



Madeira . Belongs to all

ITINERARY 4 DAYS

www.visitmadeira.pt

DISCOVER MADEIRA IN 4 DAYS

If you visit Madeira for 4 days, you will most certainly want to return to get to know it even better and explore every corner of this paradise. Ideally, one or two weeks would be the recommended length of stay, so that you can visit the archipelago's main points of interest in a leisurely fashion.

From mountains to gardens, valleys and beaches, not forgetting the golden island of Porto Santo, there are many attractions to discover.

To help you to get the most out of your stay, we have prepared this itinerary. Get to know some of the main places of interest in Madeira and enjoy your holidays to the fullest.

We suggest various alternative routes, so that you can choose according to your own preferences. These can also be selected according to weather conditions or the time of year. Despite Madeira enjoying a mild climate throughout the year, the weather can be variable through the day depending on your location, so therefore you might encounter the four seasons in a single day.

The different altitudes on this volcanic island partly contribute to these variations. This is just one of the many characteristics that make this island so authentic, and you can adapt your activities (sea, land or air) to the local weather conditions.



We also recommend some footpaths classified as PR - Pequenas Rotas (short routes), which are less than 30 km long. These walking trails are classified in order for walkers to have an idea of what to expect on each, prior to departure. They are maintained, inspected and signposted by regional public entities, in particular the IFCN - Institute for Forests and Nature Conservation, in the interests of guaranteeing your safety. Hikers are recommended to take part in programmes organised by tourist operators and guides.

Hiking without the assistance of local guides and operators is not recommended. We suggest you consult the safety measures on the website www.visitmadeira.pt.

In this short guide, we propose a visit to the capital, Funchal, and to the west and east coasts of Madeira. If you are a fan of idyllic beaches and breath-taking landscapes, we also suggest a day trip to the island of Porto Santo. You could change this day for one of the three initial days or add a fourth day to your trip; the choice is yours.



1ST DAY FUNCHAL

CÂMARA DE LOBOS /
EIRA DO SERRADO

MORNING

Funchal is situated on the south coast of the island of Madeira, around a 20-minute drive from the airport. Capital of the region, known for its enchanting bay, lit by the sun and embraced by high, verdant mountains, long shoreline and blooming gardens. It is simply unforgettable.

Discover the downtown area walking past its emblematic buildings. Avenida Arriaga is one of the most dynamic areas of Funchal and offers direct access to the Municipal Garden, the Municipal Theatre, the Cathedral, the Adegas de S. Francisco - Madeira Wine Lodges, in addition to cafes and terraces.

Visit Largo do Colégio, the church of São João Evangelista, the Jesuit College and the Museum of Sacred Art. Head for the Cruzes viewpoint, to admire spectacular views over the city. If you would like to see what an old Funchal manor house looks like, then, pay a visit to Quinta das Cruzes Museum or to the Frederico de Freitas House-Museum. You can contemplate a wide-ranging collection of art from the 16th century in the Museum of Sacred Art, or get to know the history of Madeira in a 30-minute film at the Madeira Film Experience, along Avenida do Mar, in the Marina Shopping Centre.

At Avenida do Mar, you can discover the city's old pier, Praça CR7, the Marina and *Pontinha* (city pier). Enjoy the views from the city pier, the sea, sailboats and cruise ships. In Praça CR7 visitors will also find the statue and museum of the famous Madeiran footballer, Cristiano Ronaldo. From here, you can climb to Santa Catarina Park to relax in one of the finest parks in the city, or visit the gardens of Quinta Vigia, which offer stunning views across Funchal bay. You can also choose to go on an organised tour using one of the many means of transportation offered by local tourist entertainment companies go to: <http://www.visitmadeira.pt/en-gb/getting-around>.

Discover the Old Town and the Mercado dos Lavradores (Farmers' Market), where you can find some of the most emblematic flowers of Madeira, such as birds of paradise, orchids and proteas, as well as typical products of the region. Here, the traditional flower stalls, full of lively colours and joy, are a sight to behold. Walk along Rua de Santa Maria and lose yourself in this labyrinth of narrow cobbled streets, where you may want to take a break for lunch.

Here you will also find the "Open Doors Art" Project, which, thanks to the work of local artists, has transformed the doors of Rua de Santa Maria (and other streets nearby) into an "art gallery."





AFTERNOON

When you are in the Old Town, don't miss the chance to take the cable car that connects Funchal to Monte, one of the most sought-after places in Funchal. Here you will find luxuriant gardens, the emblematic church of Nossa Senhora do Monte, which holds the tomb of Charles of Habsburg, the last emperor of Austria, who lived here. Enjoy panoramic sea views from the Monte Palace Tropical Garden and be amazed by plants from all over the world.

On the way back, take an unforgettable ride on one of the typical wicker toboggans at the expert hands of one of Monte's "carreiros". Arriving at Livramento, you can either walk for about 30 minutes or you can use a public transports in order to get to Funchal downtown.

WALK ALONG THE SEA SIDE

We suggest a stroll along the Lido promenade. This is a beautiful seaside walk offering a pedestrian access between the Lido area and Formosa beach, going all the way to Câmara de Lobos. In addition to fantastic sea views, there are various garden areas that are perfect for a break. Another nearby attraction comes in the form of the bathing complexes, in particular Clube Naval, Clube de Turismo, the Balnear da Ponta Gorda complex, the Lido bathing complex, Poças do Governador, as well as Formosa beach. Take a dip in the sea and relax in the waters of the Atlantic as you admire the sunset. Enjoy a good meal in one of the many restaurants of the Lido area or in the beautiful bay of Câmara de Lobos, which offer views to Cabo Girão, one of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, at 580 m above sea level.





ASTONISHING LANDSCAPES

As an alternative to returning to the centre of Funchal, we suggest you to head to Eira do Serrado to admire the Curral das Freiras, which is situated in a deep, magnificent valley. This is around a 30-minute drive from Funchal.

Curral das Freiras is one of the most impressive landscapes on the island, especially from the viewpoint of Eira do Serrado which, with its vertiginous views (at more than 500m above sea level), is sure to impress any visitor.

OLD TOWN

If you choose to return from Monte by cable car, then you will come back to Funchal's Old Town. Admire the beautiful Socorro Church, erected in the 16th century at the initiative of private citizens. Sit on a seaside terrace, at the Barreirinha Viewpoint, and enjoy watching the world go by, changing all day long. This is also a meeting point to start the night off in one of the many local bars.

In addition to the Old Town, other nightlife areas include Avenida de Sá Carneiro, the Madeira Casino (with gaming rooms, bars, disco, restaurants and musical shows) as well as the Lido area.





2ND DAY WEST COAST

RIBEIRA BRAVA,
SÃO VICENTE,
SEIXAL,
PORTO MONIZ,
(CALHETA AND PONTA DO SOL)



MORNING

Take a drive towards Ribeira Brava, continue to Encumeada, located in the central massif, on a route with plentiful viewpoints from which you can see the peaks of the surrounding mountains. The journey continues towards São Vicente, through a tunnel, where, as you come out the other side, the contrast of the majestic green with the crystalline blue of the seawater jumps out to meet you. In São Vicente you can visit the Caves and the Volcanism Centre, the Lime Route Museum Centre or simply stroll through the alleyways of this friendly town.

From here visitors can see the “Bride’s Veil” (Véu da Noiva) waterfall which, due to its height and the load of water that flows down the hillside, is reminiscent of a bride’s veil.

Continue towards Seixal and Porto Moniz and recover with an invigorating dive in the natural pools of basaltic lava that drain into the ocean. You can also visit the Living Science Centre and Madeira Aquarium in the centre of Porto Moniz. Whether in São Vicente, Seixal or Porto Moniz, you will find numerous options for a good meal.



AFTERNOON

UNFORGETTABLE WALKS

From Porto Moniz you can climb towards Paul da Serra, the highest plateau on Madeira (check the weather conditions before you leave, as if there is fog the visibility will be significantly reduced). Here you can take a break to appreciate some of the most impressive views over the northern or southern slopes. There are some unforgettable hiking paths in this area, in particular at Fanal and Rabaçal.

SCENIC VILLAGES

Return to Ribeira Brava and head towards the sun-drenched coasts of Ponta do Sol. In Ponta do Sol, you can admire Nossa Senhora da Luz Church, the pedestrian alleyways, the pier and the old bridge of Caminho Real, used to have access between this village and Madalena do Mar. Continuing in the west coast of the island, take a visit to Calheta where you can visit the Mudas. Museum of Contemporary Art, where several art exhibitions are held. Spoil yourself with a traditional honey cake and a “poncha” at Calheta’s sugar cane mill, or relax on the artificial sand beach, right next to the marina.

You can also visit the picturesque villages of Jardim do Mar and Paúl do Mar and explore the alleyways and paths of this “surfers’ paradise.” In Jardim do Mar are the ruins of an ancient sugar cane mill. The houses that surround the church of Nossa Senhora do Rosário make for a picturesque location, where you will find various options for relaxing and enjoying a drink or meal by the sea.





3RD DAY

EAST COAST

SANTANA AND MACHICO

MORNING

Head for Poiso and Pico do Areeiro, the third highest peak on Madeira (check the weather conditions before you leave, as if there is fog the visibility will be significantly reduced). Pico do Areeiro stands at 1818 metres above sea level and offers a fantastic view over the island's central massif, where you can see the beautiful rock formations that jut through the clouds towards the sky.

From here you can start one of the most spectacular walking trails in the island, leading towards the highest point of the archipelago, Pico Ruivo, with an altitude of 1,862 metres (PR 1 - Vereda do Areeiro).

Note: bear in mind that this route takes around 3h30mts. (one way). One option is to do part of the route and enjoy the wonderful landscapes that this path has to offer.

Back in Poiso, carry on to Ribeiro Frio, where you can admire the views from the Balcões viewpoint. This viewpoint is accessible through a short walk (around 1h30mts, there and back) along the PR 11- Vereda dos Balcões (Ribeiro Frio - Balcões). And on days with good visibility, it offers views of the splendid scenery of the verdant valleys of the *Laurissilva* forest. From here it is possible to see the Fajã da Nogueira Hydroelectric Power Plant, Pico do Areeiro, Pico Ruivo, as well as Penha D'Águia (the emblematic geological formation of Porto da Cruz). This is also an excellent area for observing the birds of the region. You can take a break for lunch here, or continue directly to the next destination.

TYPICAL A-FRAMED SANTANA HOUSES

Descend to Faial and be amazed, once again, at the grandeur of the mountains and, in particular, the beauty of the promontory of Penha d'Águia. Arriving in the centre of Santana, you can visit the Traditional Santana Houses, where it is also possible to purchase a large variety of local, artisanal and traditional products. The Queimadas Forest Park hosts the Queimadas shelter, with its beautiful thatched roof. Here, you can admire exotic trees in an idyllic setting just right for a picnic and a rest. There are several walking trails in this area, including the "Um Caminho para todos" which leads to Pico das Pedras, a footpath which is accessible to people of all ages.

In Santana, at the Rocha do Navio viewpoint, there is a cable car, as well as a footpath which provides access to the Natural Reserve under the same designation. It offers excellent views over the sea, the small agricultural terraces and Ilhéu da Viúva. It is also a potential habitat of the monk seal (*Monachus monachus*), as well as the endemic flora of the coastal cliffs of Macaronesia and submerged and semi-submerged sea caves.

In Arco de São Jorge or in Santana, you will be able to choose from various restaurants offering typical dishes of the island.



ENGAGE ON A FOOTPATH

Continue to Machico, towards Ponta de São Lourenço, the easternmost point on the island.

When you reach Machico bay, take a stroll along its promenade. This is a walkway connects the city seafront which takes to Banda d'Além Beach, an artificial golden sandy beach. Here you'll find several seaside restaurants and terraces.

You can also visit Machico's Church – Church of Nossa Senhora da Conceição and the Solar do Ribeirinho manor house, both which are emblematic monuments of this town.

If you are looking for a natural black sandy beach, head for Ponta de São Lourenço. Prainha in Caniçal, is a good option, but you will have to walk for a few minutes to get there.

The Whale Museum, located in the village of Caniçal, is a comprehensive testament to the history of whaling in Madeira. Caniçal is also known for its gastronomy, rich in fish and seafood.

At Ponta de São Lourenço admire the views from the Baía de Abra viewpoint. This location offers a spectacular view over the shoreline, shaped by the erosion of sea and wind, characterised by several red and black coloured rock formations and small islets.

The walking routes at Ponta de São Lourenço provide a breath-taking view of both the north and south coasts of the island, as well as of the islands of Desertas and Porto Santo. Another viewpoint not to be missed is that of Ponta do Rosto, also situated on the São Lourenço Peninsula, but in the northern part. From here, it is possible to see both the north coast and south coast of Madeira and, on clear days, the island of Porto Santo.



4TH DAY

PORTO SANTO



You can visit Porto Santo Island either by boat or by plane. The boat trip takes around 2h30, leaving early in the morning and returning at dusk. The plane trip takes between 15 and 20 minutes and there are several daily connections.

The best way to get to know the island is to admire the panoramic views from its stunning viewpoints. One of the most emblematic is the Portela viewpoint, surrounded by three windmills. To the west, we see the beach and the Islet of Cal; to the east, we see the conical form of Pico de Baixo, the Islet of Cima, the harbour and the marina. You can also climb (around 3h30 to and return) to the top of Pico Castelo (PS PR2 - Vereda do Pico do Castelo), at 437 metres above sea level and providing an exceptional view of Porto Santo. Another of the walks recommended on this island is the PS PR 1 - Vereda do Pico Branco and Terra Chã (around 3h to and return), which allows you to see a large part of the island.

Admire the unique shape of Pico de Ana Ferreira, composed of irregular prismatic columns, formed by the slow cooling of magma. Nearby, you will find Porto Santo golf course. Offering superb views, this course presents unique challenges and optimal year-round conditions for playing golf. Don't miss a visit to Calheta, let yourself be carried away by the magical sound of the waves as you contemplate this idyllic beauty.

The primitive allure of the landscape charms all those who decide to walk or pedal along the trails and footpaths of the island. In the centre of Vila Baleira, you must try a "lambeca," one of the typical ice creams of the island. Visit the Christopher Columbus Museum House, which marks the presence on the island of the man who discovered America, recreating the primitive surroundings in which the explorer lived. Take the opportunity to try the typical gastronomy of Porto Santo in one of the island's restaurants.





Relax on the island's 9 km fine golden sand beach which is perfect for sunbathing and swimming. You can also enjoy natural treatments in the thalassotherapy centre, as the sand of Porto Santo has therapeutic qualities.

Take long walks in the sand, practice aquatic sports, refresh yourself in the crystalline waters and enjoy a drink or meal in one of the beach bars.

The tranquility of this island along with the beauty of its fine sandy beach and the perfectly clear seawater, turns Porto Santo into a truly special destination - not to be missed!

**COME AND DISCOVER
MADEIRA AND PORTO SANTO ISLANDS!**



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