

Tourist itinerary – Sightseeing tour

Canico: From town to sea | 8km

Canico is a town of great contrasts with an urban densely populated center, terraced fields of traditional onion cultivation, waterstreams and rivers that extend from the mountains to the sea. This route tries to show a little of each of these scenarios and it starts in the center of town in the so called Garden Square – Praça do Jardim - in front of the tourist resort Quinta Splendida. Move forward towards the Street "Rua Dr. Francisco Peres" through the Basic School of Canico and later, the building of the Parish Council. Just in front, opposite the road, you will find

- 1. The Transformation Station**, one of several examples that are scattered a bit all over the island, designed by the important modern architect Chorrão Ramalho. Walk up the street and in Jardins do Canico (Canico Gardens) building, we suggest a visit to the Museum Centre of the local "Casa do Povo" (Citizen's House), where you can find old photos that represent the habits and traditions/customes of this town. Proceed towards the north to the crossing with the road João Gonçalves Zarco. On the left side of the Pharmacy take the Path "Vereda do Caminho Velho da Azenha" and within the first 20 meters you can find the
- 2. Vargem-Mill - 'Moinho da Vargem'**; carry on the route through
- 3. Old way to Azenha - 'Caminho Velho da Azenha'**, cobblestoned, sharp pebbles, always turning north, and to the left you can see the secular
- 4. Water Watch - 'Relógio de Água'** that once controlled the hours of irrigation and who could use it (the water from the waterstream). You should move towards north till you reach the intersection with Airport Road,
- 5. Waterstream - 'Levada da Azenha'**, where you can enjoy the view of the city center in the middle of rural environment. This waterstream/levada still has some
- 6. washing places, 'Lavadouros'**, washtubs of basalt stone, that may seem simple basalt stone flagstones arranged over the course of the water, but can still be used today. If you continue along the waterstream you can find some ruins at the brook,
- 7. The ruins of Victory Mill - 'Moinho da Vitória'** and later the
- 8. Wooden bridge over Canico river**. When crossing the river you are already in the old Path Caminho do Castelo. This will take you to
- 9. the old Way 'Caminho Velho do Castelo'**. Start descending, go down this steep street to the crossroad with Airport Road – in Castelo, keep going further until you reach the crossroad with "Estrada João Gonçalves Zarco". Turn left at
- 10. The Village Pub** and just ahead on the left you will see a traditional
- 11. Grocery** (former factory of pasta); right in front go down the street
- 12. Rua Canto do Ribeiro** and continue to the crossroad with the street "Rua João Paulo II" and turn left at the
- 13. Greengrocer / Groceries**. Opposite you will find
- 14. The grocery store 'Venda do 19'**, where you can enjoy a traditional Poncha or try the famous nikita (with or without alcohol!). Further along you will come to
- 15. Mother Church of Canico - 'Espírito Santo e Santo Antão'**, ordered to be built in the XVIII century, where we can observe impressive late-baroque altarpieces in carved white and gold. It is worth highlighting, the wall of the chancel side of the epistle, the Immaculate Conception screen with donors praying, dated 1640 and signed by Martim Conrado, from the Chapel of Canico Salvation. Be sure to enjoy the neat churchyard paved in traditional rolled pebblestone from the sea with a beautiful carpet at the entrance of the main door. In front of the church you can see
- 16. Square 'Praça Padre José Lomelino Barreto'**, with the beautiful "Tipuanas" (*acacia trees*), Jacaranda Trees and endemic Dragon Trees. On the eastern side, enjoy a special Pleasure Cottage perched on a wall of a private residence. By continuing to the east take
- 17. the street 'Rua Doutor Francisco Peres'** and take the
- 18. Path 'Caminho da Corujeira'** by the Isidro Bar. This ancient path formerly established the connection between the center of Canico and its sea front, covering the west bank of the river in Canico. Here you can enjoy broad prospects on the other part of Canico, a place called "Mother of God"-Mãe de Deus and the Valley of the river, with its steep banks and terraced fields dug into the hillside for farming. Next to the southern boundary of the Hotel

Quinta Splendida, former Quinta da Estrela from century XIX, turn right onto

19. the Path 'Vereda Macedo de Andrade' which you should go through until you reach

20. the Road 'Estrada da Ponta da Oliveira'. Scroll down to the junction on the left with the

21. Way 'Caminho dos Tanques' and later turn left again to the

22. Lane 'Travessa dos Tanques - Corujeira' and carry on until getting back the descent through

23. the Path 'Caminho da Corujeira'. Enjoy the magnificent panoramic views of the Desert Islands, Atalala Peak, Reis Magos Beach and hotel area of Canico de Baixo. Along the way you will find the *Hell Figueiras* (*Euphorbia piscatoria* - fishing *Euphorbia*), succulent shrub with stems rather branched which is endemic of Madeira. Its sap was once used by fishermen to stun fish. Cross the road José Avelino Pinto and go down by the sea, through the

24. Ruins of the 'Solar dos Reis Magos', the ruined building dating from XVIII century, with an interesting tower for sighting ships, with doors and hinged windows of classical design; further on we can see an ancient military installation

25. 'Fortim dos Reis Magos', for monitoring and protecting the coast. Proceed the route to West to the crossing with the

26. Way 'Caminho do Cais da Oliveira', You will quickly find

27. 'Ponta da Oliveira', a local historical point (promontory into the sea), where two of the first conquerors of the island administratively demarcated the south of Madeira from the north by a border. The area went from the "Ponta de Oliveira" to "Ponta do Tristão" to Porto Moniz. The eastern region was administered by Machico from the western area of the ruler of Funchal. To follow the route, go ahead and get down to the sea.

28. Former Wharf 'Cais da Ponta da Oliveira'.

This route shows unique characteristics and contiguity of the community of Canico, exploiting the proximity between the city center and the countryside, the mountains and valleys to the sea. If you wish you can climb the old path "Vereda da Contrata, old way of access to the wharf of "Ponta da Oliveira", until the starting point, you can pause at the old grocery store now transformed into a small terrace bar, Taberna Ti Laura.



TOURIST ITINERARY CANICO: FROM TOWN TO SEA

(re)discover Santa Cruz

TOURIST ITINERARY

CANIÇO: FROM TOWN TO SEA

(re)discover Santa Cruz



MAP LEGEND

- 1 | Transformation Station
- 2 | Vargem-Mil - 'Moinho da Vargem'
- 3 | Old way to Azenha - 'Caminho Velho da Azenha'
- 4 | Water Watch - 'Relógio de Água'
- 5 | Waterstream - 'Leivada da Azenha'
- 6 | Washing places, 'Lavadouros'
- 7 | The ruins of Victory Mill - 'Moinho da Vitória'
- 8 | Wooden bridge over Caniço river
- 9 | the old Way 'Caminho Velho do Castelo'
- 10 | The Village Pub
- 11 | Grocery
- 12 | Rua Canto do Ribeiro
- 13 | Greengrocer / Groceries
- 14 | The grocery store 'Venda do 19'
- 15 | Mother Church of Caniço - 'Espírito Santo e Santo Antão'
- 16 | Square 'Padre José Lomelino Barreto'
- 17 | Street 'Rua Doutor Francisco Peres'
- 18 | Path 'Caminho da Corujeira'
- 19 | Path 'Vereda Macedo de Andrade'
- 20 | Road 'Estrada da Ponta da Oliveira'
- 21 | Way 'Caminho dos Tanques'
- 22 | Lane 'Travessa dos Tanques - Corujeira'
- 23 | Path 'Caminho da Corujeira'
- 24 | Ruins of the 'Solar dos Reis Magos'
- 25 | 'Fortim dos Reis Magos'
- 26 | Way 'Caminho do Cais da Oliveira'
- 27 | 'Ponta da Oliveira'
- 28 | Former Wharf 'Cais da Ponta da Oliveira'

TOTAL DISTANCE: 8,80 Km

