



# GUIMARÃES

## Camellia Gardens



**GUIMARÃES**  
TURISMO



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## Camellias: Origins and History

Camellias originate from the far east and most of the species came from China.

The designation of the genus *Camellia* was the result of a tribute by Lineu to the great botanist Josef Kamel, who in the botanical nomenclature allowed his name to be included in the binary combination formed by the name of the genus followed by a specific epithet (*Camellia japonica* L.).

In Europe, camellias are known, explored and used as ornamental plants (flowers and foliage). However, *Camellia sinensis* is commonly known as a tea plant, whose production is exclusively from the leaves, that are transformed into an herbal infusion. This infusion is exclusively produced in the Azores island of S. Miguel.

The exact date of arrival of the first live plants of ornamental camellias to Europe is not known, although there is some written evidence. Since the beginning of the 16th century, there have been reports of Portuguese contact with Southeast Asia, namely by Afonso de Albuquerque (Governor of India), and in 1543 the Portuguese were the first Europeans arriving in Japan, remaining as merchants and missionaries for several years (1638).

However, it was only in the 19th century that camellias became widely known in Europe.

## Biological characterisation

Ornamental camellias are shrubs or large trees, generally medium, branched from the base, growing slow, with persistent, leathery, glossy leaves top page with serrated or toothed edges, flowers with a pentamer chalice and corolla, spiralled, and the petals being a little coalescing at the base.

The white, red, pinkish, tinted and rarely yellow flower, varies in size from less than 5cm to more than 12.5cm in diameter, containing numerous stamens grouped in bundles and a tricarpellar gynaeus.

The stigma is trilobed and the fruit is, usually, a capsule with three seeds in each lobe.



The genus *Camellia* comprises 280 species, of which we highlight:

*Camellia japonica* – common name of camellia, Japanese camellia, rose of winter;

*Camellia sasanqua* – common name of autumn camellia, camellia sasanqua;

*Camellia reticulata* – camellia reticulata named for marked venation of its leaves.

**Guimarães has a high heritage value with several unique species of camellias in Europe, concerning the size and its rarity. We recommend you a visit to the following gardens: Casa do Costeado; Vila Flor Palace; Largo Martins Sarmiento (Largo do Carmo); Flavius Nurseries; Quinta de Margaride and the Garden of the Monastery of Santa Marinha.**



## Gardens of the Monastery of Santa Marinha

This enclosure garden with oak and chestnut trees, orchard, water tanks and mills, is a fantastic unique place for recreation and meditation by the time of The Canons Regular of Saint Augustine (middle age monastic clerics) and of the monks of the Order of Saint Jerome in the 16th century.

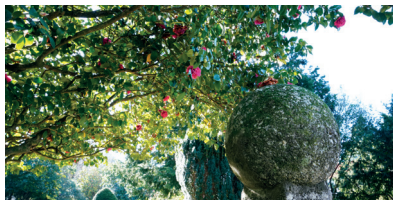
The grove tree and the gardens were classified as a site of public interest in 1940.

Once you are in the garden, a staircase gives access to a circular water tank from the Baroque period, surrounded by granite seats, under the leafy trees.

From each border of the garden there is a wooded path,

that will conduct you to the interior of the gardens, where the secular groove oak trees evokes the atmosphere of the ancestral forests.

In the 2nd half of the 19th century, after the extinction of the Monasteries, this property was bought by the Leite de Castro family, who planted a boxwood garden and a camellia garden.



### RELEVANT SPECIES

Camellia japonica 'Coletii Vera';  
Camellia japónica 'Aka-kochimino';  
Camellia japonica 'Camões';  
Camellia japonica 'Dona Arzilia de  
Freitas Magalhães'

### VISITS

free visits with permission at the  
reception of Pousada Mosteiro

### TIMETABLE

open all year

### LOCATION

Largo Domingos Leite de Castro  
Costa  
2.5 km from the city centre (8  
minutes)  
GPS: 41°26'35.2"N 8°16'33.3"W

### CONTACTS

Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães  
Largo Domingos Leite de Castro  
Costa  
phone.: (+351) 253 511 249  
email:  
[recepcao.stamarinha@pestana.com](mailto:recepcao.stamarinha@pestana.com)



## Garden of Casa do Costeado



Casa do Costeado is located in the town centre and belonged to a Portuguese–Brazilian family and later on to Baron of Costeado.

Recently, his descendants sold the property to the Municipality of Guimarães, that recently decided to install there an Hotel Management School.

This garden has unique specimens of camellias, that were already mentioned in the first list of camellias published in Portugal, in 1844. There's also the fact that it has got camellias with the largest perimeter trunk of all Europe.

There are two viewpoints in the garden, from where you can see "Veiga de Creixomil", a green area with a leisure

park, walking and bike paths, a public outdoor and indoor pool and also a Leisure pool for the kids.



### RELEVANT SPECIES

Camellia japonica 'Alba Plena' and Camellia japonica 'Ponpone Rosea', originally from Brazil, Camellia japonica 'Frederich', which is the blackest camellia of the 19th century; Camellia japonica 'Encarnata or Camurça' which is considered by experts as the most perfect camellia of its kind

### VISITS

free visits  
guided tours by appointment

### TIMETABLE

open all year

### LOCATION

Rua do Moinho Velho – Creixomil  
in the city centre  
GPS: 41°26'18.1"N 8°18'07.6"W

### CONTACTS

Guimarães Town Hall  
Green Spaces Department  
phone: (+351) 253 421 200  
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## Garden of Quinta de Margaride



Quinta de Margaride is located in the Costa parish and is a 17th and 19th century residential architecture.

In this garden the camellias stand out for their shape, with the *Camellia japonica* 'Aurora Nova' with about 12 meters high.

There is a beautiful set of camellias, of which the following stand out: *Camellia reticulata* 'Capitan Rawes'; *Camellia japonica* 'Augusto Leal Gouveia Pinto' and *Camellia japonica* 'Robert Van-Zeller'.

The garden has also a wonderful combination of boxwood and roses.



### RELEVANT SPECIES

*Camellia reticulata* 'Capitan Rawes';  
*Camellia japonica* 'Augusto Leal  
Gouveia Pinto' and *Camellia  
japonica* 'Robert Van-Zeller'

### LOCATION

Avenida Rio de Janeiro – Costa  
2 km from the city centre (6  
minutes)  
GPS: 41°27'05.8"N 8°16'32.9"W

### VISITS

visits by appointment

### CONTACTS

phone: (+351) 932 671 231  
email:  
[casademargaride@gmail.com](mailto:casademargaride@gmail.com)

### TIMETABLE

open all year



## **Garden of Largo Martins Sarmento (Largo do Carmo)**



Largo Martins Sarmento (also known as Largo do Carmo) is located in one of the noblest areas of the town, near the Castle and the Palace of the Dukes of Bragança. It is a small Square, with a garden in its centre, with several species of camellias.

On one of the garden sides, you can see the Church of the former Convent of Our Lady of Carmo. Once you enter the church, if you look at the ceiling of the high choir, you will see paintings of camellia flowers.





### **RELEVANT SPECIES**

Camellia japonica 'Alba Plena';  
Camellia rusticana 'Mazauchi'

### **VISITS**

free visits  
guided tours by appointment

### **TIMETABLE**

open all year

### **LOCATION**

Largo Martins Sarmento  
in the city centre  
GPS: 41°26'44.8"N 8°17'33.9"W

### **CONTACTS**

Guimarães Town Hall  
Green Spaces Department  
phone: (+351) 253 421 200  
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[hugo.torrinha@cm-guimaraes.pt](mailto:hugo.torrinha@cm-guimaraes.pt)



## Gardens of Vila Flor Palace



Vila Flor Palace has magnificent gardens, with a privileged view over the town centre. The ancient boxwood gardens of "Quinta Vila Flor", dating from the 18th century, remained intact.

The gardens are organized on three levels, separated by balustrades with rocaille decoration, such as, pinnacles, urns and statues, with split staircases, that connect the different levels.

The middle terrace, has, like the first, a hexagonal water tank, around which are old camellias, that were classified by the National Institute for the Conservation of Nature, in 2011.



### **RELEVANT SPECIES**

Camellia japonica 'Conde de Bonfim'; Camellia japonica 'Flor da Romã'; Camellia japonica 'Conde da Arrochela', planted in honour of the Count of Arrochela. These species stand out for their size, granulometry, texture and colour palette

### **VISITS**

free visits  
guided tours by appointment

### **TIMETABLE**

open all year

### **LOCATION**

Av. D. Afonso Henriques  
in the city centre  
GPS: 41°26'16.2"N 8°17'41.3"W

### **CONTACTS**

Guimarães Town Hall  
Green Spaces Department  
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## Flavius Nurseries



This nursery, located near the important Basilica of S. Torcato, is a reference where more than 2300 different varieties and species of this plant can be seen.

It features a vast collection of portuguese camellias (more than 200 different cultivars), a huge variety of Japanese, sasanquas and hybrids, as well as the largest collection of reticulata camellias in the country (more than 200 different cultivars).





### RELEVANT SPECIES

Camellia Changii (Azalea),  
Camellia Amplexicaulis, Camellia  
Chrysantha (known for its yellow  
flowers)

### LOCATION

Rua das Charnecas - São Torcato  
7 km from the city centre  
(15minutes)  
GPS: 41°28'40.7"N 8°15'34.0"W

### VISITS

guided tours by appointment


### CONTACTS

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### TIMETABLE

open all year





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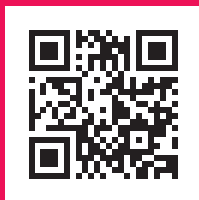
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