



Since the dawn of Humanity, the Moon has been an inexhaustible source of mystery and wonder. And among all its phases, it is the Full Moon that truly captivates our imagination. Night after night, its silvery disk illuminates the night sky, transforming familiar landscapes into ethereal scenes and inspiring tales, poems, and songs throughout the centuries.

This fascination transcends cultures and eras. For our ancestors, the Full Moon was a compass in the dark, a cosmic clock that marked the seasons and tides, and a symbol of divinity and power. Today, even with the advancement of Science and Space Exploration, its imposing beauty continues to evoke a sense of awe and reverence. Who has never stopped to contemplate the Full Moon, feeling its magnetic presence and silent invitation to dream? It is a constant reminder of the vastness of the universe and our place in it, a silvery mirror that reflects our innate curiosity and desire to explore the unknown. The Full Moon is not just a celestial spectacle; it is an invitation to introspection, a beacon of hope, and a silent testimony to our deep connection with the cosmos.

[Paulo Ferreira](#), the photographer, astrophotographer, and internationally awarded filmmaker for his short and feature films dedicated to nature and environmental causes, sought this connection in a stunning region in the interior of Portugal, in the municipality of Proença-a-Nova, district of Castelo Branco. What he managed to capture with his camera and lenses is beautiful, but what was recorded in his soul and memory is indescribable, offering everyone a work of art that blends science, art, and architecture.

In his own words, "the decision to photograph the Moon with the Serra da Talhadas Fire Lookout Tower in the background was, above all, a quest to capture the harmony between Nature and Architecture. The idea came to me a long time ago, and the planning was adjusted based on my visit to [Refúgio do Raposo](#) (a rural tourism accommodation in the region), a place somewhere on Earth that overlooks the firmament. In a moment of pure inspiration during my stay in Proença-a-Nova, when I realized that the Moon and the tower could form a perfect alignment, I decided to set out and search for the best location, even if it meant going into the mountains surrounding Serra das Talhadas. The photograph would not be just an image, but a visual representation of the union between nature and human genius. And for that, I had to venture through hills and valleys, at dusk, on a beautiful summer night."

Paulo Ferreira, the photographer, astrophotographer, and internationally awarded filmmaker (winner of the International Tourism Film Festival Turkey, Los Angeles Independent Film Festival Awards, Vegas Movie Awards, Finisterra Brazil Film Art & Tourism Festival, Oniros Film Awards, Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards, Hollywood International Independent Documentary Awards and much more) for his short and feature films dedicated to nature and environmental causes, sought this connection in a stunning region in the interior of Portugal, in the municipality of Proença-a-Nova, district of Castelo Branco. What he managed to capture with his camera and lenses is beautiful, but what was recorded in his soul and memory is indescribable, offering everyone a work of art that blends science, art, and architecture.

[Serra das Talhadas](#) is a fantastic quartzite ridge that stretches for 30 kilometers and has a highest point just over 600 meters, intersected by several tectonic faults that allowed the Tagus and Ocreza rivers to cross it, creating formidable gates (Ródão and Almourão), with identified geosites and the UNESCO seal of protection. Its history is closely intertwined with the history of Portugal itself, having played a fundamental role in defending its territory against invasions from Spain and France. But there are even older stories: it is believed that there was a walled enclosure from the Bronze Age that served as a refuge for populations in danger. It was also an area with a strong Roman Empire presence.

Standing 16 meters tall, the current Serra das Talhadas Fire Lookout Tower is also a place visited by people from all over the planet as the work of one of the most renowned architects in the world: [Álvaro Siza Vieira](#), winner of the Pritzker Prize (1992). Other prizes include: The Golden Medal of The Superior Council of Architecture of the College of Architects of Madrid in 1988; Mies van der Rohe Award for European Architecture, the Prince of Wales Prize in Urban Design from Harvard University, and the Alvar Aalto Medal in 1988; Portugal's National Prize of Architecture 1993; the Arnold W. Brunner Memorial Prize by the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Praemium Imperiale in 1998, the Wolf Prize in Arts in 2001, the Urbanism Special Grand Prize of France 2005. This work is a

milestone for the interior of Portugal, not least because it is Álvaro Siza Vieira's first project in this region, as well as his first work involving metal structures.

All the natural, historical, and astronomical ingredients are there to create a striking visual record!

Paulo tells us: "I confess that getting to the location was a real challenge. I had to find the exact spot where the camera, the Moon, and the tower would form the perfect alignment, which was not easy due to the inaccessibility of the location and the need to adjust the camera position with precision. I had the technology on my side, but that wasn't enough. Waiting for the right moment was a test of patience, as the alignment was ephemeral, depending on variables such as brightness and the exact position of the Moon in the sky. I quickly realized that when it rose behind the Serra das Talhadas, it was a few meters to the right of the tower, forcing me to quickly move to the left in search of the perfect frame. A tricky exercise when you're in the middle of the woods. After several clicks (not many, as the Moon rises very quickly on the horizon) and when I finally edited the photo and saw the result, I felt enormous satisfaction. A project accomplished. A sense of personal achievement, which was at the same time a legendary accomplishment. The image, with its perfect composition, conveyed exactly what I wanted: the beauty of the fusion between human creation and what nature offers us every night. A fleeting but eternal moment through my lens!"

Technical details

Photo taken on June 10, 2025, at 7:59 p.m. (UTC), in Serra da Talhadas Fire Lookout Tower, Portugal

GPS coordinates: 39.77461996470527, -7.775062336698206

Sony ILCE-7RM5

F-stop 2.8

Exposure time: 1/1600

ISO 250

Focal length: 400 mm

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