



GRUTA DA SENHORA DE LOURDES (GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES)

It is located in a rocky cavity, in the cliff next to the monument dedicated to Pope Pius IX.

The practice of the cult of Our Lady of Lourdes at Penha received influences from the apparitions of the Virgin to the shepherdess Bernadette Soubirous, in Lourdes, France. This phenomenon occurred in 1858 and spread rapidly across borders.

The marble image of the Grotto was offered by the meritorious Fernando de Castro Abreu Magalhães, from Fafe (small town close to Guimarães), who had emigrated to Brazil. The image of the Virgin of Lourdes was sculpted to be placed at a grotto in Penha. as a sign of thanks and praise to Our Lady of Penha and the people of Guimarães. The image was enthroned on the 19th July 1893, and from that year onwards, began to take place the "Annual Pilgrimage

CAPELA DE SANTA CATARINA (ST. CATHERINE'S **CHAPEL)**

It's a small temple from the 18th century, hidden among granite rocks, maintaining the nave's spans from that time. It has a portable pulpit in woodcarvings in the shape of a chalice.

Despite the absence of documentary evidence, this old chapel was probably erected in a magnificent location, as a result of a belief based on the protection from evil legends and medieval inspired claims, very common in mountainous elevations, such as Serra de Santa Catarina (ancient name for Penha Mountain).

Both the medieval origin of the chapel, the Saint's name, as well as, the mountain, reveal a remote concern for the sacredness of this space. The designation of the mountain has its origins in popular devotion to Saint Catherine. It is likely that this temple was built between the 15th and 16th centuries and has undergone several renovations over the years.

The last interventions enable a complete restauration of the chapel and the surrounding area.

GRUTA DO ERMITÃO

'Hermit's Cave (Adega do Ermitão)

was inaugurated on June 23, 1944,

and its name originates from the

fact that, in ancient times, it was

chosen as a retreat by the hermit

The hermit lived and worked on

act date of his death is unknown,

but it likely occurred around 1730

The founder of Penha was a man

not want his work to end with his

of extraordinary vision. He did

death. He wished for religious

life to continue on Mount Penha.

which he had so auspiciously be-

Carmelite Convent of Guimarães

Source : "O Conquistador" Newspaper

all his work and assets to the

as stipulated in his will."

gun. Thus, he decided to bequeath

Penha for about 30 years. The ex-

(HERMIT'S CAVE)

GUIMARÃES CABLE CAR

If you are a fan of clean transport, the Cable Car is the choice to take you from the town centre to Penha Mountain - a perfect combination between the history and nature in Guimarães.

The journey to the top of the Mountain takes a few minutes with a height difference of 400 meters between lower station, located in the town centre and Penha Mountain station.

FLORA

With a green area of more than

the National Ecological Reserve,

of high value, each one housing

its group of species, highlighting

two of them, with priority conser-

vation and stipulated by Directive

92/43/ EEC of the Council: the

Mediterranean scrubland of

Laurus nobilis and the Alluvial

Fraxinus Excelsior.

Forests of Alnus glutinosa and

Recognised as a true green lung,

there are already been registered

a total of 321 species of plants in

this area. Due to the abundance in

water, vegetation grows easily, so

it is possible to find species such

as Alnus glutinosa (Alder), Betula

Hawthorn (Crataegus monogy-

We can also find some areas

na), Salix sp. (Willows) and Ulmus

essentially covered by landscape

forest Oak Trees (Quercus Sp.) and

Chestnut (Castanea sp.), although

some areas are threatened by the

(Eucalyptus globulus) and invasive

expansion of eucalyptus forest

Among the various species in

Penha Mountain, stands out the

presence of two species listed in

Annex IV of the Habitats Directive,

which are under a legal regime of

protection, such as wild daffodils

(Narcissus triandrus) and butch-

er's broom (Ruscus aculeatus).

pubescens (Birch), Fraxinus

angustifolia (Common Ash),

minor (Flm).

exotic flora.

Penha Mountain provide habitats

60 hectares and being part of

Each closed cabin has 6 seats, and 8 of these cabins are able to transport bikes.

During the journey, depending on where you are seated, you can observe the magnificent slope of Penha or get a panoramic view of Guimarães.

tel.: (+351) 253 515 085 e-mail: geral@turipenha.pt www.turipenha.pt



PENHA CAMPING

The Penha Camping is a very guiet and peaceful place to relax and forget the stress of everyday life.

Staying here, is like entering in aunique place, were you can feel the respect for nature, the silence and breath pure air at the shadow of the grove of trees.

The Camping has a swimming pool with a green area, exclusively for campers.

For more information: tel.:(+351) 253 515 912 e-mail: campismo@turipenha.pt www.turipenha.pt

FAUNA

Penha Mountain has a relevant value concerning different groups of species, registering more than 30% of the total existing species in all the country. There are more than a hundred terrestrial vertebrates, and about thirty of them, have some sort of national conservation level.

Among the identified species, concerning wild animals, the richness of birds typical of woodlands and forest areas stands out, as for example the European honey buzzard (Pernis apivorus), the goshawk (Accipiter gentilis), the European night bird (Caprimulgus europaeus) and the Song thrush (Turdus philomelos), all considered to be vulnerable species and/ or threatened in Portugal.

In connection with the abundance of water, there are also multiple species, among wich, three Iberian endemisms (two amphibians and a reptile) with high conservation value in Portugal. the gold-striped salamander (Chioglossa lusitanica), the Iberian painted frog (Discoglossus galganoi) and the Iberian emerald lizard (Lacerta schreiberi).

Finally, we can point out the diversity of mammals. Among the species of non-flying mammals, is worth mention two species with a threat status in Portugal: the rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus) and the European wild cat (Felis silvestres). The flying species, which includes at least 7 species of bats, we point out two particularly caverniculus hat spieces: the small horseshoe bat (Rhinolophus hipposideros) and the Escalera's bat (Myotis escalerai).

ACTIVITIES AND TOURS

MINI TOURIST TRAIN

minutes and goes along the paths of Penha Park.

Irmandade da Penha

tel.: (+351) 253 414 114 e-mail: info@penhaguimaraes.com

Games: Mini Golf, Petanca (Boccia) and Chincalhão (tradicional portuguese GPS: 41°25′29.4″N 8°16′08.7″W

e-mail: contatominigolfepenha@gmail.cor https://www.facebook.com/penhaminigolfe

PENHA ADVENTURE PARK

Traditional games, "Himalayan bridges" photo orientation, splatmaster, among

tel.: (+351) 938 404 520 e-mail: geral.grupomagna@gmail.com www.grupomagna.pt/magnaoutdoor

Guided tours to Parque da Penha

tour duration: 2 hours / min. / max people: 5 / 30 anguages spoken: Portuguese, Spanish, rench and English

Irmandade da Penha

tel.: (+351) 253 414 114 e-mail: info@penhaguimaraes.com

FESTIVITIES AND EVENTS

(Portuguese Mountain Championship

Rampa da Penha

4th Sunday in June

Our Lady of Carmo of Penha's Feast

Minho BTT Championship (Downhill)

HOW TO GET TO THE PENHA

Leaving the motorway (A7, A11) you

should take the exit Guimarães-Sul

Taboadelo (Municipal Road 579-2)

and follow the signs towards Abação -

(patron saint of the Brotherho

. 16th July or following Sunday

Saint Christopher's Feast

(patron of drivers/travellers)

25th July or following Sunday

Pilgrimage to Penha

MOUNTAIN

41°25′57.1″N 8°16′07.6″W

From the motorway exit

The Mini Tourist Train tour takes about 15 **Saint Catherine's Feast**

www.penhaguimaraes.com

MINI GOLF

tel.: (+351) 963 069 726

other activities.

Magna Outdoor

WALKING TOURS

www.penhaguimaraes.com

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

see contacts on this map

Guimahus

By cable car

tel : (+351) 253 780 800 https://guimabus.pt/

USEFUL CONTACTS

SOS Medical Emergenc

SOS Forest

Police - PSP

Tourist Information

enha: tel.: (+351) 253 414 114 Guimarães: tel.: (+351) 253 421 22







PENHA MOUNTAIN

A natural heritage to discover

Located in Guimarães, 5 kilome ters 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 imponent 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

This place dates back to the prehistoric 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

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 Margues 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

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: Irmandade da Penha

tél.: (+351) 253 414 114 e-mail: info@penhaguimaraes.com www.penhaguimaraes.com



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,



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. Christopher, that was offered by the local taxi drivers in order to be At the entrance of the Grotto venerated by the community. stands the image of Saint Elias "Patron Saint of the Sleep", who

> receives great devotion by many of the visitors of Penha.

the celebrations in honour to the Saint, with a procession beginning in the town centre that brought the images of Our Lady of the Air and Our Lady of the Sea to Penha. The chapel was blessed and changed to the name to "St. Christopher's Chapel" on the 25th July 1936.

CAPELA DE SÃO

(ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

The St. Christopher's Chapel

emerge next to a castellated tower

and over huge rocks, under whose

we can find a grotto where the

image of Our Lady of Carmo da

It is a religious temple, initially

named "Casa Relicário", whose

The chapel was renovated to

accommodate the image of St.

The chapel only opened to the

public in 1936, in the occasion of

construction started in 1880 and

completed the following year, be-

ing blessed on the 18th June 1882.

Penha is venerated.

CRISTOVÃO

CHAPEL)

Today it is a place of worship, namely visited by taxi drivers and drivers, from whom is considered the patron saint. This faith originated an annual festivity dedicated to the Saint, that occurs on the last Sunday of July (after St. Christopher's Day on the 25th

