Ribeira da Loiral inferior

Create: 2026-03-15 10:45:21	**Update:** 2026-06-23 10:56:10	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:06
Country: Portugal **Region:** Madeira **Subregion:** **Town:** Ponta do Sol		
Difficulty: not as difficult	**Grading:** v3 a3 III	**Total time:** 6h
Approachtime: 1h	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 1h
Altitude entry: 980m	**Altitude exit:** 610m	**Delta Altitude:** 370m
Canyon length: 1400m	**Highest rapell:** 40m	**Amount rapells:** 28
Transport: Car required	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: November - May	**Orientation:** Northeast	**Best Time:** 9-14 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 3.2 (4)	**Info:** ★ 2.5 (4)	**Belay:** ★ 1.8 (4)
Specialities:		

Gear:
Ropes: 2x40m

Summary: (machine translated)
Rappel canyon with 30 abseiling points, all but one under 15 meters. Ideal in winter after rainfall. Far away from civilization. If you start early, you will have sun in the canyon.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
When it rains, the canyon drains a very steep and large area; debris in the canyon clearly shows that the canyon can become a trap. Don't be fooled by the amount of water at the entry, as various tributaries feed the tour during the descent, the flow can double or triple.

Access: (machine translated)
Lower car:
Drive as far into the Ribeira da Ponta do Sol valley as you dare. Towards the exit, the road is only accessible by off-road vehicles. Park in such a way that you do not obstruct the passage.
Upper car:
The parking entry is located far above Ponta do Sol at the exit of the Caminho do Pomar Dom Joao, shortly after it merges into the Levada de Marques Teixeira. It can be recognized by half a dozen red steel barriers.

Approach: (machine translated)
Follow the forest track into the valley, passing various tributaries along the way. At the exit, the track narrows to a narrow path that runs through the mountain flank, exposed in places, and finally ends at a waterfall that clatters as it falls onto a corrugated iron slab. This is our entry point.

Tour: (machine translated)
The tour begins comfortably with easy abseils that slowly lead deeper into the canyon. There are hardly any long sections. The maximum abseil height is 15 meters. The water is very clean. Various tributaries significantly increase the flow. After 25 abseils, you reach the highlight of the tour, a 35-metre drop that leads into a rock basin. It is reached via a rope traverse. After this, there is another short abseil and 15 minutes of block climbing until you finally reach the main river Ribeira da Ponta do Sol.

Return: (machine translated)
Follow this main river downstream for a good hour until you reach a wide dam wall, which you bypass on the left. Cross the river and follow the first narrow and then wide track. You can replenish your water supplies at the picnic area. Depending on how brave you are in the morning, you will have to walk for about 15 minutes until you reach the car at the bottom.

Coordinates:
Parking at Entry 32.7153 -17.0940
Parking at Exit 32.7105 -17.0866
Canyon Start 32.7382 -17.0878
Canyon End 32.7319 -17.0799

Reports:

2026-04-26 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
First ascent with a small group of 4 people. As the tour is still equipped with fixed ropes, it was a quick round. Be careful, some of the ropes are now damaged, have an open sheath and are very slippery in places. I installed a new rappel stand at the high rappel: 2 x 12 mm Inox threaded rods, glued in at a depth of 25 cm. A standardized stainless steel abseil stand was mounted on top. The next climber should tighten the nuts with a 19 mm wrench, as I didn't want to do this with fresh anchoring adhesive. (machine translated)

2026-03-14 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
First ascent of the canyon, the crux is really beautiful. Overall a perfect canyon for practicing belaying. Plenty of short waterfalls without much of a run and a spectacular final waterfall. Unfortunately, the peace and cleanliness of the stream comes at the price of a long but (in the sun) beautiful access and an equally long return. At present, all abseiling points are still equipped with 8mm stainless steel anchors, which will gradually be replaced by standardized anchors. (machine translated)

2026-03-11 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
Exploration only as far as the crux due to lack of sufficient battery. 25 equipped abseiling points, return via fixed ropes. (machine translated)

2026-01-25 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Normal | 👍 Completed
First day of exploring the stream. The first 16 abseils are set up. Return via fixed ropes. (machine translated)

First descent: 14.03.2026 by Michael Jordan, Casa Vento Madeira