Ribeira das Furnas

Furnas Ribeira Brava

Create: 2023-08-30 19:12:19	**Update:** 2024-10-27 00:16:05	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:16
Country: Portugal **Region:** Madeira **Subregion:** **Town:** Ribeira Brava		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a2 IV	**Total time:** 3h35
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 2h30	**Returntime:** 5min
Altitude entry: 400m	**Altitude exit:** 165m	**Delta Altitude:** 235m
Canyon length: 500m	**Highest rapell:** 85m	**Amount rapells:** 11
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: January - December	**Orientation:** Southeast	**Best Time:** 9-18 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 3.5 (10)	**Info:** ★ 2.7 (6)	**Belay:** ★ 2.3 (8)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 2x65m, 2x25m

Summary: (machine translated)
Rappel canyon without long running sections, in places a very deep canyon in which the waterfalls gradually increase in depth.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
By car:
Parking lot at the chapel of Meia Legua.
With two cars:
Drive up to Furna and park directly after the tunnel before entering the village.

Approach: (machine translated)
By car:
Walk up the Vereda das Furnas stairway, which offers a great first impression of the waterfalls. When the path flattens out, stay on it for a few more minutes until a small path between a wooden telephone pole and a steel electricity pylon leads down into the cultivated fields. Orientation is somewhat difficult here, depending on the path you choose, you will end up more or less high up in the stream. Ideally, you should start the tour under a large tree with a small downclimb a few meters before the first rappel. (60 min)
With two cars:
Walk a few meters further towards the village and then descend the stairway and follow it along the houses. Shortly after the last houses are behind you, a small path branches off sharply down to the left between a wooden telephone pole and a steel electricity pylon. See above for the rest. (25 min)

Tour: (machine translated)
It doesn't start very spectacularly with a few small abseils. After the 4th anchor, we find ourselves in a beautiful, deep canyon. At the 8th anchor, the character of the canyon changes again massively: the canyon opens up significantly and we find ourselves in the 85-metre-high cascade of Furnas Canyon. This is rappelled in two lengths. There is limited space for 3 to 4 people at the intermediate belay station. This is followed by a 50 meter waterfall (10m + 40m, there is just enough uncomfortable space for people at the intermediate stand) and a 20 meter waterfall. A little further through the undergrowth and you can see the back of the church.

Return: (machine translated)
Climb up the concrete wall on the right and go behind the church to the car. Behind the church there is a brief feeling of blessing.

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 32.7027 -17.0434
Canyon End 32.7003 -17.0429
Parking Entry and Exit 32.6997 -17.0426
Parking at Entry 32.7042 -17.0470

Reports:

2026-01-06 | Clarissa Linder | ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
The damaged stance can be left out and rappelled from above in one go. For the remaining stands, see Mitch's comment. Unfortunately again a lot of garbage in the stream... The "Segnes feeling" at the exit makes up for it somewhat - very humorous description :D (machine translated)

2025-06-26 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Apparently there was a strong flood between April 20th and today. Although the canyon is passable, at least we got down safely, some of the anchors in the narrow area are bent. Two of them are definitely no longer usable. As soon as I have replaced them, I will post this here. It is currently not advisable to climb the route. Access via the stairway on the right bank is still closed. The flood has taken most of the garbage with it. (machine translated)

2025-04-20 | Sascha Schäfer | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
The high rappels are worthwhile, for anchors see description Mitch. Access is no longer possible as the path is closed, only shuttle by car possible. At the access to the creek it goes from the path through the fields down to the creek. (machine translated)

2025-04-20 | Mitch | ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
I can't share the opinion about the glued U-hooks. They look like something from a DIY store or homemade. I cannot estimate how deep they are drilled or whether a thread or similar measures are provided at the back to clamp the glue. Glue has also been used very "sparingly". 2 stands are drilled directly in the waterline and have clear tracks from the rock contact. At the intermediate belay in the 2nd high rappel, a U-anchor "sounds" loose. There was a lot of garbage in the canyon at the top. (machine translated)

2024-12-19 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
One of my favorite canyons in Madeira. All anchors top. (machine translated)

2024-10-08 | Patrik Bartel | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
Beautiful rappel canyon in the southern part of Madeira. (machine translated)

2024-10-08 | Bina | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Low | 👍 Completed
We walked up the many steep steps from Meia Légua and reached the canyon in 45 minutes. We were pleasantly surprised. (machine translated)

2024-03-08 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Very nice canyon, now top equipped! Be careful at the high C90 waterfall. There must be an extremely sharp ledge about 15 meters below the C65 intermediate stand. A canyonist has massively battered our ropes. (machine translated)

2023-04-16 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
The canyon is now fully equipped with U-shaped stainless steel glued anchors and chains at the high abseil points. There has been a landslide on the approach from below, but it is passable. (machine translated)

2023-01-24 | Christian Balla | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Predominantly new adhesive surfaces, still very old hooks in places as of Jan 2023 (machine translated)