You will start the botanical route in Tapada da Ajuda. To make it easier to identify the various plants, we have put nameplates on those most representative of Tapada. Follow the written guide as well as the lines of each route on the map. Have a good walk and make use of what the space has to offer.

**Course I: Duration 10 Minutes**

1. - Starts on the stairs of the main building of the ISA.
2. - Go down the ramp ahead. This is the Rampa da Asneira (the “Mistake Ramp”), well known because during the construction of the ISA there was a mistake in the orientation of its blueprint.
   - You can see Horse-chestnut on the right side and a grove of Mediterranean cypress trees inscribed in the middle.
   - At the bottom of the ramp, on the left, make a small detour into the wood to see the oldest Portuguese oak in Tapada (approximately 70 years).
   - Look up the slope and you will see a nice big specimen of Bunya pine, a species from Australia, considered sacred to the Aboriginal people.
3. - Shortcut to the Stone Amphitheatre.
   - Return to the ramp, continue on down. Go slightly left and cross the bridge to the old garden that lead down to the Stone Amphitheatre and observe the imposing wild olive trees.
   - Note the different species of palms (Brotero armato, Livstana chinesis, Phoenix canariensis, Washingtonia robusta), elms, laurel, drag trees (of about 80 years old and a number of narrow-leaved ash trees of which one stands out for its size. In this space, native plants coexist with other species that were planted during the construction of the main building.
4. - Stone Amphitheatre.
   - At the entrance you will see an old fallen down melanchusa (a), it shares its space with a carob tree (b) and several plain trees. The amphitheatre is bordered by Mediterranean cypresses (c) and Mexican weeping red cedar (c).
5. - Head towards the road and cross back over the water line. Go up the road until the next crossing. Notice, by the route, the wild olives (these are at least a hundred years old), a cork oak tree with virgin cork (g), as well as the laurelins (a) and European hawthorn (h) whose fruit stems have medicinal properties comparable with those of cherries. To finish, you should turn right and follow the main road.

**Course II: Duration 60 minutes**

6. - Continue on the route, turning right onto the dirt road that will take you to the Horto.
   - Look left to the Terra Grande (b), measuring about 5.1 hectares (approxi mately 12 acres), on top you can see the Lisbon Astronomical Observatory (c).
   - At the bottom of the wooden path, on the left side, you can see the first water from the various water mines that exist in Tapada. On the left there is a weather station (d) and an old trial field covered by a net.
7. - Follow the path close to the wall on the right.
   - Before the path splits, on the right side, notice the old pomegranate tree (e). These don’t produce fruits, but grow dazzling scarlet flowers that can be observed in July.
   - Continue on the right, note the Allepo pine trees (f). These are indigenous to the Mediterranean coast so they grow very well in Portugal. The olives, originating from Africa, and prickly-pears, from Mexico which was introduced in the Iberian Peninsula for various purposes, these are now very common in Tapada. You can also see a vine with beautiful red berries known as burst-in-the-oven.
8. - Follow the tree-lined road keeping to the left on the way to Jardim da Pedra.
   - After the Peruvian pepper (g), observe the impressive mop of Strophanthus (h), on the left, the only one of its kind in Tapada. Similar to a banana tree, it has white flowers with upper leaves arranged in a fan, and is originally from South Africa. Enjoy the vast area, and its rich diversity of species. We direct your attention to the European hibiscus tree (i) which grows naturally here by the Tagus and Sabor rivers, widely used in agriculture and forestry, calling itself the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Institute of Agronomy).
   - Over time other features of Tapada da Ajuda emerged, such as educational and recreational space. It was open to the public in the nineteenth century, slowing visits to agricultural exhibits and providing a place to walk. In 1910, with the establishment of the Republic, this space would dedicate itself to the teaching of agriculture and forestry, calling itself the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Institute of Agronomy).
10. - In the centre of the wide lawn, admire the rare Chilean wine palm around by stone benches whose tile panels dating from 1940 tell the story of British influence.
   - Turn right and go past the duck’s lake where there is an European fan palm (k) of considerable size, this is the only native palm from Portugal’s flora (Algarvia).
   - Follow the path to a bench and note, on your left, a large specimens of a fig tree, and ahead an European fan palm and various laurelins.
   - Following the path, keeping to the left you’ll pass by a small lake, then by a garden roundabout and then you’ll find yourself back at the Jardim da Rainha. You can finish your route here by heading to the main building.

**Course III: Duration 60 minutes**

11. - Follow from the Hall down the road, past the Stone Amphitheatre. Note the different species of palms (Brotero armato, Livstana chinesis, Phoenix canariensis), Washingtonia robusta, a poisonous plant from which leaves tallow is extracted which is used in cancer treatments, two impressive examples of ponnal palm (l) a plant native to Mexico), junipers and, on the right side, the cypress. You can still see the true date palm (m), believed to originate from the oasis of Central Africa.
   - Lagoa Branca (White Lagoon).
12. - Follow on from the Chalé flanked by the blue jacarandas (n), a species from Central America.
   - Continuing on the main road, to your right you will see a beautiful view over the city and the bridge ‘25 de Abril’. You can also see an old quarry, one of many that surrounded the Tapada in the past.
13. - Lagoa Branca Auditorium.
   - This building is located on an old former quarry, surrounded by several examples of white poplar, a species that may become invasive due to the lack of work carried out on the fields.
   - Observe the wild olive trees (o) surrounding the lagoon, it’s the primitive forest of the Lisbon area.
   - Further down the road after the Auditorium, you can see some old trees of the Mediterranean pinnatifid species, whose wood is used to make bows, in front of which is the entrance to one of the five water mines in Tapada.
14. - Avenue of Olives.
   - A little ahead of the auditorium, turn left and proceed up the Avenue of Olives. Note the common whole nut (p) and olive trees grove on the left, consisting of a collection of different varieties.
   - In front of the common walnut trees you can see several eucalyptus (q) and afterwards there’s a grove of natural vegetation with wild olive trees, kermes oak and rosarium, typical of Iberian soils.
   - On the right side, there is a large specimen of stone pine (r), the only species in Portugal that produces pine nuts. From the roundabout there are three more roads: one towards the viewpoint, one that goes to the old gardens and the last heading to the Rising Post.
   - To continue your tour, choose the path that will better cater to your curiosity. However, do not forget that the only way out of Tapada is via the Rua Jau’s gate. We advise that you return along the same path, to minimize the risk of getting lost.

*The Tapada da Ajuda is part of a territory known at least since Roman times for its agricultural wealth and the good weather. The soil, predominantly of limestone and basalt, supports small groves of large wild olive and other carob trees, which comprise the appropriate vegetation in the Lisbon area, on the slopes facing the River Tagus. Plants like huckleberry, damson plum, laurelins, butcher’s broom, witchhorm and Mediterranean crowewitch are most environmentally appropriate to wild olive trees grove communities and today this can be observed in the for ced communion of these plants with the exotic species planted here since the founding of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (ISA).*

The 100 hectares (about 247 acres) now known as Tapada da Ajuda were used during the Philippean Dynasty by the King and his court as a hunting reserve. In 1665 D. Julo IV decreed by deed the creating of a walked property, which could be used for the raising of cattle, game hunting and from which advantage could be taken of the brush and the wood, being assigned a formal name Tapada Real da Alcantara. This became a place where the royal family would stay during times of recreation and rest. With the change of residence of the king and queen to the Palace in Alto da Ajuda, the Tapada Real de Alcantara became the Tapada Real da Ajuda.

Over time other features of Tapada da Ajuda emerged, such as educational and recreational space. It was open to the public in the nineteenth century, slowing visits to agricultural exhibits and providing a place to walk. In 1910, with the establishment of the Republic, this space would dedicate itself to the teaching of agriculture and forestry, calling itself the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Institute of Agronomy).

The Tapada da Ajuda is unique among all the green areas of the city, being unquestionable in its historical, forestry related and environmental values, which led to its recognition as a Public Interest (set intramural), being under a protection law.

*The Tapada will be open to the public permanently for the use of walking, for the educational benefits of ‘formers’ or any other visitors, as well as for ‘friends’ children and students from all schools.*

[Source: Department of the Portuguese Republic, Dec. 12, 1910]