ARTISAN TRAVEL

# Discover Madeira – Trails and Nature



**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

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# 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
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Full day walking tour – Queimadas Levada and Laurisilva Wood, Whale and Dolphin Watching**, Full daywalking tour – Rabacal Levada, Jeep tour to northwest of the island, Full day walking tour – Larano and the north coast (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.

** It may be possible to snorkel alongside the boat with the dolphins if the conditions are right, please note local animal welfare legislation requires you to keep a hand on the boat at all times. There is also the possibility that not all the members of the group will be able to do it before the dolphins move on. There is an additional €20pp charge to be paid locally to the activity provider on the day if you wish to enter the water with the dolphins.

# 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.**

Your week of discovery on Madeira begins with an exploration of it's lush interior - a Levada walk through ancient laurel forests, complete with waterfalls and ancient tunnels through the rock now overgrown with foliage of the deepest green. It is like walking through the land that time forgot! You will also have a free day to spend as you wish – you can relax at your hotel or make the most of

Funchal which has offers attractions as diverse as the Botanical Gardens, a cable car and the Cristiano Ronaldo museum!

A trip to these Atlantic islands would not be complete without heading out to sea for some whale and dolphin watching. The Gulf Stream makes Madeira a hotspot for many cetacean species, and the manoeuvrable RIB boats allow a fantastic way to get as close as possible to them without disrupting their natural behaviour.

The second of your Levada hikes explores Rabaçal and its stunning waterfalls and the magical 25 Fountains Lagoon, but you will also be able to rest your legs when you experience Madeira's wild side in the comfort of a jeep. You will take to the island's smaller roads and off-road trails (these can get pretty bumpy!) for some breathtaking views, including the unique lava pools of Porto Moniz. For your final Levada walk, you will hike the Larano trail, an old trade route with stunning cliffside views and glimpses of the island of Porto Santo.

Your week will offer a fantastic mix of nature, adventure, and relaxation.

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

# 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 exploring the trails of Madeira.

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**Please note:** 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 FULL DAY WALKING TOUR – QUEIMADAS LEVADA AND LAURISILVA WOOD

Today's Levada walk takes you through some of Madeira's most remote and splendid scenery and you will develop an appreciation for the emerald green landscape of the island's interior.

You will follow the Caldeirão Verde Levada, as it winds through ancient laurel forests. The sound of bubbling water will accompany you through the day and if you keep an eye on the waters you may even spot some wild trout!

Another highlight are the frequent tunnels along the route, which are a spectacle themselves. Your hike will end at an amazing waterfall – perfect for a rest and some photos.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 3 FREE DAY

Today is all your own, so you can explore at your own pace. You can see more of Funchal, take a swim or just relax. The choice is yours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 4 WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING

Thanks to the Gulf Stream, there are whales and dolphins off the coast of Madeira all year round.

Making use of a manoeuvrable RIB (max. 12-16 people) your captain, working in tandem with onshore scouts, will do their utmost to locate pods of dolphins and whales.

With luck, you might even have the opportunity to snorkel with dolphins (additional costs apply – to be paid locally).

We do like to stress to our guests that the welfare of the animals is the primary consideration in this activity, so there are no guarantees of sightings or durations and they decide how long they want to stay in the area of the boat and are not pursued in any way. However from our personal experience of this activity, you will have plenty of opportunity to capture some fantastic memories and photographs.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 5 FULL DAY WALKING TOUR - RABAÇAL LEVADA WALK

The full-day Rabaçal Levada walk again immerses you deep in the heart of Madeira's UNESCO World Heritage Laurel forests.

You will follow the gravity defying Levada system over stone bridges and past cascading waterfalls. These range from delicate trickles to powerful torrents and are interspersed with dense growths of trees and moss-covered tunnels carved into the rock.

Highlights of this route include the serene Lagoa das 25 Fontes (25 Fountains Lagoon) and the majestic Risco Waterfall.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 6 THE NORTHWEST 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 NORTHCOAST "LARANO" HIKE (FULL DAY)

There are few coastal walks in Europe that are as diverse as the Larano.

Hundreds of years ago this path was created for trade to get from Porto da Cruz to Machico. Nowadays, this walking route enchants visitors with its beautiful views, whether in the Machico valley, in the cliffs over the sea to the neighbouring Island of Porto Santo or in the fishing village of Santa Cruz.

**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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# 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