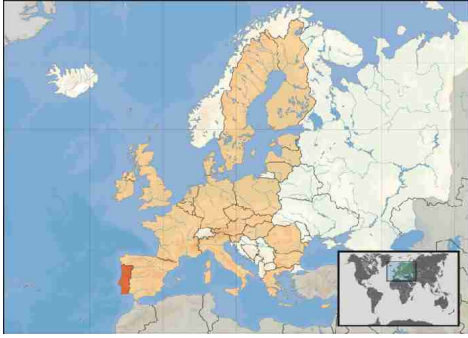


LISBON 1. - 5. MAY 2011

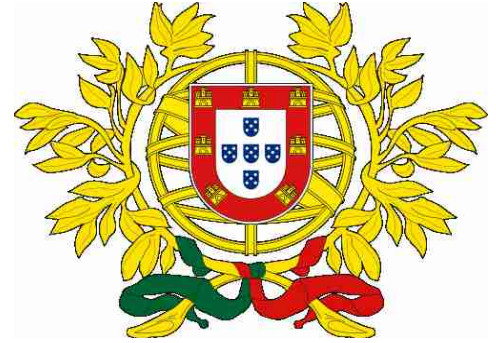
The 1st of May we traveled with TAP Portugal from Gardermoen to Lisbon. We left the car at Dalen Parkering as usual.



Portugal's position in Europe



The flag of Portugal



Portugal's coat of arms

[Portugal](#) and Spain lies on the [Iberian peninsula](#) that has got its name after the first known inhabitants, the [Iberians](#). From 500 B.C. and in the following century there was a big [Celtic](#) immigration. During the two last century B.C. the Iberian peninsula was conquered by the Romans, and the whole area became a part of the [Roman Empire](#).

During the 400s the Roman Empire dissolved, and the [Visigoths](#) rushed in and took control over the peninsula. In the period 711-716 most of the peninsula was conquered by the Muslim [Moors](#) from North Africa. Only in the norther mountainous areas the Christian kings could hold their own against the Moors. From about 1000 these kings start a gradually reconquering of the Iberian peninsula from the Moors.

In the beginning of the 1100s it was only the most northern areas of the present Portugal, the area around [Porto](#), that was reconquered from the Muslims. This area was a part of [Castile](#), but in 1143 the count of Porto declared independence from Castile and became king of Portugal.

From the 1400s [The Portuguese Empire](#) was one of the worlds biggest, and it included among others Brazil, Portuguese India and large areas in Africa. Portugal's grip on the colonies loosened during [The Portuguese Colonial War](#) and by India's conquering of Goa in 1960-70, and today it is the group of islands, the Azores and Madeira in the Atlantic Ocean, that are Portugal's only overseas possessions.

[The October revolution](#) i 1910 made Portugal a republic, but from 1926 the country became a dictatorship under António de Oliveira Salazar's management. Salazar's [Estado Novo](#) lasted until the "[Carnation Revolution](#)" in 1974. Portugal has since then been a stable democracy. The country entered the European Economic in 1986 and the Euro in 1999. Portugal is one of the original members of NATO, joined FN in 1955, and is a member of [Community of Portuguese Language Countries](#).



Lisbon's position in Portugal



Lisbon's flag



Lisbon's coat of arms

Archeological findings may indicate that the Phoenicians had established a settlement and trade post at the shore of the river [Tagus](#) in the 1300s B.C., in what is now the township [Alfama](#). A theory of the origin of the name [Lisbon](#) is that it is derived from the Phoenician «Allis Ubbo» with the meaning «safe harbor». Lisbon was made the capital in Portugal in 1255.

At 09.30 o'clock the 1st of November 1755 the town was struck by three severe earthquakes. A lot of people were gathered for morning service in the churches this day and many of them were trapped in the church ruins. The earthquakes called forth fires and a tsunami destroyed the parts of the town that was closest to Rio Tagus. At least 13 000 people perished.

Lisbon was one of few neutral harbors at the Atlantic Ocean during WWII. More that 100 000 fled from Nazi Germany via Lisbon.



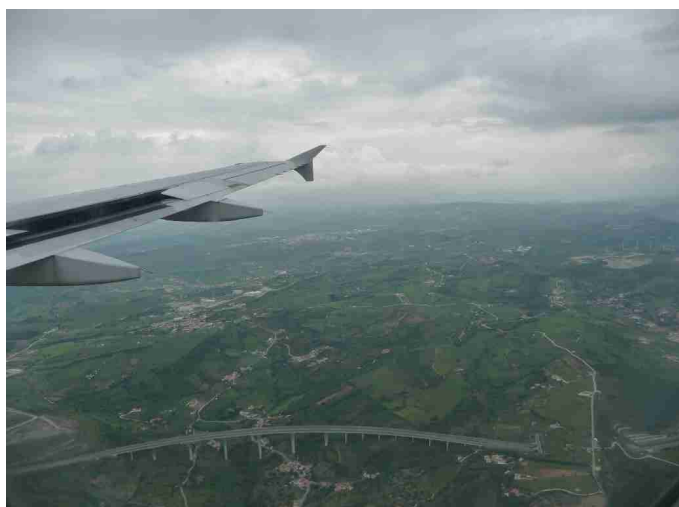
At Gardermoen looking out on the plain, which we are about to travel with.



Kjell is enjoying a «travel beer»



Fine cloud patterns en route.

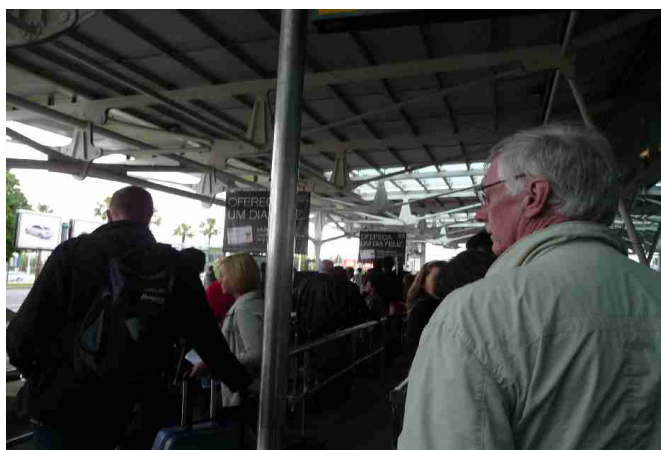


Soon in Lisbon.



TAP Portugal is a Portuguese airline. When we visited Madeira, we used this airline then as well.

The airport in Lisbon is named Aeroporto da Portela and was inaugurated as early as in 1940. It was extensively upgraded before Expo in 1998.



In the line for a taxi.



Here is our taxi.



We had made a reservation at [Hotel Duas Nações Residence](#). It is situated centrally in the old town.

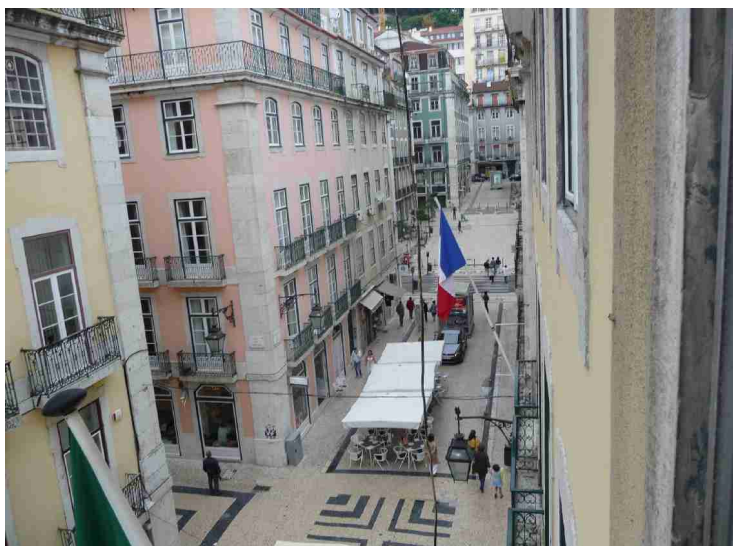
Check in at the hotel.

We got a room out to a dark and dirty backyard. We had ordered a room with balcony, but there was only a window, which could be opened. We complained about this and got another room at the front to the street. Here was no balcony either, but a bay window, which could be opened. This was the only alternative they had. All other rooms were occupied, so we accepted that. Here it turned out to be a lot of noise from the street life. It did not calm down before about three o'clock in the night.



The stree outside.

The view from the room in on direction.



The view from the room in the other direction.

Street life in the longest pedestrian street, which is called [Rua Augusta](#).



Here are a lot of restaurants.



Street musicians are entertaining.



Here are others making themselves ready.



In the end of the street lies the [Rossio square](#) or Praça dom Pedro IV. This has been one of the main aquarws since the Middle Ages. Here has been revolts, celebrations, bull fights and executions and is now a meeting place for both the locals and tourists.



In one of the side streets can we get a look at [Elevador de Santa Justa](#). It is a vertical lift that connects the lower parts with Carmo Square, which lies higher up.

Elevador de Santa Justa was built by an apprentice of Gustave Eiffel; Raul Mesnier de Ponsard, an engineer who was born in Porto by French parents. The lift was constructed in the years 1900 to 1902. In the start the lift was driven by steam but was redesigned for electrical power in 1907.

The lift is 45 meter high and decorated in Neo-Gothic style with different patterns in each floor. The upper floor js reached via a spiral staircase and it has a terrace with a view over Castelo de São Jorge and of Baixa. There are two lift cages with wooden internal decorations and each of them can take 24 passengers. The lift has become a tourist attraction in Lisbon.



After having made us acquainted with the closest neighborhood we had to get something to eat. Kjell had Bacalhau À Casa while Anne Berit had Bacalhau Na Canoa. Not much, but good.



We had [Vinho Verde](#) with the food.

Vinho Verde (Portuguese for green wine) is a young light wine from Portugal and the DOC region with the same name. The grapes are green and small, because they grow with a roof over them to prevent direct sunlight, therefore the name. Vinho Verde may be white or red. It can even come as a rosé, which is not so common. It is, however, only the white wine that is exported. The grapes are cultivated in the north western part of Portugal and the cool climate make the the grapes low in sugar and rich in acid. Thereby the result is a lightly acidulous wine, which sometimes is added sugar to to mitigate the acidity.



While eating we listened to these plying.



We were still hungry, so we went over to another place and had a pasta dish with meat each.



Anne Berit is waiting for the food.



Here we are in the street again the next day.



In the end of the pedestrian street, there is a triumph arch and behind this, at the river edge, is a big square called [Praça do Comercio](#). At the square is standing a bronze statue of Dom José at horse. He was king when the earthquake occurred in 1755.



It is illegal to park the cars here now. This is a cruise ship, which is heading upstream the river Tejo og Tagus.

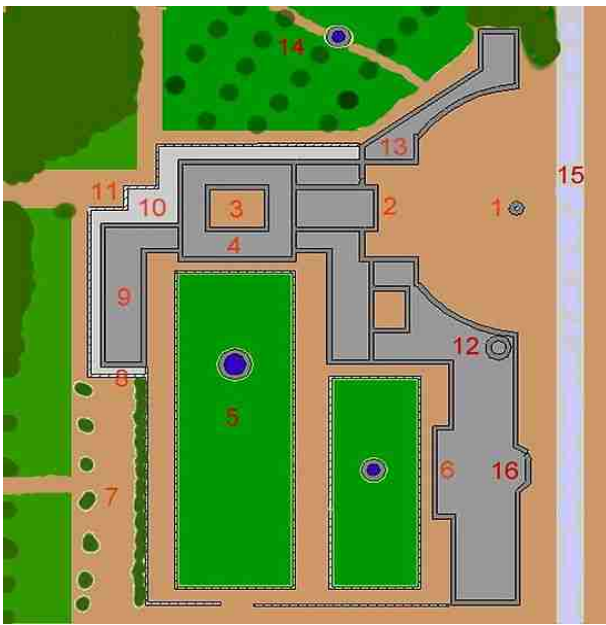


We hired a taxi driver to take us to Sintra. Her we have made a quick stop at the castle, [Palácio Nacional de Queluz](#).

Originally we hired the driver take us up to Castelo de São Jorge. The price for this was 4 euro. When we were half way up he told us that he could guide us around in the district. He had various suggestions, among others Sintra. Since we had been thinking of going to Sintra one of the days, we decided that we could make it to Sintra now, since we had met a driver who spoke some English. In that way he sold us a trip of 130 euro instead of the 4 euro trip. ☺



This was the driving route.



A sketch of the castle.

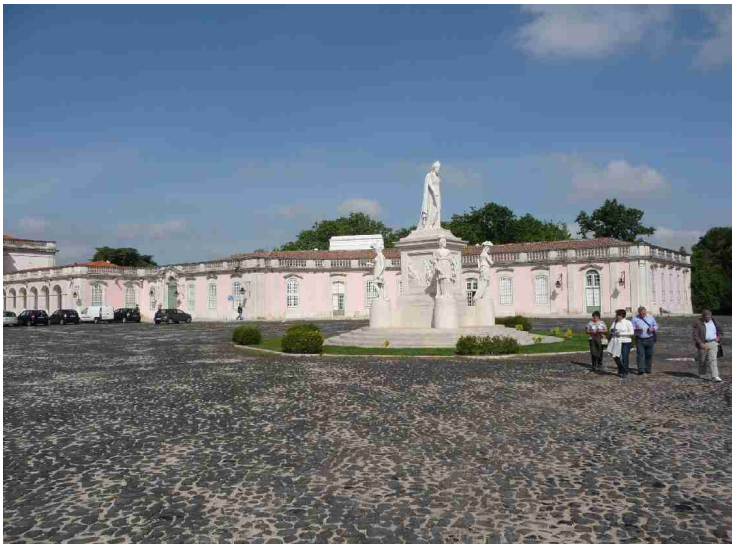
The castle was commenced in 1747 and was used by among others by Peter 3. (in Portuguese Dom Pedro III) who was King of Portugal 1777-86 and married with Maria I.

The castle was known as Portugal's Versailles, but it is much smaller than the castle in Versailles outside Paris.

It is one of the last rococo buildings which was built in Europe.

We stopped outside the castle where it is marked with 16.

We also took pictures at a statue of Maria where it is marked with 1.



The wing, which is marked 13 with a statue of Maria I in the foreground.



Maria I and Anne Berit.



Across the road we can see a church like building.



It is in fact a hotel, Pousada de Queluz / Lisbon - Dona Maria I.



Here we get a glimpse of [Palácio Nacional](#) in Sintra.



In the middle of Sintra, there seems to be a market for driving horse powered carriages.



More horses waiting for a new job.



They don't seem to get many customers.



The former royal castle was commenced in the 1300s and extended and rebuilt in the 1500s.



From the square in front of the castle we look across to a nice tower.



The view from the castle stairs.



The view in the other direction.



The tourist train.



Colorful house.



A cup of coffee and a cake, which is special for Sintra. The driver told us that he always bought some when he visited Sintra.



Here the cakes lies in layers in the counter.



The driver bought one of these packages.



The cafe where we were in.



A name plate made of mosaic tiles.
This was outside a gate on the way up to Pálacio da Pena.



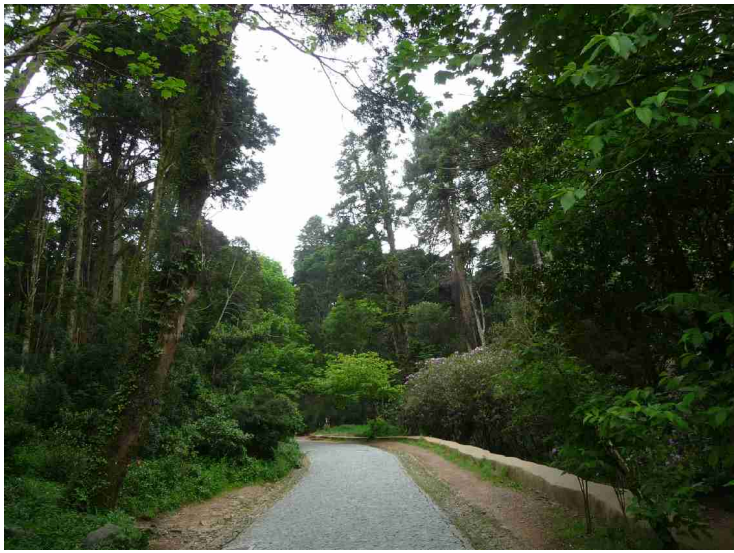
In line in front of the ticket office.



Many took this bus up the hill, but we rather walked.



There was a nice park uphill.



Lots of trees.



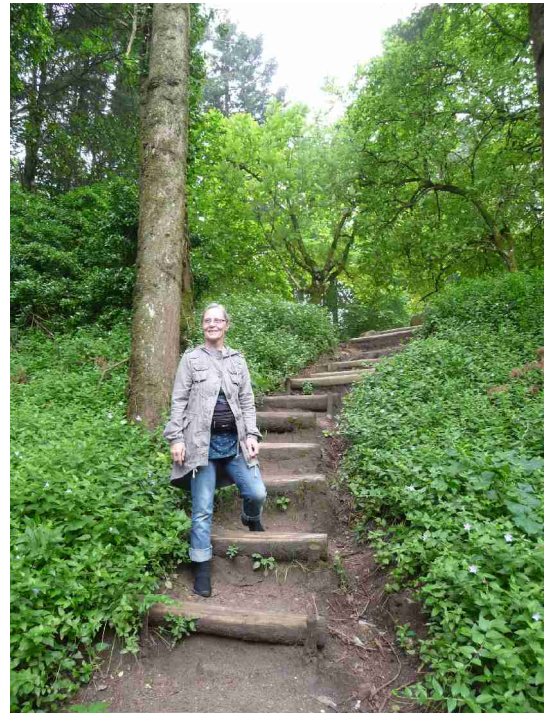
Flowers. Don't know their name.



A special tree. It comes originally from South America.



These trees are called Mexican cypress and can be 42 m tall. They were planted during the reign of Ferdinand II.



Stairs in the terrain.



Here is written that Mexican cypress are the first conifer trees, which were imported from the new world. The first ones were planted in Bussaco in 1964.



Up in the hill was a water post.



Moss-covered bench.



These looks to be dead palm trees.



This resembles a foxglove.



This is for sure a calla.

The beginning of [Pena National Palace](#) and gardens started in the Middle Ages with the building of a chapel, dedicated to Our Lady of Pena. A convent was built later, and during the centuries it was a place for silent worship.

The earthquake in 1775 laid the convent in ruins, but the chapel was relatively unharmed. The convent was laying like this until 1838. At that time King Ferdinand II bought the ruins and the surrounding land and built a palace in romantic style.

It took 12 years to build the palace and King Ferdinand and Queen Maria II were strongly involved in the decorations.

In 1889 the castle was bought by the Portuguese state.

Pena National Palace became a national monument in 1910 and changed into a museum.



Now we are approaching the castle.



Outer walls.



The main entrance.



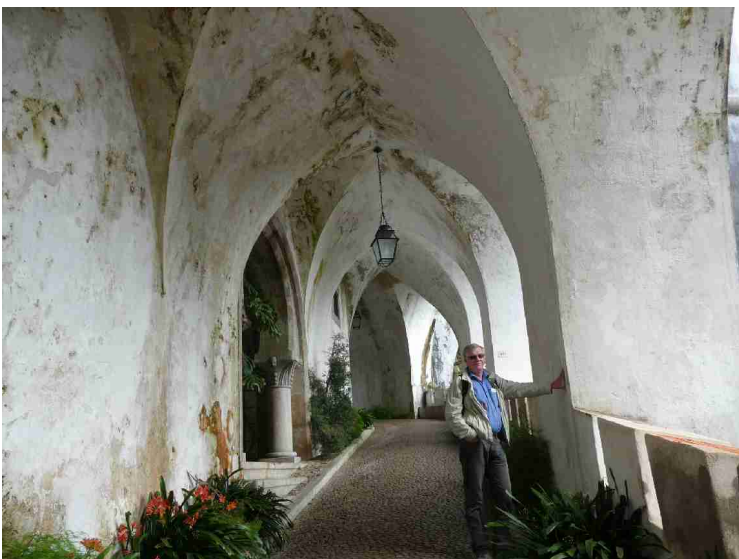
To the left is a tower with a Moorish dome.



The main entrance seen from the lower square.



Strelitsia, Madeira's national flower.



Archways.



Here we look up to the Arabian hall.



The Arabian hall straight ahead.



Looking up towards Triton, a gate leading further in.



A roof restaurant.



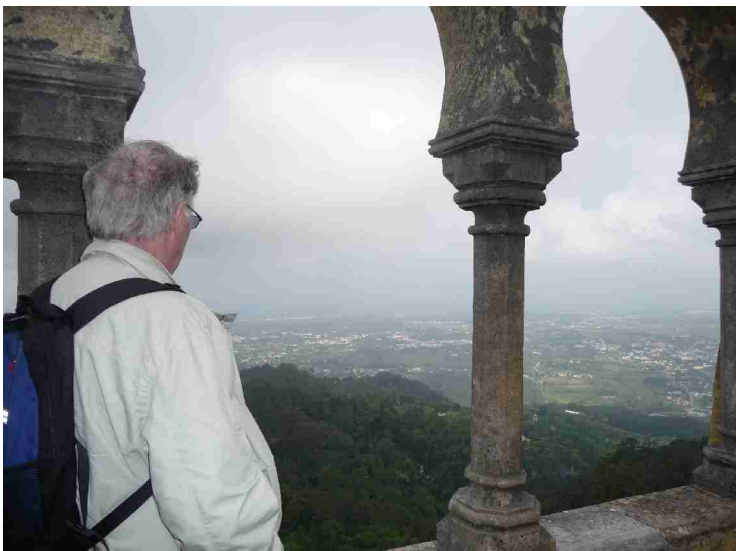
Here is the Triton gate. The figure above the gate shall symbolize the creation of the world.



Portugal is known for its ceramic tiles and we took a few photographs of some examples here at the castle.



Looks like fossils from the sea bottom.



A wide view.





Bell tower.



In the grey section is the biggest hall, the ambassador hall, which was used for receptions. The front is covered with ceramic tiles.



In the horizon we see a warrior statue in bronze. It was erected in 1848.



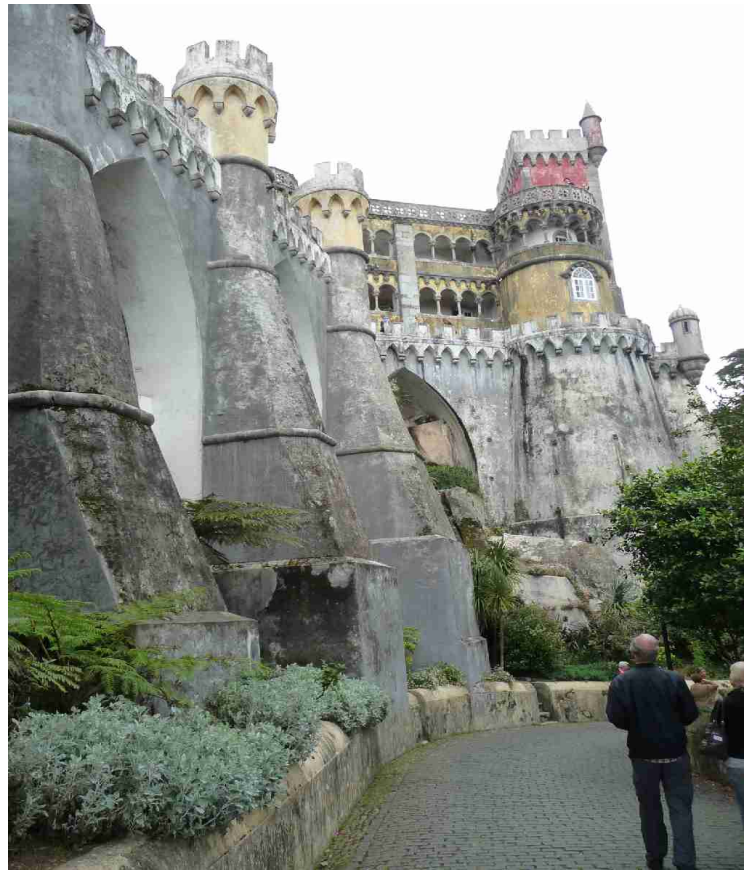
Now we needed a beer.



Sagres beer.



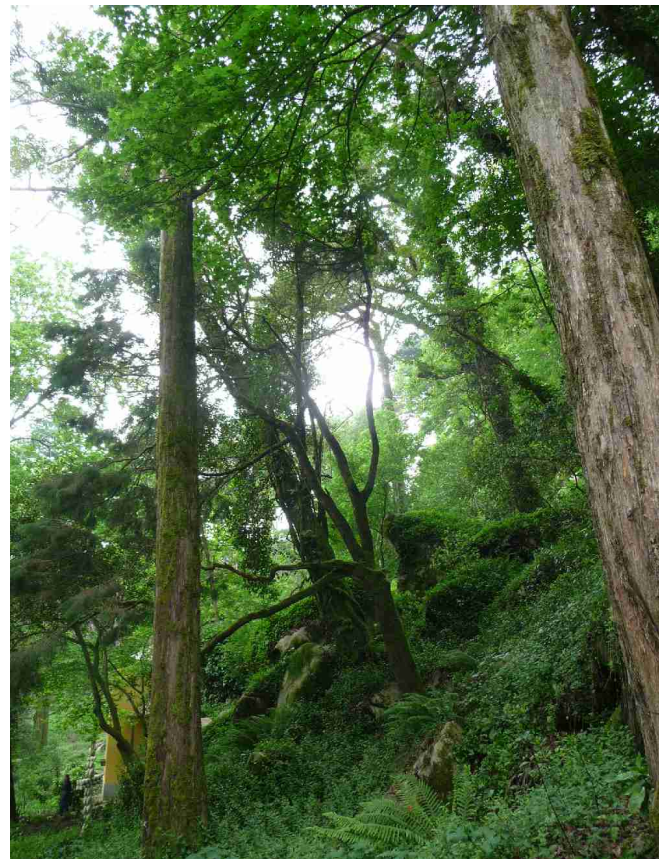
We are having a break at the restaurant



On our way out again.



At last an overview of the castle.



Down again through the park.



Back at the entrance.