. 1793-94, as was the case with the other forts in the region. Although it was given artillery in 1821, in 1886 it was already considered obsolete, so in 1889, the building of the railway cut off its rearguard defences: trenches, walls and lines of fusiliers. In 1894 it was taken to public auction and bought by Ernesto Schröter, who would demolish it in order to build a summer residence with an architecture reminiscent of Central Europe, and which is to this day a reference point on Tamariz.



#### PLANTA

do Forte de S. Antonio do Estoril sugeito ao g. de Cascaes, Joze Carlos Seg. T' Eng." 11 de Mayo de 1798.









#### Gruz de Santo António da Assubida Fort Barros House

Paredão de Cascais, Praia da Tamariz



The now destroyed Cruz de Santo António da Assubida Fort, located on the east end of Tamariz Beach, protected the beach along with the São Roque Fort and the Santo António Fort as a part of the Lisbon defence project drawn up after the restoration of Portuguese independence in 1640. Its curious name seems to originate from the locail toponymy - Santo António, the name of the Estoril Convent - from the cross - dating from 1624, located in the Rua de Olivença - and in the fact that this is a somewhat steep climb.

Like similar fortifications, it lived through long periods of abandonment and phases of recuperation and restoration. After the works of 1793 it never again received artillery, but it always kept a symbolic presence, as can be seen in the fact that it had a governor until 1894, when it was sold at public auction. It was acquired by João Barros, who after the demolitions built his impressive summer residence in an Italian medieval revivalist style with a project by Cesar lanz: the Barros House.









### São Pedro, São Teodósio or Poça Fort

Avenida Marginal, S. João do Estoril

#### 🔌 Lat. 38.702262º | Long. -9.39337º

This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest dates from 1643, and function along with the Cadaveira Fort in the strategy for the defence of this coastline marked out by Poça Beach and the mouth of the Ribeira da Cadaveira watercourse. Its structure remained unaltered until the nineteenth century, although it was partially rehabilitated during the early part of the century.

With no artillery and no garrison, it was granted to the Cascais Santa Casa da Misericórdia orphans' charity as a support feature for bathing on Poça Beach. In 1954 it was transformed into a tea house. The fact that this fortification has two names is due to the fact that it was baptised with the names of two of the princes who were the heirs to King Dom João IV: Dom



Teodósio (who died in 1653, at 19) and Dom Pedro II (who ascended to the throne due to the physical and mental incapacity of his brother Dom Afonso VI). In 2016 the State placed the building in a concession competition to private buyers for a period of 30 to 50 years.







### São João da Cadaveira Fort

Avenida Marginal, S. João do Estoril



This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest was built between 1642 and 1648 as a part of the Lisbon bar defence system drawn up during the restoration of Portuguese independence. Its mission was to defend the Poça Beach and the mouth of the Ribeira da Cadaveira watercourse along with the São Pedro Fort to the west. Its layout is characteristic of most of the coastal fortifications of this period, with a square shape divided into two adjoining rectangular spaces: the battery and the barracks.

During the government of King Miguel it was rebuilt, However, it was decommissioned after the liberal



victory. In the nineteenth century it also belonged to the Cascais Santa Casa da Misericórdia as a support for bathing activity on Poça Beach, and then served the customs authorities until it was deactivated.





#### Santo António da Barra Fort

Avenida Marginal, S. João do Estoril

#### 🔌 🛛 Lat. 38.698618º | Long. -9.38318º

This building classified as a Monument of Public Interest was one of the fortifications built for the defence of the Tagus bar at the end of the sixteenth century under the orders of Philip II of Spain. The Santo António da Barra Fort was planned and built by the military engineer and priest Vicenzo Casale, at a time when there was also the rebuilding of other forts supporting the defence of the Tagus Bar.

Its location on a cliff and the adapting of its walls to the rocks grant it a tellurian dimension and an intimacy with the escarpments that can only be appreciated when seen from the sea. At the end of the sixteenth century it was already completed and ready to receive artillery, and it remained garrisoned and armed until the end of the following century. During the period of the liberal struggles it was subjected to



some interventions and improvements, and received artillery with a respective garrison.

During the twentieth century it underwent further alterations in order to adapt it to its new functions: Fiscal Post for the control of smuggling of merchandise (1897), holiday camp for the Odivelas Female Institute for Education and Work (1915) and summer residence for the then President of the Council of Ministers, António Oliveira Salazar (1950-1968).













Avenida Marginal



Lat. 38.689276° | Long. -9.36242° Projetor n.º 2 - Praia das Avencas (Oeste)

Lat. 38.686804º | Long. -9.358477º Projetor n.º 3 - Praja das Avencas (Este)

After World War II a Luso-British commission coordinated by the British General Barron drew up a coastal defence plan for the region of Lisbon. The so-called Barron Plan foresaw a Coastal Defence Command that would later be called the Coast Artillery Regiment, responsible for two sectors of coastal defence: the north sector - for the defence of the River Tagus and the Port of Lisbon -- and the southern sector -- for the defence of the River Sado and the Port of Setubal. In each of these sectors there would be a group of coast anti-aircraft artillery, a group of close range defence artillery, a telemetry and observation network and an area of discovery projectors, besides a mine strip, inner defences for the ports and anchorages for fiscalisation. The coast artillery groups would be made up of fixed batteries set up along the banks of the Tagus, the Sado and the Peninsula of Setubal. Between 1948 and 1958 the batteries foreseen in the Barron Plan became operational, being generally installed in fortifications made up of bunkers and underground storehouses



armed with high calibre naval weapons in shell-proof towers.

It was considered that the first type of defence should be carried out by two 9"2 (23.4 cm Vickers) heavy batteries with a range of 36 km, close to Alcabideche and the trigonometric landmark of Raposa, at Fonte da Telha. The second type of defence would be guaranteed by two medium calibre 6" (15.2 cm) batteries located in Parede and in Outão, with a maximum range of 22 km. The batteries would collaborate in the fiscalisation and control of all the ships that wished to enter these ports, at night using artificial light, and were organised into a system of discovery projectors -- one of which in Parede - and in two illuminated zones, with a division in Cabo Raso and another at Fonte da Telha.

The Parede Battery, with three guns, played a significant role in the defence of the port of Lisbon and of Cascais Bay. The Parede Discovery Projectors system had three posts: one in Pedra do Sal and two to the west and east of the Avencas Beach (with the latter having disappeared). They were made up of two sub-units: the projector house and the generator house. The vestiges of this lighting system are today in the Avencas Protected Marine Area.







#### São Domingos de Rana or Junqueiro Fort

Rua de Luanda, Carcavelos

#### Lat. 38.682426° | Long. -9.344022°

This fort was built in 1645 and intended to cover the defence difficulties on the west side of Carcavelos Beach, crossing fire with the São Julião da Barra Fort. In 1762 its strategic importance was recognised when it was granted more artillery and reconfigured. With the Napoleonic Wars, specifically the 1810 invasion headed by Massena, the British army of occupation

built on this beach for disembarkation.

granted to Councillor Tomás Ribeiro and to Dr in Alcabideche, which was given the name Hospital António José de Almeida in order to set up a maritime Dr. José de Almeida.



of Portugal, commanded by Wellesley, built the sanatorium for poor children, which was inaugurated Defence Lines of the Lisbon Peninsula, better known in 1902, to spread hygienic principles helio-maritime as the Lines of Torres Vedras. The third line linked therapies in the treatment of and fight against Paco de Arcos to the Jungueiro Fort, guaranteeing bone and skin tuberculosis, lymphatic disorders and the security of the landing of the British troops on debilities such as rickets. The evolution of medicine Portinho Beach (Praia da Torre) in the case of defeat and the spreading of more efficient drugs in the fight in the area of Torres Vedras. Four wooden piers were against tuberculosis later led to its transformation into an orthopaedic hospital. In 2010 it ended its activities In 1897, after the loss of its military status, it was after the inauguration of the new Hospital de Cascais,



## NORMS OF BEHAVIOUR

- Plan the trip well in advance
- Keep to the marked cycle route
- Maintain control of the bicycle at all times
- Always give way when required
- Be aware of the possibility of motorised vehicles on marked public pathways
- Leave no litter or residues



### **Useful Contacts:**

Emergency SOS: 112 Cascais Police: 214 839 100 / 101 / 110 Police Tourism Station: 214 814 067/068 MobiCascais: 800 203 186 | https://mobicascais.pt Bicas Posts: 08h00-20h00. Bicycles to be returned by 07h00 pm Bicas Prices: 30 minutes: 1 € | 1 hour: 1,99 € | 1 dia: 3,90 € Tourist Post: +351 912 034 214 | www.visitcascais.com