Castelo de São Jorge

Identification
EBN 1154700
Name Castelo de São Jorge
Construction Type castle
Current Status existing [completed]

Location
Continent Name Europe
Country Name Portugal
State Name Lisboa
Metro Area Name Área Metropolitana de Lisboa
City Name Lisbon
Postcode 1100
Address (as text) Castelo de São Jorge
Main Address Rúa Castelo de São Jorge
Description

| Structural Material | Masonry | Main Usage | Museum (preserved site) | Observation |

Facade System | Exposed structure |

Features & Amenities

- One of the city's famous buildings
- National landmark

Facts

- After the war with Castile ended in the 14th century, the ditches were covered and the castle fell under protection of Saint George, which today still serves as the castle's name.
- In 1147, the castle was taken by Portugal's first King Alfonso Henriques assisted by British, Flemish, Frisian, Norman and German crusaders who were on their way, by ship, to the Holy Land.
- The Great Earthquake of Lisbon in 1755 caused severe damage to the stronghold and several walls and buildings forever disappeared.

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• When Lisbon became capital of Portugal in 1256, the castle served as residence of the king and many high ranking nobles and clergymen until the 16th century.
• The royal residence was moved out of the fortress in the 16th century to the Praça do Comércio, hence the decline of importance of the stronghold.
• In the 17th century, the so-called Observatory Tower was built.
• The oldest parts of this castle date back to roughly 600 BC.
• During occupation by the Moors the castle was reconstructed and reinforced.
• The castle was reconstructed by order of King Sebastião after being damaged by an earthquake in 1531.
• The castle was fortified by the Romans around 100 B.C. during their campaigns in Lusitania.
• This stronghold is one of Lisbon's best known monuments located on one of highest of the city's seven hills.
• After Portugal officially became a republic in 1910, the castle was designated a national monument.
• Under rule of Habsburg King Philip II, Spanish troops as well as prisoners resided in the castle's buildings. It ceased to be used as a prison in 1938.
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