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Rosa Albardeira Festival international with German Geopark Participation as partner Training Course on Naturtejo Geopark for Tourism Operators Participation at the Valorisation Plan for Tejo International Natural Park ...and more!









#### GEO-stories of our places and people: Ninho do Açor

Ninho do Acor extends plan in the wings of the Campo de Castelo Branco. Granite soils and abundant water allow a nearly full agricultural occupation of the Parish area of 11,8km2. The plain rises more than 430 m altitude in vast and guiet horizons. This generous and ancient land dates back to Protohistory. The settlements of Sobreiral and Tapadinha, the Graveyard of Chão da Caroula, the Necropolis of Tinalhas, the Winepress of Tapada da Era show the continuous agricultural occupation in the region. A bract of gold was found in Sobreiral, in the 50's. The streams run in the Surface of Castelo Branco into Ocreza. The village flows along the road N352, with its 380 inhabitants growing due this main road connection to Castelo Branco. This village surrounded of olive oil trees, whose peace is only interrupted by land work and the Gardunha winds, has a significant Agro-tourism potential. Quinta da Alma Cheia opened recently. However it is still need to structure the visit in the Parish, by a walking trail that should pass through the local ethnographic museum, the gardens and olive groves, but also by local accommodation and archaeological sites with potential valorisation. This would also be the place for Ninho do Açor, a space dedicated to interpretation and observation of such diverse Birdlife in the area near the Dam of the Marateca and not far from Gardunha Mountain, where already exist routes and equipment dedicated to the effect.

> The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



## **MONTHLY ACTIVITIES**



**4 April – Naturtejo Geopark participates in the Valorisation Plan of the Tejo International Natural Park.** Naturtejo Geopark participates in Sectorial Meetings in the parishes of Tejo Internacional Natural Park, this time in Segura, to hear from the communities and prepare the Valorisation Plan of PNTI 2018-2022. Also noteworthy was the presence of the GeoCompany Aromas do Valado, one of the most recognized examples of sustainable entrepreneurship, combining natural heritage promotion with its economic activity.

**9 April – Workshop on Accommodation Management.** Within the frame work of the Executive Master on Rural Tourism Management, post graduation course taught jointly by the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco, the Polytechnic Institute of Porto and the Estoril Higher Institute for Hotel Management and Tourism, the Superior Management School of Idanha-a-Nova of IPCB, in cooperation with the Portuguese Federation of Rural Tourism, took place a Workshop on "Accommodation Management".

This initiative received e-GDS, a consulting company for booking platforms and accommodation management, attended by the Association of Hotel Directors of Portugal, sharing a real case. This event was organized by the Association of Rural Hotels of Portugal, ESGIN/IPCB, and supported by Naturtejo Geopark, and was aimed for professionals, rural tourism entrepreneurs and also students and sector lookers aiming to discuss accommodation management.



11 April – Field Trip A "In the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia searching for Trilobite traces (Cruziana)".

**11 April – Field Trip A "In the Fossils Trail of Penha Garcia searching for Trilobite traces (Cruziana)"**. The outdoor class on Natural Sciences subject was attended by 91 7th grade students with 7 teachers from the School Group Padre António Lourenço Farinha, in Sertã. During the class students were able to see Cruziana ichnofossils, in the quartzite rocks of the Ponsul River Gorge and remembered and learnt concepts from the discipline curriculum. The instructors were Manuela Catana and Catarina Caria.



**12 April – Outdoor Class to learn on Earth History and human occupation in the Historical Villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha.** In the framework of Biology and Geology discipline, 109 10th grade students and 8 teachers from the School Group Francisco de Holanda in Guimarães visited Idanha-a-Velha and Monsanto. In Idanha-a-Velha the group visited the ancient cathedral, the old olive oil press and the epigraphic archive; in Monsanto they walked through the Boulders Trail watching the peculiar architecture of granite buildings. In Idanha-a-Velha the visit was accompanied by two technicians from the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and in Monsanto by Manuela Catana and Catarina Caria.



**13 and 14 April – Meeting of UNESCO Global Geoparks Portuguese Forum in Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark.** The first working day was dedicated to the Meeting of UNESCO Global Geoparks Portuguese Forum to debate on the revaluation process of Terras de Cavaleiros Geopark - UNESCO Global Geopark. The second day was a visit to this Geopark territory, followed by debate and experiences sharing. Manuela Catana participated in the Meeting representing Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark, replacing the President of the Administration Board of Naturtejo EIM, Armindo Jacinto.

**15 April – Association from Pombal visits the Geopark.** A group of 30 visitors from Pombal visited Monsanto, accompanied by Rui Nunes.

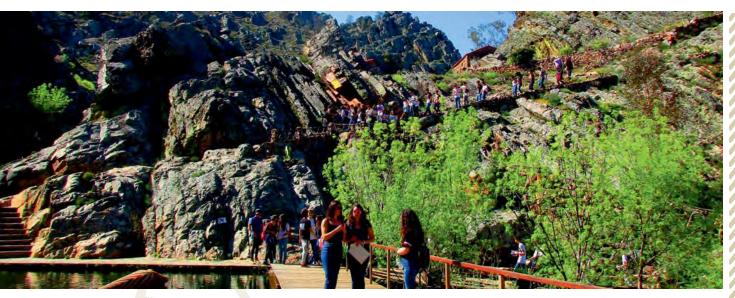


**18 April – Participation in the workshop "TOUR(ism)" at the Professional School Agostinho Roseta.** The Professional School Agostinho Roseta, in Castelo Branco, held the Workshop "TOUR(ism)" for students in this School (Courses of Tourism Technician, Cooking/Baking Technician and Restaurant/Bar Technician) and teachers. The Workshop was attended by 100 students and 5 teachers. Manuela Catana presented "Naturtejo Geopark and Geotourism".



**19 April – Presentation of the Valorisation Plan of Tejo International Natural Park 2018-2022.** On the day that marks the 1st year after the signature of the cooperation protocol of the Pilot Project for Collaborative Management of Tejo International Natural Park, the Valorisation Plan of PNTI 2018-2022, with the collaboration of Naturejo Geopark, was presented, in a ceremony attended by the Environment Minister, João Pedro Matos Fernandes.

This event took place at Herdade da Urgueira, in Vila Velha de Ródão, and was also attended by the Secretary of State for Regional Planning and Nature Conservation, Célia Ramos, representatives of the Municipalities and other entities involved in this Pilot Project, which aims to, through a collaborative management of a protected area, prove the practical effect of a proximity management to those who live in these territories, defined by the National Strategy for Nature Conservation and Biodiversity, recently approved by the Government.



**19 April – Field Trip C "Fossils of Penha Garcia and Bourders of Monsanto".** In the framework of Biology and Geology subjects, this outdoor class was attended by 61 10th grade students and 5 teachers from the School Group Francisco de Holanda, in Guimarães. Students visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia and the Inselberg of Monsanto wandering by the granite blocks chaos where the village was settled. The instructors for this activity were Manuela Catana and Catarina Caria.



**21 to 22 April – Rosa Albardeira Festival in Toulões.** The 3rd Rosa Albardeira Festival in Toulões offered two colourful and exciting days. This year the programme had many novelties, from seed selling to attendance of international personalities, and the announcement of a garden to consolidate Toulões as "Peony Village of Portugal". Armindo Jacinto, President of the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, announced the new garden project dedicated to Rosa Albardeira (Paeonia broteri), endemic species in the Iberian Peninsula, and peonies from other places in the world and also other local plants.

Besides this municipality, the project will involve the Parish of Toulões, Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark and the company Living Seeds, currently developing preservation and selling project for Rosa Albardeira and other local species. "The purpose is to provide Toulões with a Peony Garden, which will be a point of interest for all nature enthusiasts, as well as help preserving the species Rosa Albardeira and boost economic possibilities around this rare plant", said Armindo Jacinto.

These opportunities are also recognized by António Marcelo, President of the Parish of Toulões: "We started working to make our Rosa Albardeira the most special in Portugal, so it will represent Toulões in the national and international map".

After Rosa Albardeira from Toulões travelled to Germany in 2017 as guest in the Peony Festival, in Lorsch, this year German representatives discovered this Portuguese village. In collaboration with Naturtejo Geopark, the UNESCO de Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark and Messel Pit, World Heritage Site came to Portugal.

One of the most important moments of the Festival was the Walking Trail "Rosa Albardeira" with 150 hikers walking into Murracha Mountain, where the plant grows in its natural habitat.



21 April - International Conference "Rosa Albardeira: an opportunity for Toulões". On the International Earth Day the Parish of Toulões held the first International Conference on the history of Toulões. The conference received as quests Dr. Jutta Weber, director of Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark and Dr. Marie-Luise Frey, director of Messel Pit, World Heritage Site, both in Germany. This German participation in the Conference and Festival is a result of a partnership with Naturtejo Geopark since 2012 and has shown very positive results, namely in the participation of the most important tourism fair in the world in Berlin. This partnership now extended to Idanha-a-Nova and the Parish of Toulões and was remembered in the opening Conference by the president of the Municipality, Armindo Jacinto, in the scope of the integration of Toulões in an international network of Peonies territories, genus of plants to which Rosa Albardeira belongs, linking this village in the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova to Lorsch, World Heritage City and Lushan Mount, in China, also World Heritage and UNESCO Global Geopark. "This is an opportunity to value our heritage and raise awareness of "Toulões – Rosa Albardeira Village" both in Portugal and internationally", said António Marcelo during the conference. The room in the Parish was too small to host all interested, so the conference was held in the Hall at the Day Care Centre. Around 100 participants, mostly locals, learned from examples given by German guests on the importance of a peony garden and local plants. Dr. Jutta Weber shown the Peony Garden in Lorsch as tourism attraction and city reference to the promotion of Bergstrasse-Odenwald Geopark, as well as a cultural project associated to Peonies, including artistic residences, exchanges with China and Toulões and also temporary exhibitions. Dr. Marie-Luise highlighted the Geodiversity role as stories maker and as tourism offer diversification, starting from an exceptional fossil record preserved in Messel which allows reconstructing a stage on the evolution of life and ecosystems with 50 million years. Murracha Mountain is one of those wealth almost untold geostories. On the day that Rosas Albardeiras bloom, almost 200 people visited them (hikers, mountain bikers, locals) and the German gests also couldn't miss a chance to see this delicate species in its natural habitat.



26 April – Students from Penamacor present Geocookies in Entrepreneurship fair in Évora.

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

**26 April – Students from Penamacor present Geocookies in Entrepreneurship fair in Évora.** The idea for geocookies (cookies shaped like pebbles) came out around three years now, in a project developed by students on the Professional Course of Cooking and Baking at the School Group Ribeiro Sanches and Naturtejo Geopark. Now, a new group of students, within the framework of a project on Education for Citizenship and Entrepreneurship, initiated by the Municipality of Penamacor, and its Social and Education Cabinet, in partnership with Junior Achievement Portugal and AERS, decided to grab this idea and enhance it, ensuring their presence in this event.

**26 April - Training Courses on Naturtejo Geopark for Tourism Professionals.** Entrepreneurs, Directors and Tourism Professionals from Termas de Monfortinho and Rosmaninhal arranged two Training Courses on Tourism and Local Development, intended to entrepreneurs, collaborators and tourism professionals, boosted by Naturtejo Geopark, by the Geologist Joana Rodrigues.

The first "Touristic Information on Naturtejo Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark" was designed to a wide range of professionals, presenting concepts and territory resources, essential for customer service and development of tourism products. The second "Naturtejo Geopark: Perspectives and opportunities of tourism development under the brand UNESCO Global Geoparks" was intended to entrepreneurs and tourism managers, focusing on tools available by the Geopark, strategies, networking, segmentation, diversification and improving regional tourist amenities.



**27 April - Field Trip on the Accredited Training Course for Teachers "Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark as educational resource".** This field trip was attended by 4 teachers and kindergarten teachers under the theme "Travel through Bio/Geodiversity from past and present in Naturtejo Geopark – UNESCO Global Geopark". The 4 participants received a guideline which allows them to know two geomonuments integrated in the Educational Programs on Naturtejo Geopark: the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia (including a visit to "Fossils Home") and the Erges River Gorge in Segura (including a visit to the Biodiversity Interpretative Centre "Lands of Idanha"). In Segura the group visited a partner company of Naturtejo Geopark, Aromas do Valado. The trainer for this activity was Manuela Catana.



**28 April – Workshop on Historic Wine in Oleiros.** The 3rd Workshop on "Ten Villages, Ten Experiences – Workshop on Callum Wine and Honey" in the Parish of Oleiros-Amieira highlighting the Callum wine – a historic wine resulting from a native variety – and Honey, the most frequent here is heather and essential for traditional desserts.

Participants walked through the path "Discovering the Stream", guided by Daniel Gonçalves, along with several ethnographic experiences, rural connected to goat rearing, beekeeping, honey, wine and local products tasting and also gold mining with the Geologist Joana Rodrigues.

The wine lunch included a taste of Callum Wine guided by an oenologist and a historic recreation "Romanization of wine and Baco parties". This initiative involved several associations and local agents.



**29 April – Down Erges River – Luso-Spanish Meeting on Kayaking.** The 15th edition Down Erges River was a great success, a kayaking trip connecting Termas de Monfortinho and Salvaterra do Extremo. This initiative was organized by the Kayaking Club Organization of Beira Baixa, in partnership with the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Union of Parishes Monfortinho and Salvaterra do Extremo, among other entities. According to the organization Portuguese and Spanish participants proved Erges River unites two countries. The President of the Union of Parishes Monfortinho and Salvaterra do Extremo, Paulo Lopes, highlighted the proximity with Spain, which contributes to the friendship and union between both countries.

**30 April – Field Training in Sobral Fernando.** After a previous theoretical work and a field trip, this day was dedicated to field training to prepare the instructor Catarina Caria on Educational Programs in Naturtejo Geopark to boost the field trip "Secrets of Vale Mourão and the Forest" in the Living Science Centre in Proença-a-Nova. The training activity took place in the Walking Trail "Secrets of Vale Mourão", which begins in Sobral Fernando (Municipality of Proença-a-Nova), aiming to identify/watch and analyse fauna, flora and Geodiversity in the Geomonument Portas de Almourão, in certain main stops selected along the trail, to complement with education resources. The trainer was Manuela Catana.



## **IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA**

#### **Newspapers & www**

Abril 2018 (Oleiros Magazine) – Oleiros at BTL Abril 2018 (Raiano) – 4th ESTEAM Meeting took place in Slovenia Abril 2018 (Raiano) – Monsanto elected 5 Stars Destination Abril 2018 (Raiano) – Rosa Albardeira Festival presents International Program 9 April (BeiraNews) – 3rd Rosa Albardeira Festival enliven Toulões 10 April (Diário Digital) – Toulões hosts Walking Trail Rosa Albardeira 11 April (Povo da Beira) – 3rd Workshop enphasises Callum Wine 11 April (Povo da Beira) – 3rd Rosa Albardeira Festival on 21st and 22nd April 12 April (Reconquista) – 21st and 22nd April – Rosa Albardeira is theme for festival 12 April (Reconquista) – Workshop on Callum wine debates history 13 April (BeiraNews) – Toulões hosts Walking Trail Rosa Albardeira on 22nd April 13 April (Diário de Noticias) – Portuguese Geoparks and aspiring to UNESCO status gathered in Macedo de Cavaleiros 18 April (Gazeta do Interior) – Rosa Albardeira Festival show International Program 18 April (Gazeta do Interior) – Monsanto elected 5 Stars Destination 18 April (Gazeta do Interior) – Callum Wine is the star of Ten Parishes, Ten Experiences 18 April (Povo da Beira) – Rosa Albardeira has an International Program 18 April (Povo da Beira) – Monsanto considered a 5 Stars Destination 19 April (Reconquista) – Portugal 5 Stars to Destination Monsanto 26 April (Reconquista) – Tasting Callum 26 April (Povo da Beira) – 3rd Rosa Albardeira Festival enliven Toulões and announced new garden

30 April (BeiraNews) – Discovery of an ancient gold mine in Toulões

# SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEOPARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



- FARSANI, N.T., NETO DE CARVALHO, C. & XU, K. – Education as a key tenet of Geotourism. In: Dowling, R. & Newsome, D. (eds.), Handbook of Geotourism. E.Elgar Publishing, UK: 234-243.



## **PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**









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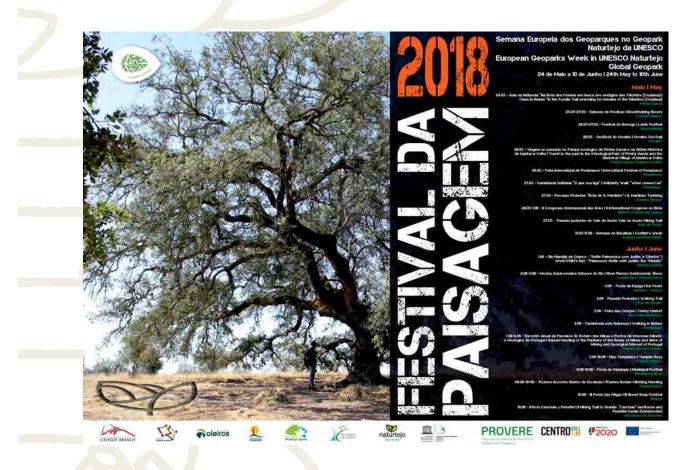


## **PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**





## **PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC**



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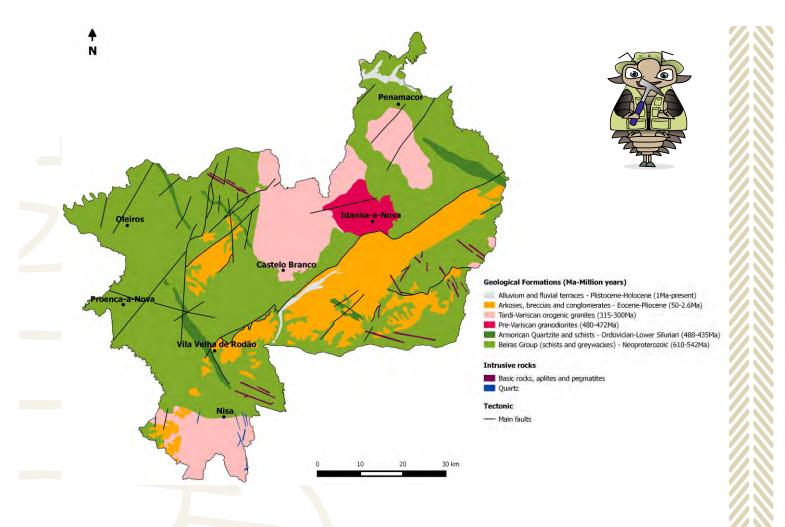
www.instagram.com/geopark\_naturtejo/



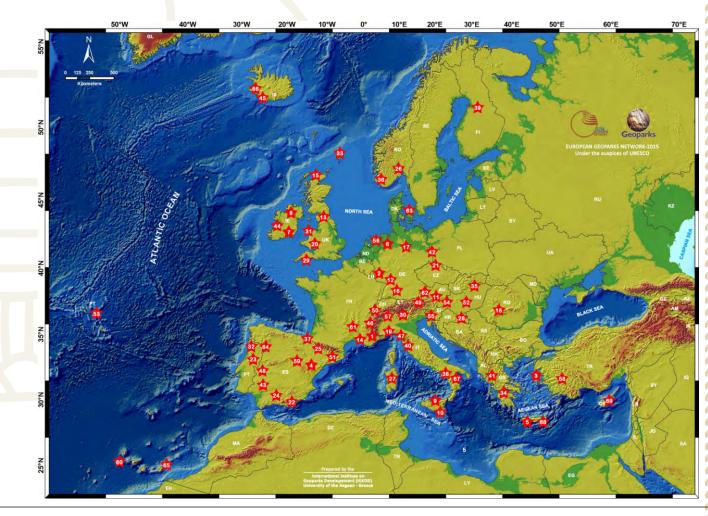
www.youtube.com/geoparknaturtejo

issuu.com/geoparknaturtejo

www.slideshare.net/geoparknaturtejomesetameridional



### Geoparks: Geology with human face



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