

PRESENTATION – LEVADAS DA MADEIRA

Plenary Session - Auditorium Laginha Serafim

“Application of *Levadas da Madeira* for UNESCO World Heritage”

Speaker: Prof. Miguel Sequeira
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Levadas are small irrigation canals that can be found on Madeira Island and on the island of La Palma, in the Canary Islands. This term is also applied to canals, usually smaller ones that direct the water to watermills. On Madeira Island, the use of *Levadas* resulted from the need to bring large amounts of water from the north-facing springs where it is abundant, to the south side of the island. The *Levadas* began to be built in the sixteenth century and the most recent ones date back to the 1940s, supplying water to hydroelectric power plants and also used for irrigation purposes. Their total extension is approximately 3000 km and you can stroll through them on foot; allowing you to reach the heart of the island where you will encounter breathtaking landscapes. From 0 to 1862 meters the excitement is guaranteed! The Madeira “*Levadas*” are among a number of protected areas including, most importantly, the Madeira Natural Park and the Funchal Ecological Park (source: *Levadas da Madeira*).



Levadas da Madeira