



# CRUZIANA

GEPARK NATURTEJO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

**In this issue:** – New biking routes and bike centre – Tour of Portugal passing by Naturtejo Geopark – Archeological Summer Camp in Proença-a-Nova – Opening of the Biodiversity Interpretative Centre...and more!



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

## **Geo-stories of our places and people: Sobreira Formosa**

The old Royal Road built by the Queen Maria II followed the slope break, from the Alvito Bridge to Mesão Frio. Before, by this way French and Spanish army travelled across the area during the Peninsular Wars and the First French Invasion, which provoked much destruction in Sobreira Formosa. This important road and the valley where the town was built are the result of the ancient movement of the great Sobreira Formosa-Sobral do Campo Fault, which borders the Iberian Central Belt (Alvelos mountains) from Meridional Meseta for more than 60 km and showing vertical gaps between 100 and 300 m. Spectacular evidence of the magnitude of this still active fault is Penedo do Pico rock, extension of Venda mountain. This rock was separated from the mountain 1000m and has been raising 90 m up, at an average rate of 0,01mm/year. For this reason, the landscape of Sobreira Formosa area, covering 85,01 km<sup>2</sup>, is composed northwards by the steep slopes of Corgas mountain and deep ravines, which suddenly become tamed towards the Ocreza valley; in this transition grew the town Sobreira Formosa.

With 1708 inhabitants divided by 30 settlements, Sobreira Formosa is the dynamic core of an agricultural region, where the forest value, trade and transport of wood is a dominant sector. Farmers are organized in several cooperatives, from agriculture to olive and honey ones. Catraia plains see the increasing of vineyards. Respecting tourism, not being Sobreira Formosa, as the whole Pinewood are, prone in monuments to visit, maybe with the exception of the Mother Church of São Tiago Maior and the Chapel of Mercy, it shows wide diversity of tourism resources and equipments. These can be subdivided among Sobreira Formosa, traditional villages and the Ocreza valley with particular remark to the geomonument Portas de Almourão. It is precisely in Portas de Almourão where we may find most of the 6 geosites inventoried in the area. The geomonument has an extraordinary potential for Nature Tourism, so it is not surprising the existence of 4 footpaths, as well as a climbing school. Down the river, in the Ocreza riverside between the mouth of Alvito stream and the bridge of Vale da Mua, in a particularly scenic sector, Roman mining areas are found, the largest and the most interesting one between Sobral Fernando and S'la Velha. These ancient mining areas are the reason for "There is Gold at Foz", a tourist product based on the millenary cultural experience of local communities that has attracted some attention to the area. The traditional villages of Sobreira Formosa are Cunqueiros, Figueira, Maxiais, Oliveiras and Pedreira. Figueira is part of the Schist Villages Network. It shows an interesting architectural configuration, the streets are disposed in such way that long time ago they were closed at the evening as defense against wolves. Benefiting from strong investment of Proença-a-Nova municipality to recover the village houses, presently shows an excellent restaurant and a B&B. Close to Oliveiras village is located the river beach of Fróia, with very good infrastructure to support summer activities, including a restaurant open all year. The Casas das Oliveiras is an excellent example of Village Tourism, where most of the village houses were recovered to keep the traditional harmony of buildings.



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Sobreira Formosa shows the Center of Arts and Crafts, with an exhibition of paintings from a local artist, the Isilda Martins Ethnographic Museum and the Interpretative Center of Forts and Batteries, which is the starting point for a footpath connecting the town to the defensive line dated from the 18th century, at the Alvito Bridge area. This route also connects two monumental elm trees protected as Public Interest.

The development of the tourism sector in Sobreira Formosa can be fostered with the diversification of the offer in some traditional villages, worth mentioning Cunqueiros and Sobral Fernando, and then developing a thematic route of the “Plingacheiras” villages. The geomonument Portas de Almourão and Talhadas mountain are resources of enormous importance, thus deserving the reorganization of the forest, the value of the geosites and biodiversity (ethnobotanics and birdwatching), and their protection as Regional Nature Park, under development by the municipalities of Proença-a-Nova and Vila Velha de Ródão involving several local communities. In this scope, the “Gold carousing” is becoming a tourism product bridging local nature and culture, and deserving a dedicated interpretative hall showcasing Portas de Almourão, a museum to the memory of the gold in Sobral Fernando, close to the wide tailings that resulted from mining during the Roman period. Not less important is the need to promote the value of local products, such as honey or puddings, in local restaurants, as well as local gastronomy, such as the delicious Stream Scratches with cowpeas and chicory, a clear etymological allusion to one of outstanding places of Sobreira Formosa, which is Portas de Almourão.

#### Recommended Bibliography:

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Rodrigues, J., Neto de Carvalho, C. & Chambino, E. 2011. “Há Ouro na Foz” e outras actividades de divulgação do património geomineiro do Geopark Naturtejo: In: Batata, C. (Ed.), *Actas do VI Simpósio sobre Mineração e Metalúrgia Históricas no Sudoeste Europeu*, Vila Velha de Ródão, 263-283.

The Editor  
Carlos Neto de Carvalho  
Scientific Coordinator  
Geologist

Front page: (Objectiva: Geopark Project, [www.naturtejo.com/objectiva](http://www.naturtejo.com/objectiva))

# ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



**August – Landscape Festival 2013: 24000 were there!** This year the celebration of the European Geoparks Week for one month in Naturtejo Global Geopark was a great success. Between 17th May and 16th June 26 activities under the umbrella of the Landscape Festival, all over the Geopark, brought 24000 visitors. Thematic Festivals such as the 16th Century Fair of Oleiros, the Flowers Festival of Aldeia de Santa Margarida and “Save the Earth” Ecofestival at Salvaterra do Extremo by Quercus were the most successful events. Also worth to mention was once again the Orvalho Geotrail with more than 400 hikers climbing Moradal mountain. No less important was the first Festival of Fish Soup dedicated to local tradition of fishing in Tejo River at Vila Velha de Ródão. This year the Landscape Festival was dedicated to landscapes of tradition.



**August – The Regional Natural Park of Portas de Almourão: a project already launched.** Vila Velha de Ródão and Proença-a-Nova mayors signed an agreement that will lead to the protection of Portas de Almourão geomonument and several other geosites within Talhadas Mountain. The new area to be protected reaches more than 40km<sup>2</sup> due to the interest of villages to become integrated in the new Natural Park. An interdisciplinary team of technicians and scientists from different institutions working collaboratively, including staff from Naturtejo are already defining the inventory of natural and cultural heritage to be protected. It is important to remind that Portas de Almourão is one of the best geosites to understand the Variscan orogeny in this sector of Centre-Iberian Zone. Other important heritage is: the defensive line of Talhadas-Moradal built during the 18th century for the Peninsular Wars; biodiversity emphasizing ichthyofauna and avifauna, and the rare and sensible.

**August – Curricular probations come to an end this year.** This was a very fruitful year considering the 5 undergraduate students Naturtejo welcomed during several months working in different projects, from Tourism Management, Ecotourism, Geography and Tourism and Environment. Besides Aylton Carvalho that walked more than 500 km to inspect all the walking trails from Naturtejo Geopark to report the need to benefit and make the evaluation of them, and the precious work of João Maltês and Ana Rita to develop new brochures for all 16 Geopark's geomonuments, it is now time to talk about the work of Vinicius Archanjo, a Brazillian future geographer from S. Paulo. He is most interested in the subject of Geoparks and Geoconservation so he was involved in the preparation, during two months, of the basic structure of the dossier for the application of Portas de Almourão as Regional Natural Park. Also worthwhile was the work of Sérgio Ribeiro coming from the University of Coimbra for the organization of the tourism activities in the region since his main interest was the application of geotourism. It was phenomenal to see such dedicated, hard working, clever young professionals to get highest scores for the truly amazing work they have produced for the future of the region.

**2 August – Naturtejo Geopark as example in the 4th Bodoquena-Pantanal State Meeting at Bonito, Brazil.** The State Meeting of Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark happened during the 14th Winter Festival in Bonito, among several cultural activities, involving famous Brazilian popular singers. During the Meeting the geologist Joana Rodrigues presented her experience in Geoparks and Tourism in Portugal. Joana talked on European Geoparks and the experience of Naturtejo Geopark in Geoconservation and Geotourism. The Scientific Coordinator, Afrânio Soares, presented the Analysis of Conjuncture of Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark, the present situation and expectation of the project for 2014. In this meeting attended the team of the Nioaque Regional Nucleus, representatives from partner municipalities, representatives from the State Secretary of Environment, the State Secretary of Tourism, State Environment Institute, Culture Foundation, IPHAN and researchers and academics form the state.



**3 August – Geology in Summer panning for gold.** Once more the Living Science Center together with Naturtejo organized a field trip under the Geology in Summer, an initiative from the Science and Technology Foundation to popularize sciences during this period of holidays. Registrations went full since the launching of Science in summer calendar. 25 people participated in the workshop "From gold to Jewel". They panned for gold with the help and experience of João Geraldês and discovered the importance of gold in Portugal with him and the geologist Rita Ferreira.

Later in the Living Science Center the participants saw their gold nuggets at a binocular lens and learnt from the goldsmith Paulo the art of working with this noble metal. Finally Vinicius Archanjo presented the importance of gold for the history of Brazil to become an independent country. Other activities related to Biology and Astronomy were organized by different institutions in the geopark's territory in the frame of Science in Summer.

**3-4 August – Military Meeting in Idanha-a-Nova.** 75 old military men chose Idanha-a-Nova to meet for two days and participate in local festivities included in the great Borderland Fair organized by Idanha-a-Nova municipality always with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. The meeting was organized by Naturtejo.



**5-9 August – Technical Course for Tourism Guides in Bonito introduces Geoparks and Geotourism.** Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark Project team participated actively in the Technical Course for Tourism Guides in Bonito that was coordinated by Mato Grosso do Sul Federal University in Bonito together with Foundation to Support to Development of Education, Science and Technology of the State (Fundect) and the city of Bonito.

Afrânio Soriano, the scientific coordinator and the geologists Carla Garparini and Joana Rodrigues taught the module “Geoparks and Biodiversity”. The themes were: Geodiversity, Geological Heritage, Geotourism, Geoparks, Protected Areas, Introduction to Geosciences, and others with a topic on Naturtejo Geopark. This course aims to train and qualify 40 specialized tourism guides in Bonito, promoting the local development in the region.

**7-11 August – Naturtejo in the Pinewood Fair of Oleiros.** Naturtejo Geopark was in the Pinewood Fair of Oleiros, one of the most popular fairs from the territory of Naturtejo Global Geopark. More than 20000 visitors and 200 stands showcase some of the best this region has to offer. Visitors find natural, cultural and economic potential of Oleiros, but actually taste the best flavors and products of the Mountain, such as roasted kid, maranho sausage, river fishes, honey cake, strawberry tree fruit liquor and the Callum wine. Once again Naturtejo Geopark was present in its territory through an independent stand run by Sérgio Ribeiro showing that geopark promotion must start from inside.



**9 August- 14 September – Archeological Summer in Proença-a-Nova.** The municipality of Proença-a-Nova together with the Association for Research in Tagus Region organized a working camp of one month and counted also with the support of Naturtejo. Most of the 40 young students came from Archeology-related courses in universities from Portugal, Spain and Brazil. They participated in the excavations of a Calcolithic tomb discovered not far from Moitas village. For the afternoon they participated in leisure visits to the fluvial beaches, cultural visits to handcrafters and the schist village of Figueira or to geomonuments together with Carlos Neto de Carvalho. At Portas de Ródão Natural Monument they saw the release of a Griffon Vulture by the animals hospital of Quercus – Castelo Branco. During the evening the participants assisted many lectures in a friendly environment and the Association prepared a seminar to foster the contact between young researchers and most well known archeologists. The very well organized working camp is exemplar in the region by providing education and leisure to young students during their vacations period.



**10-31 August – “When we went for ore” exhibition is now in Salvaterra do Extremo.** The former town hall of Salvaterra do Extremo welcomed the travelling exhibition “when we went for ore” organized by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova with the support of Naturtejo. Commemorating two years the exhibition was visited by 80 people (equivalent to 40% of local population) always accompanied by the local guide and enthusiast José Joaquim Rascão.

**10-14 August – Tour by the Geopark.** João Gerales guided 4 people in a four day tour by the Geopark which was organized by Naturtejo. They visited Monsanto and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. João Gerales guided the tour to the dirtiest tracks to find some of the most spectacular landscapes of the borderland between Torre, Salvaterra do Extremo and Termas de Monfortinho.

**13-15 August – Templar Festival of Penha Garcia.** Penha Garcia returned to the medieval times and was invaded by thousands of outsiders. The whole village was dressed rigorously for the event to recreate Penha Garcia hundreds of years ago. Combining live theatre and local involvement the Templar Festival of Penha Garcia is one of the most important in the region and animated the hot summer nights.



**14 August – New mountain bike routes and assistance centre in the Geopark.** The territory of Naturtejo Geopark gained new routes especially designed for those wishing to discover by mountain biking. Long or short trails are signalized with special signs for bikers and one may find them from Termas de Monfortinho borderland to Serra da Gardunha summits. Especially in Serra da Gardunha several bike routes were designed in order to optimize discover with adrenaline of the most hidden and beautiful corners of one of the most complete mountains of the geopark. At Idanha-a-Nova a new Mountain Bike Centre was launched by Armindo Jacinto under the PROVERE By Nature Project in Termas de Monfortinho together with the new Bike Routes summing 215 km of short and long trails. The Bike point is one of the four existing in Portugal and offers bike washing and air pumping, besides GPS charging. Two different electrical bike models are now available for free in the bike centre for the tourists, one of them with autonomy for 80 km.

**14-15 August – 75th Tour of Portugal in Naturtejo Geopark.** There is a long tradition of the Tour of Portugal in the area of the Naturtejo Geopark. This year there was the end of two stages in Castelo Branco and Termas de Monfortinho which brought much attention from national media to the region. A stand from Naturtejo Geopark was among the sponsors of the Tour of Portugal at the end of the stages.



**19 August – Workshop “Fossils for you” for the children of Idanha-a-Nova**



**19 August - Workshop "Fossils for you" for the children of Idanha-a-Nova.** The workshop was organized for 16 pupils from kindergarten and primary school from Idanha-a-Nova. Pupils learnt about different fossilization processes, the importance of fossils to indicate past environments and to date the rocks, as well as the difference between body and trace fossils. The workshop was run by Hugo Oliveira together with three young volunteers.



**21 August - Workshops "What is Naturtejo Geopark?" and "Fossils for you" for the students of S. Miguel d'Acha.** 16 students from kindergarten, primary and secondary schools from S. Miguel d'Acha participated in a workshop to introduce Naturtejo Geopark. Special emphasis was given to the geomonuments existing in Idanha-a-Nova municipality and the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. In the workshop on fossils pupils recognized the importance of paleontology for dating rocks and define past environments. Hugo Oliveira was responsible for the workshops together with two volunteers.



**24 August - Open Day in International Tejo Natural Park.** The Tejo International Natural Park organized in Malpica do Tejo the celebration of the Institute for Nature Conservation Open Day dedicated to natural conservation and new approaches to sustainable economy. Some local businesses were invited to show their best practices in biological farming and olive oil cooperative production. Carlos Neto de Carvalho was invited to talk about the work of Naturtejo in areas such as scientific research, geoconservation and tourism organization, with potential application in the area of Malpica do Tejo. About 100 people were present, mostly locals. A trip to the Tejo valley took the participants in an interpretative boat visit to local biodiversity.



**27, 30 August- Field trips to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia for students of Idanha-a-Nova and S. Miguel d'Acha.** These field trips were organized for 23 and 15 students respectively, from the kindergartens and the primary schools from Idanha-a-Nova and S. Miguel d'Acha by Hugo Oliveira together with 7 local young monitors. The students learnt about the treatment of drinkable water in Penha Garcia and the Fossils Trail, where they saw the fantastic view of the Ponsul gorge, the Cruziana trace fossils in the outcrops, several examples of rocks, minerals and fossils in the House of Fossils, and visited the watermills.

**31 August- Opening of the new Biodiversity Interpretative Centre “Lands of Idanha”.** The new Biodiversity Interpretative Centre is now open in the small village of Segura. Taking the proximity of Tejo International Natural Park and the international road from Castelo Branco to Cáceres the Biodiversity Centre introduces the natural heritage of the whole municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in the frame of Naturtejo Global Geopark. The new Centre occupies the old customs house right in the borderland and uses new technologies to showcase the most important preserved ecosystems integrated with human traditional activities in order the visitor can appreciate from close the nesting behavior of these animals. For example a vulture's nest is monitored by a small wireless camera from the centre. The opening of the Interpretative Centre and the educational activities will be guaranteed by a local company dedicated to biological farming run by a young couple of biologists.



# IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

## Newspapers & www

- May-August (em Rede) – Naturtejo Geopark: sustainable geological tourism as vector for development
- June-December (Auto Hoje TT & Aventura) – V TTransgeopark – Tectonics up, erosion down – Through the smugglers lands
- August (Oleiros Magazine front page) – Appalachian Trail in Moradal
- August (Ensino Magazine front page) – Borderland Fair a privileged stage to showcase Lands of Idanha products
- August (Bodoquena Pantanal Geopark Geonews) – Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark Team is growing
- August (Bodoquena Pantanal Geopark Geonews) – Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark team welcomes the Grantees for Introduction to Research in the Nuclear Area of Nioaque
- August (Bodoquena Pantanal Geopark Geonews) – Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark teaches tourism guides in Bonito
- August (Bodoquena Pantanal Geopark Geonews) – 4th State Meeting of Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark in the 14th Winter Festival in Bonito
- 2 August (Jornal Dia a Dia – Brazil) – FestinBonito: Geopark experts talk in the IV Bodoquena-Pantanal Geopark Meeting
- 2 August (A Crítica de Campo Grande – Brazil) – Bodoquena-Pantanal Council organizes conference during FestinBonito
- 7 August (Gazeta do Interior) – Armindo Jacinto wants to dignify the countryside
- 8 August (Reconquista) – Embracing Portugal and Spain
- 14 August (Reconquista) – When we went for ore
- 28 August (Gazeta do Interior) – International Camp begins excavations in Proença-a-Nova

## TV & Radio

- 24 August – Aqui Portugal live show – Interview to Armindo Jacinto about Nature Tourism and other projects in Naturtejo Geopark



## PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- Do Ouro das Portas de Almourão à Jóia. Guia da Acção de Geologia no Verão 2013. Agência Nacional para a Cultura Científica (brochure in Portuguese) (<http://www.cienciaviva.pt/veraocv/comum/2013/actividadeshoje.asp>)

- Archeological Camp of Proença-a-Nova. Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo/Câmara Municipal de Proença-a-Nova (brochure in Portuguese).

**3<sup>rd</sup> International GEOschools Conference: TEACHING GEOSCIENCES IN EUROPE**  
from Primary to Secondary School  
28 & 29 September 2013, GREECE

<http://geoschools.geolisa.gr>

28 September Old University of Athens	29 September Aegina Island
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Organized by the Institute of Geology and Mineral Exploration (IGME) and the Ministry of Education & Religious Affairs, Greece & co-organized by the European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers (EAGE) and the European Association of Geology Teachers (EAGT).

Cooperating Organizations:  
Hellenic Republic, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, University of Athens, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, University of Patras, University of Ioannina, University of Thessaly, University of Peloponnese, University of Crete, University of the Aegean, University of Macedonia, University of Thrace, University of Ioannina, University of Thessaly, University of Peloponnese, University of Crete, University of the Aegean, University of Macedonia, University of Thrace.

**"TRILHOS DO OURO"** Termas de Montfortinho  
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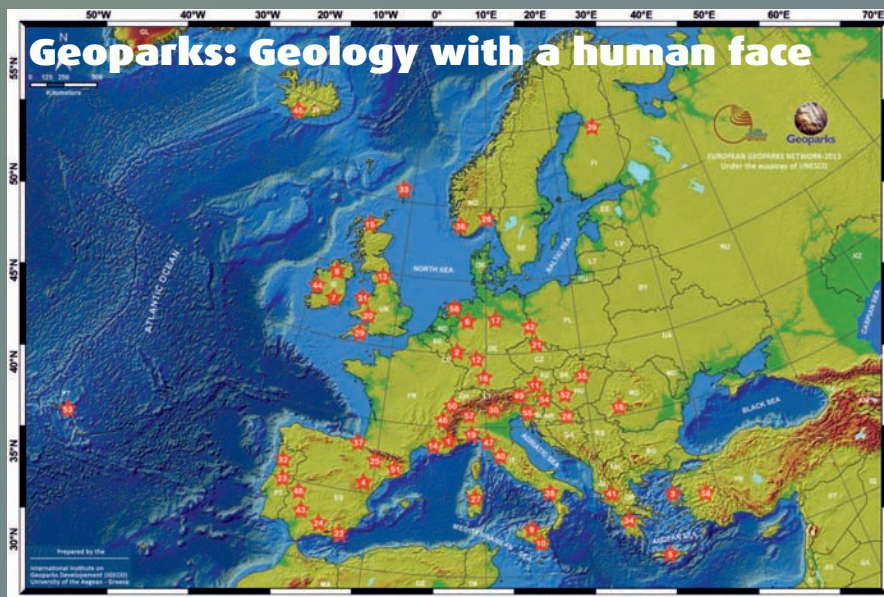
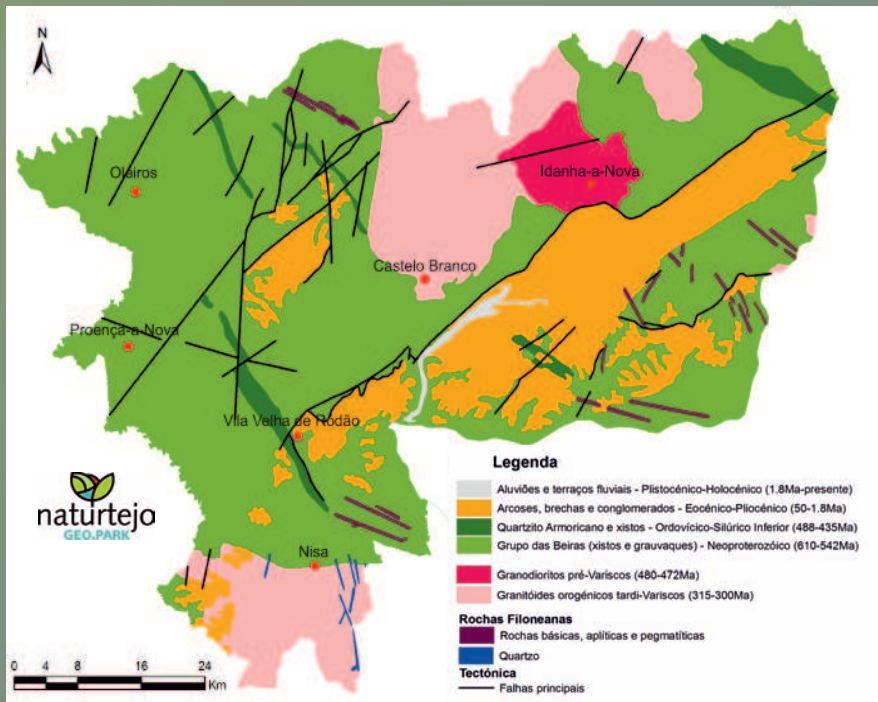
**TEJO - VOGAR CONTRA A INDIFERENÇA**  
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DESCIDA DE CANOA  
PORTAS DE RÔDÃO > FONTE DAS VIRTUDES > ARNEIRO

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[protejevogar@gmail.com](mailto:protejevogar@gmail.com)  
CONTACTOS  
960197080 / 919061330 / 932039759

**PROGRAMA**  
08:00 CONCENTRAÇÃO  
PORTAS DE RÔDÃO - CASAS  
10:00 PARAGEM NA FONTE DAS VIRTUDES  
DIVULGAÇÃO DOS OBJECTIVOS DA INICIATIVA  
12:30 CHEGADA AO ARNEIRO  
ALMOÇO NA DE PEDE DO RIO

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