ARTISAN TRAVEL

Portugal's Garden Island



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Madeira

BROCHURE CODE: 5523
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

This seven-night holiday takes in some of the most colourful and interesting sights of Madeira. From its beautiful gardens and terraces to its winding Levada walks and jagged mountains, you'll explore by foot, boat and road to really experience this landscape of sheer beauty.

Our Opinion

"The landscape of Madeira is absolutely stunning: jagged peaks, forest-covered mountains and bright, blooming flowers make it a real treat for the senses. The food is incredible, with fresh fruit and vegetables everywhere you turn and some of the best fish and beef I have ever tasted. I can't wait for the chance to head back there!"

Jono Archer





What's included?

- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation in standard land view double/twin rooms*
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Palheiro Gardens, Levada dos Tornos and Jasmin Tea House, east island tour with wine tasting, Levada dos Marocos, west island tour and swimming in the lava pools, day trip to Porto Santo **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

* Hotels in Madeira now charge a tourist tax of 2 euros/per person per night (up to maximum of 7 nights) this must be paid locally on check in. Children up to 13 years will be exempt.

Trip Overview

Although relatively small in size, Madeira is absolutely brimming with flora and fauna. Thanks to the sub-tropical climate, the island enjoys warm temperatures for most of the year. The tall mountains capture the water from the clouds and irrigate the lands below, creating landscapes full of colour and beauty. Flowers and fruit trees line the hills and terraces and every possible bit of space is utilised to grow fresh fruits and vegetables in the fertile volcanic soil.

The island has several fantastic landscaped gardens, as well as many beautiful household plots. This trip includes a visit to one of the smaller, yet more interesting private gardens of Palheiro, as well as stops at vineyards and picturesque villages across the island. From your base in Funchal, you can also visit other botanical gardens and public parks, which are filled with colour and fascinating plant species.

A trip to Madeira wouldn't be complete without walking along one of the many levadas that weave through the island, which is why we have included two. Levadas are small irrigation channels that transport water from the mountains, down to the fields and villages below. They gently wind through the mountains, hugging the contours as the water flows from the steep, jagged peaks up high, to the terraces and gardens below. The levada routes make for fantastic walks as you follow the water on its

path downhill and enjoy spectacular views of the mountains, ravines and luscious forests.

From east to west, the island has a huge variety of stunning vistas and dramatic landscapes, which is why this itinerary includes tours to both parts of the island so that you can appreciate the overwhelming beauty of this fantastic archipelago. Wine tasting, fresh local food and swimming in the warm waters that surround Madeira will create lasting memories.

Furthermore, you'll even get to enjoy a day trip to the smaller, neighbouring island of Porto Santo, which is home to a fabulous sandy beach and charming town.

Based in Funchal, you can take a walk along the harbour and venture into the old town, which is filled with local restaurants, cafes and bars, as well as incredible art galleries, markets and shops. This vibrant and friendly town is the perfect place to immerse yourself in the fabulous culture and history of Madeira.

Credit: Visit Madeira, Carlos Viveiros & Francisco Correia

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 — ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER

After arriving at Funchal Airport, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Funchal.
The activities included in your itinerary are largely group-based, focusing on island exploration and discovery. With so much to see and do, you'll no doubt create lasting memories of your trip to this fantastic island.

Changes to the itinerary: very occasionally, the itinerary and/or duration of activities may change according to local conditions, events or guest preferences. Decisions will be based first and foremost on your safety and comfort.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 — PALHEIRO GARDENS, LEVADA DOS TORNOS AND JASMIN TEA HOUSE

After breakfast at your hotel, you will have the morning free to relax, or perhaps explore your surroundings. Close to the old town section of Funchal, you are perfectly placed to explore the city and all it has to offer. Buzzing cafes and restaurants and exciting shops and markets mean you'll have plenty to see and do.

In the early afternoon, you will be picked up and taken to Palheiro Gardens in the hills behind Funchal. These gardens were planted during the 18th Century with all sorts of colourful flowers and trees. Thanks to its prominence as a historical stop for traders and travellers, plants from all over the world can be found here. The gardens are currently owned by the Blandy family, one of the most prosperous on Madeira and owners of the famous Blandy's vineyards.

After exploring the gardens, you will set off on a short and relatively easy guided walk (approximately one hour) to the Jasmin Tea House. This beautiful walk will take you along the first section of the Levada Dos Tornos, which is lined with trees and shrubs, offering views down towards Funchal. The levada is regarded as one of the easier options on Madeira and you are only walking along a short section of it, however, it should be noted that suitable walking footwear should be worn and there are a couple of points with relatively steep drops. On arrival, the Jasmin Tea House is the perfect place to stop for refreshments, savour the gardens and enjoy the views over Funchal.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 EAST ISLAND TOUR WITH WINE TASTING

The Madeiran landscape varies from coast to coast in a fascinating way and today you will take part in a tour of the east portion of the island, travelling through picturesque villages, along the winding coast and across the dramatic mountains. The scenery is utterly breathtaking and this is the perfect way to get a sense of the island's changing beauty.

Your journey today will take you from Funchal towards Pico do Arieiro, which offers magnificent views on a clear day. Driving on to the charming village of Ribeiro Frio, high up in the hills of Madeira, you will pass through thick green forests, savouring the natural beauty of the island. Here you will enjoy a short walk to Balcoes – an outstanding balcony viewpoint, which looks out onto the mountains and villages below; hopefully, you will be greeted with clear views today.

On to Faial and Santana, you will see the famous thatched rooves of the traditional Madeiran houses and the terraced vineyards that stretch far across the hillsides. Lunch will be served in the beautiful Hotel Quinta do Furao, which commands incredible views of the imposing coastline and beautiful blue seas. Here you will also get to taste some local Madeiran wine and learn about the different techniques used in their creation. After this, it is on to Porto da Cruz, Portela and finally, Machico, before heading back to Funchal to relax after a day of wonderful exploration.

For dinner, why not head into town to try one of the many excellent local restaurants.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 LEVADA DOS MAROÇOS WALK

After breakfast in the hotel, this morning you will be transferred to the valley of Machico, where you will enjoy a guided walk along the Levada dos Maroços.

This levada walk takes approximately two hours and covers roughly four miles, journeying along the agricultural terraces that line the hills (shorter levada walks are available on request). Bordered with flowers, crops and beautiful vegetation, this walk will take you through farmland, past traditional houses and gardens and along beautiful sections of the countryside; sometimes the local farmers even sell their fresh produce to those walking the levada!

Although this walk is relatively easy, there are some sections with steep drops, so please use appropriate footwear. A picnic lunch is included today, so you can enjoy some refreshments as you take in the scenery of this part of Madeira.

Returning to the hotel, you will have the afternoon free to relax by the pool, or perhaps explore Funchal.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5 — WEST ISLAND TOUR AND SWIMMING IN THE LAVA POOLS

After exploring the wonders of the east, today you will journey over to the west to experience the varying beauty of this island.

From your hotel, you will drive to the charming village of Camara de Lobos; a traditional fishing village with an attractive harbour, surrounded by terracotta-roofed houses and tree-lined roads. Heading inland, you'll head up to Cabo Girao, the highest sea cliff in Europe, to enjoy the wonderful views of the endless ocean.

Through the luscious mountains and on to the north coast and the town of Sao Vicente where you will be greeted with wonderful views of the dramatic coastline. Driving on to Porto Moniz, you will break for lunch at a local restaurant and then have the chance to swim in the lava pools, which offer some of the best saltwater swimming on the island. These natural pools were formed by cooling lava and they are filled with crystal-clear sea water; perfect for a refreshing dip. Make sure to bring your swimming gear, towel and a change of clothes for the journey back.

Climbing sharply from Porto Moniz, you will arrive at the magnificent Paul da Serra plateau, which is 1500m above sea level and offers a stark contrast to the thick, luscious forests lower down. This heathland is beautifully flat and, thanks to its height, you can often drive through the clouds as you journey across the island. Driving back to Funchal, you'll pass through Ponta do Sol and Ribeira Brava along gorgeous, flower-lined roads, before returning to your hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6 — DAY TRIP TO PORTO SANTO

Discovered in 1418, Porto Santo is often referred to as the 'Paradise Island' and for good reason; this small island boasts a nine-kilometre beach of beautiful, golden sand and turquoise waters. Although only twenty-seven miles northeast of Madeira, the landscape is very different and largely free of dense

vegetation, however, it is still incredibly stunning and a wonderful place to explore.

Departing early in the morning, you will be transferred to Funchal harbour and then take the local ferry to Porto Santo at 8 am (check-in is at 7:30 am), which takes two and a half hours. Watch out for whales and dolphins and admire the other islands as you cruise through the blue sea.

Upon arrival, a local bus transfer will take you and the other passengers into the town centre, or you can choose to walk along the beach (approximately 15-20 minutes). You will have plenty of time to swim in the warm sea, relax on the beach and explore the town with its restaurants, cafes and shops. There are also plenty of activities to book locally, such as horse-riding and guided hiking, as well as several museums and galleries to enjoy.

The ferry will depart in the evening and you can either walk back to the ferry port or take the bus. Arriving at Funchal, you will be met at the harbour and transferred back to your hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 FREE DAY

Today has been left free for you to do as you wish.

After a week of adventure, you may want to rest and relax by the pool, or perhaps you'll want to head into Funchal and explore the shops, restaurants and cafes. The local markets are bursting with all sorts of fresh fruit, vegetables, spices and sweets and you can lose yourself for hours going from one tasting to another.

Furthermore, there are a variety of public parks and gardens in and around the city, which are brimming with bright flowers and beautiful landscaping. You can also take one of the many cable cars to the hills above Funchal and enjoy the dramatic views below; a real highlight is the one that leads to the incredible Monte Palace Tropical Garden, which is renowned for its collection of plants and waterways.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 DEPARTURE

Sadly the time has come for you to bid farewell to Madeira. After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick



Old town tour of Funchal

Funchal's Old Town is a fascinating place to explore. This guided tour will take you to the local market 'Mercado dos Lavradores' where you'll find a huge array of fruits, flowers, spices and local delicacies.

After the market, you'll venture further into Funchal's Old Town, past the amazing 'Art of Open Doors' where artists have painted fascinating scenes on the historic doors that line the cobbled streets. The local shops and cafes are buzzing with excitement and atmosphere; it is a wonderful place to discover.

The tour ends with a chance to enjoy some wine tasting at The Wine Lodge, where you can sample some of Madeira's famous vintages.

Minimum numbers: 4

Please speak to our Travel Experts for a quotation.

Image credit: Visit Madeira & Francisco Correia

Other options

ACTIVITIES



Ponta de Sao Lourenco guided walk

Ponta de Sao Lourenco is the easternmost point of Madeira. The peninsula's terrain is completely different to the rest of the island, with towering sea cliffs of red, brown and orange. With little vegetation, the walk has unobstructed views out to sea and back towards the inner mountains of Madeira.

The sea cliffs are home to numerous species of bird, such as terns, canaries and the Madeiran Storm-Petrel and on a clear day, the Desertas Islands and Porto Santo can be

seen.

This guided walk takes you along the sea cliffs and to the end of the peninsula. You will be picked up from your hotel and the walk will cover approximately 8 kilometres, lasting for around 4 hours, not including transfer time.

Minimum numbers: 2

Please speak to our Travel Experts for a quotation

Accommodation Notes

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Whilst we have preferred hotel options for our Madeira itineraries, the pressure on hotel rooms on this charming and popular islands means that on rare occasions we may make alternative hotel suggestions. These suggestions are themselves carefully chosen to ensure there will be minimal impact on the operation of your itinerary.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Castanheiro Boutique Hotel (Nights: 1)





The Castanheiro Boutique Hotel is situated in Funchal's fascinating Old Town, next to the Palace of Jesuits and only steps away from a host of wonderful local restaurants, cafés and shops. The cobbled streets, terracotta-roofed buildings and beautifully painted houses make for charming surroundings.

The hotel is composed of five historical buildings, each with a unique heritage and character. Spanning from the 18th – 20th centuries, the buildings have been lovingly restored and transformed into this spectacular hotel.

Hotel facilities

- The hotel has a small rooftop swimming pool with wonderful views of the Old Town and the surrounding mountains
- Relax by the hotel's bar and enjoy a meal in the fabulous on-site restaurant
- Enjoy the spa area, complete with hydrotherapy pool, Jacuzzi and sauna
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the hotel
- For those wanting to exercise while away, there is also a small fitness room

Room options

Standard double/twin room
Our package includes accommodation in a double or twin-bedded standard room. Each room has an en-suite bathroom, as well as air conditioning, TV, telephone, hairdryer, in-room safe, minibar, robes & slippers.

Upgrade options are also available; please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Porto Mare Hotel





During your stay in Madeira, if you wanted to stay in a larger resort style hotel or just to be further out from the city of Funchal itself, you could choose to upgrade to the Porto Mare Hotel. Located around a 40-minute walk from Funchal (or take the free hotel bus), the resort has beautiful ocean and tropical

garden surroundings away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre.

Hotel facilities

- Take a refreshing dip in any one of the five pools on site (outdoor and indoor) which are shared between its 2 sister hotels
- Stroll through the luscious surrounding gardens before stopping at the ice cream parlour to cool down
- Keep busy with squash, tennis, table tennis, snooker and minigolf all available on site
- Make use of the fitness room before unwinding in spa area complete with treatments, jacuzzis, sauna and steam bath
- The hotel also offers free WiFi in all areas

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Approximately 2 - 30 people (please note that on the boat trip to Porto Santo, you will be on a public ferry, so group sizes will be larger for this trip)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum Numbers Required For A Holiday To Operate

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions

Minimum and maximum age

If a specific minimum age applies to this holiday, it can be found in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page.

Unless otherwise stated in the in the Key Facts box on the holiday Overview page, the minimum age for participation in an Artisan holiday is typically 8 years old (there may be younger children in some

destinations who have booked with other companies). If an adult-only environment is important to you, then please contact our Travel Experts and they will advise on the best dates and destinations for you. If you are looking for a holiday designed specifically for families then please see our sister company www.activitiesabroad.com

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: https://www.artisantravel.co.uk/booking-conditions