

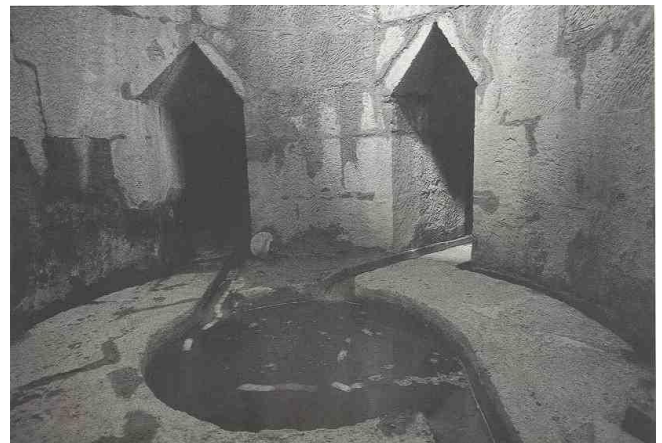
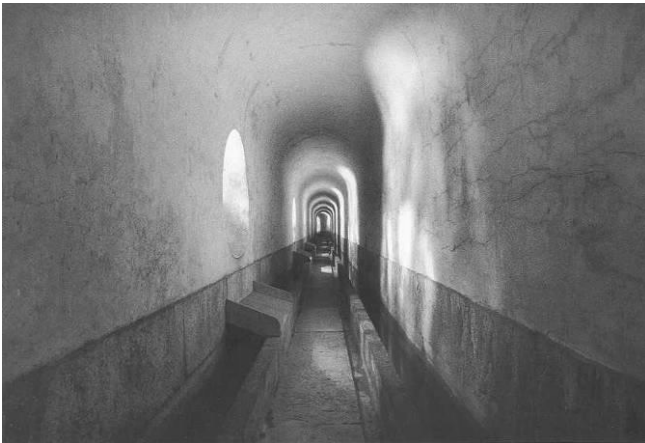
“The Queen freshens up. On the Baroque trail”

We are entering an enlightened century, a period when reason prevailed and the spirit of the Baroque was at its peak.

This was a period obsessed with theatrical grandiosity as though creating an impression mattered more than cost. Around that time there was also growing awareness that grandiose public works were the best vehicle to bring rulers prestige. Add to that sentiment the wealth generated by the gold and diamonds coming in from Brazil at the time and you have the scenario for the construction of the Águas Livres Aqueduct.

On the other hand, the Aqueduct had its practical side. The spaces it created had a style aimed at popular sensitivities, spaces made to be lived in and worked in.

We are on the route of the Baroque. The Aqueduct’s galleries are more like passages in a monastery than water channels. Air and light filters in gently through openings located at intervals all along the galleries.

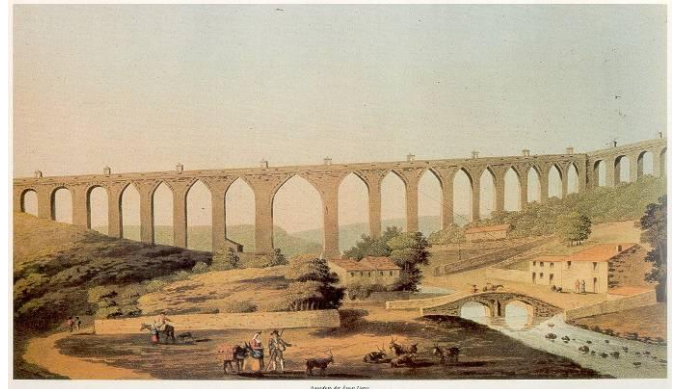


This play on shadow and light and the beauty of the hewn stonework lead us on to “The Queen freshens up”. The Guide involved in-depth historical research into the construction and importance of the Águas Livres Aqueduct within the context of the Lisbon water supply system as well as into the history of personages and costumes of the period. This outing is intended to recreate Queen Carlota Joaquina’s journey to the Carenque Springs where she would stop for a breath of fresh air on her way to Mafra or Sintra or on her way from Lisbon to Queluz. The “Entretempos” leisure activity group is in charge of the reconstitution of the Queen’s outings.

The meeting-point is at EPAL's premises on Rua das Amoreiras. Visitors are taken first of all to Caneças to see and to greet Queen Carlota Joaquina, her coachman and the traditional Caneças washerwomen. You will then cross the Alcantara Valley stretch of the Aguas Livres Aqueduct where you will be "attacked" by the infamous Diogo Alves. The outing ends at the Mãe d'Água Reservoir where lunch, comprising typical dishes of the epoch, will be served.



MDA - Museu da Água has taken this initiative in order to divulge the history of the Lisbon water supply system and to raise awareness of the importance of the city's cultural heritage and of the preservation of industrial archaeology.



The Águas Livres Aqueduct took 102 years to build, bridging the reign of three monarchs, King João V, King José I and Queen Maria I, and involving three great architects, Manuel da Maia, Custódio Vieira and Carlos Mardel.



The stretch of the Aqueduct spanning Alcantara Valley is notable on account of its length (914 metres) and the height of its 35 arches, 14 of which are ogival in shape. The Aqueduct is mentioned in the Guinness Book of Records due to incorporating the largest ogival-shaped stone arch ever built anywhere in the world. It is 65.29 metres high and 28.86 metres wide.

Since 1910 this stretch of the Aqueduct spanning the Alcantara Valley has been classified as a National Monument.