



## Promoting Geoscience in field trips!

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The project “Schools and Landscapes of Vila do Bispo (Portugal) – Preserve in the Present a Past with Future”, was created in order to disseminate and promote the knowledge and conservation, of the natural and cultural heritage of the Vila do Bispo County. This project aims to contribute to the perception of the local population and the many tourists who visit this region, the need to act in the protection and preservation of the environment, to achieve a better balance between nature and human activities. The initial target population of this project was the child and teenagers of Vila do Bispo schools. The first activities organized enrolled children whose age ranged from kindergarten (3 to 5 years) to students in elementary school (6 to 10 years). A fieldtrip to the dinosaur footprints site at Salema Beach was organized for the kindergarten children. Several aspects related to the type of dinosaurs, its locomotion and the way the footprints were made and preserved were addressed during the fieldtrip. Later in classroom context, the children made plasticine molds of the footprints.

For the elementary school a fieldtrip between Salema Beach and Boca do Rio were organized. The fieldtrip covered various aspects of the geology, biology and history, such as, the type of rocks observed, their fossil content, the biodiversity and the local history. A field guide with illustrations and consolidation exercises was given to the students at the beginning of the fieldtrip.

Since 2009 that the BirdWatching Festival of Sagres (Portugal) & Nature Activities takes place every year, at the end of September / early October. Parallel to the birdwatching component, this festival offers other activities that promote and introduce the natural and cultural heritage of Vila do Bispo take place, including geological fieldtrips. In the last five editions of this festival, several geological fieldtrips were organized to key locations, aiming to show the Geodiversity of the region and its importance for the understanding of the geological evolution of the Algarve.