

Feel as if you are a part of a wildlife documentary!



The vulture feeder at Faia Brava features a hide for observation and photography. While in the hide, you can view an incredible variety of bird species as they feed on the remains of animal bone and flesh. All visitors at Faia Brava are welcome to watch one of the most impressive scenes of wildlife in West Iberia.



Egyptian vulture – Erik Menkveld



Griffon vulture – Erik Menkveld



Ruppell vulture – Ana Luísa Catarino

“The scene is fascinating and the landscape around the vulture feeder is exciting, with the Côa valley in the back in its old and mythical silence. The soaring of the Griffon vultures at a few meters and the fast gliding fights of the Kites start increasing your adrenaline levels, which peak when the majestic Egyptian vulture lands 15 meters away from the hide, testing its peculiar way of walking. You only hear the cameras shooting; you look for the best angle and that particular background of the rocks. An unforgettable experience for any ornithologist or nature lover!” Dinis Cortes



Many birds appear at the vulture feeder— Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, Griffon vulture *Gyps fulvus*, Black kite *Milvus migrans*, Red kite *Milvus milvus*, Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, Azure-winged Magpie *Cyanopica cyanus*, Raven *Corvus corax* **Rare species already recorded:** Black vulture *Aegyptius monachus*, Ruppelli Vulture *Gyps rueppellii*. Note also the regular presence of Great Tit *Parus major*, Blue Rock Trust *Monticola solitarius*, among others.



Location and access

Located in the municipality of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo, accessible by 4x4 vehicles from the village of Algodres. The observation hide was constructed within a vulture feeder area, which is located on a high point overlooking the river. There are few trees and some rocky outcrops. The movement of the sun occurs behind the hide, which allows for favorable light from dusk to dawn.

Dimensions and characteristics

The hide has a capacity of three photographers with its dimensions measuring 3.00x2.00 meters and 1.6 meters in height. It also has two large openings and is situated about 85cm off the ground to enable photographers to sit and enjoy shooting angles closer to the ground. The higher opening is approximately 150cm from the ground and is used particularly for observation but can be used for high-angle photography. Thermal and acoustic insulation is built in, and chairs are provided.

Rules

In this hide, the photographers will be entering the hide before sunrise (unless ATN defines a different schedule). Smoking and noise making are prohibited inside the hide.

Photographic equipment recommended

The distance of the birds can usually be adapted under the provision of food. Vultures may be located between 10 to 30 meters away. There are several types of lenses that we recommend; a 500 or 400 mm lens will enhance images of birds that are further away on rocks or trees. These lenses will highlight detail. In addition, a zoom lens of 70-200 mm or 300mm is recommended for flight scenes or photos of bird groups. These indications are suitable for analog SLR or full frame digital SLR devices. We also note that digital cameras with sensor crop usually use a magnification factor that can be 1.6X or higher. Lastly, we recommend that photographers appropriately camouflage lenses.



Photos by Erik Menkveld

Program Details:**Dates:** Available from March to August (Monday to Sunday).**Meeting Place:** ATN Office, Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo.**Time:** From 2 to 8 hours.**Type of Visit:** transportation to the hide provided by ATN, with a maximum of 3 participants.**Distance Traveled:** 50 km by vehicle | **Difficulty:** Easy; not suitable for children, because of silence and immobility demands.**What to bring:** Photo material, appropriate clothing for weather conditions, water.**Cost Per Person:** 80,00 euros/person. 2nd day: 20% discount.**Includes:** guide, hide use, transportation to and from hide, from Fig. Castelo Rodrigo, coffee and countryside snack, insurance, 1 membership registration.**Available supplements:** optical equipment (2,00 euros/person); picnic basket (15 euros/person).**Official Partner:****For reservations and inquiries:**geral@atnatureza.org; 271 311 202**Accommodation partners:****Casa da Cisterna, Castelo Rodrigo** (www.casadacisterna.com) | **Quinta de Pêro Martins, Quintã de Pêro Martins** (www.quintaperomartins.com). With special conditions for ATN members.**More Information:**[Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo](#) | [Almeida](#) | [Pinhel](#) | [Vila Nova de Foz Côa](#)**How to get to Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo and Faia Brava?**Please consult Google Maps, [here](#).

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ATN is a nonprofit entity that does not receive government support and that relies on the support of its members. The profits from visit contribute to the study and conservation of nature in Faia Brava.