



The Transport and Communications Museum (MTC) is located in the 19th century, neo-classical New Customs House Building of Porto (with a renovation project under the supervision of the architect Eduardo Souto de Moura - Pritzker Prize 2011).

Historically, a customs house promoted “links”, constructing a “world wide web” of contacts, cultural influences and knowledge. So does the Museum: it challenges the visitor to experiment and reflect upon the many forms of communication that Man establishes in order to interact with others and with his surroundings: transport; communication (in its anthropological dimension as well as the gadgets which amplify it); customs history as a “house of communication”.

The Museum is under the tutelage of the Association for the Transport and Communications Museum (AMTC, a not-for-profit organisation of public utility, set up in 1992).



The Museum building | Porto Customs House ©Luís Ferreira Alves

THE EXHIBITIONS

The Museum programme is brought to life through the exhibitions which aim to promote awareness, involvement and proactive participation of the public in the multi-faceted dimensions of its themes.

1. History of the Automobile

“The automobile in space and time” exhibition: the historical evolution of the automobile from its first appearance to the present day. The themes range from the evolution of important brands in the history of this means of transport and the Portuguese car industry to road prevention and safety, the evolution of infrastructures for traffic support, urban mobility, new energies and the future of the car.



The automobile in space and time © Luís Ferreira Alves



The automobile in space and time © Arquivo AMTC



The automobile in space and time © Arquivo AMTC

Museum centre “The engine of the Republic: Presidential cars”: project developed in partnership with the Museum of the Presidency of the Republic which addresses the history of the 104 years of the Portuguese Republic, also illustrated through the history and technological evolution of the automobiles that have been at the service of the Presidents of the Portuguese Republic throughout this period.



The engine of the Republic: Presidential cars ©Arquivo AMTC



The engine of the Republic: Presidential cars ©Arquivo AMTC



The engine of the Republic: Presidential cars ©Arquivo AMTC

2. Communications

“Communicate” exhibition: Communicating is one of the most complex and interesting phenomena of human activity. The Customs House (the building that houses the Museum) as a “House of Communication” (once a point of departure and arrival of goods) is now a meeting place for the exchange of ideas, for planning and building the future and a gateway into several sites classified as World Cultural Heritage along the Hydrographic Basin of the Douro (Portugal and Spain); human communication through the five senses, communication in the animal world, communication through colours, secret codes that both facilitate and create barriers to communication, social networks, the world of the media (press, radio and television) in predominantly hands-on spaces which invite a public spanning several generations to construct and transform. The communication of science in some of its multifaceted realities (genetics, the environment, energy) and many other contents bring this project to life, possible through an intense strategy of partnerships, constantly updated with each visitor.



Communicate ©Arquivo AMTC



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