

History of Mining in São Pedro da Cova



Local development:

- Mining changed the landscape and brought new roads, buildings, and services.
- It shaped daily life and created a strong community identity.
- For many years, it provided income for thousands of families.



Importance of coal:

- Coal was the main fuel for Portuguese industry in the 1800s and early 1900s.
- It helped the country during periods of energy shortage.
- It kept factories running even during global crises.



Jobs and economy:

- During World War II, the mines employed more than 1,800 workers.
- They transformed a small rural village into a busy industrial center.
- São Pedro da Cova became home to the most important mines in Portugal.



Historical facts:

- The coal was anthracite, very hard and extremely hot-burning.
- Workers lived in Casas da Malta, now the Mining Museum.
- The São Vicente Headframe is the iconic structure that remains today.