

Coimbra Palace – '4 Star' Boutique Hotel: Coimbra, Portugal

Summary

The Coimbra Palace is a luxury boutique hotel, midway between Lisbon and Porto, in the ancient university town of Coimbra. Famous for the romantic legend of Prince Pedro and his forbidden lover, which played out in the palace's own botanic gardens, this boutique hotel still exudes a romantic elegance today. Guest rooms in the historic building have a sumptuous, classic look. In stark contrast, a recent avant-garde addition to the palace, of cubist design, houses sleek contemporary rooms and a luxury spa which is the last word in style. With its own golf course and resident pro, this is a great small luxury hotel in which to perfect your short game, enjoy some pampering and just soak up the history of this ancient land. Perfect for romantic holidays or honeymoons in Portugal.

Details

Legend has it that the forbidden romance of Prince Pedro and Ines ended at the Coimbra Palace when Ines was stabbed by order of the King to prevent her becoming Pedro's Queen. Her blood is said to colour the stone bed of the spring which still runs through the gardens today. In later years the palace played host to the Duke of Wellington and indeed, the interiors of the old building are reminiscent of an English country manor, with oak panelling, formal drawing rooms and library. Even today the hotel is a favourite of the nobility and stars.

Coimbra is a "must see" for anyone in search of the real Portugal. Once the ancient capital, lying midway between Lisbon and Porto, it boasts one of the world's oldest universities and has always been a gathering place for poets, scholars and artists. Wandering through its quiet, cobbled streets by day inspires a sense of intellectual loftiness, whilst its bars and restaurants come to life at night.

Guest rooms and suites in period style are arranged in the palace building and courtyard gardens, whilst the contemporary rooms are located in the striking modern adjunct. Here you'll find a large pool, terrace restaurant, and luxury spa complete with indoor wave pool. Beyond the gardens are the hotel's own 9-hole pitch and putt golf course, driving range, putting and chipping green and club house. The resident pros specialise in the short game, and the hotel's own facilities are complimented by two nearby golf courses.

Coimbra is ideally located for exploring northern Portugal. Just 30 minutes from the west coast, days at the beach are spent soaking up the sun or learning to surf. An hour to the north are the charming towns of Porto and Viana, whilst to the south lies Lisbon, Portugal's picturesque capital, and the stunning Cascais-Sintra natural reserve.

In the evenings, wander into Coimbra where melancholy "Fado" song wafts out of cafes and bars, or enjoy a gourmet dinner at the hotel's restaurant with Michelin starred chef who specialises in traditional, "market" cuisine. Lemons, oranges, avocados, raspberries and watercress for his recipes are all home-grown and you can even take a cookery course. A romantic, candlelit dinner for two in the gardens is not to be missed. You might even be lucky enough to meet Ines' ghost, still in search of her lover.

For more images see www.c-boutiquehotels.com
To book this hotel call 08717 500070



Facts & Figures

54 Guest Rooms and Suites:

Palace Rooms (in period style)

- Standard Double
- Deluxe Double – larger room, some with private garden
- Suite – large bedroom with separate sitting room. One room has private garden
- King – large bedroom with separate sitting room with fireplace. Balcony.

Garden Rooms (in period style)

- Standard Double – some with patio
- Suite – bedroom with separate sitting room. Some with private garden

Spa Rooms (in modern style)

- Standard Double – most with balconies
- Suite – enormous open plan room with bedroom, sitting room and large terrace

All rooms have: Ensuite bathrooms – Cable TV – Minibar – Air-Con/Heating – Telephone – Safe – Hairdryers

Hotel facilities: Pool (open April to Sept) – Terrace & Extensive Botanic Gardens – Spa with large indoor wave pool – Gym – Drinks Service – Restaurant (with Michelin Starred Chef) – Golf Facilities (9 Hole Pitch & Putt Course, Driving Range, Putting & Chipping Green, Indoor Training Room, Club House and Golf Academy) – Internet Point

Also at and around hotel (extra cost): Golf Courses – Watersports & Boat Trips at Beach – Horse-riding – Cookery Courses and Wine Tasting

Regional Highlights

- The sights of Coimbra, Portugal's ancient university town
- Championship golf courses and the hotel's own Golf Academy
- Pampering in the hotel's Spa
- To the north, charming Porto and Vianna
- Beaches of the Silver Coast with watersports, Boat Trips and Horse-Riding
- In day trips to the south, Sintra, the town of fairytale castles and palaces set amid botanic gardens and protected redwood forests and the upmarket beach resort of Cascais
- Lisbon's many colourful districts, museums, art galleries and historic sights, tram rides and city viewpoints and designer shopping
- Nightlife in Coimbra with Fado Houses, Restaurants and Bars

Location

Nearest airports:	Porto (1 hr); Lisbon (2 hrs)
Nearest railway station:	Coimbra
Nearest restaurants:	10 mins walk
Nearest shops:	10 mins walk
Nearest Beach	30 mins drive

