Hortelã (Partie 2)

Ribeira da Hortelã intermedio (Partie 2)

Create: 2023-11-20 21:30:02	**Update:** 2026-05-17 12:10:57	**Print:** 2026-10-30 12:10:05
Country: Portugal **Region:** Região Autónoma da Madeira / Madeira **Subregion:** Ilha da Madeira **Town:** Seixal		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a3 III	**Total time:** 5h
Approachtime: 1h40	**Tourtime:** 2h30	**Returntime:** 50min
Altitude entry: 1080m	**Altitude exit:** 838m	**Delta Altitude:** 242m
Canyon length: 550m	**Highest rapell:** 26m	**Amount rapells:** 12
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: October - May	**Orientation:**	**Best Time:** 9-14 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 3.9 (6)	**Info:** ★ 2.8 (4)	**Belay:** ★ 2.8 (5)

Specialities:

Gear:
Ropes: 1x20m, 2x30m

Summary: (machine translated)
As the name suggests, this is the middle part of the Ribeira da Hortela Canyon. As the Levada do Norte channels almost all of the water in the upper section, there is usually little water flowing at the beginning, especially in summer, but this changes over the course of the tour due to various tributaries. In winter, when it rains extensively in the higher areas, the tour can become very aquatic.

Hydrology:

Access: (machine translated)
Option 1 (ascent from below, 1 car)
Park a car at the fish farm in the Chao da Ribeira valley at the very exit of the slope (see GPS data parking lot exit). Here you will find an information sign for canyoning.
Option 2 (ascent from above, 2 cars)
With the second car, first drive along the VE2 DIRECTION Porto Moniz and then via Ribeira de Janela (be careful, the exit is right at the exit of the dos Casais tunnel) along the ER 209 to the Rabacal plateau to the parking entry (see GPS data, 17.5 km route from the end of the tunnel). Here you will find an information sign about the various canyons.

Approach: (machine translated)
Option 1
Follow the initially wide, later narrower path in the same direction, cross the dam on the right and continue through the forest until you reach a wooden sign "Vereda dos Barbinhas". Cross the river Seixal here and look for the faintly recognizable path opposite (cairn). Climb up the steep wall until you reach the Levada do Seixal. Follow the levada in the direction of flow (the abyss is then on the right) for a good 50 meters, then the Lombo Barbinhas path continues less steeply. It leads to the Levada do Norte in 30 minutes. Follow this path AGAINST the direction of flow (abyss again on the right) through three tunnels until you reach the exit of the levada. Here you can change your clothes. (Total time approx. 2h, 3.8km, 700m)
Option 2
From the upper parking lot, we head almost north on a wide track ("Terra Cha"). We pass the accesses to Seixal superior and Hortela superior (both on the left). After a good 2.1 km (30 min), we turn left onto the slightly sloping slope. This leads to a hiking trail that descends steeply through the forest to the Levada do Norte ("Vereda do Lombo Barbinhas"). Once we reach the levada, we turn left and follow the levada against the direction of flow for a good 1200 meters through three tunnels. The canyon begins at the exit of the levada. (1h45min, 5.3km, -500Hm)
Variant 3
Combination with other parts of the various canyons above and/or below (Lombo do Queimado, Hortela parts 1 and 3, Seixal inferior, Folhado inferior, Vimieiro) There are hardly any limits to the imagination here, the middle part of the Hortela is only walked separately in exceptional cases.

Tour: (machine translated)
A good dozen abseils up to 26 meters high (30m rope) lead back to the Levada do Seixal, which is best reached via the orographic right anchor. The orographic left line leads through a window into the levada tunnel, but this is hidden behind the waterfall when the water level is high. There is also a risk that you will continue to the next anchor and then find yourself in the Hortela inferior (section 3).

Return: (machine translated)
Variant 1 and 2
You follow the levada orographically to the right (the abyss is then on your left) against the direction of flow for 710m to reach the Vereda do Lombo Barbinhas descent. Here you descend a steep and mostly slippery path to the main river in 30 minutes. Cross the main river to follow a small path through the forest out of the valley on the other side. This leads through the forest in a few minutes, cross the dam on the left and follow the slope across the meadows to the lower parking lot.
Crazy people park at the upper parking lot, climb up from there and return to the car after the tour

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 32.7789 -17.1068
Canyon End 32.7822 -17.1113
Parking at Entry 32.7651 -17.1015
Parking at Exit 32.7967 -17.1141
Waypoint 32.7881 -17.1097

Reports:

2026-10-19 | Isabella Rosenau | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
We did all the sections of the Hortela today. It's set up great. The stream is very slippery all the way through. (machine translated)

2026-05-21 | Andreas Gremmel | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Almost underrated - scenically an incredibly beautiful jungle canyon, to be climbed in combination with the lower part; the connecting waterfall is incredibly beautiful! In the lower part, some of the stands are very well hidden, so you have to look for them; (machine translated)

2026-05-15 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👎 Not done
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Hortelã (partie 2) Je vais essayer de clarifier la description:Le tronçon désigné ici comme « partie 1 » correspond à la section du canyon allant du plateau jusqu'à la Levada do Norte et comprend 22 rappels pouvant atteindre 40 mètres de long ; la plus haute cascade mesure 75 mètres et se franchit en trois rappels. Si l'on quitte la descente à la Levada do Norte, on peut soit redescendre, soit remonter ; dans le cas d'une remontée, un seul véhicule est nécessaire. Attention, le chemin du retour passe par trois tunnels étroits, une lampe est indispensable.La section « partie 2 » correspond à la partie située entre la Levada do Norte et la Levada do Seixal, qui comprend 11 rappels pouvant atteindre 27 mètres. En raison des longs trajets d'approche et de retour, ce tronçon est très rarement parcouru seul.Et si, malgré les descriptions données par les précédents contributeurs, quelqu'un souhaitait utiliser le relais à gauche de la dernière cascade : il est tout à fait possible d'accéder à la levada, car le tunnel dispose d'une fenêtre par laquelle on peut facilement pénétrer à l'intérieur. Cependant, celle-ci est généralement dissimulée juste derrière la cascade.Le tronçon « partie 3 » commence à la Levada do Seixal et se termine au confluent avec le cours d'eau principal de la vallée, la Ribeira do Seixal. Il comprend 14 rappels pouvant atteindre 50 mètres de hauteur et constitue la partie classique. (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22141/observations.html)

2026-04-27 | System User | |🕮 |⚓ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Automatisch importiert von Descente-Canyon.com für Canyon Hortelã (partie 2) (Quelle: https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon-debit/22141/observations.html)

2025-12-28 | Clarissa Linder | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
High water level after rainfall, superiore fun! (machine translated)

2024-11-08 | Airmax | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 ★ ★ ★ |⚓ ★ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Stream and anchors in good condition. Have previously done part 1. Part 1 and part 2 are often grouped together as the superiore part. (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ | |
Daten importiert von https://www.descente-canyon.com/canyoning/canyon/22141/Hortela-partie-2.html

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2022-10-07 | Bina | ☆ ☆ ☆ |🕮 |⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Everything ok (machine translated)