



Calheta
ROUTES

www.cmcalheta.pt

CALHETA

Levadas, Trails & MTB



CALHETA VIVA
MUNICÍPIO





Walking Routes

Dear Walker,
Welcome to the
Municipality of Calheta!

Carlos Manuel Figueira de Ornelas Teles,
Mayor of Calheta

Our region has many walking routes scattered among all our civil parishes that will

certainly meet your expectations. Every year thousands of walkers of different nationalities visit us, each living out unique experiences whilst also interacting with nature. Many revisit our Municipality whereas others keep us as fond memories

You may find and tailor your walk according to your needs, mobility and even your mood. Our levadas, trails, Royal Roads and promenades make up a wide range of options that will certainly meet your expectations.

Make sure the trail you plan to take is appropriate for your physical capabilities or if said trail requires an experienced guide to accompany you. Your safety is our top priority!

Our Municipality prepared this section so as to keep you informed and help you take the necessary precautions. Enjoy the best of what Calheta has to offer, before, during and after your walk.





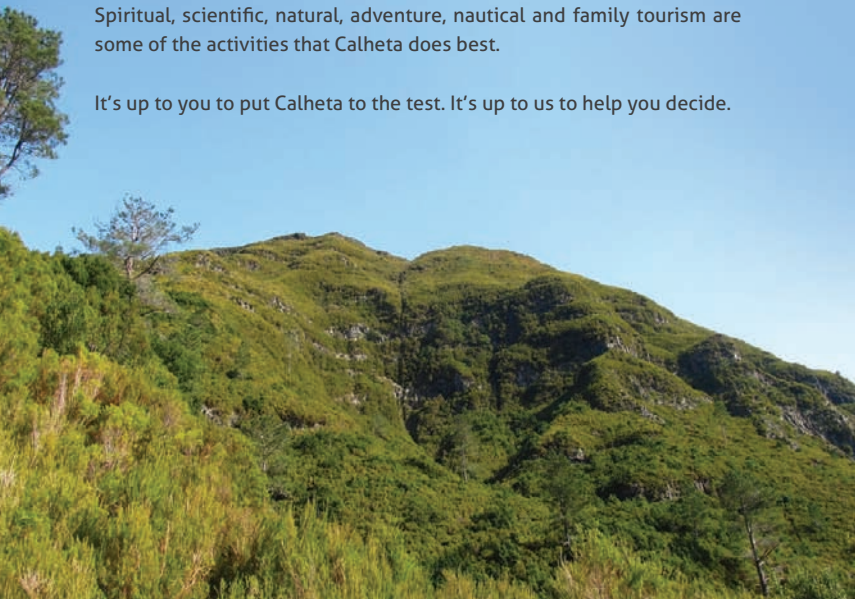
Why Visit Calheta?



The desire to visit somewhere is always dependent on the attractiveness of its territory. The bigger, better and more diverse the offer, the more attractive it becomes. The Municipality of Calheta possesses a wide range of activities that make it one of the most visited regions of the archipelago. With around 20 walking routes, diverse beaches, nature sports, regional food, an average annual temperature between 18° - 20°, one of the lowest average rainfalls on the island, rural environment, quality of air and good accesses are just some of the many features available to visitors and inhabitants.

Spiritual, scientific, natural, adventure, nautical and family tourism are some of the activities that Calheta does best.

It's up to you to put Calheta to the test. It's up to us to help you decide.





Why Stay in Calheta ?

The Municipality of Calheta possesses a wide array of sleeping accommodation such as hotels, villas, guest houses and rural

tourism. There are more than 2000 beds between the various civil parishes, ranging from the more intimate to family concepts.

The development of lodging in recent years is due to the municipal policies adopted and the growing demand for accommodation in this region, and you'll certainly understand why! Staying in Calheta allows you to be close to nature and all its activities or simply relish in the pleasant climate typical of this sunny region. Staying in Calheta is synonymous with enjoying peace and quiet while recharging your energies spent on everyday life or simply a guarantee that you'll be able to experience and interact with Mother Nature. Staying in Calheta lets you listen to the birds in the morning or watch the sea along over 20km of coast. Staying in Calheta will give you full view of one of the best sunsets of the Island.

You'll certainly be pleased with the experience and personalized service that our local agents offer all our guests.

Staying in Calheta gives you this...and much more!

Have a nice stay!





Who to Contact in an Emergency



Voluntary Firemen of Calheta – **291 827 204**

Health Center of Calheta – **291 822 244**

Red Cross - Emergency services – **291 741 115**

Helpline for tourists – **800 296 296**

National Emergency Number (SOS) – **112**

Calheta Police – **291 822 422**

Sanas - Relief at Sea – **291 230 112**

Information services – **118**

Civil Protection Service – **291 700 112**

Hospitals:

Cruz de Carvalho – **291 705 600**

Marmeleiros – **291 705 730**

Taxis:

Arco da Calheta – **291 822 588 | 291 822 423**

Estrela/Calheta – **291 822 129**

Basic Safety Rules to Keep in Mind



1- Before walking, check with official entities and / or informative platforms that the conditions for your activity are in order. The weather conditions and the occurrence of natural erosion are some examples to consider before going on a walk.

2- Check that the walk you are planning on doing is suited to your physical capabilities and that you have all the necessary equipment (walking poles, torches, walking boots, etc.).

3- Avoid walking alone. Always try to be accompanied by someone else. On more demanding routes go with a guide or an experienced walker.

4- Beware of timing and how long you'll be out. Make sure you know what time the sunsets and don't walk at night as your visibility will be greatly reduced.

5- If you opt for routes not on the Direção Regional de Florestas recommended list (P.R.), take a map and factual information as well as all the necessary equipment. Never put your safety at risk and precede with caution. The Municipality of Calheta, has made all its GPS routes available online. Do not venture off and do not leave the planned route.





6- On long routes, take enough food and drink necessary for the duration of your walk.

7- Do not challenge or defy imminent danger. Your acts depend, above all, on yourself. Be cautious on your walks.

8- Try to be contactable at all times. Inform a friend, family member or a local of your plans. Consult the list of emergency contacts available on page 6.

9- Madeira's very particular orography make waterfalls frequent on walks. Do not feel tempted to rush whilst under them as the ground is usually very slippery. Put your raincoat on and proceed with caution. Always walk on the safest side (with less risk of falling).

10- Always make sure you have all the necessary equipment. Decent footwear and walking poles are very important, especially on more demanding walks. Make sure you're well hydrated and fed, always take snacks that will properly reenergize you. If your walk is at a high altitude, always take warm clothing even if the weather is pleasant. Madeira has many microclimates and the weather can change very abruptly.



Responsible Tourism

1 – DO NOT light fires.

The dangers inherent to this activity are very high and can easily get out of control.

Do not take that risk!! Calheta has several picnic parks where you can safely light a fire.

Check the website for picnic parks in the Municipality of Calheta.

2 – DO NOT dump rubbish out in the open

Leave Mother Nature just as you found her.

It is important to take food with you as to adequately reenergize yourself.

Any excess should be properly packed and stored in your backpack and should NEVER be dumped on route.

Nature is home to all of us, therefore, contribute and help keep it clean.

Calheta has several ecopontos (recycling centres) distributed throughout the different parishes.

We ask you to be responsible and leave any rubbish in the bins.

Check the website for the nearest recycling centre.

3 – DO NOT vandalize natural habitats or geological heritage sites

Natural and geological heritage are both extremely valuable aspects that we have been able to preserve throughout the years. We can only pass this legacy down to our future generations if we continue to protect it. Collaborate with us by never leaving any personal marks on trees or geological heritage.



4 – DO NOT destroy Biodiversity

Our rich flora is of enormous scientific and touristic interest. NEVER pick plants, no matter the reason. Floral development happens according to the specific characteristics of their natural habitat. Proceeding incorrectly destroys biodiversity. Be an example and contribute to the maintenance of our biodiversity.

5 – DO NOT disturb the animals

Animals living in their natural habitat are used to the tranquillity of their daily lives. Please try and maintain that peace and quiet. Sudden movements may force some parents to leave their nesting areas.

If you happen to encounter cattle do not make any sudden movements especially if there are any calves around as there may be a protective reaction from the animals that could put you in harm's way. Instead make a bit of noise (like honking if you're in a car).

6 – ALWAYS CLOSE taps at water fountains

The Municipality of Calheta has many water fountains scattered throughout the various parishes. They make up part of the built heritage of the Municipality and many are to be repaired. Quench your thirst but be mindful as not to waste water. Search the website for your nearest water fountain.



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Levada da Rocha Vermelha						
						
Levada	Calheta	Calheta	Experienced	5h - 6h	18,8 km	

















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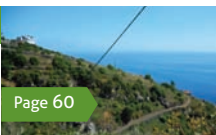






Levada do Paul II						
						
Levada	Calheta	Calheta	Medium	3h - 3h30min	9,8 km	








Levada Nova da Calheta						
						
Levada	Calheta	Ponta do Pargo	Experienced	6h - 9h	39 km	Page 44








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Vereda da Fajã Grande						
						
Trail	Ponta do Pargo	Ponta do Pargo	Experienced	2h - 2h30min	3 km	See site

Levada da Fajã da Ovelha						
						
Levada	Prazeres	Fajã da Ovelha	Medium	3h30min - 4h	11,7 km	See site

Vereda da Garganta Funda						
						
Trail	Ponta do Pargo	Ponta do Pargo	Easy	30 - 45min	1,2 km	See site







PR 6

- Levada das 25 Fontes



ITINERARY	START	END
Rabaçal - Casas do Rabaçal - 25 Fontes	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
PR	EASY	REGULAR
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ROUND TRIP	9 km (2x 4,5 km)	3h30min - 4h

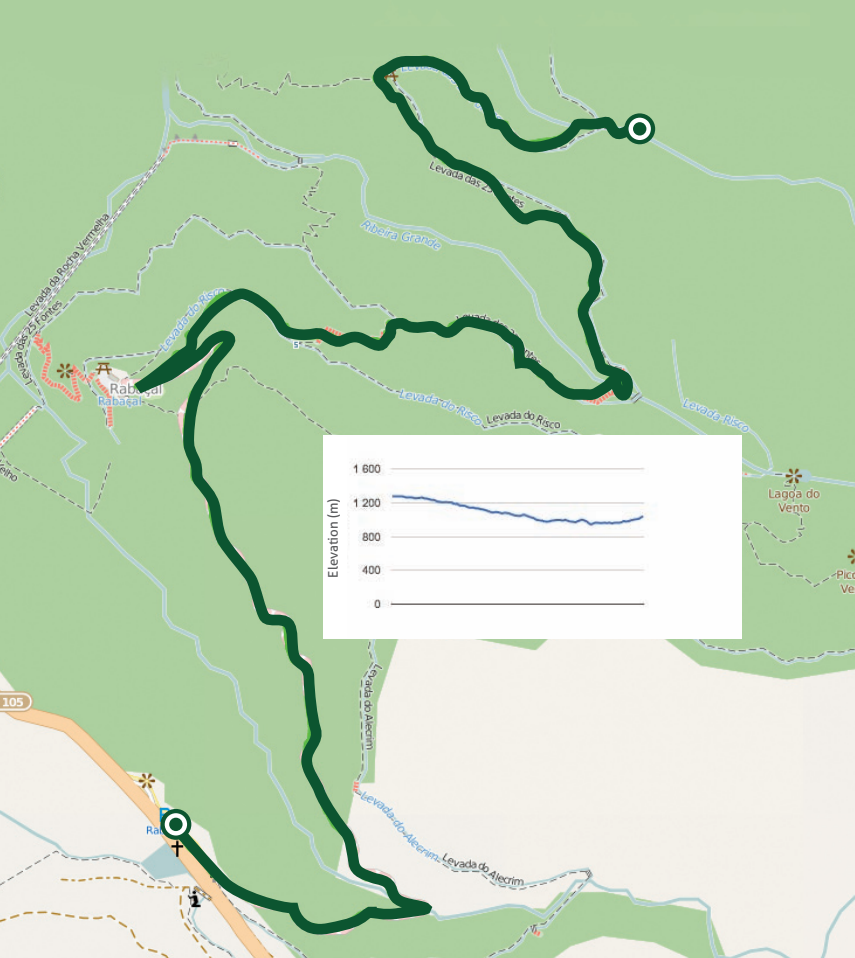


How to get there

With Funchal as a reference and keeping in mind that the regional road (E.R. 105) between Encumeada and Rabaçal is temporarily closed, we recommend taking the following route:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you reach the village of Arco da Calheta, at the roundabout take the first exit towards E.R. 222;
- In Loreto follow the signs towards Rabaçal;
- Once there, the walk is on the right hand side.





Points of Interest

Levada das 25 Fontes (25 Fountains) is one of the most sought-after walks for tourists and Madeirans alike and it is easy to see why. As with Levada do Risco, you may start this walk in two manners: either in Rabaçal on the E.R. 105 (formerly E.R. 110) or in the picnic area of Caldeira, known as “the garage”, located at Estrada Dr. Roberto Monteiro (formerly E.R. 211).

In either case the trail is easily accessible. We recommend taking the first option, as it makes for easier parking. There is also a service bus, provided by the Municipality of Calheta (3€ one way, 5€ return) that takes visitors down the 2km long paved road to the starting point: The Rabaçal Forestry House.



If you do choose to go down by foot, the profound scenery makes for an inspiring descent.

Just before you arrive at the house, there is an unmarked trail to your right that takes you to Lagoa do Vento. For more information go to page 52.

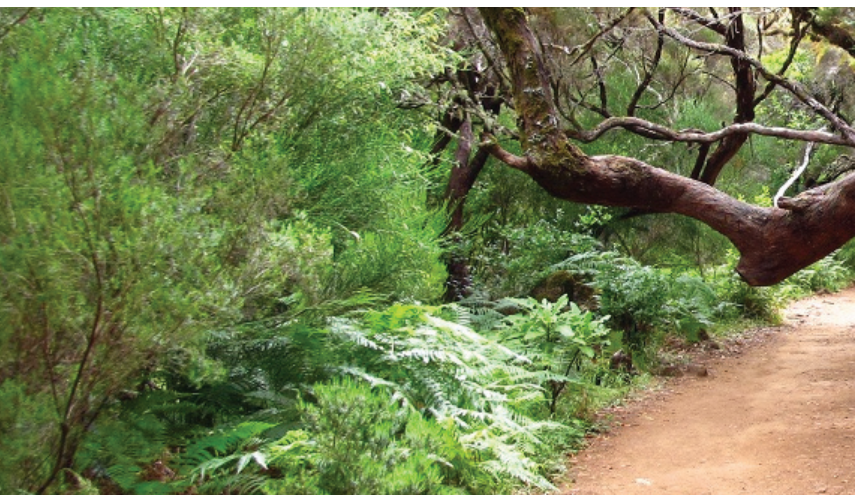
Once you arrive at the Rabaçal forestry house, make use of the toilets available as there are no others on the walk.

The trail is well marked, you need only follow the instructions given on the informational signs.

Levada das 25 Fontes and Levada do Risco flow parallel to each other, both heading to the Hydroelectric Power Station in Calheta. The scenery and landscape leading up to the Risco waterfall are identical, although each levada has its own particularities such as the waterfalls and views of the profound valleys.

Along the way you'll find a bridge that allows the crossing of Ribeira Grande (Great Stream). From this bridge you can spot the beautiful Risco waterfall, which is also the terminus of that same walk.

To get to the end of Levada das 25 Fontes continue on from the bridge and climb a stone staircase enclosed strikingly by the water channel.



The route continues through a narrow path surrounded by tree heathers that form natural tunnels. Although the path is narrow there are safety fences throughout. As you continue there is a trail to the left that leads you to Levada da Rocha Vermelha, however we recommend an alternative route which you may find on page 36.

Until the end of the Levada the route continues through the beautiful scenery of this protected area. To the left you should find stunning views of the deep Ribeira da Janela Vally that will accompany you to the terminus.

The name 25 fountains comes from the number of springs that provide the water flowing into the pretty lake all year round.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- This is one of the most visited levadas on the Island, so during your walk when approaching a narrow path, passage should be granted to whoever finds themselves in the less favourable position;
- Although there are safety fences at the riskier points, do not support yourself on them when granting passage to other walkers;
- During your walk, you'll encounter many shortcuts. Other than the ones flagged or mentioned before, do not venture into unknown areas.







PR 6.1

- Levada do Risco

ITINERARY	START	END
Rabaçal - Casas do Rabaçal - Risco	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
PR	EASY	REGULAR
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ROUND TRIP	6.6 km (2x 3,3 km)	2h30min - 3h

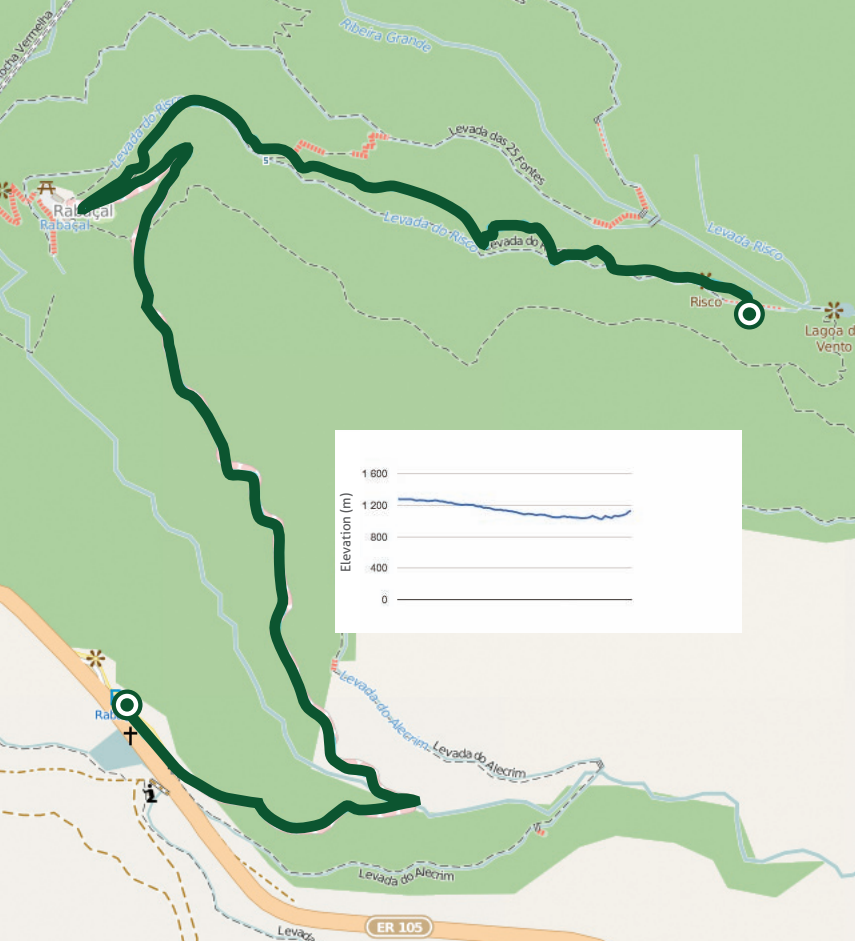


How to get here

With Funchal as a reference and keeping in mind that the regional road (E.R. 105) between Encumeada and Rabaçal is temporarily closed, we recommend taking the following route:



- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you reach the village of Arco da Calheta, at the roundabout take the first exit towards E.R. 222;
- In Loreto follow the signs towards Rabaçal;
- Once there, the walk is on the right hand side.



Points of Interest

Levada do Risco is another very sought-after walks for tourists and Madeirans alike and it is easy to see why. As with Levada das 25 Fontes, you may start this walk in two manners: either in Rabaçal on the E.R. 105 (formerly E.R. 110) or in the picnic area of Caldeira, known as “the garage”, located at Estrada Dr. Roberto Monteiro (formerly E.R. 211).

In either case the trail is easily accessible. We recommend taking the first option, as it makes for easier parking. There is also a service bus, provided by the Municipality of Calheta (3€ one way, 5€ return) that takes visitors down the 2km long paved road to the starting point: The Rabaçal Forestry House.

If you do choose to go down by foot, the profound scenery makes for an inspiring descent.



Just before you arrive at the house, there is an unmarked trail to your right that takes you to Lagoa do Vento. For more information go to page 52.

Once you arrive at the Rabaçal forestry house, make use of the toilets available as there are no others on the walk.

The trail is well marked, you need only follow the instructions given on the informational signs.

Levada das 25 Fontes and Levada do Risco flow parallel to each other, both heading to the Hydroelectric Power Station in Calheta. The scenery and landscape leading up to the Risco waterfall are identical, although each levada has its own particularities such as the waterfalls and views of the profound valleys.

The Laurissilva or Laurel forest is well represented along this walk and together with the centennial heathers, they create an unforgettable scene. Being a short, tranquil walk it is frequent to see families with younger children. The name Risco (Risk) is not associated in any way with the walk so please do not be put off by this.





On rainy days the ground can be muddy requiring added care. At the end of the trail you are rewarded with a beautiful contemplation point, taking the form of the Risco Waterfall.

Although seemingly possible, you cannot carry on from this point, you must return the way you came.

If you still have time don't forget to go down to levada das 25 fontes.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:







- This is one of the most visited levadas on the Island, so during your walk when approaching a narrow path, passage should be granted to whoever finds themselves in the less favourable position;
- Although there are safety fences at the riskier points, do not support yourself on them when granting passage to other walkers;
- During your walk, you'll find many shortcuts that you could try. Other than the ones flagged or mentioned before, do not venture into unknown areas.

PR 19

- Caminho Real do Paul do Mar

ITINERARY	START	END
Caminho Lombo da Rocha - Paul do Mar	Caminho Lombo da Rocha	Rua do Cais

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
PR	MEDIUM	REGULAR/STEEP
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ONE WAY	1,8 KM	1h – 1h30min

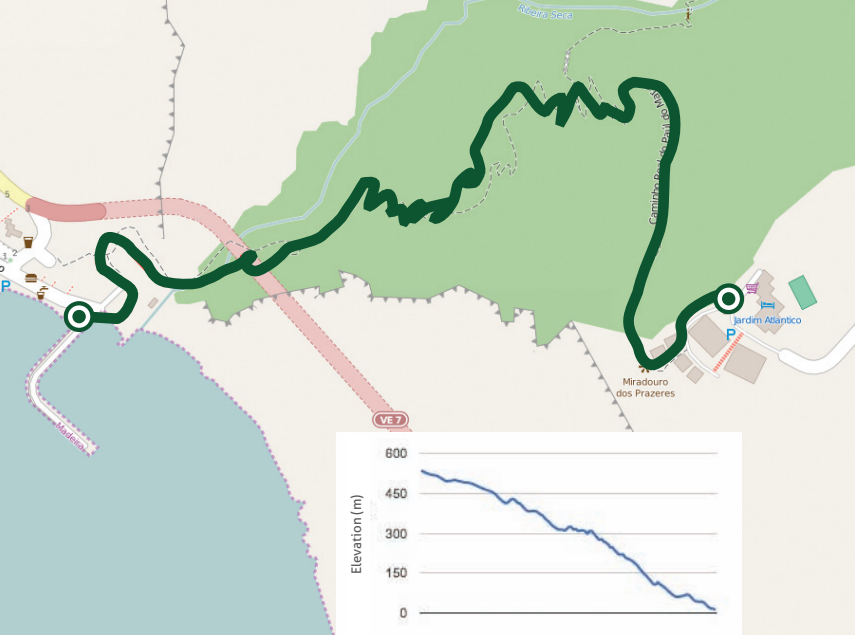


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Prazeres, follow the 2nd exit towards Caminho Lombo da Rocha;
- Follow this road until the end, to get to the Jardim Atlântico Hotel;
- The route is located on the left.





Points of Interest

PR 19 is a royal road that was once widely used by the locals to travel from the coast up to the mountains for various commercial purposes. The people of Paul do Mar used this route as a means of getting to the top of the cliff in order to farm and sell their fish.





The starting point of this walk is located at the hotel Jardim Atlântico, where you may also do the famous “pés descalços” or bearfoot walking experience. Just before you descend on Paul do Mar you’ll pass the Lombo da Rocha viewpoint, which is where you should make your first stop. From here you can look out onto the vast Atlantic Ocean and admire the picturesque fishing villages of Paul do Mar and Jardim do Mar.



On this walk, in addition to the waterfalls and the imposing cliffs around you, the geological beauty is one of the main attractions.

As you start your descent, there is a fork in the trail, here you should keep your course and follow the descent down to the port of Paul do Mar. This trail also marks the transition between the civil parishes of Prazeres and Paul do Mar.

At more or less the half way mark you’ll encounter a contemplation and resting point, the most difficult part is now behind you. Although there are safety fences at the riskier points you should always be extra cautious, as with any descent, in addition to steep slopes, erosion is also more frequent.

The water that flows through the bed comes from Ribeira Seca or Ribeira do Paul, nourishing the existing flora from which we'll highlight the dry Laurissilva that consists in the dominant Barbusano and Canary Bay tree.

Once you arrive in Paul do Mar you'll easily see the influence of the fishing industry on this village.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Due to the erosive nature of the coastline, we recommend you have appropriate footwear and also walking-poles;
- If you do not have a head for heights please be aware that this route is quite exposed. Make sure this walk is suitable for you.









PR 20

- Vereda do Jardim do Mar

ITINERARY	START	END
Caminho do Miradouro - Vereda do Moinho - Jardim do Mar	Caminho do Miradouro	Jardim do Mar

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
PR	MEDIUM	IRREGULAR/STEEP
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ONE WAY	1,9 KM	1h – 1h30min

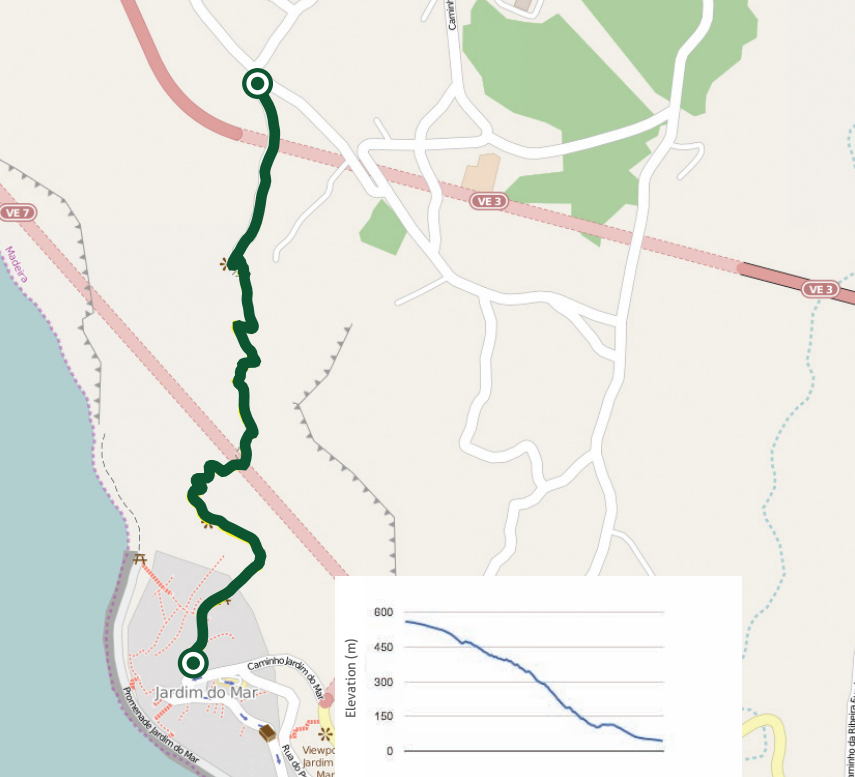


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Prazeres, follow the 2nd exit towards Caminho Lombo da Rocha;
- At Caminho Lombo da Rocha, follow the left until Caminho do Miradouro;
- The route is located on the right.





Points of Interest

PR 20 is a nice, tranquil walk that you may do calmly without worrying about logistics or time constraints.

Its starting point gives you a privileged view over the civil parishes of Jardim do Mar and Paul do Mar.





At the beginning of the walk, there is a recreation and picnic area where you could have a barbecue.

Along the way you'll be able to observe this captivating village in more detail. Things you are sure to notice are the many tropical fruits, that



easily grow here in the warm climate typical of Calheta; fruits such as bananas, figs, papayas and other subtropical delicacies.

The recommended path maintains its rustic heritage allowing you to observe the traditional drystone walls that bound the land.

This walk finishes after the watermill giving you direct access to the maze like village of Jardim do Mar.



Safety

-In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of *Calheta* prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Walks such as this, set on natural terrain demand appropriate footwear.



Levada do Lajeado

ITINERARY

Lajeado - Campo Pequeno - Ribeira do Alecrim

START

Lajeado (E.R. 209)

END

Lajeado (E.R. 209)

Datasheet



Type

LEVADA



Difficulty

EASY



Terrain

REGULAR



Direction

ROUND TRIP



Distance

3,8 KM (2x 1,9 KM)



TIME

1h30min – 2h

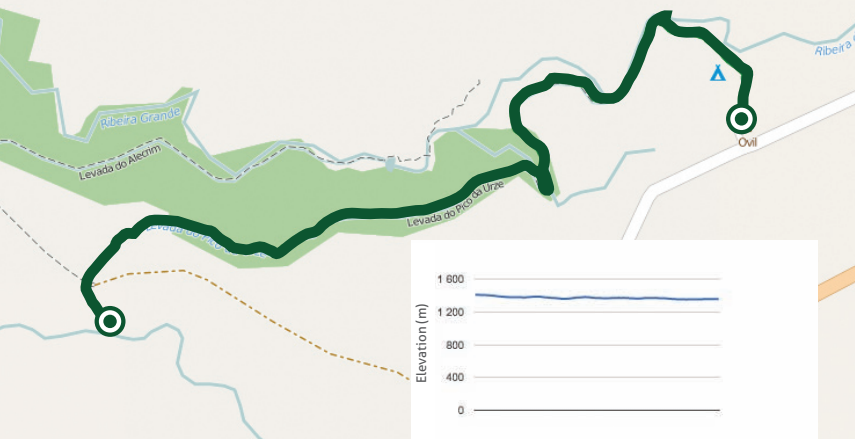


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Upon arrival in the village of Arco da Calheta, at the roundabout, take the first exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 222);
- In Loreto follow the signs saying "Rabaçal", then follow the Estrada Regional (E.R. 209) to the left;
- The route is located on the right.





Points of Interest

Levada do Lajeado is located within close proximity of the Rabaçal area, at around 1300 meters altitude in the plateau of Paul da Serra.

The walk starts close to the parking area.

You may visit the origin of the Levada by taking a small detour to the right, going against the flow.





After this detour, you are ready to start, this time going with the flow of the Levada. You'll find many tributaries that interconnect many times with the steams and quite a few small waterfalls that always draw some attention.

During this walk, as is normal on walks at this altitude, the predominant plants are tree heathers growing in this vast landscape, visible in its entirety only when sunny. The stunning sky can be seen at your feet as small ponds reflect it, just one of the details that'll make this walk effortless. The pureness of this levada and everything around it will take your mind off things, so much so you won't even know you've arrived. The terminus of the levada is represented by a damaged aqueduct what was once responsible for transporting water to Pico da Urze.

You should return the way you came enjoying, this delightful levada once again.





Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Do not forget that this walk is located in a mountainous region above 1300 m altitude, therefore, it is subject to unpredictable weather conditions (fog is very common). Do not venture off the trail. When in doubt please feel free to use the GPS references available.



Levada do Alecrim

ITINERARY

Rabaçal - Ribeira do Alecrim - Lagoa "Dona Beja"

START

Rabaçal (E.R. 105)

END

Rabaçal (E.R. 105)

Datasheet



Type

LEVADA



Difficulty

EASY



Terrain

REGULAR



Direction

ROUND TRIP



Distance

6,8 KM (2x 3,4 KM)



TIME

2h – 2h30min

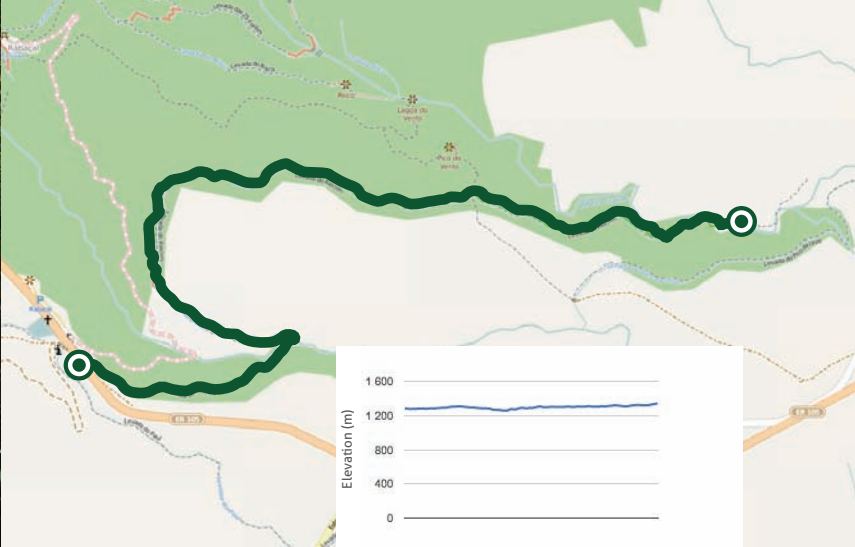


How to get here

With Funchal as a reference and keeping in mind that the regional road (E.R. 105) between Encumeada and Rabaçal is temporarily closed, we recommend taking the following route:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you reach the village of Arco da Calheta, at the roundabout take the first exit towards E.R. 222;
- In Loreto follow the signs towards Rabaçal;
- Once there, the walk is on the right hand side.





Points of Interest

Levada do Alecrim is part of the network of levadas that start in the Rabaçal area.

The starting point of this levada also leads us to Levada das 25 Fontes, Risco and Paul II.





To start this Levada, also known as Paul I, follow the paved road a few meters towards the forestry house of Rabaçal. You'll find a dirt trail visible just to the right, take this route and a few meters ahead you meet the levada. This is a fairly easy, well-marked walk.



During your walk you'll be traveling through magnificent heather tunnels that almost enclose the path, making this a unique experience.

Approximately 500 meters after the starting point you'll cross Ribeira do Alecrim (Rosemary stream) that feeds the hydroelectric power station of Calheta. Along the way there is a high rate of endemic flora such as the Madeiran orchid and giant sow thistles. In addition to unique flora there are amazing views onto the Rabaçal and Ribeira da Janela valleys.

Before arriving at the "Dona Beja" lake, you'll cross a trail: to the right, you'll be taken up to Lajeado; to the left down to Lagoa do Vento (this descent difficult and is only recommended for experienced walkers). Tributaries, which you'll have to cross, flowing into the main streams are fairly frequent, although they do not present too much of a challenge.



After more or less 3,4km you'll arrive at the origin of the levada, where you can enjoy the pretty Dona Beja lake and the serene setting.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:







- Do not forget that this walk is located in a mountainous region above 1200 m altitude, therefore, it is subject to unpredictable weather conditions (fog is very common). Do not venture off the trail. When in doubt please feel free to use the GPS references available.



Levada da Rocha Vermelha

ITINERARY	START	END
Malhada - Rabaçal - Ribeiro da Água do Vimeiro	Malhada	Malhada

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
LEVADA	EXPERIENCED	REGULAR/STEEP
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ROUND TRIP	18,8 KM (2x 9,4 KM)	5h – 6h

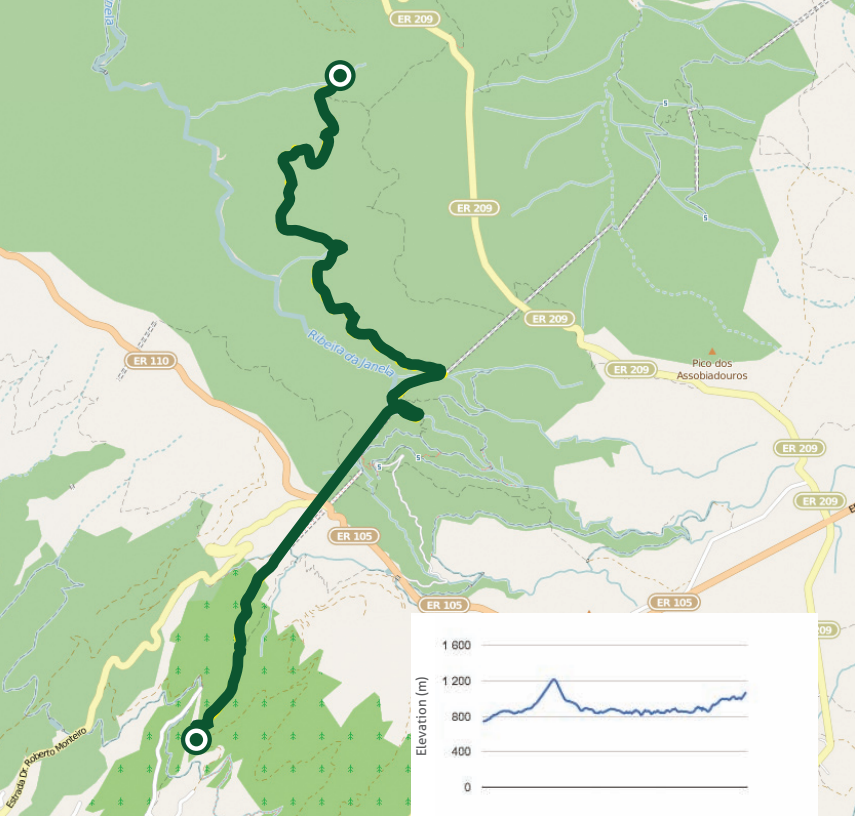


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Calheta, at the roundabout take the 1st exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 222);
- At the crossing with E.R. 222, follow the signs saying "Central Hidroelétrica", going through Malhada;
- The route is located on the left.





Points of Interest

Levada da Rocha Vermelha (Levada of the red rock) is also part of the Rabaçal Levada network and one of the most well-known ways to get there is precisely the left turn close to the end of Levada das 25 fontes.

However, given the popularity of the second and to provide a broader understanding of the pathways in Calheta, we propose a separate route of the same difficulty level.

As the data sheet indicates, this walk is advisable only to experienced hikers with good physical preparation.

Having the Hydroelectric power station as reference, go up the road in Malhada and at the fork more or less at the half way point take the left until you get to the Levadeiros House. All you need to do is follow the Levada. For this walk, you must be prepared to cross a spectacular tunnel, dug out as a means of transporting water from one side to the other.

1,7km in total, you should take your time and ponder the fact that this passageway was excavated, in the majority, by hand.



The stairs you find at the entrance of the tunnel lead you to the “Garagem” (garage) that in turn leads you Levada das 25 fontes.

Once on the other side of the tunnel you’ll carry on out in the open, although there is an exposed area that requires caution as there are no safety barriers and there is a risk of vertigo.

Despite these precautions (that you should keep throughout), it is a very attractive walk, inserted in the heart of dense, green valleys giving you a privileged viewpoint.

During your walk you’ll cross Ribeira dos Cedros, which acts as the division of two bordering Municipalities (Porto Moniz and Calheta) and a tunnel to the right that gives you the possibility of joining Levada do Seixal. Continue to the left keeping with Levada da Rocha Vermelha.



We would like to point out that we do not have any GPS records of Levada do Seixal, the GPS provided is solely based on Levada da Rocha Vermelha.

On this walk it is possible you'll come in direct contact with a few waterfalls that flow from local streams and their tributaries. Mainly used by "levadeiros", responsible for maintaining and monitoring of good water operation, these areas require the utmost care as they are slippery and do not have any kind of protection.

Between landscapes and monumental trees of the laurel forest, you'll come across a staircase with more than two hundred steps, flanked by the levada that accompanies the significant descent. The energy of the water is evident making this a spectacular spot.

Beware that at the top of these stairs the ground can be quite slippery. . The origin of the levada is ahead and it is not advisable to carry on as the path is in decay.



Safety

Because this walk possesses technical and physical particularities, to ensure your safety please make sure you meet the requirements. Consult the fact sheet and the safety chapter on the website.

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Consult the datasheet and chapter on safety;
- On this walk you will cross various waterfalls, take care and do not rush. Wear a waterproof jacket and proceed cautiously;
- As this walk is not included on the government's recommended walks list, it is not as well protected as its neighbouring levadas. This walk should only be done with due discernment, precaution and experience.

Levada do Paul II

ITINERARY	START	END
Rabaçal - Posto Florestal da Cova Grande	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
LEVADA	MEDIUM	FLAT
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ROUND TRIP	9,8 KM (2x 4,9 KM)	3h – 3h30min

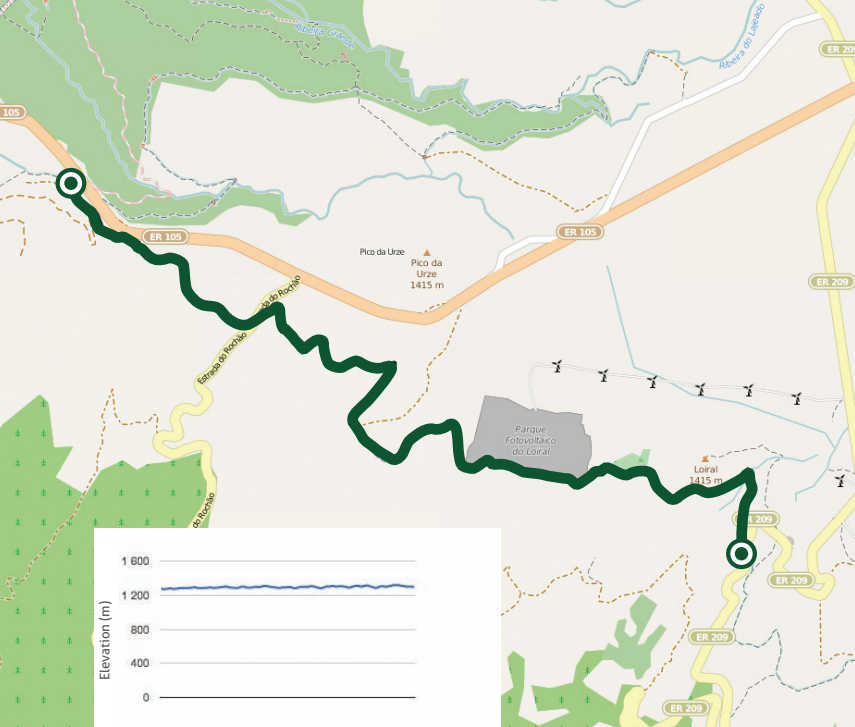


How to get here

With Funchal as a reference and keeping in mind that the regional road (ER. 105) between Encumeada and Rabaçal is temporarily closed, we recommend the following route:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you reach the village of Arco da Calheta, at the roundabout take the first exit towards E.R. 222;
- In Loreto follow the signs towards Rabaçal;
- Once there, the walk is on the left hand side.





Points of Interest

This walk starts next to the Rabaçal loading chamber (E.R. 105) and as with the other levadas in this area there is a parking area just north of the water reservoir.

Levada do Paul II is the continuation of Levada do Paul I (also known as Levada do Alecrim), possessing equally tranquil landscapes.





Although around 10km (2 ways) it is an appropriate walk for those looking for something easy without compromising on the terrific views.



The path is almost entirely parallel to the levada and surrounded by low windswept vegetation giving you a great look at the profound horizon.

As is normal in this area, it is possible that you'll cross some streams and tributaries although they are easily crossed. You'll also come across a road: Estrada do Rochão, merely cross over to the other side. From here you can see the mighty wind turbines and solar panels, joining the levada in producing renewable energy.

Once you arrive at the regional road (E.R.) 209, next to the Cova Grande forestry house, you'll be close to finishing the first half of this walk. The levada continues on to the Ponta do Sol valley (Rabaças area) but the proposed walk has the forestry house as the point of return. To reach it, climb approximately 70 meters.

Very close to this building exists one of the most important monuments in Paul da Serra, a statue of Jesus Christ: Cristo Rei do Paul.



Enjoy this sacred place while having a snack then make your way back the same way you came.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:







- When foggy be very careful crossing the road (*Estrada do Rochão*), as visibility can be limited;
- Cattle graze in these mountains so it is frequent to cross herds. Although they are used to human presence, always be cautious around them;
- Near the solar farm, the passage is quite narrow, demanding extra care.



Levada Nova da Calheta

ITINERARY	START	END
Central Hidroelétrica da Calheta - Posto Florestal dos Prazeres - Lombada dos Marinheiros - Cabo	Central Hidroelétrica da Calheta	Cabo (E.R. 101)

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
LEVADA	EXPERIENCED	FLAT
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ONE WAY	39 KM	6h – 9h

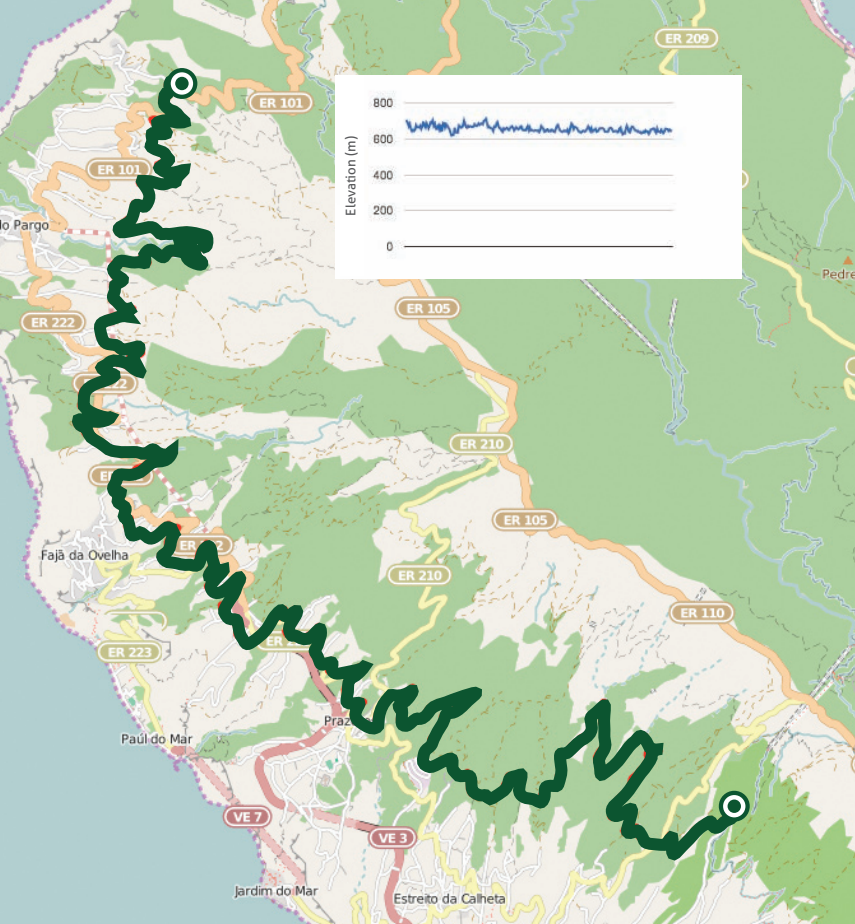


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Calheta, at the roundabout take the 1st exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 222);
- At the crossing with E.R. 222, go towards the Hydroelectric Power Station;
- The route is located on the left.





Points of Interest

Stretching over 40km, Levada Nova da Calheta is the longest route of its kind in the Municipality of Calheta. While lengthy, altitude wise there isn't much variation, with the levada flowing between 600 and 700 meters altitude.

This walk is used by many Madeirans trying to keep in shape and with the exception of Arco da Calheta, the aqueduct flows through all the Civil Parishes of the Municipality, meaning that there are numerous points of access.

Although Arco da Calheta may not receive water from this particular Levada, it has its own called Levada Nova do Arco da Calheta. Opened in April 2015 it is the continuation of the Levada Nova da Calheta project. Go to page 48, to have a look at Levada Nova do Arco da Calheta.



If you were to travel via the regional roads between Calheta, Estreito da Calheta, Prazeres, Fajã da Ovelha and Ponta do Pargo, at the altitudes indicated above, you would cross various times with this levada, giving you a sense of just how big it really is.

So, if you do not wish to do this walk in its entirety, due to whatever reason, you could always do it in segments thus getting a feel for this agricultural levada walk.

The scenery you'll find at any one of the possible sections is representative of the Levada as a whole. You'll find large trees such as Pines and Eucalyptus, once serving as a means of rapid reforestation, as well as housing and farm land. Along this route you'll certainly cross many streams and tributaries such as Ribeiras da Calheta, Marinheiros,

Moinhos, Seca, Funda and many more.

In these more humid areas it is possible to find species belonging to the Laurel Forest or Laurissilva, like Canary Laurels and the endemic Bay Trees.

You'll also come across farmland where the main regional vegetables grown are potatoes, sweet potatoes and green beans. Fruits also flourish here, you'll likely find fig, papaya, lemon and apple trees.



On the map above, you can have a look at the route and decide where your starting point will be.

We personally recommend a shorter walk that starts in the Civil Parish of Prazeres going along until Fajã da Ovelha (Lombada dos Marinheiros).

You may meet some mountain biking enthusiasts along the way, seeing as this levada is not on the official recommended list, these cyclists make use of this flat levada on their bikes. If you choose to follow their lead please keep in mind that these channels were not built for that purpose, always keep yourself safe.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Wear comfortable footwear appropriate for a walk of this length;
- Take enough food and drink for the duration of your walk.



Levada Nova do Arco da Calheta

ITINERARY

Central Hidroelétrica da
Calheta - Arco da Calheta
- Lombo de São João

START

Central Hidroelétrica
da Calheta

END

Lombo de São João
(Caminho Fonte do Covo)

Datasheet



Type

LEVADA



Difficulty

MEDIUM



Terrain

FLAT



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

15,9 KM



TIME

5h – 6h

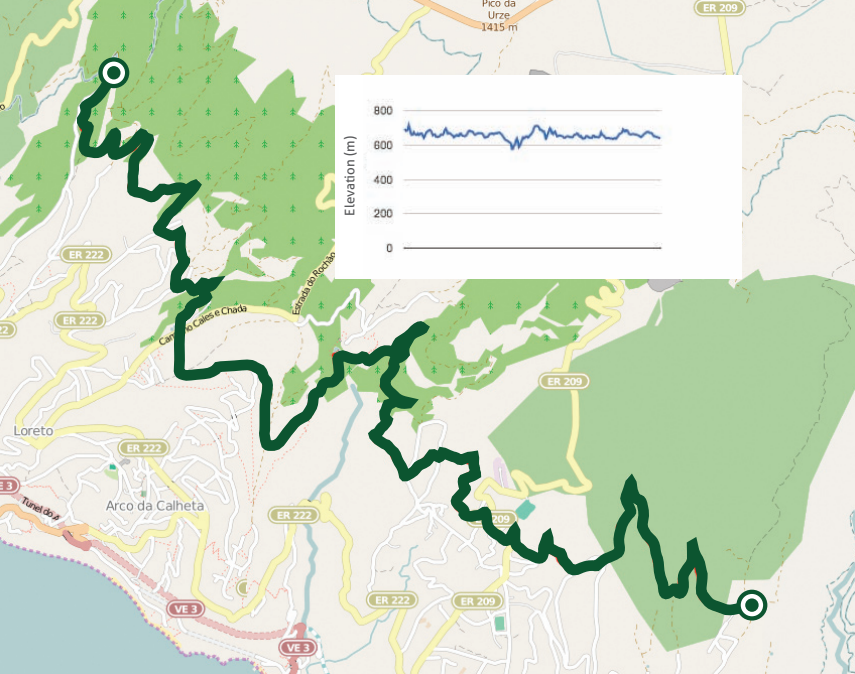


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Calheta, at the roundabout take the 1st exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 222);
- At the crossing with E.R. 222, go towards the Hydroelectric Power Station;
- The route is located on the left.





Points of Interest

Besides being an important irrigation channel, the 16km long Levada Nova do Arco da Calheta also has an important role in the production of hydroelectric energy. This route gives continuity to the hydrographic project of Levada Nova da Calheta extending over into the neighbouring municipality of Ponta do Sol.



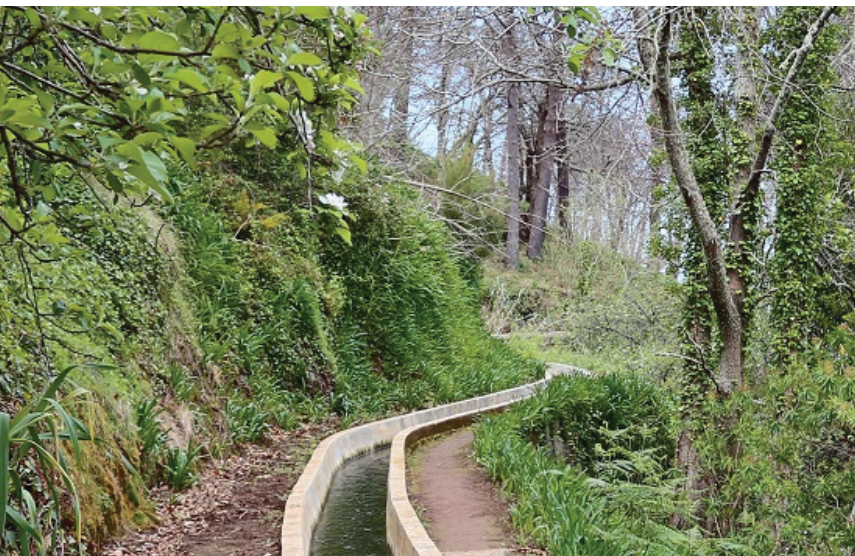


In addition to providing water and creating energy, this brand new levada, worthy of being travelled is responsible for making this a more attractive.

During this walk you'll come into direct contact with the agricultural universe of the Municipality, as there are many farming areas that have been recuperated.

During this Levada it is possible to observe the alternating endemic and introduced forests, fragmented only by panoramic views of the residential areas of Arco da Calheta and as always, the Atlantic Ocean in the background.

Whether you opt for this Levada or its counterpart Levada Nova da Calheta, you'll encounter a phenomenon that has been gaining steam in the last few



years; there are many refurbishment projects, whether it be on the traditional “palheiros” (triangular barns, known as cow sheds) or isolated buildings no longer inhabited.

The building of second homes and the creation of touristic projects are the most frequent today and many of these projects are developed by visitors that fall in love with the area. The municipality of Calheta possesses natural conditions such as the warm climate, the tranquil lifestyle and strategic investments taken on by the local authorities that make it a favourite for tourists who end up choosing Calheta as their home away from home.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:


- The more exposed areas are generally protected by safety fences. But there are some unprotected areas that may be problematic for those suffering from vertigo. Make sure you meet the necessary psycho-physical conditions to complete this walk;
- Wear comfortable footwear appropriate for a walk of this length;
- Take enough food and drink for the duration of your walk;
- The levada crosses with local roads numerous times. In case of emergency head to the nearest “exit”.



Vereda da Lagoa do Vento

ITINERARY	START	END
Rabaçal - Lagoa do Vento	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)	Rabaçal (E.R. 105)

Datasheet

 Type	 Difficulty	 Terrain
TRAIL	EXPERIENCED	IRREGULAR
 Direction	 Distance	 TIME
ROUND TRIP	6,4 KM (2x 3,2 KM)	2h30min – 3h

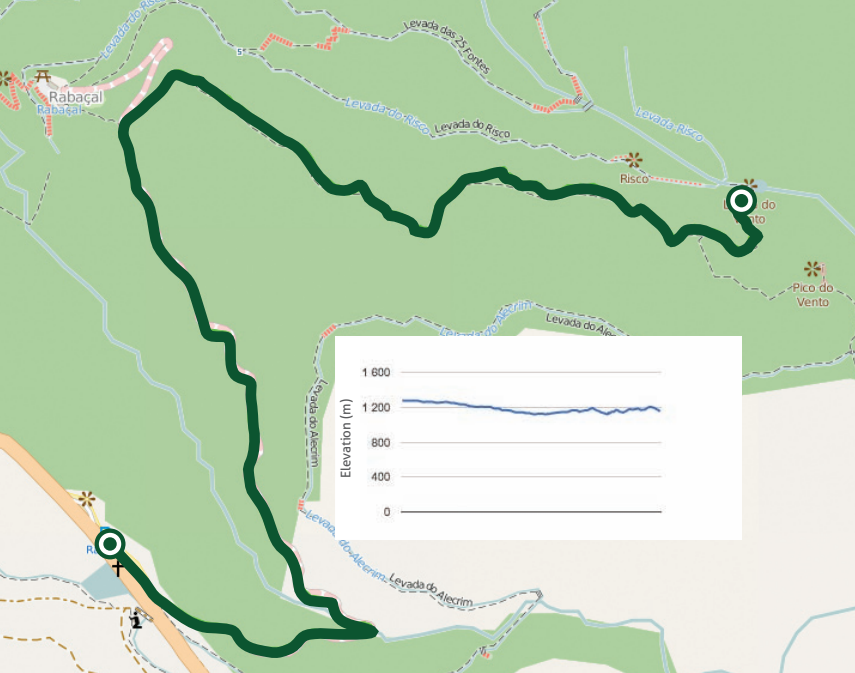


How to get here

With Funchal as a reference and keeping in mind that the regional road (E.R. 105) between Encumeada and Rabaçal is temporarily closed, we recommend taking the following route:



- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you reach the village of Arco da Calheta, at the roundabout take the first exit towards E.R. 222;
- In Loreto follow the signs towards Rabaçal;
- Once there, the walk is on the right hand side.



Points of Interest

The Lagoa do Vento trail is one of the alternative routes in the Rabaçal area, that isn't usually a first option for first time visitors.

To get there, follow exactly the same route as if you were heading to Levada das 25 Fontes (or Risco) from E.R. 105 (former E.R. 110). As previously mentioned you may catch the service bus provided by the Municipality of Calheta that transports you down a 2km paved road to the Rabaçal Forestry House (3€ one way, 5€ return).

If you do decide to take the bus down, you'll have climb back up, around 300m to an unmarked trail that in this case is located on your left.





The route to Lagoa do Vento (lake of wind) is done in parallel to Levada do Risco, although in this case you do not follow a water channel.

We'd like to point out that the route to Lagoa do Vento, although done through striking scenery, is not included in the Direção Regional de Florestas recommended walks list. So for that reason, it should be done taking the upmost of care and should be within your physical capabilities (this walk is recommended to experienced walkers).

The trail itself, embedded in the ground by the feet of many visitors, is visible between the vegetation, however there is always the possibility of some areas being covered by leaves or small land slips.

Throughout the trail you'll have to cross some small streams, ramifications of larger streams such as Ribeira Grande and Ribeira do Alecrim, travel with extra caution through these areas.

Vegetation wise, just like Risco and 25 Fontes, you'll be enclosed by tree heathers and laurel forest.

Nearing the end you'll come across a fork in the trail, the left goes down to the lake and the right up to Levada do Paul I or Alecrim.

The terrain leading up to the levada is extremely steep and physically demanding, so much so, we do not recommend it. If you would like to visit Levada do Alecrim, follow our recommendation in the website.





Following the left turn mentioned above, after a zigzagging trail that requires some physical capability, you'll find yourself at the tranquil Lagoa do Vento.

The water that flows from this lake is the same water that forms the Risco waterfall. Be cautious when exploring this area, there is no protection what so ever and the ground can be slippery.

Stay a while before making your way back to regain your energy and make the most of the soothing quite that only Mother Nature can provide.

The way back is done via the same route, once you arrive at the paved road in Rabaçal, you can go down to the forestry house to catch the service bus from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Make sure you meet the physical requirements necessary to safely complete this walk;
- Make sure you have appropriate footwear, keeping in mind that you will cross slippery areas that are muddy year round. The terrain is also quite irregular;
- Do not venture off onto unidentified trails not included on the GPS maps. In case you're unsure of the trail due to nature occurrences such as land slips do not take any risks, go back the way you came.

Veredas da Atalaia e do Lombinho

ITINERARY

Caminho do Aviceiro -
E.R. 223 - Paul do Mar

START

Caminho do Aviceiro

END

Avenida dos Pescadores
Paulenses

Datasheet



Type

TRAIL



Difficulty

EXPERIENCED



Terrain

IRREGULAR/STEEP



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

2,7 KM



TIME

1h30min - 2h



How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Upon arrival in Raposeira (terminus of the Via Expresso [VE3]), follow the 1st exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101), take the right towards Caminho do Aviceiro;
- The route is located on the right.





Points of Interest

Vereda da Atalaia is one of the many examples of coastal pathways located on the cliff sides in the Municipality of Calheta. These paths once served the local population by providing a passage way for the goods that would arrive by boat.





This trail gives you direct contact with the tradition farmland and grazing cattle, making the rural backdrop more engaging. You'll often see wheat growing here, the threshing process is an amazing scene. On that note, we invite you to watch a video concerning the traditions and customs of threshing.

Although there is some effort in keeping the farming tradition alive, there are many empty plots of land. It is however possible to see the old drystone walls, marking the landscape, with the contrasting Atlantic Ocean in the background.



On this walk you'll have an exclusive view of the civil parish of Paul do Mar. On the cliffs to your right, the zigzagging route you see is Vereda dos Zimbreiros which can also be done.

Once down at the bottom you can opt to climb the E.R. 223 a few meters until you find a staircase on the left hand side (Vereda do Lombinho) that will take you down to the main road in Paul do Mar. Via this alleyway you'll be in direct contact with the banana production industry, as you'll be accompanied by banana plants along the way.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of *Calheta* prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Because of the sloping path in its natural state (mix of rock, gravel and earth) we recommend the use of walking poles to help on your way down and appropriate footwear, especially if the path is wet;
- Downhill walks along mountain sides are always subject to exposure, especially when the slopes are steep. Make sure you ready of this;
- The path while used by many locals does not have any protection or safety barriers. Beware when passing more exposed areas.



Vereda dos Zimbreiros

ITINERARY

Fajã da Ovelha -
Zimbreiros - Paul
do Mar

START

Rua Doutor Mário
Correia Sardinha

END

Avenida dos Pescadores
Paulenses

Datasheet



Type

TRAIL



Difficulty

MEDIUM



Terrain

REGULAR/STEEP



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

1,6 KM



TIME

1h – 1h30min

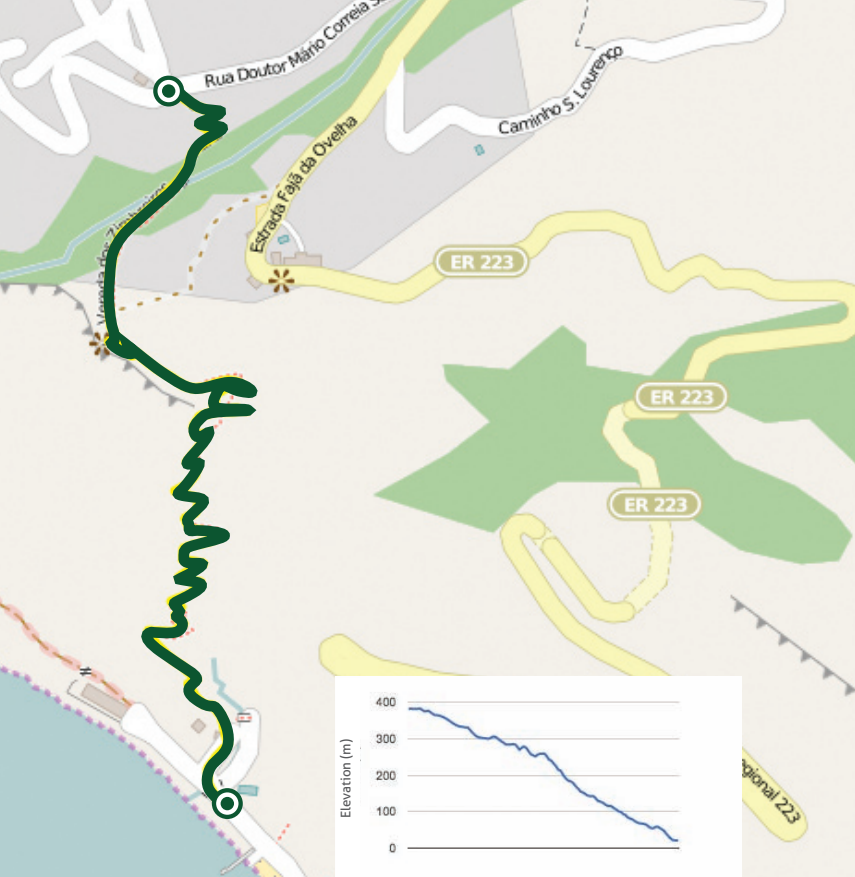


How to get here

Having Funchal as reference:

- Follow the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in Raposeira (termination of VE3), follow the first exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the crossing with E.R. 223, go right at Rua Doutor Mário Correia Sardinha;
- The trail is found to the left.





Points of Interest

This short footpath offers visitors a tranquil walk down the cliff side of Fajã da Ovelha on to Paul do Mar ending up at Ribeira das Galinhas right next to the Atlantic Ocean.





Vereda dos Zimbreiros is done, for the most part, on a cobbled path that keeps with the traditional architecture and the drystone walls of the fields. As always the Atlantic Ocean is in the foreground.

Although the local council cleans the pathway periodically, as with a large portion of the coast in Calheta, cacti have free reign over the land, growing easily in the dryer areas, meaning that sometimes they grow over the pathway.

As you finish the first half of the walk the views over Paul do Mar become more magnificent, making this short hike a long contemplation path.



Once finished, we recommend popping into one of the local bars, popular with Madeirans and tourist alike, for a refreshment.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- This old pathway is rarely used by the locals anymore, the terrain can be irregular and the cobble stones are, in some places loose. Always wear appropriate footwear.
- For the reasons stated above walking poles are also recommended;
- As with many of the old pathways once used by the locals, protection like fencing is scarce. Be cautious when passing more exposed areas.



Vereda do Pesqueiro

ITINERARY

Lombadinha - Porto do
Pesqueiro

START

Lombadinha (E.R. 101)

END

Lombadinha (E.R. 101)

Datasheet



Type

TRAIL



Difficulty

MEDIUM



Terrain

REGULAR/STEEP



Direction

ROUND TRIP



Distance

4,6 KM (2x 2,3 KM)



TIME

2h - 2h30min

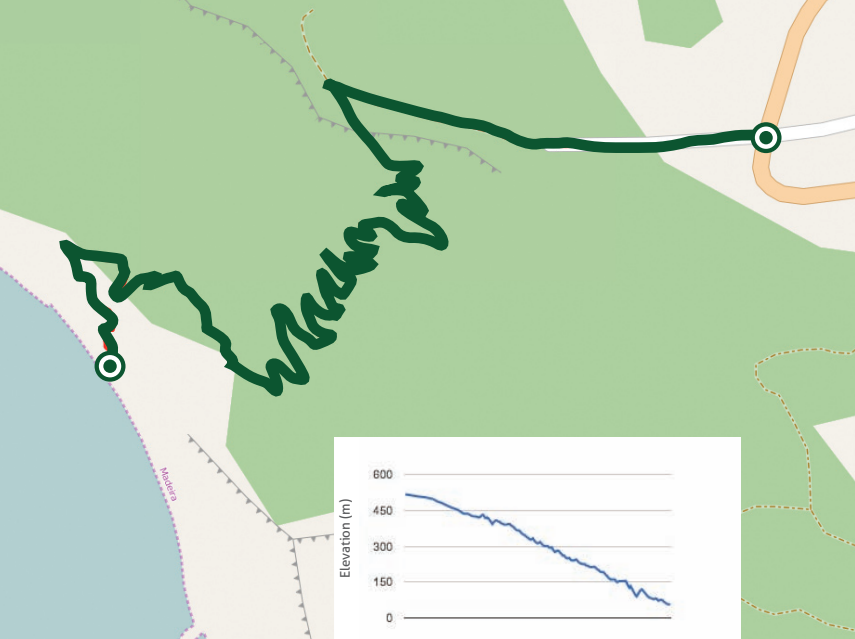


How to get here

Having Funchal as reference:

- Follow the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in Raposeira (termination of VE3), follow the first exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the crossing in Lombadinha with E.R. 101 follow Vereda do Pesqueiro;
- The path is to the left.





Points of Interest

Vereda do Pesqueiro is a coastal pathway that allows you to observe the western coast line of Calheta.





You'll have direct eye contact with the Atlantic Ocean and the imposing cliffs during the whole walk.

The walk down the cliff side is via a zigzagging path, which allows for a relatively smooth descent and an opportunity to observe the terracing of old farmland.



During most of the walk you'll be accompanied by a long waterfall, to your left that flows down the cliff side into the Ocean.

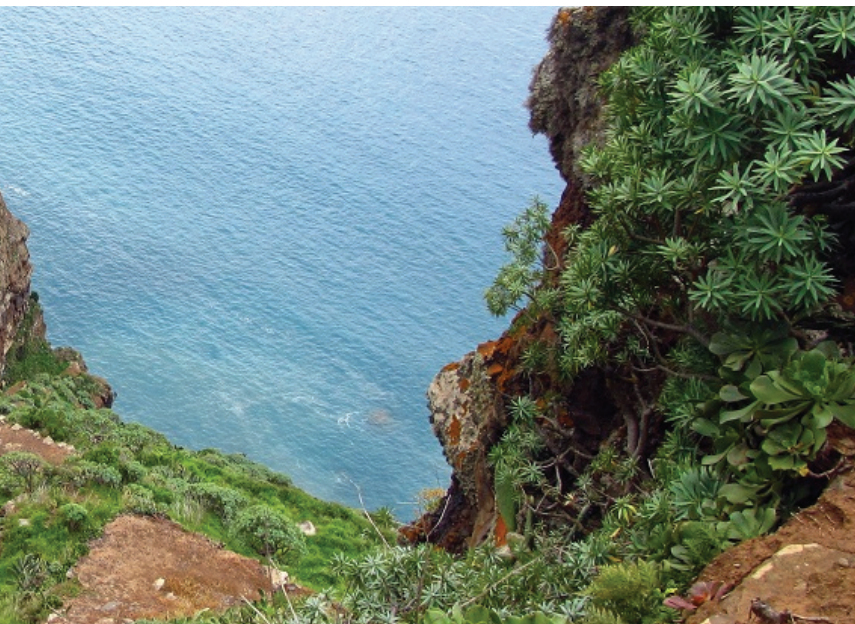
At the end of the walk, you'll be down by the sea where you can relax by listening to the crashing of the waves.



Safety

In addition to the safety guide the Municipality of Calheta prepared specifically for you, which you may find on the website, please note these more specific recommendations:

- Being a cliff side walk, erosion and rock fall is quite frequent making the path slippery. Take appropriate footwear and walking poles;
- Once at the beach do not go swimming. The beach is made up of large rocks that make mobility difficult. Check our beaches in the website;
- If you choose to explore the beach, don't wander too far and be weary of the rising tides.



Mountain Biking - Welcome

"I travel the world competing and training on my bike, but have found that the best trails are right here in my back yard!

The Municipality of Calheta naturally offers excellent conditions for Downhill and Enduro that without a doubt contributed to winning 9 titles as national champion!

For me it's an honour to belong and to represent my land beyond its borders!"

Emanuel Pombo

National Champion

Team Liberty Seguros / Ciclomadeira








BEFORE choosing a track, make sure you have enough experience and that you are accompanied by someone who knows the trails.

ALWAYS stay safe!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calheta - MTB routes




PBTT 1 - Casais da Serra / São Lourenço

					
Downhill	Fajã da Ovelha	Fajã da Ovelha	Medium	10 – 25min	5,1 km



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PBTT 2 - Lombada dos Cedros

					
Downhill	Fajã da Ovelha	Fajã da Ovelha	Medium	8 – 20min	4,9 km



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Avalanche Raposeira

					
Downhill	Fajã da Ovelha	Fajã da Ovelha	Medium	8 – 20min	4,9 km



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Pipeline

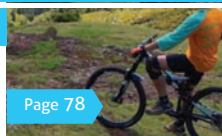
					
Enduro	Calheta	Calheta	Experienced	9 – 20min	4,3 km



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Blackline Prazeres

					
Downhill	Prazeres	Prazeres	Experienced	7 – 15min	3,2 km



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Hunters Trail + Redline Prazeres

					
Enduro	Estreito da Calheta	Prazeres	Very Experienced	18 – 30min	6,2 km



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Vacas + Patrica

					
Downhill	Ponta do Pargo	Ponta do Pargo	Experienced	18 – 30min	8,2 km



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Cabeças Trail

					
Enduro	Calheta	Calheta	Experienced	6 – 15min	2,7 km



See site

Sandakan

					
Downhill	Fajã da Ovelha	Fajã da Ovelha	Easy	5 – 10min	1,6 km



See site

PBTT 1

- Casais da Serra / São Lourenço

ITINERARY

Fonte do Bispo - Lombo de São Lourenço

START

Fonte do Bispo (E.R. 210)

END

Lombo de São Lourenço (E.R. 101)

Datasheet



Type

DOWNHILL



Difficulty

MEDIUM



Terrain

DIRT ROAD



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

5,1 KM



Time

10 – 25min

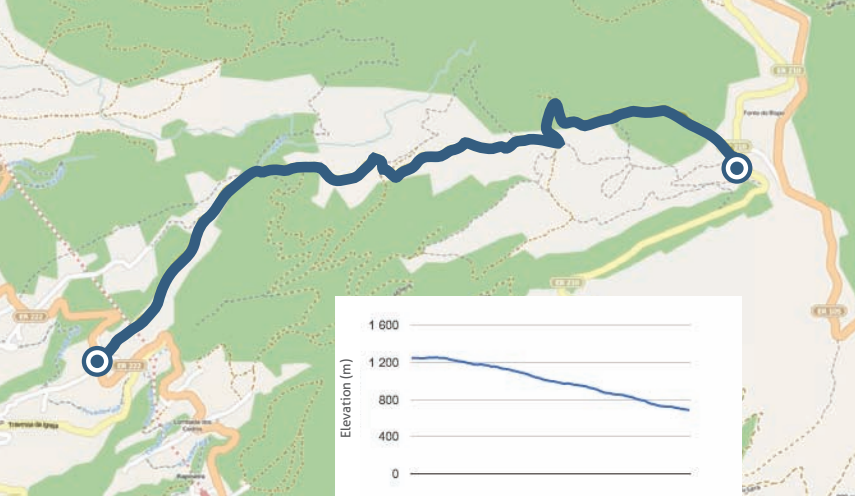


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Prazeres, follow the first exit of the Via Expresso towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the Crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 210), go left until you reach Fonte do Bispo;
- The trail is located on the left.





Route Summary

This particular course, named PBTT 1 is a dirt road that connects Fonte do Bispo to Florenças in Fajã da Ovelha.

Trails such as “Avalanche Raposeira” and PBTT 2 – Lombada dos Cedros share the same starting point.

This route is well-flagged in its entirety. Go west (to the right) between the centennial heathers and at times cattle that graze in the area. Along with PBTT 2 this is one of the least demanding tracks in Calheta. There are no single tracks along the 5km.

Although not technically demanding, the terrain is generally even meaning that the possibility of meeting Off-road vehicles is quite high. After about 3km you'll find some fences that you should always close behind you.

The course finishes near the first group of houses in Florenças.



Safety

Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.

PBTT 2

- Lombada dos Cedros

ITINERARY

Fonte do Bispo -
Lombada dos Cedros

START

Fonte do Bispo (E.R.
210)

END

Lombada dos Cedros
(E.R. 101)

Datasheet



Type

DOWNHILL



Difficulty

MEDIUM



Terrain

DIRT ROAD



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

4,9 KM



Time

8 – 20min

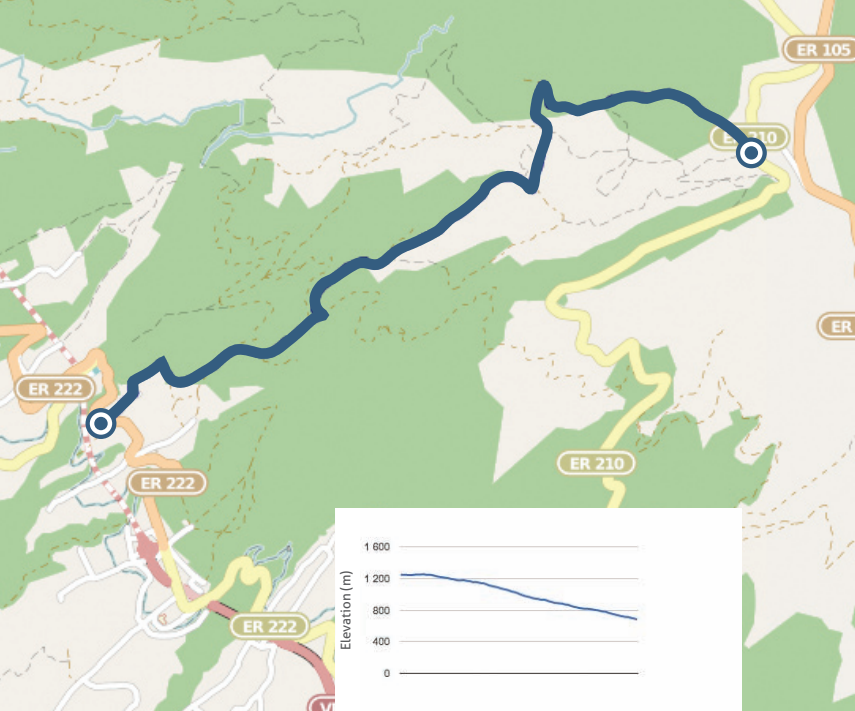


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Prazeres, follow the first exit of the Via Expresso towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the Crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 210), go left until you reach Fonte do Bispo;
- The trail is located on the left.





Route Summary

This track starts in the same area as "Avalanche Raposeira" but goes west (to the right).

It is one of the easiest trails in the Municipality because there are no single tracks. From start to finish follow the dirt roads. These roads are important in the prevention of forest fires and for the local shepherds in controlling their cattle that graze in the mountains north of Lombada dos Cedros.

The track is flagged by red and yellow arrows from beginning to end. The terrain is generally quite even but requires some attention due to the possibility of loose rocks.

At the half way point it's mandatory to stop and admire the winding roads in the mountains. Striking scenery!



Safety

Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.

Avalanche Raposeira

ITINERARY

Fonte do Bispo -
Lombo da Raposeira -
Raposeira do Lugarinho

START

Fonte do Bispo (E.R.
210)

END

Raposeira do Lugarinho
(E.R. 101)

Datasheet



Type

DOWNHILL



Difficulty

MEDIUM



Terrain

DIRT ROAD



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

4,9 KM



Time

8 – 20min



How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Prazeres, follow the first exit of the Via Expresso towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the Crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 210), go left until you reach Fonte do Bispo;
- The trail is located on the left.





Route Summary

Located at the crossing of dirt roads along the ER 210 is the start of Madeira's most important race track: Avalanche Raposeira.

Due to the altitude of the starting point the bends on the initial dirt road are always technical. The terrain is generally quite even and the dirt roads alternate with more fluid and enjoyable single tracks.

The only pedalling area is just before the single track with an intermediate double jump. The rest of the course is pure fun with jumps and off-camber corners until the end in the centre of Raposeira do Lugarinho.

Although recommended year round, keep in mind that during the rainy season there are very slippery areas.



Safety

Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.

Pipeline

ITINERARY

Zona de Lazer da
Caldeira - Malhada -
Lombo do Atouguia

START

Estrada Dr. Roberto
Monteiro

END

Caminho Lombo do
Atouguia

Datasheet



Type

ENDURO



Difficulty

EXPERIENCED



Terrain

SINGLE TRACK



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

4,3 KM



Time

9 – 20min



How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in Calheta, at the roundabout, take the 3rd exit towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 224);
- At the crossing with Estrada Dr. Roberto Monteiro, follow until you reach Zona the picnic area of Caldeira;
- The trail is located on the right.





Route Summary

Starting at the picnic area of Caldeira, this track follows the first 800m of the Rabaçal walk (Levada das 25 Fontes). Once you arrive at the tunnel, go right, it is advisable that you dismount and transport your bike by hand until you reach the trail visible on your right.

The track is fluid with a few pedalling areas and some wooden steps. Beware when passing the tube that transports water from the plateau to the hydroelectric power station of Calheta. On rainy days this spot is very dangerous.

The single track ends near the Levadeiros house, at the Levada da Rocha Vermelha, follow the dirt road ahead until Lombo do Atougua.



Safety







Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.

Blackline Prazeres

ITINERARY	START	END
Pico de Feiteirinha - Lombo da Igreja - Lombo da Velha	Pico de Feiteirinha (E.R. 105)	Lombo da Velha (E.R. 210)

Datasheet

 Type DOWNHILL	 Difficulty EXPERIENCED	 Terrain SINGLE TRACK
 Direction ONE WAY	 Distance 3,2 KM	 Time 7 – 15min

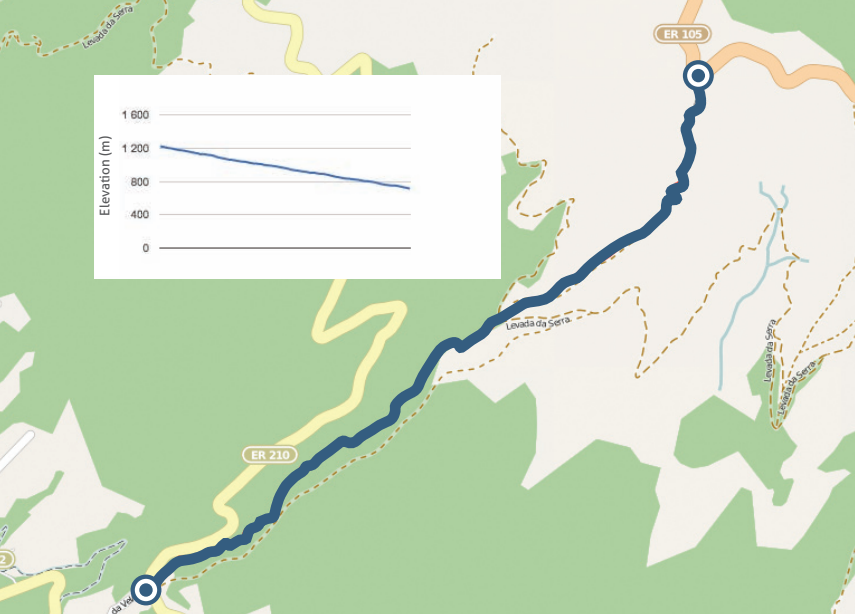


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in Calheta, at the roundabout, take the 3rd exit towards Estrada Dr. Roberto Monteiro;
- At the crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 105), follow the left until Pico de Feiteirinha;
- The trail is located on the left.





Route Summary

This is one of the most sought after tracks by madeirans because, technically, it is the whole package.

The starting point is quite open with very technical and fast areas and at the first toboggans the terrain is rocky.

During winter this part of the track is altered due to the degradation of the terrain making it far too risky. After this initial area, the track is on a less demanding dirt road although you may alternatively go through the two toboggans to the left. The ground is covered in sludge, do not touch the brakes here as it is very slippery.

Once you arrive at a fence you enter the Downhill track of Prazeres: Fast, winding track between eucalyptus with many roots where you'll find drops, gaps (3 to 4 high level jumps) and some bermed corners.

Guaranteed fun, but make sure you're up to it first. Due to its length and easy logistics a recon descent is recommended before going down full speed.



Safety

Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.

Hunters Trail + Redline Prazeres

ITINERARY

Pico dos Bodes - Lombo
das Uveiras - Lombo da
Velha

START

Pico dos Bodes (E.R.
105)

END

Lombo da Velha (E.R.
210)

Datasheet



Type

ENDURO



Difficulty

VERY EXPERIENCED



Terrain

SINGLE TRACK



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

6,2 KM



Time

18 – 30min

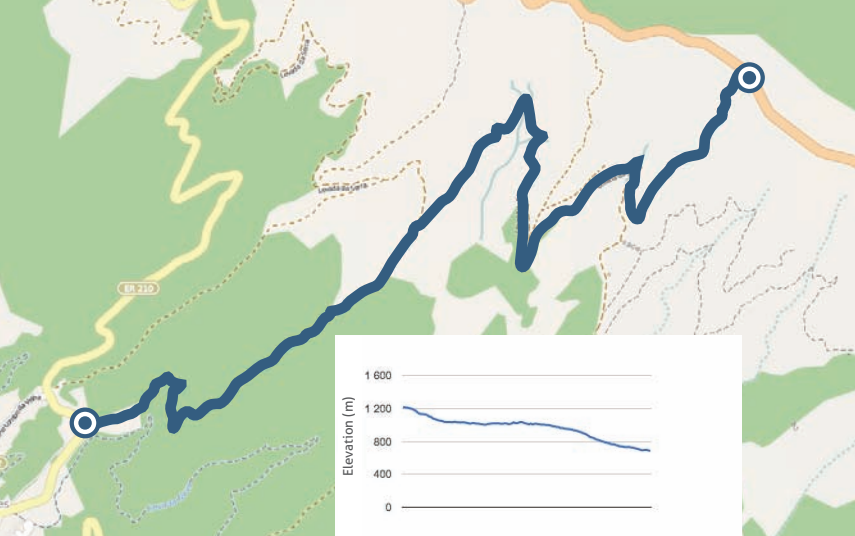


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in Calheta, at the roundabout, take the 3rd exit towards Estrada Dr. Roberto Monteiro;
- At the crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 105), follow the left until Pico dos Bodes;
- The trail is located on the left.





Route Summary

The starting point of this single track is just after the start of the “Bermudas” course, in the Prazeres – Paul da Serra direction. It is located to the right of a straight road that ascends slightly.

The “Hunters Trail” is visible next to the fence and to reach it you must open a gate made of heather branches. Always be certain to close the gate as it bounds the grazing area.

This is a technical, descending trail with rocky terrain, roots and some closed bends. Beware of the ground when wet as it can get very slippery.

The “Hunters trail” ends at the dirt road and to reach “Redline” you should take the right. In total it’s about 5 minutes of pedalling through one of the most important grazing areas in Madeira, until you reach the starting point of “Redline” that is located to the left hand side of a closed bend to the right. After a few minutes of pedalling your adrenaline will rise, “Redline” is a fast track with gaps, jumps, roots and bermed corners.

This trail is very popular due to its diversity and fluidity, being purely freeride. At the end there is another dirt road that takes you to the ER 210.



Safety

Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.

Vacas + Patrica



ITINERARY

Fonte do Bispo - Pico Alto - Salão de Cima

START

Fonte do Bispo (E.R. 210)

END

Salão de Cima (E.R. 101)

Datasheet



Type

DOWNHILL



Difficulty

EXPERIENCED



Terrain

SINGLE TRACK



Direction

ONE WAY



Distance

8,2 KM



Time

18 – 30min

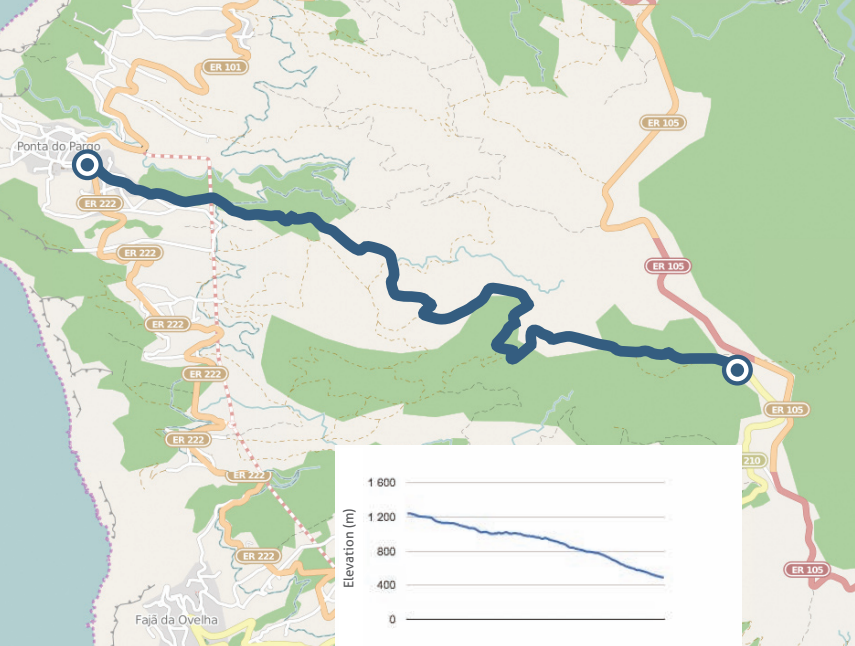


How to get here

With Funchal as reference:

- Take the Via Rápida (VR1) towards Ribeira Brava;
- In Ribeira Brava, follow the Via Expresso (VE3) towards Ponta do Sol and Calheta;
- Once you arrive in the village of Prazeres, follow the first exit of the Via Expresso towards the Estrada Regional (E.R. 101);
- At the Crossing with the Estrada Regional (E.R. 210), go left until you reach Fonte do Bispo;
- The trail is located on the left.





Route Summary

An enduro from Fonte do Bispo to Ponta do Pargo, starting in the area of Fonte do Bispo, near the forestry house, on a grassy single track next to the dirt road. This route is presented together with Patrica because they follow one another in the same area.

Vacas is characterized as having inclined enclosed areas with rocks, followed by an area with stairs inside a toboggan until you reach the start of the Patrica track at the top of Pico Alto.

Patrica starts close to a geodetic pillar, a track that is 100% downwards, also recommended for Downhill enthusiasts. The stunning views over the hills of Ponta do Pargo and the fluidity of the trail are fascinating.

Along the route there are some double jumps, where the less inexperienced must be cautious. Beware of the fence jump however it is clearly visible. The final part is a lot of fun with double jumps and bermed corners.



Safety

Necessary / recommended equipment:

Full Face Helmet; Gloves; Knee pads; Elbow pads; Mobile Phone; Thermal blanket; Waterproof jacket; Puncture repair kit; Inner tube.



CALHETA VIVA
MUNICÍPIO

ROUTES

Calheta - Levadas, Trails & MTB
2015

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