

Touristic Signalling launched in the pilgrimage of Senhora do Almortão "The Rock that unites us" exhibition opening in Grutas da Moeda Training Course for teachers about "Field work"

II Paeony Festival in Toulões

... and more!

CRUZIANA

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











GEO-stories of our places and people: Juncal do Campo

In the flat surface of Castelo Branco where eventually nothing grows besides olive trees, Juncal do Campo shows up. Actually there are 3 villages dispersed by 22,15km2, namely Camões, Chão da Vã and of course, Juncal do Campo. There 355 people live mainly from agriculture. These are "artistic villages" where recently, since 2014, urban art from different worlds came to mark the moment in the plaster schist walls. Known artists as Vihls left their signature in the walls, everywhere in the village, creating a Public Art Circuit. A Festival in May revives this artistic expression brought from Lisbon, and highlights history, faith, traditions and local people. Then what? The tourism arrived here with 2 local accommodation units in Juncal do Campo and Chão da Vã. The existing heritage is not monumental but takes a great time of who wants to uncover it, if part of a tour to discover walking, cycling or by any other form of ecological mobility. The wind mill or mill excavated in the rock, the monumental cork tree or the immersion watermills and its dams, in Ocreza. We have a great opportunity to develop a true sensory circuit without forgetting the gastronomy and local products or seasonal workshops. The work in the fields is this lands' support. Integrating Innovative and Active Villages Network, aiming to work in a national network to find solutions to develop the rural environment, Juncal should not separate from its background that is this schist floor and liquid gold from the olive trees extending from the countryside to Castelo Branco.

> The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Project Objectiva: Geopark)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES





1 to 2 April – Visit to Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha. Reinatur Tour operator brought 56 people to the territory to visit Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha. The group was accompanied by Rui Nunes, from GeoLife.



1 to 2 April – V Asparagus, Truffles and Mushrooms Festival in Alcafozes. The 5th edition of Asparagus, Truffles and Mushrooms Festival in Alcafozes (Idanha-a-Nova) was dedicated to these wild products. During the 2 days of the festival there was live cooking, workshops and taverns dedicated to these products. The thematic visit "Land Products", guided by the specialist in mycology José Luís Gravito Henriques, uncovered several curiosities about these mushrooms, in a landscape covered by spring colours. Acha Doce liquors and its Geoproducts, Naturtejo Geopark's sweet ambassadors were present as well as Judite, the Trilobite who amused visitors, presenting the Geopark.

2 April – II Classic of Idanha-a-Nova. In a joint organization between ACIN – Cycling Association from Idanha-a-Nova and ACBI – Beira Interior Cycling Association, with Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Naturtejo Geopark support, the II Classic of Idanha-a-Nova took place in a spring day. The event covered the roads, villages and small places of Idanha-a-Nova. 400 athletes from all over the country and from Spain attended the tour, colouring the landscapes of Proença-a-Velha, Monsanto, Salvaterra do Extremo, Ladoeiro, Penha Garcia, Monfortinho and Idanha-a-Nova, departure and arrival point, in front of the City Hall.

This year the route had a grandfondo section, in dirt track, with about 2km, and the usual sidewalk section, in small streets with breathtaking ascends. Participants enjoyed the route, the landscape, warmth of its people, interaction and the excellent organization.

2 to 4 April – Students from Barreiro learn in Naturtejo Geopark and Grutas da Moeda. For three days, 39 students of the 11th grade from the Elementary School Alfredo da Silva in Barreiro had a field trip within Biology and Geology disciplines. On the first day they visited the Natural Monument Portas de Ródão and the Fossil Trunks in Vila Velha de Ródão, and could understand the landscape through a boat tour, indentify flora and fauna and analyse the Fossils Trunks. Days 3 and 4 were dedicated to a field trip "A journey through the rock cycle in the Centre of Portugal". First they learn about quartzite rocks ichnofossils in Penha Garcia and the granitic boulder chaos in Monsanto. The next day they visited Grutas da Moeda caves and its Scientific and Environmental Interpretation Centre, in order to know better the limestone and its uses, as well as karst morphology. Students were accompanied by 5 teachers and the trainers in Naturtejo Geopark were João Geraldes and Mariana Vilas Boas. This partnership started as both entities are members of the Guide of the Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites.



4 and 5 April - Educational Program in Naturtejo Geopark for students from Leça da Palmeira. 20 students and 5 teachers from the High School of Boa Nova in Leça da Palmeira ended the second term and started their Easter vacations with a 2 days visit to Naturtejo Geopark. The educational program guided by João Geraldes and Joana Rodrigues, included a Boat Tour through Portas de Ródão Natural Monument, a visit to Fossils Trunks in Vila Velha de Ródão, the exhibition of ceramic "The Essence of Colour" of Manuel Cargaleiro in Casa de Artes e Cultura do Tejo and to the Rock Art Interpretation Centre of Tejo Valley. The second day started with the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia, a visit to the Fossils House, in the Ponsul Valley and ended with a granitic boulders exploration in Monsanto through the Boulders Trail.

6 April – Field Trip destined to "Bosco+Páscoa" participants from Solsal Service - Salesiana Solidarity. 14 youth and 2 adults from Évora participated in this activity integrated in the "BOSCO+Páscoa" activity in Proença-a-Nova, from 5 to 7 April. The trainer was João Geraldes.

7 to 8 April – Pascal Mysteries in Idanha-a-Nova. The IV Open Course on Popular Religiosity, organized by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova with Naturtejo Geopark support, was held in Forum Cultural, in the historical area of the village. The initiative, free but with required registration, presented lectures by specialists seeking to answer the question "Is Faith a heritage and touristic asset?". In the morning the speakers were António Silveira Catana, a researcher from Idanha-a-Nova, Sónia Martins from Municipality of Proença-a-Nova and Donizete Rodrigues from University of Beira Interior. In the afternoon the theme was the conservation and promotion of the Pascal Cycle in Idanha, to apply to UNESCO. In a round table were the anthropologist Paulo Lima, The Musicologist Rui Vieira Nery, Armindo Jacinto, President of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the fado singer, Carlos do Carmo, ambassador for Fado application for Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, the debate was moderated by the anthropologist Eddy Chambino, Naturtejo Geopark collaborator. The Open Course ended with a Pascal Concert, preceded by Fernando Lopes-Graça's Blessing Souls performed by Lisboa Chamber Choir Cantat.



8 April to 29 October - Exhibition "Naturtejo Geopark: the Rock that unites us" in Grutas da Moeda caves.

The Exhibition "Naturtejo Geopark: The Rock that Unites Us", was officially opened in Grutas da Moeda cave (2km from Fátima), devoted to the Geological Heritage of Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark.

This initiative that occurred within the Guide of Portuguese Geological and Mines Site Partners' Week brings to the caves of Grutas da Moeda old landscapes, extinct living beings and a geological history full of episodes to unveil in Naturtejo Geopark.

Naturtejo Geopark and Grutas da Moeda intend to bring closer these two regions of the Centre Portugal, rich in natural and cultural heritage, working in close partnership to better promote the potential of the region, especially in the centennial commemoration year of Fátima. "This is an example of partnership work, to promote the country potential, rich in Bio and Geodiversity", said Armindo Jacinto, president of Naturtejo, in the opening ceremony, reminding that "today the Portuguese territory has excellent accessibilities between different regions".

The President also explained that we aim "to get tourists to stay longer in Portugal, beyond popular touristic destinations, and can discover the rest of the country, in this case Grutas da Moeda and the 600 million years of Naturtejo Geopark history".

The same opinion was shared by Danilo Guimarães, responsible for Grutas da Moeda, and the President of the Municipality of Batalha, Paulo Batista Santos. "In a small country like ours, but with rich heritage, we can make different things. Naturtejo Geopark may count on our collaboration so that geological and cultural richness may be optimized in Grutas da Moeda, a gateway to Batalha". Present for the opening ceremony were also representatives from the Tourism of Centre of Portugal, Geological and Mines Site, University of Coimbra, University of Lisbon, among other special guests.

In the Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, Grutas da Moeda and Naturtejo Geopark, both partners of Guide of Portuguese Geological and Mines Sites, join to promote as sustainable tourist destinations, betting on innovation and differentiation.

8 and 9 April – Tour on Geopark by Spain Operator Sermar. A group of 65 spanish tourists were in the territory for 2 days to explore the Vultures Trail in Salvaterra do Extremo and the Gardunha Trail in Louriçal do Campo. The group was accompanied by Jorge Costa, from Actigeo.



9 April – All paths lead to Gold. As result of Penamacor integration in Naturtejo Geopark, the hiking activities are increasing. Also highlight the new partnerships, prove that nature and heritage know no borders. On April 9th the reason for a trail between Portugal and Spain was the gold. "All paths lead to Gold", begun in the Roman Mining Complex of Presa, in Penamacor. The trail, organized by the Municipalities of Penamacor and Valverde Del Fresno, was part of Guide of Portuguese Geological and Mines Site Partners' Week and gathered around 100 participants.

11 April – Allen Family visited Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha. João Geraldes, from Casa do Forno, Naturtejo Geopark's partner company, guided a family of 3 from North America, and visited the historical villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha.

13 to 16 April – Holy Week in Naturtejo Geopark. The Spanish operator Arawak made another program through Naturtejo Geopark with 56 people guided by Rui Nunes. On these days they explored the Fossils Trail in Penha Garcia, visited the Bishop's Palace Garden and Cargaleiro Museum, had a boat tour at Portas de Ródão Natural Monument and visited the historical villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha.

21 to 23 April – Japanese in Naturtejo Geopark. The Spanish Tour Operator "Mikamitravel" brought 12 Japanese for a guided visit to Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha, guided by Rui Nunes. The group stayed at Fonte Santa Hotel in Termas de Monfortinho.



22 to 23 April – II Paeony Festival in Toulões

22 to 23 April – II Paeony Festival in Toulões. The second Paeony Festival colored Toulões' streets, a small village in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, for two exciting days. Organized by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Village of Toulões, the fair is inspired by Paeonia broteroi (Rosa Albardeira), a rare and beautiful flower, colouring the fields in Toulões, particularly in the Murracha Mountain. After the first year's success, Armindo Jacinto, president of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, announced a surprise: an international partnership between Idanha-a-Nova and the German city of Lorsch, with gardens dedicated to this flower celebrating in June the Paeony Festival. Armindo Jacinto explained the partnership: "Paeonia broteroi (Rosa Albardeira), part of our culture is a paeony, world famous flower. Germany values this beautiful flower, so in June the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in a joint cooperation with the village of Toulões and Naturtejo Geopark, will travel to Germany to develop a twining programme with Lorsch, 82km from Frankfurt, integrated in the Bergstrasse-Odenwald UNESCO Global Geopark". The paeony, also the official Taiwan national flower, set the theme for a weekend with music and street performances in Toulões. "This is just the second year of this Festival but we overcome last year's success, with more participants", said the president of the village of Toulões, José Torres.

This weekend the Paeony Trail took 130 people to Murracha Mountain, where the plant finds its perfect habitat. There was also a horse ride and a motorbike ride.

As Idanha-a-Nova is a Creative City of Music by UNESCO, there was plenty of music, Fado on the first night, "Alentejanos de Évora" and Saul on the second day of the Festival.

With 60 exhibitors, twice as many as in the previous year, the visitors, including Spanish, were able to buy souvenirs and taste traditional flavours of Toulões.



28 April to 1 May - TTransgeopark between Tejo and Douro. Casa do Forno, in partnership with Dream Overland and Naturtejo Geopark, organized the TTransgeopark with a special route this year. So, the ninth edition of the event crossed the borders of Naturtejo Geopark and went North, from Tejo Valley to Douro and its vineyards, connecting Tejo and Douro, in an off road route. Three days through the most beautiful landscapes of Beira Interior, with limited participations in order to keep the family atmosphere and lower ecological impact, TTransgeopark brand image.

28 to 30 April - 24th UBI Management Meeting 1988-1993 in Naturtejo Geopark. A group of 40 people chose Geopark to celebrate its 24th Management Student Meeting from University of Beira Interior. Jorge Costa guided the group and visited Penha Garcia, Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha.

29 April to 2 May – Programme in Naturtejo Geopark. Another group of 24 Spanish tourists from the Tour Operator Tierra de Fuego visited Naturtejo Geopark. The hiking programme was: PR3 Schist Trail in Foz do Cobrão; PR1 Jans Trail; Boat Tour in Tejo; PR3 Orvalho GeoTrail and PR2 Schist Trail in Martim Branco. The group was accompanied by Nuno Coelho, from Incentivos Outdoor and Domingos Leitão.

29 April – Visit to Monsanto. The Spanish Tour Operator Samarkanda brought 50 people to visit the Historical Village of Monsanto. They were accompanied by a tourism technician from the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova.



29 April – Opening ceremony for sign points at Senhora do Almortão Sanctuary. Naturtejo Geopark, in partnership with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and Nossa Senhora do Almortão Brotherhood, developed a project for touristic sign points in the most popular sanctuary of Beira Baixa. The project provides visitors' information, mainly interpretative panels and a music box that allows hearing songs devoted to Senhora do Almortão. In the "Castle" a multi-thematic viewpoint was created that allows the visitor to understand the landscape in its several dimensions, from geology to archaeology and sanctuary history. In this high point an "adufeira" (woman playing timbrel) silhouette was placed with 10m high, as a tribute to all women who fill these border landscapes with music. Was also created the Senhora do Almortão Trail, a path with 2km which allows discovering the sanctuary surrounds and the cult history. The project was coordinated by Carlos Neto de Carvalho and inaugurated by Armindo Jacinto who made the new trail during the pilgrimage of Senhora do Almortão. This year the sanctuary was visited by thousands of pilgrims from all over the country who discovered this small sanctuary in the border landscapes.



29 April to 1 May – Training Course for Teachers "Geology Fieldwork in Naturtejo Geopark of the Southern Plateau". For 3 days, 33 Biology and Geology teachers took part in an accredited training course by Aveiro School Training Centre. The course in Naturtejo Geopark was entitled "Field work in Geology in Naturtejo Geopark". The trainer was Carlos Neto de Carvalho backed by Manuela Catana. On the first day they visited the geosites: Portas de Almourão, Fossil Trunks in Vila Velha de Ródão, Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão, Pedunculate Blocks in Nisa; and the Tejo Valley Rock Art Interpretation Centre in Vila Velha de Ródão. The second day was dedicated to the geosite Monsanto Inselberg, the Ichnological Park in Penha Garcia and the Ponsul Fault. On the last day the analysed geosites were the Granite landforms in Serra da Gardunha, Portelo, Penha Alta and Zebro Viewpoint.





TV & Radio

- 7 April (Beira Baixa TV) Carlos Neto in UNESCO
- 13 April (Rádio Hertz) Grutas da Moeda and Naturtejo Geopark travel in a pace of many million years
- 13 April (Beira Baixa TV) Naturtejo Geopark exhibits its Geodiversity in Grutas da Moeda
- 16 April (Rádio Castelo Branco) Naturtejo Geopark's exhibition until 29 October
- 26 April (Rádio Urbana de Castelo Branco) Naturtejo Geopark exhibits its Geodiversity in Grutas da Moeda

Newspapers & www

April (Visão Magazine) – Fossils Trail and Conhal Trails between the best recommended trails in Portugal

April (I Like This – supplement) – sustainable development 17 territories 17 goals

5 April – (Povo da Beira) – European Project gathers Geoparks in Idanha

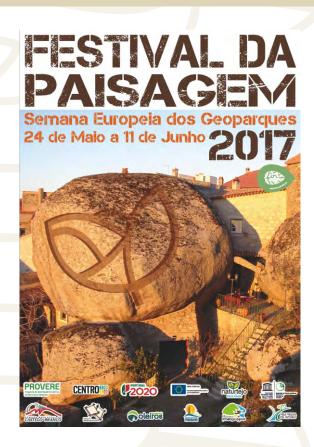
- 6 April (Povo da Beira) Education European Project Geoparks gathered in the border area
- 7 April (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) Carlos Carvalho elected for UNESCO European Geoparks board
- 11 April (Diário de Aveiro) Naturtejo Geopark shows 600 million years' history in Grutas da Moeda
- 12 April (Gazeta do Interior) 7 Wonders of Portugal Villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha at the pre-finals
- 13 April (Reconquista) UNESCO: Neto de Carvalho runs European Geoparks
- 13 April (Reconquista) 7 Wonders reveal 49 villages in the pre-finals Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto pass
- 13 April (Diário Digital de Castelo Branco) Geopark
- 15 April (Beiranews) Naturtejo Geopark exhibits its Geodiversity in Grutas da Moeda
- 19 April (Gazeta do Interior) Paeony colours Toulões again
- 19 April (Gazeta do Interior) 23rd April in Toulões Registrations Opening to the Paeony Trail
- 20 April (Reconquista) Pilot Project in the International Tagus Natural Park
- 20 April (Reconquista) Toulões prepares to Paeony

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE E

- Erjavec, N., Kavcic, M.G., Catana M.M., Vilas Boas, M., Neto de Carvalho, C., et al. Research of National Curricula in Natural Sciences Teaching in Portugal, Norway and Slovenia. Results Analysis with Guidelines. ESTEAM Cooperation for innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices/Strategic Partnerships for School Education, Idrija Heritage Centre, Slovenia, 154pp. (editions in English, Portuguese, Norwegian and Slovenian).
- Farsani, N.T., Neto de Carvalho, C. & Eslamian, S. Education Program for Drought. In: Eslamian, S. & Eslamian, F. (eds.), Handbook of Drought and Water Scarcity Environmental Impacts and Analysis of Drought and Water Scarcity. CRC Press: 551-565.

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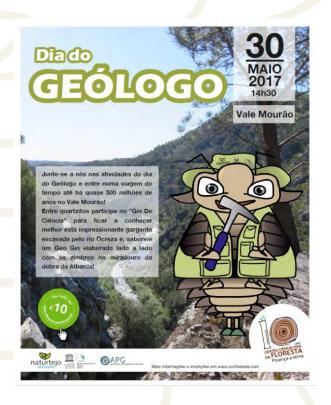






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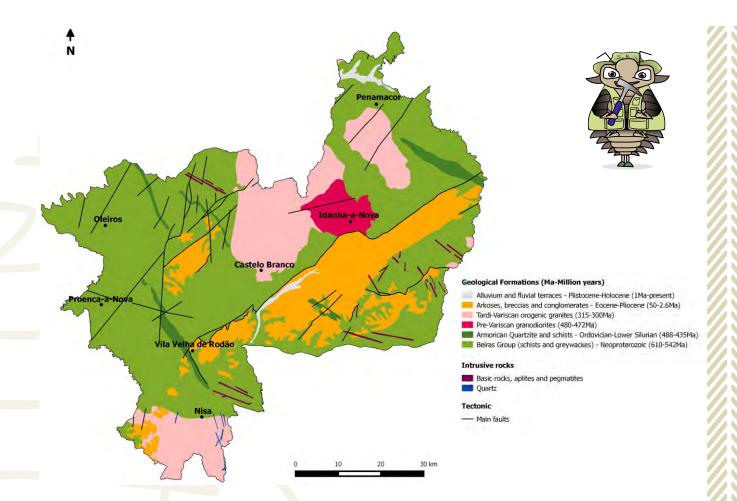
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Geoparks: Geology with human face

