

The Foothpath

This trail begins by the Portela viewpoint, from where we have a magnificent view over the Porto da Cruz and Faial parishes which is dominated by the rocky outcrop of Penha d'Águia. The hike begins along the forest road of the Funduras mountain range, and only later does it go along the foothpath, inside the Laurissilva forest. Later on the trail crosses "Casa das Funduras" a building which supports forestry activities. At this point you can opt to walk to the Larano viewpoint where you can see a pretty view of the bay of the town of Machico. This area is included in the European network of important community sites – Natura 2000. The trail ends at the hamlet of Maroços, crossing traditional terraced fields that are so typical of the Madeiran agricultural landscape.

Madeira's native forest – the Laurissilva forest is mainly found on the northern side of the island. It is adapted to conditions above 85% humidity and is distributed between altitudes of 400 and 1300 metres above sea level. Of the main trees making up this, there are 4 from the Lauraceae family: the bay (*Laurus azorica*), the Til tree (*Ocotea foetens*), Indian bay (*Persea indica*), and less frequently, the Barbusano (*Apollonia barbujana*). Other trees can also be found amongst them, particularly the Lily of the Valley Tree (*Clethra arborea*), the Holly (*Ilex perado ssp perado*), the Laurel (*Picconia excelsa*), Mocanos (*Pittosporum coriaceum* and *Visnea mocanera*), e o Sanguinho (*Rhamnus glandulosa*).

This natural forest is very important for the ecological balance of the island as it is the main support for endemic flora and fauna. At the moment it covers an area of over 15,000 hectares. It is internationally known as the best-conserved forest Laurissilva of its kind and was designated a natural heritage site by UNESCO in December 1999.

It is on this mountain range that the best Laurissilva forest area on the South side of the island can be found. This unique forest is very important as a "water producer" because of its capacity to retain water from mists (hidden precipitation). This phenomenon is very obvious in this area, as sudden changes in weather happen frequently throughout the day. Air comes from the North loaded with water and is forced to climb the north-face of the mountain range creating fog as it falls down the south-face. The forest is essential in maintaining the springs in the Machico municipal area.

On the other side of the valley you can see the Santo da Serra golf course. On the horizon, you can see Ilhas Desertas (Deserted 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 PR10- Levada do Ribeiro Frio.



Legend

	Regional road		Information point		View point
	Foothpath		Litter		Natural flora
	Rural road		Bus stop		Agricultural fields
	Water course		Fauna		
	Stream				
	House				

Holly (*Ilex perado perado*)

Terraced fields

Description

Distance: 8678 m
Time: 3h
Maxim altitude: 605 m
Minim altitude: 175 m
Start: Viewpoint Portela
End: Maroços

Warnings

Take sufficient drinking water.

Contacts

Emergency Number: 112
Civil Protection: 291700112
Bus SAM: 291706713
Taxis:
Machico: 291962480/1989/2220
Sto António da Serra: 291552100

Local festivities:

- Saint Antoine Festivity In Sto António da Serra1st Sunday after 13 June
- Holly Lord Festivity In Sto António da Serra2nd Sunday of October
- Gastronomic week of Machicobeginning of de August
- Anniversary day of Machico's Municipality 9 October
- Gastronomic week of Machico.....beginning of August
- Holly Lord of Miracles Festivity In Machico.....9 October

Handcrafts:

Ironworks; cooperage; tapestry, Wool handcraft, Madeira embroidery, squared stone handcraft; basketry; wood handcrafts.

Field Code



Walking Code

- Do not stray way from the path.
- 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 ...

- Never walk alone.
- 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 routes.
- Don't take risks.

Promotor



Technical information

Texts: Regional Forest Bureau
Photography: Regional Forest Bureau; PEC
Field work: Regional Forest Bureau
Graphic design: PEC
Coordination: Sara Freitas

This work was financed by the project TOURMAC - Hiking Tourism and Sustained Development, EU program INTERREG III-B, Azores, Madeira, Canary.

1ª Edition 2004 - 500 units
REPRODUCTION INTERDICT

PR
5

Vereda das Funduras

Madeira Island Foothpaths

