



Adventurebug Worldwide Ltd

Bespoke adventure travel & events since 2000

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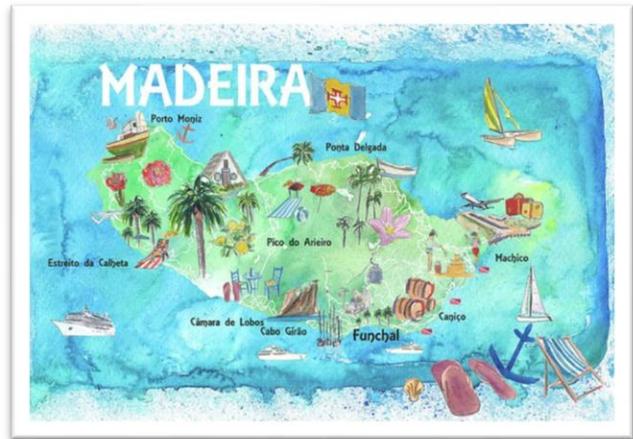


MADEIRA

Island Adventure

Multi-Activity Discovery Tour

The mid-Atlantic region offers some geographical treasures largely bypassed by travellers destined for Europe's mainland. Portugal is blessed with the **Madeira** Island group and we find this destination an absolute gem for hikers, bikers and nature lovers alike. Add wonderful food & wine, a unique history, awe-inspiring landscapes and a welcoming island hospitality - you have the perfect get-away that remains vastly less trodden than Europe's mainland!



Madeira Island, located 3,150 miles South East of New York, is a Portuguese autonomous region and serves up its own wonderful delights to the discerning traveller! Comprising 4 islands off the northwest coast of Africa, Madeira is known for its namesake wine, maritime history and a warm, subtropical climate. The main island of Madeira is volcanic, green and rugged, with high cliffs, scenic terraces to hike (levantas), pebbly beaches and charming settlements on deltas of the Fajã River.

Hiking & Exploring in Madeira is like taking a trip through an open-air botanical garden. Then there's the volcanic landscapes and hidden lakes and valleys – trapping microclimates, lush and bursting with songbirds and exotic insects. Along the coastlines, home to an abundance of whales and dolphins, maritime traditions remain unchanged and society is moulded by the rigors of powerful mid Atlantic swell, making Madeira one of the most determined fishing cultures on earth.

Adventurebug Worldwide, is pleased to offer this action-packed journey to Madeira in selected spring & autumn periods!



Tour Features & Highlights

This Multi-activity tour comprises 8 tour nights in 3 of Madeira's diverse geographical locations: Our first base is the eastern shores of **Machico**, before carrying on to **Porto Moniz**, famed for its dramatic landscapes and natural bathing pools, and ending at **Funchal**, the lively capital of the island and heart of all things Madeiran!

We offer **easy to moderate day hikes & activities** throughout the main island, staying in comfortable 4 star hotels, all centrally located and with modern amenities. Add a unique **4x4 sightseeing tour**; a

cable car journey high above the Island's capital and a **Madeira Wine Tasting experience** among many other things! Options to opt out of a hike or simply enjoy the many options on your free-day, ensure this tour has the right balance for everyone. All activities, guiding, selected meals and daily transfers by private vehicle are all included. We have selected our favourite hikes and cultural highlights, ensuring we've covered the **best of Madeira** - including a special focus on local gastronomy, crafts, natural diversity and interacting with the local



community. Expect lush flora and fauna - particularly local seasonal flowers, indigenous and non-native plants, birds and marine life.

By undertaking this tour, you are also creating opportunities to enhance aspects of rural tourism to Portugal's less-travelled island communities. **Welcome aboard** (Bem-vindo)!

ITINERARY

Day 0 Depart from home for Madeira (Funchal)

Airport Code: FNC

Azores Airlines (SATA) and TAP Airlines, have departures from the EU, Boston and New York. Some are direct and others are via Lisbon. With these two airlines, you may also consider a free stopover in Lisbon (or perhaps the **Azores**), to diversify your experience.



Day 1 Machicho, Madeira

Bemvindo to Madeira! Only a 5 min taxi ride from the airport brings you to **Machicho**, a quiet coastal town on the island's east coast. Here you can check in to our 4 star hotel and rest after your journey. This afternoon we'll have an orientation meetup, and if time permits a light hike in the region (village & countryside), and perhaps our first dip in the ocean as our hotel is located on the beach itself! **Accommodation:** Dom Pedro Madeira Hotel 4 stars -

<https://madeira.dompedro.com/pt/> **Meals:** A welcome dinner is provided tonight. **Activities:** *Total hiking time today can be 2-3 hours /200 to 400 feet elevation gain / 2-3 miles. *Pending participant / group arrival times.



Day 2 Hike Ponta de Sao Lourenco

The Cape of the Saint Trail

Today a 15 minute van transfer brings us to the trail head of the **Ponta de Sao Lourenco Coastal Path (PR8)**. This beautiful circular route leads to the most easterly point of Madeira. Taking in panoramic views on both sides of the peninsula, there's sea stacks; bird watching opportunities and perhaps whale and dolphin spotting moments too! **Accommodation:** Same hotel as previous night. **Meals:** Breakfast - Dinner can be sourced in the local village restaurants. **Activities:** Total hiking time today is approximately 4 hours, but a full day considering stops on route, beach swims, etc. / 1300 feet elevation gain (if one chooses the high point ascent) Total is 5 miles minimum.





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Day 3 Santana Village & Aqueduct of the King Hike

Today we say farewell to Machicho and journey along the island's north shores in the direction of **Santana**. Here we'll make our first stop and explore on foot this fascinating village set overlooking the coast. Soon after, we'll drive to the trailhead of the **King's Aqueduct** (PR 18), one of Madeira's famous "Levada" hikes through beautiful natural terrain. Our journey continues by road after this, arriving at the spectacular coastal resort of **Porto Moniz**, famous for its natural swimming pools carved out of volcanic rock! We'll have 2 nights here in a comfortable 4 star hotel near the ocean.



In English, LEVADA translates to irrigation channel or aqueduct. Specifically, it refers to man-made water channels found on the Portuguese Island of Madeira, use for transporting water across the island, primarily for agricultural purposes. Today they are both functional for carrying water and groomed for wonderful hiking opportunities around the island itself.

Accommodation: Hotel Aqua Natura Bay 4 stars (Porto Moniz) <https://www.aquanaturahotels.com/en/Aqua-Natura-Bay> **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner (in hotel).

Activities: Total hiking time today is split between a walk around Santana and the actual King's Aqueduct trail of approximately 4 hours / 700 feet elevation gain / 7 miles minimum.

Day 4 Hike of the Levada Janela River

This morning we have a short transfer to the trailhead where we'll explore another classic **Levada** (aqueduct route). Today's route brings us through small agricultural plantations of fruit, vegetable and vineyard regions before we enter forest and mountain landscapes. This afternoon we'll cool off in the famous **Porto Moniz Natural Swimming Pools**. An attractive and well-designed open swimming pool in protective lagoons on the edge of the powerful Atlantic! *Optionally today you may wish to visit the local Aquarium, located right near our hotel.* **Accommodation:** Same hotel as previous night. Hotel Aqua Natura Bay 4 stars (Porto Moniz) **Meals:** Breakfast & Dinner (in hotel). **Activities:** Total hiking time today is approximately 4 hours / up to 1000 feet elevation gain / 4 miles minimum.



Day 5 Central MADEIRA - Hike of the 25 Fountains

Today we depart Madeira's north coast and venture inland to one of the higher hikes of the tour where we'll enjoy spectacular views, waterfalls and extraordinary botany on our journey! Our hike today, considered one of Madeira's finest (*and most sought after*), is the **Walk of the 25 Fountains (PR 6 & 6.2)**. Reaching heights of over 4000 feet (*but with little elevation gain on the hike itself*), we will enjoy world-class views of the island itself. Later today we'll descend to the lively capital of Madeira, Funchal where we have 4 nights' stay at our coastal hotel. **Accommodation:** Hotel Melia Mare 4 stars (Funchal) <https://www.meliamaadeira.com/> **Meals:** Breakfast. **Activities:** Total hiking time today is approximately 4-5 hours / *1000 feet elevation gain (pending route chosen) / 5 miles minimum.





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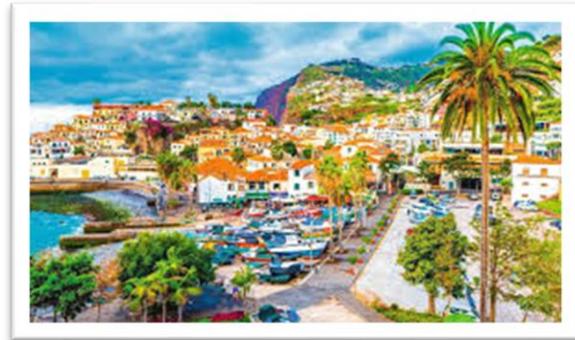
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Day 6 FUNCHAL - City Tour & Cable Car to the Botanical Gardens

This morning we enjoy all-things **Funchal** related as we stroll through city landscapes, hearing stories of past and present with our local specialist guide. After our morning guided tour breaks for lunch, we'll ascend by **cable car** to the spectacular viewpoints and natural wonders of the **Botanical Gardens**. Our day tour wouldn't be complete without a tasting of Madeira's famous local wines and an understanding of what makes this wine unique! **Accommodation:**

Same Hotel as previous night (Funchal) **Meals:** Breakfast only today. **Activities:** Mostly city / town walking today likely covering 2-3 miles including visits to the Botanical Gardens. Non-strenuous day.



Day 7 4x4 Tour of Madeira's Unique Landscapes & Rural Culture Experiences

Today we set off on an adventure tour in **Landrover Vehicles** - exploring landscapes and rural areas not accessible or known to most tourists. Expect a series of light walks and explorations on route today - as well as an immersion to all things Madeira-related!

Accommodation: Same Hotel as previous night (Funchal) **Meals:** Breakfast & Lunch. **Activities:** Mostly light walking today likely covering a few miles in village and countrysides. A non-strenuous day for the most part and rich in scenery & culture!



Day 8 Funchal - Free Choice Day

For our final tour day, you are free to choose from many activity options here in Madeira. These are not included in the tour price, but we can help with recommendations! Madeira is a paradise for both nature and culture. Some considerations for today include: *(note, the links associated are not specific recommendations but examples)*

- Cookery Course Madeira Style
<https://madeira.best/product/madeira-cook-experience>
- Monte Sledge Experience! <https://www.carreirosdomonte.com/v3/en/index.php>
- Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari <https://rota-dos-cetaceos.pt/>
- Rest & Relax on the beaches and/or stroll the famous LIDO PROMENADE!
- Explore, shop and have a relaxing final lunch in Madeira!
- Self guide on a local hike
- Rent an Ebike and explore the region with or without a guide!



Accommodation: Same Hotel as previous night (Funchal) **Meals:** Breakfast & Farewell Dinner.

Activities: Self-guided options for today for you to select *(none are included in tour price)*.



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Day 9 DEPARTURE FROM Funchal, Madeira

This morning we say adios as you make your way home (or extend your stay or travel to the EU perhaps). Please note that airport transfers are not included (please request if needed), but taxis and shared vans can be arranged at local prices via the hotel. Breakfast only included today.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

- **8 nights** accommodation in comfortable 4 star hotels – centrally Located / twin or double share
- Meals as per itinerary - All breakfasts for included tour nights; 5 dinners with wine included (or) beer, soft drink choice & mineral water. For trail lunches (non included), we recommend (and will advise), on local supermarkets / delis, etc. to source out lunch items each day. There is 1 lunch included on the 4x4 tour day.
- Internal trailhead transfers via private (bus) vehicle and where required local taxis, vans and 4x4 tour vehicles
- Guided tour program led by Adventurebug and local guides where applicable.
- 4x4 guided tour program & entrance fees for selected activities (ie. Porto Moniz Natural Pools entrance).
- Cable Car experience and Botanical Gardens Funchal entrance.
- Trail Entrance fees throughout.
- Local taxes and all booking and service fees.
- Included TIPS are: Tips for included meals in restaurants and all bus services and local tour guides.
- Internet service available at all hotel destinations.

NON INCLUSIONS

*PERSONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE, additional entrance & activity fees (where not listed on itinerary), airport transfers, ETIAS European Visa for travellers, room service bills and housekeeping tips.

* We strongly advise that along with medical travel insurance you take out cancellation (and/or trip disruption insurance).

FLIGHTS & AIRPORT ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE DETAILS

This tour begins and ends in Funchal, Madeira - Airport Code FNC. It's worth noting that If you're interested in a STOP-OVER, be sure to check the conditions of travel with your airline. TAP Air Portugal and SATA offer a free stop over in selected locations (like Lisbon & the Azores - pending flight routings).

PRE & POST TOUR NIGHTS IN MADEIRA

Adventurebug can reserve additional nights (pre or post tour), for you. Pricing will be confirmed in due course and will include breakfast, however the popular EU local tourist tax (normally 2 or 3 euros per room / night), must be paid locally by the participant. Note that the tourist tax on hotel rooms **during** your tour nights with us is covered in your trip price (just not the pre or post tour nights). Alternatively, you can book directly with the hotel for your additional night(s), or via an online service such as BOOKING.COM.



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Quick Facts: TRAVEL IN MADEIRA

- The EU has issued a new VISA for all non-EU passports as of July 2025. Known as the ETIAS, you must secure this travel requirement before your tour. Details can be found here: https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en
- Euros are the currency. Banking ATM Machines are widely available and we recommend obtaining small amounts of Euros for your daily travel. Traveller's Cheques are NOT accepted these days, bank ATM cards or Visa / MC are best options.
- Language of the ISLAND is Portuguese and English is spoken in the main tourist areas and generally all hotels and restaurants.
- The region contains a series of small, sparsely populated villages that for many years was very impoverished. Society relies on fishing and agriculture for sustainability and tourism is the region's biggest income earner. Standards of living can be very different from what you are accustomed to. The pace of life on the island is slower and levels of customer service may appear 'less ambitious' than what we are normally used to.
- The Island is volcanic and seismic activity can occur. Large, destructive earthquakes or lava flows have not existed in current history and the Portuguese Government regularly promotes the region as a family holiday destination with minor risks. However, no one can control nature, so we (Adventurebug), warn that random occurrences from natural causes may cause delays or cancellations to travel.
- Road travel on the Island is good but expect narrow, winding, tarmac roads through mountainous countryside - some with steep drops! Our transfers are normally no more than 1 hour at a time and with frequent stops at scenic locations. We do have a few transfers that may be around, or over 1.5 hours on this excursion.
- For packing, essentially bring loose fitting, comfortable hiking garments that are quick to wash and dry. Ensure you have suitable hiking shoes that are closed toe for the longer hikes and have ankle support. Some easier level hikes are town/country based and can be done in sneakers or good hiking sandals. Expect some areas for swimming during the hiking sessions (weather dependent!). Hiking poles are recommended as well as good quality sun protection and a quality camera. Binoculars will come in handy as will a head lamp, small first aid kit and your usual toiletry items.
- Weather patterns throughout the Island are erratic and similar to the maritime climates of the Eastern US – however much milder. Rain, squalls and strong winds can be the norm for certain hours of the day and periods during the year. Outside of July and August, it can be rainy every day but most showers are short lived and spread over the island. For May, temperatures in Madeira are pleasant (high 60s at night and 75 during the day). It can however feel warmer with the blazing sun so precautions should be made.
- Travel disease issues are not a concern on the Island. Immunisations or travel vaccinations are not necessary. However we always recommend that travellers bring their own prescriptions (including glasses), from home.
- Tap water is generally very safe on Madeira and from taps it is considered of high quality. Please note that we discourage the purchasing of plastic water bottles when tap water is of great quality. Please bring a refillable container.
- Hospital and health coverage for visitors is very good and meets European criteria. Please ensure your travel insurance is up to date and covers the Island. The Island (and Portugal itself), have a robust health system and has advanced it's treatment procedures in line with EU regulations and standards.
- Madeira is 5 hours ahead of New York and 1 hour behind Lisbon on the Mainland.
- Electricity in Madeira is 230 V and uses the standard EU continental plug system:



In Madeira, the standard plug and socket type is **Type F**. This is also known as the "Schuko" plug, and is commonly used in many European countries. The standard voltage is 230V and the frequency is 50Hz. 

