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# WALKS IN MADEIRA

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# PR1

# VEREDA DO AREEIRO



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 7 km/5.6 km  
**Duration:** 3h00/3h30  
**Highest point:** 1862 m  
**Lowest point:** 1542 m  
**Start:** Miradouro do Pico do Areeiro  
**Finish:** Pico Ruivo

Take warm clothing, carry a torch for the tunnels and drinking water.

**Access:** Only by car

This walk connects the highest peaks on the island of Madeira, Pico Ruivo (1862 m), Pico das Torres (1851 m) and Pico do Areeiro (1817 m), traversing part of the central mountainous area, a Natura 2000 network site.

Starting at Pico do Areeiro, after a short distance we come to the Ninho da Manta belvedere. This is the breeding site for Zino's petrels (*Pterodroma madeira*), an edemic bird to the island.

To reach Pico Ruivo, we must go around Pico das Torres up a steep incline of steps carved in the rock and then descend. The most difficult part of this trail is the final climb to the shelter at Pico Ruivo.

Near the Pico Ruivo shelter is footpath PR 1.2 which leads to Achada do Teixeira. At Achada do Teixeira we can see the "Standing Man" (Homem em pé), a basalt rock formation that can be found down the slope, after passing the Achada do Teixeira shelter.



# PR1.1 VEREDA DA ILHA



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 8.2 km  
**Duration:** 3h00  
**Highest point:** 1862 m  
**Lowest point:** 485 m  
**Start:** Casa de Abrigo do Pico Ruivo  
**Finish:** Parish of Ilha

The weather can change very easily. Take warm clothing.

**Access:** Only by car.

This trail starts at the Pico Ruivo shelter. This is the highest peak on the island and can be reached following route PR 1.2 - Vereda do Pico Ruivo. The trail crosses two different ecosystems that are part of the European network of sites of community importance - Natura 2000: the central mountain massif and the *Laurissilva* forest.

The massif, which covers the highest peaks down to an altitude of 1200 m, is covered by herbaceous and shrubby vegetation, including a heath (*Erica scoparia*) formerly used to produce charcoal.

When the trail passes over the Vale da Lapa tunnel it meets PR 9 - Levada do Caldeirão Verde, which begins and ends at Queimadas Forest Park.

On the way down, you will find the indigenous Madeira - *Laurissilva* forest, located between 1200 and 400 m above sea level. When walking down the tarmac road, don't forget to visit Achada do Marques, in Ilha, a small village with traditional terraced fields (poios) and old traditional thatched houses.



# PR1.2 VEREDA DO PICO RUIVO



Starting in Achada do Teixeira, this trail climbs up to the island's highest peak, Pico Ruivo (1862 m).

There are several shelters along this ascent, since the weather can change very abruptly and the area is often surrounded by a sea of clouds.

Near the Pico Ruivo shelter there are 3 other trails: PR 1 - Vereda do Pico do Areeiro (5.1/6.4 km); PR 1.3 - Vereda da Encumeada (8.6 km) which leads west to Encumeada; and PR 1.1 - Vereda da Ilha (8.2 km), which leads down to the parish of Ilha.

**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 2.8 km (+ 2.8 km return)  
**Duration:** 1h30  
**Highest point:** 1862 m  
**Lowest point:** 1592 m  
**Start:** Achada do Teixeira  
**Finish:** Achada do Teixeira

The weather can change very easily.  
Take warm clothing.

**Access:** Only by car

The area of Pico Ruivo, part of the Natura 2000 network central mountain massif area, covers the highest peaks and descends to 1200 m above sea level. It is characterised by herbaceous and shrubby vegetation, such as heathers (*Erica scoparia* ssp *madeirensis* and *Erica arborea*), adapted to temperature variations, heavy rain and strong winds.

In Achada do Teixeira, on the descent, you can see the "Standing Man" (Homem em pé), a curious basalt rock formation.



# PR1.3 VEREDA DA ENCUMEADA

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 11.2 km

**Time:** 6h00

**Highest point:** 1761 m

**Lowest point:** 940 m

**Start:** Casa de Abrigo do Pico Ruivo

**Finish:** Encumeada

Take warm clothing, non-slip footwear and water.

**Access:** Only by car.

The Encumeada trail starts a few metres above the Pico Ruivo shelter.

Marked by frequent climbs and descents, the trail winds along at elevations between 1800 and 1000 m above sea level as it heads towards Encumeada.

Extremely beautiful landscapes await travellers as they cross two types of Natura 2000 ecosystems: the central mountainous massif and the *Laurissilva* forest.

Along the trail, you will pass settings filled with *Laurissilva* forest species, such as Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), lily-of-the-valley trees (*Clethra arborea*), a buckthorn variety known as “sanguinhos” (*Rhamnus glandulosa*), the pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*) and the very rare Madeiran orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*).

You will also find various caves (furnas) dug out of the rocks. In former times they served as refuges for men who came here to cut heath (*Erica scoparia* ssp *madeirensis* and *Erica arborea*) to be used for stakes, firewood or making charcoal.



# PR5

# VEREDA DAS FUNDURAS



**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 8.7 km

**Time:** 3h00

**Highest point:** 605 m

**Lowest point:** 185 m

**Start:** Miradouro da Portela

**Finish:** Maroços

Take warm clothing and water.

**Access:** Buses 20 - Santo da Serra | 53 - Faial

This trail starts next to Portela belvedere, where there is a view of the parishes of Porto da Cruz and Faial.

The walk begins along a forestry track in the Funduras mountains before joining the footpath. On the way, you will pass a forestry building, "Casa das Funduras". From here you can walk to the Larano belvedere with a view of the town of Machico.

The trail ends at the hamlet of Maroços, passing the traditional terraced fields that are so typical of the Madeiran agricultural landscape. In these mountains you will find some species typical of the *Laurissilva* forest, particularly trees such as Canary laurels (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), Indian bays (*Persea indica*), barbusanos (*Apollonias barbujana*), among others.

On the other side of the valley you can see the Santo da Serra golf course. On the horizon, you can see the Desertas islands and on land the outline of the highest peaks on the island, Pico Ruivo and Pico do Areeiro.

At Portela viewpoint there is a connection to PR 10- *Levada do Furado*.



# PR6- VEREDA DAS 25 FONTES-

## PR6.1 LEVADA DO RISCO



Both trails begin on the regional road - 110 and go down as far as the Rabaçal shelter. The trails continue along two parallel *levadas* on different levels.

Trail PR 6.1 goes along Levada do Risco, at 1000 m above sea level, taking the walker to an impressive waterfall, which falls vertically forming a “scratch” (risco) on the rock.

If you take PR 6, you can visit the lagoon (Lagoa das 25 Fontes), created by water coming down from Paúl da Serra, where you can see more than 25 springs.

**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 4.6 km (+ 4.6 km return)  
**Time:** 3h00  
**Highest point:** 1290 m  
**Lowest point:** 900 m  
**Start and Finish:** E.R.110  
(Rabaçal, Paúl da Serra)

PR 6 walk may cause vertigo.  
Take warm clothing and water.

**Access:** Only by car.

At this height, the dominant plants are highland heaths (*Erica arborea* and *Erica scoparia* ssp *madeirensis*) and Madeiran whortleberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*). The rare mountain Mocano (*Pittosporum coriaceum*) can also be found. These species form part of the Madeiran *Laurissilva* forest, designated by UNESCO as World Natural Heritage.

The two *levadas* carry water from two tributaries of Ribeira Grande and supply the Calheta hydroelectric dam, carrying on to irrigate agricultural land.



# PR7

# LEVADA DO MOINHO



This trail begins at the regional road - 101, by the Ribeira da Cruz stream which separates the municipalities of Porto Moniz and Calheta. From the road, climb a footpath to reach the *levada*. If you walk a short distance in the opposite direction to the flow of the water, you can visit one of the springs that feed this *levada*.

To carry on to Junqueira, you will have to turn round and go in the direction in which the water flows. Be aware that you will find a number of branches leading off the *levada* to take water to irrigation tanks.

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 10.3 km

**Time:** 3h30

**Highest point:** 900 m

**Lowest point:** 496 m

**Start:** Ribeira da Cruz (E.R. 101)

**Finish:** Junqueira (Tornadouro)

Take warm clothing, non-slip footwear and water.

Levada Grande is also known as Levada do Moinho (Mill *Levada*), because along its route there used to be several water mills.

The ruins of three of these mills can still be seen (Achadas, Cancelas and Levada Grande). This is a *levada* built at the expense of its users, the "heréus", and only they had the right to use it. The trail ends in Tornadouro, Junqueira, where the *levada* splits.

**Access:** Only by car.





# PR8

# VEREDA DA PONTA DE SÃO LOURENÇO



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 4 km (+ 4 km return)  
**Duration:** 2h30  
**Highest point:** 77 m  
**Lowest point:** 5 m  
**Start and Finish:** E.R. 109  
(Baía d'Abra - Caniçal)

Don't get too close to the cliff-face as there are many places where the ground is not stable. Take water.

**Access:** Bus 113 - Caniçal.

The trail explores Ponta de São Lourenço, the eastern-most peninsula on the island, named after the caravel sailed by João Gonçalves Zarco, one of the three discoverers of the Archipelago of Madeira.

This peninsula is volcanic in origin and comprises two islets: Cevada or Desembarcadouro, and Ponta de São Lourenço.

After the Baía d'Abra stone wall, the entire area belongs to the Regional Government and is part of the Madeira Natural Park. The peninsula is classified as a partial natural reserve and the Desembarcadouro Islet is a total natural reserve, both forming part of the European network of important community sites – Natura 2000.

With the semi-arid climate and exposure to north winds, vegetation is low-lying, without any trees, differentiating this area from the landscape of the rest of the island. It has a wide range of endemic plants, exclusive to the island of Madeira. In terms of fauna there is one of the largest colonies of seagulls (*Larus cachinnans atlantis*) in the region, as well as a number of other bird species. On the horizon to the south you can see Desertas islands and to the north the island of Porto Santo.



# PR9

# LEVADA DO CALDEIRÃO VERDE



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 6.5 km (+ 6.5 km return)  
**Time:** 5h30  
**Highest point:** 980 m  
**Lowest point:** 890 m  
**Start:** Queimadas Forestry Park  
**Finish:** Queimadas Forestry Park

Take warm clothing, non-slip footwear, a torch for the tunnels and drinking water.

**Access:** Only by car



This trail, along an astonishing feat of engineering from the 18th century, begins in Queimadas Forestry park and winds along the walkways of Levada do Caldeirão Verde, at 980 m above sea level, in the municipality of Santana.

Built for agricultural purposes, the *levada* leads the walker into the deep valley of Ribeira de São Jorge, offering spectacular views of the mountainous terrain of the interior of the island and of human ingenuity.

The species found along the trail include excellent specimens of Japanese cedars (*Cryptomeria japonica*), european beeches (*Fagus sylvatica*), Canary Island junipers (*Juniperus cedrus*), lily-of-the-valley tree (*Clethra arborea*), Madeira blueberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*), Pau branco or southern olive (*Picconia excelsa*) and ancient heath shrubs (*Erica scoparia*).

Species of indigenous birds include the Madeiran chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs madeirensis*), the Madeira firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*) and the Madeira laurel pigeon (*Columba trocaz*).

After you pass through the trail's 4 tunnels, Caldeirão Verde appears on the left. To reach Caldeirão Verde, a lagoon formed by water that falls vertically from the stream from a height of approximately 100 m, one has only to climb a few metres along the stream bed.

# PR10 LEVADA DO FURADO



This *levada*, starting in Ribeiro Frio, is one of the oldest public *levadas*, acquired by the State to irrigate the agricultural fields of Porto da Cruz. The walk, which is at a height of 860 m above sea level, ends with a descent to the village of Portela.

At the start of the trail, the walker should follow the Levada da Serra do Faial walkway to station where the waters divide, descending from there to the area of Lamaceiros. The walk ends at the Portela belvedere in the municipality of Machico.

**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 11 km  
**Time:** 5h00  
**Highest point:** 870 m  
**Lowest point:** 520 m  
**Start:** E.R. 303 (Ribeiro Frio)  
**Finish:** E.R. 102 (Portela)

Along this *levada*, we can find some of the typical species of the island's *Laurissilva* forest, including Canary laurels (*Laurus novocanariensis*), lily-of-the-valley trees (*Clethra arborea*), Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*) and the Madeiran orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*).

Danger of vertigo.  
Carry a torch for tunnels  
The path may be slippery;  
wear non-slip footwear.

You may be able to catch sight of the small Madeira firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*) and the fearless Madeiran chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs madeirensis*). And if you're really lucky you may see a Madeira laurel pigeon (*Columba trocaz*), a species endemic to Madeira.

**Access:** Buses 56 | 103 | 138



# PR11

# VEREDA DOS BALCÕES



**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Distance:** 1.5 km (+ 1.5 km return)  
**Duration:** 1h30  
**Highest point:** 860 m  
**Lowest point:** 830 m  
**Start:** E.R. 103 (Ribeiro Frio)  
**Finish:** E.R. 103 (Ribeiro Frio)

The path may be slippery;  
wear non-slip footwear.

**Access:** Buses 56 | 103 | 138

Starting at Ribeiro Frio, at the regional road - 103, this short walk follows Levada da Serra do Faial, and provides access to the Balcões belvedere with superb views over the valley of Ribeira da Metade and the parish of Faial.

From the Balcões belvedere there is a splendid landscape of green valleys of *Laurissilva* forest, Madeira's indigenous forest that takes on added importance as a "water producer".

Along this *levada*, the varied endemic species include Canary laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Indian bays (*Persea indica*) and Madeiran orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), as well as non-native trees such as oaks (*Quercus robur*) and London planes (*Platanus x acerifolia*). During the walk you may catch sight of birds such as the Madeira firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*), the Madeiran chaffinch (*Frigilla coelebs madeirensis*), the Madeira buzzard (*Buteo buteo harterti*) or the very rare Madeira laurel Pigeon (*Columba trocaz*).

On days when visibility is good, you will be able to see the central mountain chain and the island's highest peaks, Pico Ruivo, Pico do Areeiro, Pico do Gato and Pico das Torres.



# PR12 CAMINHO REAL DA ENCUMEADA



This trail begins at the Boca da Corrida belvedere and crosses part of the central mountainous massif, running along the foot of the highest peaks of the island of Madeira. It was originally a paved “Royal Road” and one of the island’s main routes.

The trail offers a view of the valley of Curral das Freiras, a small village surrounded by enormous mountains that became a refuge for the nuns from the Santa Clara Convent, when pirates attacked Funchal in 1566.

All along the route, you will find streams that support the local *Laurissilva* forest, which includes Canary laurels (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Indian bays (*Persea indica*), ancient Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*) and Lily-of-the-valley trees (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*).

Indigenous birds that may be observed are the Madeira firecrest (*Rugulus ignicapillus madeirensis*), the Madeiran buzzard (*Buteo buteo harferti*), a kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus canariensis*), the Madeira laurel pigeon (*Columba trocaz*) and the grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*),

**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Total distance:** 12.5 km  
**Duration:** 6h30  
**Highest point:** 1220 m  
**Lowest point:** 940 m  
**Start:** Miradouro Boca da Corrida  
**Finish:** E.R. 228 (Encumeada)

**Access:** Only by car.



# PR13

# VEREDA DO FANAL



This trail starts on the regional road - 209 at the Paúl da Serra plateau (Assobiadores) and ends near the Forestry Station in Fanal. It also connects to the parish of Ribeira da Janela through the trails PR 14 - Levada dos Cedros and PR 15 - Vereda da Ribeira da Janela.

This trail is in a well-preserved area of Madeira's original *Laurissilva* forest, classified as World Natural Heritage by UNESCO and part of the Natura 2000 - European Network of Sites of Community Importance.

Enjoy the magnificent area of Fanal, a small volcanic crater classified as a resting reserve by the Madeira Natural Park, for a moment of pure relaxation. The beauty of this area lies not only in the imposing old forests of Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), some of which were already growing when the island was discovered, but also in the spectacular landscapes that can be seen from viewpoints.

- Difficulty:** Moderate
- Total distance:** 10.8 km
- Duration:** 4h00
- Highest point:** 1420 m
- Lowest point:** 1130 m
- Start:** E.R. 209 Assobiadores
- Finish:** E.R. 209 Fanal

This area is frequently foggy with danger of disorientation. Do not leave the trail. Take warm clothing.

**Access:** Only by car.



# PR14 LEVADA DOS CEDROS



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Total distance:** 5.8 km  
**Time:** 3h00  
**Highest point:** 1130 m  
**Lowest point:** 840 m  
**Start:** E.R. 209 (Fanal)  
**Finish:** E.R. 209 (Curral Falso)

**Access:** Only by car.

This spectacular trail starts in Fanal, at the Paúl da Serra plateau, and continues through *Laurissilva* forest.

Starting at the regional road - 209 near Fanal, this trail follows Levada dos Cedros, leading to the parish of Ribeira da Janela by taking the 15 - Vereda da Ribeira da Janela.

Around the magnificent area of Fanal, a small volcanic crater of rare beauty, you will find ancient Madeira laurel trees (*Ocotea foetens*).

Levada dos Cedros was built in the 17th century and originates in the springs of Lombo do Cedro, 1000 m above sea level.

Along the way, you will encounter some of the following indigenous species: Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), lily-of-the-valley trees (*Clethra arborea*), Canary laurels (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Indian bays (*Persea indica*) and Madeiran whortleberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*).

From the start, the route of Levada dos Cedros follows the steep slope on the right bank of Ribeira da Janela to Entrosa, where it veers off in a northerly direction to end at Curral Falso.



# PR15 VEREDA DA RIBEIRA DA JANELA



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Total distance:** 2.7 km  
**Time:** 1h30  
**Highest point:** 820 m  
**Lowest point:** 400 m  
**Start:** E.R 209 (Curral Falso)  
**Finish:** Ribeira da Janela

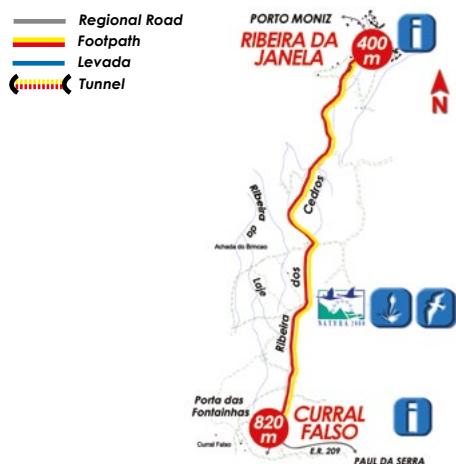
**Access:** Only by car.

This route, which starts on the regional road - 209, in the area of Curral Falso, and finishes near the village of Ribeira da Janela, is almost all downhill.

It runs along a footpath formerly used by the local people to reach settlements on the south side of the island, particularly Calheta and Ponta do Sol. At Ribeira da Janela, you will find terraced fields (poios), supported by laboriously built stone walls.

The settlement's name, Ribeira da Janela, comes from the name of Madeira's longest watercourse, which runs about 15.7 km. Here you may catch sight of Madeira laurel pigeons (*Columba trocaz*), which are endemic to Madeira. During migratory seasons, you may also find birds such as little egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) or mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

This trail connects to PR 14 - Levada dos Cedros and to PR 13 - Vereda do Fanal, both with access to the area of Fanal.





# PR16

# LEVADA DA FAJÃ DO RODRIGUES/ RIBEIRA DO INFERNO



- Difficulty:** Moderate
- Total distance:** 3.9 km (+ 3.9 km return)
- Duration:** 3h30
- Highest point:** 600 m
- Lowest point:** 580 m
- Start:** Ginjas
- Finish:** Ginjas

Carry a torch for tunnels.

**Access:** Only by car.

This trail begins in Ginjas in the municipality of São Vicente and follows the walkway of Levada da Fajã do Rodrigues (or Fajã da Ama), ending at the source of the *levada* in Ribeira do Inferno. Tunnels are very common along this *levada* and between them you can appreciate beautiful panoramic views of the São Vicente valley.

The source of this *levada* is the Ribeira do Inferno and it winds its way round ridges and vales to the agricultural fields of São Vicente. The exotic forest at the start of the trail, with maritime pine trees (*Pinus pinaster*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and others, soon gives way to the dense vegetation characteristic of the *Laurissilva* forest.

Watercourses ensure the vitality of species such as Canary willows (*Salix canariensis*), great Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), Indian bays (*Persea indica*) and the lily-of-the-valley trees (*Clethra arborea*). We can also find flowers such as geraniums (*Geranium palmatum*), Mandon's chrysanthemums (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*), Madeiran orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*) and Canary buttercups (*Ranunculus cortusifolius*).

You may also see birds such as Madeiran chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs madeirensis*) or little Madeiran firecrests (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*).



- Regional Road
- Footpath
- Levada
- Tunnel

# PR17

# CAMINHO DO PINÁCULO E FOLHADAL



**Difficulty:** Moderate - Difficult

**Distance:** 15.5 km

**Time:** 6h30

**Start:** E. R. 110 (Lombo do Mouro)

**Finish:** Encumeada

**Highest point:** 1620 m

**Lowest point:** 1000 m

There are several tunnels on this footpath; carry a torch. The path may be slippery; wear non-slip footwear.

**Access:** Only by car.

This path starts on the regional road - 110 on the way up from Encumeada to Paúl da Serra (Lombo do Mouro). It leads to the areas of Bica da Cana, Casa do Caramujo and Folhadal, coming to an end at the regional road - 228 at the Encumeada junction.

The path follows Levada da Serra and Levada do Norte, crossing a magnificent area of natural *Laurissilva* forest, with Madeiran orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), Canary buttercups (*Ranunculus cortusifolius*), Mandon's chrysanthemum (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*) and geraniums (*Geranium palmatum*).

Along the route, you will enjoy beautiful views of the valleys of São Vicente and Ribeira Brava and the central mountain range, with Pico Ruivo and Pico do Areeiro standing out. Also you will find several *levadas* and tunnels.

At one point the original *levada* divides into two branches. Here you should take the walkway along Levada do Norte. When you come out of the last tunnel, you will be in the area of Folhadal. At Encumeada, you can take PR 1.3 - Vereda da Encumeada, which leads to Pico Ruivo.



# PR18 LEVADA DO REI



The trail to Levada do Rei starts at the Quebradas water treatment plant, in São Jorge, ending at the source of the *levada*, in Ribeiro Bonito.

The first part of the trail, crossing a forested area with some indigenous vegetation, presents travellers with views of the São Jorge and Santana agricultural fields.

After the midway point of the trail, the *levada* that winds from the interior of the island along the mountain slopes enters a spectacular area of native forest.

**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 5.1 km (+ 5.1 km return)  
**Time:** 3h00/3h30  
**Highest point:** 710 m  
**Lowest point:** 530 m  
**Start and Finish:** ETAR de São Jorge

Danger of vertigo.

**Access:** Only by car

In the final section of the walk, the area of Ribeiro Bonito reflects the original natural wealth of Madeira, apparent in the dense vegetation cover of the *Laurissilva* forest. The natural environment, full of water and vegetation, allows many trees to thrive, such as Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), Canary laurels (*Laurus novocanariensis*) and Indian bays (*Persea indica*), as well as birds, such as the Madeira firecrest (*Fringilla coelebs madeirensis*).

Take the opportunity to visit the historic São Jorge water mill.



# PR19 CAMINHO REAL DO PAÚL DO MAR



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Total distance:** 1.8 km  
**Duration:** 1h20  
**Highest point:** 537 m  
**Lowest point:** 35 m  
**Start:** Prazeres  
**Finish:** Paúl do Mar

Danger of vertigo.

**Access:** Bus 142 - Ponta do Pargo.

This is a pleasant short walk that is almost entirely downhill, winding between terraced farm fields from the village of Prazeres to Paúl do Mar.

Before starting the descent, visit the Quinta Pedagógica dos Prazeres educational farm and its animals. Here you can also try herbal infusions and buy homemade preserves from traditional fruits. The descent to Paúl do Mar winds down the steep slope from Assomadouro (belvedere) and the views of Jardim do Mar and Paúl do Mar are superb.

This paved trail zigzagging down the steep slope with shallow steps is a genuine part of the island's heritage, bearing witness to the hard work that communities faced in the past to overcome their isolation.

Waterfalls and the endemic flora characteristic of the lower altitudes, such as pride of Madeira (*Echium nervosum*) and fish-stunning spurge (*Euphorbia piscatoria*), make this trail a journey of discovery.

In Paúl do Mar, formerly an important fishing village, you will still find traces of the salt flats, the chimney of the 1912 canning factory and also of a sugar cane mill.



# PR1

# PORTO SANTO - VEREDA DO PICO BRANCO AND TERRA CHÃ



**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 2.7 km  
**Duration:** 1h30  
**Highest point:** 450 m  
**Lowest point:** 184 m  
**Start/Finish:** E.R. 111 Terra Chã

No springs, take water.

**Access:** Only by car.

This trail starts on the regional road - 111. On the way to the top of Pico Branco, you will come across a huge prismatic, geological formation, Rocha Quebrada, into which the footpath itself was carved.

After the ascent to Cabeço do Caranguejo, the footpath continues through a shrubby area of Monterey cypresses (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) to a fork leading on the right to Terra Chã and on the left to Pico Branco, the second highest peak on Porto Santo Island.

The name Pico Branco (White Peak) derives from a column of white stone and also from the white lichen (*Roccella* sp) that grows on the rock.

This walk passes through a Natura 2000 Directive habitats of the European sites of Community interest network, displaying a large number of endemic flora and fauna (terrestrial molluscs or snails) species. Here you can also find important sea bird species, including Cory's shearwater (*Calonectris borealis*) and the common tern (*Sterna hirundo*).

From the various viewpoints located along this trail, you can have a glimpse of a larger part of the island.





This brochure presents some of the walks and footpaths on the islands of Madeira and Porto Santo. For more detailed information and updates on the current state of these walks go to: [www.visitmadeira.pt](http://www.visitmadeira.pt). Madeira Tourism Board declines any responsibility with regard to the maintenance works or condition of the islands' levadas and footpaths.

## ! SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Always be accompanied by an official mountain guide | Before engaging a walk make sure to get updated information | Be sure to confirm the time it will take so that you can finish before nightfall | Notify your hotel reception of the walk you are taking and the time you expect to return | Don't change your planned route without notice | Carry food (fruit juice, chocolate, biscuits, dried fruit), warm clothing and a waterproof |

Carry a torch and spare batteries | Take a mobile phone | In the event of an accident, contact the emergency number; if no signal is available from your network service provider, your call will be transferred to another available network | If the route is blocked by a landslide, other obstacles or in the event of heavy rain and strong winds, turn back along the same route. Don't take any risks!

# MADEIRA

OCEAN



Civil Protection  
**291 700 112**  
 Emergency Number  
**112**

Regional Legislative Decree 7-B/2000/M, of 20 March | Article 9 - Liability - The recommendation of footpaths shall not exempt their users or the persons who promote their use from liability for any material or human losses that may occur in the course of their use.

- Recommended Walks
- Express Way
- Main Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Other Roads
- Tunnel
- Footpaths
- Levada

- Tourist Office
- Footpaths
- Golf
- Caves
- Cable Car

- Belvedere
- Fauna
- Government House
- Indigenous Flora
- Toilets
- Information Point
- Picnic Spot
- Litter Bin
- Bus stop
- Parking

- Beach Area
- Restaurant
- Agricultural Fields
- Café
- Fish Farm
- Forestry Station
- Surveillance station
- Forestry Police Station



Discover   
madeira

Direção Regional do Turismo,  
Av. Arriaga, 18, 9004-519  
Funchal - Madeira

Ph.: +351 291 211 900  
F: +351 291 232 151  
[www.visitmadeira.pt](http://www.visitmadeira.pt)  
[info.srtc@madeira.gov.pt](mailto:info.srtc@madeira.gov.pt)