

Map of Garden . Areas

- a** Department of Botany (*Departamento de Botânica*)
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- c** Victória Greenhouse (*Estufa Victória*) */**
- d** Flower-beds
- e** Tropical Corner (*Recanto Tropical*) **
- f** Central Square (*Quadrado Central*)
- g** Shade House (*Estufa Fria*) **
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- i** Medicinal Plants Nursery (*Escola Médica*) **
- j** Coniferous Tree Terrace (*Terraço com Coníferas*) **
- k** Monocotyledon Nursery (*Escola das Monocotiledóneas*) **
- l** Orchard (*Pomar*) **
- m** Bamboo Forest **
- n** Wood (*Mata*) **

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- 3** Ursulinas Gate
- 4** Ticket Office/ Information Point
- 5** Statue of Júlio Henriques
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- 7** Bas relief of L. Carrisso
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- 11** S. Ilídio Chapel**
- 12** S. Bento Chapel**
- 13** Terrace (*Miradouro*)**



Lime Grove (Alameda das Tílias)

This is one of the most emblematic corners of the Garden, which reminds one of the public walkways of large European cities. The pleasant setting changes every season and in May/June the flowers exhale sweet scents.



Large Greenhouse

Built in 1856, this is one of the oldest iron buildings in the whole of Portugal. The perfect combination of glass and iron enhance the unusual beauty of this place. The greenhouse harbours essentially tropical and subtropical plants, and it is divided into three sections, simulating tropical, subtropical and temperate climates. Here one finds a large variety of species, in particular orchids, carnivorous plants, tropical trees and ferns.



Victória Greenhouse

In this greenhouse there is an artificial lake, where – amongst other species - we find the largest water lily in the world, the *Victoria cruziana*, originally from the equatorial region of the Amazon River. Its leaves can measure up to two metres wide and bear a load of up to 30 kg; the flowers, perfumed and exuberant, last no longer than 48 h, and are white on the first day and purple on the second. A prodigy of nature delivered to the public in the Summer months.



Tropical Corner

Excellent sun exposure has enabled the development of a tropical environment in this corner, which includes different species of palm-trees from all 5 continents, in particular the single Portuguese species that grows spontaneously in the Algarve, *Chamaerops humilis ssp. humilis*, and bird-of-paradise trees (*Strelitzia nicolai*).



Central Square/ Fountain

This is considered the Garden's "birthplace". The typical neo-classical features are quite visible: forged iron gates, stonework, walls and flower-beds in geometrical design, bordered by fences. Diversity rules: several kinds of magnolias, garden cherry trees, azaleas and others alongside the central fountain, lending a Romantic atmosphere to this area.



Shade House

Built in the 50s, under the supervision of the illustrious botanist, Professor Abílio Fernandes, it houses flora typical of humid and shade environments. The plants are surrounded by a wall cascade and a stream running through the house. One can also admire a contemporary statue, called "Botanica", a female nude by the sculptor Martins Correia, symbolising the Science of Plants.



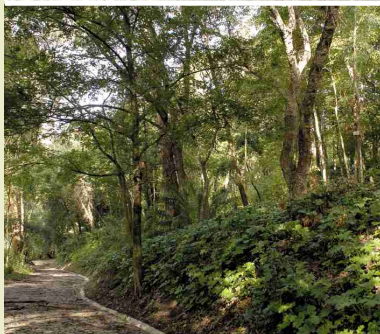
Systemic Nurseries. Medicinal Plants Nursery **h i**

For many centuries – and even today – medicine depended on Botany for the study of plants' medicinal properties. The Systemic Nurseries of the Botanic Garden, which have developed reserves for the Garden's seed bank, are in fact schools of Botany, and include the Medicinal Plants Nursery, which displays aromatic and medicinal plants. The plants are organised in the flower-beds by order of families.



Bamboo Forest. São Bento Chapel **m 12**

A good name for this part of the Garden would be the "Bamboo Cathedral". Introduced in the Garden in 1852, *Phyllostacys bambusoides* is the bamboo species that is best adapted to the Garden, covering a total area of one hectare. Here one can also see the chapel of São Bento, initially a 17th century shade house transformed into a place of prayer by the Benedict monks.



Wood **n**

The wood occupies two thirds of the Garden's total area. It is covered in dense vegetation, which includes essentially exotic trees from all parts of the world. The species sprout and grow freely here. This area also includes a valley covered in monocotyledon trees, 50 distinct species of eucalyptus, a shade house and the magnificent bamboo plantation. More recently, an orchard settled in and invaded the area with new sweet smells.



Main Gate **2**

Manufactured in 1884 by Mestre Galinha, the main gate is in forged iron and bronze. This is an excellent sample of neo-classical art, in beautiful wrought ironwork, which was quite popular in the 19th century.



Statue of Júlio Henriques **5**

Appointed head of Coimbra Botanic Garden in 1873, Júlio Henriques promoted plant and seed exchange with other Botanic Gardens. From the Java Botanic Garden he managed to obtain seeds of species like the Chichona, the bark of which quinine is extracted, used as a prophylactic of malaria. He led several scientific expeditions for collecting Portuguese plant species and was the founder of the country's single scientific society of botany, *Sociedade Broteriana*. Statue sculptured by Barata Feio in 1951.



Bas-relief of Luís Carrisso **7**

Appointed Director of the Garden in 1918, Luís Carrisso took up the work performed by Professor Júlio Henriques of enhancing the Botanic Garden's floral heritage. He led several scientific expeditions on Portuguese territory with this purpose in mind and initiated a project of collecting African flora species. He died prematurely during an expedition to Angola. Bas-relief produced by José dos Santos in 1948.



Alameda Principal



Central Square



Jardim
Botânico
da Universidade
de Coimbra



Botanic Garden of the University of Coimbra



D. Maria I Gate (1791)



Status of Avelar Brotero (by Soares dos Reis, 1884)

Botanic Garden of the University of Coimbra

A visit to the Botanic Garden is like travelling around the planet earth without setting foot outside of the city. The plant collections which occupy every corner of the Garden take us on a journey to distinct latitudes and regions of the world, thus transforming the Garden into a live museum.

Located in the heart of the city of Coimbra since 1772, when it was founded by the then prime-minister Sebastião José de Carvalho e Melo (Marquis of Pombal), the Botanic Garden covers a total area of 13 ha. of land, most of which donated by Benedict monks.

Botanic gardens developed in Europe largely as a result of 15th century maritime expansion, as in coming into contact with exotic plants and animals the Europeans became interested in the study hereof. Garcia da Orta, for example, throughout his journeys to India, dedicated himself to the study of medicinal plants and published two relevant essays.

The 18th century featured a revolution of minds and significant scientific progress, particularly in the field of Medicine. Coimbra Botanic Garden, therefore, developed in view of complementing Natural History and Medicinal Studies. Naturalists and botanists produced several scientific publications, namely *Flora Lusitana* by Avelar Brotero (1804) on Portuguese flora. This Portuguese researcher founded the first practical school for Botanical Studies.

The seeds bank and associated seeds catalogue (*Index Seminum*), published in 1868 and updated annually up until today, include several Portuguese and exotic varieties, whereby we have managed to preserve several endangered species. In this way the Garden has played an innovative role in nature conservation.

In educational terms, Coimbra Botanic Garden promotes environmental and cultural programmes, by raising the awareness of environmental issues and promoting civic behaviour.

The Garden provides a peaceful and inviting atmosphere, filled with secrete corners ready to be discovered.

Hours / Admission

Garden	Hours	01 October - 31 March	9am-5.30pm
		01 April - 30 September	9am-8pm
Greenhouse Hours		9am-12pm, 2.30pm-5pm (working days)	
Admission	Adults	€2	
	Students / > 65 years	€1.5	
	Children ≤ 6 years	free	
Guided Tours	subject to prior reservation		
	Admission	Adults	€2
		Students/ > 65 years	€1.5
		Children's groups ≤ 6 years	€8/h
	weekends and public holidays		
	Adults	€4	
	Students / > 65 years	€3	
	Children's groups ≤ 6 years	€16/h	

Several events and activities may be scheduled throughout the year.

Contacts

For reservations (guided tours/workshops)

Gabinete do Jardim Botânico
tel.: 00351 239 855 233/ fax:00351 239 855 211

Opening hours

9am-12am, 2pm-5pm

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