

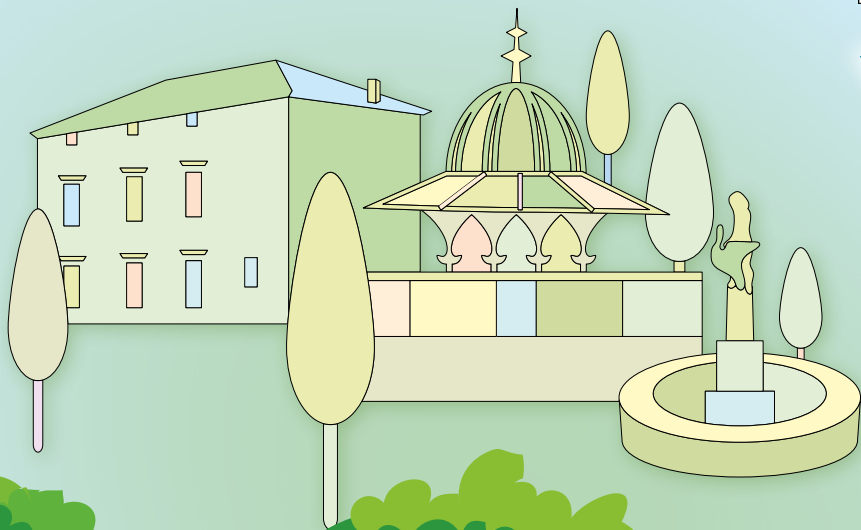
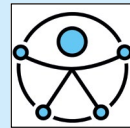
Historical Cross-Border Gardens

BÉJAR FOREST



BUSSACO FOREST

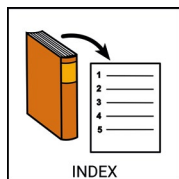
ADAPTED GUIDE



ENGLISH GUIDE



Index



- The JARCULTUR Project Page 2
- The Béjar Forest Page 4
- The Bussaco Forest Page 15



The objective of this adapted tourist guide is to make the visit as understandable as possible for **ALL** people, so they can participate in the environment in a simple way and enjoy the experience.

To do this, the texts have been adapted to **Easy Reading** and visual aids have been incorporated that help explain the trails and facilitate understanding and interaction with the environment, highlighting the **information with a sensory nature**.

JARCULTUR Project

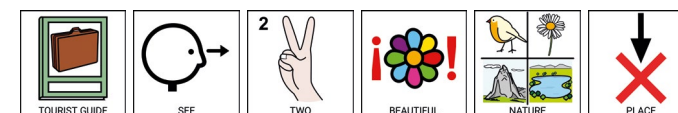


In 2019, the European Union's Interregional Cooperation Programme Management Committee approved the **Cross-Border** Historical Gardens project known as JARCULTUR.

JARCULTUR is a co-operation project between Spain and Portugal.

The main objective is to carry out activities for the conservation, protection, improvement and promotion of 2 historical gardens: the Béjar Forest in Béjar, a town in the province of Salamanca, and the Bussaco Forest in Portugal's Centro Region, called Mata do Bussaco in Portuguese.

Cross-border – that is across borders.



THIS GUIDE HELPS TO SEE TWO BEAUTIFUL NATURAL PLACES



The project also intends to create a network of natural and cultural spaces of interest for Spain and Portugal and to establish tourist trails adapted to new technologies and accessible to disabled people.

In the Béjar Forest the following will be rehabilitated and restored:

- The Garden, romantic in shape and style, and one of the most important garden areas in the Forest.
- Vegetable Garden and the Intermediate Terrace.
- The ground floor of the Mansion, which will be the visitor's reception centre.
- The fountains and the **hydraulic system** that carries water to the fountains and for irrigation.

Hydraulic system – it uses a liquid under pressure to start a machine.

In Bussaco Forest the following will be rehabilitated and restored:

- The gardens of the Palace and the Ferns Valley, with the installation of a new irrigation system that saves energy and water.
- The fountains.

Communication activities will also be carried out so that visitors can learn more about the gardens.



The Béjar Forest



The Bussaco Forest

JARCULTUR is involved in the technical projects, as well as landscape, archaeology and pollen studies. These are all necessary for the restoration works.

Activities will also be developed to make the visits more enjoyable, with digital guides, web pages and information panels adapted for disabled people.

Educational and informative workshops will also be held for schoolchildren. There will also be scientific publications and a congress on historical cross-border gardens.



THE BÉJAR FOREST

The Béjar Forest is a Site of Cultural Interest, which means it has an important value and it needs to be protected.

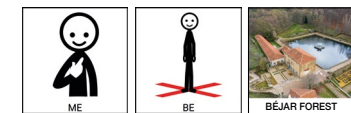
The Béjar Forest surrounds a **villa**, built in 1567 during the **Renaissance** by the Duke of Béjar.

It is now owned by the Béjar Town Council and the Government of Castile and Leon.

The Béjar Forest was declared an Historic Artistic Garden and a Site of Cultural Interest in 1982. It is one of the few historical gardens located in Castilla y León.

Villa – large residence in the countryside.

Renaissance – a cultural movement of the 15th and 16th centuries.



I AM IN THE BÉJAR FOREST



THE BÉJAR FOREST IS AN IMPORTANT PLACE



WE ALL MUST PROTECT THE FOREST

From Renaissance villa to historical garden

The Dukes of Béjar built this villa in the middle of the 16th century in a former **hunting ground** near Béjar.

The villa was built in the lower part of the mountain range near the city.

The Mansion, as well as other buildings, the Pond, and the gardens and vegetable gardens, were built in different parts. And everything is surrounded by forest and meadows.

Although it was designed to enjoy nature it also had vegetable gardens, meadows and a forest to obtain various products.

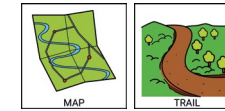
There was also an area near the farm to dye fabrics and a fulling mill, in which water moves a wheel and the cloth is beaten by clubs.

In 1869, Cipriano Rodríguez Arias bought the villa and modified the garden to **romantic style**.

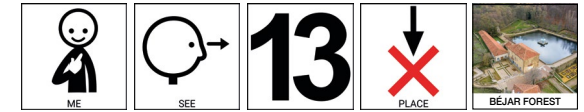
He planted trees called conifers, like pines, spruces or sequoia, the biggest trees you can see now in the garden.



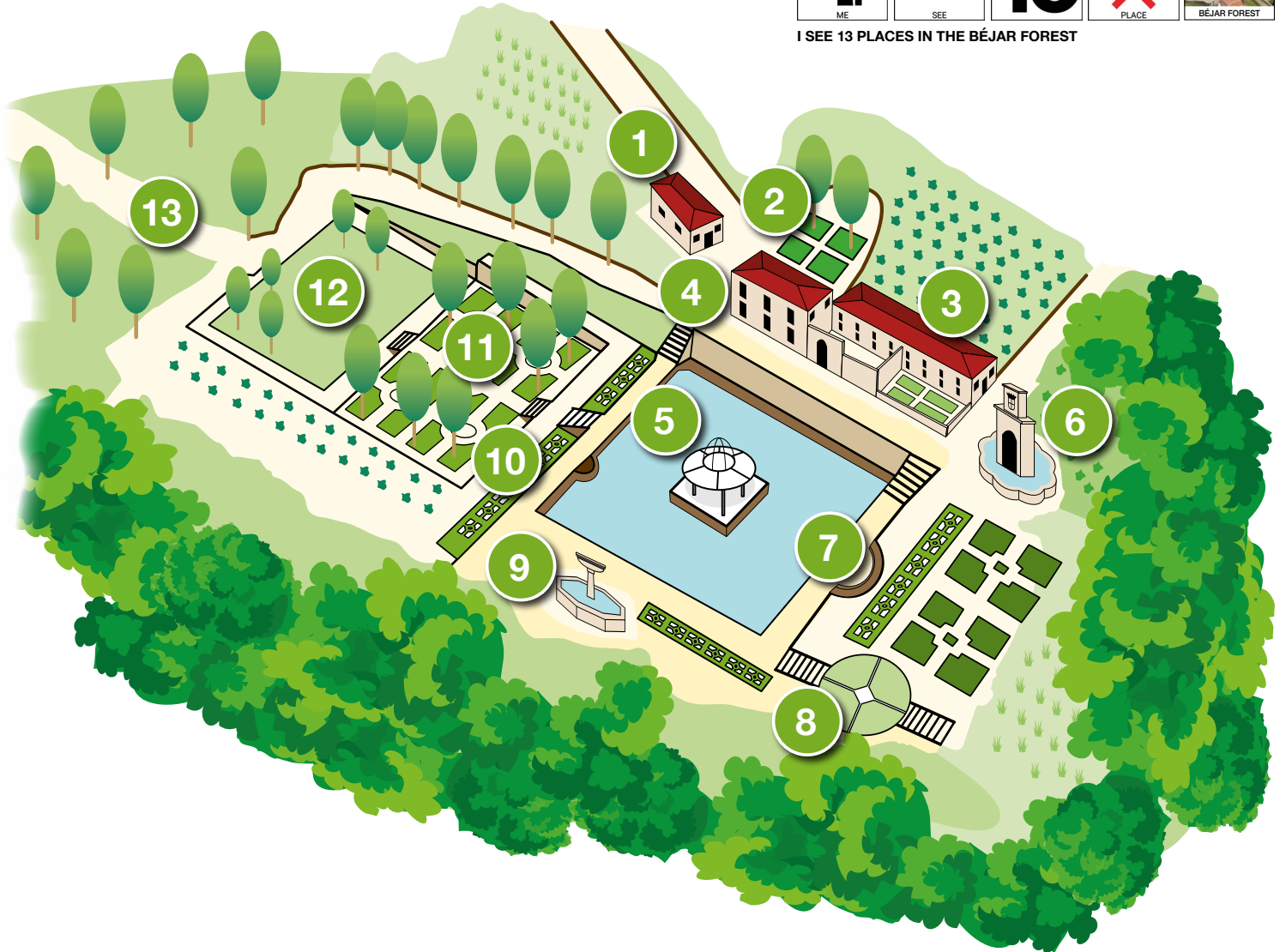
- 1 Groundsman's House 
- 2 Secret Garden 
- 3 Chapel and Stables 
- 4 Mansion 
- 5 Pond and Pavilion 
- 6 La Sábana Fountain 
- 7 Exedra 
- 8 Rotonda 
- 9 Ocho Caños Fountain 
- 10 Intermediate Terrace 
- 11 Formal Romantic Garden 
- 12 Vegetable Garden 
- 13 Grove 



THE MAP HAS A TRAIL



I SEE 13 PLACES IN THE BÉJAR FOREST



The walk through the Forest of Béjar starts next to the buildings.

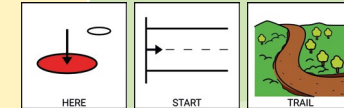
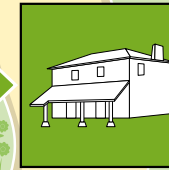
1 Groundsman's House

In this house lived the groundsman. They were in charge of taking care of the gardens, the Vegetable Gardens, the forest and the farm. This house was also called the House of Crafts. From it you can see the mountains and the Pond.



Groundsman's House

1



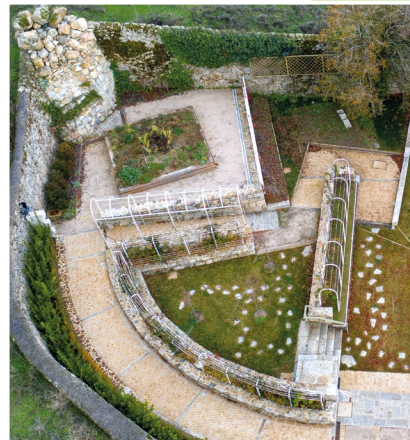
HERE I START THE TOURIST TRAIL



HERE I CAN ASK FOR INFORMATION AND GO TO THE TOILET

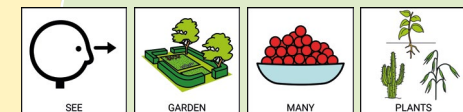
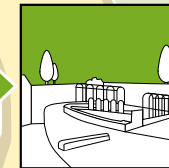
2 Secret Garden

This is a very beautiful garden, with a path full of flowerpots, arches, shrubs and lots of different flowers.



Secret Garden

2



I SEE A GARDEN WITH MANY PLANTS

3 Chapel and Stables

In the 19th century a long, large building was constructed, with two separate spaces.

The smaller space was for a chapel.

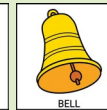
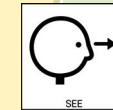
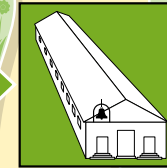
The bigger one was for the **stables**, where the animals were kept.

Stables – place for horses and other animals.

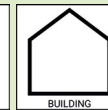
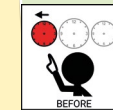


Chapel and Stables

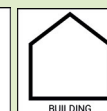
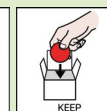
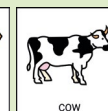
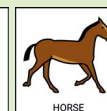
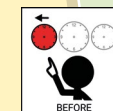
3



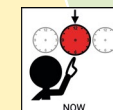
I SEE A BELL



BEFORE PEOPLE USED TO PRAY IN THIS BUILDING



BEFORE HORSES AND COWS USED TO BE KEPT IN THIS BUILDING



NOW THERE ARE NO HORSES OR COWS. IT IS CLOSED

4 Mansion

The Mansion will be the Reception Centre for the visitors. You can enter the Mansion from the north facade of the building, but not the facade called the Monument Facade.

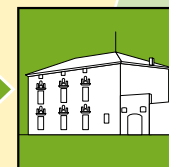
The Mansion was built on top of a previous building. The front of the building faces south, with views of the pond, the forest and the mountain range. It has 6 windows with coats of arms. Each window has the same 3 coats of arms: one of the Zúñiga family, one of the Sotomayor family and one of the Dukes of Béjar. It is called the Monument Facade because of these coats of arms.

In June 2020 work began to convert the lower floor into a Reception Centre for visitors. This work has two parts: In the first, the most important areas were restored. That part is already finished. In the second part, all the technical things and the equipment needed to convert it into a museum will be installed.

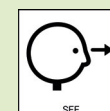
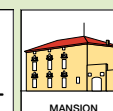


Mansion

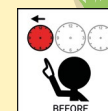
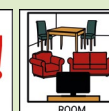
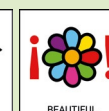
4



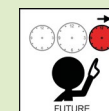
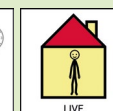
I ENTER THE MANSION.



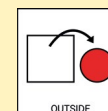
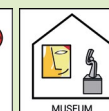
I SEE BEAUTIFUL ROOMS



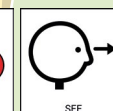
THE DUKES USED TO LIVE THERE.



IN THE FUTURE IT WILL BE A MUSEUM



OUTSIDE I SEE 6 WINDOWS WITH COATS OF ARMS



5 Pond and Pavilion

The villa's most important element is water, used both for irrigation and for the pond and fountains.

The pond's water comes from a **stream**, called Garganta de Oso, that is 3 kilometres away.

The water reaches the pond from an irrigation **water channel**.

In the centre of the island there is a **Neo-Moorish pavilion**.

Stream – small river with little water.

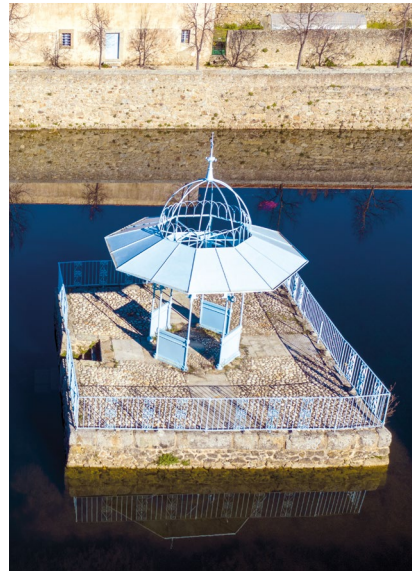
Water channel – a channel (as a ditch along a highway) for directing the course of water.

Neo-Moorish – relating to a revival or adaptation of the Moorish especially in literature or architecture.

Pavilion – a type of kiosk with a dome supported by columns.

6 La Sábana Fountain

La Sábana Fountain was built in the 18th century and in it the water falls like a waterfall.

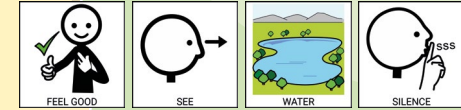
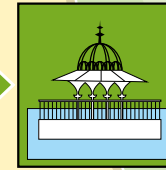


Pond and Pavilion

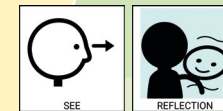


La Sábana Fountain

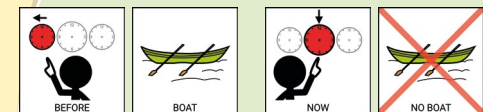
5



I FEEL GOOD SEEING WATER IN SILENCE

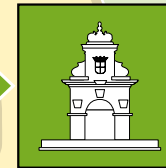


I SEE REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER

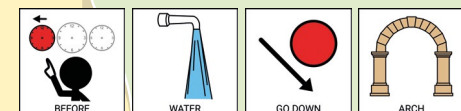


ONCE THERE WERE BOATS. NOW THERE ARE NO BOATS

6



I SEE A COAT OF ARMS AND AN ARCH



WATER USED TO FLOW THROUGH THE ARCH

7 Exedra

The Exedra is a small semi-circular **arbour** which is on the wall of the Pond walk.

Arbour – generally round, closed space with climbing plants that is usually found in gardens.



Exedra

7

SEE BENCH SEMICIRCLE

I SEE A BENCH IN THE SHAPE OF A SEMICIRCLE

1 2

SPEAK HEAR ECHO

FIRST I SPEAK, SECOND I HEAR AN ECHO

8 Rotonda

The Rotonda is a small area where people carried out activities to entertain themselves in their free time. This place has a fountain in the middle.



Rotonda

8

SUBIR STAIRS

I CLIMB STAIRS

SEE CIRCLE BENCH SIT DOWN

I SEE A CIRCULAR BENCH AND I SIT DOWN

SEE POND

I SEE A POND

HEAR BIRD

I HEAR BIRDS

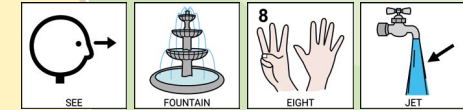
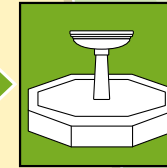
9 Ocho Caños Fountain

The Ocho Caños Fountain is an octagonal fountain, which means it has 8 sides. It has decorative figures called mascarons through which the water comes out. The fountain is surrounded by a single very long bench. The bench has the same coats of arms as can be seen on the Monument Facade.

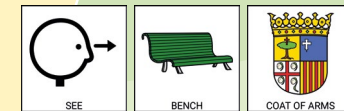


Ocho Caños Fountain

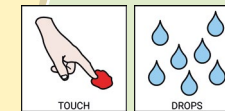
9



I SEE A FOUNTAIN WITH 8 JETS OF WATER



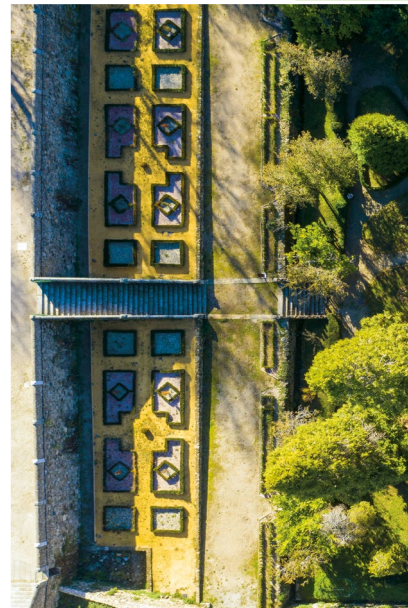
I SEE A BENCH WITH COATS OF ARMS



I TOUCH THE WATER DROPS

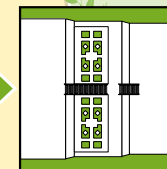
10 Intermediate Terrace

The garden was planted near the Pond and communicates with it through a stone staircase. Going down the first flight of stairs you come to a narrow terrace, in which there is now a greenhouse and hedges made of boxwood, a bush with small leaves.

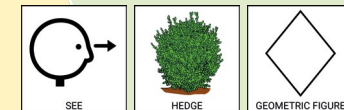


Intermediate Terrace

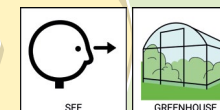
10



I GO DOWN THE STAIRS



I SEE HEDGES FORMING FIGURES



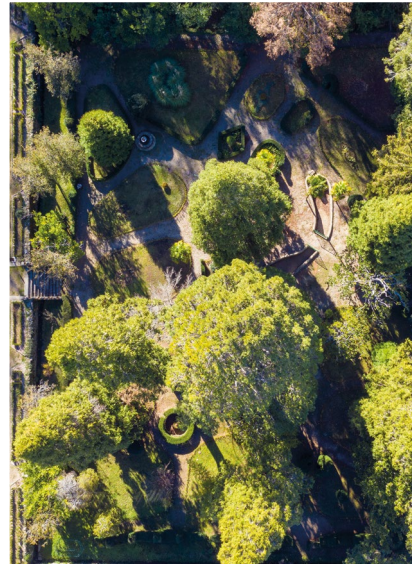
I SEE A GREENHOUSE

11 Formal Romantic Garden

The second flight of stairs goes down to the Romantic Garden. In the 19th century the garden was changed and conifers and other trees were planted. Including a magnificent giant sequoia. Flowers and plants were also grown separately in areas called **parterres**.

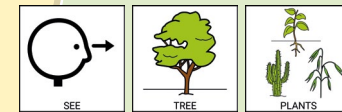
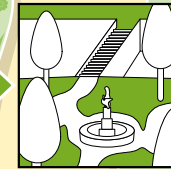
The garden had 6 fountains, but now there are only 5 left and they have also changed over time. This project wants to restore the original garden, while respecting its evolution over the course of time.

Parterre – part of a garden with plants or flowers which is separated from the rest.

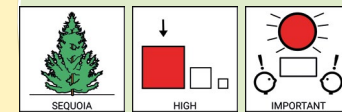


Formal Romantic Garden

11



I SEE TREES AND PLANTS



THE SEQUOIA IS HIGH AND IMPORTANT



I HEAR THE WATER

12 Vegetable Garden

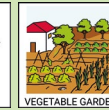
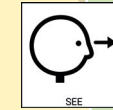
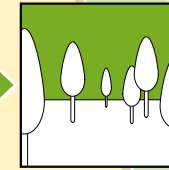
The lower part of the farm was used as a vegetable garden, which is why it is called the Lower Vegetable Garden. Fruit trees like apple, pear or quince, were planted in the vegetable garden. They were irrigated through a network of canals with water left over from the Pond.

When the Vegetable Garden is replanted, the irrigation canals, the water distributors, the retaining walls and the access stairs will also be restored. And the same will happen with all the plant species and the landscape as a whole.

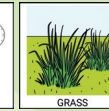
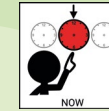
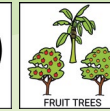
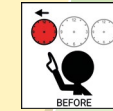


Vegetable garden

12



I SEE A VEGETABLE GARDEN



THERE USED TO BE TREES.

NOW THERE IS GRASS

13 Grove

The Grove is a sort of path with trees on both sides, all surrounded by meadows.

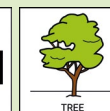
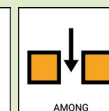
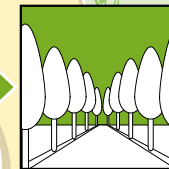
It connects the Lower Vegetable Garden with The Puerta de la Justa.

The Puerta de la Justa is the main entrance to the estate through which people came from the city of Béjar.

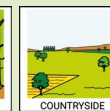
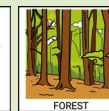


Grove

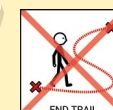
13



I WALK BETWEEN TREES



I SEE THE FOREST AND THE COUNTRYSIDE



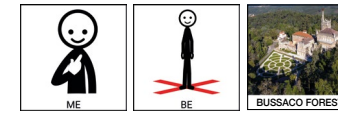
THE BUSSACO FOREST



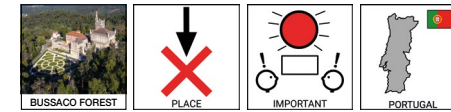
Mata do Bussaco, the Bussaco Forest, is a Portuguese National Monument.

The main area in Bussaco Forest consists of the Palace, now a hotel, and the Santa Cruz abbey.

There are also other important monuments, including shrines, prayer chapels, the steps of the cross, access doors, a military museum and a monument that commemorates the Battle of Bussaco.



I AM IN BUSSACO FOREST



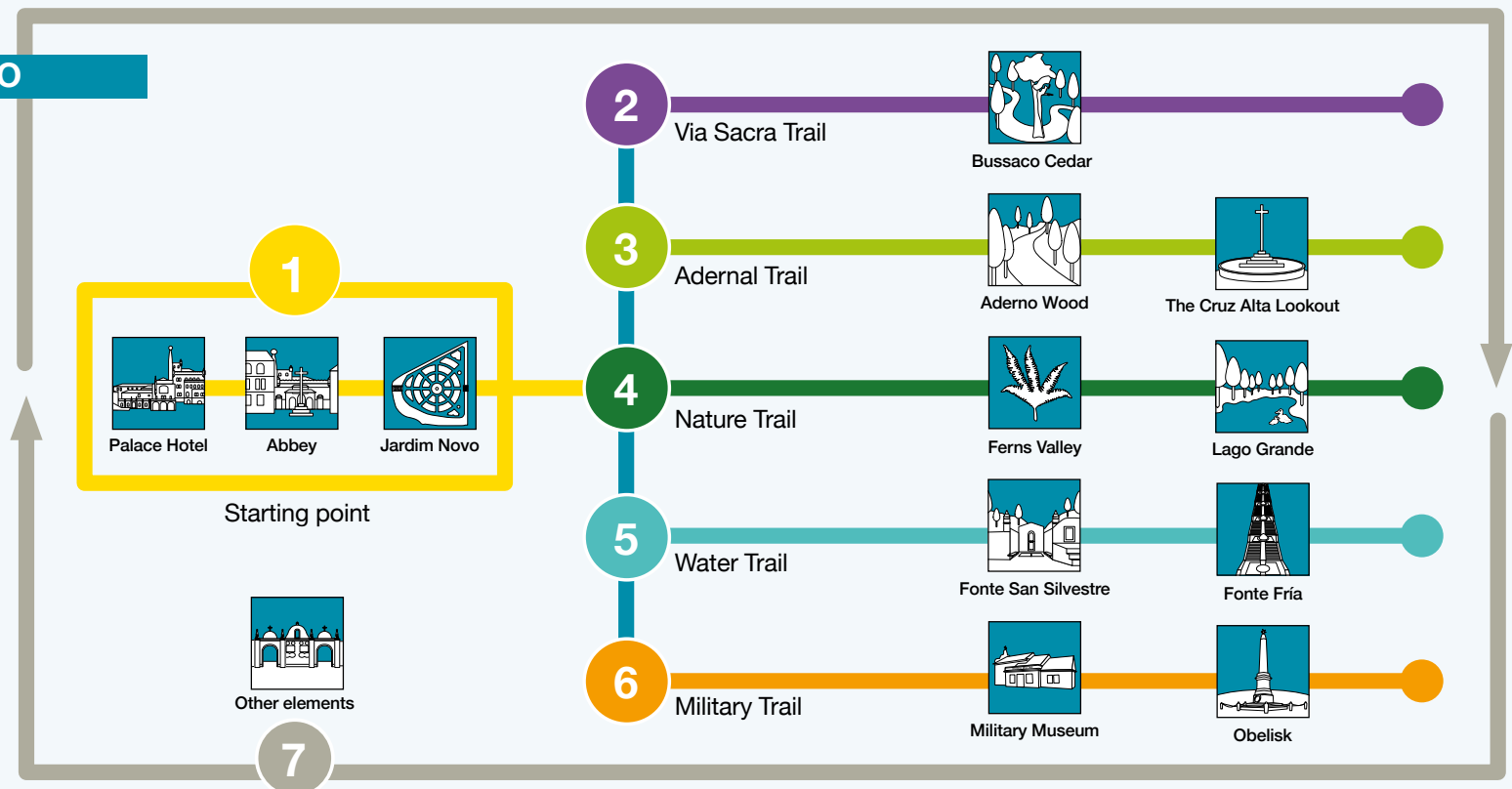
BUSSACO FOREST IS AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN PORTUGAL



BUSSACO FOREST HAS MANY MONUMENTS

MAP OF MATA DO BUSSACO

- 1 Starting point
- 2 Via Sacra Trail
- 3 Adernal Trail
- 4 Nature Trail
- 5 Water Trail
- 6 Military Trail
- 7 Other elements



1 STARTING POINT

At the beginning of the visit to Bussaco Forest well-kept gardens and magnificent buildings can be seen.

The Palace Hotel

The Palace Hotel was built between 1888 and 1907, in a part of a convent where Discalced Carmelites lived until 1834.

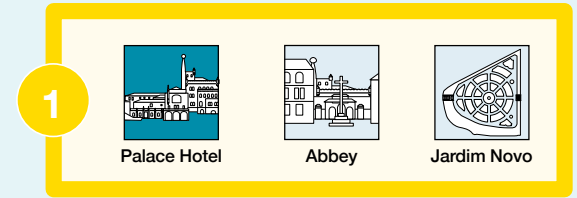
The Queen of Portugal, María Pía, wanted to build a royal palace to rival the Pena Palace in Sintra, but her plans were never fulfilled and the Minster for Public Works proposed to build a People's Palace, which is what hotels are called in Portugal.

The Palace Hotel is a **Neo-Manueline** building designed by the architect Luigi Manini. It was inspired by the Belém Tower and the cloisters of the Monastery of the Belém Hieronymites, two very important monuments in Lisbon. The old church and other parts of the abbey have been preserved.

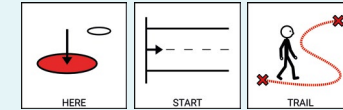
In 1912, the Palace was converted into a luxury hotel. It is now considered one of the most beautiful hotels in the world.

Surrounding the Palace Hotel we can see the abbey and the Jardim Novo.

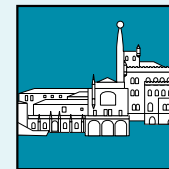
Neo-Manueline – Portuguese architectural style that was developed in the reign of Manuel I of Portugal.



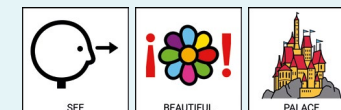
Starting Point



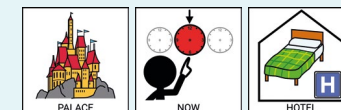
HERE STARTS THE TOURIST TRAIL



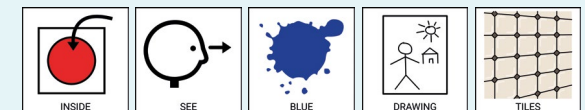
Palace Hotel



I SEE A BEAUTIFUL PALACE



THE PALACE NOW IS A HOTEL



INSIDE I SEE BLUE DRAWINGS ON THE TILES

Santa Cruz Abbey

Santa Cruz abbey belonged to the Discalced Carmelites, a religious order founded by Santa Teresa de Ávila and San Juan de la Cruz.

In 1628, the Bishop of Coimbra, João Manuel, gave the province of Bussaco Forest to the Carmelites so they could build the abbey.

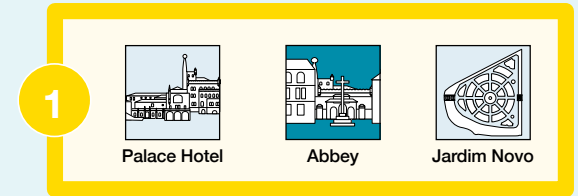
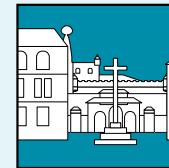
The abbey was a place to withdraw from the world and was dedicated to silence, prayer and penance.

Even though the abbey was a place for silence and penance, it was very important during the Battle of Bussaco in 1810.

The abbey grew and thrived until 1834 when religious orders were banned from Portugal.

The abbey was left abandoned in 1860.

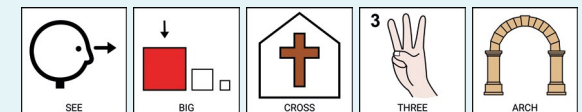
To build the Palace Hotel in 1888, many parts of the abbey were destroyed, but other parts like the church, the patios or the corridor, were incorporated in the new building.



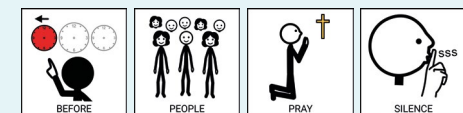
Starting Point



Santa Cruz Abbey



I SEE A BIG CROSS AND THREE ARCHES



PEOPLE USED TO PRAY AND WERE SILENT

Jardim Novo

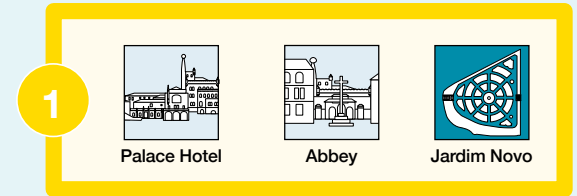
The most important garden area surrounds the remains of the abbey and the Palace Hotel.

This area is called Jardim Novo and was built between 1886 and 1887 at the same time as the San Silvestre Waterfall.

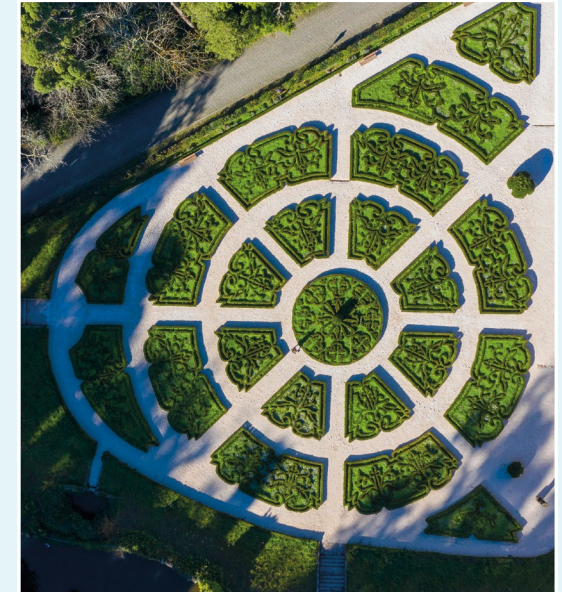
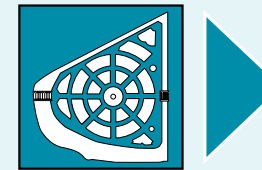
Jardim Novo is made up of small boxwood trees with geometric shapes, as well as lakes and **pergolas**. The garden has a gentle slope. At the bottom of the garden is a boxwood **parterre** with semi-circular flowerbeds and in the centre there is a rose-shaped one.

Pergola – two parallel rows of columns that support a roof of beams or a trellis, on which climbing plants are intertwined.

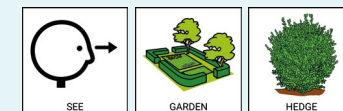
Parterre – part of a garden with plants or flowers, which is separated from the rest.



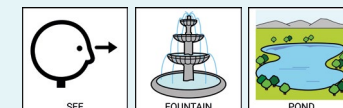
Starting Point



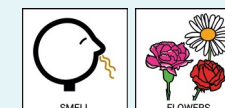
Jardim Novo



I SEE A GARDEN WITH HEDGES



I SEE A FOUNTAIN AND A POND



I SMELL FLOWERS

We return to the Palace Hotel, the starting point for different trails through the 105 hectares of the forest and its more than 25,000 trees.

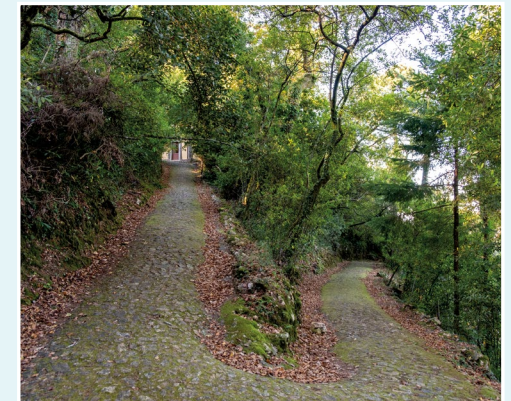
Now we will point out the most important elements of each trail.

2 VIA SACRA TRAIL

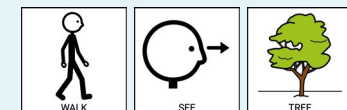
The most important trail is the Via Sacra. It was opened in 1648 and designed like the Via Crucis of Jerusalem. The trail goes through giant trees that almost stop the rays of the sun from passing through. There are more than 250 species of trees, many of them planted by the Carmelites. The most important tree is a cedar called the Bussaco Cedar or the Goa Cedar. It was planted in 1644 and came from Mexico.

The Via Sacra joins up with the Aderno Trail, which has eucalyptus trees and giant ferns and ends at Fonte Fria.

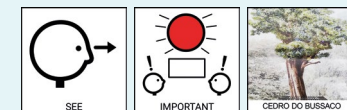
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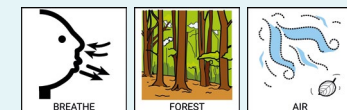
Via Sacra Trail



I WALK AND I SEE TREES



I SEE AN IMPORTANT CEDAR



I BREATHE THE FOREST AIR

The Aderno Wood. The Reliquary Forest

Thanks to a unique microclimate and little intervention from man the Bussaco Forest has been able to preserve a special **habitat** known today as the Climate Forest.

This area is full of aderno trees and is an outstanding feature of the Climate Forest. Aderno trees can grow as high as 20 meters.

It has a thick trunk, a dark grey bark and small, white or red flowers.

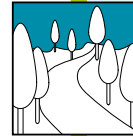
The Bussaco Aderno Wood is unique in the world.

The Reliquary Forest is an area of **native plants** with the same characteristics as the primitive forest. It occupies a small area in the south-west part of the Bussaco Forest.

It has three different areas, in which three different species predominate: the oak and black oak, the laurel and the aderno.

Habitat – a place where conditions are suitable for animals or plants to live.

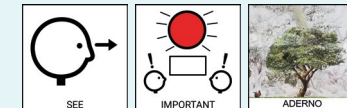
Native plants – those that occupy an area without human intervention.



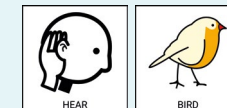
Reliquary Forest



I SEE A FOREST WITH MANY TREES



I SEE IMPORTANT ADERNOS



I HEAR BIRDS

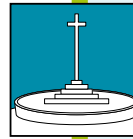
Cruz Alta Lookout

This viewpoint is located at the highest point of the Bussaco mountain range.

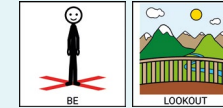
It the best views in the area.

From here you can see the Atlantic Ocean.

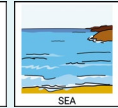
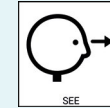
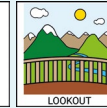
3



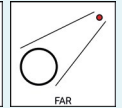
Cruz Alta Lookout



I AM AT A LOOKOUT



I SEE THE SEA IN THE DISTANCE



4 NATURE TRAIL

Gardens and Ferns Valley

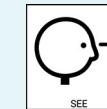
Another very important green area is the Ferns Valley, given this name because there are many ferns, so big they look like trees.

The Ferns Valley was created between 1887 and 1888 at the same time as Lago Grande.

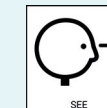
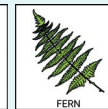
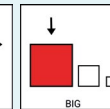
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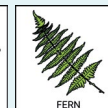
Gardens and Ferns Valley



I SEE BIG FERNS



I SEE SHADOWS OF FERNS ON THE ROAD

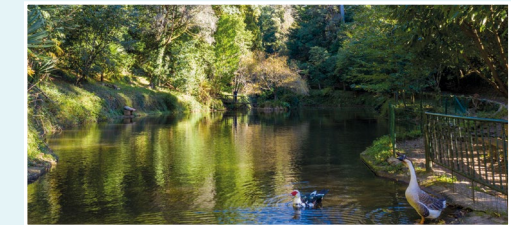


Lago Grande

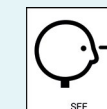
Lago Grande is a large lake surrounded by plants.

In the widest part there is a small island which is reached by a wooden bridge.

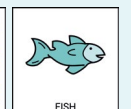
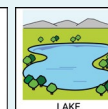
In the lake, the **carps** that live in it can sometimes be seen.



Lago Grande



I SEE A BIG LAKE WITH FISHES



Carp – a kind of fish that lives in fresh water.

5 WATER TRAIL

🌿 Fonte San Silvestre

It is a fountain with **thermal water**.
These waters come from a spring located below the San Juan Chapel.

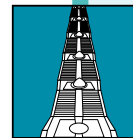
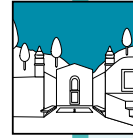
Thermal water – water with minerals beneficial for your body.

🌿 Fonte Fria

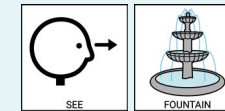
Fonte Fria is a spectacular waterfall, with a **modernist style**.
It was restored at the end of the 19th century.
The water from the Bussaco springs and streams was used for the different fountains in the area.

Modernist style – artistic and literary current of the late 19th and early 20th century.

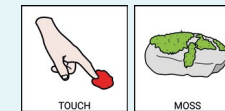
5



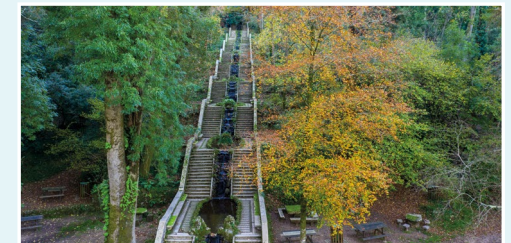
Fonte San Silvestre



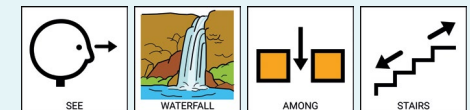
I SEE A FOUNTAIN



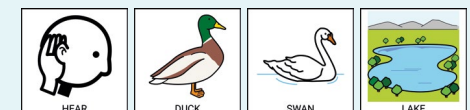
I TOUCH THE MOSS



Fonte Fria



I SEE A WATERFALL AMONG THE STAIRS



I HEAR DUCKS AND SWANS FROM THE LAKE

6 MILITARY TRAIL

Military Museum

The Battle of Bussaco took place in 1810. In the battle, Napoleon's French **troops** fought against the troops of England and Portugal.

Troop – soldiers organized for war.

Obelisk

This monument recalls the Battle of Bussaco. It was built from a single stone. At the top is a glass-tipped star.

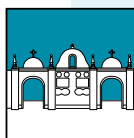
7 OTHER ELEMENTS

The forest is surrounded by a wall with 11 doors. The Coimbra Door, built in the 17th century, was the former entrance to the abbey.

Two of the doors have a 17th century **papal bulls**: one of them forbade women from entering and the other one threatened anybody who damages the trees with **excommunication**.

The forest also has different vantage points and small chapels. The chapels are spread throughout the forest. Each chapel is near a fountain that provides water for irrigation and other purposes.

6



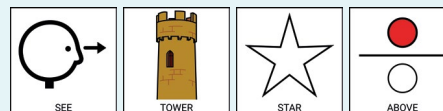
Military Museum



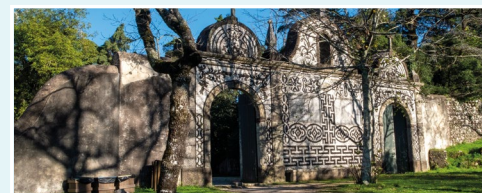
I SEE A MILITARY MUSEUM



Obelisk



I SEE A TOWER WITH A STAR ABOVE IT



Wall



A WALL SURROUNDS AND PROTECTS THE FOREST



THE WALL HAS ELEVEN DOORS

Papal bull – an important document on political or religious matters, signed with the papal seal.

Excommunication – expulsion of a Catholic person from the religious community.



Accessibility
JARCULTUR Project

Text with pictograms, photographs and icons to support reading
adapted by the Castilla y León Autism Federation (Spain).



Federación Autismo Castilla y León

..... **Easy Reading adaptation**



This text follows the international guidelines for Easy Reading materials for people with reading comprehension difficulties of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

It has the approval of the Castilla y León Easy Reading Association (Spain).

..... **Validation team**

People with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) belonging to the Valladolid Autism Association (Spain).

..... **Translation**

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..... **Visual elements adaptation**



Federación Autismo Castilla y León



This document use visual aids that have been defined by the technical team of the Castilla y León Autism Federation, the Ariadna Salamanca Association and the Mundo Azul Palencia Association (Spain).

As a part of these visual aids there are pictograms which are used in a complementary way to the reading in consideration of the needs of people who need visual aids to communicate.

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ARASAAC

..... **Photography**



Junta de
Castilla y León

Consejería de Cultura y Turismo

escrol

..... **Layout and design**

