



PR
1

Vereda do Areiro



Legend

- Regional road
- Footpath
- Rural road
- Water course
- Stream
- House
- Tunnel
- Information Point
- Government House
- Coffee Shop
- Natural flora
- Belvedere
- Fauna
- Parking



The Footpath

This trail is unique in that it links the two highest peaks of Madeira Island, Pico Ruivo (1861 m) and Pico do Areiro (1817 m), traversing part of the Central Mountain Massif, an area integrated in the Natura 2000 Network.

Starting from the Pousada (Inn) of Pico do Areiro, within a short distance we come upon the Ninho da Manta (Buzzard's Nest) belvedere. From this platform where this bird of prey is supposed to have bred, one can see the valley of Fajã da Nogueira, where some Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) breed, São Roque do Faial and a large part of the Central Mountain Range. This is the only known breeding site in the world of Zino's petrel (*Pterodroma madeira*), a species endemic to the island and considered to be the most endangered seabird of Europe.

To reach Pico Ruivo, we must go around Pico das Torres up a steep incline of steps carved in the rock and then descend, the most difficult part of this trail being the final climb to the Shelter at Pico Ruivo. But the thought of reaching the highest point of the island is a driving force.

Along the way, we find various caves dug out of the volcanic tuff where the cattle took refuge and which served as shelter for the shepherds; we can also see various birds, some of the more important ones being species restricted to Macaronesia, the canary (*Serinus canaria*), Berthelot's pipit (*Anthus berthelotii madeirensis*) and the plain swift (*Apus unicolor*), as well as other sub-species found only in the Madeira archipelago: the Madeira rock sparrow (*Petronia petronia madeirensis*), chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs madeirensis*), and the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*).

For those who enjoy plants, this area is known as a high-altitude heath and is marked by the presence of various endemisms of Madeira, which include the Madeira violet (*Viola paradoxa*), Madeira grey heather (*Erica madeirensis*), the rock orchid (*Orchis scopolorum*), and the Madeira kidney (*Anthyllis lemnioides*).

Near the Pico Ruivo shelter, you will find footpath PR 1.2, which leads to Achada do Teixeira. At Achada do Teixeira you can see "Homem em pé" (Standing Man), a basalt rock formation found on the way down the slope after you pass the shelter at Achada do Teixeira.

Description

Distance: 7 Km / 5.6 Km

Time: 3h 30m/ 3h

Highest point: 1861m

Lowest point: 1542m

Start: Pico do Areeiro Belvedere

Finish: Pico ruivo

Warning

Weather is subject to frequent changes, take warm clothing; Tunnels en route, carry a torch; Carry drinking water.

Contacts

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Emergency number | 112 |
| Civil Protection | 291700112 |
| Bus 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 "barreletes 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 (litters 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:

Texts: Regional Forest Bureau

Photography: Regional Forest Bureau

Field work: Regional Forest Bureau

Graphic design: PEC

Coordination: Ana Sé

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

Advertising pamphlet 1st Edition 2005 - 500 units

REPRODUCTION INTERDICT

PR
1

Vereda do Areeiro

Madeira Island Footpaths

