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# CRUZIANA

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

**In this issue:** – The International Year of the Forests in Portugal launched in the Geopark – New Routes by the Geopark 2011 – Educational Programmes 2011 – Naturtejo Geopark in the Lisbon Tourism Fair and the Ornithology International Fair...and more!



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

Geological Heritage is included in a landscape cell interdependent of all its cultural and natural values (heritage), by which any strategy for regional development must be developed through the analysis of the whole, independently of the importance of any considered part. Integration of Naturtejo Geopark under the auspices of UNESCO was based on the geological heritage, most importantly the 16 geomonuments (geosites of monumental importance), among them the **Granite Morphologies of Gardunha** located in Castelo Velho, close to the area defined for the project of increasing the Wind Power Plant of Gardunha. In this area there are no inventoried geosites. However, there are geosites in the limit of the Environmental Impact Study (namely, the Area of Geomorphological Interest of Bouças). Geopark's mission is the study, conservation, interpretation and raising awareness of the natural and cultural heritage for the social-economic sustainable development. The territory has been strategic for the country for projects of renewable energies to keep Kyoto Protocol. The 4 biomass plants and the 131 wind mills distributed in the territory contribute today with 195 MW of installed power. The Wind Power Plant of Gardunha is already one of the most important power plants in Portugal. Summing the reservoirs, Naturtejo Geopark contributes with 1100GWh/year, corresponding to the domestic demand for 750000 inhabitants. All this in a region representing 5% of Portugal, and having less than 90000 inhabitants.

The exploitation of renewable resources as a way to diminish the strong economic dependency of the country has contributed in different ways, not always positive, for the development of the Beira Interior region. The development of new tourist projects, in a very competitive international market reality, means an increasing care with environmental/landscape areas of particular richness. Generg – Ventos da Beira Baixa company significantly contributes to decrease the percentage of electricity produced by fossil fuels burning, by developing projects on renewable energies. But the impact of building and managing should allow environment and quality of life conservation or benefit, as well as the development of other prospective economic sectors in the region, such as tourism. These and other projects can not threaten the economic diversification of the territory, becoming incompatible with areas of particular environment/landscape sensitivity and relevance, with known and measured potential for ecotourism and geotourism. Such is the case of Serra da Gardunha mountain.



# ACTIVITIES OF THE MONTH



**February – New Routes by the Geopark 2011.** Geopark Routes were launched in Spain, during the Feria Internacional de Turismo de Madrid and in Lisbon, during the Bolsa de Turismo de Lisboa. The proposals are alluring: Geotrails, Adventure, Biodiversity, Historical Heritage, Well-Being, Gastronomy, Culture and Businesses. Programmes for all tastes, for families, for groups and for companies, more competitive and according with the Geopark context, enriched by new experiences supported by tradition. Closer to our partners, these Routes privilege the experience in first hand, with the support of experts in several disciplines, and a careful selection of best quality services, equipments and destinations. The Routes by the Geopark requests good environment...so, come to explore our land by train and by bike or by foot...with the guarantee that you always gain at the end!



**2nd February – Raiano Cultural Center celebrates 14 years old.** Naturtejo Geopark headquarters celebrated one more birthday with a lot of music. Piano Trip is a French project travelling already 4000 km on bike, carrying the sound of piano to most improbable places. This time, the public was invited to be on stage to listen Guillemette Dufouleur telling by the key notes, the bike trip of a piano across Europe and North Africa. Armindo Jacinto was the host of the evening.

**2nd February – International Year of the Forests launched in Portugal at the Living Science Center of Proença-a-Nova.** UNESCO declared 2011 as the International Year of the Forests. The decision was made as a way to acknowledge forests and the sustainable forest management for the significant contribution on sustainable development, poverty eradication and keeping of the objectives taken abroad. Forests offer habitat for people and other organisms, are sources of food, medicines and drinkable water, and have a vital role for global climate stability. These celebrations which rise awareness of communities could only be launched in Portugal at Proença-a-Nova, where 68% of the land is forest, where every year 30,000 tons of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> are trapped and where local economy is still mainly dependent from the forest resources. Here is also the nest for the major home dedicated to the interpretation of the forest in Portugal – The Living Science Center of the Forest. In the presence of the Secretary of the State of Science, Technology and University and the Secretary of the State of Forests and Rural Development, the International Year of the Forest was launched to Portugal. The Mayor of Proença-a-Nova and João Manso, vice-chairman of Naturtejo and director of the Center were the hosts, with Armindo Jacinto, for launching the International Year of the Forests official website. The Center presented the exhibitions of the projects “A Hood Nearby You” and “Diversity in our Hoods”, the event There are Mushrooms in the Forest and ended with Flavours from the Forest Biodiversity. At Naturtejo Geopark this year started already very positive for raising awareness on the protection of our forest.



**4th February – Time for stories on forests and tree planting.** About 70 pupils from the Kindergarten and Primary School of Idanha-a-Nova were challenged to write their Illustrated Stories about Forests during the Conference on Environmental Education of ASPEA. From these, 16 were exhibited with the scientific illustration exhibit Raianos Portraits at Risk, at Raiano Cultural Center. 150 pupils came from both schools with their teachers to the Center to listen the colleagues tell their Illustrated Stories about the forest and the story Enchanted Forest by Carla Nabais, from the Educational Services of the Cultural Center. The pupils also visited the exhibitions of the Center guided by Manuela Catana and Catarina Loureiro. Finally, they went to the forest to plant trees supported by Idanha-a-Nova municipality.



**5th February – 4 600 000 years at Belmonte with Penha Garcia.** From Big Bang to the first local inhabitants. This exhibition prepared by the Zêzere Ecomuseum from the town of Belmont had the support for the mineral and fossil specimen contents from the Geological Museum of Lisbon and Berardo. Museums. Naturtejo Geopark was represented by the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia.



**9th February – Multidisciplinar Workshop on Portas de Ródão at the Museum of Science from Coimbra.** Portas de Ródão Natural Monument was debated in the Museum of Science. Invited were researchers and local authorities that took part of the working group to protect Portas de Ródão. Jorge Gouveia, from Associação de Estudos do Alto Tejo NGO, was the coordinator of the project and presented the whole heritage importance of this protected area. Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Joana Rodrigues represented the local people and talked about the importance of the geological heritage for the tourism of Vila Velha de Ródão. The workshop was an initiative of the researcher Sara Canilho whom, soon, is going to take part of Naturtejo Geopark team, and that presented the results of her Master Thesis on the Portas de Ródão Natural Monument. The lively discussion performed by researchers and audience included the responsible for culture and tourism of Vila Velha de Ródão.



**10th February – Iberian Geoparks Discussion Meeting in Madrid.** The Iberian Geoparks gave one step further towards an articulation of interests and efforts for a closer cooperation benefitting the European Geoparks Network. The Instituto Geológico y Minero de España was an excellent host for this meeting that joined representatives of Arouca, Costa Basca, Maestrazgo, Naturtejo and Sobrarbe geoparks. Naturtejo Geopark was represented in Madrid by Carlos Neto de Carvalho and Tiago Oliveira. This meeting reaffirmed the interest of the Iberian geoparks to build together a stronger regional intervention and solid partnerships, through dedicated EU funding programmes for this region. However, the recent developments that anticipated the constitution of a Portuguese Forum of Geoparks under the support of the National Commission for UNESCO, took the Spanish geoparks to develop their own Forum with rules convergent with the ones from the Portuguese Forum and the aims of EGN. In the next EGN Meeting, at Fforest Fawr, the main results and uncertainties from this positive discussion will be presented. 2011 will certainly be the year for the constitution of the Forum of the Iberian Regions, which hopefully is going to bring, in a stronger and more articulated way, the ideas of conservation and sustainable use of the geological heritage defended by EGN to the publics of both Portugal and Spain.

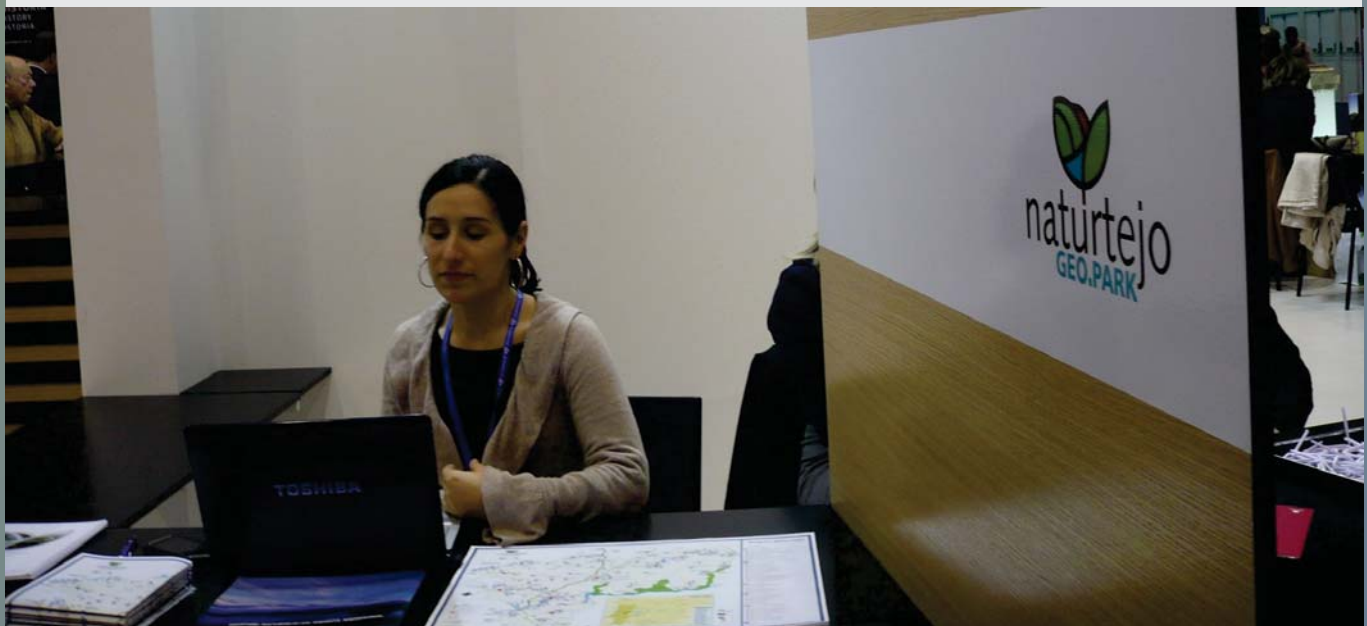


**15th February – Geonaturescola – launching of the educational programmes for 2011.** Finally the Educational Programmes of Naturtejo Geopark are ready to be promoted for this school year. A new web platform of communication was prepared to reach more effectively the key-public: both teachers and students. [www.geonaturescola.com](http://www.geonaturescola.com) brings a more alluring image to the Educational Programmes of the Geopark, which was thought for the kindergarten to university publics, with more intuitive and effective access to information. Although there are no major changes to the previous educational programmes, Geonaturescola promises a new pedagogical reality: the Geofunnies! Both the new website and the educational programmes booklet are available only in Portuguese.



**16th February – Pedro da Fonseca School visits Portas de Ródão Natural Monument.**

Under the scope of the annual school programme Anim'a Rocha for local schools, 51 pupils and 3 science teachers from Pedro da Fonseca School of Proença-a-Nova went to experience different realities from Naturtejo Geopark, this time at Portas de Ródão Natural Monument. Catarina Loureiro and Manuela Catana guided the school group in the boat trip, visiting the fóssil trees from the House of Arts and Culture of Tejo and the Ponte do Ródão road cut geosite.



**23-27th February – Naturtejo Geopark in the Lisbon Tourism Fair.** During BTL, a tourism fair with great national impact, Naturtejo promoted the region to national and international tour operators. Presenting the new Routes by the Geopark, Naturtejo works for attracting new visitors to the territory with guided visits to the main tourism destinations of the six municipalities, involving the partners from hotels, restaurants, tourism activities, among other services. As a Tourism Brand, Naturtejo was in BTL included in the stand from Centre of Portugal with a dedicated business desk run by Armindo Jacinto, Tiago Oliveira and Fátima Rodrigues. Geopark' municipalities had the chance to exhibit local flavors and music. It is worth to mention the participation of Oleiros this year giving to taste Geosweets and a unique and almost extinct historical wine, the Calum, to the thousands of visitors that came to the Fair.



**24th February – Trip to the land of the fossils.** The Solano Abreu High School, from Abrantes, brought 83 pupils and 7 teachers to learn in the Ichnological Park of Penha Garcia with Catarina Loureiro, Manuela Catana, João Geraldês, besides a new expert guide working for the municipality of Idanha-a-Nova, Helena Jóiá. Welcome to the world of the Geopark!

**25-27th February – Naturtejo Geopark at FIO – Ornithological Tourism International Fair.** At FIO, that was held in Monfragüe National Park, Spain, just 1 hour from Monfortinho borderland, Naturtejo Geopark was also promoting its richness and natural beauties. Armindo Jacinto, Pedro Martins and the biologist and consultant of the Geopark, Carlos Pacheco, represented the Geopark stand in FIO. Nature Tourism is one of the most important strategies for the Geopark, by which the participation in this fair, as an international fair, was very important to promote the diversity of our natural heritage, as well as the birdwatching programmes of Naturtejo Geopark. One of the most significant moments of this fair is the Hiring Event, where Naturtejo Geopark was presented to several international tour operators from Spain, Holland, England, France, United States, among others.





# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## Newspapers & www

February (Voz do Campo – Revista de Agricultura) – “Naturtejo Geoparque uses Nature Tourism to foster the country”

February (Jornal de Oleiros) – “Oleiros in the Naturtejo Geopark”

February (Portal Executivo Guarda.pt) – “Integration in Naturtejo is a possibility”

2nd February (Gazeta do Interior – cover page) – “International Year of the Forests launched at the Living Science Center”

2nd February (centrodeportugal.blogspot.com) – “Hiking @ Tejo Internacional & Geopark by A2Z Adventures”

2nd February (Jornal de Nisa) – “Naturtejo: Geopark hosted Environmental Education Conference from ASPEA”

3rd February (Reconquista – cover page) – “Naturtejo presents new routes”

3rd February (Reconquista – cover page) – “Environmental education must be done outdoors”

3rd February (Reconquista) – “30 thousand visitors in 2010”

3rd February (Reconquista) – “Coimbra hosts discussion on Portas de Ródão”

7th February (Expresso) – “Naturtejo Geopark welcomed 30,000 visitors in 2010”

7th February (Planetazul – environment and sustainability portal) – “Naturtejo Geopark: 600 million years to discover”

8th February (Povo da Beira) – “Naturtejo Geopark hosted Environmental Education Conference”

8th February ([www.geoloverca.ucoz.com](http://www.geoloverca.ucoz.com)) – “Geology under a click!”

9th February (Gazeta do Interior) – “UNESCO Global Geoparks Network celebrates the 7th birthday”

10th February (Reconquista – cover page) – “Forests Year launched in the Living Science Center”

10th February (Reconquista) – “Cultural Center celebrates 14 years”

14th February ([www.classicclub.com](http://www.classicclub.com)) – “Naturtejo Team in the VI Clasica Cantábria Infinita”

16th February (Gazeta do Interior) – “Oleiros geomonuments signed”

17th February (Reconquista – cover page) – “Looking for solutions for depopulated territories”

17th February (Reconquista) – “Geopark promotes Oleiros”

17th February (Reconquista) – “Seven Wonders of Gastronomy – Oleiros bet on Cabrito Estonado”

17th February (Raiano – cover page) – “Environmental education – Tourism is important”

17th February (Raiano) – “Cultural evening with Monsanto adufe players for the Conference on Environmental Education”

18th February (Opção Turismo) – “Destinos launch flyer Portugal Continental”

18th February (Turisver) – “Destinos launch flyer Portugal Continental”

21st February ([www.cm-oleiros.pt](http://www.cm-oleiros.pt)) – “Oleiros exhibited at BTL this Saturday”

25th February (Jornal de Nisa) – “Naturtejo Geopark launch new routes to increase visits”

28th February (Ecosfera.Publico.clix.pt) – “Debate on Portas de Ródão”



# GEOPARK'S IMPACT IN MEDIA

## Radio

18th February – Rádio Condestável – “Oleiros – geomonuments already signalled”

19th February – Rádio Condestável – “Portas de Ródão in discussion ant the Science Museum from Coimbra”

# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



- Rodrigues, J.C. – Oleiros no Geopark Naturtejo. Jornal de Oleiros – cover page (in Portuguese)
- Routes by Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional – Programmes 2011 (booklet in Portuguese, English and Spanish)
- 
- GEONATUREscola. Geopark Naturtejo Educational Programmes 2010/2011 (Portuguese version booklet online)
- Birdwatching in Naturtejo Geopark – Programmes 2011 (booklet in Spanish and English)
- Escuderia de Castelo Branco. Calendar 2011 Programme of motor sport (flyer in Portuguese).

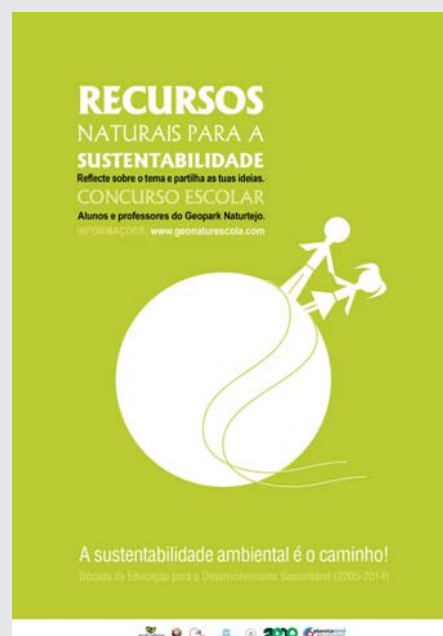
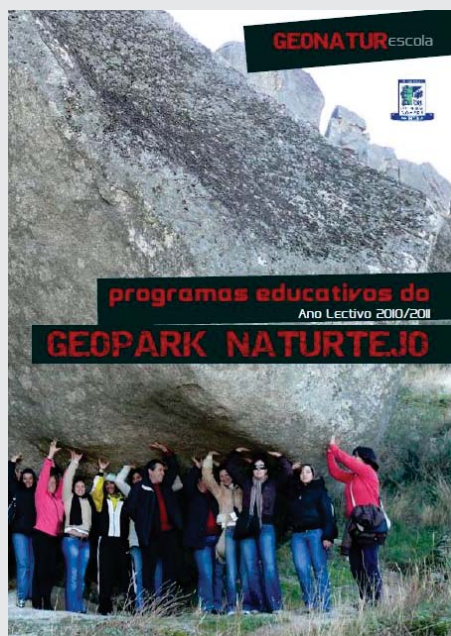


[www.fundaciongeoparquesdevenezuela.blogspot.com](http://www.fundaciongeoparquesdevenezuela.blogspot.com)

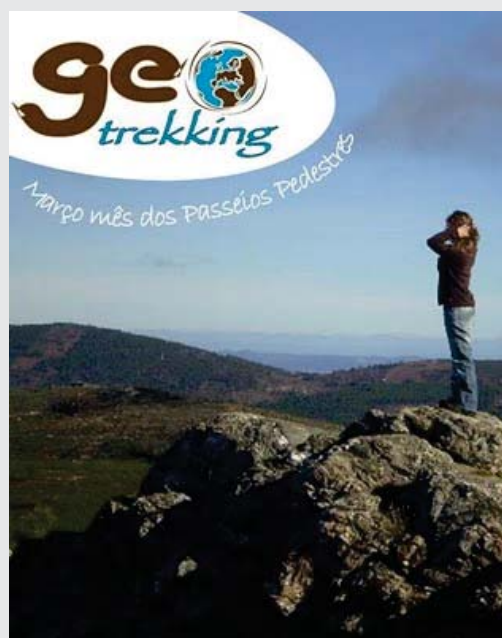


[www.dct.uminho.pt/cct/summerschool](http://www.dct.uminho.pt/cct/summerschool)

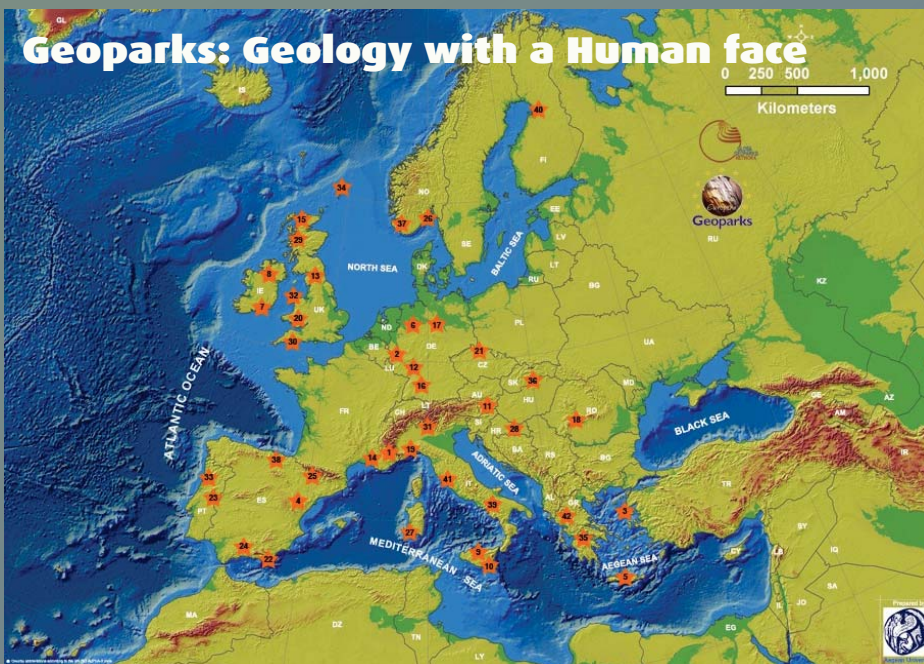
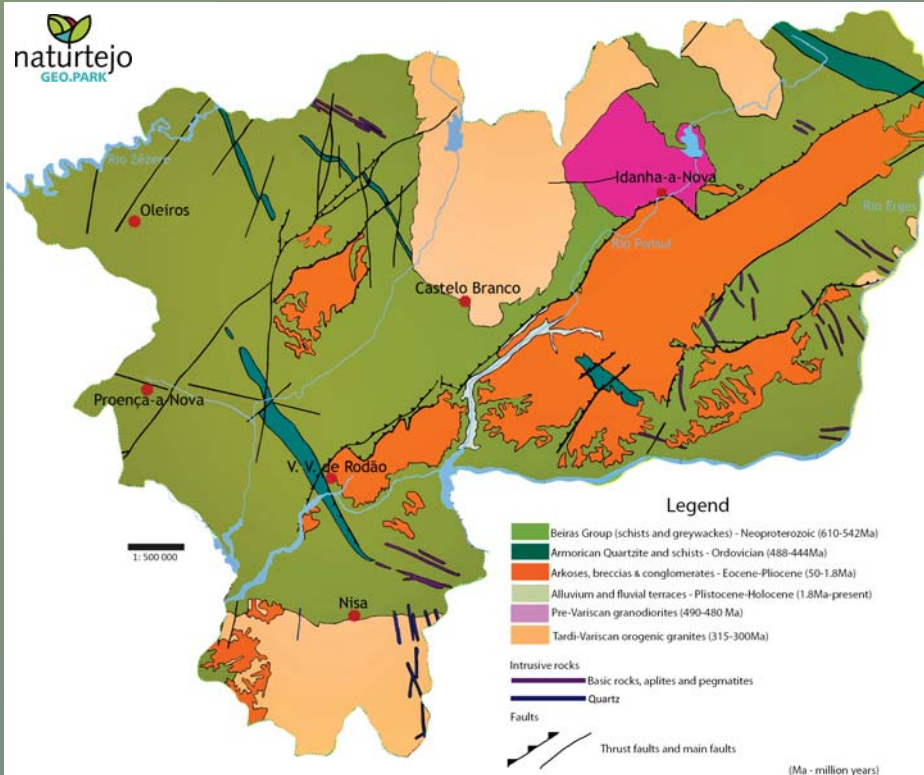
# PROMOTION FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



[www.geonaturescola.com](http://www.geonaturescola.com)



[incentivosoutdoor.blogspot.com](http://incentivosoutdoor.blogspot.com)



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