



Photo: Anna Lurye/shutterstock



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Mikadun/Shutterstock.com



Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock.com

With exceptional natural beauty, a mild climate throughout the year, a friendly population, and a top-quality hotel network, Madeira and Porto Santo, the two inhabited islands of the Madeira archipelago, are the perfect islands for those seeking stress-free holidays. Here you can enjoy your holiday on the beach or at sea, in the mountains, in the countryside, or in the city—the perfect spot for a getaway to experience unique moments like nowhere else.

Events



Carnival

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Flower Festival

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Atlantic Festival

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Wine Festival

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Columbus Festival

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Top 5



Santana Traditional Houses

Now the town's biggest tourist attraction, these quaint straw houses were or...



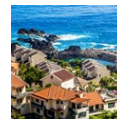
Porto Santo Island

The sparsely populated island of Porto Santo lies 40 km northeast of Madeira...



Machico

This tiny, mesmerising golden sand beach lies on the edge of the small town ...



Seixal

Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful views on the north coast of the Island...



São Vicente Caves

At the north of the island, across the central ridge, lies São Vicente. This...

THE ARCHIPELAGO



Rad Radu/Shutterstock.com

Located 1000km from the European continent and only 700km from the African coast, Madeira Archipelago is composed of Madeira Island, Porto Santo, Desertas, and Selvagens, each featuring exceptional landscapes.

Described as a floating garden, Madeira is a luxurious island of volcanic origin in the Atlantic Ocean. It has a mild subtropical climate, known for its natural therapeutic characteristics, which made Madeira one of the greatest European tourist destinations in the mid-twentieth century. At 57km long and 22 km wide, Madeira was discovered by Tristão Vaz Teixeira, Bartolomeu Perestrelo, and João Gonçalves Zarco in 1419.

Two-thirds of this autonomous region are part of a nature reserve, the demarcated region intended to preserve the richness and variety of its ecosystems. Here it is possible to visit the largest and most well-preserved area of Laurissilva, a forest aged 20 million years. Nowadays, Laurissilva only exists in Macaronesia (Madeira, Azores, Canary Islands, and Cape Verd).

The Madeira Archipelago has a wide variety of activities that can be experienced and explored, making it the perfect getaway spot.

EVENTS



wjarek / Shutterstock.com

In addition to the natural attractions and year-round spring weather, there is always plenty to do on the Madeira Islands. Throughout the year, many cultural, entertainment and sporting events are held all over the archipelago, attracting locals and visitors alike.

Carnival



Carnival on Madeira is a raucous celebration — one of the best in Europe. It is an annual festival held forty days before Easter, with activities ranging from Samba groups to electrifying street parades and costume competitions- it's easy to get swept up in the song and dance all across the island.

Photo: Cicero Castro / Shutterstock.com

Flower Festival



Every year after Easter, Funchal hosts an upbeat, colourful flower festival made possible by its subtropical climate. The city becomes drowned in soft, ephemeral perfumes produced by the many flower walls and carpets made by the locals.

Photo: Mala Iryna / Shutterstock.com

Atlantic Festival



Taking place in June, the Atlantic Festival marks the beginning of the summer season in Madeira. Classical music concerts, fireworks, and street performances make this the epitome of Madeira's summer nightlife.

Photo: Stokkete / Shutterstock.com

Wine Festival



This folk festival is held in late August, early September, when the grape harvest begins. In Funchal and Estreito de Câmara de Lobos, this occasion is celebrated with decorations, music, and dancing. It will be hard to refuse a glass of one of the many wines flowing in celebration.

Photo: Cristina Romero Palma / Shutterstock.com

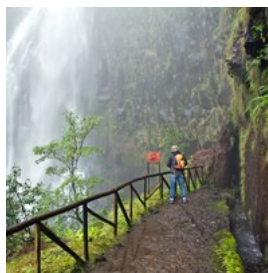
Columbus Festival



In September, Vila Baleira honours Christopher Columbus, who once lived in the archipelago. The festival commemorates the discoverer's presence on the Madeira Islands and his voyages to the Americas with performances that recreate the atmosphere in the time of the Portuguese explorers.

Photo: Dennis Gross / Shutterstock.com

Madeira Nature Festival



Surrender to the charms of an island that exhales energy and inspires adventure. Held in October with the goal of promoting nature tourism, the festival offers activities for all ages, which allow direct contact with the island's rich natural heritage.

Photo: pitsch22/shutterstock

Internet: [visitmadeira.com/en/whats-on/events/nature-festival](https://www.visitmadeira.com/en/whats-on/events/nature-festival)

New Year Celebrations



During Christmas season, Funchal Bay's amphitheatre is transformed into a giant festive scene illuminated by thousands of twinkling lights. When New Year's Eve arrives, the city's skies are filled with fireworks launched from over 50 different points, a dazzling start to the upcoming year.

Photo: magri / Shutterstock.com

DO & SEE



Tatiana Popova/Shutterstock.com

Most activities can be planned in hotels or through specialized agencies that will help you make the most of your journey. These experiences range from outdoor activities to relaxation and wellness experiences. With its spectacular landscapes and rewarding hikes, Madeira will also not disappoint nature lovers.

Santana Traditional Houses

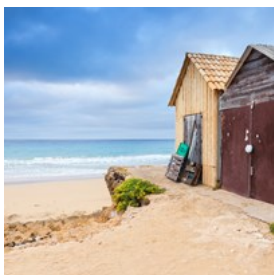


Now the town's biggest tourist attraction, these quaint straw houses were originally used by farmers during the settlement of the island. While in town, you should not miss the Archipelago's history and folk culture theme park.

Photo: Anna Lurye/Shutterstock.com

Address: Santana, Madeira

Porto Santo Island



The sparsely populated island of Porto Santo lies 40 km northeast of Madeira Island. Quiet during most of the year, it is the perfect place for those seeking an escape from the busy Funchal. The island offers a wide variety of outdoor

activities, such as diving, fishing, sailing, canoeing, and windsurfing. Much less hilly than Madeira, the island of Porto Santo is also perfect for bike rides. You can rent bikes at hotels or downtown.

Photo: Evannostro/Shutterstock.com

Address: Porto Santo

Machico

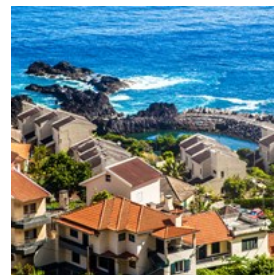


This tiny, mesmerising golden sand beach lies on the edge of the small town of Machico, the easternmost municipality on the island. With a picturesque valley as a backdrop and crystal clear Atlantic waters, this is the perfect landscape for a revitalising, relaxing day at the beach.

Photo: DaLiu/Shutterstock.com

Address: Machico, Madeira

Seixal



Undoubtedly one of the most beautiful views on the north coast of the Island, Seixal has natural ocean-fed pools perfect for diving. Also found here is one of the few black sand beaches on the island.

Photo: AWP76/Shutterstock.com

Address: Seixal, Madeira

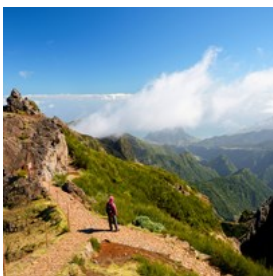
São Vicente Caves



At the north of the island, across the central ridge, lies São Vicente. This town has spectacular volcanic caves, where you can explore otherworldly geological wonders, including lava tubes.

Photo: Veronika Kovalenko/Shutterstock.com

Pico do Areeiro & Pico Ruivo

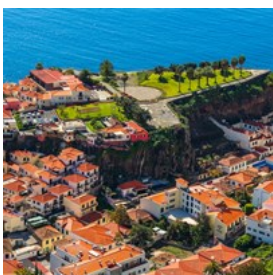


A drive to Pico do Areeiro, the island's third highest point, will reward visitors with a magnificent landscape of the central ridge and its

peaks. The trail connecting Pico do Areeiro to Pico Ruivo is one of the most scenic but also very challenging. For a less strenuous hike, follow the footpath starting at Achada do Teixeira, Santana.

Photo: Jan Nedbal/Shutterstock.com

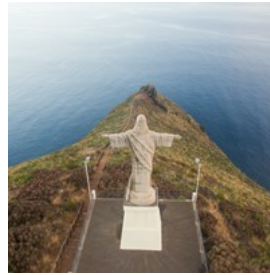
Câmara De Lobos



Just a mere 9 km away from Funchal, Câmara de Lobos is a historic fishing town, known for its abundant fur seals, and also as the subject of many paintings by Winston Churchill.

Photo: Rusinka/Shutterstock.com

Garajau



Halfway between Funchal and Santa Cruz, in Caniço de Baixo, you will find one of the island's beautiful black sand beaches. Travel by cable

car or venture on foot.

Photo: Vitaly Fedotov/Shutterstock.com

Monte

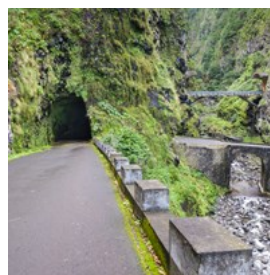


Monte is the highest town on Funchal, famous for its rich history and abundant flora. Get the adrenaline pumping by sliding back to town in the traditional

wicker sledges — "Carros de Cesto" — an experience unique to Madeira.

Photo: Nikiforov Alexander/Shutterstock.com

Road ER 101



The old ER 101 route is a breathtakingly scenic road that stretches around the island of Madeira in a full circle. You'll drive through

tunnels, over hills and past steep slopes along the way, with the occasional adrenaline rush of a particularly sharp turn and a permanent view of the magnificent Atlantic. The route is only recommended to confident drivers, so do opt for a taxi if navigating challenging roads doesn't exactly excite you (opt for cars with an automatic gearbox for tricky uphill starts if you choose to rent).

Photo: Alberto Loyo/Shutterstock.com

Funchal Downtown & Historical Area



Funchal, the capital of Madeira, was initially built on a bay and gradually expanded to the hill slopes. See

ArrivalGuides' guide to Funchal for more tips.

Photo: Tomasz Czajkowski/Shutterstock.com

Ponta do Sol



Located 18 km from Funchal, Ponta do Sol is home to one of the best-preserved historical centres on Madeira. Cais da Ponta do Sol and

Ponte do Caminho Real, two platforms over the sea, are a must-see for any visitor.

Photo: Michael Thaler/Shutterstock.com

CR7 Cristiano Ronaldo Museum



If you are a football fan, this museum is a must-see. Cristiano Ronaldo, the world-renowned superstar, was born in

Funchal. In dedication to his professional career, the CR7 Museum was established to display his trophies and awards, some dating back to his Madeira childhood.

Photo: Sergey Nivens/Shutterstock.com

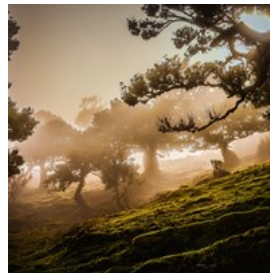
Address: Praça CR7, Avenida Sá Carneiro 27, Funchal

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-5pm

Phone: +351 291 639 880

Internet: museucr7.com

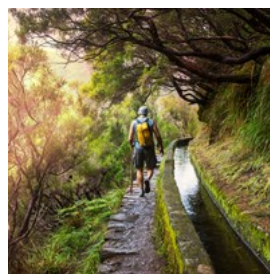
Laurissilva Forest



This ancient forest survived the ice ages—estimated to be over 20 million years old, this place is an open-air museum for botanists and nature lovers alike. The biologically diverse 15,000 hectares thrive with rare flora unseen anywhere else.

Photo: MarcvanKessel/Shutterstock.com

Levada Walks

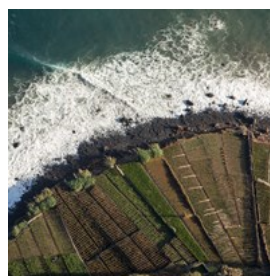


Levada Walks are walking trails along the maintenance paths beside the levadas — small agricultural water channels blended in the

island forests. These channels were created in the 16th century to transport ("levar" in Portuguese, hence the name levadas) water from the rainy northern point of the island to the south point, where crops such as sugar, bananas and grapes were grown. Walking along the levadas is a truly unique and relaxing experience, with a scenic background of nature at its most lush.

Photo: Galyna Andrushko/Shutterstock.com

Cape Girão (Cabo Girão)



At an elevation of 580 m, Cabo Girão is the highest cape in Europe. It is famous for its suspended glass platform with a breathtaking view of the

farmlands at the foot of the cliff, as well as a magnificent panoramic landscape of the ocean and the municipalities of Câmara de Lobos and

Funchal.

Photo: wjarek / Shutterstock.com

Address: Estrada do Cabo Girão, Câmara de Lobos, Madeira

Madeira Botanical Garden



With an area extending over 35,000 m², these gardens are ablaze with more than 2,000 exotic plants from all around the globe. This fantastic

garden has several ornamental trees and shrubs, an orchid area, lawns, viewpoints, and an amphitheatre for recreational activities.

Photo: A_Mikhail/Shutterstock.com

Address: Caminho do Meio, Bom Sucesso, Santa Maria Maior, Funchal

Opening hours: October to March: daily 9am-6pm. April to September: daily 9am-8pm

Phone: +351 291 211 200

Natural Swimming Pools



The natural swimming pools of Porto Moniz were created by volcanic lava and are naturally filled with crystal-clear sea water. Suitable for every age group, these pools bring all the commodities of seawater to the comfort of a swimming pool.

Photo: Michael Thaler/Shutterstock.com

Address: Porto Moniz, Madeira

Opening hours: Summer: 9am-7pm. Winter: 10am-5:30pm

Funchal Cable Car



This 15-minute cable car journey offers magnificent panoramic views over Funchal and Monte. When you arrive at Monte, you can visit the magnificent Monte Palace Tropical Gardens and the Church of Our Lady of Monte, where the Austro-Hungarian Emperor Charles I is buried.

Photo: Cristian Balate/Shutterstock.com

Address: Avenida do Mar e das Comunidades Madeirenses, Funchal

Opening hours: Daily 9am-5:45pm

Phone: +351 291 780 280

Internet: madeiracablecar.com/en

Email: info@madeiracablecar.com

Wellness



Madeira's pleasant climate and abundant natural resources have led to its reputation as a place of healing and wellness. Dive into an island of calm, clear waters, and recharge your batteries with seaweed and plant extracts, the scent of fresh flowers, the pure air, and the mild climate. Discover the fertility of the land and the abundant sea life in dishes that are as healthy as they are delicious.

Make the most of the wide range of facilities offered by most hotels, such as swimming pools, saunas, gyms, tennis courts, and massages. Some are real health resorts that combine medical and beauty treatments to offer services like thalassotherapy, hydro-massage, Turkish baths, massages and beauty centres.

For more demanding customers, Porto Santo

boasts a thalassotherapy centre, where experienced staff and excellent facilities combine to provide a variety of preventive and curative health services. The island's sand contains amazing minerals and is an excellent complement to treatment for rheumatic diseases.

Photo: goodluz/Shutterstock.com

DINING



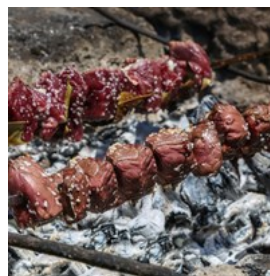
Anna Lurye/Shutterstock.com

Madeiran gastronomy has been influenced by all the cultures that passed through the islands over the years. Some typical starters you cannot miss are bolo do caco (sweet potato bread) with garlic butter, grilled limpets and tomato and onion soup. For the main course, try the famous pork marinated in wine and garlic or the legendary beef espetada, a massive grilled skewer. And since you're on an archipelago, make the most of the fresh fish: try the black scabbard fish fillet (peixe-espada), tuna steak with fried maize (atum com milho frito), or grilled wrasse (bodião).

Restaurants are surely not what is missing in Madeira as they are abundantly spread all over the city of Funchal and the rest of the island, as well as on Porto Santo. There are restaurants for all tastes, from the most modern and sophisticated eateries with international cuisine to the more regional restaurants and welcoming

traditional taverns.

As Vides



As Vides is a restaurant praised by locals as one of the best traditional restaurants in Madeira. Forget your diet for one day and prepare yourself

to try the island's characteristically long, flavourful beef skewers and the most iconic Madeiran delicacy, the buttery bolo do caco.

Photo: Finaldream / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rau da Achada 17, Madeira

Opening hours: Daily 12pm-4pm / 7pm-10:30pm

Phone: +351 291 945 322

O Casco



If you want to see what comfort food tastes like in Madeira, O Casco is definitely the place to go. Lunch, dinner - or simply a snack - everything will

be cooked to order at any time of the day. Be sure to try one of the many varieties of the famous bolo do caco.

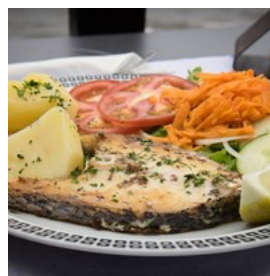
Photo: F_N / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua do Ribeirinho 2, Machico

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-midnight, Sat & Sun 10am-1am

Phone: +351 291 962 150

Cantinho dos Amigos



Located just across Mercado dos Lavradores, you'll find this typically tiny, dimly lit Portuguese restaurant. The fish sandwiches and dishes,

along with the hospitality, will leave you wishing

to come back more than once. Do not forget to try the locally crafted cider.

Photo: Veronika Kovalenko / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua dos Murcas 84, Funchal

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10am-9:30pm

Phone: +351 291 236 357

O Polar



O Polar is living proof that an extensive and expensive menu is not needed in order to achieve excellence. With a short, affordable selection, the restaurant will not leave you disappointed with any of the Madeira-style barbecue dishes.

Photo: haraldmuc / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua Pico da Torre 26, Câmara de Lobos, Madeira

Opening hours: Mon-Sat noon-3pm / 6pm-11pm

Phone: +351 291 944 442

Casa d'Avó



Casa d'Avó is known for serving local ingredients and dishes with an international cuisine twist. The menu varies with the day's fish haul, and the attentive staff will certainly serve you a dish that will make you want to come back to this tiny, remote island.

Photo: Veronika Kovalenko / Shutterstock.com

Address: Porto Santo Island, Campo de Baixo

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6pm-midnight

Phone: +351 925 014 338

Mercado Velho



Centrally located, Mercado Velho will serve you food from early morning to late evening. Not only do they have the freshest tuna and sardine dishes, but also the traditional alcohol-flambéed Portuguese chorizo. A favourite among locals, this hidden gem is yet to be found by most visitors to Porto Santo.

Photo: Sopotnicki / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua João Gonçalves Zarco 9, Vila Baleira

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 9am-midnight, Fri 9am-1am, Sat 9am-2am

Phone: +351 291 984 205

CAFÉS



Poberezhna/Shutterstock.com

After a long day of sightseeing, you might want to sit back and relax with a cup of coffee or tea. Madeira offers charming small cafes where you can enjoy a pastry or local desserts such as the typical honey cake. There are also some cafés with outdoor seating overlooking the waves of the Atlantic Ocean.

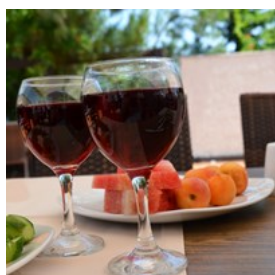
Barreirinha Bar Café



If the perfect location wasn't good enough, Barreirinha Bar Café also provides hearty, affordable eats all day long. On Friday and Saturday nights the atmosphere becomes young and lively — just perfect for those looking for a drink on a warm Madeira night.

Photo: Sergey Fomenko / Shutterstock.com
Address: Largo do Socorro, Funchal
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 9am-midnight, Fri 10am-2am, Sat 9am-2am
Phone: +351 291 627 418

Mercearia Dona Mécia



Inspired by the tiny old Portuguese grocery stores, Mercearia Dona Mécia is not only a place to drink espresso but also to have some of their unique bite-sized snacks. It is the perfect place to try some Portuguese grilled chorizo.

Photo: dilyaz / Shutterstock.com
Address: Rua dos Aranhas 26, Funchal
Opening hours: Mon-Thu 8am-10pm, Fri 8am-midnight, Sat 10am-10pm
Phone: +351 291 221 559

Magic Tea House



If having a drink with a marvellous ocean view is your cup of tea, then Magic Tea House is a place you cannot miss. On the menu, you'll find many tea varieties, coffee, and beer, plus salads, sandwiches, and pastries.

Photo: Nadiia Kalameiets / Shutterstock.com
Address: Rua da Ponta da Cruz 23, Funchal
Opening hours: Daily 10am-6pm

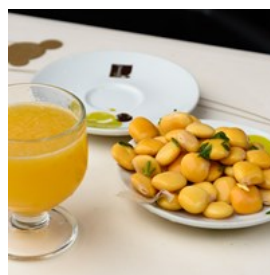
BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Cabeça de Marmore/Shutterstock.com

Nightlife in Madeira is mainly concentrated in Funchal, with a wide range of bars and nightclubs. During the weekend, the streets are filled with a joyfully contagious nightlife spirit, made possible by the archipelago's ever-pleasant weather. You will not want to miss Madeira's most famous cocktail 'poncha', made from sugar cane alcohol and fruit juice.

Taberna Popular



Taberna Popular's charm comes from it not trying to be more than what it seems - a tiny crowded pub with cheap beer and snacks. It is perfect for a late-night drink at the end of your Pub Crawl.

Photo: Branyi / Shutterstock.com
Address: Rua das Fontes 18, Funchal
Opening hours: Wed-Sat 8pm-4am, Sun-Tue 6pm-2am
Phone: +351 914 758 975

Mercearia da Poncha



Mercearia da Poncha is the perfect place to start your pub crawl. Here you can taste many colorful variations of Madeira's preferred drink, poncha.

It is impossible not to notice the unbelievably affordable prices.

Photo: Mauro Rodrigues / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua de Santa Maria 154, Funchal

Opening hours: Mon-Thu 4pm-1am, Fri & Sat 4pm-2am

Phone: +351 914 758 975

Madeira Rum House



Madeira Rum House's name is the literal description of what you will find there — rum from Madeira. Located in the old town, they serve

rum cocktails you will find nowhere else. Prepare yourself to sit back and enjoy one of the archipelago's alcoholic treats.

Photo: Kojin / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua Portão de São Tiago 19C, Funchal

Opening hours: Daily 7pm-11pm

Phone: +351 966 017 555

Email: madeirarumhouse@gmail.com

Revolucion Bar



Hidden in Funchal's old town, this little bar has been described by locals as having the best cocktails in Funchal or even on the entire island

of Madeira. The cosy and relaxed atmosphere will make you spend more time there than you might have planned.

Photo: Igor Normann / Shutterstock.com

Address: Rua de Santa Maria 144 A, Funchal

Opening hours: Daily 5pm-1am

Phone: +351 965 754 707

Bar Pé de Cabra



Pé de Cabra, which in Portuguese means "goat foot" is the name of a Madeira's cocktail, said to be invented at this bar. Try it yourself and be

satisfied with this recipe that has been passed on through many generations of the family that runs the bar.

Photo: Witukki / Shutterstock.com

Address: Caminho da Ribeira dos Socorridos 5, Lombada

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 6am-10pm, Sun 2pm-10pm

Phone: +351 291 774 040

SHOPPING



DihooTro/Shutterstock.com

Besides its superb weather and food, Madeira is also a fantastic place to do some shopping. From traditional markets, wines and handcrafts to big, modern shopping centres, there certainly won't be a lack of fun and variety when it comes to shopping. Take this chance to bring some Madeiran wine or poncha back home since you will not find a tasty tropical liquor like it anywhere else in the world.

Madeira Wine



Madeira's unique soil and climate make the production of an even more unique wine possible. Praised by Shakespeare in his plays and admired by monarchs, princes, generals, and explorers, this nectar is definitely one of Madeira's finest achievements. Multiple wineries offer guided tours and tastings (e.g. Blandy's Wine Lodge, one of the island's most reputable and longest-standing).

Photo: kavram/Shutterstock.com

Farmers' Market



This Farmers' Market, inaugurated in 1940, still carries out the functions for which it was created. All sorts of local produce (fruit, vegetable, flower, and fish) are sold in a blend of colours, sounds, smells, and visiting nationalities.

Photo: Anna Dickie/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mercado dos Lavradores, Funchal
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7am-7pm, Sat 7am-2pm
Phone: +351 291 098 756

Madeira Shopping



Madeira's weather is known for its unpredictability, but don't let that put you out. Madeira Shopping is the perfect family destination for a rainy day. Once you enter this retail heaven, you will find plenty of stores and sellers more than happy to assist you.

Photo: David Prado Perucha / Shutterstock.com

Address: Caminho Santa Quitéria 45, Funchal

Opening hours: Daily 9am-11pm

Phone: +351 291 100 800

Internet: www.madeirashopping.pt

Forum Madeira



If filling your bags with new clothes is one of your vacation goals, then Forum Madeira is the place to go. This modern indoor-outdoor mall features 80 stores on three levels — it will be difficult not to go over your bag's capacity.

Photo: Kwangmoozaa / Shutterstock.com

Address: Estrada Monumental 390, Funchal
Opening hours: Daily 10am-11pm
Phone: +351 291 706 800
Internet: www.forummadeira.com/en
Email: forummadeira@multi.eu

Madeira Embroidery



The hand embroidery of Madeira is generally claimed to be one of the finest of its kind. Part of the history and culture of Madeira, its distinctive style is the result of the mix of many influences from all across Europe throughout the years, making it impossible to find such a unique handcraft anywhere else in the world.

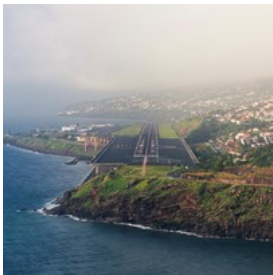
Photo: Rosa Araci Henriques / Shutterstock.com

TOURIST INFORMATION



Balate Dorin/shutterstock

Madeira Airport International Cristiano Ronaldo (FNC)



Madeira International Airport (FNC) is located about 20 km from Funchal's city centre — roughly a 20–25 minute drive. From the terminal,

there are plenty of ways to reach the city: the Aerobus shuttle runs regularly and drops you in central Funchal in around half an hour, local buses crisscross the island, taxis are plentiful, and there's also the possibility of renting a car if you'd like the freedom to discover Madeira on your own time.

Photo: Ivan Berrocal/shutterstock

Address: Madeira Airport International Cristiano Ronaldo (FNC)

Phone: +351 291 520 700

Internet: www.madeiraairport.pt/en/fnc/home

More Info: Also known as Funchal Airport (Aeroporto do Funchal), Santa Catarina Airport (Aeroporto de Santa Catarina) and Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport.

Porto Santo Airport (PXO)



Porto Santo Airport (PXO) is located just outside the island's main town, Vila Baleira, around 5 km away—roughly a 7-minute taxi ride or a 25–30-minute journey by public bus.

While the airport provides direct access to Porto Santo, most visitors either fly first into Madeira International Airport and take a short 15-minute inter-island flight, or travel by ferry from Funchal, a scenic 2-hour-plus crossing that allows passengers to bring vehicles on board.

Once on the island, travellers can hire a taxi, use the regular public bus service, or rent a car to explore at their own pace.

Photo: Kingmaya Studio/Shutterstock

Address: Porto Santo Airport

Passport & Visa



Citizens of European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) countries do not need a visa to enter Portugal, only a valid ID. Many

other countries, including the United Kingdom, United States, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Australia, and New Zealand, benefit from visa-free entry for short stays of up to 90 days within a 180-day period.

Visitors from visa-exempt countries must hold a valid passport and, starting in late 2025, will need to apply for an ETIAS (European Travel Information and Authorisation System) authorisation online before travelling.

For those requiring a visa, such as travellers from some Middle-East, African or Asian nations, a Schengen visa must be obtained prior to arrival. All travellers should ensure their passport is valid for at least three months beyond their intended stay.

Photo: Anastasia Kamysheva/shutterstock
Internet: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/schengen/visa-policy_en

Public Transport



One of the main public bus companies that operates on Madeira is Horários do Funchal, operating both city and inter-city services on the south, central, and north parts of the island.

A limited amount of the island's attractions can be reached by bus, while certain areas (such as the popular hiking route between Madeira's two highest peaks) are only accessible by private transfer or as part of a guided tour.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair / Shutterstock.com

Best Time to Visit



Madeira's characteristic climate makes for pleasant weather all year long. Paired with the multiple festivals, a visit at any time of the year

will be worth it. Madeira is also known for its New Year's Eve and Carnival celebrations, making these seasons a must-go for those who cannot miss a festive event.

Photo: VectorA / Shutterstock.com

Taxi



All trips by taxi are metered, although there are some fixed charges for certain trips. There are also some surcharges for extra luggage. You

can find taxis in taxi ranks, circulating around the city, or you can also call one taxi to your location.

Taxis will often wait at locations frequented by tourists, such as starting/finishing points of levada walks. Teaming up with other travellers is a common practice - a cab will often fit in 4+ passengers and drop each one off at their requested location.

Or you can request a ride in the Uber app.

Photo: ArrivalGuides

Post



Post offices or Correios de Portugal (CTT) are usually open Mon-Fri 8:30am-8pm and Sat 9am-12:30pm. You can find them in different

locations around the island, but the main offices are located in Funchal.

Photo: Andy Fuchs / Shutterstock.com
Internet: www.ctt.pt

Pharmacy



Prescription and non-prescription drugs are available from pharmacies (farmácia), but if you need regular medication it is better to

take supplies with you. Pharmacies are usually open Mon-Fri (9am-1pm and 3pm-7pm). There are some pharmacies that are open beyond this schedule but in only some specific points. To find out which pharmacies are open all day, you can check the information posted in every pharmacy.

Photo: Gemma Garner / Shutterstock.com

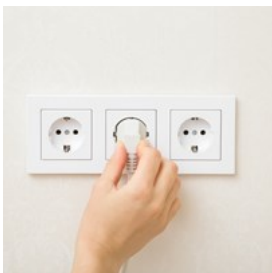
Phone



Country code: +351 Area code: (0)291

Photo: bbernard/shutterstock

Electricity



Portugal's power grid operates at 230 volts with a frequency of 50 Hz, using Type F (Schuko plug) and Type C (Europlug) outlets. Both

types accept plugs with two round prongs, common across continental Europe.

Photo: FotoDuets/shutterstock

Population

259,440 (2025)

Currency

Euro, €

Newspapers

In English: Essential Madeira and Porto Santo (quarterly)
The Madeira Times

Emergency numbers

112

Tourist information

Tourist Information Centre
Avenida Arriaga 16, Funchal
+351 291 145 305

Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat & Sun 9am-3:30pm



map kindly supplied by the official Madeira Tourist Board