



San Jorge and Botanical Garden, Pilot Project Turismo Rural

This walk of about 3-4 hours, signposted and developed by the French Cooperation in 2006, leads you in a semi-circle around the lush green Valley of San Jorge. Before or after you can visit the Botanical Garden. Good birding place at the little fountain!



You pass little farms high above the Jardim Botânico and under the towering cliffs of the Monte Tchota/Pico do Antonio (1394m). Combined with a visit to the Botanical Garden it makes a wonderful one-day program.

Taxi transfer from Pedra Badejo or Praia about 30min.



As you are at a height of around 500m it is always cooler than at the coast. You can get rain and mist even in the dry season. When it rains, the trail is extremely slippery and you are clearly warned not to make it unless it is dry.

The walk can be shortened by half an hour if your taxi takes you to Longueira and picks you up again at the Jardim Botânico. (The other way round you start with a climb of ca. 300m! Not advisable!) Our guides know the way, the endemic plants and can show you some birds. They can also introduce you to the locals. Even if you go alone you can hardly lose your way, as the whole trail is clearly marked yellow/red and there are even a few picnic-sites built of stones and concrete or of big tree-trunks.



Right at the road head, after the school of Longueira, there is a huge *Ficus Macrophylla*, locally known as "Lemba Lemba". Under its hanging, hair-like

air-roots, there is a shady place to rest. Nearby, in a picturesque group of huts, there is a grogue-distillery ("Fornadja").

The trail starts after the school and takes you slightly uphill on a panoramic trail.

Apart from the ubiquitous but imported Eucalyptus trees there is one speciality here which you should not miss, as it is the only endemic tree species of the Cape Verde Islands: *Marmulano*, *Sideroxylon marginata*.

It is an evergreen hard-wood tree, widely used and appreciated but today in danger of extinction.

From the bean-like fruits of the "Calocoxita" people used to make soap. There are also fig trees, "Purga" (with its valuable oil), and beautiful Mangoes.

Lantuna camara and huge Agavas ("Carapate") are everywhere.

"Tortolho", *Euphorbia tuckeyana* is also endemic and was used for tanning leather.

Even in winter you are accompanied by the sweet song of the blackcap and the soft murmur of the endemic "Tchota de Cana", the Cape Verde Warbler *Acrocephalus brevipennis*. Raven, Alexander's Swift and Rock Pidgeon nest in the cliffs.

