Ribeira da Loiral superior

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País: Portugal **Región:** Madeira **Subregione:** **Ciudad:** Ponta do Sol		
Dificultad: difícil	**Grado:** v5 a2 III	**Tiempo total:** 4h25
Tiempo acceso: 25min	**Tiempo tour:** 3h	**Tiempo regreso:** 1h
Altitud de entrada: 1280m	**Altitud de salida:** 980m	**Altitude delta:** 300m
Longitud del cañón: 350m	**Rapel más alto:** 100m	**Cantidad rapells:** 10
Transporte: Coche opcional	**Tipo de roca:**	**Zona de entrada:** km²
Temporada: diciembre - junio	**Orientación:** Sur	**Mejor época:** 9-16 Horas
Clasificación: ☆ 3 (1)	**Información:** ★ 3 (1)	**Belay:** ★ 2 (1)

Especialidades:

Equipo:
Cuerdas: 1x20m, 2x30m, 2x70m

Resumen: (traducción alternativa)
A rappel canyon with a challenging start and a fantastic 100-meter waterfall, ideal during the rainier winter months.

Hidrología: (traducción alternativa)
It is best to visit after rainfall or during the winter and spring months.

Acceso: (traducción alternativa)
Option with two cars:
It’s best to use a navigation app. Drive past Ponta do Sol and Canhas onto Caminho Pomar Dom João and follow it along the part shown on Maps, past a large water tank, until you reach red metal bollards. There is space here to park 1 to 2 cars. Be sure to keep the driveway clear and do not park on walled-off private property! To reach the upper parking lot with the second car, simply follow the trail—which is concrete at first and then paved—for about 3.5 km until you see a hiking trail leading uphill in a left-hand curve. Here, on the left, you’ll find a narrow spot to park 1 to 2 cars. This route is not included in standard navigation apps! Alternatively, for those less adventurous off-road, there’s the option to take a wide detour via paved roads. This route is suggested by Maps, but at 14 km and a 25-minute drive, it’s significantly longer.
Route with one car:
At GPS coordinates 32.737832, -17.098988, turn off the ER 209 onto the paved road and follow it downhill for about 500 m until you reach the second bend. Here, on the right, there is a narrow strip of space to park 1 to 2 cars.

Acceso: (traducción alternativa)
Follow the uphill trail over the hilltop to the Levada do Paul 2. Follow this trail into the valley heading north until you reach a freshly paved (June 2026) dirt road. Follow this track downhill for 200 meters; now a barely visible path leads downhill through the meadow. Leave this path shortly afterward. A solitary, 10-meter-tall conifer serves as a landmark. From there, make your way through the underbrush toward the stream.
Total time: 25 minutes

Recorrido: (traducción alternativa)
Depending on which entry point you choose, the first few meters are more of a struggle through sometimes thorny underbrush than actual canyoning. The first equipped rappelling point—which is 3 meters high—can also be downclimbed if you're lucky. The anchor is on the ground and may be overgrown. If the surface is slippery, it's best to rappel directly to the next belay station (7 meters total). After another struggle with underbrush and, in some places, thorns, you'll reach the first of two taller waterfalls, each 30 meters high. Take a short breather with a 5-meter downclimb and a 6-meter rappel. Then you'll reach the heart of the tour: Access Path/Rope Traverse 8 // C30 // C70. The last 40 meters are overhanging. A real treat when the water level is good. This is followed by several more small drops of up to 15 meters. The last waterfall features a concrete trough, beneath which the water is channeled through corrugated metal. Be careful not to rappel past the water intake; otherwise, you'll end up in the Ribeira da Loiral inferior.
Total time: 3 hours

Regreso: (traducción alternativa)
You'll end up on a narrow, concrete path.
Option for two cars:
Follow this path on the orographic right past a small landslide. At first, the path is overgrown with grass, but after 15 minutes it becomes a freshly maintained road (June 2026). Follow this road for 45 minutes to the lower parking lot.
Total time: 60 minutes
Option with one car:
Follow the orographic path to the left (initially through brush and some thorns) until, after a good kilometer and 20 minutes, you come to a path leading left and uphill. Follow this path to the trail (800 m, 160 m elevation gain), then keep left, go through a short tunnel, and follow the trail uphill for 1.2 km/30 minutes until you reach the levada you saw during access. Be careful—it's easy to walk right past this point. Now follow the levada to the mountain ridge, and then head downhill to your car. Total time: approx. 1h30 / 4.2 km / 430Hm

Coordenadas:
Aparcamiento a la salida 32.7145 -17.0938
Aparcamiento a la entrada 32.7354 -17.0967
Final del Cañón 32.7382 -17.0878
Inicio del Cañón 32.7409 -17.0889

Informes:

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First ascent of the upper section of the route, low water level, great panoramic view of the valley. Remaining work, such as installing adhesive anchors and "landscaping," will follow. (traducción alternativa)

Primer descenso: 21.06.2026 en Michael Jordan, Matilde Klut und Team ICA Costa Rica