

GEODADK NATI IDTEIO DA MESETA MEDIDIONAL-ELIDODEAN AND GLORAL GEODADK - MONTHLY DEDODT

In this issue: GEOPARKS in the most important fair of the tourism industry – 1000 at the opening of the International Appalachian Trail, across the Muradal Mountain - National Marketing and Communication Meeting – Portuguese religious leaders talk in Medelim – National assessment test for teachers analyses Naturtejo Geopark – ... and more!







Olá/Hola/Ciao/Bonjour/Γειά σου/Hallo/God Dag/Salut/Zdravo/Hello/Ahoj/Helo/Helló/ Hei

Geo-histories of our places and people: Almaceda

Almaceda is land of water and rocks. Its place name of Arabic origin reminds us to the abundance of waters that drain through the shally slopes of the Gardunha Mountain. Almaceda and its villages are located in the stream valley with the same name or in its headwaters giving some diversity to the monotony of the steep slopes. Paiágua is another place with water flowing during the entire year. The Valley of Almaceda is linear by the tectonic fault that leads it, from north to south, towards the River Tripeiro. Then there's Rochas: de Cima and de Baixo. From the quartzite mountain of Pedragueira, with gigantic landscapes and rocks matching its scale, with its unexpected Cave testifying a very ancient settlement, perhaps even previous to the settlement of Ribeira do Muro, with its origins dated back to the Bronze Age, to the shales that dominate the landscape and build the villages of a delightful popular architecture. There are 72,19km2 of deep, shally ravines from where are distributed 10 small villages and 677 inhabitants. In these valleys, where the vegetable gardens multiply themselves and create corners of great textural richness, is expected to be found monuments to the former traditional industries, Olive Oil Presses, ovens for baking bread and the mills driven by the abundant water. The river beach of Almaceda allows a new enjoyment of those waters. Yet in Martim Branco, a small, schist village, one can find where to spend the nights in these hills, in the "Xisto Sentido", and where to taste the regional gastronomy, in the restaurant "Bem-me-Quer". And then there's the House of Arts and Crafts and the Schist Villages Store. The Schist Trail of Martim Branco follows the banks of the Almaceda Stream, surrounding Martim Branco, or to Almaceda. In fact, the paths of this mountainous region have interesting facets for practicing nature sports, from hiking to running or even to mountain biking. It is possible to better explore the surroundings of villages such as Ingarnal or Ribeira de Eiras, and to make a route of natural history connecting Rochas de Baixo to the Mountain. Almaceda is land of water and rocks, and multiple spaces of landscape and adventure waiting to be cherished.

References

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The Editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific Coordinator Geologist

Frontpage: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH





3 to 12 March – Visit to the Fossils House and to the Water Mills of the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. The activity took place in the scope of the annual preschool educational plan of the José Silvestre Ribeiro School Grouping of Idanha-a-Nova. This visit was proposed by the Penha Garcia Kindergarten starting the project "Other Lands, other Projects", which aims to introduce the heritage of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality, welcoming in its land, the children of this municipality from several kindergartens. In total, in the two days participated in this visit 130 children, followed by 9 kindergarten teachers and 9 educational auxiliaries, from the kindergartens of Penha Garcia, Ladoeiro, Idanha-a-Nova, S. Miguel d'Acha, Monsanto, Termas de Monfortinho and Zebreira. The ranger of this visit was Hugo Oliveira.



4 to 8 March – GEOPARKS in the most important fair of the tourist industry. For the fourth consecutive year the promotion of the Geoparks assisted by UNESCO was coordinated by Naturtejo at ITB, International Tourism Fair of Berlin. The 36m2 booth in that which is the biggest tourism fair in the world, with around 11000 exhibitors and 26 halls, was a stage of success for Naturtejo Geopark and for the geoparks that had an active presence, namely the geoparks of TERRA. Vita, Harz, Vukaneifel, Muskau Arch, and Bergstrasse, from Germany, and Tianzhushan, the Naturtejo Geopark Chinese partner, as well as the World Heritage Site of Messel Pit.

Naturtejo introduced its thematic routes and experiences developed with its associates by the touristic attractions of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão, as well as Penamacor, municipality that soon hopes to integrate the territory of the geopark recognized by UNESCO. The action aimed once again to bring closer the territory to the international trade and to attract the tour operators attention and the specialized media for the touristic facets, namely the natural heritage and the cultural landscapes, from which stand out the mountains of Penha Garcia, Gardunha and Muradal, Monsanto, the Portas de Ródão, the Portas de Almourão and the Gorge of Zêzere, the Natural Park of the International Tagus and the Natural Reserve of the Malcata Mountain.

Among the numerous activities provided by the geoparks, from which are examples the weekend raffles for tour operators or activities of discovery for children, stands out the success of the live regional cooking, introducing local products with the chef Mário Ramos representing the College of Management of Idanha-a-Nova, and the delicious cake designer Raquel Ramos, from the company Geocakes.

The contacts with the countless tourism and media professionals, as well as the public from ITB, coming not only from Berlin and from Germany, but from many European and worldwide countries, were intense and fruitful. The Geoparks booth, located in the Ecotourism Hall, was an embassy for the Global Geoparks Network, for disclosure of the concept and of these innovative destinations. The booth was visited by interested guests from all around the world, from the Vice-Minister of Tourism from Uruguay, to the Tourism Secretary of Guatemala, Russian politician and German deputies, professionals from India, Turkey, Brazil, Mongolia, Czech Republic, coordinators from geoparks of Canary Islands and Finland, and many others.

For the third time the booth developed in Castelo Branco by the company Acrialbi for the Geoparks deserved the recognition from the Cologne Business School, which award every year the ITB Best Exhibitor Award. In the 2015 edition that had once again the awards ceremony and a great public recognition, the booth of the Geoparks from UNESCO obtained the 8th position and was the only booth developed in Portugal to be awarded.



5 March – The Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto for students of the Sé Secondary School, of Guarda. This activity took place in the scope of the classes of Biology and Geology and in it attended 41 students and 4 teachers from the 11th Grade. The monitors of this field trip were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.



9 March – Fossils at Your pleasure! In the School Grouping Ribeiro Sanches de Penamacor at the Patron's Day. The School Grouping of Penamacor celebrates annually the Patron's Day, the famous doctor António Nunes Ribeiro Sanches, hosting an open day for all the educational community. This year, Naturtejo Geopark was invited to energize an activity for some students, in the scope of the partnership established with the Board of the Grouping, at the beginning of this school year. The chosen activity was the Workshop "Fossils at Your pleasure!" intended for the 4 classes of the 2nd Cycle of Middle School Teaching (5°A, 5°B, 6°A e 6°B), in a total of 75 students and 4 teachers. The monitors of this workshop were Mariana Vilas Boas, Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.



13 March – Introduction of the Programs and the Educational Resources from Naturtejo Geopark in the Training Course "Geoeducation in action: the case of Arouca Geopark".

The Accredited Training Course, with a total duration of 25 hours, resulted from a partnership established between the Association Arouca Geopark, the School Grouping of Arouca and the Training Centre of the Arouca Schools Association, Vale de Cambra and Oliveira de Azeméis. It consisted in theoretical sessions, a field trip and a work session for production of educational resources. Manuela Catana was invited, for one of the theoretical sessions, to present to the participants the Educational Programs of Naturtejo Geopark developed in the last 7 school years through the communication "Geoeducation in Naturtejo Geopark", as well as to show some samples of some of the educational resources created during that timeline. The session took place in the headquarters of the School Grouping of Arouca. Attended 11 professors and educators residing in the municipality of Arouca.



17 and 18 March – Field trip in Vila Velha de Ródão for the Secondary School of Camões, from Lisbon. This activity took place in the scope of the classes of Biology & Geology and Portuguese Language and was intended for a total of 106 students from the 10th Grade of Schooling, followed by 9 teachers, and distributed by the two days. The monitors of this field trip were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.



19 March – In the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia searching for the Trilobites traces with visit to the Thermal Spa of Monfortinho intended for the Secondary School of Vila Nova de Famalicão. In this field class attended 95 students and 7 professors from the 11°Grade. The activity took place in the scope of the Biology & Geology class. The monitors in the Fossils Trail were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana and the visit to the Thermal Spa was energized by its own technicians.

19 to 22 March – Spanish program through the Geopark. The Spanish operator Tierra de Fuego brought 22 people to know Naturtejo Geopark. During the good days that they spent here had the specialized follow-up from the tourist active companies of Vila Fraga and Casa do Forno. On the first day they walk in the Vultures Trail. On the next day they ranged the Historical Villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, as well as the Great Trail that unites them. Finally, the group was taken for a walk through the Protected Landscape of the Gardunha Mountain and through the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, by the Fossils Trail.



19 to 21 March – National Meeting of Marketing and Communication. The Raiano Cultural Centre hosted the 24th National Meeting of Municipal Marketing and Communication organized by the Association of Local Administration Workers in partnership with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. There were three days where the technicians of dozens of municipalities from all the country discussed topics such as the territorial marketing and the Institutional communication. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was one of the invited speakers to introduce the strategies of marketing and communication in Naturtejo Geopark.

20 to 22 March – Spring Equinox celebrated with superstitions in Penha Garcia. In this weekend the village of Penha Garcia hosted a meeting on beliefs and superstitions. There was plenty of street animation and the remake of some of our biggest fears. On Sunday morning took place a hiking trail that introduced the beliefs and superstitions around the Fossils. This was once again a local initiative of culture joined by Naturtejo Geopark

20 March – Meeting in Medelim gathers Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Christian Portuguese religious leaders. The Conference "Medelim: a village of meetings and cultures" brought together in this Easter period the Canon Emanuel Matos Silva from the Portalegre Diocese, José Levy Domingos from the Jewish Community of Belmonte, Sheik Munir from the Muslim Community of Lisbon and Gerrick from the Hindu Community of Lisbon. Armindo Jacinto hosted this conference in the Mercy Church of Medelim, which had as main goal to discuss with the local communities the impacts and advantages of the globalization and the religions.



20 March – Exhibit on the Water in the reopening of the Thermal Spas of Monfortinho. This year the Thermal Spas of Monfortinho, one of the geosites and locals of more significant touristic interest in Naturtejo Geopark, opened their season of bath with a new exhibit. "Termas de Monfortinho: Earth and Water" organized by Naturtejo Geopark and the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and aims, in the noble hall of the thermal spa and next to their users, to make known the extreme importance and qualities of the water resource, as well as the history of the thermal spa and its social and economic importance for the whole region.



21 to 22 March – Workshop "Planting the Forest" to celebrate the World Tree Day. This Workshop was hosted by Naturtejo Geopark in partnership with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, in the scope of the Forum "Innovate in Education", which took place in the College of Management in Idanha-a-Nova (ESGIN). This Forum was hosted by the Network of Live Education with the supports of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality and the ESGIN and included 5 workshops for children, workshops for adults and chats in motion. The participants were touched for the importance of planting autochthonous trees, had the opportunity of sowing holm oak acorns in vessels and sang the song "One Tree One Friend". 22 children attended this action. The monitors were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.

21 to 22 March – Touristic Program by the Naturtejo Geopark. The Spanish operator brought 22 participants to meet the Naturtejo Geopark. The group visited the Geomonument of Monsanto and had lunch in the Geo-Restaurant Petiscos & Granitos. Afterwards, they visited the National Monument of Idanha-a-Velha and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.



24 March – Students from several countries in Vila Velha de Ródão. In the scope of an intensive Training Course from the Polytechnic Institute of Tomar around 50 students coming from all around the world and from several scientific fields related with the Heritage came to meet the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão. Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues welcomed them in the Ródão Museum for the geological background of the landscape. Afterwards, the surprise took them as they discovered the biological and geological heritage at the Ródão Castle Viewpoint.



24 March – Students from the University of Mainz in Penha Garcia. Taking advantage of a field trip in Portugal with the duration of 15 days, 11 students and 1 professor, from the final year of Geography, ranged the Fossils Trail to better know one of the Naturtejo Geopark geosites of international relevance. The monitor was Manuela Catana.

26 March – Evaluation of Knowledge and Capacities Exam – Specific Component – Biology and Geology (code 8200) – 2014/2015, for teachers, implemented nationwide by the Ministry of Education and Science evaluate knowledge concerning Naturtejo Geopark.

This Specific Exam for teachers was created and implemented for the first time this school year, having existed previously, a general knowledge exam, regular, for all the teachers of the several curricular areas. The teachers that were subject to these exams were the ones that had less than 5 years of service in the docent career. As for the teacher of Biology and Geology (disciplinary group 520) had in the specific test 6 items (from 8 to 13) related with the Geological Heritage of Naturtejo Geopark, namely the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and the Inselberg of Monsanto. In total the exam was composed by 30 items. The main highlight was given to the "Cruziana" from the quartzites of the Penha Garcia syncline and to the granitic landscape of Monsanto. There was an explicit reference in the introductory text of the group of questions concerning Naturtejo Geopark, whose passage we transcribe right away "The Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, integrated in Naturtejo Geopark, includes extraordinary Cruziana originated by the trilobite's activity." Once more the Ministry of Education and Science certifies the educational value of the Naturteio Geopark Geological Heritage including it once again. in a specific exam for teachers. In previous school years Geopark's geosites had already been included in national exams intended for students, namely: Geology Written Exam 12°Grade – 1° Phase – year of 2007; Geology Written Exam 12°Grade – 2° Phase – year 2007; Written Exam of Biology and Geology 10° and 11°Grades – 2° Phase – year of 2012.



28 March – One thousand adventurers in the opening of the Great Trail of Muradal-Pangeia.

28 March – One thousand adventurers in the opening of the Great Trail of Muradal-Pangeia. More than one thousand hikers filled with life the Muradal Mountain! Around one thousand people participated in the opening of the International Appalachian Trail – Portuguese sector, which covers the Muradal Mountain in the parishes of Estreito/Vilar Barroco, Sarnadas de S. Simão and Orvalho. The initiative, which provided during the day several moments of leisure under the responsibility of the theatre company Viv'Arte, placed the Municipality of Oleiros inside one of the most charismatic hiking trails throughout the world, which covers three continents (American, European and African), implicates 16 countries and a significant set of geoparks under UNESCO.

Fernando Jorge, Mayor of the Oleiros Municipality, stressed that "this is one ground-breaking initiative in Portugal, which began with my predecessor, the José Marques, and we gave continuity. Oleiros is differentiating itself through products that are only possible to find here, such as the Appalachian Trail or

the Roasted Kid, among many others".

The mayor who have by his side the Consul of Canada in Portugal, and the chair of the International Appalachian Trail, Paul Wylezol, the Director of the Centre Tourism of Portugal, Pedro Machado, the chair of Naturtejo, Armindo Jacinto and the presidents from the three parishes, as well as the representative from the Spanish sector of the International Appalachian Trail, Ruth Paredes, showed himself pleased with the number of participants in the event. "Our expectation was high. And yet many were the persons in the waiting list, since due to security and logistic reasons we could not receive more than one thousand people", explained.

The mayor of the Oleiros Municipality reminded that "The International Appalachian Trail is one of the most important trails in the entire world. We hope that this could be an energizing factor for tourism, not only for Oleiros, but also for the other neighbouring municipalities, and yet Naturtejo Geopark, whom was tireless in this process". Otherwise, Armindo Jacinto, chair of Naturtejo, underlined that support, reminding that "the Municipality of Oleiros has always been side by side with Naturtejo and is an example in the promotion of our Nature and Rural Tourism strategy. Today Oleiros is a quality destiny and showed that in so little time was possible to create a product of excellence ".

Pedro Machado, chair of the entity Centre Tourism of Portugal, highlighted the importance of the Trail now opened. "This course is an added value for the tourism in this territory, since it concentrates in Nature and Active Tourism, one of its stronger products. This trail allows to not only make possible the practicing of hiking, but due to its nomenclature, leaves it well placed in some markets in which the Centre Tourism is still not cemented".

In front of around one thousand people, David Marion, from the Embassy of Canada, praised the trail in Portugal, and was pleased with "this interaction". On the other hand the responsible for the International Appalachian Trail, Paul Wylezol, showed to be excited with "the Portuguese trail", announcing also a meeting in July, in the United States, where will be present all the international trails that form the Appalachian Trail, and where Oleiros will be also allowed to show its course. Carlos Neto de Carvalho described the significant heritages that are now United by the hiking trail.

In the Great Trail Muradal-Pangeia the participants discovered chalcolithic recreations, paths signalled for MTB practice, a climbing area and a "Via Ferrata". The trails in the quartzite cliffs are unforgettable by the landscape possible to reach there as well as the geological phenomena that there can be interpreted. At the bottom of the stream the hikers sigh for a dive in the crystal clear waters in the shade of the alder trees. In the Portelo summit, the walkers joined the local hill communities at the sound of traditional drums coming from Cardosa. In the middle of the trail were made typical desserts known as "Filhós" and were roasting meat in Vilar Barroco, for those who passed by. At the end, after 22 km of walking through heights, at Orvalho were waiting welcoming bonfires and a full supper, where there was no shortage of the singular Callum wine and plenty of street animation.

28 March – VIII Meeting of Lenten Singings. The Cultural Forum of Idanha-a-Nova hosted the VIII Meeting of Lenten Singings, in the scope of the "Mysteries of Easter in Idanha 2015" agenda.

28 to 29 March – Fam Trip for the Spanish operator Cies Travel. The operator Cies Travel from Galiza organized a fam trip for 26 people. The group visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia, the Historical Village of Monsanto and learned to identify wild products in Alcafozes, during the Festival of Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles.

28 to 29 March – Festival of Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles in Alcafozes. The fourth edition of this event introduced traditional little inns with several dishes made of wild products, live cooking, workshops, thematic workshops for children and hiking trail in search for mushrooms. Well-known kitchen chefs cooked, during the two days, resourceful and delicious dishes with regional and wild products. Child entertainment, carousel and "old-fashioned" games, concerts and a fair with the best regional products were other proposals to receive the visitors.

In the Sunday morning, took place the hiking trail "Wild Products Trail", with the special participation of the specialist in Mycology José Luís Gravito Henriques. A workshop under the same theme was introduced in the early afternoon, by this same specialist.

The 4th Festival of Asparagus, Mushrooms and Truffles was hosted by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Parish Union of Alcafozes-Idanha-a-Nova with the support of Naturtejo Geopark.



29 March – New Geosite attracts the community of Penamacor The Roman mines of Penamacor were a privileged focus of the guided visit in the scope of the celebrations for the National Week of the Mines Itinerary and Sites of Geological and Mining Interest. Mariana Vilas Boas and Carlos Neto de Carvalho, as well as a local technician, guided a group of 60 participants to learn about the geodiversity, the technics and structures used during the Roman Period for gold extracting through sediments washing. In the Stream of Valdedra was expecting them João Geraldes who invited the participants to learn the ancestral panning technics. But this time, the luck didn't smile to the daring that carried sediments to the stream for being washed. Only a minimal reed found some days earlier justified for the visitors millions of cubic meters dug almost two thousands of years ago.



31 March to 1 April – Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the European Geoparks Network in the UNESCO headquarters. The good results derived from the representation of the Global Geoparks Network in the main world tourism fairs, such as FITUR Madrid and the ITB in Berlin, led the decision of creating a working group of Marketing and Communication in the European Geoparks Network. The unanimous decision of the Coordinating Committee of the EGN was to give the coordination of this working group to Naturtejo. The Chair of Naturtejo Board of Directors and Mayor of the Idanha-a-Nova Municipality, Armindo Jacinto, and the Geopark's Scientific Coordinator, the Geologist Carlos Neto de Carvalho, will be responsible for the working group. More than 20 European territories take part of this new project that will have as main goals the establishment of a medium term marketing strategy, an annual plan of promotional events and the creation of promotional tools for 65 geoparks already classified throughout all Europe. It is worth to remember the developed work made by Naturtejo in the international promotion of the brand GEOPARK, which was already distinguished several times in the International Tourism Fair of Berlin. According to Armindo Jacinto, "this will be the opportunity to develop European applications in the field of territorial marketing that can serve our region interests and design the internationalisation of the destiny Naturtejo Geopark".

The 35° Meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the European Geoparks Network took place in the UNESCO headquarters, in Paris, and focussed in the preparation of the Geoparks Program of UNESCO, which will have the final decision on the next General Assembly of UNESCO, in November. "The next year will be decisive for the starting of the Geoparks Program of UNESCO, which will raise the bar in the mandatory investments for the natural and cultural heritage value of the Portuguese geoparks", refers Carlos Neto de Carvalho. "This is an opportunity of re-launching in a structured way the brand Geoparks UNESCO in the competitive national and international touristic market". In few years our country counts already with four geoparks. After the integration of Naturtejo Geopark in the Global Geoparks Network in 2006 succeeded it Arouca, Azores and Terras de Cavaleiros. Yet in Spain there are currently 11 geoparks, with the decision from the General Assembly of including the application of the Island of Lanzarote, in the Canary Islands.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

1 March (Canal Extremadura, program "El lince com botas") – The trail of the painted snakes (documentary about the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia)

Newspapers & www

March (Magazine Passear n. 42, headlines) – Oleiros bets in the Natural and Cultural Heritage value

March (Magazine Passear n. 42, headlines) – Oleiros differentiates itself at the level of hiking trails and gastronomy

18 March (Inspire Saúde) – Leisure in nature, free yourself for adventure

31 March (Gazeta Rural) – Oleiros opened the International Appalachian Trail



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- Alcalá, L. (Coord.) 2014. Wonders of ancient Life: fossils from European Geoparks. Fundamental!, 25. Fundación Conjunto Paleontológico de Teruel Dinópolis, 156 pp.
- Neto de Carvalho, C., Xu, K. & Yu, G. Naturtejo and Tianzhushan Global Geoparks in an international project for interpreting geological heritage. European Geoparks Network Magazine, 13, p. 17.
- Agenda Cultural Geopark Naturtejo #1 (Biannual program in Portuguese language)
- Agenda Easter Mysteries in Idanha 2015 (in Portuguese language)











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