

Companions Tour Tuesday, 7 October 2008

Tour to Aveiro, The Venice of Portugal

Known as the "Venice of Portugal", Aveiro is surrounded by salt-flats, beaches and lagoons and dominated by the Central Canal running through town. This city, located on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean, was once a great seaport with a history linked to its production of salt, dating back prior to 959 AD. Much later, in the 16th Century it acquired new prosperity through its cod fishing industry, practiced off the coast of Newfoundland. Today the old lagoon of about 65 sq. km. still has its charm with the many canals and the distinctive and colorful "*moliceiros*" boats that are used to collect seaweed which is used for fertilizer. The town is basically a mixture of neat fishermen's cottages and Art Nouveau mansions with a few historic buildings. The small houses lining the beach area are most attractive with their distinct colorful facades of different painted colors. The church of *Misericórdia* dates from the 16th Century, whilst the more modest Cathedral *São Domingos* is from the 15th Century.



Hands-on Workshop of Making Traditional Sweets

The *ovos-moles* (egg sweet) from Aveiro is one of the emblematic pastries of the country, an ancient recipe marked by religious influence, left by local convents. A local specialist will organize a didactic hands-on workshop where participants will learn by doing, and finally tasting. A delicious active discover and a unique cultural experience.

Lunch in the Fish Market

The vibrant fish market, in beautiful architecture of iron and glass, is located in the oldest quarter of the city, with the houses of fisherman facing the channels. The restaurant in the typical fisherman's quarter, specializing in fresh fish and regional recipes. Menu: variety of starters, fish soup, typical fish as main course (or alternate upon request), regional sweet or fruit, soft drinks, wine and coffee.

Itinerary

- 9:00 am -- Depart the Porto Palacio Hotel, buses will park in front of the hotel, on the main street
- Guided visit to Aveiro
- Lunch in Aveiro
- Hands-on workshop of making traditional sweets
- 5:00 pm -- Return to Porto Palácio Hotel (approximate time of return)

Suggest wear sturdy shoes or sneakers for walking on cobblestone roads.

