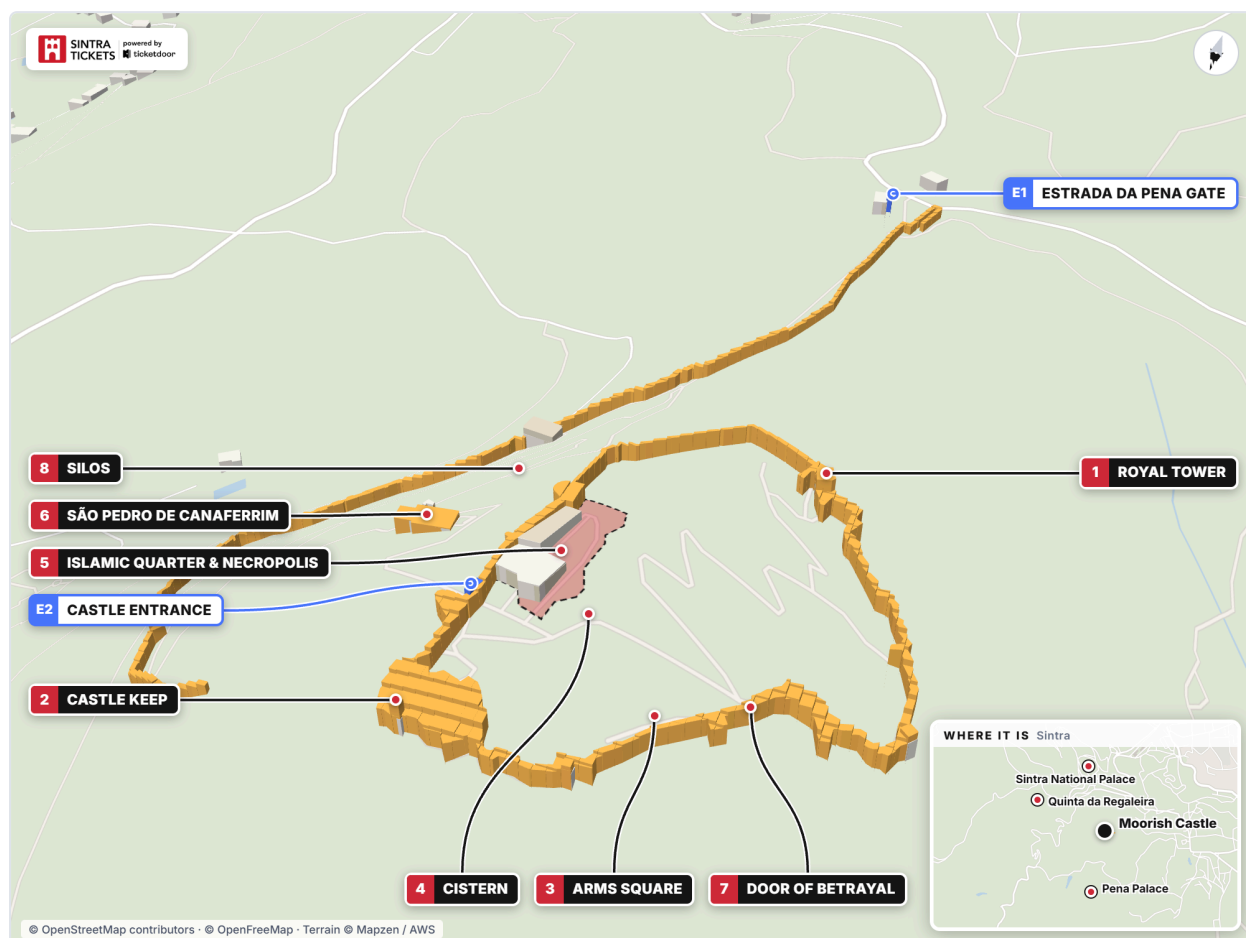


MAP & ENTRANCES

Moorish Castle map & entrances

3D map of the castle with its two entrances explained, the main sights numbered and a site plan



- 1 Royal Tower
- 2 Castle Keep
- 3 Arms Square
- 4 Cistern
- 5 Islamic quarter and necropolis
- 6 Church of São Pedro de Canaferrim
Interpretation Centre
- 7 Door of Betrayal
- 8 Silos

- E1 Visitor Support Centre**
Ticket office of the castle, by the bus 434 stop; public toilets nearby. From here a path climbs past the Guard House and the second ring of walls to the castle.
- E2 Castle entrance**
The way into the walled enclosure, reached from the Estrada da Pena gate. The Santa Maria trail from the historic centre, about 1 hour on foot, arrives here too.

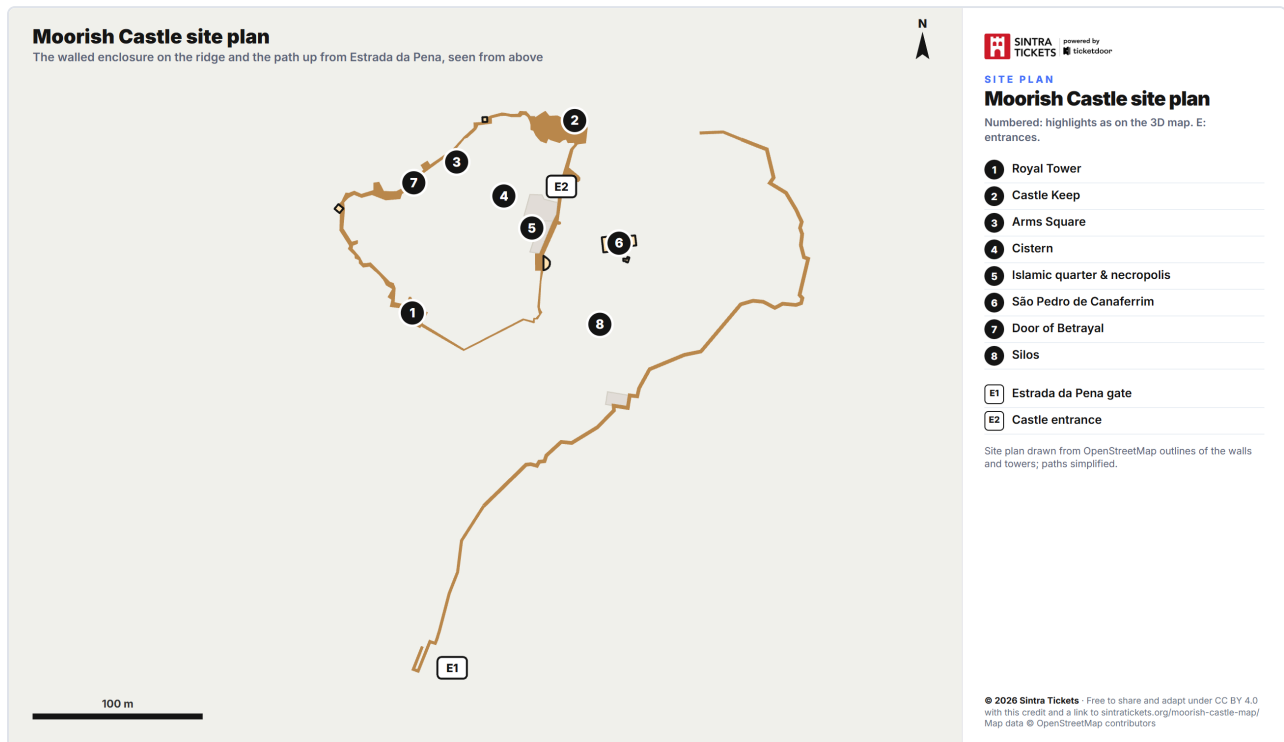
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SITE PLAN

Moorish Castle site plan



HIGHLIGHTS (NUMBERS AS ON THE 3D MAP)

- 1 Royal Tower**
 The highest point of the walls, facing the Castle Keep. King Ferdinand II came here to paint, with the Palace of Pena as his backdrop.
- 2 Castle Keep**
 The small stronghold where the local authorities lived and the last refuge in an attack. King Sigurd I of Norway spotted the tower from the sea and visited in 1109.
- 3 Arms Square**
 The broadest open space in the castle, where the garrison gathered. Ferdinand II turned it into a place of rest, with a horseshoe arch recalling its Moorish past.
- 4 Cistern**
 A vaulted reservoir of about 600 cubic metres with two ventilation chimneys, dated to the 13th century. Legend says a Moorish king is buried beneath it.
- 5 Islamic quarter and necropolis**
 Houses, silos and a community oven from the 10th to the 12th century. After 1147 a Christian burial ground was laid over the quarter and used for around 300 years.
- 6 Church of São Pedro de Canaferrim**
 Built in the 12th century after the conquest of 1147, Sintra's first parish church. It now holds the Interpretation Centre, with finds from the castle's excavations.
- 7 Door of Betrayal**
 A small escape door in the wall. It let defenders slip out in a crisis, but it could also let enemies in, hence its name.
- 8 Silos**
 Cavities carved into the rock to store cereals and legumes, a way of keeping food described in several Arabic farming texts.

GETTING IN

Entrances and how to get there

E1 Visitor Support Centre

Ticket office of the castle, by the bus 434 stop; public toilets nearby. From here a path climbs past the Guard House and the second ring of walls to the castle.

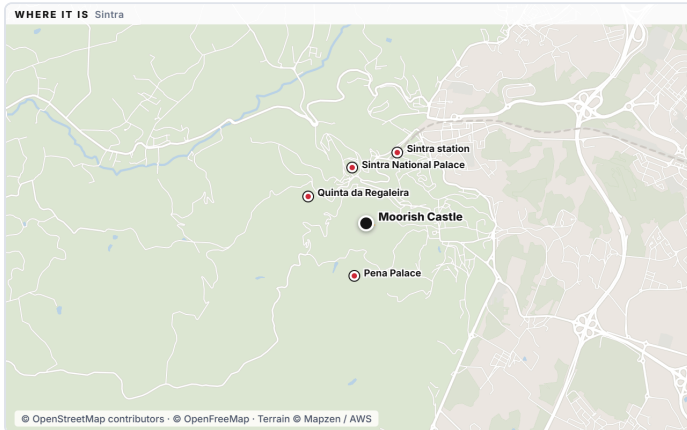
Estrada da Pena, below the castle to the south

E2 Castle entrance

The way into the walled enclosure, reached from the Estrada da Pena gate. The Santa Maria trail from the historic centre, about 1 hour on foot, arrives here too.

East wall, opposite the Church of São Pedro de Canaferrim

Where it is



Practical

Address: Visitor Support Centre, Estrada da Pena, Sintra

Getting there: Train to Sintra, then Scotturb bus 434 to the castle on Estrada da Pena; or about 1 hour on foot from the historic centre by the Santa Maria trail. No access for private cars

Tickets: Dated tickets on sintratickets.org, with no time slot; each ticket is valid for one entry

Open: Every day from 9:30 to 18:00, last ticket and last admission 17:30. Closed on 24, 25 and 31 December and 1 January; may close in strong winds or high fire risk

Good to know: Steep slopes and uneven ground: wear good shoes. Lifting platforms reach the church and the top of the walls. Dogs are allowed on the paths, on a non-extendable leash