

Tourist itinerary – Sightseeing tour

Camacha: across villas and waterstreams | 14,50km

The parish of Camacha is one of the most picturesque locations on the island of Madeira, famous for its handicrafts in wicker, for its gastronomy, its natural and intangible heritage. This route allows you to explore various dimensions of this landscape that is so Madeiran, where rural and urban are so close.

The starting point for this route with 14.5 km is Largo Conselheiro Aires de Ornelas - also known as Largo da Achada, the center of the village.

Here you can find the

- 1. Monument to Football**, a modern and avant-garde sculptural set. It is authored by Amândio de Sousa, which marks the place where football was played for the first time in Portugal in 1875, through Harry Hinton who brought the first football from England. Starting the march north, and by Camacha's House of the People - Casa do Povo da Camacha, take the
- 2. Municipal road Salgados - Caminho Municipal dos Salgados** and go down to the crossroad, on the left, to
- 3. the road - Caminho da Abelheira**, following it until the end, go through a path where you will find
- 4. a watercourse, Levada dos Tornos**, you should follow northwards (in the direction of Goula). The route has beautiful views over the valley of Porto Novo and the housing units of Cova da Iria, Salgados - the oldest housing project of the parish (Camacha) and Achada (Goula). There you can find small houses of popular architecture with their frames in stone or cement ledge, balconies, the latticework on the yards and curious trim roof. Now in the parish of Goula, you can find the
- 5. water channel Levada of Pico dos Irós or Goula** that you should take up the staircase in basalt pavement on the left, and continue to
- 6. the fountain called Fonte do Pico**. At this crossing (about 650m height) turn north and go up the road
- 7. Caminho da Levada do Pico**, which turns into path at the end. Continue walking along until you find the
- 8. road Estrada Padre Alfredo Vieira de Freitas** (height about 750m), turn left to the junction with
- 9. Estrada Regional 102 - regional road 102**, where you can try traditional Madeiran Poncha (drink) in one of the taverns that exists there. Go the way towards Santo António da Serra and shortly after the first bend climb the
- 10. Path of Levada da Serra do Faial - Caminho da Levada da Serra do Faial**, passing through
- 11. the forest station Posto Florestal do Pico** and continue until you find the watercourse
- 12. Levada da Serra do Faial**, one of the most important water channels built by the State. It has a length of 54 km covering the parishes of Faial (Santana), Porto da Cruz (Machico), Santo da Serra and Camacha (Santa Cruz) and São Gonçalo (Funchal). Head towards Camacha - Monte (the same direction of the water flow). Along the way you can enjoy the natural and humanized landscape surrounding between vegetation and traditional buildings such as the Tourist Resort in Rural Areas 'Cantinho Rural'. Go on until
- 13. the path Caminho do Ribeiro Serrão**, back to the parish of Camacha, where the watercourse is on the way; and continue your journey going through
- 14. Sítio da Ponte de Pau** (where you can take a break and taste traditional snacks in the existing bars and taverns), following up to the junction with
- 15. the path Caminho do Rochão** and retake
- 16. Levada da Serra do Faial** along the pathway Vereda dos Lavadouros until you reach
- 17. Caminho da Portela**; go down a few meters to find a staircase access on the right to the watercourse
- 18. Levada do Pico do Arvoredo**, passing through dense vegetation zone, cross the river to the path
- 19. Vereda da Fonte do Vinhático**, with its source / altar and traditional wash houses, going through some villas, especially
- 20. Quinta das Almas**, an ancient summer farmhouse of the late XVIII century, with

romantic flavor and popular Madeiran features, unfortunately into ruin following a fire. It belonged to the last lord of the manor of Caniço and his descendants (his son, the Counselor Aires de Ornelas e Vasconcelos, had built the Christ statue, Cristo Rei in Garajau). Follow your route until you reach

- 21. the pathway Vereda do Moinho** which leads you to
- 22. Mother Church of Camacha, Igreja Matriz da Camacha** built in the XVIII century, with baroque and neoclassical altarpieces with the peculiarity of having the last neo-baroque altarpiece of the island, in the chapel Rosário de Fátima, already in the early twentieth century, which was unfinished. Then pass by the fountain
- 23. Fontanário da Igreja** and continue down the street
- 24. Street - Rua Maria Ascensão** (major character of Madeiran culture, born in Camacha, which was for decades the face of the Folkloric Group of Camacha People's House). Go by
- 25. Quinta da Camacha** - an eighteenth-century summer villa with popular Madeiran features and relevant arboreal park. Within a few meters you come back to
- 26. Largo da Achada** in whose garden you can see a threshing floor and important botanical species like rhododendrons (Rhododendron), Camellia (Camellia japónica), and endemic Tis (foetens Ocotea) and geraniums (Madeira Geranium). You should take the opportunity to visit the
- 27. School and São José Chapel**, that was founded by young Abel Ferreira Nóbrega (1924) with the support of parents as well as the family of Councillor Aires de Ornelas e Vasconcelos and Dr. Alfredo Júnior, inserting itself in the campaign of the National Crusade D. Nuno Alvares Pereira (the supreme chief of the Portuguese army in the famous Battle of Aljubarrota), after achieving his beatification.
- 28. Café Relógio** is a benchmark in the parish of Camacha, whose tower (original building) was built by Dr. Michael Graham and inaugurated in 1896. The clock and famous bell tower of this Café were brought from Walton Church, in Liverpool. At present you can enjoy the craft exhibition in wicker work, and finally admire the scenery of the surrounding hillside in
- 29. the viewing point Miradouro da Achada**, whose perspective extends to the sea.

This map just suggests one of the many extraordinary routes that the parish of Camacha has to offer, allowing you to enjoy the traditional Madeira, in direct contact with its people, customs and culture.



TOURIST ITINERARY CAMACHA: ACROSS VILLAS AND WATERSTREAMS

(re)discover Santa Cruz

TOURIST ITINERARY CAMACHA: ACROSS VILLAS AND WATERSTREAMS



(re)discover Santa Cruz

MAP LEGEND

- 1 | Monument to Football
- 2 | Caminho Municipal dos Salgados
- 3 | Caminho da Abelheira
- 4 | Levada dos Tornos
- 5 | Levada of Pico dos Iróis or Gaula
- 6 | Fonte da Levada do Pico
- 7 | Caminho da Levada do Pico
- 8 | Estrada Padre Alfredo Vieira de Freitas
- 9 | Estrada Regional 102 [ER102]
- 10 | Caminho da Levada da Serra do Faial
- 11 | Posto Florestal do Pico - forest station
- 12 | Levada da Serra do Faial
- 13 | Caminho do Ribeiro Serrão
- 14 | Sítio da Ponte de Pau
- 15 | Caminho do Rochão
- 16 | Levada da Serra do Faial
- 17 | Caminho da Portela
- 18 | Levada do Pico do Arvoredo
- 19 | Vereda da Fonte do Vinhático
- 20 | Quinta das Almas
- 21 | Vereda do Moinho
- 22 | Igreja Matriz da Camacha
- 23 | Fontanário da Igreja
- 24 | Rua Maria Ascensão
- 25 | Quinta da Camacha
- 26 | Largo da Achada - Largo
Conselheiro Aires de Ornelas
- 27 | School and São José Chapel
- 28 | Café Relógio
- 29 | Miradouro da Achada

TOTAL DISTANCE.: 14,50 Km

