

Trail 1: Clubhouse - Casa Velha - Gun emplacements - Casa Velha - Clubhouse | Distance - 6.4 KM approx. time 80 minutes.

Clubhouse to Casa Velha - Start by walking westwards past houses on either side of the road below the golf course. Take the first turn right, following the sign to the hotel Casa Velha, enjoy the valley and mountain views along the way and see the Palheiro Gardens in the distance. Skirt the hotel taking the little cement path past the hotel lawn and koi carp pond, continuing south towards the Tea House and Plane Tree Avenue. This avenue was the original carriage way entrance to Casa Velha and is lined with 100 Plane trees on either side. Continue to the end of the avenue and turn right along the old Estate wall below the 11th green. Follow the path round and take the hairpin bend to the left towards the unsightly industrial buildings away from the hotel. Continue for some 300 metres then take a right turn uphill skirting the grass covered water tanks. Soon you will arrive at the remains of the old gun emplacements and bunker built during the Second World War when there were fears that the island might be invaded. The massive anti-aircraft guns were finally removed in the 1980s. This is a great spot for a picnic! From here retrace your steps back to the Clubhouse.

Trail 2: Clubhouse - Casa Velha - Florialis - Casa Velha - Clubhouse | Distance - 4.7 KM approx. time 70 minutes.

Same as Trail 1 until you reach the estate wall and turn left, walk through the Walnut Orchard and take a right turn skirting above the greenhouses. Enjoy but do not pick the Proteas! Cynaroides (King), Pink Ice, Pincushions and Safari Sunset to name but a few! Continue uphill following the signs through the Protea plantations. Take a right turn up a steep hill, then left onto a track after pausing to enjoy the views and walk past the Safari Sunset Proteas above the golf course. Head down past the 6th tee, towards the tea house and retrace your steps back to the Clubhouse.

Trail 3: Clubhouse - Casa Velha - Reservoirs-Casa Velha - Clubhouse | Distance - 4.8 KM approx. time 60 minutes.

Same as Trail 1 until you reach the Tea House, go through the gate and turn left towards the 6th tee (please mind the golfers). After the 6th tee, walk up and turn left until you reach the 'Largo' (car park). At the 'Largo' take the path uphill keeping the old farm buildings on your right. Notice the original levada (water irrigation channel) on your left. Take the first sharp left through the Plane trees and go straight ahead. As you approach the Quinta wall you will see the original reservoir which is used today to supply water for the Palheiro Gardens. Turn right at the wall in-between the original reservoir and the much bigger reservoir which supplies the golf course, farmers and local residents. Follow the larger reservoir all the way round keeping an eye out for Herons and other visitors. Take a left along the track through the forest until you get to the estate wall. Follow the road down and take a right and walk above the Pincushion Proteas along the farm track above the 6th fairway, taking in the fabulous views of the estate, the sea and Deserta Islands beyond. Then follow your footsteps back to the Casa Velha and the Clubhouse.

Trail 4: Clubhouse - Casa Velha - Gatehouse - Valley - Casa Velha - Clubhouse | Distance - 4 KM approx. time 75 minutes.

Same as Trail 3 until you reach the 'Largo'. At the 'Largo' head up the main entrance drive towards the gatehouse. On route you will see Plane Trees on your right and Camellias on your left. On arrival at the Gate House take the old stone road to the left. After about 300 metres you arrive at the stables where you may see the horses which were reintroduced to the Estate in 2015 by Louisa. This glorious view of the bay is known as 'Vista Navios' (view of the ships) and is where the family visited to see vessels arriving and sailing. Take a sharp right on to a dirt track and start heading down towards the valley floor. At the first crossroads continue left where you will see the Folly in the distance directly ahead of you. When you reach the river bed turn left and continue downhill.

Cross the river bed and now start heading back up. The path curves round to the right and then take a right at the crossroads. Shortly you will arrive at the asphalt road leading to the Casa Velha. From here retrace your steps back to the Clubhouse.

Disclaimer Notice: Please wear suitable footwear, don't litter and remember to take back any personal items that you've brought. Palheiro Estate assumes no responsibility for physical injuries, death or the loss of personal items. Use of these trails is not recommended after 17:30.



Palheiro Estate even has its own boat!

From big game fishing to whale and dolphin watching, our boat Balançal offers you the very best offshore experience.