

# Code of conduct and best practices in the Portuguese Geoparks

## For your and other visitors' safety

- Prepare yourself properly and in advance for nature tourism activities.
- Bring appropriate footwear and clothing for the activity and/or season.
- Hydrate yourself frequently.
- Whenever you do trails, inform the authorities of your location in advance, in case there are any unforeseen events or accidents.
- When walking, use only the signposted trails and avoid excessively large groups that may disturb nature.
- Please note that the mobile phone network may not be available in more remote locations.
- In case you have little experience in nature tourism activities, for your comfort and safety you may contact a guide who can accompany you.
- Respect the existing signs in the territory.
- Camp only in authorized places.
- Practice nature tourism activities in the signalled places.
- Before the activity, inform yourself about possible risks (fire, meteorological phenomena and other natural risks).
- Stay informed about the access conditions to forest areas and the practice of activities during the critical period of rural fire, or on days of very high or extreme risk.
- Do not make fires. Most rural fires in Portugal result from negligent acts (carelessness or lack of attention) in the use of fire.
- Park your vehicle in the appropriate parking spaces.
- Contact the authorities whenever you detect something irregular.

## Respect the territory and local communities

- Respect the silence.
- Respect the local people and their property.
- Respect the traditions and way of life of the population.
- Prioritize buying local products, since it will contribute to the local economy.
- Respect the crossing of domestic or wild animals.

## Respect and preserve the natural and cultural heritage

- Do not buy/sell geological heritage.
- Preserve the integrity of geosites (sites of geological interest).
- Do not take samples of rocks, minerals or fossils.
- Do not paint or write on rocks or any other substratum, including trees.
- Do not feed any animals and maintain a safe distance.
- Do not disturb existing fauna, especially during nesting season.
- Do not pick plants or step on vegetation.
- When using motorised vehicles, always drive on roads or public paths.
- Collect the litter you produce and/or find.
- Maintain the integrity of the heritage (museums, churches, mining complexes, archaeological sites).
- Respect the rules and regulations in use for the various monuments.
- If you are in a Protected Area, respect the rules and code of conduct of each one.
- Do not make cairns or piles of rocks.

