

Fish Farm Tour 1 - AVEIRO

In Portugal fish farming has expanded very rapidly in the last decade, mainly after 1985. There are two governmental bodies with authority to license the projects. One for aquaculture, in freshwater systems, and the other for fish farming in coastal environments, such as marshes and lagoons. A high percentage of these farms are financed by EEC funds and some are still in development.

Pond culture is the system used most often - earth or cement ponds provided with water at ambient temperature and salinity where fish, fry, fingerlings or shrimp (post-larvae or juveniles) are stocked. They are usually collected from the wild or produced in hatcheries. The extensive production where no food is supplied by man is being gradually abandoned because of its low productivity, and replaced by semi-intensive and intensive fish farming. The polyculture of eels, common soles, sea basses and gilthead sea breams is very common in ponds, while cage culture has until now only concerned rainbow trout in dams. An interesting aspect of this activity is presently the conversion of all salinas for intensive aquaculture. Previously only extensive fish farms were associated with salt exploitation.

09h00 departure from Porto to Aveiro District.

During today we will visit 2 distinct Fish Farms, in Aveiro district.

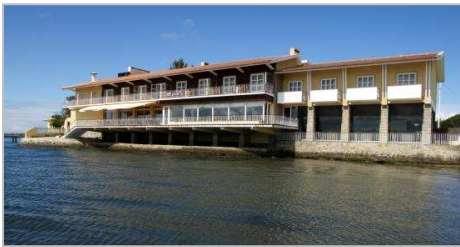


In the morning: **Aquacria** - a company devoted to intensive fish production. The company owns a turbot fish farm with an installed capacity of 120 ton/year, which will be expanded to a 350 ton/year farm through the installation of a hyper-intensive production system. For the last 11 years the company has been producing high quality turbot. During 2009 expansion investment will be made which allow us to produce sole additionally to turbot. The production is based in Recirculation Aquaculture System Technology, that allows a full control in the main production parameters like water quality, temperature and health resulting in fast growth and high quality product.

Aquacria is a leading company in the Recirculation Aquaculture System Technology (RAS), particularly innovating by the introduction of Shallow Raceway System Technology in conjunction with RAS. The fish is produced in stacktanks that can go up to five levels maximising land and construction resources. This production system can be utilised for several fish species, but the Company is specially focused in flat fish species like turbot and sole.

13h00

LUNCH AT: Pousada de Torreira / Murtosa - Ria de Aveiro



Located in the isthmus that connects Murtosa to the beaches of São Jacinto, the Pousada de Murtosa Torreira, Ria de Aveiro is set in a preserved area with a unique natural beauty. From the balconies of this nature hotel it is possible to overlook the Ria de Aveiro, and on peaceful evenings you can appreciate the fishermen at work on the traditional "Moliceiros" boats. Surrounded by water, this is the ideal spot for fishing, water sports or going to the beautiful beaches which are near the Costa Nova's typical colourful houses.

15h00 Visit of **MaterAqua** – Partner of the project SOCRATE (Soft crab technology in Europe). This project is looking at the commercialisation of soft green crab production in the most cost-effective manner. To do this, three different populations of green crabs from Portugal, Scotland and Ireland are being characterised. They will look at various means of capturing the crabs and try out different systems of aquaculture. They will evaluate the cost of producing soft green crabs using their newly-developed system. This will look at all aspects, through production, processing, packing and storage to detailed market research, in an effort to bring hard science to what previously was a soft artisanal-like process.



17h00 Return to Porto.

Price:

From 25 pax 63,30 € per person

**above price is including deluxe private A/C bus + English speaking guide + lunch at Pousada da Ria + visits*