

Ribeira da Igreja (integrale)

Arruda integrale

Create: 2024-03-25 19:03:04	Update: 2025-08-19 21:40:39	Print: 2026-02-11 05:02:07
Country: Portugal Region: Madeira Subregion: Town: Porto Moniz		
Difficulty: difficult	Grading: v5 a2 V	Total time: 7h20
Approach time: 35min	Tour time: 6h	Return time: 45min
Altitude entry: 560m	Altitude exit: 0m	Delta Altitude: 560m
Canyon length: 350m	Highest rappel: 60m	Amount rappels: 25
Transport: Cablecar	Rock type:	Drainage area: km ²
Season: October - May	Orientation: Northwest	Best Time: 9-14 o'clock
Rating: ★ 3.8 (2)	Info: ★ 3 (2)	Belay: ★ 2.3 (3)
Warnings: <i>Observe tides / swell</i> Canyon is located on the coast. A safe way back is only possible at low tide and when the waves are low.		
Specialities:		
Gear: Ropes: 2x60, 2x40, 1x20		
Summary: (machine translated) Vertical rappel canyon with a spectacular 200-meter waterfall through the cliffs in the northwest of Madeira.		
Hydrology: (machine translated) After long dry periods, the Igreja falls dry.		
Access: (machine translated) Park in Achadas da Cruz at the mountain station for the cable car (Teleferico) (1 car). If you have a 2nd car: Drive back up the road and after 1.2 km take the first right (Rua Juvenal Isidoro de Carvalho). Follow this asphalt road for a good 350 meters and park on the right just before the exit (2 parking spaces by an electricity pylon).		
Approach: (machine translated) If 1 car is available, take the path described above on foot (approx. 25 minutes). Then turn right and walk the few meters to the exit of the concrete road, follow the path downhill. Cross the slope and continue downhill (the path gets a little lost here). Turn right at the ruined house and follow the more or less mown path. It leads along an edge slightly above former fields. At the exit, turn left downhill through the bamboo, past two ruins. Continue along the mown path, keeping straight ahead at any junctions, the left-hand arms are former attempts at access. Another ruin. Turn right here into the small "forest" and continue along the highest part towards the sea. A few sawn-off trees serve as a guide. Finally, you are at the edge of the sea, which breaks in waves on the pebble beach over 500 meters further down. Descend the dusty and slippery boulder field on the left and keep left at its foot through the bamboo towards the audible stream. Sawed-off branches and trees here and there can serve as orientation. (1 hour from the cable car station, 35 minutes from the 2nd car)		

Tour: (machine translated)

The tour begins immediately with the first rope traverse/rappel combination, both from trees.

Further abseils follow in quick succession up to a height of 25 meters, here and there a few blackberry bushes grow in the canyon, garden shears can be helpful. The first rappels are abseiled over rope rings around trees.

Finally, there are abseiling points where solid rock has made it possible to drill titanium anchors. After the second higher waterfall, a short walking passages follows and you stand at the edge of the huge waterfall, which is abseiled in 5 lengths: MC 8, C50, C40, small pool with some space, MC 8, C60, minimum walking passages, C10, C40.

This is followed by the Igreja inferior, there is a theoretical possibility to get out via an old path, but the path from here is extremely exposed and currently (October 2024) can only be walked on with a very high risk of falling due to landslides, often the path is not usable after landslides. This is definitely an EMERGENCY exit. It starts on the right bank between the knee-high plants.

In the Igreja inferior there are 9 more abseiling points up to 50 meters.

Return: (machine translated)

When you reach the sea, turn orographic right (the sea will be on your left). If a high tide cuts off the path at a rock ledge, you can climb it. There is an anchor at the top to rappel down the other side. After a good 15 minutes over rough scree, you can climb 2 to 3 meters up a bad staircase of boulders on the right. At the top, follow the path until it joins a paved road. Now turn left and walk to the valley station of the cable car (45 min).

Take this to the top. Pay attention to the travel times and don't forget to pay for your ride at the top (one way 3 euros (October 2024)). If the cable car does not run (wind, too late, defective), there is the option of climbing 200 meters northeast of the cable car via the Vereda do Calhau to the top station. The path initially leads up steep steps through the Ribeira do Tristao canyon. Keep right at the fork. (450 m, 75 min).

Coordinates:

Parking Entry and Exit [32.8527 -17.2098](#)

Canyon Start [32.8449 -17.2209](#)

Parking at Entry [32.8449 -17.2131](#)

Reports:

2025-08-17 | Casa Vento Madeira | ★★★★★ | ⚓ ★★★ | ⚓ ★★★★ | ⚓ Low | 🌟 Completed

An incredible panorama awaits you from the edge of the high waterfall, before which you walk through an easy canyon that is sometimes a little overgrown and equipped with titanium glued anchors throughout. However, these are sometimes difficult to find, especially in the lower part, as they are similar in color to rock. The pictures show: 1) The rope traverse to the C60 2) C60 from below 3) Views over the coast 4) The sea is close (machine translated)

2024-10-21 | Casa Vento Madeira | ★★★★★ | ⚓ ★★★ | ⚓ ★★★★ | ⚓ Dry | 🌟 Completed

The canyon is now fully equipped, in places there are still old anchors from the first ascent, these will be removed soon. Some abseiling points are still equipped with fixed ropes, all high waterfalls except for one C25 with titanium glued anchors. (machine translated)

2024-03-06 | Christian Balla | ⚓ | ⚓ | ⚓ Low | 🚫 Emergency exit

We tried to find an alternative to the extremely dangerous access to the Ribeira da Igreja (inférieur) with lots of equipment and ropes. From the starting point of the Igreja inferiore it is clear to see that there is an upper part. This can also be seen on maps. However, we didn't get very far. It was all extremely overgrown. We made our way through the bushes for the first few meters. Another attempt must follow at some point ... ATTENTION: - CANYON IS NOT YET SET UP! - FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR IGREJA INFERIORE! (machine translated)

Parts:

Ribeira da Igreja (inférieur), v5 a2 V, 1h30+2h30+45min

Ribeira da Igreja (integrale), v5 a2 V, 35min+6h+45min

First descent: 21.10.2024 by Michael Jordan, Casa Vento Madeira