

International Coastal Clean-Up Day

THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS ACROSS OVER 200 INITIATIVES TO CLEAN PORTUGAL'S COASTLINE DURING OVER THE COURSE OF A WEEK

- The week marking International Coastal Clean-Up Day **begins on September 21 with a flagship clean-up initiative at the Algarve Marine Natural Park – Pedra do Valado.**
- From **September 21 to 29**, hundreds of organisations and entities will lead **underwater and coastal clean-ups** across mainland Portugal, the Azores, and Madeira.
- The aim is to **mobilise the nation for environmental protection** and to showcase the civil society organisations that dedicate themselves year-round to ocean conservation.
- Oceano Azul Foundation, the European Commission, and the European Parliament continue their partnership in this initiative, strengthening Portugal's leadership in civil society mobilisation for environmental causes in Europe, representing over half of all actions registered in the #EUBeachCleanup campaign.

For the sixth consecutive year, [International Coastal Clean-Up Day](#) will be observed through local terrestrial and underwater clean-up activities at beaches, rivers, lagoons, and other waterways, beginning on September 21. This initiative, which brings together **NGOs, associations, schools, diving centres, surf and bodyboard schools, civil society, municipalities, and parish councils** nationwide, is spearheaded by **Oceano Azul Foundation** with support from the **European Commission** and the **European Parliament** as part of the [#EUBeachCleanUp](#) campaign.

The week will begin on Saturday, September 21, at 9:30 am with a flagship event at the

Algarve Marine Natural Park – Pedra do Valado, the first Marine Protected Area established in mainland Portugal in the 21st century. This clean-up effort, covering the coastal regions of **Albufeira, Lagoa, and Silves**, aims to **engage local communities and raise awareness about the importance of preserving and valuing this unique and rich yet fragile ecosystem.**

In Silves, a clean-up effort at Praia dos Pescadores in Armação de Pêra, organised by the Municipality of Silves, will involve the **Representative of the European Commission in Portugal**, the **Mayor of Silves**, the **Armação de Pêra Fishermen's Association**, local NGOs, and the **National Federation of Education**, among other organisations.

In the municipality of Lagoa, a clean-up initiative led by the Lagoa Municipal Council, with support from the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) and the Algarve Centre for Marine Sciences (CCMAR), will target the Marine Natural Park with an **underwater clean-up operation**. This effort will commence from the Ferragudo pier, spearheaded by Portisub and involving **over 30 divers**.

Over the past six years, this initiative has mobilised more than **400 organisations** in over **880 clean-up actions**, covering over **800 kilometres**, and involving nearly **29.000 volunteers** who have collected over **160 tonnes of waste**. In 2023 alone, over **10.000 volunteers** participated, with the involvement of **450 NGOs** and national entities, collecting **37 tonnes of waste** across more than **250 clean-up efforts**.

By September 29, over 200 clean-up activities are expected to take place across the country, engaging thousands of volunteers and hundreds of organisations. **Until this date, individuals can still register clean-up initiatives or join those already registered.** Details of these activities can be found on Oceano Azul Foundation's [website](#), where citizens can contact the organising groups to participate.

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