

MADEIRA 2007

15th February 2007 – Achada Da Teixeira to Encumeada



Above left – Jill heading up towards Pico Ruivo. Above right – Heading for Pico Ruivo.
Below – maps & route descriptions



Description

PR 1.2

Distance: 2.8km (+ 2.8 Km return)
Time: 1h 20m
Maxim altitude: 1841 m
Minim altitude: 1528 m
Start: Achada da Teixeira
End: Achada da Teixeira

Beginning at Achada da Teixeira this trail climbs up to the island's highest peak, Pico Ruivo (1841m). Next to the Pico Ruivo shelter you can gain access to 3 other trails that take the hiker to different parts of the island: PR 1 – Pico do Areeiro footpath (5 Km), which takes you to Pico do Areeiro, the island's 2nd highest peak (1814m); PR 1.3 – Encumeada footpath (8.6 Km), goes along the mountain ridge to the West side of the island, along the central mountain range of the island; and PR 1.1 – Ilha footpath (8.2 Km), which descends to the parish of Ilha. Along the climb you will meet several shelters as the change in climate is sudden and sharp and the area often becomes covered in a sea of clouds or rain above 1500m.

This area is part of the European network of important areas – Natura 2000 – and is known as the central mountain massif. At Achada da Teixeira you can also visit the "Standing Man" ("Homem sem pé"), a basalt formation which, when walking down the hill towards Funchal, you will find after passing the Achada da Teixeira shelter.

Warnings: The climate is very variable, take warm clothing.

Description

PR 1.3

Distance: 11.26km
Time: 4h
Maxim altitude: 1741m
Minim altitude: 1000m
Start: Casa de abrigo do Pico Ruivo
End: Encumeada

This trail starts at the Pico Ruivo shelter and runs along the backbone of the island, crossing the central mountain chain of Madeira that divides the northern and southern slopes. Marked by frequent climbs and descents, the trail winds along at elevations between 1800 and 1000 metres as it heads towards Encumeada. Extremely beautiful landscapes await travellers as they cross two types of ecosystems, both of which are part of the European Network of Sites of Community Interest – Natura 2000 Network: the Central Mountainous Massif and the Laurisilva Forest. As you near Encumeada the feeling you are in the middle of an island will increase, as you will have the first of contemplating landscapes of the southern slope (Serra d'Agua) as well as the valley of São Vicente to the north. Along the trail you will find various caves (furnas) dug out of the rocks, such as the Furna da Lapa da Cadeia, which in former times served as a refuge for men who passed by as they went about cutting heath (Erica scoparia ssp. madeirensis and Erica arborea) to be used for stakes, firewood, or making charcoal.



Above – Anne, Hillary, Sandra, Jessica & Liz on top of Pico Ruivo. Right – Alan at the top of Pico Ruivo.



Above left – breakfast stop. Above – the summit. Above right – view from the top.
Below left – Sandra & Jessica. Below right – the view.

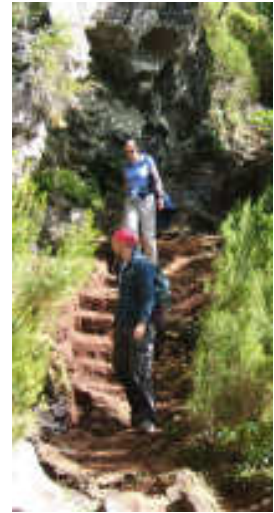


L-R: Alan, Terry, Jessica, Jill, Hillary, Anne, Steve, Bruno & Sandra.



Above left – steps. Above – Jessica, Terry, Hillary, Steve, Bruno, Kate, Anne & several heads! Above right – drink stop. Below left – Bruno. Below right – It's a hard life being a guide!





Above – the view. Right – Steve & Jill. Below – Steve & Jill. Bottom – various views.

