

Varino Boat Liberdade

Built in 1945, on Rio de Moinhos shipyard, in Abrantes, the “varino” debuted in that same year on the Tagus waters, with its 40 tons and 18 m length, under the name of “*Campino*”. Used, firstly, for the transport of several goods, it has changed owner in the fifties, and started to transport garbage in Lisbon, and afterwards there was a new change of property, which let it to do the transport of salt, in Setúbal. In the sixties, it is bought by a private, who names it “*Rio Zuari*”. In 1988, Vila Franca de Xira City Council, purchases it.

This vessel has a round bow and deep flat, which allows it to sail in shallow waters, and a showy, flowered decoration, with its name written on the bow panel. A big lateen sail, square shaped, marks its figure. In memory of that other *Liberdade*, which was a meeting point in times of struggle for liberty, *varino* sails today once again, regularly, on Tagus river waters, transporting now a much different load than in the beginning – young students, retired persons, tourists, among others.

Itineraries

1) South - *Vila Franca de Xira Wharf*; around *Mouchão de Alhandra* (one can see *Mouchão do Lombo do Tejo* – part of Natural Reserve of the Tagus Estuary) and *Mouchão das Garças*; return by the south bank of *Mouchão de Alhandra*.

2) South - *Vila Franca de Xira Wharf*; south bank of *Mouchão de Alhandra*; pass on south by *Mouchão do Lombo do Tejo*; *Ponta de Erva*; return.

3) North - *Vila Franca de Xira Wharf*; Bridge; *Castanheira*; *Vala do Carregado*; *Powerplant*; return.

