



PR
7

Levada do Moinho



Mill Levada



Water mills

Legend

- Regional road
- Foothpath
- Rural road
- Water course
- Stream
- House



Information point



Litter



Bus stop



Natural flora



Forest Police

The Foothpath

This trail begins at the E.R.101 regional road, by the Ribeira da Cruz River, which separates the Porto Moniz Municipal area from the Calheta Municipal area. Walking in the opposite direction to the flow of the water you can visit one of the springs that runs into this levada. To carry on to Junqueira you will have to turn around and go in the direction in which the water flows. Be aware that you will find a number of branches going off the levada that take water to irrigation system tanks.

The Levada Grande or Levada do Moinho (Mill Levada) is known as such because along its route there were several water mills, the ruins of three of which can still be seen (Achadas Mill, Cancelas Mill and Levada Grande Mill).

This is a popular levada which means it was built at the expense of its users and only they had a right to use it. The levada irrigated the whole of the Pico Alto area, covering Fajã do Nunes, a large part of the town, Fajã do Barro, Fajã dos Barbusanos and Arrudal, and along its route use of other water from wells and springs was not permitted.

At Pico Alto there is a place known as the Anel (Ring). At this place a bore-hole was built which sent a small amount of water to two ladies who suffered from leprosy who lived there. This was intended to supply water to the ladies without their contaminating all the water in the levada. Later, making use of that bore-hole, the Anel well was built to irrigate part of the land in Pico Alto.

Popular lore has it that the last spring to be tapped was that of Madre de Água, which comes up on the side of Ponta do Pargo, in the Calheta Municipal area. At that place, when the levada was being built, the people building Levada do Moinho and those building Levada da Ponta do Pargo, causing problems in linking the spring to the levada. As the people from Porto Moniz had taken figs for their picnic, they offered some to the people from Ponta do Pargo, warning them that they shouldn't eat the seeds as they were poisonous. So, while the Ponta do Pargo residents were distracted by separating the seeds from the figs, the Porto Moniz group built a small levada linked the Madre de Água spring to Levada do Moinho.

The trail ends at Tornadouro, in Junqueira, where the levada splits.

It should be pointed out that the bottom of some sections of the levada has been paved in order to waterproof areas from which water leaked.

Description

Distance: 10,3 Km
Time: 3h 30m
Maxim altitude: 900 m
Minim altitude: 496 m
Start: Ribeira da Cruz (E.R.101)
End: Junqueira (Tornadouro)

WARNING

In some areas the ground is slippery, use appropriate footwear.

Contacts:

Emergency: 112
Civil Protection: 291700112
Taxis Porto Moniz: 291852243
Municipality of Porto Moniz: 291850180

Local festivities:

Agricultural Fair.....July - 2° weekend
See Week.....end July / start August

Handcrafts:

Remnants of stuff Tapestry, Wool corset, Madelra embroidery

Field Code



Walking Code

- Do not stray way from the path.
- 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 ...

- Never walk alone.
- 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 routes.
- Don't take risks.

Promotor



Technical information:

Texts: Regional Forest Bureau; Municipality of Porto Moniz
Photography: Regional Forest Bureau
Field work: Regional Forest Bureau
Graphic design: PEC
Coordination: Sara Fretas

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

1° Edition 2004 - 500 units
REPRODUCTION INTERDIC

PR
7

Levada do Moinho

Madeira Island Footpaths

