





Regional Conference Helix 2016 in Geopark Naturtejo Participation in the summer course on geological heritage of the University of Cantabria Annual Meeting of the Mines Route and Portuguese Sites of Geological Interest Geopark and partners in National Agriculture Fair of Santarém

GEOPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - E-MAGAZINE







Geo-histories of our places and people: Toulões

Toulões is a plan of Pebble and Rosemary. A white village nestled under the green shade of Murracha, from which flow languid the streams of Aravil, Toula and Toulica. There are no valleys, only the butchered mountain sheds to give step to a Plateau which soaks in the rain, or takes cover of golden herb against the diabolical summer heat. Magnificent oak and cork oak forests drape the village, once refuges of ravening wolves that are now legend remembered as the symbol of Toulões. On the steppes, once the reason for the origin of this work land, we found today one of its greatest riches: 125 bird species pass by or nest here, including the Little Bustard, Black-bellied-sandgrouse or the Stone Curlew. This is a paradise for bird watching waiting to be discovered. The other treasure, not less known, is its mining past. Sandy-conglomerate and clayey formations that have accumulated here over the last 10,000,000 years and before the fitting of course of the Tagus, are very important to tell the geological history of the Naturtejo Geopark, particularly the sedimentary filling steps resulting from the lifting of the Iberian Mountain Range, and erosion of the quartzitic ridges of Penha Garcia. Is great to understand that, as we ascend to the 580m of the Murracha mountain, we're finding for the top of a large sedimentary package here defined as the Group of the Murracha, quartzite blocks progressively larger resulting from erosion and transport by huge flash floods from the mountains of Penha Garcia, located a few kilometers North. In these deposits accumulated also important metals such as gold, and it is not surprising that the Romans have been around in time to the Idanha-a-Velha was a great mining centre. The toponym Mine, located North- Northwest of the picturesque place of Carrical, witnesses the presence of a great Roman gold mine. The conheiras abound marking the treasure, only partly taken from here. Other traces still most impressive may be revealed in the future. The abundant tailing piles mark the treasure, only partly taken from here. Other traces still most impressive may be revealed in the future.

The most obvious tourism ingredient is the Murracha mountain. The steep slopes end on an almost flat ridge of fascinating landscapes. To the South the overgrown and the pine forests dominate, to the North the infamous eucalyptus, in the valleys small oak fitted where one of the Portuguese botanical jewels live, the rosa-albardeira (Paeonia broteri). It is a small plant, but that doesn't pass unnoticed when its red or pink flower, fleshy petals, decides to bloom, although for a short time. Sprinkled with dew is a flower which fills the heart, even the fewer practitioners naturalistic. The species Paeonia broteri is endemic to the Iberian Peninsula. Its name pays homage to the great Portuguese botanist of the early 20th century, Avelar Brotero, who described in his work 1800 species of Portuguese plants. This Botanical jewel, perfectly adapted to these types of soils, rich in quartz, in Serra da Murracha, can bring Toulões to the map of contemporary Portugal. For now, is the theme of a Festival that, in its first edition, attracted hundreds of people to the village and the mountain to see the flowering of the rosa-albardeira.

But there are other Nations that promote themselves through their Peonies, being the National Taiwan plant or of the State of Indiana, USA. This is an opportunity for Toulões to relate to other regions of the world and become a "Peony village ". A garden of peonies, including the approximately 40 species of peonies in the world and the many varieties that grow and have high economic and ornamental values can be a factor in the tourist attraction to Toulões. Local conditions could result in flower business that has great expression in Holland, with the sale of 50,000,000 bulbs per year, reaching 15 Euros per unit for some varieties. Then, don't forget the jewelry Toulões guards to reveal in the form of nature tourism, taking advantage of the network of paths that cross the territory and traverses the mountain range, perfect for mountain biking, for the equestrian, for the all-terrain, for ballooning, ... So much to discover in an atmosphere of tranquility flavored with Rosemary. May the Rosas-albardeira be immaculate white?

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Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES





1 June - Olympics of Trilobites in the village of Penamacor. The municipality of Penamacor organized the international children's day and invited various entities for recreational and educational activities boost outdoors. The recipients were 158 pre-school school students and junior high school education from the municipality of Penamacor, accompanied by 12 teachers. The Naturtejo Geopark was one of the entities invited to organize activities, "The Olympics of the Trilobites", which consisted of 3 games created especially for this day full of fun for the little ones.

Therefore, the students were able to experience "The Trilobites Fishing"; the memory game "Animals of the Paleozoic" and also a route in blindfolded, in which they were guided by colleagues until they reach the "Goal of the Trilobites". The kids were divided by teams and dressed in an outfit with the mascot of the UNESCO Naturtejo Geopark, Judite the Trilobite, this equipment built from bags produced and offered by local company "Ibersaco". The monitors for these activities were Manuela Catana, Mariana Vilas Boas, Sérgio Ribeiro and Hugo Oliveira.

1 June – International Children's day in Oleiros. Many games and activities took place in the Garden Hall for children and young people in the municipality of Oleiros, under the Festival of the Landscape of the Naturtejo Geopark.

1 June - Americans in the morning of stripping. The tour operator CATAVINO brought a nice American couple to the Geopark to learn the artisanal process of gathering of cork oaks. This activity was developed in Malpica do Tejo during the normal working process. Hugo Oliveira gave an explanation of the Cork oak and cork.



2 to 5 June – Templar Days in Castelo Branco. During four days the castle of Castelo Branco was filled with ladies and Knights, artisans, small taverns, banquets, camps, taverns and animations that transported thousands of visitors to the medieval times, to the Templar origins of the city of Castelo Branco. This year we highlight a greater involvement of the community that lives on the streets in the historic centre of the city and wanted to be part of this journey through time. Guided tours by the heritage of Castelo Branco reveal the history and the most forgotten corners. This initiative of the municipality of Castelo Branco was integrated in the Landscape Festival this year.

3 June - Field work for the classification of the Fraga da Água D'Alta. The technicians of the company Abastena and Carlos Neto de Carvalho, representing the Naturtejo Geopark, coordinated by the botanist Prof. António Pereira Coutinho, developed work of inventory of plant species at the geomonument Fraga da Água D'Alta. According to the expert around of 100 species of plants can be found in this small area, some of which with great interest for conservation. It should be noted that Abastena, in celebration of its 50 years, adopted the geomonument in order to actively contribute for its promotion and protection. This work aims to carry Fraga da Água D'Alta to classification as a Natural Monument.

3 June – Fossils Workshop. The workshop "Fossils as you like" was promoted to 20 students and two teachers of the pre-school education group Ribeiro Sanches, Penamacor. In this workshop, students were able to recognize the main phenomena associated with the process of fossilization, observed samples of fossils of animals and plants and even decorated their own fossil replica made with plaster. The monitors of this activity were Mariana Vilas Boas and Hugo Oliveira.



4 June - BPI sports group visit the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia. A group of 50 senior elements of the Sports Group of the BPI, from Lisbon, traveled to Penha Garcia where took a guided tour of the "Fossils Trail". The visit included the Historic Heritage of the village and the Natural and historic-cultural Heritage of the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. The monitors of this visit were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.

3 to 5 June - Medieval market of Oleiros. The streets of Oleiros became colorful and fun to this Medieval Market, whose motto was D. Nuno Álvares Pereira, the Holy Constable, from the 14th century, with origins in the region. The usual market "The Backyards in the squares of pine forest", with products from the traditional vegetable gardens of Oleiros, passed to the Republic Square, where once the merchants met. Some restaurants also have joined this recreation and presented medieval flavors: grilled rabbit, Moorish chicken, salad of blackeyed peas with fried sardines and matzo, medieval trout with country apple, Dominican soup, green beans with sausage from the Wood, roasted goat meat with grain and vegetables, Partridge chicken soup or the sweet D. Afonso II - The Fat.

5 June – Ear Festival reborn in Estreito. This is a pretty old popular tradition that is being reclaimed by the inhabitants of the Estreito, within the Landscape Festival. Held a great gathering with a pic-nic to which all contribute, with music and animation in Pêro Beques source, where Oleiros stream begins.

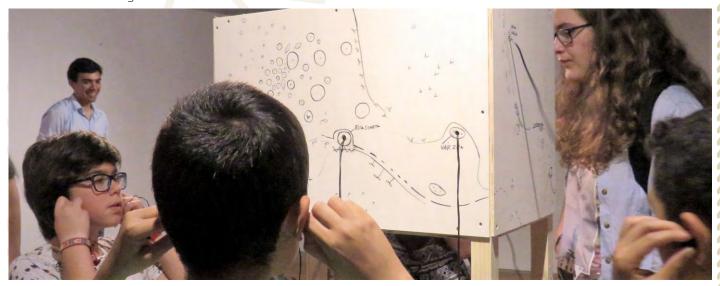


5 June – Geopark and Geoproducts in the National Agriculture Fair of Santarém. Naturtejo Geopark was in the National Agriculture Fair with Joana Rodrigues, promoting its territory and Geoproducts, in the space of the National Rural Network, in the Hall Pleasure of Taste, where the best Portuguese agro-food products were highlighted.

The fair, which ran from 4 to 12 June at the National Exhibition Centre and Agricultural Markets, in Santarém, is the most important showcase of agricultural sector in Portugal, where about of 1000 exhibitors participate, including 180,000 visitors annually, being an important contact and event business.

Celebrating the World Environment Day, on June 5, the Geocompany Aromas do Valado took aromatic landscapes of Naturtejo Geopark and presented their products, manufactured from the distillation of essential oils of aromatic and medicinal plants native to the area, used in the production of perfumes, cosmetics and hygiene products, with organic certification.

On this World Environment Day was also present the Arouca Geopark, the Paúl do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve and the Biological Park of Vinhais.



9 June – Rivers Project originates documentary and exhibition on the Ponsul River. In this session participated 140 students from the Schools Group José Silvestre Ribeiro and the Professional School (EPRIN), accompanied by 10 teachers, who attended the presentation of the final products of the Project: The documentary "We are the Ponsul River" and the artistic/exhibition "Sense (s) of the Ponsul".

This exhibition is held in the Centro Cultural Raiano (CCR), in Idanha-a-Nova, the headquarters of the Geopark. The two productions are a result of a partnership established between the Educational Service of the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, the educational service of the Naturtejo Geopark, the local company "Nature Fields", the local Cultural Association "Marafona Encantada" and the local company "Film'Arte productions". The artistic installation coordinated by "Cultural Association Marafona Encantada" and designed by Diogo deCalle and Marlon Fortes, can be visited in the CCR to 31 August 2016. It is interactive and transports to the showroom a bit of atmosphere and sensations experienced in Ponsul and its banks, calling attention to the problem of waste. The documentary has two versions, one with duration of 40 minutes and another more synthetic lasts 7 minutes, having been produced by "Film'Arte productions". In the two versions of the documentary were included school classes (pre-field), the two fieldtrips, the various stages of creation of the artistic installation and interviews to monitors and some participants of the project. Implemented by the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova from the academic year 2012/2013, the Rivers Project has involved the school community on adoption and motorization of sections of the Ponsul, raising awareness for the need for protection of riparian ecosystems. In the last issue seven sections were adopted, of 500 meters each, for a total of seven classes, one from the professional school (EPRIN) and six of the Group of Schools José Silvestre Ribeiro, of Idanha-a-Nova. The Project Rivers monitors were Manuela Catana, Arlindo Cardosa and Hugo Oliveira.

11 to 12 June - Lamb Festival in Escalos de Baixo. This year the Lamb Festival moved to Largo do Chafariz in Escalos de Baixo with a vast majority of local exhibitors. The traditional lamb dishes have delighted visitors but there was also a lot of musical entertainment and a pedestrian path by the parish. The Festival of the Lamb of Escalos de Baixo joined this year the Landscape Festival of Naturtejo Geopark.



11 June - Penha Garcia Radical Rails close another edition of the Landscape Festival. It was a different day for a group of 25 adventurers, promoted by the house of the Sporting Clube de Portugal of Penha Garcia, which began with a walk through the Fossils Trail, to the discovery of the ancient ocean that existed about 500,000,000 years ago and the primitive organisms that lived there, accompanied by Hugo Oliveira and André Nunes. After lunch all learned some security rules about climbing and defied the mighty quartzite rocks.

12 June – Bread-soups Festival in Segura. The village of Segura was the scene of a big party that celebrated Bread-soups, a traditional dish of the whole region. From the famous Fish Bread-soup, to the Kale Bread-soup, through the potato bread-soup to the bean bread-soup and even the cold bread-soup! Were tasted by the participants 800 liters of bread-soup, prepared in 33 delicious traditional recipes! The jury chose as winner the Ezekiel Pinheiro's Fish Bread-soup, from Rosmaninhal, followed by the Parish Council of Ladoeiro in second place and Traditions of Zebreira in third place.



12 June – "Nature without borders" in Serra da Malcata. Dozens of participants went through the Serra da Malcata, in an edition of the municipality of Penamacor and supported on the tour by the Naturtejo Geopark. This way, full of nature and views over the Iberian Upland, ended another Landscape Festival of Naturtejo Geopark, which celebrates the European Geoparks week.

13 and 14 June – Tour by the Geopark with German operator Marco Polo. The German operator Marco Polo brought a group of 24 tourists from Germany to visit the Naturtejo Geopark trough Nature Experiences. So, they ride on mountain bike from Monsanto to the dam of Idanha-a-Nova passing by Idanha-a-Velha and did canoeing in the Tagus river, in Vila Velha de Ródão, as well as mining in the Roman gold mine of Conhal Arneiro. These activities were accompanied by Nuno Coelho from Incentivos Outdoor, an associated company of Naturtejo Geopark.

14 to 19 June - World Crossbow Championship Idanha-a-Nova hosted the exciting World Crossbow Championship, with the participation of a hundred of the best international shooters.

The athletes came from all over the world, including countries like England, Germany, India, Brazil, Sweden or Australia, where the Crossbow shooting has a strong expression.

"A Championship like this had not been held for seven years. It was a magnificent event that dazzled everyone involved", said Francisco Camacho, President of the Federation of Archers and Crossbowmen of Portugal, organizer of the competition with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Association Raia Aventura. The competition took place on Monte Trigo, in complete harmony with nature, where three-dimensional figures of animals have been integrated to create simulated hunting circuits.

These were days of fierce competition, but did not prevent the participants to had the opportunity to "discover some of the possibilities of Idanha-a-Nova, a municipality that besides being Creative City by UNESCO, in the area of music, integrates the UNESCO Naturtejo Geopark and includes the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of the Tejo Internacional, "said Armindo Jacinto, Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova.

Before saying goodbye, the Mayor invited the athletes to return to the territory, in leisure or in competition, to "find out in more detail the potential of the municipality and the region." Nuno Mateus, from the Association Raia Aventura, also made a very positive balance of the World Crossbow Championship, emphasizing the praise of the participants to the conditions of excellence of Monte Trigo to practice the sport.



14 to 17 June - Summer School of the University of Cantabria (Spain) on geological heritage The University of Cantabria, Spain, organized the summer course "GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE, RESOURCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT", in Soto de la Marina, Geological Park of Costa Quebrada.

14 to 17 June - Summer School of the University of Cantabria (Spain) on geological heritage The University of Cantabria, Spain, organized the summer course "GEOLOGICAL HERITAGE, RESOURCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT", in Soto de la Marina, Geological Park of Costa Quebrada. The course intended to show to the participants, mostly local teachers, the methods and tools of geological heritage evaluation and examples of exploitation as teaching resource, especially in basic and secondary education levels. Through applications to the case of "Geological Park of Costa Quebrada", in Cantabria, Northern Spain, with the additional aim to contribute to its protection and promotion. The course included lectures and discussions, with participation of specialists, as well as tours in two Costa Quebrada itineraries of great interest from the point of view of geological heritage, with observation of the main aspects, and formulating proposals for the promotion, protection and educational use. The course had a huge membership of local teachers, as was recognized by the Board of Education, Culture and Sport from the Government of Cantabria for training. The experts present included some personalities from the world of geoconservation in Spain, as Antonio Cendrero Uceda and Luis Carcavilla, as well as the presentation of examples of good practice in global geoparks of UNESCO of the Basque Coast and Naturtejo, by Asier Hilario and Carlos Neto de Carvalho, respectively. These experts could participate actively in the round table coordinated by Viola Bruschi, as well as in the trails.



24 to 26 June – Geopark in the III Fair Flavors of the Tagus River in Vila Velha de Ródão. The Naturtejo Geopark was once again present in its territory, with a promotional stand in the biggest event of Vila Velha de Ródão. This is a thematic Festival dedicated to the local economic activities and, particularly, spread good quality gastronomy offer of Vila Velha de Ródão and making cultural connection of this land and its people to the great Tejo River. There was also the opportunity to inaugurate the first phase of the development of the geosite and archaeosite of Foz do Enxarrique, currently an excellent viewpoint over the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão.

Should also be emphasized that Vila Velha de Rodão attracted the presence of about 120 exhibitors of high quality, highlighting the best made and produces in the region representing multiple activities, services, products related to the Tejo and the multiple experiences that this river awakens.

At the official opening, the June 26, Luís Pereira, President of the municipality of V. V. Ródão, stated that "the Fair Flavors of the Tagus River is today an area of affirmation of our strategic vision for the development of the territory, the ability and the value of our economic agents who, in recent years, here have come to invest, generate wealth and create jobs."

The Town Council has been implementing development strategies based on sectors such as tourism, industry and agriculture. This year, for the first time was present a stand where was represented the tourist investment that has been made focusing so the existing and available supply in the municipality.

Luís Pereira, in this regard, underlined in his speech the challenge of claiming the municipality as a tourism destination by stating that "the tourism sector in the municipality suffered profound changes and today we have a set of hotel units that respond with an above-average quality level. Affirm the municipality as a tourist destination of nature, culture and heritage, is today a challenge won witch in addition to the investments already made, the ones that are ongoing, will constitute a significant strengthening, such as the environmental requalification of Enxarrique stream."

More than 32.000 people visited the Fair this year, which was one of the best editions ever surpassing all expectations. The Stand of the Naturtejo Geopark was promoted by Sérgio Ribeiro, Joana Rodrigues and Alice Marcelo.

29 to 30 June – Marco Polo again in the Geopark. The German tour operator Marco Polo brought another group of 24 adventurers to discover the nature of Naturtejo Geopark. They performed a MTB ride between the granites of Monsanto and the dam of Idanha-a-Nova, did canoeing in Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão and searched for gold in the Roman mine of Conhal Arneiro.

29 June to 1 July - Regional Helix 2016 Helix organized by the School of Technology of Castelo Branco. The International Conference Regional Helix 2016 took place in the School of Technology of the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco for the various dimensions that are associated to the concept of "TripleHelix", giving a special attention to the potential that involves the promotion of competitiveness of peripheral territories with structural development problems. It was discussed a wide range of topics with national and international speakers, who visited also the historical village of Idanha-a-Velha in the territory of Naturtejo Geopark. The Naturtejo Geopark was partner in this initiative, and even submitted a paper co-authored between teachers of the School of Technology and the geologists of the Naturtejo Geopark to roll out automatic counters on the hiking routes of the territory and to the count of visitors in real time.



30 June to 1 July - Annual Meeting of the Mines Route and Portuguese Sites of Geological Interest. The VII annual meeting of partners of the Mines Route took place in Porto, in a joint organization between the Faculty of Engineering, the Institute of Engineering and the Faculty of Sciences. The event, which annually gathers the representatives of all the partners, included practical workshops, conferences, debates, the presentation of the activities of the ROTEIRO DE MINAS to 2016/2017, the presentation of new partners, a cultural moment, and exhibition space for partners, allowing to exchange experiences and the establishment of partnerships between entities.

Also took place the opening of the exhibition "rocks and minerals from the North of Portugal", organized by the partners in the North region, in the library of the College of Engineering, and a tour by the Romantic Route of Porto and Geological Tour of Foz. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by Joana Rodrigues and Mariana Vilas Boas, who presented a promotional stand with geoactivities inviting the partners to discover the Geopark.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

24 June – (RTP – Portugal em Directo) – Story about Ichnia 2016 "4th International Congress of Iconology"

Newspapers & www

- 1 June (Povo da Beira) Landscape Festival back to Naturtejo Geopark with lots of nature and local products
- 1 June (Povo da Beira) Researchers from all over the world gathered at the Management School
- 3 June (Reconquista) Naturtejo: Geopark's products in Santarém Fair
- 9 June (Reconquista) Rosmaninhal organized Festival Lamb was the tone for two days of celebration
- 9 June (Reconquista) Lamb's Fair flavors in Escalos
- 9 June (Reconquista) 2nd Bread-soups Festival in Segura
- 9 June (Reconquista) Archeology in Proença-a-Nova registrations open
- 15 June (Povo da Beira) Naturtejo Geopark in the National Agriculture Fair of Santarém
- 15 June (Gazeta do Interior) Rivers Project shows documentary and exhibition
- 16 June (Reconquista) Geopark shows products in Santarém
- 16 June (Reconquista) Record participation in the Bread-soups Festival
- 16 June (Reconquista) Rivers Project shows Ponsul
- 22 June (Gazeta do Interior) A hundred athletes involved in competition-Idanha receives World Crossbow Championship
- 22 June (Povo da Beira) A hundred athletes involved in competition-Idanha receives World Crossbow Championship
- 22 June (Reconquista) A hundred athletes involved in competition-Idanha receives World Crossbow Championship

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES

- DIONISIO, R.P., MARQUES, P.J.C., SILVA, F.P., RODRIGUES, J. & NETO DE CARVALHO, C. – Real-Time tourists counting and tracking system for management of nature trails in Naturtejo Global Geopark (Portugal). Regional Helix 2016, Castelo Branco, 11pp..

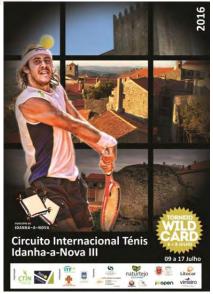
PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



- Bi-annual Cultural Agenda Geopark Naturtejo (in Portuguese language)
- Brochure "Geoproducts of Naturtejo Gopark" (in Portuguese language)
- Guidebook of the river beaches, Bathing and Leisure Areas in the region between the rivers Douro and Tejo. Blanche, 170pp. (in Portuguese language)















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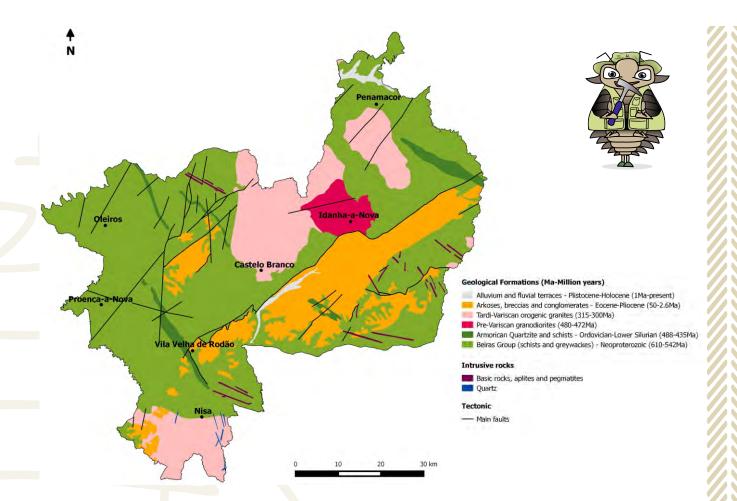
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Geoparks: Geology with human face

