Ribeira Seca ou do Paul

Ribeira Seca ou do Paul,Ribeira Seca Paul do Mar

Create: 2024-06-05 23:12:31	**Update:** 2025-12-22 20:21:38	**Print:** 2026-10-30 01:10:02
Country: Portugal **Region:** Madeira **Subregion:** **Town:** Paul do Mar		
Difficulty: difficult	**Grading:** v5 a4 III	**Total time:** 4h22
Approachtime: 20min	**Tourtime:** 4h	**Returntime:** 2min
Altitude entry: 370m	**Altitude exit:** 5m	**Delta Altitude:** 365m
Canyon length: 670m	**Highest rapell:** 95m	**Amount rapells:** 18
Transport: Car optional	**Rock type:**	**Drainage area:** km²
Season: November - April	**Orientation:** Southwest	**Best Time:** 10-15 o'clock
Rating: ☆ 4.3 (2)	**Info:** ★ 3 (2)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (2)
Specialities:		

Gear:
Ropes: 2x50, 2x40, 1x25

Summary: (machine translated)
Spectacular, almost always sunny abseiling tour, with sea views in places.

Hydrology: (machine translated)
In the summer months, there is usually very little to no water, and the lower part from the levada onwards is particularly inadvisable.

Access: (machine translated)
The exit is located in the immediate vicinity of the port of Paul do Mar, where there is ample parking.
The (non-compulsory) parking entry is located in Travessa da Poca in Maloeira. Shuttle time 15 minutes each way.

Approach: (machine translated)
Option 1 with a car:
From the harbor, hike through the canyon on the Caminho Real do Paul do Mar. This beautiful path offers several views of the two high waterfalls during the ascent, allowing you to check the water level, among other things. At the first junction at approx. 360m, follow the path on the left (Vereda da Maloeira). It crosses the stream directly at the entry point. Total time approx. 1 hour.
Variant 2 with two cars:
From the upper parking lot, take the concrete track (Rua do Pico) towards the sea, after approx. 200 meters the Vereda do Maloeira hiking trail branches off to the right. We follow this path downhill until we cross the stream after a good 20 minutes. At this point, the flow is very difficult to estimate.

Tour: (machine translated)
After a few meters in the stream, which are sometimes overgrown, the first easy slope follows, which is sometimes very slippery and then difficult to climb down. Shortly afterwards, the first real abseils follow, and after two to warm up, you can already see the first 100 meter drop. The anchors are not easy to find here. Three lengths overcome 10, 35 and 45 meters. There is little space at the intermediate belays.
Once at the bottom, you come to a tributary (Ribeira da Cova), which roughly doubles the amount of water depending on rainfall. The next endless waterfall follows without a long interruption: 10, 40 and 45 meters.
After a few smaller abseils, you can exit at a levada on the right and follow a path to a bridge. Here, rappel back down a tree into the canyon. This saves you a few dirty descents without character in drier phases. If water is clearly flowing past the levada, it is worth staying in the stream. After the bridge, there is a very nice final abseil with views of the sea and harbor.

Return: (machine translated)
It could hardly be any shorter, just go up the stairs on the right, across the harbor area to the car. (2 minutes)

Coordinates:
Canyon Start 32.7553 -17.2174
Canyon End 32.7525 -17.2234
Parking at Exit 32.7525 -17.2242
Parking at Entry 32.7612 -17.2123

Reports:

2026-05-16 | Andreas Gremmel | ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ | ≋ Crazy | 👍 Completed
Top canyon! Unfortunately very overgrown. Extreme water level, the intermediate levels at both high waterfalls in direct water jet, lower part no anchors (probably because otherwise always dry) - this time difficult downclimbs with teamwork because everything is slippery and partly in water jet! Access via pr19 (probably ticket necessary, nobody checked us) (machine translated)

2025-12-19 | Casa Vento Madeira | ☆ ☆ ☆ ½ | 🕮 ★ ★ ★ | ⚓ ★ ★ | ≋ High | 👍 Completed
After last weekend's rainfall, the water flow was exceptionally high, but still manageable. Access from the top with shuttle. I generally recommend being prepared for brambles and fallen trees to get in the way of a descent (saw, secateurs, gloves). Some anchors grow so overgrown within a season that it is only possible to thread a rope with bloody hands without the appropriate tools. The starting hook for the first high rappel is located on the left below a 2-meter-long chute. (machine translated)

2023-03-09 | System User | | 🕮 | ⚓ | |
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