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# Levada do Rei



### Legend

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



Information Point



Forestry Point



Natural Flora



Fauna



Ribeiro Bonito



Water mill

## The Footpath

The trail that follows alongside the Levada do Rei begins at the Water Treatment Plant at Quebradas in São Jorge, ending at the source of the levada in the spectacular Ribeiro Bonito stream.

The first part of the trail crosses a forested area where some specimens of indigenous vegetation are found here and there. This initial leg of the trail presents travellers with beautiful panoramic views of the São Jorge and Santana farmlands. After the midway point of the trail, the levada that winds from the interior of the island along the mountain slopes passes through a spectacular area of native forest which is well developed and rich in natural biodiversity.

The tunnels formed by the luxuriant vegetation and the great variety of species that you can find here are excellent living examples of the potential of nature, while the beautiful levada is evidence of the valuable cultural heritage of the island.

The path ends at Ribeiro Bonito, where you are aware of feeling you are in a true sanctuary of nature. This is one of the areas of the Laurisilva forest – World Nature Heritage of UNESCO since 1999, where the genuinely Madeiran vegetation reaches its highest expression and its location and isolation leave one with the sensation of having gone back in time to the discovery of the island.

The permanent presence of clear water in this location intensifies the abundant life forms here and allows a great diversity of species to thrive. You can take delight in the majestic centenary Madeira laurels (*Ocotea foefens*), the laurel trees (*Laurus azorica*), the Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*), and in the tiny birds like the firecrest (*Rugulus ignicapillus maderensis*), and the chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs maderensis*), species that bring vitality to this ecosystem and please the ear with their songs.

Be sure to visit the São Jorge water mill, which is about three hundred years old. This mill is a good example of preservation, and powered by the water from the Levada do Rei, it grinds wheat, maize, barley and rye grown on the terraces of São Jorge.

## Description

Distance: 5,1Km (+5,1Km return)

Time: 3h 30m/ 3h

Highest point: 710m

Lowest point: 530m

Start: ETAR de S. Jorge

Finish: ETAR de S. Jorge

## Warning

Weather subject to frequent changes, take warm clothing and water-proof coat; tunnels en route, carry a torch; path is slippery in some places.

## Contacts

Emergency number	112
Civil Protection	291700112
Buses (SAM)	291706713
Taxis (Santana)	291572540

## Local Festivities

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

## Handcrafts

Madeira embroidery; Patchwork tapestries; Woollen garments; Caps with ear flaps or "barretes de vilão"; Cornshuck dolls; Typical houses at Santana; Wax candles.

## Field Code



## Walking Code

- Avoid noise or actions against nature.
- Do not take plants or animal with you.
- Do not throw rubbish away (tissues 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 with 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



## Technical information:

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Madeira Island Footpaths

