

CRUZIANA

GEOPARK NATURTEIO DA MESETA MERIDIONAL-EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

In this issue: – Naturtejo Geopark in the International Tourism Fair of Lisbon – III International Orienteering Meeting – Leaflet of the Global Geoparks Network now in Portuguese – Students of the Idanha-a-Nova School Grouping awarded with a visit to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia–…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: Sarnadas de Ródão

Between Vila Velha de Ródão and Castelo Branco, on a broad and extensive hill confined by the Morgado Valley, to west, and the tectonic fault of Feito Valley, is located the village of Sarnadas de Ródão. It's the largest of the seven settlements located between the Ocreza and Ponsul rivers, totalling a territory with 59,83km2 and only 637 inhabitants.

Sarnadas has its origin in the Good Fountain. There are some who refer that the place name is related to the salutary quality of its waters for the treatment of skin diseases. Others, however, assign its origin to the wild and uncultivated lands, where only the rockrose grows. One thing is certain: The history of Sarnadas lies in its fountains. See as an example the Fountain of Rua Nova, still perpetuating a dramatic love history. This water story is now told in the new hiking trail which connects its monuments. In a land of labour, where the main economic activities are centred in the agriculture, the olivegrowing and forestry, are not expected other reasons to visit than the ones related with this daily, lively labour. The Olive Oil Museum occupies a highlighted place in the center of Sarnadas de Ródão. But it would be worthwhile to take a route in the olive oil through the ancient olive oil presses that today still exist in the neighbours Carapetosa and Cebolais de Baixo. It cannot be missed as well the Community oven of Amarelos, that still works daily and continues to produce the traditional and delicious "tigelada", among other sweet delicacies. With a little more persistence driving in the dirt roads, and many eucalyptuses later, we will find the deep Ocreza valley, which still thrives beautiful, natural corners perfect for a walk, a bath in a silent river beach or for certain successful fishery. Once more, betting in tourism in rural spaces, where the traditional schist architecture is still preserved in excellent examples, would find in these villages and places of Sarnadas de Ródão the proximity with Castelo Branco and excellent accessibilities, including the train, the motorway IP2 and the highway A23. It is worth looking to the example of the Herdade da Tojeira. Producing nowadays high quality biological products that are sold in Lisbon, bet in times in the New Artistic Trends Study Centre that created new and interesting dynamics in the region. Located in a cosy space of natural silences, the Herdade da Tojeira shows great potential for welfare tourism, to which can be combined the biological agriculture, healthy gastronomy and long walks by foot or on bicycle.

The Editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific Coordinator Geologist

References:

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Rolão, P. & Carmona, M. 2012. Sarnadas do Ródão – na roda do tempo. Montículo. Henrique, A. 1981. Alguns apontamentos relacionados com lendas e factos contidos na etnografia de Sarnadas de Ródão. Açafa On-line, 2, 2009, 1-18.

Frontpage: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)

ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



6 to 8 February – III International Orienteering Meeting in Idanha-a-Nova. The Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, the Association for the Disabled of the Armed Forces and the Portuguese Orienteering Federation hosted the 3rd International Meeting of Idanha-a-Nova, with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. This is a ranking event counting for the Portuguese Cup Ranking of 2015 and for the World Ranking Event (WRE). It consists in two stages, one of medium distance on Saturday counting for the WRE score and another of long distance on Sunday. Both trails were made in Cidral, Monsanto. Took place on Saturday a night sprint race, external to the competition in the historical centre of Idanha-a-Nova. The Friday was dedicated to the accomplishment of the preparation event for athletes ("model event") that normally succeeds the competition. The event falls in the strategy of the Project Taejo Internacional, hosted with the support of the European Union and co-financed by the FEDER and the POCTEP 2007-2013.

7 to 8 February - Fam Trip for the Spanish operator Cies Viajes. Two full days were organized for 45 Spanish delegates where they experienced a little bit of Naturtejo Geopark. Cies Viajes visited the historical villages of Monsanto and Idanha-a-Velha and ended in a journey through the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.

14 to 15 February – Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Festival of Proença-a-Velha boosts production and consumption of local products. The Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Festival returns to Proença-a-Velha during the carnival weekend with a "menu" made by the best regional flavours, the most traditional knowledge, and lots of cultural and musical animation.

The promotion, disclosure and marketing of the acclaimed olive oil and smoked meat of strong, local tradition are the main goal for the 13th edition of this, carried out by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Parish of Proença-a-Velha, with the support of Naturtejo Geopark.

The musical animation was guaranteed by traditional groups from the parish and a diversified variety of invited guests. The event, which takes place next to the Olive Oil Museological Centre, counted yet with the attendance of dozens of regional products exhibitors, small inns, child animation, burlesque parades, themed workshops, live cooking, traditional blood sausage production demonstrations and the 7th MTB Ride "Olive Oil Route".



20 February – Educational program among the Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto.

20 February – Educational program among the Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto The field trip "The Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto" was intended for students of the Campo Melo Secondary School, from Covilhã. This activity took place in the scope of the classes of Biology and Geology and Physical Education and was intended for 42 students and 4 teachers of the do 10th school grade. The monitors of this field trip were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.



24 February – Educational program "The Fossils of Penha Garcia and the Boulders of Monsanto" intended for students of the Secondary School of Lousã. In this field class attended 44 students and 3 teachers of the 10th school grade. This activity took place in the scope of Biology and Geology class. The monitors were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.



25 February – Students from the School Grouping of Idanha-a-Nova awarded with a visit to the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia. The activities took place in the scope of the project "My class is the best of the entire School" energized by the Psychologist and Social Assistant of the School Grouping. The students awarded by the School Board with the passport to participate freely in the activities were some students of the 5th and 6th school grade, making a total of 33 students. The adventure sports performed in the Ponsul valley were climbing, rappel, blowpipe and archery. The adventure sports were coordinated by the Company Vila Fraga and the monitors of the field class were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana. This was a good edutainment prize offered by the school for its students.



25 February to 1 March – Naturtejo Geopark in the Lisbon Tourism Fair. The booth of Naturtejo Geopark Meridional Meseta was one of the highlights in the Tourism Fair of Lisbon (BTL), where received with cultural and gastronomical animation many of the thousands of visitors that passed by the biggest Portuguese tourism fair. One of the great novelties of BTL was the introduction of new programs throughout all the territory of the first Portuguese geopark recognized by UNESCO. The programs for 2015 are distributed by the segments of History and Heritage, Nature, Sport and Adventure and Welfare and Culture, introducing more innovative and unique tourism activities and experiences. The touristic proposals cover the municipalities of Castelo Branco, Idanha-a-Nova, Nisa, Oleiros, Proença-a-Nova, Vila Velha de Ródão and also Penamacor, anticipating what is expected to be the enlargement of Naturtejo Geopark to this municipality. For the Naturtejo E.I.M. Chairman, Armindo Jacinto, the new routes "are pleasant additions to the remaining good reasons for visiting Naturtejo Geopark"; they reinforce a set of programs that goes straight to the territory very best. During five days, the booth of Naturtejo Geopark received the visit of countless entrepreneurs of the touristic and public sectors interested in know better the territory proposals. Among many public personalities, stand out the visit of the Prime Minister, Pedro Passos Coelho.

The booth was yet stage of the official introduction of the grand opening of the Portuguese International Appalachian Trail, which will take place in the Municipality of Oleiros, in the 28 March. During the BTL, a group of elements from the Theatre Company Viv´Arte, dressed with Iron Age customs, promoted in the fair area this new touristic product. The same theatre company yet took the visitors in a journey to de medieval age, with enthusiastic historical recreations of the Templars Universe. Was yet possible to taste some of the best gastronomical products of the territory, with particular highlight to the Roasted Kid of Oleiros. After the participation in the past month in FITUR – International Tourism Fair of Madrid, and now in BTL, Naturtejo geopark will continue to disclose the new routes next to the several touristic operators in tourism fairs, such as de ITB, in Berlin, already from 4 to 8 of March.





TV & Radio

J2 February (Beira Baixa TV) – Minister of Economy and Fado in the Naturtejo space – Geoparks at the International Tourism Fair of Madrid

6 February (Beira Baixa TV) – Ultra-marathon Trans Pangea in Vila Velha de Ródão 6 February (Beira Baixa TV) – Naturtejo Geopark present in the Hunting and Tourism Fair of Macedo de Cavaleiros – The four Portuguese geoparks were together 25 February (SIC TV Jornal da Noite) – Tourism Fair of Lisbon

Newspapres & www

January-February (Jornal de Oleiros) – Trans Pangea Challenge in Oleiros in April January-June (EGN Newsletter) – Global Geoparks Naturtejo and Tianzhushan participating in an international project for interpretation of the Chinese geopark geological heritage

February (Ensino Magazine) - In Futurália and Qualific – Naturtejo and Magazine raffle weekends

February (Raiano) – 3rd Hunting and Gastronomy Fair

3 February (Povo da Beira) – Naturtejo coordinates the participation – Geopark in the International Tourism Fair of Madrid

3 February (Povo da Beira) – Products "Terras de Idanha" promoted in Madrid

3 February (Povo da Beira) – Municipality in the spotlight of the Trans Pangaean Challenge

4 February (Gazeta do Interior) – Naturtejo coordinates the participation of the geoparks in FITUR

4 February (Gazeta do Interior) – Fado made its presence in the geoparks booth in FITUR

4 February (Gazeta do Interior) – Products "Terras de Idanha" promoted in Madrid

4 February (Gazeta do Interior) – Olive Oil and Smoked Meat Festival entertains Proença-a-Velha during the Carnival weekend

5 February (Reconquista) – Geopark was present in FITUR

5 February (Reconquista) – School Contest and Field Trip – The Water that Unite Us returns

6 February (BeiraNews) - Vila Velha de Ródão hosts Ultra-marathon Trans-Pangea in April

6 February (Diário Digital) - Naturtejo Geopark attended the Hunting and Tourism Fair of Macedo de Cavaleiros

8 February (BeiraNews) – Naturtejo Geopark was present in the Hunting and Tourism Fair in Macedo de Cavaleiros



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

Newspapers & www

- 10 February (Povo da Beira) Naturtejo Geopark attended the International Tourism Fair of Madrid
- 10 February (Povo da Beira) Ultra-marathon Trans-Pangea in the municipality of Vila Velha de Ródão
- 11 February (Gazeta do Interior) Hunting and Tourism Fair of Macedo de Cavaleiros Naturtejo participates in initiatives with other geoparks
- 11 February (Gazeta do Interior) Ultra-marathon Trans-Pangea in Vila Velha de Ródão
- 12 February (Reconquista) Olive Oil and Smoked Meat in Proença-a-Velha Festival promotes regional products
- 12 February (Reconquista) Trail promoted in Madrid Appalachian Mountains in Fitur
- 17 February (Povo da Beira) Minister of Economy shows interest in the Roasted Kid
- 17 February (Povo da Beira) Proença-a-Velha Weekend dedicated to local products
- 17 February (Reconquista) Festival promotes local products Celebration in the village of the olive oil and smoked meat
- 22 February (BeiraNews) Naturtejo Geopark releases new routes in the Tourism Fair of Lisbon
- 23 February (Diário Digital) Naturtejo Geopark releases new routes in the Tourism Fair of Lisbon
- 25 February (Gazeta do Interior) Naturtejo Geopark releases new routes in BTL
- 25 February (Reconquista) Chamber wants to introduce the propose in this year Penamacor identifies geological heritage
- 25 February (Reconquista) Region is displayed in BTL
- 24 February (www.europeangeoparks.org) Geoparks Newsletters Cruziana
- 26 February (Reconquista) Penamacor Municipality proceed with the application for the Geopark
- 27 February (Supplement BTL of the Diário de Coimbra newspaper) Naturtejo introduces new routes to boost tourism



PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

- Programs by the Naturtejo Geopark Meridional Meseta: Naturtejo, E.I.M. (leaflets in English, Portuguese and Spanish)
- GR38 Trail Muradal-Pangeia (Portuguese Appalachian Trail). Municipality of Oleiros (leaflet in Portuguese)
- Global Geoparks Network (leaflet in Portuguese)
- Euroregion Touristic Chart Alentejo.Centro.Extremadura (EUROACE). Government of Extremadura (in Portuguese and Spanish)



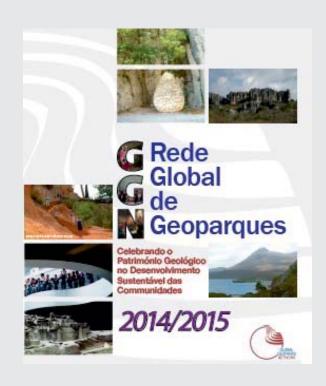


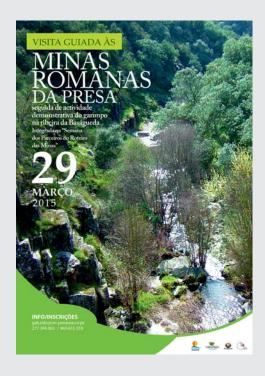




PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC











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