

Manor Houses (Solares)

The Solares (Manor Houses) have been arranged into three distinct groups "Quintas & Herdades", "Casas Antigas", and "Casas Rusticas". They are family homes as opposed to hotels, offering a very different kind of holiday experience with a personal touch. Just a decade ago many of these houses were facing decay, but with Government support they have been painstakingly restored to their former glory and have now opened their doors to receive guests.

Many Manor Houses have played host to the same family for hundreds of years and often date back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Embracing Portugal's finest antiques, fine art and furniture, they represent centuries of Portuguese history and culture. Visitors will note several African, Indian and Brazilian influences, bearing witness to Portugal's ex-colonies.

On arrival at your chosen house you will be greeted by a warm welcome from your host family. Owners eagerly share their inside knowledge about local places of interest to visit, festivals, local gastronomy and traditions. Guests will also find a range of leisure opportunities at their disposal such as walking, fishing, cycling, tennis, swimming, horseback riding and wine tasting.

Manor House Categories

Category A



"Quintas" are the finest manors and palaces, luxuriously furnished with antiques and family heirlooms, often surrounded by beautiful gardens. Many of their names are preceded by the "Paço", a term used to indicate that a King has stayed there.

Category B



Category B incorporates "Casas Antigas" which are country houses and smaller manors, many of which date back from the 17th and 18th century and carry on the family traditions of their owner's ancestors. In many cases their architecture is of great historical significance, the various styles reflecting the distinct chapters in the heritage of Portugal.

A Casa Antiga often has period furniture, family heirlooms and sometimes valued works of art. Guests may stay either in the main house or in some cases in adjacent cottages which offer en-suite bedrooms or small apartments where visitors may still enjoy the ambience, unique to the family, forged by the style of furnishings. In many cases the host family live in a separate wing of the main house.

Category C



Category C establishments "Casa Rusticas" are largely rustic cottages and farmhouses which have been converted into comfortable rooms or apartments. Generally, we have retained much of the house owner's original descriptions of their houses - the language conveys some of the charm of their properties! All rooms have a private bath or shower room, apartments are equipped for simple self catering and the suites consist of bedroom, separate sitting room and bathroom.

Manor House Amenity Symbols

We have used the following symbols to help with your choice of Manor House. "In-house" amenity symbols are shown in boxes with a tinted background, nearby facilities are featured in boxes with a white background, all distances listed are approximate.



Approx. distance to nearest airport



Approx. distance to nearest restaurant



Basic self-catering facilities provided



Meals are available on request



Swimming Pool



Tennis court

Important Notes

It is a requirement that the minimum stay in each Manor House is 3 nights.

Dinner is available at several houses (with advance notice) and paid for locally.

Linen and towels are provided (towels not be used for the pool).

The swimming pools are not heated and depending on the weather conditions the pool is normally available from May to October.

Guests may arrive any day of the week subject to availability.

Extra beds are only available for children up to 12 years of age and cots are free of charge for infants up to 2 years.