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: 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.

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
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 arborea) 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.

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 candivcans) 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 scopariassp maderensis and Erica arborea) to be used for stakes, firewood or making charcoal.
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.
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 the "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.
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 fearless chaffinch (Fringila coelebs madeirensis). You’ll luckily spot the long-toed pigeon (Columba trocaz trocaz), a species endemic to Madeira.

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.

**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

**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
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 (Fringilla coelebs maderensis) 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 Areeiro, Pico do Gato and Pico das Torres.
This trail starts near the E6.29 on the Paul de Serra plateau (ABM Control) and ends near the Forest Police Station in Funchal. Further information about the places of interest through the Levada Verde da Ribeira de Janela.

This trail is included in an area of the original forest - a silent state of preservation - the Levada Verde da Ribeira de Janela, classified as a Wet Forest (UNESCO) and a member of the European Network Natura (Network of Community Heritage). It is possible to see some of the rarest birds of Madeira here, as well as some of the rarest plant species. And here, for the first time, you will see a waterfall from the springs of water of Levada Verde da Ribeira de Janela at an elevation of 200 meters. Along the way, you will see some of the following doves, such as: Madeira wood pigeon (Columba oenas), Lily of the Valley dove (Garrulus glandarius), and Madeira mourning doves (Zenaida macroura).

From the start, the path follows the steep slope of the right bank of the Ribeira de Janela, then it goes, 3 km, it is a Timothy decision to descend to Levada Fajãs do Arreio.

This walk begins near the Regional Road 269, Gualtar Fajã, and Ponta da 26th in the village of Fajã d’Areeiro. This walk is suitable for the elderly and for those who do not have access to the roads of Madeira. The whole path is not only in the magenta and black, but also in the area of natural habitat that has a lot of people who are present to discuss Madeira, but also to enjoy the natural habitat of Madeira where several flowering plants can be seen.

The walk begins at the Regional Road 236, in Fajã d’Areeiro, and Ponta de 26th in the village of Fajã d’Areeiro. This walk follows the path to the hydroelectric plant, and then to the Levada do Ribeira de Janela, which is the main source of water for the region. The path can be accessed from the PR 1.6 of Encumeada Volcano, which leads to Fajãs Fajã de Arreio.

The trail runs along the Regional Road 269, on the Paul de Serra plateau (ABM Control) and ends near the Forest Police Station in Funchal. Further information about the places of interest through the Levada Verde da Ribeira de Janela.

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The trail begins at Grizzo, in São Vicente, and follows the surrounding foothills of the Serra de Tramuntana. The trail offers splendid views of the surrounding landscape and the Laurisilva forest.

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Bus number 142 - Ponta do Pargo

Access: Sta. Anna and disorientation, FANAL miradouro. From there, you can reach Miradouro do Teixeiro (also) via Miradouro da Praia.

The trail begins at the miradouro, the area of Levada do Ribeira da Sameiro, then heads for the Caldeiradas do Prego, which leads to Ponta do Prego. The trail continues via the Levada de Vila do Mar, passing through the Levada de Vila do Morro, and finally reaches Ponta do Prego. The trail is marked by white and yellow markings, and it is advisable to follow the signs carefully.

The trail starts near the E.R. 204 on the Paul da Serra plateau (approximately 800 meters above sea level) and ends near the Forest Police Station. It is important to note that the trail is not suitable for children or unexperienced hikers.

The trail is open only to walkers, and it is recommended to wear comfortable shoes and clothing. The trail is accessible for most of the year, but it is advisable to check the weather conditions before starting the hike.

The trail is closed during the rainy season, and it is advisable to avoid hiking during this period. The trail is not suitable for pets.

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Only by car.

Tunnel de la Casara (Cordoba): superb.

This trail starts near the E 228 on the Paul de Serra plateau (above Martel), and ends near the Forest Police Station in Vila, further enabling the access to the plateau. From the A 7, head through Vila, passing the Pico Branco, and finally Vila de Ribeira de Janeiro.

This trail includes an area of the original forest, a visible state of preservation - the Lauda forest. It is classified as a World Natural Heritage by UNESCO and a member of the Biodiversity Network of the Centre of Mediterranean Nature (Northeastern Spain).

The route is suitable for all types of mountain cyclists. The outdoor area is considered as a major resource of the Natural Park. It is a nice show of relaxation therapy.

The beauty lies in the majestic and picturesque landscape, where most of which are precious to the discovery of Muscles, but also a great number of natural landscapes that overall give people some effet.

The walk begins at the Regional Road E 228 in Vila, and from there it is easy to find the route. From the A 7, take the A 99, head north through Vila, passing the Pico Branco, and finally Vila de Ribeira de Janeiro.

This trail connects with PR 16 - Canhão da Fajã do Rodrigues and PR 18 - Levada do Rei.

This trail begins on a high plateau, and there are many refuges and trails connecting them. It is a nice show of relaxation therapy.

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Regional Legislative Decree N.º 7-B/2000/M, Article 9 - Responsibility Liability - Persons using, or promoting the use of the recommended footpaths shall remain liable for property damage or personal injury incurred in the course of such usage.

Direção Regional do Turismo, Av. Arriaga, 18, 9004-519 Funchal- Madeira
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This leaflet was produced in collaboration with the Regional Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources – Regional Board of Forestry.

Recommended Footpath

SAFETY PROCEDURES
You should be accompanied by an official mountain guide. Before engaging a walk make sure you get updated instructions. Be sure to confirm in advance the duration of the footpath so that you are able to finish it before nightfall. Let someone at your hotel desk know where you’re going and when you expect to return. Do not choose to engage an alternative walking route without previous notice. Take extra food (juices, chocolate bars, biscuits and dry fruits), warm clothing and rain coats with you. Take a torch light and spare batteries with you. Carry a mobile phone with you. In case of an emergency call the emergency number service. Should a mobile net coverage failure occur your mobile operator will display an alternative network service. In case of landslides, obstacles, heavy rain or strong winds do not go on and turn back using the same route.

Don’t take unnecessary risks!

Natura 2000 Network – European Ecological Network of Special Areas of Conservation and Protection

This leaflet encloses information regarding some of Madeira and Porto Santo Islands official walking routes. For further information access Madeira Islands official website www.visitmadeira.pt in order to obtain updated information on the matter. Madeira Tourism Board declines any responsibility regarding the official footpaths maintenance works and conditions.