



madeira islands



EN 2012 Fotografia: © Chiz Daken

walking routes 

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 7 Km / 5,6 Km / **Time:** 3h / 3h30m

**Highest point:** 1861 m / **Lowest point:** 1542 m

**Start:** Miradouro (Belvedere) do Pico do Areeiro / **Finish:** Pico Ruivo

Take warm clothing, torch for tunnels and drinking water.

**Access:** Buses 56 | 103 | 138 + 30 minutes by car



This walk begins at Casa de Abrigo do Pico Ruivo, the highest summit of the island, to which you will arrive by following the PR1.2 footpath (Vereda do Pico Ruivo).

The trail crosses through two types of eco-system that are part of the network of important community sites – Natura 2000: the central massif and the Laurisilva forest.

The former, from the highest peaks to 1200m, you will find herbaceous and bush vegetation like the heather plants (*Erica Scoparia*), which was used, years ago, for the production of charcoal.

As you walk over the Vale da Lapa tunnel, you cross the PR9 footpath (Levada do Caldeirão Verde), which begins and ends at Queimadas Forest Park. As you go down, you will enter the indigenous Madeira Laurisilva forest, located between 1.200 and 400 metres high.

Following the asphalt road, be sure to visit Achada do Marques, at the parish of Ilha, a small village known for its typical “poios” (agricultural fields) and old cow sheds.

This trail links the highest peaks of Madeira Island: Pico Ruivo (1862 m), Pico das Torres (1851 m) and Pico do Areeiro (1817 m), traversing part of the central massif, an area integrated in the Natura 2000 Network.

Starting at Pico do Areeiro, within a short distance we come upon the Ninho da Manta (Buzzard’s Nest) belvedere, location where the nesting of Zino’s petrel (*Pterodroma madeira*) – an endemic bird species from Madeira – occurs.

To reach Pico Ruivo, we must go around Pico das Torres up a steep climb of steps carved in the rock, following a descent, the most difficult part of this trail being the final climb to the shelter at Pico Ruivo.

Near the shelter, you will find the footpath PR 1.2, which leads to Achada do Teixeira. At Achada do Teixeira you can see the Standing Man (“Homem em pé”), a basalt rock formation found on the way down the slope after you pass the shelter in Achada do Teixeira.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 8,2 km / **Time:** 3h

**Highest point:** 1764 m / **Lowest point:** 485m

**Start:** Casa de Abrigo do Pico Ruivo / **Finish:** Freguesia da (Parish of) Ilha

**Access:** Only by car



## PR 1.2 Vereda do Pico Ruivo

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 2,8 Km (+ 2,8 Km return) / **Time:** 1h30m

**Highest point:** 1862 m / **Lowest point:** 1592 m

**Start:** Achada do Teixeira / **Finish:** Achada do Teixeira

*Weather subject to frequent changes, take warm clothing*

**Access:** Bus route nr. 56 | 103 | 138 + 30 minutes by car



Beginning at Achada do Teixeira, this trail climbs up to the island's highest peak, Pico Ruivo (1862 m). On your way up, you will find a few shelters due to the wide climate change, becoming the area very frequently into a deep fog.

Next to the Pico Ruivo government shelter you can gain access to 3 other trails that take the hiker to different parts of the island: PR 1 - Pico do Areeiro footpath (5,1/6,4 Km), which takes you to Pico do Areeiro, the island's 3rd highest peak (1816m); PR 1.3 - Encumeada footpath (8.6 Km), goes along the central mountain range to the west; and PR 1.1- Ilha footpath (8.2 Km), which descends to the parish of Ilha.

The Pico Ruivo area, part of Natura 2000 Network, and placed at the heart of the central massif, covers a zone that goes from 1200 m above sea level to the highest peaks of the island. It is characterized by herbaceous and bush vegetation (*Erica scoparia ssp maderensis* and *Erica aborea*) well-adapted to big temperature variations, heavy rains and strong winds. At Achada do Teixeira you can also visit the "Standing Man" ("Homem em pé"), a curious basalt rock formation.

## PR 1.3 Vereda da Encumeada

The starting point of this path is a few meters above the Pico Ruivo Shelter. Marked by frequent climbs and descents, the trail winds along elevations between 1800 and 1000 metres as it heads towards Encumeada. This footpath offers beautiful landscapes allowing the walkers to cross two types of ecosystems, both of which are part of the European Ecological Network of Special Areas of Conservation and protection - Natura 2000 Network: the central mountain massif and the Laurisilva forest.

Along the way, the scenery is filled with Laurisilva forest species, such as the Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*); laurels or bay trees (*Laurus azorica*); Lily-of-the-Valley trees (*Clethra arborea*); an endemic buckthorn, sanguinhos (*Rhamnus glandulosa*); the flowering pride of Madeira (*Echium candivicans*) and the very rare Madeira orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*).

You will also find various caves (furnas) dug out of the rocks, which in former times served as a refuge for men who passed by as they went about cutting heath (*Erica scoparia ssp maderensis* and *Erica arborea*) to be used for stakes, firewood or making charcoal.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 11,2 Km / **Time:** 6 h

**Highest point:** 1761 m / **Lowest point:** 940 m

**Start:** Casa de Abrigo do Pico Ruivo / **Finish:** Encumeada

*Take warm clothing, wear anti-slip footwear and carry sufficient drinking water*

**Access:** Only by car



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

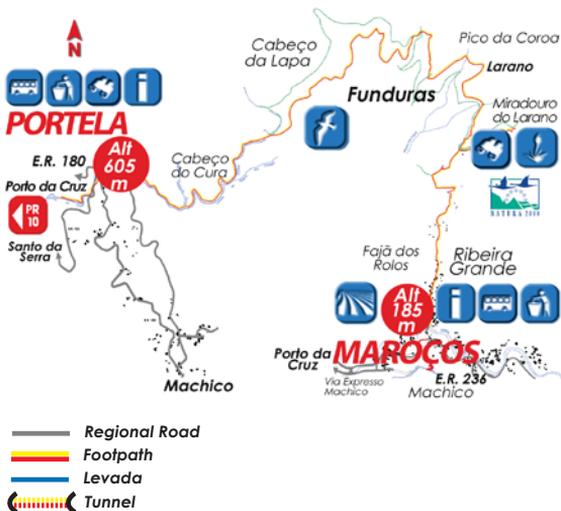
**Distance:** 8,7 Km / **Time:** 3h

**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 begins at Portela viewpoint, where you have a magnificent view over Porto da Cruz and Faial parish's.

The hike begins along the forest road of Funduras mountain range, and only later does it go along the footpath, within the Laurisilva forest. On the way you will find "Casa das Funduras", a building which supports forestry activities. At this point you can access the viewpoint over the city of Machico.

The trail ends at the village of Maroços, crossing traditional terraced fields that are so typical of the Madeira agricultural landscape.

As you walk along this footpath you will encounter several species from the Laurisilva forest, mainly trees, such as the bay (*Laurus novocanariensis*), the Til tree (*Ocotea foetens*), the Indian bay (*Persea indica*) and less frequently the Barbusano (*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 an access to PR10 - Levada do Ribeiro Frio.

Both trails begin on the regional road (E.R. 110) and goes down to the Rabaçal government house. The trails diverge along two parallel 'levadas' located on different levels.

Trail PR 6.1 goes along Levada do Risco, at 1000m above sea level, taking the hiker to an impressive waterfall, which falls horizontally, creating a ridge in the rock.

If you go down to PR6 you can visit *Lagoa das 25 Fontes*, 25 water springs created by the waters that come down from Paul da Serra.

At this height the landscape is dominated by moorland, which includes *Erica arborea* and *Erica scoparia ssp maderensis* as well as Madeira whortleberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*). You can also spot the rare mountain mocano (*Pittosporum coriaceum*). These species are part of the Laurisilva forest of Madeira, classified in 1999 as a Natural Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Both 'levadas' bring together water from two streams of Ribeira Grande, run into the Calheta Hydroelectric Dam and carries on to irrigate agricultural fields.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

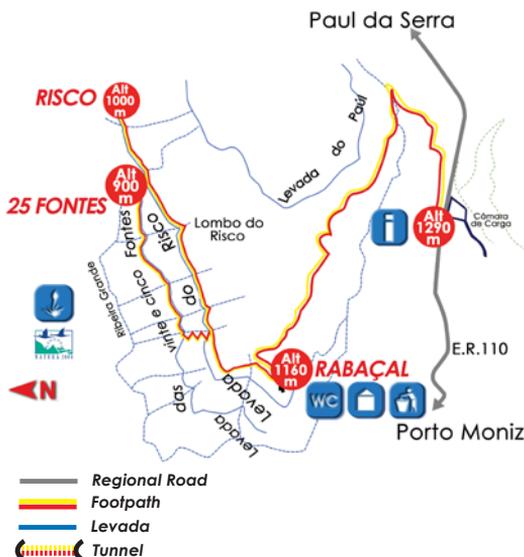
**Distance:** 4,6 Km (+ 4,6 Km regresso) / **Time:** 3h

**Highest point:** 1290 m / **Lowest point:** 900 m

**Start and finish:** E.R.110 (Rabaçal, Paul da Serra)

PR6 walk can cause vertigo. Take warm clothes and water.

**Access:** Only by car .



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 10,3 Km / **Time:** 3h30m

**Highest point:** 900 m / **Lowest point:** 496 m

**Start:** Ribeira da Cruz (E.R. 101) / **Finish:** Junqueira (Tornadouro)

Take warm clothing, wear anti-slip footwear and carry water

Access: Only by car



This trail begins at the E.R.101 regional road, by the Ribeira da Cruz stream, which separates the municipalities of Porto Moniz and Calheta.

From the road is necessary to go up a footpath until you reach the water canal. As you walk along against the water currents you can observe a water spring that feeds this "levada". To carry on to Junqueira you will have to turn around and walk along the water current direction. Take notice that you will find a number of branches going off the 'levada' that take water to irrigation system tanks.

The Levada Grande or Levada do Moinho is so named because there were several water mills along its route, and the ruins of three of them can still be seen (Achadas Mill, Cancelas Mill and Levada Grande Mill).

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 at Tornadouro, in Junqueira, where the "levada" splits.

The trail follows St. Lourenço Peninsula, Madeira Islands most eastern point, named after the caravel sailed by João Gonçalves Zarco, one of the three discoverers of the Madeira Archipelago.

This peninsula, of volcanic origin, comprises two islets: the Cevada, Metade or Desembarcadouro Islet, and the St. Lourenço Point islet.

The stone wall marks where the Regional government's land begins, 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, being both part of the European Ecological Network of Special Areas of Conservation and protection – Natura 2000.

The semi-arid climate and its exposure to the north winds have sculpted the low vegetation and explain the lack of trees, which distinguish this area from the rest of the Island. On it, you can find a wide variety of endemic plants, exclusive to Madeira Island. In terms of fauna, there is one of the largest colonies of seagull (*Larus cachinnans atlantis*), among other bird species.

On the horizon, to the South, you can see the Desertas Islands and Porto Santo Island to the North.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 4 Km (+ 4 Km return) / **Time:** 2h30m

**Highest point:** 77 m / **Lowest point:** 5 m

**Start and Finish:** E.R. 109 (Baía d'Abra - Caniçal)

Do not get too close of the cliff-face as there are many places where the ground is not stable. Take water.

Access: Bus 113 - Caniçal.



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

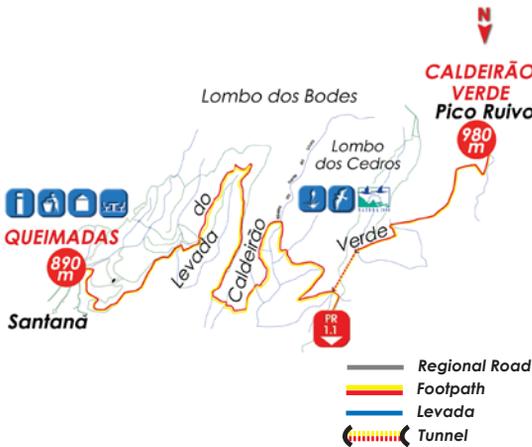
**Distance:** 6,5 Km (+ 6,5 Km return) / **Time:** 5h30m

**Highest point:** 980 m / **Lowest point:** 890 m

**Start and Finish:** Queimadas Forestry Park

Take a coat, wear anti-slip footwear, carry a torch and drinking water.

**Access:** Bus number 56 | 103 | 138 + 20 m. car



This 'levada' begins in Ribeiro Frio and is one of the first acquired by the State to irrigate the farmlands of Porto da Cruz. This walk runs along an elevation of 860 meters and ends with a descent to the village of Portela.

In the beginning of the trail, the walker must go along the terrace of Levada da Serra do Faial, where the waters divide, descending from there to the area of Lamaceiros. The walk finishes at the Portela belvedere, in the municipality of Machico.

Along this 'levada', there are some of the species of the island's native forest, namely the laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), the lily-of-the-valley tree (*Clethra arborea*), the Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*) and the Madeiran orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*).

One may also see the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*) and the fearless chaffinch (*Fringila coelebs madeirensis*). You'll luckily spot the long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz trocaz*), a species endemic to Madeira.

This footpath, an impressive work of art built in the 18th century, begins at the Queimadas Forestry Park and goes along the main stream bed of the Caldeirão Verde water canal, at 980 meters high, in the municipality of Santana.

Built for agricultural purposes, this 'levada' takes walkers to the core of the deep valley of the São Jorge brook, offering spectacular orography sceneries in the heart of the island and man's ingenuity.

Along the way, you will find excellent specimens from elegant Japanese cedars (*Cryptomeria japonica*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with their dense reddish foliage, Canary Island junipers (*Juniperus cedrus*), Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*), Pau Branco or southern olive (*Picconia excelsa*), hundred-year-old broom heath (*Erica scoparia*), among others species.

Regarding the indigenous avifauna species, you may observe the chaffinch (*Fringila coelebs madeirensis*), the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*) and the Madeira long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz trocaz*), among others.

After you pass through the 4th tunnel on the route, Caldeirão Verde appears on the left of the water canal. To reach Caldeirão Verde's lagoon, which is formed by vertically projected water from the stream bed of about a 100 meters high, it is sufficient to go up a few meters on its bed.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 11Km / **Time:** 5h

**Highest point:** 870 m / **Lowest point:** 520 m

**Start:** E.R. 103 (Ribeiro Frio) / **Finish:** E.R. 102 (Portela)

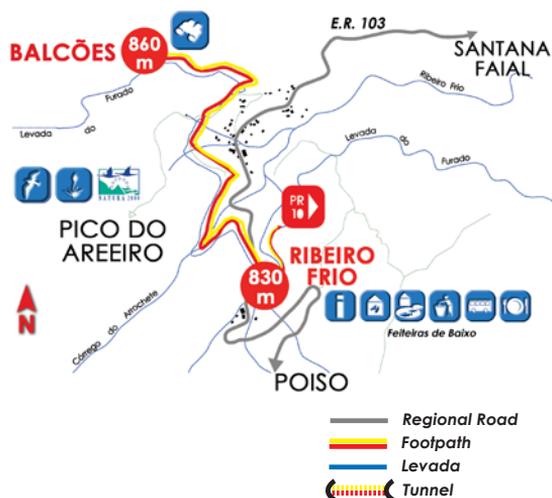
Danger of vertigo, tunnels on route, carry a torch

The path may be slippery, wear anti-slip footwear

**Access:** Bus number 56 | 103 | 138



**Level of difficulty:** Easy  
**Distance:** 1,5 Km (+ 1,5 Km return) / **Time:** 1h30m  
**Highest point:** 860 m / **Lowest point:** 830 m  
**Start and Finish:** E.R. 103 (Ribeiro Frio)  
 The path may be slippery, wear anti-slip footwear  
**Access:** Bus number 56 | 103 | 138



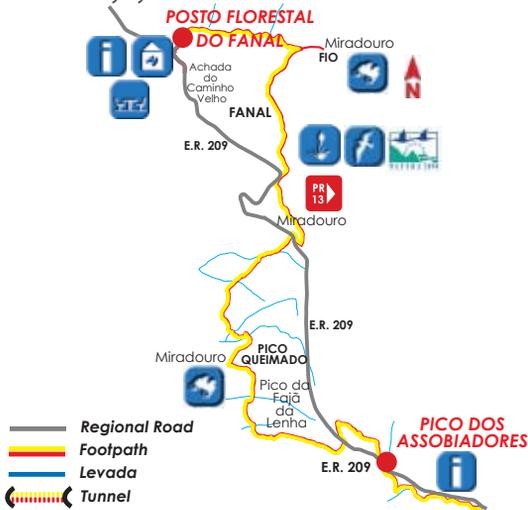
Starting at Ribeiro Frio, in the road E.R.103, this small trail follows the Levada da Serra do Faial, providing access to the Balcões belvedere, which offers beautiful panoramas of the deep valley of Ribeira da Metade and the parish of Faial. In Balcões you will come upon splendid scenery covered by the verdant valleys of the Laurisilva Forest, the indigenous forest of Madeira and “water producer” in the ecosystem. Along this ‘levada’ varied endemic species abound, such as laurel trees (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*) and Madeira orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), as well as exotic deciduous trees, like English oaks (*Quercus robur*) and London plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*). While strolling, you may also see birds like the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus maderensis*), the chaffinches (*Frigilla coelebs maderensis*), buzzards (*Buteo buteo harteti*) or the very rare Madeira long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz*). On days when the visibility is good, you will be able to see the central mountain chain and the highest peaks of Madeira: Pico Ruivo, Pico do Areiro, Pico do Gato and Pico das Torres.

This trail begins at Boca da Corrida Belvedere and crosses part of the central massif along the foot of the highest peaks of the island of Madeira. It is an old “Royal Path” that was paved and served as one of the main routes for the movement of persons on the island. Amid the landscape, you can observe the valley of Curral das Freiras, a small village surrounded by great mountains, once the refuge of the Santa Clara Convent’s nuns, when the pirates attacked the city of Funchal in 1566. Along this trail you’ll find waterways that aid to sustain local vegetation which are part of the Laurisilva, such as the laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), the Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*), centuries-old Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), and Lily-of-the-Valley trees (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*). Regarding the indigenous birdlife, bird species such as the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus maderensis*), the buzzard (*Buteo buteo harteti*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus canariensis*), the Madeira long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz*), or the grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) can be spotted.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 12,5Km / **Time:** 6h30m  
**Highest point:** 1220 m / **Lowest point:** 940 m  
**Start:** Boca da Corrida / **Finish:** E.R. 228 (Encumeada)  
**Access:** Only by car



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 10,8Km / **Time:** 4h  
**Highest point:** 1420 m / **Lowest point:** 1130 m  
**Start:** E.R. 209 Assobiadores / **Finish:** E.R. 209 Fanal  
 Foggy area, danger of disorientation, do not leave the trail.  
 Take warm clothing.  
**Access:** Only by car.



This trail starts near the E.R. 209 on the Paul da Serra plateau (Assobiadores) and ends near the Forest Police Station in Fanal, further enabling the access 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 included in an area of the original forest, in a vibrant state of preservation – the Laurisilva forest –, classified as a World Natural Heritage by UNESCO and a member of the European Network of Sites of Community Importance - Nature 2000. Enjoy the magnificent area of Fanal, a small volcanic crater classified as a resting reserve of the Madeira Natural Park, to get a good dose of relaxation therapy.

Its beauty lies not only in the majestic and centenary woodlands of *Ocotea foefens* trees (Til), most of which are previous to the discovery of Madeira, but also in the spectacular landscapes that several sightseeing spots offer.

This awesome trail begins in Fanal, at Paul da Serra plateau, and goes through the Laurisilva forest.

Beginning at the Regional Road E.R. 209, next to the area of Fanal and following Levada dos Cedros, this walk reaches the parish of Ribeira da Janela by binding to the PR 15 – Vereda da Ribeira da Janela.

On the magnificent area of Fanal, a small volcanic hollow of rare beauty, you will find groves of centuries-old Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*). The Levada dos Cedros, built in the 17th century, has its origin in the springs of water of Lombo do Cedro, at an elevation of 1000 metres.

Along the way, you will encounter some of the following indigenous species: Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*), Lily-of-the-Valley tree (*Clethra foetens*), Laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*) and Madeira blueberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*).

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

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate  
**Distance:** 5,8Km / **Time:** 3h  
**Highest point:** 1130 m / **Lowest point:** 840 m  
**Start:** E.R. 209 Fanal / **Finish:** E.R. 209 (Curral Falso)  
**Access:** Only by car.



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 2,7Km / **Time:** 1h30m

**Highest point:** 820m / **Lowest point:** 400 m

**Start:** E.R. 209 (Curral Falso) / **Finish:** Ribeira da Janela

**Access:** Only by car.



This walk begins next to the Regional Road 209, in Curral Falso, and finishes next to the village of Ribeira da Janela. It is essentially downhill.

This walk follows the path used by the inhabitants to connect them with settlements on the south side of the island, mainly Calheta and Ponta do Sol. At Ribeira da Janela you can observe the agricultural area man-built in unique terraces, held in place by laboriously stone walls.

The settlement's name Ribeira da Janela is named after Madeira's longest waterway, which runs for about 15 700 meters.

This is a good location for seeing the Madeira long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz*), an endemic bird exclusive to Madeira. During the migratory seasons, some migrating bird species may be also spotted like the little egret (*Egretta garzetta*) and mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

This trail connects with PR 14 - Cedros Levada and PR 13 - Fanal footpath, both of which lead to the area of Fanal.

This trail begins at Ginjas, in São Vicente, and follows the walkway beside the Levada Fajã do Rodrigues (Levada Fajã da Ama), ending at the source of the 'levada' in Ribeira do Inferno. Among the many long tunnels of this 'levada', as you pass between them you will have the chance to appreciate the beautiful panoramic views over the valley of São Vicente.

The exotic forest you encounter at the beginning of the trail, with maritime pines (*Pinus pinaster*) and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), among others, precedes the dense vegetation characteristic of the Laurisilva forest.

The water streams guarantee vitality to the species, such as the Canary willow (*Salix canariensis*), the large Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*), the Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*) and the Lily-of-the-Valley tree (*Clethra arborea*).

You'll also notice flowering species, such as geraniums (*Geranium palmatum*), Mandon's Chrysanthemum (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*), the Madeira orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*) and the Canary buttercup (*Ranunculus cortusifolius*). You may also catch sight of birds, such as chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs maderensis*) or the tiny firecrests (*Rugulus ignicapillus maderensis*).

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 3,9Km (+ 3,9 Km return) / **Time:** 3h30

**Highest point:** 600m / **Lowest point:** 580 m

**Start and Finish:** Ginjas

**Long tunnel on route, carry a torch.**

**Access:** Only by car.



**Level of difficulty:** High

**Distance:** 15,5Km / **Time:** 6h30

**Highest point:** 1620m / **Lowest point:** 1000 m

**Start:** E.R. 110 (Lombo do Mauro) / **Finish:** Encumeada

Tunnels on route, carry a torch. The path may be slippery, wear anti-slip footwear.

**Access:** Only by car.



The trail to Levada do Rei begins at the Water Treatment Plant at Quebradas in São Jorge, ending at the source of the Levada do Ribeiro Bonito stream.

The first part of the trail crosses an assorted forest area with some indigenous vegetation specimens, allowing to observe São Jorge and Santana farmlands.

The 'levada' winds from the interior of the island mountain slopes and, from half way onwards, enters into a rich area of native forest.

In the end of the walk, at Ribeiro Bonito, the primitive natural wealth of Madeira can be witnessed, well evident in the thick vegetation mantle of the Laurisilva forest.

The powerful natural setting, full with water and vegetation, allows the development of trees such as Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foetens*), laurel trees (*Laurus novocanariensis*) or Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*), and tiny birds like the firecrest (*Rugulus ignicapillus maderensis*), and birds like the chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs maderensis*).

Take the opportunity to visit as well the centennial water mill in São Jorge.

The walk begins at the Regional Road E.R. 110, on the way up from Encumeada to Paul da Serra (Lombo da Serra).

On this trail you can access to the areas of Bica da Cana, Casa do Caramujo and Folhadal. This walk ends at the Regional Road E.R. 228, in the Encumeada junction, follows the Levada da Serra and Levada do Norte and crosses an excellent area of native vegetation from the Laurisilva forest, presenting some specimens of Madeira orchids (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), Canary buttercups (*Ranunculus cortusifolius*), Mandon's chrysanthemum (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*) and geraniums (*Geranium palmatum*).

Along the way, you will encounter magnificent views of the São Vicente Valley, Ribeira Brava and the central mountain range, where Pico Ruivo and Pico do Areiro stand out.

Several tunnels and water canals are found on the way. At one point, the original 'levada' divides into two branches, entering the side of Levada do Norte. Coming out from the last tunnel, you reach Folhadal area. Arriving at Encumeada, you can take PR 1.3 - Encumeada footpath, which leads to Pico Ruivo.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 5,1 Km (+ 5,1 Km return) / **Time:** 3h30

**Highest point:** 710m / **Lowest point:** 530 m

**Start and Finish:** Quebradas - São Jorge

**Danger of vertigo**

**Access:** Bus number 103 - São Jorge + 30 min by car



**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 1,8 Km / **Time:** 1h20

**Highest point:** 537m / **Lowest point:** 35 m

**Start:** Prazeres / **Finish:** Paul do Mar

**Danger of vertigo**

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



The trail starts at the Regional Road E.R.111. On the way that accesses the top of Pico Branco, you will come across a huge prismatic formation, "Rocha Quebrada" (the Broken Rock), on which the footpath itself was carved in. Following the climb, that ends at Cabeço do Caranguejo ("crabs head"), the footpath goes on among a shrub landscape of cupressus (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) until the walker finds a fork leading on the right to Terra Chã and on the left to Pico Branco (White Peak), the second highest peak in Porto Santo.

Pico Branco has that name due to the existence of a white rock column and also for growing a lot of dyer's weed (*rocella sp.*), white lichen that grows on rock.

This trail is part of the European Ecological Network of Special Areas of Conservation and protection - Natura 2000 Network, Directive Habitats, since it evidences flora and fauna endemic specimens (earthbound shellfish - snails). In here relevant specimens of sea birds can also be found, namely the Cory's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*) and the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). Various natural sightseeing spots on this trail allow seeing a big part of the island.

This is a short but lovely walk, almost entirely downhill, winding among terraced farm plots, from the parish of Prazeres to Paul do Mar.

Before commencing your descent, take the opportunity to visit the Pedagogical Farm of Prazeres, where you can observe various animals, savour aromatic herbal infusions and purchase traditional sweets made from traditional fruit.

The descent towards Paul do Mar is made along the face of the cliff called Assomadouro (belvedere), therefore the views over Jardim and Paul do Mar are superb. This trail, which winds along the steep slope, is in stone pavement, creating small stair steps, built an authentic historical heritage and witness to the locals ancestors isolation and their hard work to overcome distances.

Waterfalls and endemic flora exclusive to these elevations enrich the walk, such as the Pride of Madeira (*Echium nervosum*) and Madeira mountain stock (*Euphorbia piscatoria*).

At Paul do Mar, once an important fishing village, you will find the remains of salt pools, remnants of the chimney of that factory dated from 1912 and a sugar cane mill.

**Level of difficulty:** Moderate

**Distance:** 2,7Km (+ 2,7Km return) / **Time:** 1h30

**Highest point:** 450m / **Lowest point:** 184 m

**Start:** E. R. 111 - Serra de Dentro / **Finish:** terra Chã

**Water springs unavailable, take drinking water.**

**Access:** Only by car



