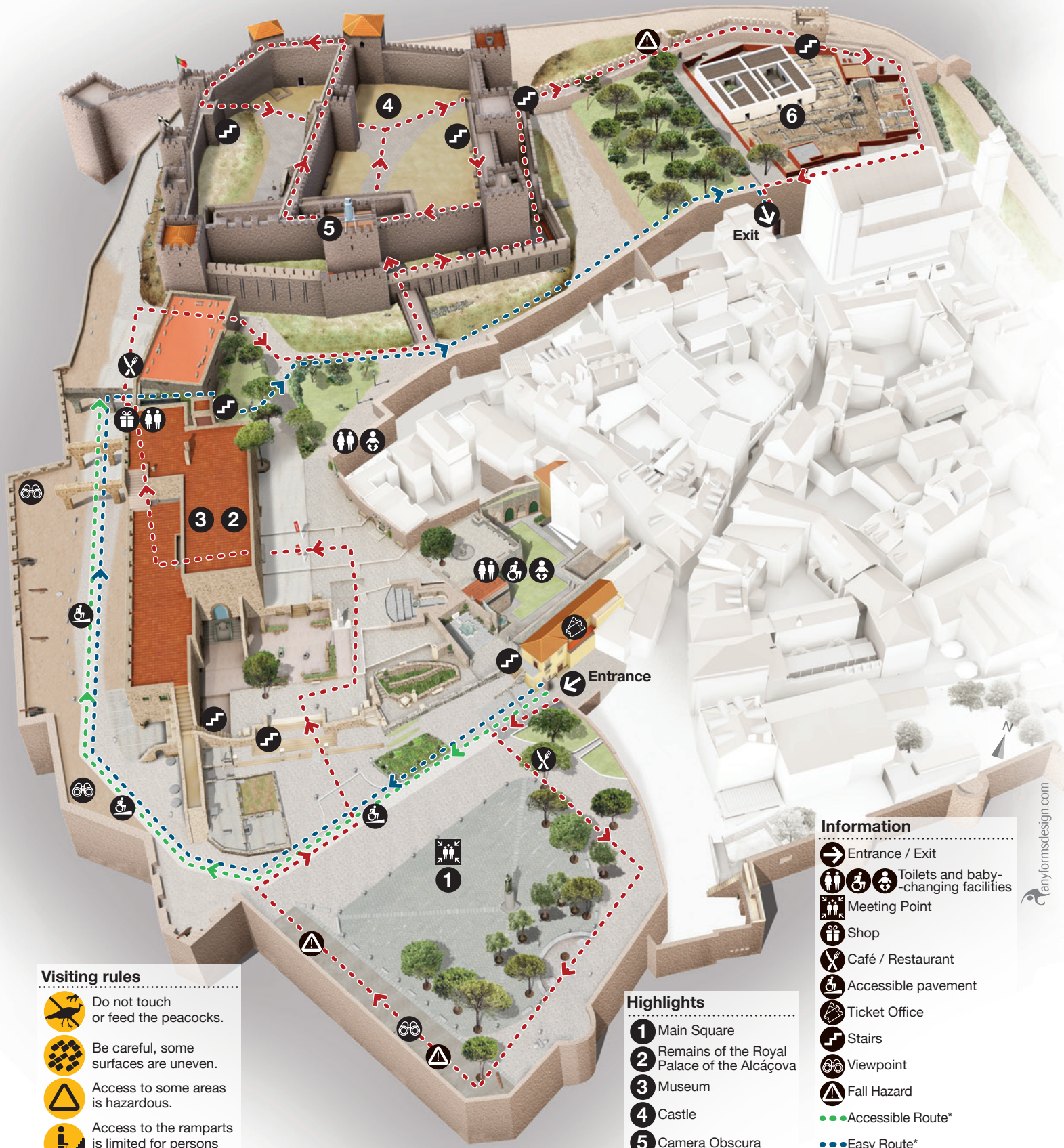
CASTELO DE SÃO JORGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

The Castelo de São Jorge sits at the top of a hill with more than two thousand years of history. Covering an open-air area of approximately three hectares, the site contains remains of various human occupations from the 7th century BC to the present day.
In the Middle Ages, it was part of the noble area of the city (the *alcáçova*), which became the political centre of the kingdom in the 13th century. The *alcáçova* was composed of three main elements: the Castle, with functions; the Royal Palace of the Alcáçova, the main residence of the kings of Portugal; and the residential area, occupied by the urban elite. From the 16th century onwards, it took on predominantly military functions and underwent several structural alterations. Major restoration works carried out between 1938 and 1940 revealed the castle's ruins, allowing the monument to be rediscovered and restored.



Visiting rules

- Do not touch or feed the peacocks.
- Be careful, some surfaces are uneven.
- Access to some areas is hazardous.
- Access to the ramparts is limited for persons with reduced mobility.
- Do not drink water from the fountains.

Highlights

1. Main Square
2. Remains of the Royal Palace of the Alcáçova
3. Museum
4. Castle
5. Camera Obscura
6. Archaeological Site

Information

- Entrance / Exit
- Toilets and baby-changing facilities
- Meeting Point
- Shop
- Café / Restaurant
- Accessible pavement
- Ticket Office
- Stairs
- Viewpoint
- Fall Hazard
- Accessible Route*
- Easy Route*
- Long Route*

* The routes indicated may be changed due to weather or safety issues.

Castelo de São Jorge

ENGLISH

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HIGHLIGHTS

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CASTLE

Built in the 11th century during the Islamic period, the castle (fortification) was the final stronghold of Lisbon's defensive system, consisting of two rings of walls. Originally, it was not designed as a residence, unlike other European castles, and over time, it was modified by several monarchs. From the 16th century onwards, urban and military changes led to its decline and the loss of its defensive and political significance.

MAIN SQUARE

Viewpoint with panoramic views of Lisbon and the Tagus River. This square is built on a defensive bastion, constructed during the period of the Iberian Union (1580–1640).
At the centre of the square stands a statue of king Afonso I (D. Afonso Henriques), the first king of Portugal, who conquered Lisbon from the moors in 1147, with support of the Crusaders.

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REMAINS OF THE ROYAL PALACE OF THE ALCÁÇOVA

Serving as the main royal residence between the 13th and the 16th centuries, the palace was modified on several occasions. Simple on the outside, its interiors featured luxurious painted ceilings, tapestries, rich fabrics and objects made from gold and silver.
It was later adapted to be used as a prison and as barracks from late 16th century until the 20th century. The current building, featuring the Ogival Room, is what remains of the former palace, partially destroyed by the 1755 earthquake.

MUSEUM

Located on the remains of the Royal Palace of the Alcáçova, this exhibition displays artifacts found during archaeological works carried out at the Castelo de São Jorge and the surrounding neighbourhood. The collection bears witness to the material culture of the hill's different settlements, from the 7th century BC to the 18th century AD, with special emphasis on the Islamic period of the 11th and 12th centuries.

CAMERA OBSCURA

In one of the castle's towers, the Treasure Tower (Torre do Haver) housed the Royal Treasury, and from 1378 onwards, it became the Archive Tower (Torre do Tombo), where the Royal Archive was kept. Known as the Tower of Ulysses since the 18th century, in 1998 a *camera obscura* with a periscope was installed, allowing visitors to view Lisbon in real-time through a 360° panoramic view. Access is only permitted via guided tours, subject to availability and favourable weather conditions.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

A collection of archaeological remains consisting of Iron Age residential structures (7th century BC); remains of the ancient Islamic quarter (11th–12th centuries); and the ruins of the Palace of the Counts of Santiago (15th–18th centuries). The musealisation of the site, designed by the architect João Luís Carrilho da Graça, won the Piranesi Prix de Rome in 2010.
To ensure the preservation of the site, access is only permitted via guided tours, subject to availability.

LISBOA CULTURA

Castelo de São Jorge

Opening Times
9h00 – 21h00 March to October
9h00 – 18h00 November to February

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