

ROUTE

Mysterious Spies

The story of Cascais would make a great feature film of suspense and mystery. During the Second World War, Portugal became the main scene of espionage and a refuge for exiles from a Europe in flames.

Estoril, at the time known as the Costa do Sol, combined the peace, climate and glamour desired by royal families and other influential figures who arrived in search of a safe horizon.

Spies and double agents also found here the ideal environment for their espionage networks. Famous names such as Juan Pujol García ("Garbo"/"Alaric"), Dusko Popov, Ian Fleming, Walter Schellenberg and Graham Greene found Estoril the ideal destination to influence both sides of the world conflict. The same destiny that, years later, inspired the most famous agent of all: James Bond.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

DEPARTURE:

Estoril Train Station

ARRIVAL:

Grand Hotel D'Italie

DISTANCE:

3,5 km

DURATION:

1h30/2h

DIFFICULTY:

Easy/Medium

INCLINATION:

Medium/Elevated

CONNECTIONS:

 Estoril train station

 Boardwalk / Promenade

 Avenida Marginal, N6



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POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Estoril Station
- 2 Post Office
- 3 Garrett Pastry Shop
- 4 Hotel Inglaterra
- 5 Casino of Estoril
- 6 Hotel Palácio Estoril
- 7 Hotel Atlântico (now Hotel Intercontinental)
- 8 Grand Hotel/Grand Hotel D'Italie (now a private condominium)



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THE MYSTERIOUS SPY ROUTE

CASCAIS

The Charm of the Atlantic Coast

THE ITINERARY

This tour can be divided into two parts, the first in the Estoril area and the second in Monte Estoril. The itinerary starts **1. at Estoril train station**, crosses the road towards the **2. Post Office** and the Espaço Memória dos Exílios Museum. It continues until Av. de Nice, where you will find **3. the Garrett pastry shop**. Follow this avenue until you reach **4. the Hotel Inglaterra Estoril**, after the roundabout. Continue straight on until you reach Av. Portugal, and turn left into Av. Amaral until **5. Casino Estoril**. Go down Avenida Clotilde, on the left side, and pass in front of **6. the Hotel Palácio**. On the right side is the garden of the Casino Estoril. Go down Avenida Marginal and find Estoril station again. At the station, go through the tunnel to the seaside promenade that leads to Monte Estoril, on the right side. Enter the second subway and you will reach Columbano Avenue where, at its intersection with Marginal Avenue, you will find **7. the Hotel Intercontinental**. At the hotel roundabout, turn left and walk up Sabóia Avenue until you pass the Carlos Anjos Garden. On the right side you will find **8. the Grand Hotel** and **9. the Grand Hotel D'Italie** side by side.



1 ESTORIL TRAIN STATION

📍 Avenida Marginal - Estoril

The Estoril train station was built in 1889 by the Companhia Real de Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses. Between 1925 and 1926, the construction was undertaken to modernise not only the line, to switch from steam trains to electric traction, but also the architecture of the station, with an architectural style very similar to the hotels of that period. During the inauguration ceremony of the Cascais electric line, on August 15th 1926, they made a stop at this station so that the guests could have lunch at the Casino of Estoril.

👁 SOUTH-EXPRESS: FROM CALAIS TO ESTORIL

Introduced in November 1887, linking Calais (France) to Lisbon, via Paris and Madrid. In the 1930s the route was extended to Estoril, bringing in noble tourists from Central Europe and reinforcing this coast as an international holiday destination. The line was interrupted from July 20, 1936 to August 1, 1939 due to the Spanish War and to November 1st, 1940 due to the Second World War.

2 POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE

📍 Av. Marginal 7152ª - Estoril

The Estoril Post Office was a very important space in the lives of the thousands of people who took refuge in Estoril. Opened in 1942, it served as a link between families divided by the war that devastated Europe and the world. In 1999, the "Memory of the Exiles" space was inaugurated here, which remembers and pays tribute to the refugees who came to Portugal and who received here news from their loved ones.

👁 POSTA RESTANTE: LETTERS "WITHOUT" DESTINATION

The Posta Restante kept the correspondence of those who did not have a local address or who preferred to be discreet. This service was therefore used extensively by refugees, but also by spies.

3 GARRETT PASTRY SHOP

📍 Avenida de Nice nº54 - Estoril

Just like the hotels, the cafés of this cosmopolitan city were also a place of passage for spies in disguise. People knew these secrets and frequented these spaces with hopes of seeing action. The Garrett Pastry Shop, opened in 1935, is an example of refinement, which has become a favourite spot for locals and visitors.



4 HOTEL INGLATERRA

📍 Rua do Porto nº1 - Estoril

As its name suggests, the Hotel Inglaterra was used by many British secret agents. For this reason, their enemies would walk through the hotel lobby hoping to gather secret information.



5 CASINO OF ESTORIL

📍 Avenida Dr. Stanley Ho - Estoril

The Casino of Estoril was a major attraction for the most influential and wealthy people. Spies took advantage of the environment and gambling to exchange information and arrange meetings, discreetly. Elizabeth Sahrback used the roulette bets to inform Dusko Popov of the time and day of the meeting with Major Ludovico von Karsthoff (false identity), the head of German espionage in Lisbon. This scenario and Dusko Popov himself were the inspiration for "Casino Royale", the first James Bond adventure written by Ian Fleming, who also frequented the Casino.



6 HOTEL PALÁCIO ESTORIL

📍 Rua Particular, Estoril (Av. de Nice)

The Hotel Palácio was a point of exchange and dissemination of information during the Second World War and is one of the few to have preserved its original style. Here, the Allies lived together in the lobby and spies spoke out loud, truths and lies, to confuse the opposing group. At one point, wiretaps were found in the walls, carpets and other places in the hotel. The place was also the scene of some of the scenes in the James Bond film "On Her Majesty's Service", as 007's creator, Ian Fleming, also frequented this space, especially the bar, when he was deputy director of the British Naval Intelligence Service.



7 HOTEL ATLÂNTICO (NOW THE HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL)

📍 Avenida Marginal - Monte Estoril

The Hotel Atlântico in Estoril served as base of operations for German spies. In 1939, the purchase of this space by a German named Wortus facilitated the stay of the Nazis, who took advantage of the sea view to control the maritime traffic between Porto and Lisbon. On the other hand, the shortage of accommodation for the thousands of refugees who arrived in Estoril led some Jewish families to settle in this hotel, which brought a certain tension to the place. Next door is the Restaurante Atlântico, which, as its name suggests, reminds us of the hotel's period.

👁 LESLIE HOWARD'S LAST JOURNEY

The British actor Leslie Howard, one of the protagonists of the film "Gone with the Wind" (1939), came to Portugal in 1943 to promote his work. In lectures, interviews and photo shoots, he promoted the Allied forces. On his way back to England, the plane he was travelling in was shot down by German warplanes. The German secret service claimed to have mistaken his agent, Alfred Chenhall, a man of tall stature and always with a cigar, for Winston Churchill.



8 9 GRANDE HOTEL/ GRAND HOTEL D'ITALIE (TODAY A PRIVATE CONDOMINIUM)

📍 Av. Sabóia - Monte Estoril

In this avenue were located the Grand Hotel D'Italie and the Grand Hotel, which today have become luxury residences. The Grand Hotel D'Italie was one of the preferred accommodations of the Allied agents, which led German spies to choose to stay at the Grand Hotel to monitor the movements of their enemies in the neighbouring hotel.

👁 VILLA GIRASSOL, THE SPY OF THE SEA

In this villa, in the middle of Rua de Inglaterra, lived Wilhelm Lorenz, a German spy who lived disguised as a member of the German diplomatic delegation in Portugal. Villa Girassol was used as a base for German spy operations, communicating through Morse code with Portuguese fishing boats that used the routes of American ships that came to support the Allies.

