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Levada do Caldeirão Verde

The Footpath

This trail begins at the Queimadas Forestry Park and winds along the walkway of the levada of Caldeirão Verde at 990 m elevation, in the municipality of Santana.

The levada of Caldeirão Verde is an impressive work of art built in the 18th century that begins in the main stream bed of the Caldeirão Verde brook. Passing through steep cliffs and mountains, it carries the water that runs off the highest mountains of Madeira, to be used to irrigate the farm lands of the parish of Faial. This levada is used for agricultural purposes, but it is also an important means of reaching the interior of the deep valley of the São Jorge brook on foot, offering the traveler a vertiginous and spectacular view of the mountainous terrain of the interior of the island and the opportunity to walk through tunnels carved by hand out of the rock.

At the Queimadas Forestry Park there is a shelter (*Casa de Abrigo das Queimadas*), which retains the original features of the typical houses of Santana, including a marvelous thatched roof. Worthy of mention are the excellent specimens of elegant Japanese cedars (*Cryptomeria japonica*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) with their dense reddish foliage, Canary Island junipers (*Juniperus cedrus*), Madeira laurel (*Ocotea foetens*), Pau branco or southern olive (*Picconia excelsa*), hundred-year-old broom heath (*Erica scoparia*) as well as some specimens of lily-of-the-valley tree (*Clethra arborea*), and Madeira blueberry (*Vaccinium padifolium*), which can be seen along the trail. Species of indigenous avifauna that can be seen include the chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), the firecrest (*Regulus ignicapillus madeirensis*), the Madeira long-toed pigeon (*Columba trocaz trocaz*), grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea schmitzi*), and the buzzard (*Buteo buteo hartefi*).

Close to the Queimadas Park one can see off to the side a small settlement called Achada do Marques, a site that has been designated as Protected landscape, noted for its traditional farm terraces and old stone cow huts.

After you pass through the 4 tunnels on the route, Caldeirão Verde appears on the left of the levada and one has only to climb a few metres along the stream bed to reach it. The Caldeirão Verde lake is formed by water that falls from the bed of the Caldeirão Verde stream bed from a height of approximately 100m.

Indulge yourself and revel in the surrounding scenery and catch your breath for the return trip.



Legend

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



Information Point



Litter



Government House



Fauna



Natural Flora



Picnic Spots



Caldeirão Verde lake



Queimadas Forestry Park

Description

Distance: 6.5 Km (+6.5 Km return)
Time: 5h 30m
Highest point: 980m
Lowest point: 890m
Start: Queimadas Forestry Park
Finish: Queimadas Forestry Park

Warning

Tunnels en route, carry a torch; the path may be slippery, wear anti-slip footwear.

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 "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 (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 ...

- 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

