







GEO-stories of our places and people: Aldeia de João Pires

Aldeia de João Pires nests at Serrinha's feet. The granite forms are developed like scales erected along the extensive granite body rising languid to the west and north of this village. From these very peculiar granite forms in the local landscape, the Bowls Boulder stands out, surprisingly on the way that goes through the base of the hill. From the guartz veins of these granites lead and zinc were once exploited in Pinheiro's Mine, one of the oldest mining concessions in the territory of Naturtejo Geopark, today reduced to waste. In the middle of Monsanto-Penamacor plutonite, the village is granite harmony. Starting at its Mother Church and walking the streets to Calvary. The small territory of the Aldeia de João Pires, with 11.13 km² and today with less than 195 inhabitants, has an ancient history that can be observed in the archaeological estate of the Museological Center. Discovering this granite land implies staying in Martins' House. Here you can rent a bike and leave without destination searching for landscapes and architectural curiosities of the village, such as its fountain, with "Roman" appearance. However, there is a lack of an axis connecting nature to the village and, in the village, its historical and cultural values, passing through a strong musical tradition particularly evident in Easter celebrations. There are now some others, coming from various points of an increasingly small world, who found their destination in the Aldeia de João Pires. A destination shaped by ancient times, in a friendly harmony welcoming you to Aldeia de João Pires.

Bilbiography

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The editor Carlos Neto de Carvalho Scientific coordinator Geologist

Cover: (Projecto Objectiva: Geopark)



MONTHLY ACTIVITIES



30 August to 2 September – Naturtejo Geopark at 22nd Borderland Fair in Moraleja. ONaturtejo Geopark attended the 22nd Borderland Fair, in Moraleja (Spain), a cross-border cooperation event, where about 100 Portuguese and Spanish exhibitors from the areas of industry and commerce, tourism and gastronomy were present. At the inauguration, in addition to the regional representatives, the Secretary of State for Commerce of Spain, Xiana Méndez and the Secretary of State for Tourism of Portugal, Ana Mendes Godinho were present, and recalled the importance of tourism development in border areas. Also present were geoproducers from Naturtejo Geopark, such as Acha Doce and its geoliqueurs, and geoproducts by Geocakes. Information about the territory, activities and events were available at the stand of Naturtejo Geopark. The last day of the Fair was dedicated to Portugal, with several activities taking place in the stand of Idanha-a-Nova, and also Judite the Trilobite from Naturtejo Geopark.

1 September – Travel through the Secrets of Almourão Valley for Geology in Summer. Registrations sold out for the last Geology in Summer 2018 action, with the activity "Secrets of Almourão Valley", in Sobral Fernando, promoted by the monitor Marta Palhim, from the Living Science Forest Centre. Participants explored the impressive gorge of the Ocreza River through a journey by the main events of the Earth's history and the geological history of the geomonument of Portas de Almourão.



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1st House of Sciences Meeting took place in Azores at the University of Azores, in S. Miguel, which gather teachers from the various areas of Sciences to discuss practical proposals for their classes and develop more advanced strategies in the areas of Mathematics, Biology, Geology, Physics, Chemistry, Information and Communication Technologies and Introduction to Sciences.

Under the central theme "Scientific Education and Technology of the 21st Century" there were 29 workshops, 6 conferences and 4 panel discussions. Naturtejo Geopark collaborated in the organization of this event, with the geologist Joana Rodrigues participating in the panel "The digitization of information and learning in Biology and Geology" and boosting two workshops, with more than 30 teachers - "Underground Waters: Invisible Geological Heritage?".

There was also a field trip promoted by Azores Geopark, to the main geosites in the island of S. Miguel, the Research Institute in Volcanology and Risk Assessment and the Geothermal Power Station of Ribeira Grande. These Meetings promoted annually by the House of Sciences bring together hundreds of participants from the mainland and after the success of this first edition in Azores archipelago, the 2nd Meeting is already scheduled, for September 2019.

7 and 8 September – Baja TT in Idanha-a-Nova and Penamacor. Idanha-a-Nova and Penamacor hosted another edition of Baja TT, a counting race to the national off-road championship, with the participation of about 150 riders, in a huge logistics operation.

The race had 400 km, passing through Monfortinho, Zebreira, Rosmaninhal, Alcafozes, Toulões and Penamacor, places where natural heritage is the main asset. Despite the impacts caused by vehicles on the roads, this event allows valuing the road network and reinvesting in the conservation and maintenance of roads, the great challenge being the articulation of the test with environmental sustainability.

This important event brings notoriety and many people to the region, with a great media projection and direct impact on the local economy, due to the high number of people mobilized where the quality of the layout stood out, but also the organization and security.

9 September – Travel through Borderland. Geolife's tour guide Susana Santos, accompanied a group of 44 tourists from Coimbra visiting:

- The Raiano Cultural Centre, the disciplinary, technical and functional reference center that develops and coordinates the basic actions of research, preservation and communication referenced in the cultural heritage. In this space the group visited the permanent exhibition of "Agriculture in the Fields of Idanha", the exhibition by Silvia Lézico "Who Has Time, Makes Spoons" crossing the areas of illustration, design, ethnography and popular art, in the sense of an attentive visit to the heritages and pastoral identities of Beira Interior and Alentejo and the exhibition of Photography "Under the Sign of the Moon" by Valter Vinagre;

- Traditional Arts Center where the calm and serenity of this pleasant space allows you to learn or observe ancient techniques, namely weaving, the manufacture of adufes or tambourines and many others. Time to meet the artisans who, with their skilled hands, humanize objects that are an important mirror of the heritage and identity of these simple and hospitable people in Idanha's borderlands;

- Penha Garcia with passage by the Community Oven, Castle, Ichnological Park and the watermills Complex.



9 to 14 September – 8th International Geoparks Conference in Adamello Brenta UNESCO Global Geopark. The 8th International Geoparks Conference took place in the magnificent landscapes of Madonna de Campiglio, in the Global Geopark of Adamello Brenta, Italy. Under the theme "Geoparks and Sustainable Development", the largest international geoparks conference welcomed 850 participants from 64 countries from all continents.

The 42nd Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the European Geoparks Network took place in parallel with its Asia-Pacific and Latin American counterparts. Carlos Neto de Carvalho represented Naturtejo Geopark at this Meeting and also participated, as an elected member, in the Advisory Committee Meeting that took place immediately before. The scientific coordinator was part of the Scientific Committee of this Conference and also participated in the scientific sessions of the Conference, as co-catalyst of the Working Group on Tourism of the Global Geoparks Network and in association with the Geopark of Villuercas-Ibores-Jara, for the presentation of the INTERREG Project of the Route of the Armorican Quartzite. Joana Rodrigues and Manuela Catana, from the geopark team, also attended the conference. Joana Rodrigues presented a project that unites the geopark to its seed heritage in collaboration with the local company "Living Seeds". Naturtejo Geopark was also represented in the exhibition "Intangible Heritage of European Geoparks" through its handicrafts.



16 September – 1st Geotourism Festival Portas de Ródão. The well-known Fish Soups Festival of Vila Velha de Ródão includes this year a novelty. Naturtejo Geopark in association with this municipality organized the 1st Geotourism Festival Portas de Ródão. Portas de Ródão are a National Natural Monument and recognized Natural Wonder of Portugal. The starting point was the Ródão Pier, this action focused on outdoor activities such as Boat Trips, Multi-Activity Tower, slide, climbing, canoeing, rappel on the bridge over the Tejo River, canoeing, paddle, Orbitball and Mountain Biking, aimed to raise awareness to the potential of the geomonument for Nature Tourism. Also in the context of this Festival, there were interpreted boat visits to the Natural Monument Portas de Ródão, by Carlos Neto de Carvalho from Naturtejo Geopark and Jorge Gouveia, from the Association of Studies of High Tejo, which gather dozens of participants.

21 September - Malhadal River Beach Field Guide presents 180 species. 180 species of plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and fish can be found in the Malhadal River Beach Field Guide, officially presented in the framework of the Municipal Year of the Forest, in the Living Science Forest Centre. Written by Patrícia Garcia-Pereira, Eva Monteiro, Albano Soares, Sandra Antunes and Rui Félix, from the Tagis Association - Butterfly Conservation Center of Portugal, this guide aims to be a valuable help identifying the species present in the Malhadal beach, with about 1.9 kilometres, connecting the river beach to the village of Cabrieira.

Eva Monteiro, one of the authors of the Field Guide, now invites its users to go to Malhadal and discover the diversity and ecological richness of this area of the municipality, presenting common species of herbaceous and shrubby plants and insects' species of different groups, in addition to vertebrates. And more than observation she invites to "RIPar biodiversity", that is, register through photo, try to identify and share observation and registration with the scientific community on the platform www.biodiversity4all.org. Among the species identified in the Guide, highlights to the butterflies Lycaena bleusei, "endemic species of the Iberian Peninsula, and there were few records in Portugal, but here has the particularity of being the known record of this species obtained further south of the Peninsula Iberian"; Charaxes jasius, or butterfly of the strawberry tree, and Euphydryas aurinia, protected by law by the sharp decline in Europe, although in Portugal it is abundant.

For Albano Soares, this Guide will be an important tool for youth to enjoy the environment, whet their appetite to go to the countryside and explore biodiversity. Rui Félix also highlighted the role of the citizen in science, as a preponderant for the development and dissemination of science associated with the protection of the environment and ecosystems. The Malhadal River Beach Field Guide can be purchased at Living Science Forest Centre or in the online store, available in https://loja.ccvfloresta.com.

22 September - Inauguration of the Painting Exhibition "Between stones drawing the curves of a river". As part of the 800th anniversary celebrations of the "Declaration of Proença-a-Velha", the painting exhibition by Paula Rito was inaugurated at Raiano Cultural Centre in Idanha-a-Nova. There are around 20 works inspired by Paula Rito's visits to Proença-a-Velha reflecting the artist's gaze on the landscapes she has found, especially the bucolic banks of the Torto River, which runs through the village. "I travelled several paths, but found myself always heading for the river. I fell in love with it, crooked, curve upon curve running through Proença-a-Velha", said Paula Rito at the opening of the exhibition.



25 to 27 September - Danube Geotour Project meeting in the Czech Republic. The working meeting within the INTERREG international cooperation project "Danube Geotour" took place this time at the Iron Mountains National Geopark in the Czech Republic. Naturtejo Geopark is a partner of this project for its experience in geoproducts development. Danube Geotour joins UNESCO geoparks and national geoparks of Slovenia, Austria, Romania, Hungary, Serbia, Czech Republic and Croatia, as well as a university of Slovakia, having specialized partners of UNESCO Geoparks of Lesvos, Rokua and Naturtejo. The aim of the project is to organise the tourism product of this region by establishing a geotourist route between geoparks along the Danube basin. Carlos Neto de Carvalho participated in the work where the concept of geoproduct was defined so that all the partners of the Danube region would develop geoproducts.

30 September to 1 October – Tourism Program through Naturtejo Geopark. The Spanish Tour operator "Mikamitravel" brought to the territory 19 Japanese to discover Monsanto guided by Susana Santos.



30 September – Trail Run Griffon Tracks. If 2017 was the year of the event's launch, 2018 is the year of the affirmation of the Griffon Tracks that opened for the second time a portal to the incomparable territory of Ródão.

The organization, under the responsibility of the Cultural and Recreational Center of Gavião de Ródão, improved the trails and the route, and invited lovers of trail running and nature sports "to challenge their limits" and "to fly with the Griffons", in a journey that was once again synonymous of a trip to Portas de Ródão and the Tejo River, the climbing to Talhadas Mountain and Penedo Gordo, and also the conquest of King Wamba's Castle. The event, which once again has the support of the Municipality and the Parish of Vila Velha de Ródão, and this year with the support of Naturtejo Geopark, and which was again sponsored by Luís Semedo and Natércia Silvestre, had three different races, a Long Trail, with about 35 kilometres, a Short Trail, with about 20 kilometres, and also a walk, with about ten kilometres. All the trails had as background the incomparable beauty of the Natural Monument of Portas de Ródão and the company of the largest colony of Griffons in the country, which was the great inspiration found by the organization to choose the name of the event.



IMPACT OF GEOPARK IN MEDIA

TV & Radio

4 September (Beira Baixa TV) - Geotourism Festival Portas de Ródão 4 September (Rádio Condestável) – 1st Geotourism Festival Portas de Ródão 13 September (Rádio Castelo Branco) – Fish Soup Festival with novelties

Newspapers & www

September (Destination Portugal Magazine) – The Destination Portugal Magazine of September, October and November suggests a visit to Naturtejo Geopark, UNESCO Global Geopark (Castelo Branco, Monsanto and Penha Garcia)

5 September (Gazeta do Interior) - 1st Geotourism Festival by Tejo River

5 September (Diário Dogital de Ćastelo Branco) – Vila Velha de Ródão hosts the 1st Geotourism Festival Portas de Ródão

6 September (Re<mark>co</mark>nquista) - Part of the VI Fish Soups Festival - Portas de Ródão with Geotourism Festival

10 September (Descla) – Green Mission

- 12 September (Povo da Beira) Fish Soups Festival scheduled for this weekend
- 12 September (Gazeta do Interior) Fish Soups Festival adds flavour to the weekend
- 13 September (Reconquista) Fish Soups cheers the weekend

15 September (Tribuna do Alentejo) – Fish Soups are Festival in Vila Velha de Ródão

16 September (Gazeta Rural) - Fish Soups Festival and Geotourism take over Vila Velha de Ródão

19 September (Gazeta do Interior) - The Forest that Unites Us Inaugurated in the Coin Caves





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- RODRIGUES, J. & GROENEWEGEN, M. - Heritage seeds in Naturtejo UNESCO Global Geopark (Portugal). 8th International Conference on UNESCO Global Geoparks, Abstracts Book, "Geoparks and Sustainable Development". Adamello Brenta Geopark.



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Geoparks: Geology with human face



NATURTEJO UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK - MONTHLY REPORT

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