



PR
16

Levada Fajã do Rodrigues

RIBEIRA DO INFERNO
Alt 580m



Legend

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



Information Point



Natural Flora



Fauna



Belvedere



São Vicente Valley



Flora

The Footpath

This trail begins at Ginjas in the municipality of São Vicente and follows the walkway beside the Fajã do Rodrigues levada or the Fajã da Ama Levada, the two names by which it is known, ending at the source of the levada in Ribeira do Inferno.

This levada lies at an elevation of 580 metres and has its source in the bed of the Ribeira do Inferno stream, which separates the lands of Seixal from those of São Vicente and winds across ridges and through small valleys up to Rosário, to be used for the irrigation of the farm fields of São Vicente.

The exotic forest which you encounter at the beginning of the trail, with maritime pines (*Pinus pinaster*) and eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*), precedes the dense vegetation characteristic of the native forest – the Laurisilva, World Nature Heritage of UNESCO since December 1999.

Waterfalls and frequent streams guarantee vitality to the species such as the Canary willow (*Salix canariensis*), as well as the large Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*), Madeira mahogany (*Persea indica*), and the Lily-of-the-Valley tree (*Clethra arborea*) that abound along the levada. You'll also notice the flowering species, such as geraniums (*Geranium palmatum*), Mandon's Chrysanthemum (*Argyranthemum pinnatifidum*), Madeiran orchid (*Dactylorhiza foliosa*), and Canary buttercup (*Ranunculus cortusifolius*), easily recognised by their bright yellow flowers.

Tunnels are common along this levada, and as you pass between the many, long tunnels, you will have a chance to appreciate the beautiful panoramic views of the São Vicente Valley landscape.

You may catch sight of some of the birds that inhabit the areas that border this trail, from chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs maderensis*), to the tiny birds such as the firecrest (*Rugulus ignicapillus maderensis*), which give life to this ecosystem and please the ear with their songs.

Let yourself be enthralled by the scenery that surrounds you, as you wonder at the valleys that drop down to the bed of the stream and catch your breath for the return trip.

Description

Distance: 3.9Km (+ 3.9Km return)

Time: 3h 30m

Highest point: 580m

Lowest point: 580m

Start: Ginjas

Finish: Ginjas

Warning

Long tunnel en route, carry a torch; danger of vertigo.

Contacts

Emergency number	112
Civil Protection	291700112
Buses (RODOESTE)	291220148
Taxis (São Vicente)	291842238

Local Festivities

- Festa de Nossa Senhora da Paz (last Sunday of July)
- Festa de Nossa Senhora da Saúde (1st Sunday of August)
- São Vicente Municipality Day (last week of August)
- Festa do Senhor Bom Jesus (1st Sunday of September)
- Festa Nossa Senhora do Rosário (1st Sunday of October)

Handcrafts

Madeira embroidery; Patchwork tapestries; Woollen garments; Caps with ear flaps or "barretes de vilão".

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



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Madeira Island Footpaths

