



# Landscapes forged by fire



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group  
**VISITING:** Madeira

**BROCHURE CODE:** 5567  
**DURATION:** 7 nights

## In Brief

From the moment you arrive on the main island, you'll feel Madeira's volcanic presence but it is not an ominous one. Instead, you'll discover it is rich in history, forms incredible natural landmarks and provides a stunning backdrop against the glistening coast where marine life play. This seven-night activity-filled holiday lets you experience the best of the volcanic main island.

## Our Opinion

*“Dotted with volcanic craters, covered in jagged, tree-lined ridges and stunning vistas, Madeira really has been forged by fire into a jaw-dropping destination which has to be seen to be believed. By foot, jeep and boat you'll discover how volcanoes have shaped the island into the natural beauty it is.”*

Jono Archer



## 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:** hiking in the Laurisilva Forest, dolphin and whale watching, jeep tour to the Northwest, jeep tour to the east, guided walk through the Vale Paraíso (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities

## Trip Overview

What Madeira lacks in size it certainly makes up for with a wealth of experiences. During this seven-night holiday that's exactly what you'll get. From jeep tours and boat rides to walking trips and even travelling underground, you'll discover Madeira in so many different ways.

Explore the volcanic terrain on a guided walk alongside a traditional Levada. Reach incredible lookout points as you travel by jeep, which can easily access higher points on the main island.

The wildlife here is another enticement but to see the best of it, you'll have to get away from the land. You'll head out on a boat in search of the many cetacean species swimming in Madeira's waters including a variety of whales and dolphins.

You'll also have plenty of free time to discover more of Madeira or revisit your favourite spots. Due to your central location in Funchal, you'll be within walking distance of museums, the cathedral and restaurants to sample the local food.

Madeira's sub-tropical climate and delectable wine are often seen as its most alluring features but, as you'll discover during your holiday, this archipelago deserves more credit than that.

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

# Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

## ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER TO HOTEL

After your flight, your transfer vehicle will be ready and waiting to take you to the Castanheiro Boutique Hotel.

Depending on your flight time, you may want to get out and start exploring straight away. As you'll be staying in the heart of Funchal's Old Town, you'll be within easy walking distance of local restaurants and bars as well as several museums.

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

## HIKING IN THE LAURISILVA FOREST

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Riberio Frio, which is a great place to start your hike through the Laurisilva Forest. Here you can admire the natural beauty of Madeira, with its many endemic species of plants and birds. Immerse yourself in an area that belongs to the World UNESCO Heritage and let yourself be enchanted by the silence of this ancient forest, where often running water is the only noise you will hear. The trail leads us along a Levada (water channel), which has water all year round and used to be an important trading route for the farmers of the north coast.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
3

## DOLPHIN AND WHALE WATCHING

Following breakfast, it's time to glide over Madeira's majestic waters and look out for the many species of marine life swimming here.

Marine biologists will accompany you on the Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) and tell you facts about the wildlife in the area. They'll also help you spot the cetaceans which can include bottlenose and Atlantic-spotted dolphins, short-finned pilot whales and humpback and sperm whales. Make sure you have your camera ready – some of these animals can move very fast and the dolphins, in particular, can be extremely playful in the waves.

You'll have a free afternoon and evening to spend as you please. Perhaps you want to explore more of Funchal's Old Town or maybe you want to relax by the pool at the hotel, the choice is completely yours. We also offer different optional activities. Click the '[Personalise](#)' tab for more details.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
4

#### JEEP TOUR TO THE NORTHWEST (FULL DAY)

Starting in the verdant valley of Serra D'Água, which divides the massif from the only plateau on the island, 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.

You will also venture on foot, alongside a levada to be able to enjoy the lush forests up close.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
5

#### JEEP TOUR TO THE EAST

Following breakfast, you will be exploring by jeep again. After a first stop at the bay where the Portuguese landed in 1419/20, on the southeast coast, this tour continues along the ancient royal footpath. Here you see the oldest terraces of the island, along the well-beaten tracks that criss-cross the indigenous forest. You will be amazed at the isolated rural nature of the villages in this area. This is a tour rich in culture, with some of the most beautiful landscapes you can set your eyes on and breathtaking trails that will take you from sea level to Madeira's highest mountains.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
6

#### FREE DAY

Today you'll have a free day to explore Madeira however you would like. Make sure you fuel up on breakfast first before you head out. You could choose from our optional activities such as kayaking or canyoning for an adventurous way to see more of the island. Click the '[Personalise](#)' tab to find out about the activities on offer.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY  
7

#### GUIDED WALK THROUGH THE VALE PARAISO

Levadas are mini canals built to distribute water from heavy rainfall and each one has an easily

accessible track beside it that makes for a great walking route. After breakfast, you'll follow one in particular – the Serra do Faial Levada from Vale Paraíso to Rochão.

You'll feel like you're strolling through a hidden forest as you take this leisurely guided walk underneath a canopy of eucalyptus and oak trees.

The green valley then opens up with views over different villages, including Camacha, an extremely picturesque place known for its wicker baskets.

This is an easy walk that will last approximately 2 hours (6km).

Following the walk, you'll have a free afternoon and evening to spend however you'd like. View the '[Personalise](#)' tab to find an activity to fill your afternoon with. Afterwards, we recommend heading down to the water's edge and finding a restaurant with a view of the incredible sunset that envelops Madeira's coastline.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

DAY 8	DEPARTURE
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Unfortunately, it's time for your Madeiran adventure to come to an end. Depending on your flight time, you'll either eat breakfast at the hotel or we'll box it up. A transfer vehicle will then take you to the airport so you can start your journey home.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

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### 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

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## 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

## Accommodation Notes

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 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](http://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