



CRUZIANA

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

In this issue: –Idanha-a-Nova integrates the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities - University students studying Innovation in tourism at the Geopark – – Technical Professional Course of Environmental and Rural Tourism analyzes Geomonuments ... 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: Arez

A large cork oak forest characterizes the landscape of Arez. In the center of this universe of Cork and granite Boulders an unexpected place is found: Fadagosa. According to the "New Aquilegium", the curious name of Fadagosa or Fedegosa, is a regional term used to classify the Sulfur-rich waters by the smell, that is, if is Fedegosa is something with "unpleasant smell" or "rotten egg" smell. We find it in 12 designations of water sources, all in the territorial space defined by the catchment area of the Tagus river. The first news of this Fedegosa date back to 1810, when the Judge José Casal Ribeiro ordered the construction of the first buildings. "Between the villages of Arez and Gafeto, born from a rock formed of pebble and quartz the spring called the Fedegosa which goes piped inside a House, where are two baths ..." "Frequented by poor class, that send their households in barrels, during the night, to not suffer decay." It was in the early 40's of the twentieth century that the balneary-hostel was built, still existing, shy, on the right margin of the Ribeira de Sor. The waters have a reputation for treating rheumatic and respiratory diseases. Close, is the new thermal complex where the granite architecture and water come together in the amplitude of the space. In addition to the bathhouse and a Treatment Facility, the project includes sports halls, conference centers, a hotel, transforming the old thermal building into a museum. In this vast and expensive project, 11 km from Nisa and 5 km from the nearest village, will be useful not to forget what Mangorrinha (2002, 185) wrote about in his "Thermal" Alentejo: "Unlike other spas, where thermalism is more rooted and with loyal users, the Thermal springs of North Alentejo must seek to enter this feature/tourist product in the offer that characterizes, long ago, the Alentejo, their landscape and architectural heritage, the rich gastronomy and cultural manifestations of very particular nature ". So, while this Hydrogeological Geomonument don't get body and vitality to arise as an attraction factor we find, right next to it, the most precious Natura2000 Site Nisa-Lage de Prata. Lage de Prata is a huge granite boulder, this typical granite of Nisa, porphyroid of "horse tooth" plagioclase, which only comes to the surface of the soil. But the little that stands in this flatness, which comes to soak for long periods in winter, allows to appreciate a field of black oak *Quercus pyrenaica*, extremely rare in Portugal. In these places of historical occurrence of Iberian Lynx, there are also legends of mines and treasures: in the Lage de Prata there is a "Roman" well, and in the Poço da Lança, today totally flooded, there are stories of tunnels and rooms, as well as "precious stones" obtained from the pegmatite from the time of king Afonso V, later stolen with the images of churches and chapels by the soldiers of Napoleon. Lage de Prata is not the only granite geosite of Arez; the pedunculate block of Lameiranha, within the limit with Tolosa, among olive groves and its shape, entirely natural, does not cease to amaze.

In a territory of 55, 72km², virtually all of it part in the Natura2000 area, won't expect monuments of great architectural value. Arez with its 256 inhabitants is a small village typically painted of lime and yellow in the gentle margin of the river, with the Parish Church in the Centre, which flows peaceful when it does. The name Arez has Templar origins, but here too were Hospitallers Knights. The village was the headquarters of a small medieval municipality, with charter given in 1517 by king Manuel I.



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

It is very interesting to walk through the village, look at the popular manifestations of the Alentejo architecture, walk along the River at the end of the day, between boulders and the green of the meadows. With a thermal complex in full nature, the need now is to provide the area with equipment and themed events linked to water and biodiversity that may justify the so essential hotel investment.

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The Editor
Carlos Neto de Carvalho
Scientific Coordinator
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Front Page: (Objectiva: Geopark Project)

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



November – Scientific Residence in the Geopark. Marzena Biernat is a geomorphologist from Poland. In order to enrich her curriculum, she made a spontaneous application for a six-month scientific residence. The challenge launched by the supervisor of this residence, Carlos Neto de Carvalho, was to study the origin and evolution of the granite Inselberg of Monsanto. In this way, Marzena has the opportunity to live in the place of study, in the magnificent National Monument of Monsanto, involving herself and feeling the local community, at the same time developing her scientific studies and learning more about the management of geological heritage and a geopark. This residence also has the support of Margarida Antunes, Professor and researcher in Petrology and Geochemistry of Granites, from the Agrarian School of Castelo Branco.



2 December – Field trip in the Geomonument Portas de Almourão for students of Higher Professional Technical Course (CTeSP) of Environmental and Rural tourism. Three students and a professor of CTeSP of Environmental and Rural Tourism from the Agrarian School of Castelo Branco, of IPCB, participated in a field trip in the area of Portas de Almourão with stops in Foz do Cobreão (Vila Velha de Ródão) and Sobral Fernando (municipality of Proença-a-Nova). The students were able to learn about the geodiversity and biodiversity in the surrounding area, as well as some examples of entrepreneurship that took advantage of the potential landscape, historical, cultural and scientific resources in the region in order to establish business in the area of environmental and rural tourism, as for example, Casa da Lena, Casa da Meia Encosta and the Almourão Climbing School. The monitor of the field trip was Hugo Oliveira..



5 - 8 December – Tierra de Fuego by the Geopark.

5 - 8 December – Tierra de Fuego by the Geopark. A group of 23 Spanish tourists travelled through the territory of Naturtejo Geopark guided by the company Acti Geo. They performed the Vultures Route in Salvaterra do Extremo and visited the historical village of Monsanto; then walked part of the Great Route of Idanha to reach Idanha-a-Velha, the Civitas Igaeditanorum. The long walk was to rise to Gardunha Mountain, with the observation of their fantastic granitic landforms. On the last day they visited the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.

9 December – Field trip in Geomonuments of Monsanto and Penha Garcia for the Professional Technical Course of Environmental and Rural tourism. The students of Environmental and Rural Tourism from the Agrarian School of Castelo Branco conducted a field trip by the Geomonuments of Monsanto and Penha Garcia, within the subject of Geological and Landscape Values taught by a geologist Isabel Margarida Antunes. With Carlos Neto de Carvalho, the six students and the professor could make the interpretation of the natural and humanized landscape, discover the values of geological heritage, and how this is to be boosted in the tourist development of the region of Naturtejo Geopark.



11 December – Activity of Nature: "The water and the life of the Ponsul River". This action has been streamlined within the framework of the "Fora do Lugar 2015" Festival, counting on the presence of 23 students in class B of the 1st CEB of the village of Ladoeiro, in Idanha-a-Nova. This action consisted of a path along the Ponsul River in Herdade da Várzea ranch, where in addition to being able to identify any surrounding flora and fauna, students could still check the state of conservation of this riparian ecosystem. This activity has been supported in partnership by the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Naturtejo Geopark. The monitors of this activity were Manuela Catana and Hugo Oliveira.

11 December - Idanha-a-Nova is part of the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities . The UNESCO Network of Creative Cities is now composed by 116 cities in the world, after the integration of over 47 locations, among them Idanha-a-Nova, as Creative City of Music. This rating implies a strong commitment to the development of cultural and creative industries, integrating culture in social and economic development strategies. The musical practices in Idanha-a-Nova are alive since immemorial times, with the remote origins of the adufe, a traditional instrument, which has been crossed with modern musical approaches. After the integration of Naturtejo Geopark in the Global Geoparks Network, this is the second recognition made by UNESCO to Idanha-a-Nova.

12-13 December - Flavors with tradition. The Christmas atmosphere is already felt in Idanha-a-Nova, where this weekend the Flavors with Tradition Festival cheered the old village with beautiful songs, an exhibition of Christmas trees, a charming Nativity scene, an appetizing fair of regional products and the 2nd São Silvestre Race, where more than 250 participants competed. Over two days, the village breath agitation, enthusiasm and joy characteristic of the festive season. The traditional arrival of the log of the child Jesus, the street animation or a tasty Matança Soup, were reasons to warm up the visitor's Christmas spirit. The event aimed to "boost the local economy and liven up the old village of Idanha-a-Nova", said Armindo Jacinto, Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova, at the fair's opening, organized By the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova in partnership with the villages of Idanha-a-Nova and Alcafozes, the Idanhense Union Club (CUI), with the support of Naturtejo Geopark. It should be noted that the Nativity scene next to the Bell Tower, and the exhibition of 26 Creative Christmas trees can be visited until January 6.



12 December – activity of Nature: "at the Gorge of Erges River, in Segura, who's who in the amazing plant Kingdom?" This activity, intended for the general public, was driven under the Festival Fora do Lugar -2015 (Out of Place Festival-2015), and was attended by 11 participants. The action was a guided visit to the Environmental Interpretation Center (CIB) – lands of Idanha, in the village of Segura, followed by a visit to the geomonuments Erges River Gorge. During the short route to the Erges River it was possible to identify some plant species and play a game about their application in our daily products, namely food products, by a tasting of some of them such as Rosemary Honey, Fig of India, asparagus with eggs, and the fennel tea. During this visit it was still possible to know the geodiversity surrounding the Gorge of Erges River in Segura, its origin, as well as carry out the observation of Griffon vultures in their breeding cliffs. This activity has been supported in partnership by the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the Naturtejo Geopark and the monitors were Hugo Oliveira and Manuela Catana.

15 December – First Field Trip in the Context of the Rivers Project 2015/2016 – Ponsul River, for a group of students from the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova. On this field trip attended 17 students and a teacher of the fifth grade from EB 2, 3S José Silvestre Ribeiro, in Idanha-a-Nova, which performed the first visit to the section of 500 meters which have adopted in the Ponsul River, in Idanha-a-Velha. In this first trip students were able to make the recognition of the section, making observations about the water quality status and also identification of geodiversity, existing flora and fauna in these riparian ecosystems. This field trip monitors were Hugo Oliveira and a local technician.



18 to 19 December – University students studying Innovation in tourism at the Geopark.

110 students from the School of Tourism, Sport and Hospitality of the European University visited the Naturtejo Geopark, under its academic project Tourism Train Experiences, about Community and Innovative Tourism, with the aim to enhance the train as means of transport and adjacent regions, focusing on the line of Beira Baixa. The trip was made on a customized train, provided by CP national railway company, which was stopping along the line of Beira Baixa, on various destinations and arrived at Alcains at the end of the day 18, the students slept in Termas de Monfortinho. The next day, they made a visit to Penha Garcia followed by a workshop. As the result of the work they have been developing since the beginning of the school year, students came to present their ideas and strategies for the Naturtejo Geopark. This event was managed by Alice Marcelo, Sérgio Ribeiro, Hugo Oliveira and Mariana Vilas Boas, under the coordination of Joana Rodrigues in the Naturtejo Geopark.



19 - 20 de December – Oleado Christmas Village! This weekend the Christmas spirit took charge of the small village of Oleado, with the “Festival of Music and Christmas Traditions” to offer moments of magic and joy to the population and visitors. Nothing missed to compose an authentic Christmas Village: decorations and Christmas performances as the live Nativity scene, Santa Claus' House and the Elves Workshop, traditional songs and carols, circus animation and typical delicacies of the festive season. Between filhó and a mulled wine, the good mood gripped all those who enjoy this event organized jointly by the Municipality of Idanha-a-Nova and the village of Oleado, with the support of Geopark Naturtejo. The Mayor of Idanha-a-Nova, Armindo Jacinto, explained that in addition to celebrate the holiday season, from the uses, customs and traditions of the municipality, the event creates self-esteem in populations and streamlines the local economy, at a time when many families gather in our villages. Over the two days were the memorable moments: concerts and performances for the whole family, Santa Clauses, ceremony of the “Templars Comenda das Idanhas”, traditional songs and lots of street animation.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

20 December (RTP2 – Magazine OTV) – Pedestrian Orienteering Trophy - Proença-a-Nova (Geopark Naturtejo)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ojlIP_pDiWs&feature=youtu.be

Newspapers & www

2 December (Gazeta do Interior) - Idanha received recycling seminar

9 December (Gazeta do Interior) –Naturtejo Geopark present in 70 years of UNESCO

9 December (Gazeta do Interior) – Geopark becomes official programme of UNESCO

10 December (Gazeta do Interior) - Naturtejo Geopark Inspires Thesis – Aromas of Valado gives masters

15 December (Diário Digital) - Naturtejo Geopark the Tourism Train

15 December (Diário Digital) – Idanha-a-Nova gets Shot with Crossbow 2016

16 December (Povo da Beira) - Idanha is already City of Music

16 December (Gazeta do Interior) – Idanha is part of the UNESCO Cities of Music

16 December (Gazeta do Interior) – Tourism Train comes to the Naturtejo Geopark

17 December (Reconquista) – Tourism Train in Naturtejo - go by train to the Geopark

17 December (Reconquista) – Unprecedented candidacy puts County on the world map - Idanha is the first city of music

23 December (Reconquista) – Ideas for tourism arriving by train

23 December (Reconquista) - Idanha ensures Crossbow shooting World

SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE GEO PARK AND THE GEOSCIENCES



- PEREIRA, S., JACINTO, A., SÁ, A.A. & SILVA, C.M. – First report of Upper Ordovician fossils from Vila Velha de Ródão, Portugal: preliminary data. V Congresso de Jovens Investigadores em Geologia, Pólo de Estremoz, Univ. Évora, Scientific Programme & Abstracts, 69-72.

PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



- Naturtejo Geopark Educational Programmes 2015/2016 - leaflet



Until April 2016

A promotional banner with a red and white background. At the top, the text 'Geopark Naturtejo na' is written in white on a red background. Below this, the 'Fetur' logo is shown in red, with '20-24 Janeiro 2016' underneath. To the right, the text 'Feria Internacional de Turismo' is written in red. In the center, there is a cartoon illustration of the centipede character from the top right. At the bottom left, the 'naturtejo GEO.PARK' logo is displayed, along with icons of a classical building and a globe.

PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Campanha de Primavera

Escavações Arqueológicas
20 de Março a 3 de Abril
Forte das Batarias e
Bateria das Batarias (Ponte do Alvito)
Linha Defensiva das Talhadas-Moradal

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MESOPOTAMOS

Proença-a-Nova International Archaeological Field Camp 2016
Campo Arqueológico de Proença-a-Nova

Logos of partner organizations: Associação de Municípios do Alentejo, Município de Proença-a-Nova, Associação de Municípios do Alentejo, Geoparks, ICT, CHAIA, HERCULES, UPEL, Universidade de Alentejo, PORTO, EXERCITO, naturtejo, Geoparks, ICDJ, EMERITA, SUPERFICIE, VISA, PROCESL, Terra.

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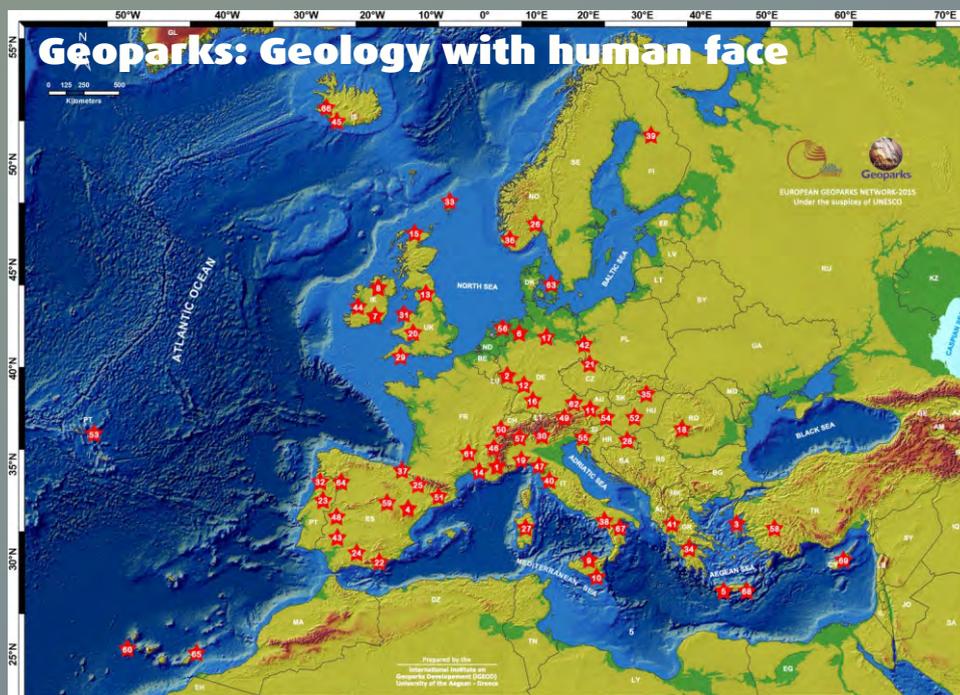
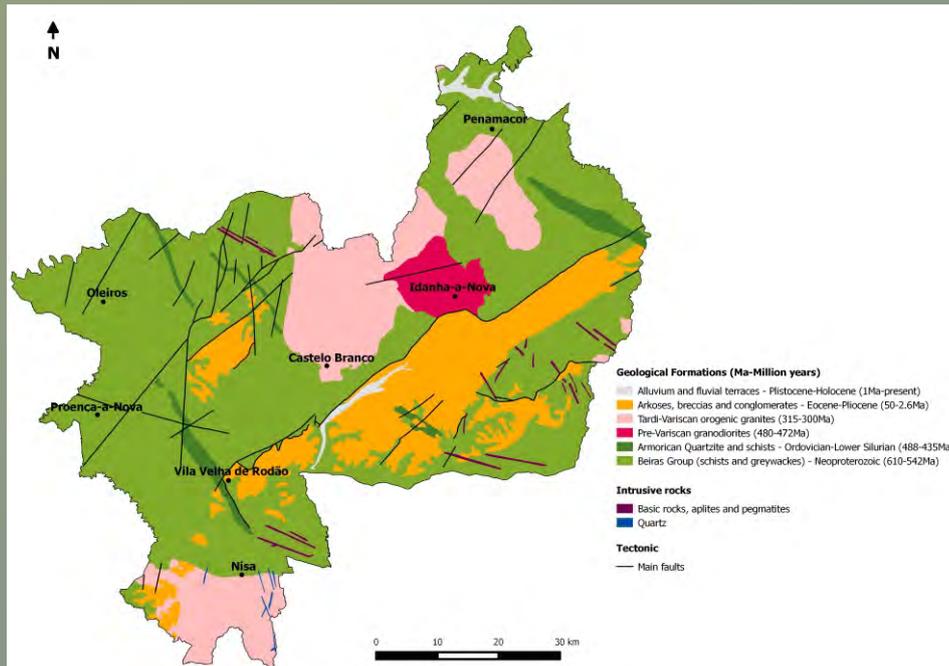
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