
Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal) No 1590

Official name as proposed by the State Party

Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga

Location

Northern Region, Municipality of Braga
Portugal

Brief description

The Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga is a cultural landscape located on the steep slopes of Mount Espinho overlooking the city of Braga in the north of Portugal. It is a landscape and architectural ensemble constituting a sacred mount symbolically recreating the landscape of Christian Jerusalem and portraying the elaborate narrative of the Passion of Christ (the period in the life of Jesus from his entry to Jerusalem through to His crucifixion). Developed over a period of more than 600 years, the ensemble is focused on a long and complex *Via Crucis* (Way of the Cross) which leads up the mount's western slope. The elaborate set of stone stairs and paths is interposed with a series of chapels that house sculptural collections evoking the Passion of Christ, as well as fountains, allegorical sculptures and formal gardens. The *Via Crucis* culminates at the church on top of the mount, where a representation of the Calvary (the site where Jesus was crucified) is featured in the main altar.

The 26 ha nominated property illustrates a European tradition of creating *Sacri Monti* (sacred mounts), a concept initially promoted by the Catholic Church's Council of Trent in the 16th century in reaction to the Protestant Reformation and subsequently realized at many locations in Europe and beyond. This sanctuary in Braga, carried out primarily in a Baroque style and surrounded by a lush park and woodland, is a relatively early, extensive and unified version that reflects the grand religious narrative typical of the Church's Counter-Reformation endeavours.

Category of property

In terms of categories of cultural property set out in Article I of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this is a *site*.

In terms of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* (July 2017) paragraph 47, it has also been nominated as a *cultural landscape*.

1 Basic data

Included in the Tentative List

31 January 2017

Background

This is a new nomination.

Consultations and Technical Evaluation Mission

Desk reviews have been provided by ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, members and independent experts.

An ICOMOS technical evaluation mission visited the property on 17-20 September 2018.

Additional information received by ICOMOS

A letter was sent to the State Party on 8 October 2018 requesting further information about the comparative analysis, integrity, authenticity, factors affecting the property, management and protection.

An Interim Report was provided to the State Party on 21 December 2018 summarizing the issues identified by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel.

Further information was requested in the Interim Report, including: mapping of the property, augmenting the comparative analysis, the status of exclusions of parts of Mount Espinho, the origins of one of the hotel buildings, the justification of criterion (ii), design of the landscape and choice of plantings, removal of the terrace bar and monitoring indicators.

Additional information was received from the State Party on 12 November 2018 and has been incorporated into the relevant sections of this evaluation report.

Date of ICOMOS approval of this report

13 March 2019

2 Description of the property

Note: The nomination dossier and additional information contain detailed descriptions of this property, its history and its state of conservation. Due to limitations on the length of evaluation reports, this report provides only a short summary of the most relevant aspects.

Description and history

The Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga is a 26 ha cultural landscape located on the slopes of Mount Espinho overlooking the city of Braga in the north of Portugal. The property has three main areas: the park to the southeast of the church at the top of Mount Espinho, a densely wooded area to the west in the lower section of the property, and the sanctuary.

The property includes structural and ornamental features such as walls, stairways, patios, gardens, chapels, a church, fountains and statues. The use of water features is

integral to the composition. The woodland and park have a network of paths; there are also lakes as well as secular buildings.

The sanctuary is an architectural and landscape ensemble which has been developed over a period of over 600 years. The planning of the complex is focused on a long and complex *Via Crucis* (Way of the Cross) which leads up the western slope of Mount Espinho. It features a series of chapels that house sculptural collections evoking the Passion of Christ, as well as fountains, allegorical sculptures and formal gardens. At the top of the *Via Crucis* is the church.

The sanctuary, which has been rebuilt and enlarged over time, is marked by Baroque as well as Rococo and Neo-Classical style architecture. It is surrounded by a woodland which lead pilgrims along successive stairways between various chapels.

The nominated property illustrates a European tradition to create *Sacri Monti* embodying a sacred mount. The property in its current form is developed primarily in a Baroque style and reflects the grand religious narrative typical of the Counter-Reformation.

The Stairway of the Five Senses is the most emblematic Baroque work within the property. It includes walls, steps, fountains, statues and other ornamental elements rich from iconographic, scenographic and symbolic points of view.

Secular buildings or structures include hotels and reception buildings. To the north of the stairway is a water-powered funicular railway providing alternative access up the hill, dating from 1882.

The entire sanctuary is built of granite, and the property still contains evidence of quarrying for construction of the sanctuary. The granite buildings have facades of whitewashed plaster framed by exposed stonework.

The vegetation is primarily deciduous trees, complimented by exotic evergreen species. An essential element of the park is a lake.

The original or historical design of the current landscape is apparently not well understood. ICOMOS requested additional documentation on the historical design, selection of plants and meaning of the main landscape elements. The State Party in February 2019 summarised the historical understanding of the design, based on the existence of early maps, contemporary newspaper reports and books, and records of the Confraternity. Authorship of the design remains uncertain, although an 1883 map documents the form of the design at this time. Original plant selections are also documented, and the planting plan can at least be partly inferred from surviving mature specimens which are recorded as main or remarkable species. None the less, gaps in knowledge about the landscape remain, importantly regarding the meaning of the vegetation and landscape to the sacred place.

The city of Braga dates back to the Roman era, and the Christian Church's presence in the city dates back to the 3rd century CE.

The nominated property was created on Mount Espinho as a sacred mount, as part of a larger movement for the creation of 'new' Jerusalems in various parts of Europe, with the important goal of educating people about Christianity. The property can be understood as a single program to create a place of salvation – built and rebuilt in successive periods of time – which has absorbed social, political and economic circumstances of each period, and artistic manifestations and creations over time. In particular, the current form of the property reflects successive programs implemented by the Archbishops of Braga and the Boards of its owner, the Confraternity of Bom Jesus Do Monte, from the 17th century onwards.

The history of the property can be divided into seven stages: the time of hermitages (14th century–1629); the first sanctuary (1629–1722); the resurrected Jerusalem (*Jerusalem Sancta Restaurada*) (1722–1740); the Yard and the Evangelists (1749–1765); the period of grace and a new temple (1765–1857); from sanctuary to a place of holidays (*Villegiatura*) (1877–1945); and the recent period (1945–present).

The early religious use of Mount Espinho relates to the presence of hermitages on the mount.

The Confraternity of Bom Jesus Do Monte was founded in 1629. It is from this date that Mount Espinho, including its various small heritages, is considered as a Calvary mount (Calvary being the place where Jesus was crucified). The movement of confraternities, or council fathers, was related to the Catholic Church's reaction to the Protestant Reformation. The movement included a vigorous revitalization of religious sentiment and spirituality.

The Confraternity of Bom Jesus Do Monte rebuilt the hermitages at Mount Espinho during the second stage and designed major building works that would transform the mount into a sanctuary, including pilgrims' barracks and the first chapels in small niches, alluding to the Passion of Christ, connected by a distinctive path created in the woods.

The third stage, from 1722 to 1740, saw the construction of a portico, eight chapels, fountains, the Stairway of the Five Senses and a circular-shaped church (since replaced). The path of the *Via Crucis* was also regularized. The new church and chapels were completed in 1725 and four additional chapels were designed.

The stage beginning in 1749 saw the construction of accommodation houses for chaplains, pilgrims' hostels, new statues and a chapel. This stage is noted for the construction of the Yard of the Evangelists, which was completed in 1765. It evokes the period following the death of Christ, distinguishing the sanctuary of Braga from most versions of the *Via Crucis*. In many ways it contributes to the complexity and completeness of the *Via Crucis*.

This period highlights the important involvement of visitors to the sanctuary, of worshippers of the Holy Cross and of members of the Confraternity. Their contributions of alms and donations were extremely important for construction, conservation and liturgical activity.

The current church was built between 1784 and 1811 to replace the earlier circular-shaped structure, although the interior was not completed until 1857. Several other works were completed during this, the fifth stage, including the Stairway of the Virtues and several chapels.

The funicular railway was completed in 1882, during the sixth stage (1877–1945), providing an alternative access up the mount. Some elements were in a poor state of repair, and a major reconstruction of the sanctuary was undertaken in this period. At the same time, the pilgrims' barracks began to evolve into hotels. These developments reflected the transformation of the property from a place of pilgrimage to *Villegiatura*, a place which also accommodated tourism.

The park was constructed towards the end of the 19th century, involving intense planting of tree and shrub species, the development of the lake and the creation of several pathways. Additional chapels were built in the years after 1884, replacing earlier versions. Other small changes were made during the early part of the 20th century.

The property has been managed throughout its entire history by the Confraternity. In 1998 a master plan was commissioned and has been implemented since that time. The hotels have been the subject of significant renovation works, and conservation and restoration works have been conducted on many chapels, fountains, works of art and stairways. In recent years the number of visitors has significantly increased, requiring greater management of vehicular circulation and parking.

Boundaries

The nominated property has an area of 26 ha, and a buffer zone of 232 ha.

The nominated property's boundary incorporates all the attributes of the proposed Outstanding Universal Value and is well defined, generally following the perimeter road. It broadly corresponds to the 1883 sanctuary boundary. The boundary excludes a part of the sacred mount on the north side. The excluded area has a luxury hotel with intensive tourism activities, and a Carmelite convent. ICOMOS considers these exclusions are justified.

The buffer zone provides adequate protection for the nominated property, especially from development encroachment, and it is generally well defined, following public roads as well as the walls of private properties, forest paths, and a small river which defines the entire eastern part of the buffer zone.

State of conservation

Some elements were in a poor state of repair in the 1880s and a major reconstruction of the sanctuary was undertaken, including reconstruction and repair of the Stairway of the Five Senses in 1895.

A major conservation project is currently under way. Due for completion in 2020, it will address six chapels, the church's interior and its works of art, and will complete work previously begun on the stairways.

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the state of conservation is generally good. This follows about 20 years of continuous work on the conservation and restoration of the sanctuary (noting that the current project is still to be completed).

The ICOMOS mission notes that there are visible restoration problems on the main Portico and the lower parts of the staircases caused by the continuous, long-term use of thousands of visitors, as well as natural environmental factors. The not-yet restored nine chapels face high moisture problems both on their surfaces and in their interiors. The funicular needs conservation, and the lakeside café is out of order and in a decayed state.

Areas of the park, woodland, gardens and avenue, especially regarding trees and pavements, still require attention. A further phase of work is planned for the future to address these aspects.

Factors affecting the property

Based on the information provided by the State Party and the observations of the ICOMOS technical evaluation mission, ICOMOS considers that the main factors affecting the property are urban expansion/development, fire and visitor pressures.

The sanctuary is located on the outskirts of the city of Braga, at the edge of the urban area but in a generally rural environment. The city has experienced significant urban expansion.

Urban pressure arises regarding expansion of the city around the buffer zone as well as by private building activity inside the buffer zone. Such development includes small and large modern houses (which do not exceed two storeys). In some areas, relatively dense vegetation screens this development. The extensive woodland area also helps to preserve the sanctuary, and the municipal master plan safeguards the area from construction and new roads. The woodland is also classified as a recreational forest area which is managed according to conservation as well as other objectives.

These housing developments have been excluded from the buffer zone in a few instances. On the other hand, other housing areas are included within the buffer zone in order to provide for stronger and more effective control over future changes to these areas.

The existing urban pressure on the surrounding areas resulting from the expansion of the city has not caused any adverse impacts on the nominated property. With regard to building activity within the buffer zone, the associated impacts on the property can be mitigated. Both situations require careful future monitoring.

There are no environmental pressures.

One of the biggest potential risks for the property is fire because of the dense surrounding woodland. Some of the exotic tree species in neighbouring properties and forested areas are also especially dangerous in wildfires.

The Confraternity is vigilant regarding the threat of fire, and firefighting authorities are aware of the importance of the sanctuary and deploy firefighting resources to combat threats when they have arisen. However, there is a realization that greater coordination is required between all stakeholders in the vicinity regarding this threat, including between the two relevant municipalities. Work is underway to improve coordination and planning in order to prevent and fight fires.

The increasing number of visitors to the nominated property has the potential for adverse impacts. This increase relates to religious visitors as well as to cultural tourists. The Confraternity is mindful of the growing number of visitors and has long reconciled the need to manage the property as both a religious place and a cultural destination for tourists. Accordingly, careful management is required for a procedure that has been adapted over time to handle an increasing number of visitors. Further pressure as a result of possible World Heritage inscription may require additional management responses to protect the property.

One additional facility in the nominated property deserves mention, a beverage bar located on a terrace near the exit of the funicular. This facility is not suitable for the current location, and is planned to be removed in the period 2020-2025. ICOMOS requested confirmation of the timetable for removal of the bar in its interim report. The State Party advised in February 2019 that the current commercial lease will be revoked in 2020 and the bar will be returned to the control of the Confraternity. No further details of the timetable were provided.

3 Proposed justification for inscription

Proposed justification

The nominated property is considered by the State Party to be of Outstanding Universal Value as a cultural property for the following reasons:

- The landscape and architectural ensemble of the sanctuary is an integral part of the European project for the creation of *Sacri Monti* promoted by the Council of Trent in the 16th century. It constitutes a sacred mount symbolically recreating the landscape of Christian Jerusalem in order to enable Christians to

experience that holy place. It is a model that has been exported to other parts of the world.

- The sanctuary is an extraordinary example of a sacred mount with an unprecedented monumentality determined by a complete and elaborate narrative of the Passion of Christ. It is outstanding for its architectural and decorative qualities, reflecting the Baroque, its unity in generating a formal and functional harmony, the predominant use of granite for construction, and the impressive set of statues, all set within a lush green park and woodland. The property also reflects technical ingenuity related to structural, mechanical and hydraulic elements, and artistic expression related to the architecture, sculpture and painting.

The nomination refers to the property being 'a manifestation of the artistic and constructive creative genius of man' and 'a masterpiece, resulting from creative genius...' However, the obvious criterion most relevant to such claims – criterion (i) – is not proposed nor is it addressed in the nomination's comparative analysis.

Comparative analysis

The comparative analysis is presented in three parts: in the context of other sacred mounts (pre-alpine mounts) constructed earlier than the nominated property; sacred mounts included in the World Heritage List and Tentative Lists; and other relevant properties within Portugal.

The analysis begins with a distinction between natural mountains which are themselves the objects of veneration, as versus structures built upon mountains being the objects of veneration. This is illustrated as a distinction between Oriental sacred mountains, for example, and the Italian *Sacri Monti*. The analysis also suggests the concepts of *Sacri Monti*, Calvaries and *Viae Crucis* are not clearly differentiated in the literature, and all three may apply to the nominated property.

The State Party's analysis found that there are no similar properties in the Tentative Lists.

The analysis notes that the sacred mount of Varallo in Piedmont (Italy), begun at the end of the 15th century, inaugurated the theme of sacred mounts and paved the way for the expression of religious scenography, which relates to the nominated property.

A comparison is made with the Piedmont and Lombardy sacred mounts (Varallo, Crea, Orta, Varese, Oropa, Ossuccio, Ghiffa, Domodossola and Valperga). The analysis recognizes that the idea of symbolically recreating Jerusalem in Portugal may have originated in other locations, such as in convents, but that the idea of building one on a mount, accessible to a wide range of believers eager to experience the course of Christ's Passion, may have begun with the nominated property. These other representations were created in a space reserved for monks, however, and never achieved the iconographic and architectural complexity of the

nominated property, nor had its impact on the associated landscape.

The pre-alpine mounts are suggested as better comparisons because their steep topography allowed for the re-creation of the experience of climbing the sacred mount in Jerusalem as a 'substitute pilgrimage'. The Varallo sacred mount in Piedmont was the first to be built in the Pre-Reformation period and became a model for later constructions. A number of other sanctuaries with similar characteristics were built in the same pre-alpine territory, especially in the 16th and 17th centuries. With the exception of two examples in Switzerland (Locarno and Brissago), the remaining are Italian sacred mounts which are included in a serial property inscribed on the World Heritage List as the *Sacri Monti* of Piedmont and Lombardy (Italy, 2003, criteria (ii) and (iv)). It is noted the two sacred mounts in Switzerland have previously been recommended by ICOMOS as an extension of the Italian World Heritage property.

The analysis notes that the nominated property has a grand physical and scenic dimension, an architectural monumentality, and a decorative and symbolic richness that make it stand out from the pre-alpine sanctuaries.

In addition to *Sacri Monti* of Piedmont and Lombardy, the comparative analysis considers three other World Heritage properties: Bom Jesus de Congonhas (Brazil, 1985, criteria (i) and (iv)); Historic Town of Banská Štiavnica and the Technical Monuments in its Vicinity (Slovakia, 1993, criteria (iv) and (v)); and Kalwaria Zebrzydowska: the Mannerist Architectural and Park Landscape Complex and Pilgrimage Park (Poland, 1999, criteria (ii) and (iv)). Apart from brief factual information, the nomination does not provide conclusive comparisons to establish why the nominated property should also be included in the World Heritage List.

The nomination quotes an analysis of sacred mounts to conclude that the nominated property is 'the most elaborate example of the sacred mounts of the Catholic world'. In yet another quoted analysis, it states 'the sacred mount of Braga offers us, without a doubt, the most perfect sanctuary built by Christianity...'

The analysis notes the various and recurring references to the property as a model for the creation of other sanctuaries on mounts, particularly in the north of Portugal and in Brazil. Specific mention is made of the nominated property's influence on Bom Jesus de Congonhas in Brazil.

The analysis notes that *Sacri Monti* have spread around Europe, with a large number of examples in Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Spain, France, Hungary, Slovakia, Netherlands and Belgium, as well as in Portugal. To this list might also be added India, with the example of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Goa. No specific comparisons are provided with most of these examples.

With regard to other sanctuaries in Portugal, the analysis asserts that the nominated property reflects a physical expansion and higher formal complexity, particularly the construction of complex stairs, granting the landscape a higher importance, which only happened after the Baroque development of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga. It became a model for later sanctuaries in Portugal.

None the less, in the context of the main Baroque design and physical attributes there is sufficient information to conclude that the property is outstanding compared to sanctuaries in Portugal and Brazil, and has substantially different qualities to the highly important *Sacri Monti* of Piedmont and Lombardy, in particular the Sanctuary of Varallo. Compared to the latter, the nominated property is generally of a later period, is a single property managed by the same institution since 1629, and is characterised by its unity derived from a grand design in an exquisite Baroque style.

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

Criteria under which inscription is proposed

The property is nominated on the basis of cultural criteria (ii) and (iv).

Criterion (ii): *exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the landscape and architectural ensemble of the sanctuary is an integral part of the European project for the creation of *Sacri Monti* promoted by the Council of Trent in the 16th century. It constitutes a sacred mount symbolically recreating the landscape of Christian Jerusalem in order to enable Christians to experience that holy place. It is a model that has been exported to other parts of the world.

ICOMOS requested in its interim report further information on the role of the property as a model exported to other parts of the world, including how its influence is tangibly demonstrated. The State Party replied by referring to scholarly opinion, and by providing additional information about several churches constructed in Goa, India. However, the State Party noted it did not have sufficient information to demonstrate any direct influence. The State Party also provided brief information on the influence within Portugal regarding intangible elements, and to the broad influence of the property on devotion, religious practices and architecture in Brazil.

ICOMOS considers that the documented influence of the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte di Braga appears to have been limited to an important property in Brazil, Bom Jesus de Congonhas, as well as later sanctuaries in Portugal. However, details of this influence and the role of the property as a model for other examples of sanctuaries

in the world are lacking, and overall the interchange does not meet the level of Outstanding Universal Value.

ICOMOS considers that criteria (ii) has not been justified.

Criterion (iv): *be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;*

This criterion is justified by the State Party on the grounds that the sanctuary is an extraordinary example of a sacred mount with an unprecedented monumentality determined by a complete and elaborate narrative of the period in the life of Jesus from his entry to Jerusalem through to his crucifixion (the Passion of Christ). It is outstanding for its architectural and decorative qualities, reflecting the Baroque, its unity generating a formal and functional harmony, the predominant use of granite for construction, the impressive set statues, all set within a lush green park and woodland. The property also reflects technical ingenuity related to structural, mechanical and hydraulic elements, and artistic expression related to the architecture, sculpture and painting.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property is an outstanding example of a landscape and architectural ensemble illustrating the Counter-Reformation in the Catholic Church in Europe. The ensemble is a relatively early, extensive and unified Baroque composition integrating architecture, sculpture, water features and landscape reflecting the elaborate narrative of the Passion of Christ. The creation of such ensembles, symbolic 'new' Jerusalems, was integral to the Counter-Reformation and its efforts to reinvigorate the Catholic faith at a time of challenge from the rise of Protestantism.

However, information on one important aspect, the meaning of the vegetation and landscape to the sacred place, is needed to complete the understanding of the property.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (iv).

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (iv) but that criteria (ii) has not been justified.

Integrity and authenticity

Integrity

The integrity of the nominated property is based on the landscape and architectural ensemble of the sanctuary representing a model of a sacred mount, specifically the landscape of Jerusalem associated with the Passion of Christ, and the need for the property to contain all the attributes necessary to convey the proposed Outstanding Universal Value. Integrity is also a measure of the intactness of the property, and the way major pressures are managed.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property retains all attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value of the property. The historical physical context of the property has remained practically intact up to the present day and, although it combines several stages of evolution, the ensemble has retained its overall integrity.

The essential attributes of the nominated property are generally in good condition. It is noted that a new phase of conservation work is in progress and another is planned for the future, in order to improve the condition of some structures in need of attention and the landscape area. In the latter case, the park and woodland have a number of decaying trees and some invasive plant species which need to be addressed.

The major pressures on the nominated property, urban expansion and visitation, are being adequately managed, however they should continue to be monitored closely. The potential for fire is another major pressure, and while its management is generally satisfactory, improvements are needed, as noted above in the summary of the factors affecting the property.

Authenticity

The authenticity of the nominated property is based on the attributes of its proposed Outstanding Universal Value, which include the location and setting of the sanctuary, its form and design reflecting the symbolic Christian landscape of Jerusalem, its ongoing religious use, the spirit of the property, and the management system based on the long-term management by the Confraternity.

ICOMOS considers that the location of the nominated property on a mount continues as it has through history, and its setting overlooking the city of Braga remains, despite the expansion of the city towards the sanctuary over time. The form and design of the ensemble have evolved over a period of centuries, and there is only a limited understanding what currently remains of the landscape planting's historical design or substance and related meaning. The nominated property otherwise portrays the full, unified and harmonious realization of the symbolic Christian landscape of Jerusalem, based on an overall structure for the sanctuary dating from the 17th century and Baroque style architecture of the 18th century.

The property has been in continuous religious use since its establishment, noting that tourism use has increased in modern times.

The Confraternity of Bom Jesus do Monte has managed the property since 1629, and continues in this role.

ICOMOS considers that the requirements of integrity have been met but the requirements of authenticity have not been met at this stage.

Evaluation of the proposed justification for inscription

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (iv) but does not consider that criteria (ii) has been justified. ICOMOS considers that the requirements of integrity have been met but the requirements of authenticity have not been met at this stage.

Attributes/Features

The attributes of the property are all related to the central theme present in the proposed Outstanding Universal Value – it is a landscape and architectural ensemble constituting a sacred mount symbolically recreating the landscape of Christian Jerusalem and portraying the elaborate narrative of the Passion of Christ, the representation of which can be experienced by visitors.

The hillside location and the built elements define the overall composition. Other structural elements include the stairways, landings, supporting and partition walls, gardens and patios/belvederes. The chapels depict scenes from the Passion and resurrection of Christ and are positioned along the entire *Via Crucis* (Way of the Cross). The church has greater importance in the hierarchy and function of the property, and includes a representation of the Calvary (the site where Jesus was crucified) in the main altar. The hotels were originally barracks for visiting pilgrims.

The ornamental attributes such as fountains and statues play a decisive role in understanding the overall narrative of the sanctuary.

The limited understanding of the original or historical design of the landscape, including the full planting plan, is an issue in the identification of attributes.

While the funicular railway is a more modern element in the property, dating from 1882, it reflects an adaptation as part of continuing religious and other visitation.

The intangible attributes include the religious program and the continuing role of the Confraternity in the management of the property.

ICOMOS considers that the identified attributes contribute to the justification for inscription. However, a more complete and detailed understanding of the historical evolution of the design of the landscape is required, including the selection of plants, as well as alterations to the species and layout of these attributes over time.

4 Conservation measures and monitoring

Conservation measures

The conservation of the nominated property has been the subject of several interventions in the last 20 years. They include major projects such as the Bom Jesus: *Requalificar*

project (2014-2015) and the current Bom Jesus: *Requalificar II* project to be completed in 2020. The latter project involves highly qualified specialists, including, for example, 20 to 40 conservation and other specialists involved in the conservation of the interior of the church. The conservation measures undertaken are part of a structured approach, and to date appear appropriate.

The Confraternity also has an effective maintenance team for the nominated property.

Funding for conservation work has been obtained from a range of sources, including the Confraternity and its commercial hotel entity, European Union programs and public donations.

There are a number of future conservation projects to be undertaken, including those related to the funicular, lakeside café and Hotel do Elevador. In addition, while the Confraternity is making great efforts to address issues with the woodland, some challenges cannot yet be addressed due to a lack of funds.

Monitoring

The Confraternity has a systematic approach to monitoring the nominated property which is structured according to the property's attributes. It provides monitoring indicators and the timeframe for monitoring. While these broad indicators appear generally satisfactory, in the case of the woodland the indicators used are not closely tied to the actual condition of the existing trees.

In addition, it is not clear whether the indicators will be useful in monitoring identified threats such as those arising from urban expansion or development.

ICOMOS considers that while the conservation measures are generally adequate, the lack of funding for some work is of concern. ICOMOS considers the monitoring approach is generally satisfactory; however, the indicators for the woodland should be supplemented to address the actual condition of existing trees, and additional indicators should be developed to address identified threats to the nominated property.

5 Protection and management

Documentation

The Confraternity has an important archive for the nominated property that it has inventoried and restored, and this work is continuing. The nomination notes the urgent need to extend the care taken with bibliographic formats for other types of documents, such as drawings. These records are essential evidence related to the construction and evolution of the property.

The management plan refers to the need to fix the inventory of heritage elements, though no details are provided.

As noted above, the original or historical design of the landscape, including the full planting plan, and its meaning as a sacred place, should be further documented.

Legal protection

The sanctuary (church, stairways, chapels and portico) and the funicular are legally protected as, respectively, a Property of Public Interest and a Monument of Public Interest. In 2017, the procedure was started to extend the classification of the sanctuary to the entire sacred mount including the funicular, and its reclassification as a national monument. This reclassification is likely to take until the latter part of 2019. Nonetheless, all legal provisions regarding the protection of a national monument currently apply to the nominated property.

Heritage protection instruments apply at national and local/municipal levels. National legislation provides protection for the nominated property and its buffer zone.

The key national law is the Framework Law of the Policy and Protection and Valorisation Regime of Cultural Heritage (Law no. 107/2001), and the associated decree on defining the procedure for classification of immovable cultural property, the regime for protection zones and the establishment of the rules for drawing up the detailed safeguard plan (Decree – law no. 309/2009). Territorial laws include the Framework Law of Public Policy on Land, Territorial Planning and Urban Planning (Law no. 31/2014) and Decree (Law no. 80/2015).

At the municipal level there is also the Municipal Master Plan of Braga (Notice no. 11741/2015), which has clear rules for the protection of the nominated property and buffer zone.

Management system

The Confraternity is responsible for the management of the nominated property, including through the commercial entity controlled by the Diocese and Confraternity which is responsible for the hotels.

The Confraternity has an administrative board which is the governing, executive and administrative body, presided by a Judge-President who is appointed by the Archbishop Primate. The Judge-President together with a Vice-President are responsible for carrying out construction, maintenance and repair works.

The Confraternity has a permanent maintenance team including those with special skills such as gardeners, electricians and plumbers. It contracts specialized services for conservation and restoration works at the property, including for built elements as well as related to trees within the property.

The Confraternity has collaborative partnerships with two companies which specialize in heritage conservation and restoration, to provide advisory and training work.

The implemented management plan includes baseline information about the proposed Outstanding Universal Value, authenticity and integrity of the nominated property. Protection mechanisms are explained, along with the governance model. The overall objectives of the plan, specific objectives for the sanctuary, park and woodland, associated identification, conservation, valorisation, and rehabilitation actions and associated tasks are included. Timeframes are provided, along with a plan of action and monitoring plan.

The limited understanding of the attributes associated with the original or historical design of the landscape, including the full planting plan, limits the satisfactory management of the landscape, which should be guided by this understanding.

It is noted that the action plan does not include all conservation, restoration and rehabilitation works for the property, such as works in progress as well as those being planned. The action plan needs to be updated and supported by a more comprehensive assessment of needs for the attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

With regard to risk management, the greatest risk arises from fire, especially given the surrounding dense area of woodland. The Confraternity has arrangements in place for firefighting, and local firefighting authorities are aware of the importance of the property and have resources in place to fight fires. However, it is understood that better institutional links between Braga and an adjacent municipality – Guimarães – and other stakeholders are required to provide articulated solutions to the problem of fire prevention and firefighting.

Visitor management

The action plan within the management plan includes an action related to the preparation of a cultural and tourist program. This includes the promotion of conferences, production of visitor guides, training for tour guides, creation of information centres and development of signage.

The Confraternity is very aware of the growing number of visitors to the nominated property, and of its use for both religious activities and tourism. In recent years particular management measures have been taken to control vehicular access and parking. The Confraternity is aware that revised strategies and plans may be required in response to further increases in visitors associated with the possible inclusion of the property in the World Heritage List.

ICOMOS recommends management planning be supplemented in order to control visitors, including within the park.

The Confraternity is also considering the creation of a new information centre. The current centre serves both religious visitors as well as tourists, and there is also an exhibition regarding the significance of the property and the World Heritage nomination.

Community involvement

The Confraternity has pursued a policy of conservation and valorisation of the nominated property. There has been an intense focus on mobilizing the local community, including both the citizens and the institutions of Braga. There is a strong sense of identity in the community with the sanctuary. As a result there has been significant support for the nomination of the property.

As noted above, an exhibition at the property is focused on the World Heritage nomination.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the protection and management of nominated property

The protection and management of the nominated property is generally good, including the existing documentation archive, legal protection and management system. However, as a cultural landscape, a more complete understanding of landscape attributes of the property associated with the original or historical design and their meaning is required.

In the case of documentation, the property inventory needs to be improved along with the archiving of the full range of documents related to the property.

Regarding management, institutional links between the two municipalities and other stakeholders need to be improved regarding fire prevention and firefighting.

The action plan needs to be updated to include all current and planned works, supported by a more comprehensive assessment of needs for the attributes that support the proposed Outstanding Universal Value.

Visitation to the property and related potential impacts should be closely monitored, especially if the number of visitors increases in the event the property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. Management planning should be supplemented in order to control visitors, including within the park.

ICOMOS considers that requirements for protection and management of the buildings are not fully adequate at this stage. As a cultural landscape, the limited understanding of the landscape's attributes related to the original or historical design and their meaning is not satisfactory. In addition, improvements should be made regarding documentation, institutional arrangements for fire prevention and firefighting, and monitoring of visitor impacts.

6 Conclusion

ICOMOS considers that the comparative analysis for Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga justifies consideration of this property for the World Heritage List. ICOMOS considers that the nominated property meets criterion (iv) but does not consider that criteria (ii) has been justified. The requirements of integrity have been met

but the requirements of authenticity have not been met at this stage.

The requirements for protection and management of the buildings are not fully adequate at this stage. In the case of the landscape, the apparent limited understanding of the landscape's attributes related to the original or historical design and their meaning is not satisfactory. In addition, improvements should be made regarding documentation, institutional arrangements for fire prevention and firefighting, and monitoring of visitor impacts.

The proposed boundaries and buffer zone are adequate.

The state of conservation is generally good following about 20 years of continuous work on the conservation and restoration of the property. A current major conservation project is still to be completed, and some areas of the property still require attention. A further phase of work is planned for the future; funding should be secured to undertake this work in a timely manner.

The main factors affecting the property are urban expansion/development, fire and visitor pressures.

With regard to monitoring, the overall approach is generally satisfactory; however, additional indicators are required regarding the woodland and to address threats to the property.

7 Recommendations

Recommendations with respect to inscription

ICOMOS recommends that the nomination of Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga, Portugal, be **referred back** to the State Party to allow it to:

- Complete a landscape study which shows the history of the woodland, parks and gardens of the sacred mount through a series of maps. This study should throw as much light as possible on the meaning of the vegetation and landscape to the sacred place,
- Develop a more complete and detailed understanding of the selection of plants, as well as alterations to the species and layout of these attributes over time, supplementing the landscape attributes based on this work, and using this information to update management planning for the landscape.

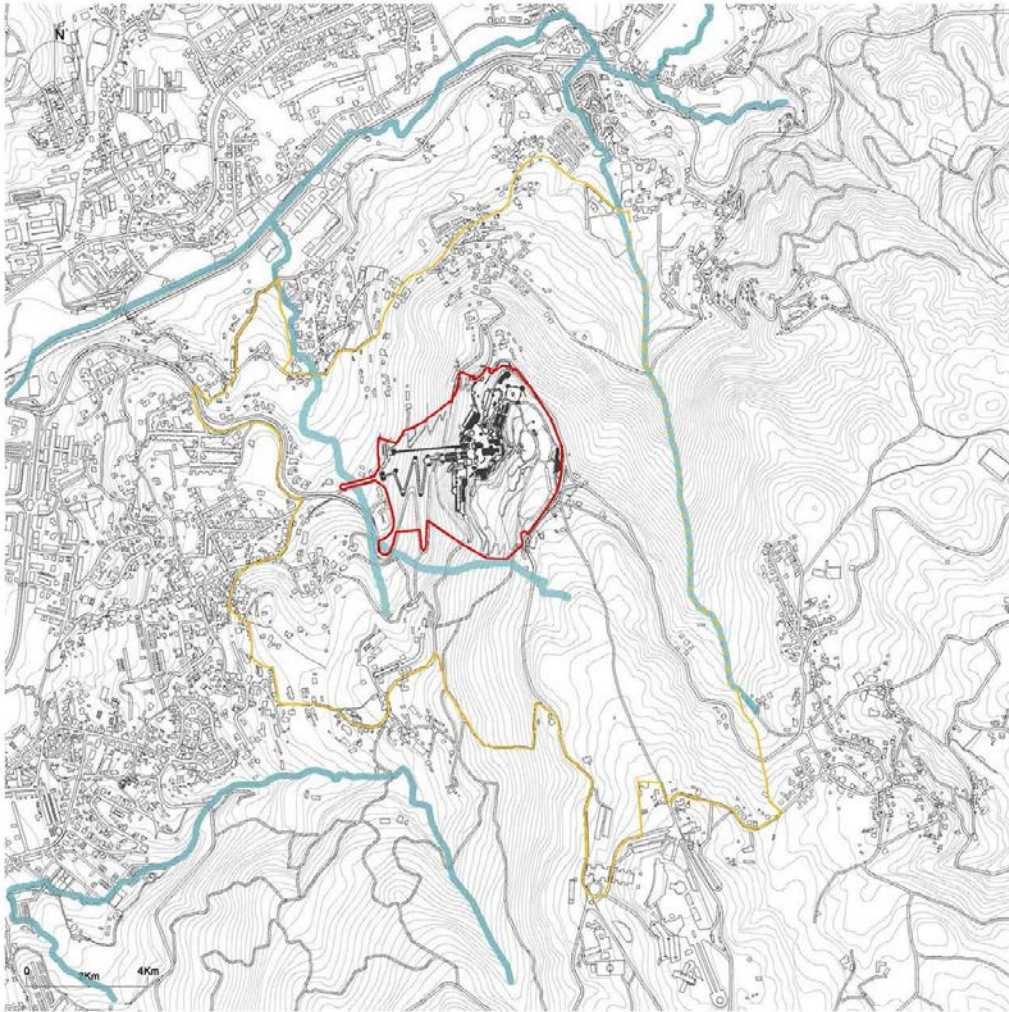
Additional recommendations

ICOMOS further recommends that the State Party give consideration to the following:

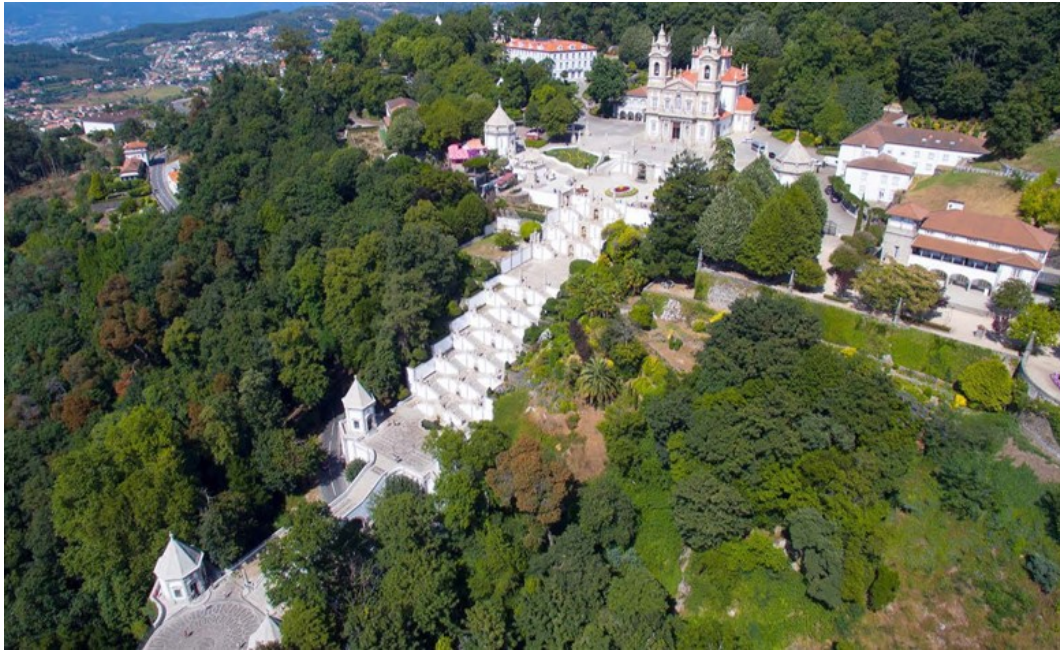
- a) Improving the documentation by fixing the inventory of heritage elements and archiving the full range of documents, improving the action plan to include all works currently in progress and those being planned, and improving the institutional links between the two municipalities

and other stakeholders for fire prevention and firefighting,

- b) Finalizing the process of classifying the whole site as a National Monument,
- c) Securing funding to undertake future planned conservation works in a timely manner,
- d) Supplementing management planning in order to control visitors, including within the park,
- e) Developing additional monitoring indicators to address identified threats to the property (including its woodland), and monitoring and addressing potential threats to the property such urban expansion/development and visitor impacts,
- f) Providing a firm and more precise commitment about the timing for the removal of the terrace bar;



Map showing the boundaries of the nominated property



Aerial view



The Circular patio and the Stairway of the Five Senses



The Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte



The Main Altar