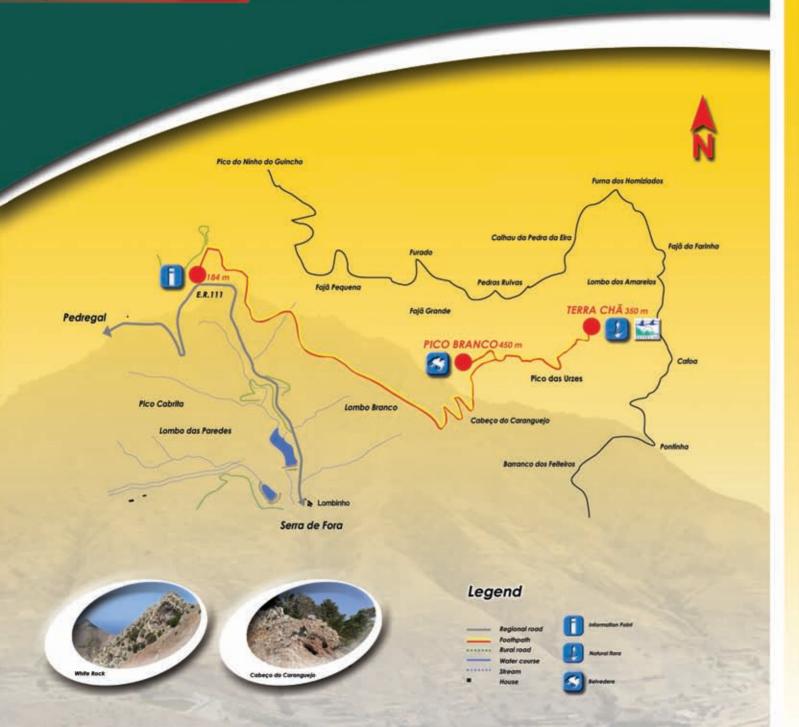
# PR 1

# Vereda do Pico Branco e Terra Chã



### The Footpath

The trail starts at Regional Road E.R.111 and, following the way to the top of Pico Branco we come across a huge prismatic formation in which the footpath itself was carved. It is called Rocha Quebrada, or the Broken Rock. The steepest climb of the walk is done along a heater fence, in which it becomes similar to some walks in Madeira, the climb ending in a rock fissure at Crista do Cabeco.

The footpath goes on among a landscape where cupressus (Cupressus macrocarpa) dominates, until the walker finds a fork leading, on the right to Terra Chā and on the left to Pico Branco, or White Peak, the second highest in Porto Santo. It has that name because of a white rock column where there was a lot of dyer's weed (urzela), which was exported from Porto Santo and used in making dyes and other specialities.

The Pico Branco and Terra Chā is part of the European network of communitarian interesting places – Natura 2000 Network , Directive Habitats, since it evidences flora and fauna endemic specimens (earthbound shellfish – snails).

This is the only spot in Porto Santo where the largest quantity of indigenous flora was recorded in the best conditions, mainly because it is located in rugged areas and hardly accessible slopes, if accessible at all. The indigenous vegetation is mostly composed of herbs and shrubs.

Here, two relevant specimens of sea birds can be found, namely the Cory's Shearwater (Calonectris diomedea borealis) and the Common Tern (Sterna hirundo). At Terra Chā there is a recently restored white stone house, having in mind to propagate endemic plants, to reintroduce them into the environment and to carry forward scientific research.

Underneath Terra Chā, a cave named as Furna dos Homiziados can be seen. It was an old hideaway for outlaws where, according to the tradition, several people found shelter on their escape from justice or from Algerian pirate raids. A legend tells that in one of those emergencies the roof collapsed, burying all those who were there.

Various natural sightseeing spots on this trail allow the walker to see a great deal of the Porto Santo island, from Serra de Dentro, Pico do Concelho, Ilhéu de Cima, Pico do Maçarico, Portela, Rocha de Nossa Senhora, the city, part of the beach, Pico Ana Ferreira, Espigão dos Morenos, to Calheta and Ilhéu de Baixo.

This trail was built with the purpose of giving way to cargo mules, by the time barley was farmed by locals at Terra Chā. Return is done on the same footpath.

### Description

Distance: 2,7 Km (+ 2,7 Km return)

Time: 1h30

Highest point: 450 m Lowest point: 184 m Start: E.R. 111

Finish: E.R. Terra Chā

### Warning

Water springs unavailable, take drinking water.

#### Contacts

Emergency number

Civil Protection 291700112

112

Volunteer Fire Department (Porto Santo) 291980060

**Tourist Office (Porto Santo)** 291982361

Taxis (Porto Santo) 291982334

#### **Local Festivities**

- Festa de São João St. John (24 June)
- Festa de Nossa Senhora da Graça(14 and 15 August)

#### Handcrafts

Palm tree-leaf hats; Embroidered palm tree sprouts; Bamboo baskets; Clay statuettes.

#### Field Code



FOOTHPATH TURNS RIGHT

FOOTHPATH TURNS LEFT

#### **Walking Code**

- Avoid noise or actions against nature.
- Do not take plants or animal with you.
- Do not throw rubbish away (tissues do not easily decompose).
- Do not light fires.
- If you are a smoker do not throw cigarettes ends on the floor, keep them for the dust-bin.
- Do not change or damage the signs.

#### For your own safety ...

- Before starting out make sure you have update instructions on the
- Let someone else know where you're going and when you expect to
- Be sure to confirm the time it will take so that you can finish before nightfall.
- Take some extra food and water with you.
- Wear suitable clothes and shoes:
- If possible take a mobile phone whit you;
- In case of heavy rain or strong winds do not go on and/or turn back using the same routes.
- Don't take risks.

#### Promotor









#### **Technical information**

**Texts: Regional Forest Bureau** Photography: Regional Forest Bureau Field work: Regional Forest Bureau Graphic design; PEC Coordination: Ana Sé

This work was financed by the project TOURMAC - Hiking Tourism and Sustained Development, EU program INTERREG III-B, Azores, Madeira, Canary.

Advertising pamphlet 1° Edition 2005 - 500 units REPRODUCTION INTERDICT

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Porto Santo Island Foothpaths

