



A Unique Museum

Maria Dias



Visiting a museum turns into an unusual holiday activity when that venue has a unique history, exceptional collections and is in a small village in the rural centre of Portugal.

But why don't we start with where it all began?

In 1921, doctor Jerónimo Lacerda established a sanatorium resort on the southern slope of the Caramulo mountain. Built as a model for the time and the first in the country to have basic sanitation and electricity,

the center developed and became a cluster with close to 20 sanatoriums in operation.

At the time it was the largest centre to treat tuberculosis in Portugal and the Iberic Peninsula and changed the social and economic landscape of the region forever.

In 1951, however, the 2 sons of D Lacerda were aware that the progress of medicine would dictate the end of Caramulo as a treatment centre. Looking at alternatives to keep the village on the tourist and cultural roadmap of the country, they founded this museum reconstructed and reconstituted from a 19th century cloister.

Today, a sequential U-shaped system of rooms that successively developed around the cloister to host the unique collections of the institution, covers a total area of 3025 square meters.

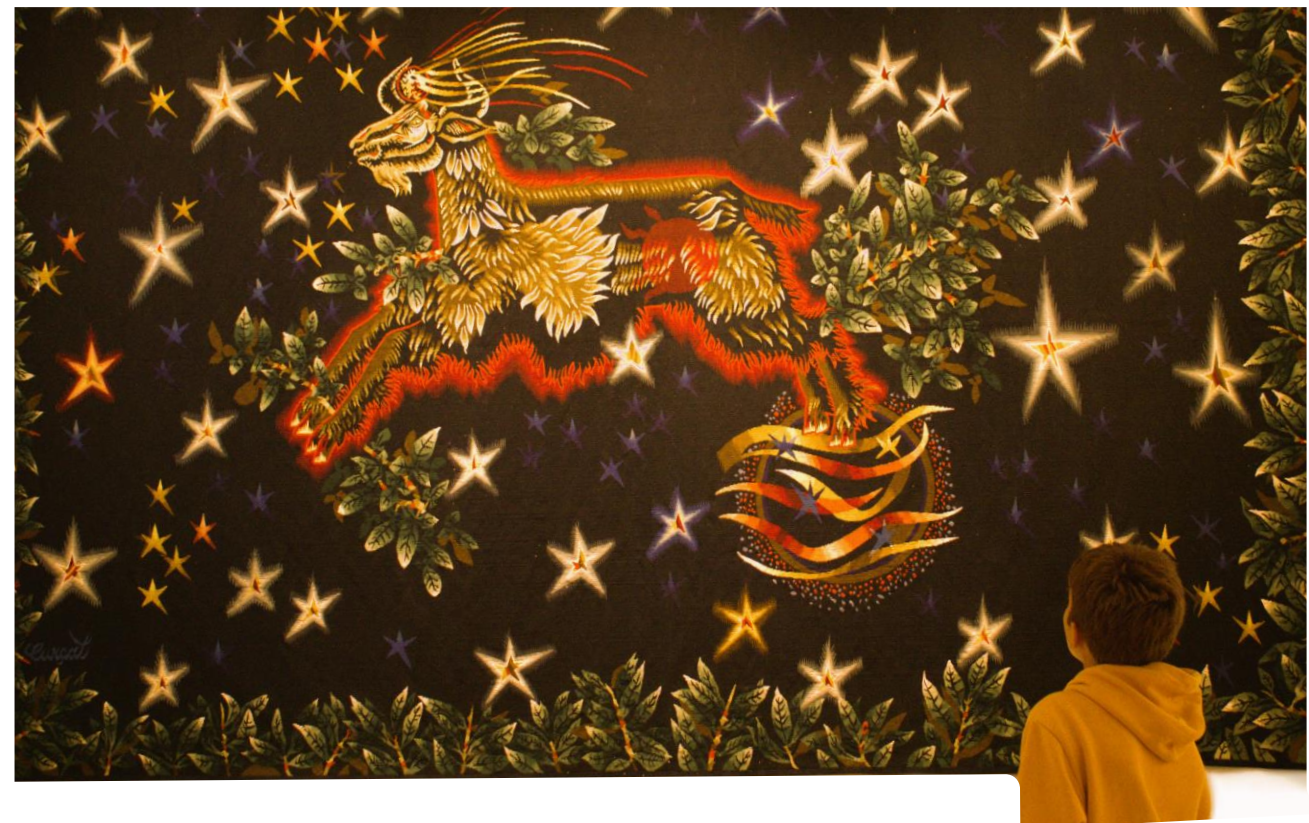
Assembled under the motto of generosity, the museum art collections were entirely donated by private collectors. National and international artists, such as Vieira da Silva and Amadeo de Sousa Cardoso, or Salvador

Dali and Pablo Picasso were some of the museum patrons.

The reasons to visit this exceptional place are therefore endless. From the exhibition of more than 3000 antique toys and collectible miniatures to a selection of unique art pieces ranging from antiquity to contemporaneity and the amazing collection of classic cars.

Including more than 100 vehicles from 1886, this collection boasts some exceptionally unique pieces and has gained international recognition for the museum. The first Ferrari to enter Portugal, the armoured Mercedes-Benz 770 used by Salazar or the Lamborghini Miura that was considered

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the world's first supercar are some of the pieces highlighted by the museum. But there are much more to see and try as the museum also includes an experience centre.

Generosity can do great things and move the world!

When to visit: Spring and Summer are the best seasons to go, as the museum is located in the mountain and Autumn and Winter can get rainy and cold.

How to go: Driving your own car is still the fastest and most flexible option to visit the museum and the area around it. Combining train and bus or travelling with a hailing-ride company is also possible, but once you arrived you will have less mobility which will also limit your exploring

activities within the region.

Where to stay: Depending on your mobility and visit propose, there are a couple of different options in the village centre and around. [The 10 best accommodation in Caramulo, Portugal | Booking.com](#)

Where to eat: we asked the museum guide, who recommended half a dozen options. We went to Restaurante Montanha where we had delicious traditional food. Chanfana (goat cooked in whine), migas (smashed turnip greens and cornbread) and black pudding were included in our fair-cost

selection. We would certainly return.

What else to do: walk around and let yourself be amazed by the breathtaking scenery of Caramulinho, the highest point of the mountain. Visit Vieuu, an historical city 45 minutes away, and enjoy the river beaches, thermal watering centres and wine cellars in the area are also activities that deserve your time!

Ends

