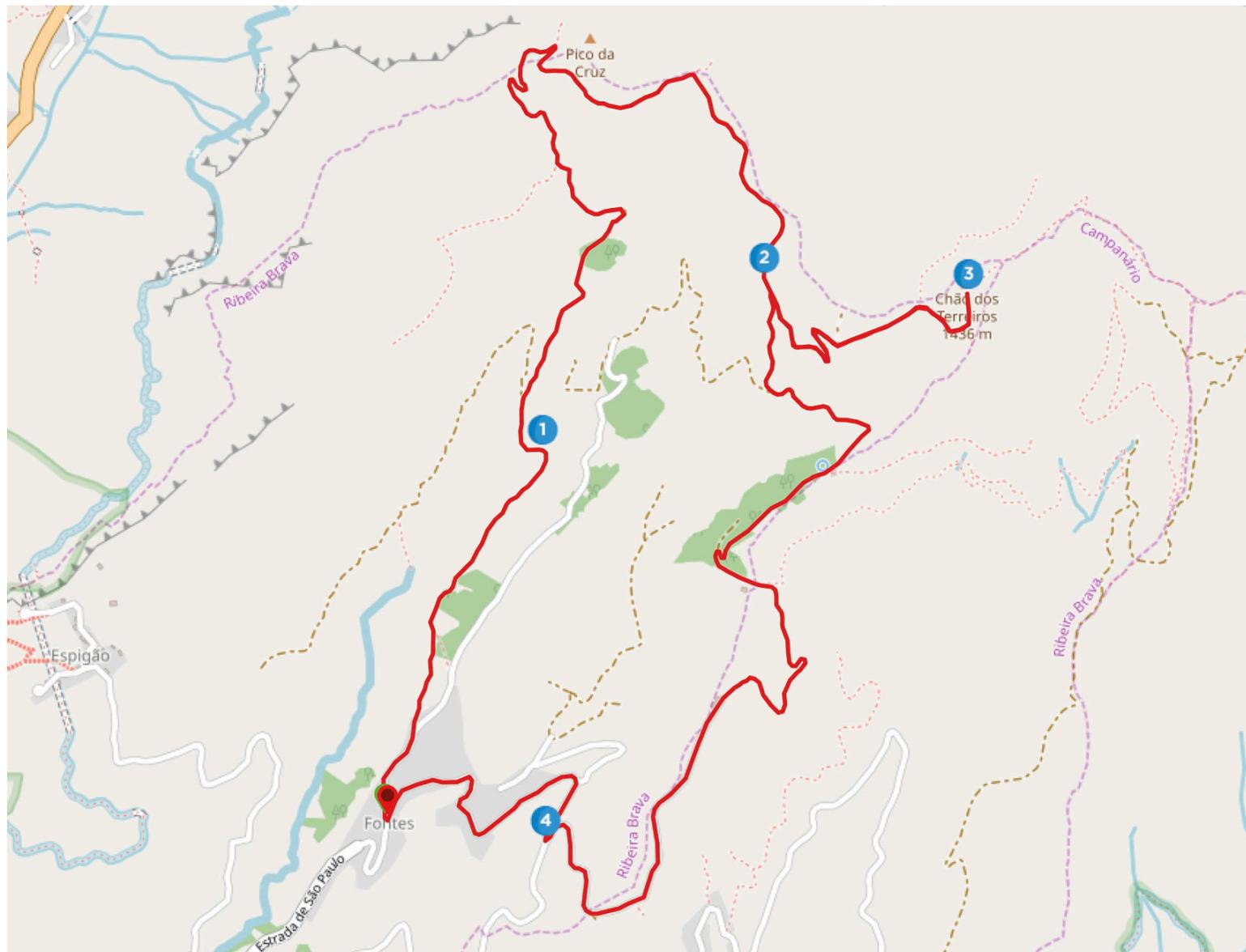


Fontes

Distance - 6¼ miles (10.4km) Ascent: Almost 1400ft

Walk 7



 - Walk

Disclaimer: This route was correct at time of writing. However, alterations can happen if development or boundary changes occur, and there is no guarantee of permanent access. These walks have been published for use by site visitors on the understanding that neither HPB Management Limited nor any other person connected with Holiday Property Bond is responsible for the safety or wellbeing of those following the routes as described. It is walkers' own responsibility to be adequately prepared and equipped for the level of walk and the weather conditions and to assess the safety and accessibility of the walk.

Fontes

Distance - 6¼ miles (10.4km) **Ascent:** Almost 1400ft

Walk 7

A real mountain walk with spectacular views for almost the whole route, well away from the popular tourist areas and the widespread sporadic development which blights so much of the coastal area of southern Madeira. A long ascent at moderate gradients is followed by a visit to the splendid viewpoint at the summit at Chao dos Terreiros (4739ft). All tracks are comfortably wide, without any dangerous sections.

Start/finish : 1 Using Google Maps, enter “Bar Fontes” or follow VR1 route or walk n° 6 to Boa Morte. Through final tunnel at roundabout, go straight over, (there will be a left sign-post, to Boa Morte, you do not take this). Take first right, after roundabout, and keep heading up hill for about 4 miles. You will pass several villages, all of which are unmarked with names. Keep going, it will seem a long way, but eventually we get to Fontes, and the bar will be straight ahead of you. ***It’s a lime green building and the Bar Fonte is very hard to see from the car.***

2. The alternative road would be to head down to the village Quinta Grande, **Juntion 3** on via the VR1 – heading west to Ribeira Brava. Exit the VR1 where it says Campanário, to the right. After a right and a left turn, you will see a tunnel on your right. Take that tunnel and after going through a second tunnel, you will come to a roundabout, where you turn right, approx. 3½ hr start/finish. (1) Using google maps, enter ‘Bar Fonte’ or follow VR1 route or walk no. 6 to Boa Morte. Through second Tunnel, take the 1st right at the roundabout. (Do not take the road into Boa Morte. Shortly after you will come to a staggered crossroads. Turn left & follow the road for +/- 4 miles up & across a ravine & up again through several unmarked. continue straight ahead and as you reach a T-junction you will need to take a left turn. Continue driving up on that road, passing through several small villages, eventually you will arrive at Fontes and the bar will be straight ahead of you.

Refreshments: Bars at Fonte

WALK

Start. Facing the bar start off by ascending a steep little road to the right, passing outlying properties, some in the traditional ‘A’ shape with thatched roofs, and a vineyard. At the top of the village the roadway loses its tarmac surface. The views into the deep Ribeira Brava valley and back towards the sea are impressive. The earth track, fringed by eucalyptus and chestnut, becomes less steep, but the ascent is steady. The Pico da Cruz (3970ft) is dominant ahead. Keep rising past a fork. The effects of massive grass fires are still evident.

Map Point 1. Pass a recently restored cottage with red and grey bands on its chimney bearing left to continue the ascent, winding around the hillside, with views soon opening up to the North, including the Encumeada Pass and a large modern hotel. The track, still rising, passes a little way below the summit of Pico da Cruz. The central area of the mountains, including the highest peaks, is now in view. To ascend Pico da Cruz continue up the track to the col from where an easy slope leads to the summit.

Map Point 2. From the col continue along the track as it rounds the head of the valley. When you reach a major fork. To the left can be seen a cattle gate on a rising grass track. To the right the track descends. Take the left fork for the detour to Chao dos Terreiros. ***(Going right here to head back to Fontes shortens the walk but it would be a pity to miss the wonderful views from the summit).*** Pass through this broken gate and continue up the slope until you reach another closed gate, pass the gate using the stile carefully as its construction does not give the walker confidence about its strength! Continue following a roughhewn watercourse until you reach a grassy spot where the path is none too clear. The path bears left and then right to the obvious summit covered in bracken and brome. There is a trig point but the brome shields it from view. The views, in all directions, include Funchal harbour, Curral das Freiras and most of the mountains of the wonderful central massif.

Map Point 3. Retrace the route back to the junction at point 2, looking out for cattle fitted with Alpine type bells. Turn sharp left at the junction to continue to steady descent, largely through woodland, passing three cattle grids reaching a concrete road, pass the Posto Florestal Trompica house before reaching a concrete road bypassing a large ‘waterworks’. Go straight ahead along the road. As the road bears right, Fontes comes into view.

Map Point 4. Join a public road ‘Estrada das Fontes’, turning right. Cross the bridge over a dry stream bed before rising to the left to pass through the lower part of the village, soon reaching the starting point.

Note: It would be a great help to future walkers if you could record any inaccuracies you come across during this walk and report them to reception so that appropriate amendments can be made. Thank you for your help. ***Happy walking.***