ARTISAN TRAVEL

Madeira - Whales, Dolphins and Volcanic Landscapes



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Madeira

BROCHURE CODE: 4037
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

This seven-night adventure to Madeira includes a variety of activities, which will excite all of the family. Visit the magical volcanic caves of Sao Vicente and swim in the lava pools, or volcanic beach at Seixal. Explore the island by jeep, foot and kayak, as you drive, boat and walk through colour-drenched landscapes and sun-drenched bays. Dolphin and whale watching are the icing on the cake.

Our Opinion

"This fun-filled family adventure covers the best of the best in Madeira and your family will quickly fall in love with this beautiful island. Get up close to the nature, wildlife and action of the island and enjoy the warm waters and plentiful marine life, as well as the magical mountains and fantastic lava pools. The locals are warm and welcoming and Funchal is a great place for your family to explore."





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**: east island jeep expedition, sea kayaking and snorkelling, whale and dolphin watching****,** canyoning, northwest island jeep expedition and swimming in lava pools, levada biking 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.

** you can only snorkel with the dolphins if the conditions are right and 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. Please note that an additional €20pp must be paid locally to the activity provider on the day if you wish to enter the water with the dolphins.

***A minimum height of 150cm is required for the biking tour.

Trip Overview

Madeira is the perfect place for families to enjoy a holiday of discovery: warm waters, sun-filled days and exciting activities make this a fantastic place to explore.

You'll be based in Funchal, the island's small and fascinating capital and from here you can take part in all sorts of adventures. On your first day, you will explore the island as you enjoy a jeep adventure from one amazing viewpoint to another, over mountains and through valleys and along the winding coastline as you go! Stopping for a walk in the colourful mountains of Madeira, you'll head to the

stunning Balcões viewpoint, which looks out to the island's central mountain range. From here, you'll then go for a short walk along one of the island's many levadas, traversing across the forested hills, filled with emerald green trees and bursting with colourful flowers and bubbling streams.

Moving from land to sea, you'll have the chance to explore the coves and bays of the island by sea kayak, as you paddle across the beautiful blue sea in search of wildlife and adventure. You'll then take to the seas again, aboard a RIB in search of marine life. Madeira is renowned for its whale and dolphin watching, so there's no way we could leave this out during your time here. The boat trip will take you across the waters that surround Madeira and if nature is on your side, you'll even get the chance to snorkel with the wild dolphins that call these waters home! A truly brilliant experience, this is sure to leave your family with fun-filled, lasting memories.

After the excitement of the ocean, you'll head deep into the island for a half-day of family-friendly canyoning. It's a fantastic way to explore the island from another point of view – water slides, refreshing pools and rappels will certainly keep the family entertained!

Back on the road you will explore the Serra D'Água, the dramatic valley dividing 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 unique pools, perfect for a refreshing swim. You cannot help but appreciate the power of nature in this landscape dominated by ancient forests, but you will also be able to walk alongside the famous man-made channels - called Levada's – which supply the island's farms with plentiful water and are the basis for its amazing array of fruit and vegetables.

Finally, you'll take to the trails as you enjoy an easy biking tour along a wide levada, surrounded by luscious forest; a fantastic way to explore the famous irrigation channels of Madeira!

We offer a variety of hotels across Madeira which not only helps with availability during the summer months but also means you can choose the best option and facilities for your family's needs. Please see the accommodation section for more on these options.

Image credits: Loko Loko, Rota dos Cetaceus, Madeira Promotion Bureau, Francisco Correia, Terras de Aventura, Visit Madeira

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY 1	ARRIVAL

Arriving into Funchal, you will be picked up at the airport and transferred to your hotel.
Please note that the order and timings of activities listed within the agenda is subject to change; your final itinerary will be provided to you on arrival.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 CANYONING (HALF DAY)

Canyoning is a fantastic way to experience the island's landscape from a different perspective and it will no doubt leave your family grinning from ear to ear, as you navigate your way along the stream.

You'll be kitted out with wet suits and canyoning shoes, with your swimming costume worn underneath. It's then an uphill walk, followed by a steep path down through the trees to the start point.

It's the perfect canyon for novices, with a series of easy slides, pool jumps and rappels to enjoy. Our expert local guides have been working in these canyons for years and they know every little foot and hand hold there is, so you'll be in safe hands throughout.

You'll be guided through the canyon at a pace suited to the group's ability, taking in the incredible scenery as you work your way downstream. Filled with trees, plants and colourful flowers, it's a wonderful place to explore – the canyon is often filled with fennel (funcho in Portuguese), which is where the name Funchal, the island's capital, comes from.

Please note that children must be over 140cm tall to participate in the canyoning.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 LEVADA BIKING TOUR (HALF DAY)

Today it's time to explore the island by bike. Although we have selected a family-friendly trail which follows a wide and gentle Levada, we do recommend previous experience of cycling and that children be 8 and above and are a minimum 150cm tall for this experience. Please speak to our travel experts if this trip is not a good fit for your family as other options will be available.

You'll cycle for approximately two hours, as your expert guide leads you through the forest on this easy route which still offers amazing sea views.

Cycling past towering trees and plants bursting with colour, this is another fantastic way to enjoy the stunning flora of Madeira in a wonderful part of the island.

Each activity this week allows you and your family to explore different parts of the island by foot, kayak, bike, boat and jeep, giving you a wonderful, all-encompassing Madeiran experience; hopefully filled with an abundance of family-fuelled fun along the way!

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 WHALE AND DOLPHIN WATCHING (HALF DAY WITH TRANSFER)

Your activity today will see you head out on the Atlantic for what will hopefully be one of your most memorable activities: whale watching and snorkelling with dolphins! If luck has been on your side, you may have already seen marine life during your kayaking this morning, but this afternoon's adventure will be different and more personal in many ways.

You will head out via RIB (Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boat) in search of your aquatic friends. Your onboard marine biologist will tell you about the marine life of the islands while your captain searches for whales and dolphins. The waters that surround the islands are rich with life and throughout the year, 28 different species can be found, including: Atlantic-spotted, bottlenose, risso's and stripped dolphins, as well as pilot, bryde and fin whales.

Hopefully nature will be on your side today and give you the chance to get close to the action and excitement, as the dolphins follow your boat. If the conditions are right, you may also get the chance to join the dolphins in the sea, as you snorkel alongside the boat; a fantastically amazing experience for all of the family. Although you may not get to see the dolphins as close as you would in a marine park, the experience is far superior as you get to see them in their natural environment.

Please note that snorkelling with the dolphins depends on the weather conditions at the time, as well as the dolphins' behaviour and there is a chance that it might not be possible. Local animal welfare legislation requires participants to keep a hand on the boat at all times. There is also a possibility that not all members of the group will be able to snorkel with the dolphins before they move on, as only 6 people are allowed in the sea at any one time.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 — KAYAK AND SNORKELLING (APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS)

Today you will head out to sea to experience sea kayaking around the coves and bays of the island. This is a great way to see the coastline of Madeira, as you paddle across the deep blue sea. Keep your eyes peeled, as you never know, you might just catch a glimpse of some marine life which can include parrotfish, trumpetfish, turtles and even manta rays.

You will be kayaking for approximately two hours this morning. The kayaks are sit-ons which can accommodate two adults and one child and you will have plenty of time to swim and snorkel in the clear waters of the Garajau Nature Reserve, which is home to a variety of coastal species.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 — JEEP TOUR NORTHWEST (FULL DAY)

A full day of excitement and adventure awaits as you explore the northern part of Madeira.

You will be picked up from your hotel this morning and journey into the mountains, through deep ravines, pre-historic forests and picturesque villages.

Following this, you will stop for lunch in a local restaurant (not included) with a chance to experience some of the island's flavours, then it is on to the natural lava pools at Porto Moniz. The saltwater lava pools were naturally created by volcanic eruptions and have since filled with seawater to create the perfect swimming area, with crystal-clear waters; a wonderfully fun experience for the family!

You will enjoy a walk along one of the near gravity-defying canals that supply water throughout the island, before heading back to your hotel for approximately 5-5:30 pm.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 EAST ISLAND JEEP EXPEDITION (FULL DAY)

A jeep expedition is a brilliant way to journey through the mountainous terrain and it will no doubt excite the family as you weave through the ravines and wind along the coastline. The island is filled with natural sights and viewpoints, from stunning plateaus to jagged mountain peaks, it is one big natural wonder.

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 breathtaking trails that will take you from sea level to Madeira's highest mountains.

Your jeep adventure will last the full day, starting at 9am and finishing at 5pm (approximately). Upon returning to your hotel, why not explore Funchal and eat out at one of the city's many restaurants tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 DEPARTURE

Sadly the time has come for you to return home today. After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Sentido Galosal (Nights: 1-7)





A little further out from the centre of Funchal, this 4-star option guarantees you a sea view (from all 125 rooms) and a pebble beach just 900 yards away. Just twenty minutes from the airport and a similar time to Funchal itself (there is a bus which stops just outside the hotel).

The hotel was founded as an active resort and is very well equipped for this purpose, however, there are also plenty of quiet spaces in the grounds, so you can also relax whenever you wish.

Hotel Facilities

- The hotel boasts a health club with a wide variety of daily classes and cardio and weight equipment and a Turkish bath and sauna so you can unwind afterwards
- You can also spend your free time in the water at the swimming complex featuring indoor and outdoor pools or take it up a notch with activities in the ocean arranged at the dive centre (local fees apply for the latter)
- There is a relaxing spa offering a full range of massage and beauty services
- There are 3 restaurants and 2 bars on site
- Wi-Fi is free throughout the hotel and all rooms
- There are squash courts and mountain bike hire available (local fees apply)

ROOM TYPES

Set over three floors the hotel has 125 rooms, which are being refurbished in early 2023.

There are 118 double rooms, with 5 suites and 2 master suites. There are 8 double rooms with connecting doors.

The standard double and twin rooms are air-conditioned with a balcony or terrace and blackout curtains. A 40" smart TV is in each room. Beds are twins as standard but can be made into a king with a substantial topper and mattresses are rated as medium-high firmness. A selection of pillows is available. Tea, coffee and a kettle are provided in the room together with a phone, safe and hairdryer.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.

Quinta da Penha de Franca





Situated close to the sea and only a short walk from the centre of Funchal, the Quinta da Penha de Franca is perfectly located to enjoy sun, sea and adventure!

The word 'quinta' refers to country villas and manors and they offer a true sense of Madeiran life, with traditional designs and lots of character, making a refreshing change from the large hotels that you can see throughout Funchal.

The hotel is set slightly back from the sea, with its own tropical gardens and saltwater swimming pool and it is perfect for families. It is joined to the Quinta da Penha de Franca Mar (accommodation option 2) and facilities are shared between the two.

Hotel facilities

- Perfect for families, the saltwater swimming pool is great for cooling off after a day of adventure
- Linked to the Quinta da Penha de Franca Mar, guests can access the sea via a small footbridge and can also use the seaside swimming pool, complete with poolside bar
- The hotel restaurant and bar serves great food and drink for all the family to enjoy
- Enjoy some recreation in the games room, which includes pool tables, cards and darts
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the reception area of the hotel

Room options

DOUBLE/TWIN GARDEN VIEW WITH TERRACE/BALCONY:

Our package includes accommodation in a garden view room with terrace/balcony (other options are available). These rooms are traditionally decorated and come with either a twin or double bed. They

each have a TV, telephone, minibar and safe, as well as a separate bathroom with tub and hair dryer. Some rooms have air-conditioning (fans are also available and payable locally if required) and each of them enjoys views out to the hotel's tropical gardens.

Please speak to our Travel Expert for a quote.



Quinta da Penha de Franca - upgrade

Double/twin superior side sea view with balcony

These double and twin rooms have their own balcony overlooking the garden and with a side view of the sea. Each room has a double or twin bed, a TV, telephone, minibar and safe, as well as air conditioning and a separate bathroom with tub and hair dryer.

Please speak to our Travel Expert for a 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)

Minimum 4 people, maximum 25 (approximately)

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