FOOTPATH
ROTA DAS FAIAS

Duration: 5 Hours
Difficulty: Hard
Type of Walk: Circular

CASA
DE SÃO LOURENÇO
BUREL PANORAMA HOTEL

① Casa de São Lourenço
② Cruz das jogadas
③ Capela de São Lourenço

Google Earth

Note: You might want to begin your footpath on Cruz das jogadas (point 2) and you can drive to that point by car. You should follow the road N 232 in the direction of Manteigas for about 8 km. Next turn to your left when you see the signs pointing to "V. Castanheira" and "Covão da Ponte". The tarmac road, after about 2km, will take you to a place where many roads meet, a place called "Cruz das jogadas". There you may find the sign about the footpath "Rota das Faias".

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Beginning in this point, the footpath will have the duration of 3 hours and moderate difficulty.

Footpath passing by Campo Romão, São Lourenço forest, Capela de São Lourenço (São Lourenço Chapel) and Faias (Beech)

The footpath is marked with yellow and red markings on the rocks, trees and poles. These markings refer to Small Route footpaths.

Right Path Wrong Path

Turn Left Turn Right

Be aware that along your route you might find markings of other routes. Please pay attention to the map and text so you will be able to follow your route without any problem.

The path begins at Casa de São Lourenço.

Starting from the parking lot of the Hotel, cross the road and follow the dirt road that you may find next to the adjacent building of the Hotel. The dirt road will now take you to a place called Campo Romão. The path follows side by side to the rye fields that give the gold and brown colors to these hills. In places like this one there is a big chance of finding a Shepard and his sheep, as well as the famous Serra da Estrela dog that protects them. Keep following the dirt road for about 30 minutes, observing the shale landscape, going down to a place called Cruz das Jogadas where you can find a tarmac road.

Stop in this place and you can see the Rota das Faias sign, the beginning of a new adventure. Get on the trail and have courage, the climbing is starting now. Be amazed with the view of the Zêzere Glaciar Valley and you can also see far away the rock mass of "Cântaros".

The path takes you inside of a diversified forest, always climbing to the top where you can find the beautiful chapel of São Lourenço, that gives the name to the Hotel. Surrounding this chapel, you can find magnificent Oaks that are more than 400 years old. Admire them because those are fantastic trees. The interpretative panel has a poem from a Portuguese poet named Miguel Torga that is dedicated to them. Near the chapel you can also find an abandoned house from where you can observe the Zêzere s river valley and the small villages around it. It's an amazing view. Coming back to the main path, keep going forward till you find a forest control tower. These towers have a big role in the summer, preventing and granting a quick action if a forest fire starts.

Continuing on the trail, you will find a beautiful forest of Oregon Pinetree's. As you go forward, finally you can find the Faias and their amazing colors, mostly in the autumn. In this season the path might be a fallen leaves carpet that keep falling right in front of your eyes. The colors vary depending on the season, always giving something different to this route.

Leaving behind this magnificent forest, the descent continues through a narrower trail where you can find Chestnut trees (if it's autumn you might pick some chestnuts up, but be careful with the hedgehogs...). You will now pass by some people's houses who have chosen this paradisiac place to live. Be ready because the climb up is about to start. Keep going on that humid and narrow trail of the valley waters. Feel the smell of wild mint. Look back and contemplate the valley that is now on your back.

Coming back to Cruz das Jogadas, it's time to go back to the Hotel. Follow the same trail that took you to this place, getting now a different perspective on the landscape... We will be waiting to assist you on a much-deserved rest.