



Grutas da
Moeda

DATASHEET

Translation and adaptation to braille based on words of the team of scientific advisors of the Grutas da Moeda.

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The Coin Caves (Grutas da Moeda) are located at S. Mamede, in the Centre of Portugal, just 3 minutes from Fátima and 15 minutes from Batalha.

Its discovery happened in 1971, as two hunters while chasing a fox, saw it enter by one natural hole under the bushes.

For several months they explored the cave and after three years of preparation works, these caves opened to public in 1974.

The Caves of Coin are composed by 12 natural galleries, plenty with marvelous limestone formations very interesting for scientific exploration and

touristic exploitation. The Caves' visit extension is 350 meters length and 45 meters depth below the entrance point. Temperature is constant around 18°C all year round.

The Legend

(Legend relating to the name of the cave)

According to the oral tradition, many years ago, a wealthy man from this region, passing through the woods, around a sinkhole, was attacked by a gang of criminals who tried to loot the bag of coins he was

carrying at the waist. With the struggle of the assault, the man fell into the sinkhole, carrying the bag of coins coveted by the burglars. Through the sinkhole were hopelessly spread the lost coins, giving the sinkhole the name by which it is still known - Algar da Moeda.

CICA GM Interpretation Centre

The Grutas da Moeda (Coin Caves) created a special interactive place called the Centre for Scientific and Environment Interpretation (CICA GM).

Here you can discover about the formation of a cave, also you can understand the importance of limestone for human life, especially in this region. In this center you can admire a great variety of fossils and minerals from Portugal and many other countries.

The Grutas da Moeda (Coin Caves) are situated inside of a special territory, the Estremenho Limestone Massif, a special geologic and geomorphologic area in Portugal. It's an elevated area, where carbonated rocks exist, created during the Jurassic Period, so this is a special rock, from

the Dinosaurs Period, Medium Jurassic – 160 million years.