Ribeira da Igreja (inférieur)

Auch bekannt als "Arruda"

Info: The quality of this description has not been checked yet or was rated bad.
If you know this canyon, please check this description and file a report with a rating for this description using *Reports -> +New Report.* Should you notice any error, please let us know or join the community in order to fix this description yourself.

Create: 2023-08-30 19:14:47	**Update:** 2025-08-19 21:47:35	**Print:** 2026-11-10 02:11:26
Country: Portugal **Region:** Madeira **Subregion:** **Town:** Porto Moniz		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a2 V	**Total time:** 4h45
Approachtime: 1h30	**Tourtime:** 2h30	**Returntime:** 45min
Altitude entry: 220m	**Altitude exit:** 10m	**Delta Altitude:** 210m
Canyon length: 200m	**Highest rapell:** 50m	**Amount rapells:** 9
Transport: Cablecar	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: December - April	**Orientation:** Northwest	**Best Time:**
Rating: ☆ 3.4 (3)	**Info:** ★ 1 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 1.7 (3)

Warnings:
Observe tides / swell
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: 2x50m, 2x20m
drill tool,

Summary: (machine translated)
Pure rappel canyon without gorge character with incomparable views of the Atlantic. All abseiling points are equipped with 2 titanium glued anchors. These are often not easy to find as the color is very similar to the rocks.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
From Porto Moniz, take the Achadas da Cruz cable car (Teleferico).

Approach: (machine translated)
Take the cable car down (please note the opening times for the way back!), then turn left and walk to the exit of the settlement. You can see the last waterfall. Before the drop-off to the sea, a path starts that is extremely difficult to recognize and leads through the seemingly impassable cliff face. At the beginning, you can follow a black water pipe in places. This path is officially closed. After an exciting 30 minutes, you reach the watercourse at a striking rock ledge. Caution: Depending on whether the last landslides have been repaired, the path may be impassable. If in doubt, it is better to make hairpin bends and always make sure that the passages you go up must be safe to return to, as the path may be impassable at the exit.

Tour: (machine translated)
Abseil point follows abseil point, you cover significantly more meters on the rope than on your feet. The last abseiling point is treadless and exposed. If the sea is calm, you can spot the tower of a shipwreck in the sea near the shore. The waterfall leads to the scree beach.

Return: (machine translated)
When you reach the sea, turn orographic right (the sea will be on your left). If the 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. Follow the path at the top 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. If the cable car does not run (wind, too late, defective), you can climb 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:
Canyon End 32.8467 -17.2238
Parking Entry and Exit 32.8525 -17.2099

Reports:

2024-10-21 | Casa Vento Madeira | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Dry | 👎 Not done
I used the access today as a way back / exit from the Igreja Superior. There have been several heavy landslides and the path is currently only passable with a very high risk of falling. The path will probably be repaired soon, as it is being used to maintain a water pipe. However, this may well take several months. I must therefore strongly advise against walking on it. (machine translated)

2023-01-17 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Various titanium glued anchors set. (machine translated)

2023-01-17 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Very dangerous approach! Pay attention to tides, swell and cable car operating times! (machine translated)

2021-01-26 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
First ascent, all expedition-style anchors from DIY chains. (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: 26.01.2021 by Michael Jordan, Casa Vento Madeira