



Island Exploration



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group

VISITING: Madeira

BROCHURE CODE: 5568

DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

Madeira may be famous for its fortified wine but it's the vistas you'll want to drink in. During this seven-night holiday, you'll travel via jeep, on foot and during a boat journey to reach exceptional lookout points and find amazing marine life. Don't worry though, there will still be plenty of time for you to sample the local wines too!

Our Opinion

“ Travelling over the mountains to the less explored north side of the island was an incredible eye-opener. Less developed and with swathes of sub-tropical forest, it offers a very different side of Madeira. Here, waterfalls stream down the verdant cliffs to meet the crashing waves of the Atlantic below, and the views along the coast are quite spectacular. ”

Andy Marshall



What's included?

- **Transfers:** all transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation in double/twin rooms
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** minibus tour to Nuns Valley, jeep tour to northwest terraces, whale and dolphin watching, visit to Monte and the Botanical Gardens, guided Levada Walk Serra D'Água, jeep tour to the East Island (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

Trip Overview

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.

With rugged, rocky coastline cliffs, luscious green mountains and an abundance of marine life, Madeira's wine might be special but it's the landscape and wildlife that we want to show off.

During your 7-night stay, you'll explore the main island in a variety of ways, travelling across land and sea for the full experience.

Guided walks and jeep tours will take you to some of the best sights, from the dramatic views across plunging valleys to the unobstructed vantage points looking out onto the vast Atlantic Ocean.

Away from dry land, Madeira is renowned for its marine life. During a whale and dolphin watching tour, marine biologists will accompany you on the boat as you look for the many cetacean species swimming freely in their natural habitat.

Of course, your holiday to Madeira would not be complete without visiting some of its famous gardens, including the famous Monte Palace and Botanical Gardens which overlook Funchal.

The itinerary also includes plenty of free time for you to experience Madeira in your own way too. Our Travel Experts can give you our personal recommendations from our wonderful experiences here or you can talk to our knowledgeable local guides when you arrive.

Image credits: Francisco Correia- Visit Madeira, Madeira Promotion Bureau

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME TO MADEIRA

Once you arrive at Funchal Airport, your transfer vehicle will be ready and waiting to take you to the Castanheiro Boutique Hotel, approximately 20 minutes away. After checking in, you could go to one of the many restaurants nearby for your first taste of Madeiran cuisine.

Please note: that this is a sample itinerary, all of these activities will be delivered during your stay however the order of activities will be confirmed on your arrival depending on local conditions, events or guest preferences. Decisions will be based first and foremost on your safety and comfort.

Included Meals: None

DAY
2

TOUR TO NUNS VALLEY

After breakfast, a minibus tour will take you to Nuns Valley, a charming small parish in the heart of the Madeiran mountains with scenic lookout stops along the way.

Madeira has many great viewpoints but Nuns Valley is definitely one of the best we've discovered. This small village was once a refuge for the nuns fleeing Funchal. Sitting in a huge rocky cauldron with green mountains towering above, it's easy to see why this location was chosen for safety.

After touring Nuns Valley, you will return to your hotel around 1pm today.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
3

JEEP TOUR TO NORTHWEST

After breakfast, you'll start your full-day jeep tour to the unmissable Northwest coast.

This tour takes you to the lush northwest, where waterfalls melt into the ocean and lava has been shaped into cerulean pools. Feel the adrenalin-adventure of exploring primitive backroads surrounded by native forest. Add to these a walk alongside the famous man-made channels -called Levada's-with ravishing landscapes and for sure, you will have unforgettable moments.

Tonight, you have a free evening. Relax at the hotel or see more of Funchal's old town.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
4

WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

Following breakfast, the inviting coastal waters are calling as well as, hopefully, the marine life.

Accompanied by marine biologists, you'll ride in a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) and be on the lookout for the many different cetaceans found in Madeira's waters. These include bottlenose and Atlantic spotted dolphins as well as short-finned pilot whales, and humpback and sperm whales.

After your adventure at sea, you'll have a free afternoon and evening to spend as you please. Perhaps you want to explore the water further during an exciting canyoning or kayaking trip. See our ['Personalise'](#) tab for more information.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
5

MONTE PALACE AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Madeiran climate ensures that flowers bloom all year round, so a visit to these famous gardens cannot be missed. Flowers from all over the world can be found and enjoyed here.

You will visit Monte first, which is home to expansive gardens and splashing fountains and has an enviable position high above Funchal affording breath taking views over the Atlantic. The Botanical Gardens are further down the hill and you can hop back on board your guide vehicle to take you there or you have the more invigorating option of taking one of the famous Madeiran wicker toboggans down the steep streets at speeds of up to 18 miles per hour. This activity is not included, as it is optional and guests wishing to experience a toboggan ride are required to pay the guides directly. If you do wish to do so, your vehicle will be waiting at the end to take you on to the Botanical Gardens.

The Gardens are housed in a former private Quinta (country estate) belonging to the British Reid family, whose wealth was founded upon Madeiran wine and they went on to build one of the island's most famous hotels. There are over 2,000 species of plant from all corners of the globe. After your visit you will be returned to your hotel.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

SERRA D'AGUA LEVADA HIKE

Walking along the "Levada" do Norte" you begin the first half of the walk with superb views of the south coast to then encounter a vast area of Eucalyptus Forest. You will end the walk at a magical place called Era do Mourão. From a 65 km Levada, your guides have chosen the most beautiful 5 km for the hike. It is an easy hike with diverse flora and fauna to enjoy.

After your walk, you have a free afternoon and evening to spend as you please. Relax in the sun or discover more history in one of Funchal's museums. You could also book one of our optional activities. Click the '[Personalise](#)' tab to find out more.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
7

JEEP TOUR TO EAST ISLAND

After a first stop at the bay where the Portuguese landed in 1419/20, in the southeast coast, this tour continues along the ancient royal footpath, where our sight is captured by the geometry of the oldest terraces of the island, along the beaten tracks crossing the indigenous forest. You will be amazed at the isolated rural nature of the villages we will visit. This is a tour rich in culture, with some of the most beautiful landscapes you can set your eyes on and breath-taking trails that will take you from sea level to Madeira's highest mountains.

Afterwards, you have a free evening to spend your last night as you please. Go back and visit your favourite restaurant or treat yourself to an upscale option to end your time here in style.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Sadly, it's time for your island exploration tour of Madeira to come to an end. Depending on your flight time, you'll have breakfast at the hotel or we'll box it up before you're transferred to the airport 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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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 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>

Minimum travellers 10, Maximum travellers 20