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Texts: Irmandade da Penha. Laboratório da Paisagem Photography: Laboratório da Paisagem, Paulo Pacheco Map: Real Size Irmandade da Penha (author: Carlos Miguel Abreu)
Design: Sérgio Manuel Moreira Unipessoal Lda (Cristina Lamego)



A bright green lizard with a brown patterned head is resting on a light-colored rock. The lizard's body is a vibrant green, while its head features a distinct brown and white pattern. It is positioned on a flat, light-colored surface, possibly a rock or a piece of wood, with a dark shadow cast behind it.



Tourist Information
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PENHA MOUNTAIN

A natural heritage to discover

Located in Guimarães, 5 kilometers from the town centre and 10 minutes by cable car, the Penha Mountain is 617 meters high, with 60 hectares of green area, which impresses for its beauty and harmony, combining two elements of extraordinary importance: religiosity and nature.

To the splendour of the Sanctuary at the top of the Mountain, we add a magnificent landscape with a dense and well preserved grove tree, discontinued by the impo- nent of granite and unique spots, like big granite rocks, grottos, chapels, walking paths, fountains and water courses, picnic areas and viewpoints with a fantastic landscape as far as the eye can see.

This place dates back to the pre-historic period, but the occupation of the Mountain was intensified in the last three centuries. The existing inhospitable geographical area, difficult to access between the granite rocks, had its religious occupation started in 1702, when the hermit Guilherme Marino, born in Italy, chose the Mountain of Saint Catherine (ancient name of Penha mountain) to settle in existing natural cave.

The hermit selected this mountain, because he considered it suitable for contemplative life and had placed here a small carved image of the Virgin, for devotion. The presence of the hermit on the mountain spread all over and the Grotto of Our Lady of Carmo became a small temple, having been authorised to celebrate masses, divine services, confess and receive communion.

Still in the 18th century, the Carmelites Order, aware of the

existence of a holy place at Penha Mountain, also came looking for silence, in this retreat of nature.

This community increased the cult, enthroning the image of the Virgin and building a simple hospice. Other spaces emerged near the Grotto, which today we name by "Casa do Despacho", "Saint Christopher's Chapel", "Adega do Ermitão" (a tavern), "Grotto of Father Caldas", the "Hanging Garden" and "Hanging Boulder", as a result from the work and effort of the hermit and also of the alms of the devotees that reached the sacralisation of Penha.

During the second half of the 19th century, the cult of the image of Our Lady of Carmo has increased, benefiting all the natural, religious, historical and cultural values of this sacred space.

The devotion to Our Lady of Carmo became the origin of other demonstrations around the Marian cult, such as Our Lady of Penha or Our Lady of Lourdes. The cult of Saint Elias "Patron Saint of the Sleep", was established precisely next to the Grotto of Our Lady of Carmo.

Since the adaptation of a grotto into a place of devotion to the Virgin Mary, Penha Mountain has undergone a profound transformation throughout the years, until the present time. The area was covered by forest in the 19th century, creating the Penha Park, and from a wild and inhospitable area, it became a beautiful natural green park, where visitors can find spiritual Comfort and discover unique places, along with unforgettable moments of tranquility and leisure.



SANTUÁRIO DA PENHA (PENHA SANCTUARY)

The Penha Sanctuary was designed by the well-known Portuguese architect Marques da Silva. The choose of the exact place was related to the need for a large big space, that better suited the growing of many devotes that came in pilgrimage and assist at the Mass in honor to Our Lady.

From 1930 onwards, the Commission who was responsible for the works obtained financial aid and asked the architect to build a project for the construction of the Sanctuary. The construction began in March 1931. In the following years the works went on very slowly until, due to the lack of funds in 1937 and 1938, they had to stop.

On 13 February 1939, a big fire partially affected the Sanctuary, still under construction, destroying completely the carving of the high altar and na image of Our Lady of Concepcion.

In response to this adversity, it was implemented a new strategy by collecting contributions and donations, which allowed on the following month, to proceed the construction works of the main body of the Sanctuary, with a modern architectural design. It was completed at the end of 1945, together with the "Big Terrace" in front of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary was blessed and opened to the public on the 14th September 1947 (annual pilgrimage day), by his Eminence the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, D. Manuel Goncalves Cerejeira. In September 1949, the church was finished with a cross in the bell tower and the church corbel with angel facing the town. Next to the Sanctuary tower there is a viewpoint, which gives a stunning panorama, not only of the centre of Guimarães, but also, weather allowing, the nearest coast area located 50 kilometres away.

For information about church worship time please contact:
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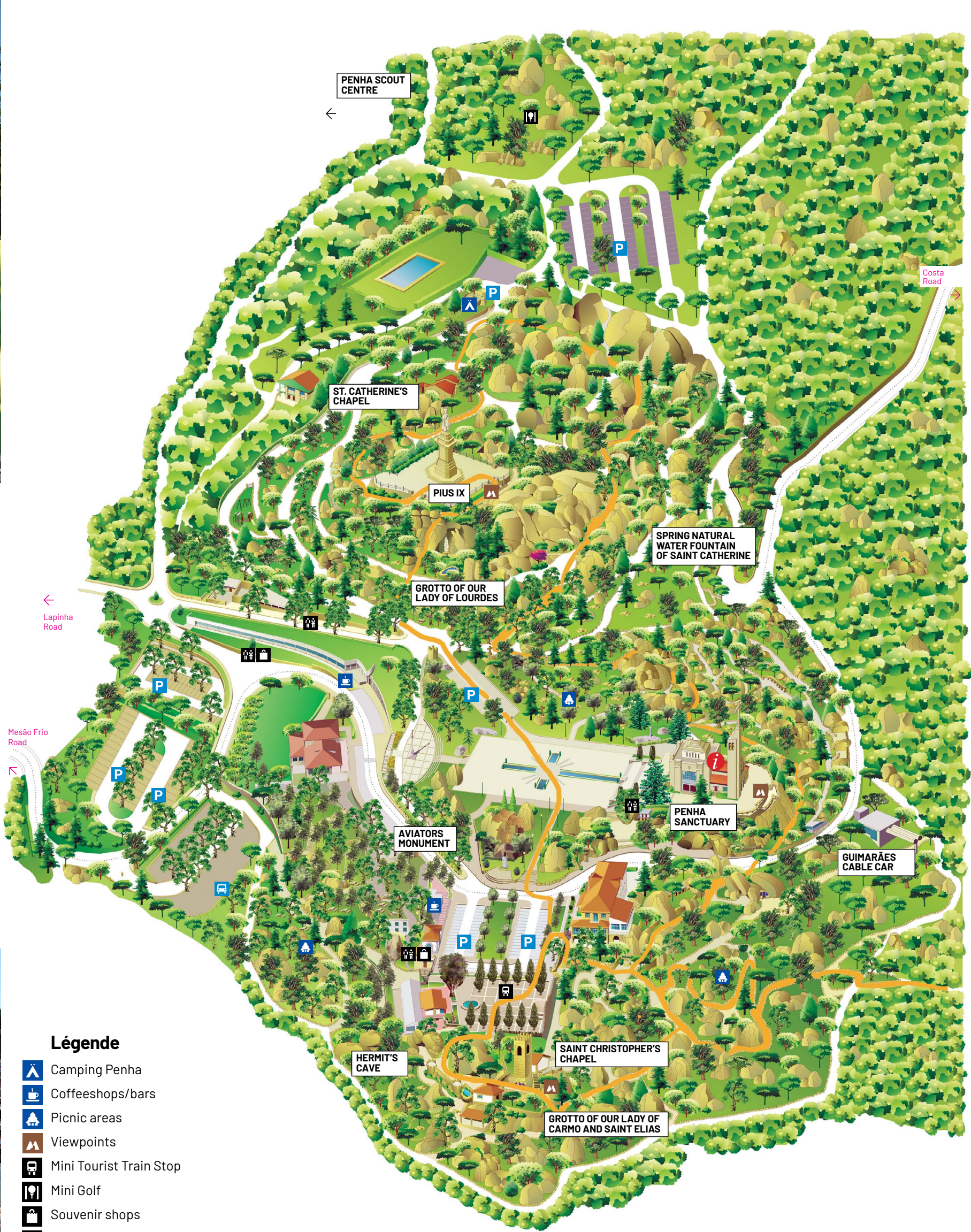


PILGRIMAGE TO PENHA

Le pèlerinage à Penha se réaThe Pilgrimage to Penha takes place annually on the 2nd Sunday of September and is always very popular with the participation of many pilgrims.

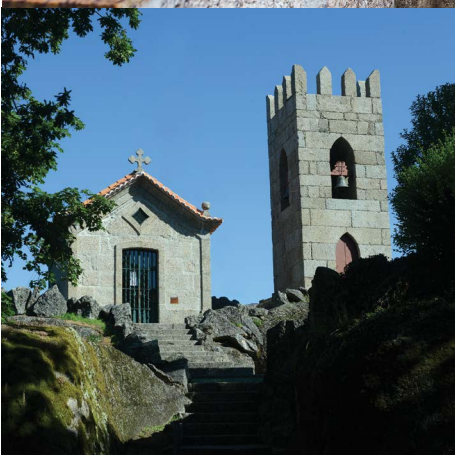
The walker with the image of Our Lady of Penha leaves the Church of Our Lady of Oliveira in the historic centre at 8:30 am, with fanfare and scouts, making the way up towards the Penha Sanctuary, arriving around 11:00 am, followed by a big outdoor mass. Sunday afternoon is lively with musical performances and folkloric groups.

In September 2013, on the day of the "Annual Pilgrimage to Penha", Pope Francis granted a plenary indulgence to pilgrims that were attending the Sanctuary's outdoor mass.



Légende

- Camping Penha
- Coffeeshops/bars
- Picnic areas
- Viewpoints
- Mini Tourist Train Stop
- Mini Golf
- Souvenir shops
- Public toilets
- Car park
- Bus park
- Local Tourist Office (Irmandade da Penha) de la Confrérie de Penha



GRUTA DA NOSSA SENHORA DO CARMO E SANTO ELIAS (GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF CARMO AND SAINT ELIAS)

The Grotto of Our Lady of Carmo is a cavity between huge rocks, where the hermit Guilherme Marino lived in spiritual retreat, at the beginning of the 18th century.

He was a visionary of the potential of this place for living as hermit, and as founder of the spirituality in Penha, predicted that his religious work would be continued after his death.

In 1731, by a testament decision, he bequeathed this place to the Carmelites Order in Guimarães.

Later on, the cult of this place was abandoned for about a century.

In 1870 occurred a new phase of occupation and religious expansion at Penha, with the creation of a new movement to lead the works of the Chapel. In the following years of the pilgrimages to Our Lady of Carmo, there was an improvement of the Grotto Chapel, thanks to the almsgiving from many faithful and benefactors.

At the entrance of the Grotto stands the image of Saint Elias "Patron Saint of the Sleep", who

receives great devotion by many of the visitors of Penha.

