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CRUZIANA

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





Organização das Nações Unidas para a Educação, Ciência e Cultura



Naturtejo da Meseta Meridional Geoparque Mundial da UNESCO



GEO-stories of our places and people: Idanha-a-Velha

Crossing the southern Plateau we find in the hanging wall of the Ponsul fault scarp the small village of Idanha-a-Velha. Immediately in the North of the Valley stands the great granitic Inselberg of Monsanto. In this small shaly meander the simpler village guards testimonies of a large Visigothic town. The languid Ponsul accompanies the granitic pluton's limit in an asymmetric valley smoother in the South where Holm-oak trees prevail; the north is steeper, plentiful of olive oil trees and becomes craggier where nothing else exists beyond granite boulders. From these granitic coarse grained corestones have been withdrawn the stone to build the Roman Civitas.

Civitas Igaeditanorum or Egitanean's City was the name given by the Emperor Augustus to the warehouse built in the road from Emerita Augusta and Bracara Augusta. In the centre of a wide territory where numerous gold mines were explored in Aurifer Tagus, as well as in its watersheds, where later golden coins were minted, the presence of an administrative centre was essential to handle the Empire's interests. In this small Roman town, caught by the Ponsul, there were several public buildings like any other big Roman metropolis, with its Forum, Temples and Baths. We got involved in the past when entering the small village that seems dormant, with architecture more similar to an agricultural farm than to an urban cluster with such an ancient and complex evolution. And we enter the best way by the North door. On the ground, the different solutions created by the refurbishment projects in the framework of the Program of Historical Villages do not hide the access road, as well as the existing constructions on the surrounding wall built between the 3rd and 4th centuries. Filling the wall we find columns from temples and other carved rocks which tell us the dramatic story of the collapse of the Roman Empire. Public buildings were recycled to build the rampart done in a hurry to defend the fragile position of the city during the Barbarian Invasions. At the base of the dungeon we find what's left of that recycling process, the podium of the Temple dedicated to Venus. Further South the Epigraphic Archive keeps the largest and most representative Roman Epigraphy Collections existing in Portugal, found here and throughout the region. Closer the main monument arises from this museum-village protected as National Monument the Church of Santa Maria. This Visigoth Cathedral contains the palimpsest of different cultures settled in Idanha-a-Velha, whose climax was the establishment of the Diocese in 599. The two existing baptisteries have Suevic and Visigoth origins which confers this place unparalleled rarity. The ruins of the Bishop's Palace built in the Visigoth period dwell between the Cathedral and the Walls. The Temple has Mozarabic origin and was built in the 8th century after the Muslim invasion. But the overall architecture is Templar, after the final reconquest of D. Sancho I. The latest changes date back to the 16th century and are related to the repositioning of the altar and consequently the main gate displaying the symbol of the king D. Manuel I. Losing the main church function to the old Mercy church in the late 17th century, the most sacred ground of the ancient Cathedral became the cemetery of the village.



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With the systematic archaeological excavations of D. Fernando de Almeida, between the decades of 50 and 80, which shaped the present knowledge and the ruin physiognomy, this charismatic space in Idanha-a-Velha became an archaeological archive, only recently transformed into Exhibitions and Performances Centre in the village. From the Templar period the dungeon remains in the highest point above the Temple of Venus. The Old Bridge, with low arches, connects this village to Monsanto; in the other extreme are the “poldras”, an ingenious crossing river system resultant once again from recycling Roman stonework. The elevation of Idanha-a-Velha to municipality originates the Manueline pillory, the former Town House and jail, the Main Church with an interesting collection of religious art and later the chapels of S. Sebastião on the edge of the village, Espírito Santo and S. Dâmaso in the involving wall.

This last takes us back to the Roman Period, as it may have been born here in 305 Pope Damasus I, later canonized. The Saint, considered the most notable Pope in the 4th century may have been born in Idanha-a-Velha! In the late 19th century the influence of the Marrocos Family is clear and dominates both economic and social life in the village. The pole mill is from this period, built on previous structure and consists in 3 rooms: the teckel and sink room, the main press room and the residue room; the Marrocos' oven, today a community oven; the Marrocos House, with a dominant position in the village and taking up most of the urban space, showing the beautiful monumental stone work from the first half of the 20th century, but never finished inside. A trip through the history of Idanha-a-Velha cannot focus solely on the inside of the village, one must walk through the wilderness of Ponsul Valley where properties still have the crest of Marrocos family, where we encounter pigsties or shepherd shelters made of brooms and rock rose still preserved. Deserted places rich in legends, as the Ash of King Wamba mythical Visigoth King of Açafa lands down to the Tejo River; or the fountain from where once great amount of gold was extracted.

From the Roman Civitas, the Visigoth Egitânia and the Templar Municipality remain less than 50 residents and a museum-village with unique characteristics in Portugal protected as National Monument. The human settlement that almost always missed this land dates back to the Christian Reconquest. The Ponsul Valley shows some propensity to agriculture. Not far on the left bank of Ponsul is the property where Boom Festival takes place, a major international festival with alternative music and arts considered an example on sustainability shown by the multiple international awards achieved. Every two years about 40.000 people come from all Continents. The rest of the time a small community of utopias is growing here. Another biannual festival, this more “homely”, is in the pipeline. For these and other reasons, recently an Incubator for Creative Industries was located in Idanha-a-Velha. Very close to this property, but hundreds of meters deep is a streak with one of the largest geophysical anomalies for gold known in Portugal.



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There is also the transformation project on Casa Marrocos into a boutique hotel under Templar theme. With so many options to develop Idanha-a-Velha there is, however no distinguishing element to propel projects. And this theme is precisely the Visigothic. No other place in Portugal has a corresponding heritage to this dark period of history as significant as in Idanha-a-Velha, covering the legendary (King Wamba), the significance (Episcopal headquarters and minting coins, relating to geomining heritage) and the archaeological heritage (Cathedral, Bishop's Palace). The theme of Visigoths and Portugal would be fundamental to a thematic hotel in Idanha-a-Velha and the Visigothic Festival, more than the annual Casqueiro Festival, could win a new national and international visibility to this place made of stories, many stories, with thousands of years.

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GEO-stories of our places and people: Idanha-a-Velha

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Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



August - Holidays Academy "Explore and Learn" in Penamacor. The Holidays Academy "Explore and Learn" is organized by the Municipality of Penamacor and supported by Naturtejo Geopark. On summer holidays, the proposal is provide young people from local communities the opportunity to have fun and learn in outdoor activities throughout the region. During the day, 20 participants on the Explore and Learn Academy performed several games, such as: trilobites' fishing; memory game; cube puzzle with the geosites of Penamacor. The instructor for these activities was Mariana Vilas Boas. On the 24th the group had a Geo-soaps workshop. First the 6 participants attended a presentation on the concept of fossils and fossilization types and observed several fossil samples from Naturtejo Geopark, fossil replicas from other UNESCO Global Geoparks, among others. Later, using silicon forms filled with glycerine mixed with essential oils they produced fossil molds that led to scented soaps – the Geo-soaps (e.g. Cruziana, Ammonite and Trilobite). For this activity Mariana Vilas Boas was supported by a Technician from the Office of Social Action and Education from the Municipality of Penamacor.



3 August – Urban Geology in Castelo Branco: What if Rocks Could Speak? On holidays Science goes out on the streets with more than 800 free actions all over the country, organized by Living Science Centres, Scientific institutions, municipalities, companies and scientific associations.

Live Science on Summer is a program to spread science nationally carried out for 21 years with Naturtejo Geopark as partner since the beginning. This year Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta in Naturtejo Geopark proposed over 30 activities, including 9 actions for Geology on Summer, associated with the Geopark.

The first activity of Geology on Summer "Urban Geology of Castelo Branco: What if Rocks Could Speak", took place in a pleasant late summer afternoon, in which a group of children, youth and adults stroll through the squares, streets and alleys in the historical centre of Castelo Branco searching for Geodiversity around, learning to decipher the geological history of the region, trying to understand how Geology has been conditioning the City's urban development. This activity was hosted by Joana Rodrigues and Marta Palhim from Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta.



8 to 10 August – Templar Penha Garcia. The medieval customs and traditions of Penha Garcia led the visitors of "Templar Penha Garcia" to go back in time. The crowded streets on the "village" revived memories with historical recreations, street animation, parades and a huge medieval market. Penha Garcia travelled to the smells, sounds, colours and costumes, in a village whose cliffs have approximately 500 million years of stories. Acha Doce Liqueurs presented Naturtejo Geopark's flavours, with Geoliqueurs, Liqueur Sangria and the well known Hot Wine.

During this event the new Tourism Office of Penha Garcia was inaugurated, a starting point to visit the village of Penha Garcia, the Ichological Park of Penha Garcia and many other locations all over the territory of Naturtejo Geopark. The Tourist Office is located in the new Museum Centre São Pedro de Alcântara and Library Pires de Campos, a space that gathers the spoils of this distinguished collector from Penha Garcia, which includes a section on Natural History still under study.



9 to 13 August – Geopark in Pinhal Fair. Naturtejo Geopark participated once again in Pinhal Fair, in Oleiros, which exhibits the region's natural heritage, touristic offer, the most genuine local products, from gastronomy to handicraft, forest related products and a full animation program.

Naturtejo Geopark's stand, one of the 150 present, received the visit of the State Secretary of Energy, Jorge Seguro Sanches, who has been following closely Geopark's activity. Oleiros showed its natural resources, like geomonuments, as Fraga da Água D'Alta, one of the most impressive waterfalls in Beira Baixa. This year the International Appalachian Trail was highlighted as one of the great attractions in the region, where forest occupies 90% of the municipality and intended to be the development engine. The fair ended with the usual Pyromusical Show, produced by Pirotecnica Oleirense, which brings thousands of visitors to Oleiros. Naturtejo Geopark's stand was boosted by Alice Marcelo, Joana Rodrigues and Paulo Branco.

9 and 19 August – Geology on Summer: Gold in Portas de Almourão. The Living Science Center of Forest boosted two activities of gold mining in the beautiful Geomonument of Portas de Almourão. This is one of the most popular activities in Naturtejo Geopark, specially in these hot summer days, when the waters of Ocreza River invite to dive the Gold pan searching for the precious metal. This activity also keeps the memory of the gold culture alive dating back to the pre-Roman period in this region.

10 August – Peddy Paper “Discover Idanha”. Around 45 students, from 6 to 12 years old, accompanied by 5 adults from the School Group Afonso de Paiva in Castelo Branco participated in this activity. The Peddy Paper was carried out in Idanha-a-Nova, stopping in some historical and cultural landmarks, such as Centro Cultural Raiano, where the group visited the exhibition “Potters of Idanha”, the Traditional Arts Centre, the ceramic ovens, the Town Hall, among others. Some tasks asked were related to the natural heritage in the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. The instructor for this activity was Catarina Caria.

12 August - Geology on Summer: Secrets of Vale Mourão. Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta boosted this activity along the walking trail “The Secret of Vale de Almourão”. Participants got to know how Serra das Talhadas was built and how the Ocreza River dug this monumental throat they crossed.



18 August – Geology on Summer: Fossils of Penha Garcia on the rock and on the Solar Oven. One more Geology on Summer action was developed in close partnership with the Living Science Center of the Forest, in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. Kids and adults, Portuguese and foreigners discovered rocks and fossils with more than 480 million years old and found the power of the water crossing Ponsul Valley and moving the mills' casters to grind flour, an indispensable ingredient to bake delicious “fossils” biscuits, cooked in the solar oven! Joana Rodrigues, Marta Palhim, Edite Fernandes and Sónia Tomé boosted this activity.



26 August to 19 September – International Scientific Cooperation to Scientific Studies in the Geopark.

Within the framework of an international cooperation project with the Institute for Advanced Studies in Zanjan, Iran, Professor Dr. Aram Bayet-Goll visited Naturtejo Geopark aiming to study sedimentary structures preserved on the rocks of Penha Garcia and Serra do Mudaral, and thus reconstitute in greater detail the paleoenvironments that existed nearly 500 million years ago. A layer-by-layer sampling ever held will allow developing petrographical and geochemical analyses in order to strengthen the palaeogeographic and paleoclimatic knowledge about the fossils studied in these two areas by Carlos Neto de Carvalho, Scientific Coordinator of Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark. Among these fossils the best known and visited are undoubtedly the trace fossils of Penha Garcia or “painted snakes” as the locals say proudly of this unique geological heritage that every year brings thousands of curious visitors to the region. The studies developed now by these researchers will be matched with Villuercas-Ibores-Jara Geopark, in neighbouring Extremadura, supported by authorities and Spanish palaeontologists, contributing to the cross-border project to enhance the Geological Heritage known as “Bridge over the Armorican Quartzite”.

29 August to 1 September – Summer CEMP: Seminar on European Union in Monsanto. Naturtejo Geopark along with the European Commission and the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova supported the organization of Summer CEMP, in the Historical Village of Monsanto. The first edition of the Summer CEMP gathered 40 university students and 40 national personalities to discuss the future of the European Union. This event was promoted by the European Commission Representation in Portugal, in partnership with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, Naturtejo Geopark and the Historical Villages Network of Portugal. During three days of intensive practical training on the European Union and the possible future paths students from around the country interacted with a range of contemporary Portuguese and European players, including politicians, journalists, entrepreneurs, academics, sportsmen and artists. Among the speakers were the European Commissioner Carlos Moedas, the Minister of Education Tiago Brandão Rodrigues, MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) Marisa Matias and José Manuel Fernandes, Judo player Nuno Delgado, Fado Singer Kátia Guerreiro, among many others including several local people.

To host this initiative, the organization chose symbolically Monsanto, the “most Portuguese village of Portugal”, for its inspiring scenario and extraordinary cultural and natural heritage.

IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA



Newspapers & www

August (Oleiros Magazine) – GeoRota do Orvalho

August (Oleiros Magazine) – Orvalho promotes heritage of Fraga de Água d'Alta

August (Companies Supplement of Jornal de Notícias) – Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova – a Benchmark Municipality for the Rural World

2 August (Gazeta do Interior) – Centro Ciência Viva celebrates 10 years

2 August (Gazeta do Interior) – a Successful Event – Raiana Fair

2 August (Gazeta do Interior) – World Forum for Rural Innovation – Idanha-a-Nova targets green economy to attract companies

3 August (Reconquista) – Idanha targets green economy

3 August (Reconquista) – 10 years of Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta

3 August (Reconquista) – Raiana Fair

8 August (E-Konomista) – TOP 12 Places to visit in Portugal

9 August (Diário de Coimbra) – Special Pinhal Fair

9 August (Gazeta do Interior) – 10th Anniversary CCFV – Finding Gold in Centro Ciência Viva da Floresta

9 August (Gazeta do Interior) – Pinhal Fair open doors this Wednesday

31 August (Reconquista) – Future of Europe passes by the Village of Monsanto

PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Summer Campaign

17 July to 13 August 2017

Archaeological Excavations
Camp 1: 17 July to 13 August
Camp 2: 17 to 30 July
Camp 3: 30 July to 13 August

Course of Initiation to the Prehistoric Lithic Technology
19 to 21 July (12hours)

Lectures
28 July, 4 and 11 August

Other field practices
22 July and 5 August

Field trip and discovery tour
29 July and 12 August

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Proença-a-Nova International Archaeological Field Camp

2017

Campo Arqueológico de Proença-a-Nova

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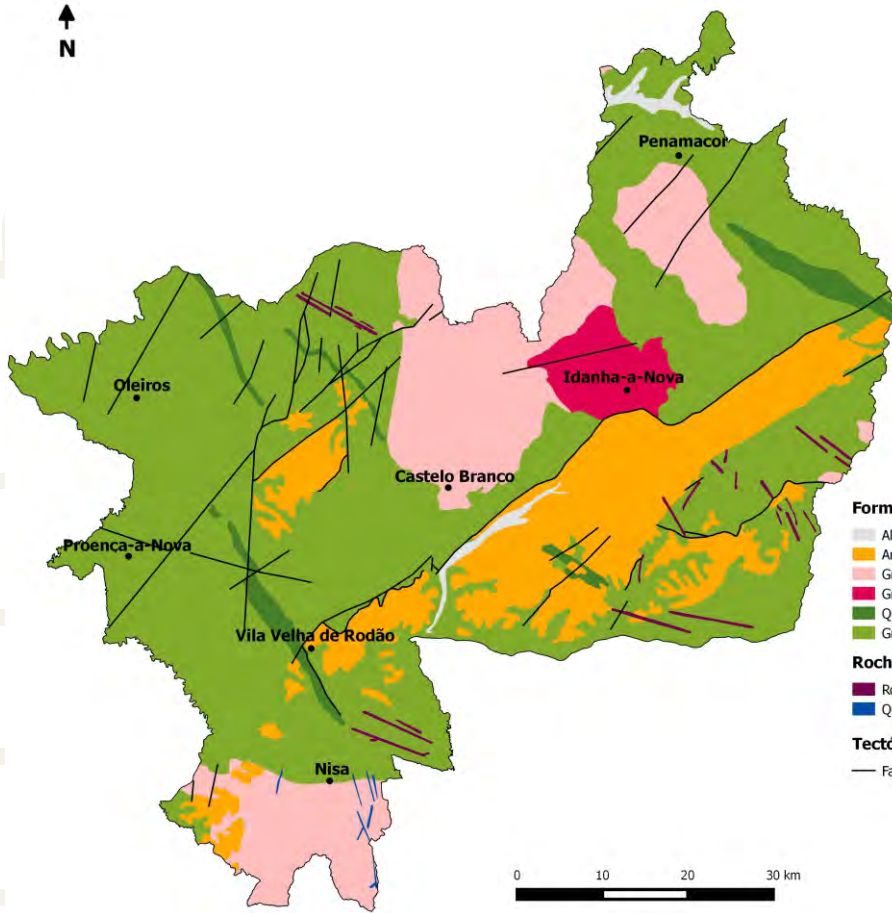
www.youtube.com/geoparknaturtejo



issuu.com/geoparknaturtejo



www.slideshare.net/geoparknaturtejomesetameridional



Formações geológicas (Ma-Milhões de anos)

- Aluviões e terraços fluviais - Plistocénico-Holocénico (1Ma-presente)
- Arcoses, brechas e conglomerados - Eocénico-Pliocénico (50-2.6Ma)
- Granitóides orogénicos tardi-Variscos (315-300Ma)
- Granodiotos pré-Variscos (480-472Ma)
- Quartzito Armoricano e xistos - Ordovício-Silúrico Inferior (488-435Ma)
- Grupo das Beiras (xistos e grauvaques) - Neoproterozóico (610-542Ma)

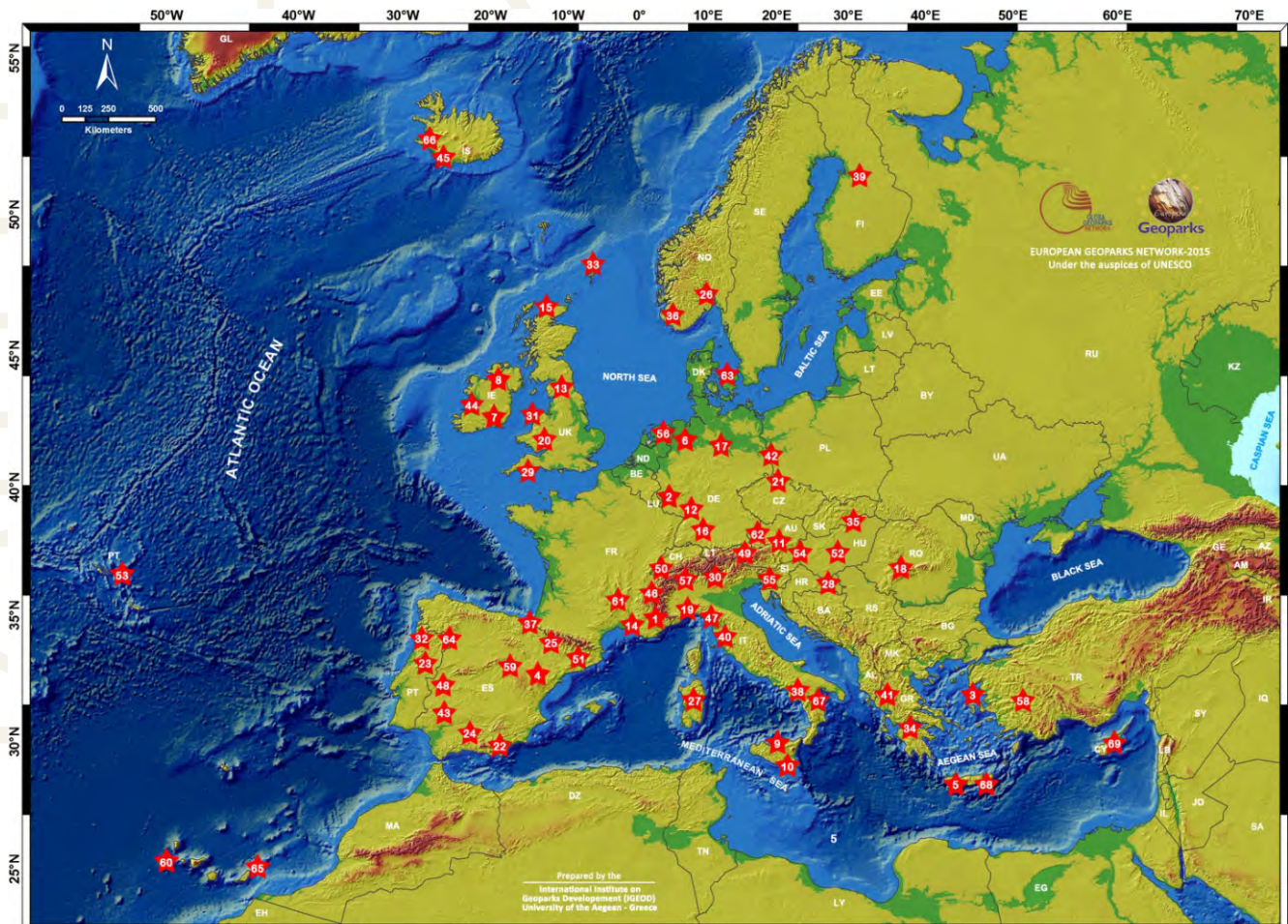
Rochas Intrusivas

- Rochas básicas, apíticas e pegmatíticas
- Quartzito

Tectónica

- Falhas principais

Geoparques: Geologia humanizada





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