ARTISAN TRAVEL

Savouring Madeira – A Culinary Expedition

HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Madeira

BROCHURE CODE: 5567
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

This itinerary introduces you not only to the landscape and culture of Madeira, but also the cuisine that has arisen from the unique combination of European tradition and the abundant tropical fruit and vegetables that grow here. Experience serene Levada walks, exhilarating jeep tours and immersive culinary experiences on this varied itinerary.

Our Opinion

"The diversity of this tiny island's landscape is reflected in the bounty of flavours that grace its tables. From fresh seafood and tropical fruit to the famous Madeira wine and of course a glass of Poncha, a local rum punch, to enliven the soul! Madeira is a celebration of natural abundance and vibrant island culture."

Jono Archer

What's included?

- **Travel worry-free** - fully organised and run by a trusted, fully regulated UK operator. Read more about our bonding and the types of financial protection that we offer
- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation in double/twin rooms
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch on Food and Wine tour
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Wine and Skywalk Jeep Tour, Walking Tour – Levada "Referta," Jeep Tour Northeast, Jeep Tour – Country Delights and Farmers Market, Jeep Tour Northwest, Food & Wine tour (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

Madeira was once a stopping off point between the old and new worlds, but now this island paradise has forged its own unique identity. This is an island where dramatic landscapes and rich culinary traditions meet and our itinerary affords the opportunity to embrace all aspects of life on Madeira. Your week balances adventurous moments with time to appreciate the natural beauty of your surroundings, where lush forests meet rugged coastlines and an ocean teeming with life.

A Wine & Skywalk Jeep Tour, offers panoramic views of the island and a taste of Madeira's world famous wines. A half-day walking tour along the Referta Levada provides a relaxing look at the island's verdant interior and how the Levadas have allowed the local farmers to make the most of the mountainous land, and a half-day Jeep Tour focusing on Country Delights & Farmers Market will give you a taste of their wonderfully fresh produce. As well as a mind-blowing selection of fruit and vegetables you will find honey cakes and biscuits, fennel flavoured candies and if the sun is over the yard arm you can even treat yourself to a refreshing glass of "Poncha," a blend of sugarcane rum and citrus juices.

The culinary theme continues with a full-day Wine & Food Tour, allowing you to delve deeper into

Madeira's gastronomic culture, sampling local specialties and learning about the island's culinary traditions. In addition, jeep tours to the Northeast and Northwest will reveal more of Madeira's diverse landscapes, from its dramatic coastal cliffs to ancient Laurel forests.

Whether you are seeking breathtaking views, thrilling adventures, or a taste of local life and cuisine, this itinerary promises an unforgettable Madeiran escape.

Image Credit: Madeira Promotion Bureau, Hugo Reis And Visit Madeira, Francisco Correia And Visit Madeira, Lokoloko Madeira

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1 ARRIVAL

Your transfer will meet you at the airport and take you to your chosen hotel so you can settle in and get ready for your week of activities on Madeira.

The order of activities as listed here is for illustrative purposes and the actual running order will be confirmed in your final travel documents.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 JEEP TOUR: WINE & SKYWALK - HALF DAY

This exciting off-road Jeep tour will introduce you to the changing landscapes of Madeira. Your experienced guides will showcase the island, from its mountain roads and emerald green forests to secluded coves.

But that is not all! You will also have the opportunity to sample some of Madeira's fine wines. You will make stops at hand-picked locations to taste a variety of local wines, accompanied by tapas which have been chosen to compliment their flavour. You will also make a stop at the Cabo Girao cliffs to savour the amazing views from the glass skywalk.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 LEVADA WALK "REFERTA" - HALF DAY

This easy and well-paced guided walk takes you to the north of the island. Your route runs parallel to

the sea and you will see some stunning highlights along the way, such as the Penha d'Águia, a spectacular rock formation that rises to a height of 580 metres.

The Levada itself provides water to the neatly laid out terraces cut out into surrounding hillsides. You will see a selection of mediterranean crops being grown as well as more tropical species like sugar cane, bananas, custard apples, mangoes, and passion fruit. And you may even be greeted by a cheerful farmer who lives in one of the orange roofed houses among the fields.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 JEEP TOUR NORTH EAST - FULL DAY

Today's guided jeep tour takes you through the untouched beauty of the Northeast coast of the island.

Highlights include a visit to the charming village of Santana with its iconic thatched houses which have adorned many a postcard over the years. Your guides will explain both the natural and man-made history of this pristine landscape. You will truly appreciate the area's rustic charm when you visit an historic water-powered sawmill.

Later you can savour the rich flavour of the local sugar cane rum in a fascinating steam-powered distillery.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 COUNTRY DELIGHTS & FARMER MARKET - HALF DAY

Experiencing the local farmer market in Santa da Serra can be a great way to immerse yourself in Madeiran culture. As well as providing a shop window for the ridiculously rich array of local produce and crafts, it also serves as a social occasion for many local people and there is often a lively atmosphere and sometimes even traditional music.

You can sample Madeiran delicacies like bolo do caco (a type of flatbread) and espetada (grilled beef skewers) and a wide selection of pastries and sweets. So, whether you want to shop, dine or just people watch with a glass of poncho in your hand, a visit here is definitely time well spent.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 THE NORTH WEST JEEP TOUR - FULL DAY

Breathtaking views are guaranteed on this tour, as you travel on Madeira's old roads (and even off-road) in search of the island's most stunning destinations. The Northwest is famous for its dramatic cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, as well as lush green valleys and Laurissilva forest of the interior.

Highlights of the tour are the elevated Paul da Serra plateau with its otherworldly scenery and Porto Moniz where it is possible to bathe in the lava pools formed along the coast.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 FOOD AND WINE TOUR - FULL DAY

Today's tour is guided by an expert in Madeiran wine and you will be in their company as you explore the island's vineyards and meet producers. You will sample 12 local wines across visits to four vineyards and enjoy a delicious Madeiran lunch.

The tour features both the iconic fortified wines, for which Madeira is famous, as well as some lesser-known still wines, both white and red. The day begins at Blandy's Wine Lodge in Funchal, followed by a scenic journey to São Vicente, where you will taste wines at a local vineyard. After lunch, you will head to Seixal for another tasting, and finish the tour with a stop at Barbeito's in Câmara de Lobos.

The meeting point for the Food and Wine Tour is at Blandy's Wine Lodge in Funchal. As this is a very central location and close to many hotels, we do not include a transfer. However, if you are staying a little further away, we will gladly arrange a transfer for you – please just speak to a travel expert for a quote (additional costs apply).

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 DEPARTURE

Today, following breakfast, your transfer will take you back to Funchal airport in good time for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Personalise this tour

Our pick

Canyoning

In a beautiful valley in rural Madeira, lies a hidden green canyon. During this activity, you won't just discover the canyon, you will travel through it as you follow the water on its journey downstream.

Canyoning is a safe, yet adventurous activity that allows you to travel in the direction of the water as it makes its way through the picturesque canyon. On your journey, you'll come across four different rappels varying in altitude up to 17 metres. There's also two small slides and two small jumps (optional).

Prices available on request.

Duration: half day

Available: year-round, with a minimum of two participants

Other options

ACTIVITIES

Half Day Kayaking and Snorkelling

There's no better way to appreciate the coastal waters of Madeira than to get out onto it.

Using a sit-on-top kayak, you'll paddle out to the Underwater Nature Reserve of Garajau. Established in 1986, this reserve is full of marine life including large fish and manta rays. You'll hopefully see the different species as you kayak along the water but you'll also have plenty of time to snorkel and enjoy the underwater sights too.

Prices available on request.

Duration: approximately two hours

Available: Monday to Saturday, May to October, with a minimum of two participants.

Kayak capacity is two adults and one child. Adults may have to share a kayak, depending on group size.

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: 1-7)

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)

A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 30 people

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