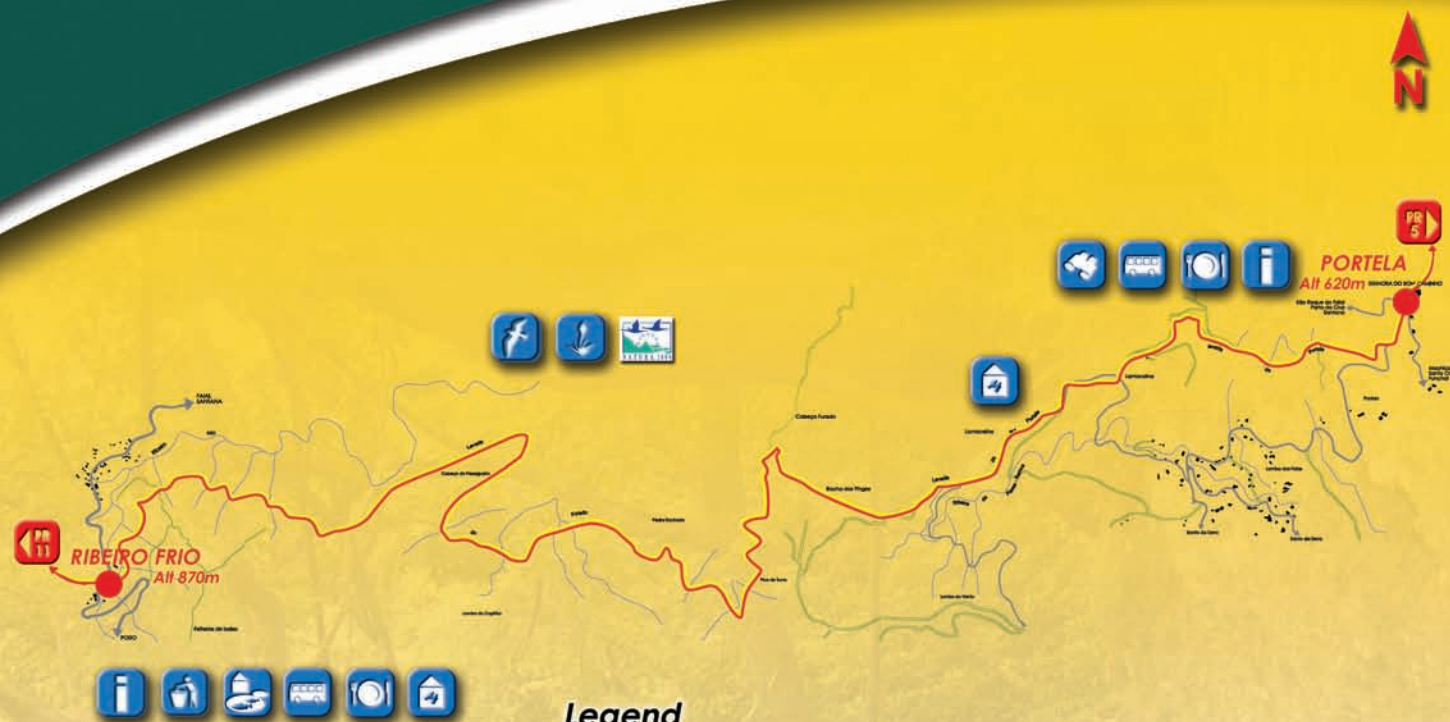




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Levada do Furado



Legend

- Regional road
- Footpath
- Rural road
- Water course
- Stream
- House

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Information Point | Restaurant | Fauna |
| Litter | Natural Flora | Aquicolous Station |
| Forestry Station | Bus Stop | Beledere |



Levada do Furado



Tunnel carved of the rock



Porto da Cruz View



Chaffinch - *Fringilla coelebs*

The Footpath

This trail begins at Ribeiro Frio in the municipality of Santana and follows the pathway accompanying the levada of Serra do Faial at an elevation of 860 metres up to the station where the waters divide, descending from there to the area of Lamaceiros and terminating at the Portela belvedere in the municipality of Machico.

The Levada do Furado, which begins at Ribeiro Frio, is one of the oldest levadas belonging to the state, having been acquired through a contract signed in 1822 between the first Count of Carvalhal and the Board of the Royal Treasury, for the purpose of irrigating the farmlands of Porto da Cruz. Due to its connection with the levadas of Juncal and of Serra do Faial, which join it soon after its beginning and continue on beyond its terminal point at Lamaceiros, it is said that this levada carries three waters: the water that is gathered in the valley of Ribeiro Frio and irrigates the terraces of Porto da Cruz; and those that come from the mountains of Santana and are stored in the reservoir at Santo da Serra for later distribution.

Along this levada you will note the manifold tones of green presented by this well-preserved zone of the island's native forest – the Laurisilva – made up predominantly of the laurel, or bay tree (*Laurus azorica*), the lily-of-the-valley tree (*Clethra arborea*), the Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*), Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*), as well as the yellow, or Madeira foxglove (*Isoplexis sceptrum*), the pride of Madeira (*Echium candicans*), Mandon's Chrysanthemum (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*), and the Madeiran orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*).

One may see the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*), the smallest bird residing in Madeira, and the intrepid chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*). Less likely to be seen is the Madeira long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz trocaz*), a species endemic to Madeira.

The landscape is dominated by the valley of Ribeiro Frio, with the amazing farm fields of Faial, São Roque do Faial and Porto da Cruz. The spectacular rock formation of Penha de Águia protects the bay of Faial to the east, and to the west the Ponta dos Clérigos.

It is at Lamaceiros that the waters are separated and here ends the Furado Levada and the descent to Portela begins. Crossing the forested area of Lamaceiros and passing the Forestry Station of Lamaceiros, the trail follows a dirt road until it meets the Portela Levada, which goes around the left side of Lombo das Faias, coming to an end where it meets the Regional Highway ER102.

Description

Distance: 11 Km
Time: 5h
Highest point: 870 m
Lowest point: 520 m
Start: E.R. 103 (Ribeiro Frio)
Finish: E.R. 102 (Portela)

Warning

Danger of vertigo; Tunnels en route, carry a torch; The path may be slippery, wear anti-slip footwear.

Contacts

Emergency number	112
Civil Protection	291700112
Bus SAM	291706713
Taxis (Santana)	291572540
Taxis (Machico)	291962480

Local Festivities

- Festa do Rosário (1st weekend of October)
- Gastronomy Week - Machico (beginning of August)
- Festa do Santíssimo – Holy Sacrament (last weekend of September)
- Festa de Nosso Senhor dos Milagres – Machico (9 October)

- Festa dos Compadres (2nd Sunday before Carnival)
- 48 hours of Dancing/Regional Folklore Festival (July)
- Festa de Santa Ana (last weekend of July)
- Gastronomy Week - Santana (beginning of August)
- Festa do Santíssimo – Holy Sacrament (1st weekend of August)

Handcrafts

Madeira embroidery; Woollen garments; Caps with ear flaps or "barretes de vilão; Wickerwork; Artifacts in whale bone and wood; Red ashlar stonework.

Field Code



Walking Code

- Avoid noise or actions against nature.
- Do not take plants or animal with you.
- Do not throw rubbish away (issues do not easily decompose).
- Do not light fires.
- If you are a smoker do not throw cigarettes ends on the floor, keep them for the dust-bin.
- Do not change or damage the signs.

For your own safety ...

- Before starting out make sure you have update instructions on the route.
- Let someone else know where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Be sure to confirm the time it will take so that you can finish before nightfall.
- Take some extra food and water with you.
- Wear suitable clothes and shoes;
- If possible take a mobile phone whit you;
- In case of heavy rain or strong winds do not go on and/or turn back using the same route.
- Don't take risks.

Promotor



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Levada do Furado

Madeira Island Footpaths



Technical information:

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Photography: Regional Forest Bureau
Field work: Regional Forest Bureau
Graphic design: PEC
Coordination: Ana Sé

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