

Madeira Walks (volume 2) updates July 2017

Have just used your Madeira walks (Vol 2 mar 16 edition) as a guide for a few walks between 15-22 July 2017. Very useful, but thought I should pass on some updates.

Walk 61 Areeiro to Ruivo - new western route diversion significantly increases exertion rate.

There are very significant closures and changes to the route.

The eastern route between waypoint 6 and 10 is closed and appears to have been closed for some time.

The only option now is to take the tunnel route initially. However half way along the tunnel route, it too is now closed, and a new western route has been created. The new western route loses a lot of height (down to an elevation of about 1500m) which is regained by a series of steep metal staircases to rejoin the original route somewhere near waypoint 10. For a return journey to Ruivo and back my gps recorded a total ascent of about 1450m (and descent of 1450m) so the new route has significantly added to the vertical meterage. The hostel at Ruivo is closed, but a very welcome water tap is there – an absolute godsend in the hot weather. In places the safety rope has frayed, damaged and is occasionally loose or missing (but does not present any undue risk at present). One section of steep carved steps are now very worn and walkers will generally need the safety rope to assist descent.

Walk 43 Corrida to Fonts - route now closed due to becoming overgrown.

The walk between the start and waypoint 3 is now very overgrown with broom and bramble, blocking views to the south.

The path between waypoint 3 and 4 is all but gone and now only passable by forcefully pushing through the dense broom. We appear to have been the only ones to have used it for some time. We chose to abandon the walk at the waypoint 4 viewpoint, because progress was so slow with little obvious indication of it improving. Instead we retreated and followed walk 45 which had the same start point.

Taxi Rip-Off

As an aside, a couple who wanted to join us on this walk were quoted 160 euros for a return taxi ride from Capo Girao 7 miles away!!!! Comes across as a bit of skulduggery to me, and if widespread, could cause problems for walkers relying on taxis.

Note this is a 3rd party report so we are not sure what actually happened. Perhaps a misunderstanding.

Best to make sure you have agreed the taxi fare before you get into the taxi. It only takes a minute to ask and if unsure do not use that taxi.