

**LOCATION**

Machico, Madeira Island, Portugal

**REGISTRATION**

**CATEGORIES**

**PROTECTION RULES**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

By António Abreu, MADproductions

### LINK 1 (4,96km - 208hmm uphill - 11hm downhill)

Start the race at Poiso Restaurant. Get out of the Paddock, turn left following Pico do Arieiro directions. Mostly tarmac till the last part.

### PEC 1 - ANTENA (4,09km - 10hm uphill + 243hm downhill)

Start the first stage near the shelter house at the top of the mountain. Turn left after the fire road. Start descending a rocky and technical section of the trail with a bit of uphill in the middle. Get out of the trail for about 50 meters, inside Chão da Lagoa reserve and enter the trail again, on the right side of a steel door. After about 300 meters you'll enter the tarmac road again. WARNING: Please stay on the right side of the road.

Enter the Blandy singletrack in the right side of the road. It's an easy and fast trail, normally used by the downhill and enduro community from Madeira Island. Make sure you gain momentum during this stage. After a bridge hip jump, turn left on the singletrack. Pedal a bit uphill in the middle of the forest.

### LINK 2 (0,93km - 34hm uphill - 0hm downhill)

Enter the road that leads to Poiso Restaurant. WARNING: Please stay on the right side of the road. It's less than one kilometre till the beginning of the next stage. 100% tarmac transition.

### PEC 2 - MUSHROOMS (3,24km - 11hm uphill - 284hm downhill)

Maybe one of the most changeling special stages of the whole race. Enter the steep singletrack built by the young downhill community from Madeira Island. The track is really steep but you'll have some berms to secure the excess speed. There are also rock sections and one drop before entering the fire road. WARNING: If the terrain is wet, we advise you to take off air pressure in your front tire.

Enter the fire road and pedal to the next singletrack section known as Cabouco. It's a steep, slippery and technical trail section, with eight switchbacks. Get off the singletrack and pedal on Meia Serra tarmac road to enter the next section of Cabouco track.

Start descending the second part of Cabouco and keep your momentum. You'll find some steep sections and switchbacks again. The track has some uphill narrow sections in the end of the stage. WARNING: Near the end of the stage there's a big pipe that you'll need to pass with the bike in your hand.

### LINK 3 (5,67km - 188hm uphill - 56hm downhill)

Start pedalling up the tarmac road, going into Montado do Pereiro. You'll find a feed zone with water and fruit before the big uphill section. Keep pedalling up the mythical Poiso road and turn right, Quatro Estradas. WARNING: Keep on the right side of the road.

### **PEC 3 - FOUR ROADS (1,30km - 11hm uphill - 221hm downhill)**

Prepare yourself for one of the most known downhill tracks in Madeira Island, Quatro Estradas. The beginning is grassy and not steep. Make sure you get momentum in the small jumps in the track. WARNING: There's a big rock garden near the tarmac road. Expert riders only.

Keep going downhill the narrow singletrack. There are not many line choices but try to look forward and prepare your next move. Cross the road and enter the dark woods singletrack. The second part of the trail is steeper, rooty and with some rock gardens. There are a couple line choices on the bottom part. Finish the third special stage in the paved road.

### **LINK 4 (3,56km - 315hm uphill - 27hm downhill)**

The most physical transition is between the end of the third stage and the beginning of the fourth stage. WARNING: Keep on the right side of the road at all times. Arrive to the food station where you'll find water, fruit and an energy bar. Keep pedalling up the tarmac road and turn right on the fire road.

### **PEC 4 - SUNA (2,03km - 6hm uphill - 190hm downhill)**

When it's wet, things could get a bit wild! Start the stage following the singletrack. There's a new section where you have to pedal uphill. Start descending again in the narrow trail, between the big pine trees. After getting off the forest, the trail is not that steep, but it's a bit rocky. Some sections have line choice, especially in the rock gardens. It's usually slippery.

WARNING: There's a big rock garden in the middle of the track. Please be aware of the warning signs. Finish the stage in the fire road.

### **LINK 5 (1,22km - 0hm uphill - 77hm downhill)**

Follow the fire road before entering the next stage. Relax your arms and take it easy. The next stage it's the hardest of the entire race. You'll take about two minutes to get to PEC 5.

### **PEC 5 - PORTO CRUZ (4,63km - 12hm uphill - 703hm downhill)**

Welcome to the jungle! WARNING: Check your tire pressure before you enter this stage. It's always slippery but there are also big rocks and places where you can easily get a puncture.

Keep your line choice clean and simple in the first part. Don't let the bike roll wildly, but keep the momentum in the rock sections. The trail is steep and quite technical. There are some sketchy switchbacks that you'll have to keep your balance and don't hesitate. There are a couple of uphill sections that you might have to get off the bike. There are also two sections that the less expert riders can't ride. WARNING: If you have a puncture, please don't stand in the middle of the track. Find an open zone where you can find enough space to change your inner tube.

The track will start to get steeper as soon you enter the eucalyptus forest. The track is usually dry but there are lots of roots in all sizes, shapes and locations. WARNING: There are two drops that you can overcome if you carry speed. Watch out for the signs. Finish the stage in the tarmac road. Make sure you relax before the next transition.

### **LINK 6 (0,00km - 0hm uphill - 0hm downhill) - check the bus**

Go down the steep tarmac road that leads to Porto da Cruz city. Turn right and enter the old levada. WARNING: Locals and tourists use the levada on daily basis. Don't carry much speed on this section.

Get off the levada and start pedalling up the tarmac road. WARNING: Stay on the right side of the road. There will be a bus waiting to get you up to the feed station at Portela. Make sure you arrive on time for the bus.

After the feed station, keep pedalling on the muddy fire road. You'll be entering a zone called Fonduras. It's totally flat but you have a big climb in the middle of the course, followed by a big downhill section. Turn left on the fire road and pedal up. You should pass a guards house on your right side. Keep pedalling forward in the fire road till you see a sign that leads to a singletrack. Go up the singletrack.

WARNING: This section of the transition is dangerous and it's not worth the risk. If you don't feel confident and you're feeling a bit tired, it's not worth the risk of riding it. Take it easy during the downhill part. It's a slippery, steep and narrow trail on the edge of a big cliff. Go to the beginning of the stage and enjoy the view.

### **PEC 6 - RISCO (1.61km - 6hm uphill - 123hm downhill)**

This is a short but fast technical section. The trail follows an old path from Boca do Risco to Machico city. There are a couple rocky sections that you have to keep your balance straight and avoid get punctures. The track has a bit of uphill in the middle. WARNING: The last part, before arriving to the levada, there's a big rock garden drop. Watch out for the signs.

### **LINK 7 (4.31km - 53hm uphill - 26hm downhill)**

Last transition of Entrudo Enduro! Follow the levada till you reach the tarmac road. In your left side you have an old tunnel that leads to Caniçal. Pedal straight forward to Pico do Facho. It's a 50 meters climb to the top.

### **PEC 7 - FACHO (2.32km - 126hm uphill - 337hm downhill)**

Last stage of the day! Enjoy the views. (More information about the trail)

### **FEED ZONES**

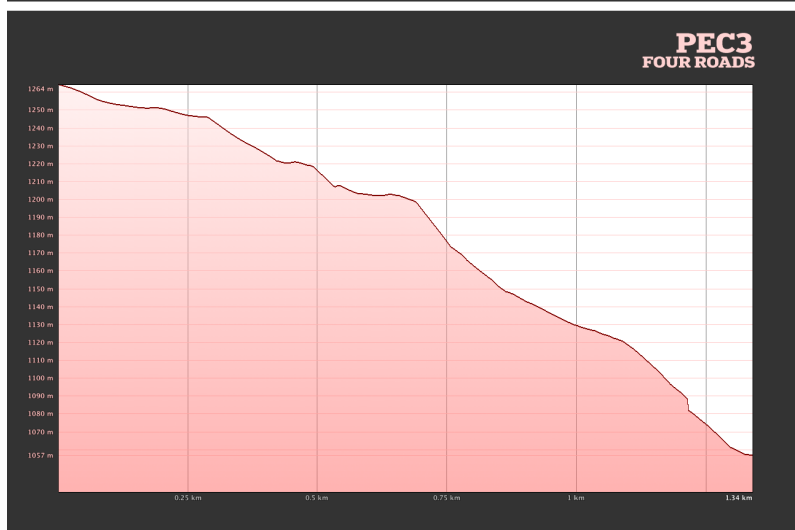
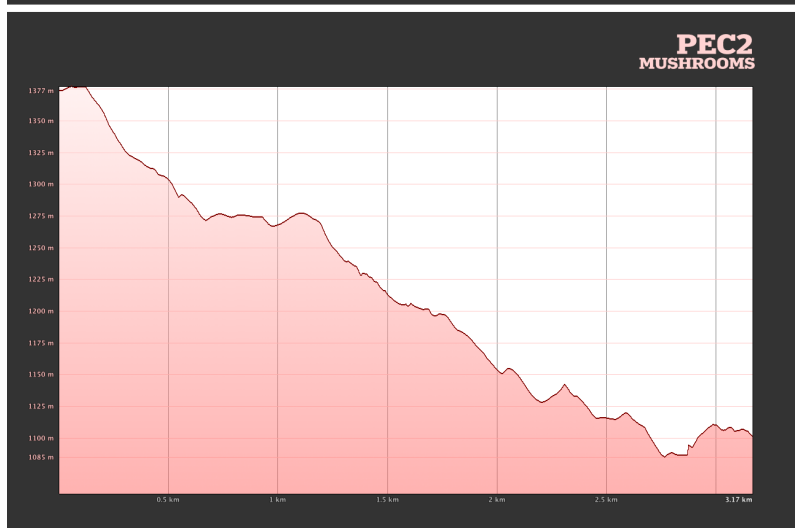
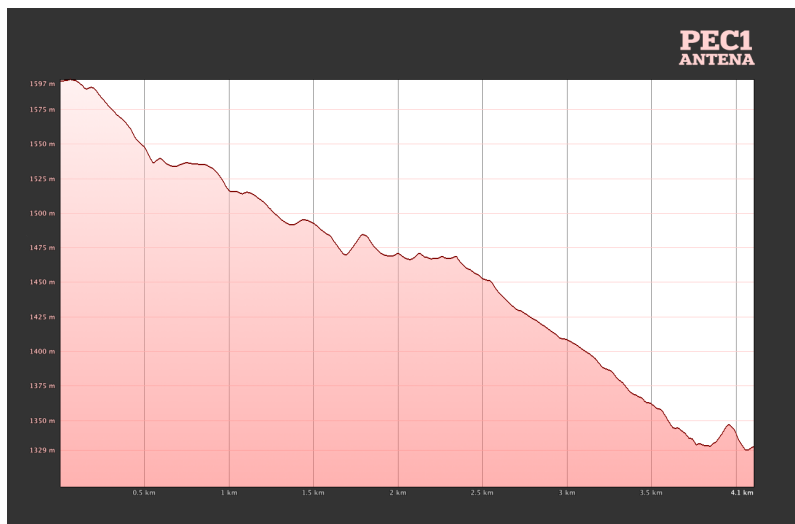
AFTER PEC 2 - At Montado do Pereiro south door, before starting Link 3

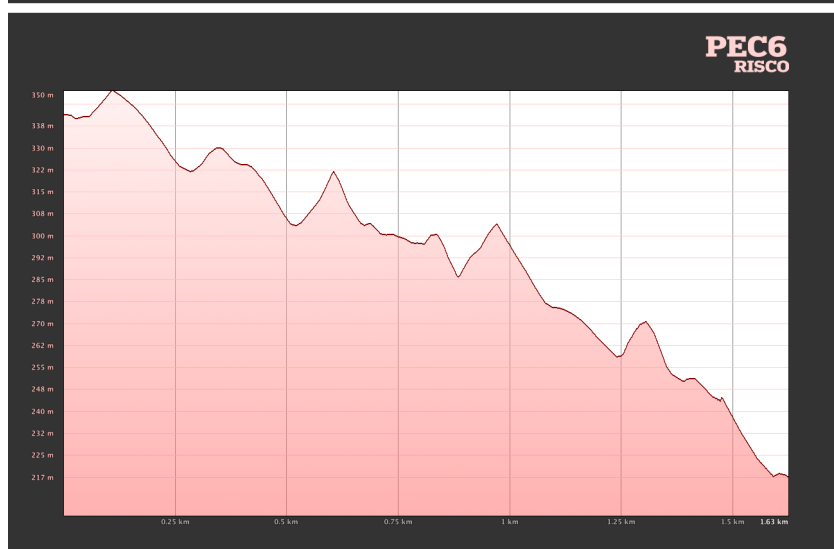
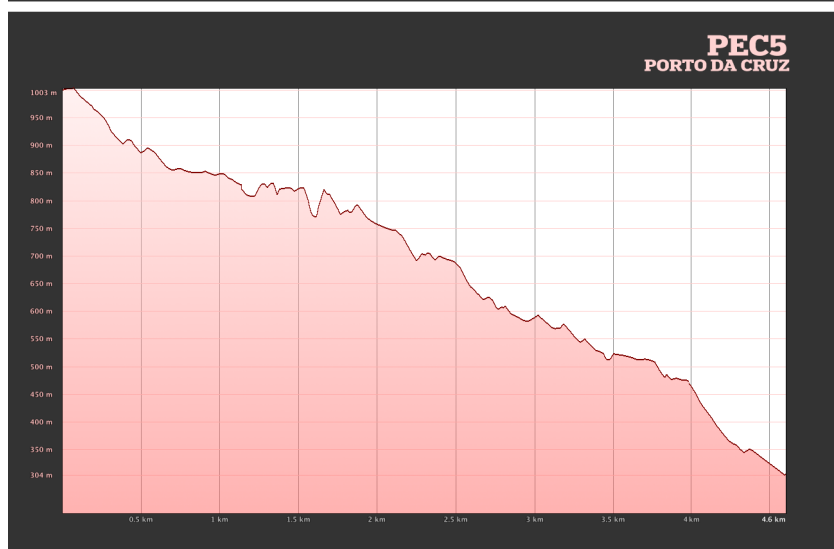
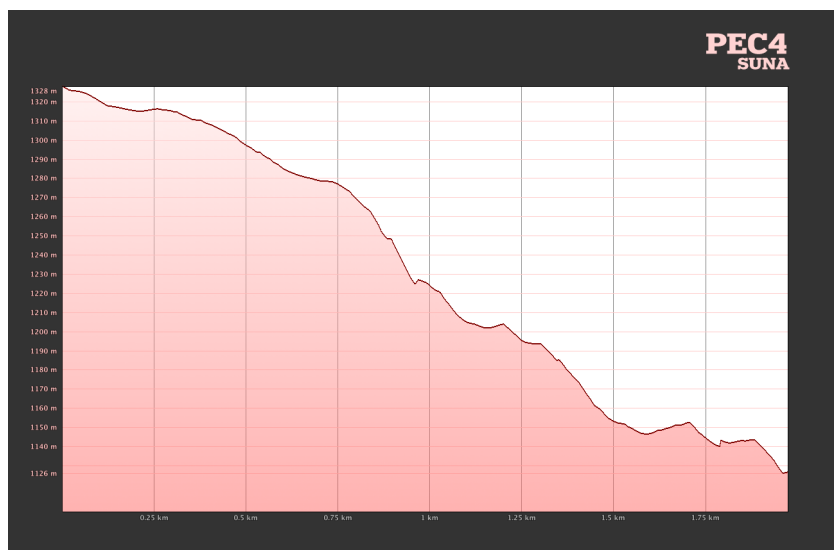
DURING LINK 4 - Near the cowshed at Quatro Estradas

DURING LINK 6 - After you get out of the bus, at Portela

The official feed zones are also marked in the official race map and in the course description.

## COURSE ELEVATIONS







## **SCHEDULE**

### Friday, 27th February

- 18:00h - Payment confirmation at Forum Machico
- 18:30h - Riders meeting and race briefing at Forum Machico
- 19:00h - First rider to leave Forum Machico for PROLOGO special stage
- 20:15h - Last rider to arrive to Forum Machico

### Saturday, 28th February

- 08:30h - Riders meeting and race briefing at Forum Machico
- 09:00h - Departure of the bike transfer bus to Poiso
- 09:30h - Arrival of the bike transfer bus to Poiso
- 09:45h - Race open
- 16:30h - Last rider to arrive to Link 6 at Portela
- 17:30h - Last rider to finish the race at Caniçal
- 18:00h - Riders meeting
- 19:00h - Dinner and awards ceremony

## **SPONSORS**

Câmara Municipal de Machico, MADproductions, Associação de Ciclismo da Madeira, Red Bull, Clube Caniço Riders, Schwalbe.

**CONTACTS**

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