

MADEIRA

Travel Guide



Top places to visit

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LOCATIONS

In this chapter you will find the best things to do and see in different locations all around Madeira. We put together a collection of places and activities you should check out.

TOP THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN FUNCHAL

Funchal is the capital of Madeira and is located on the south coast of the island. Starting your trip to Madeira by exploring Funchal for at least one day is a wonderful introduction to the island.

Cable Car

The cable car in the old town will bring you to the neighborhood Monte. Make sure you have at least a sweater with you when you go up! Arrived in Monte you can visit the Monte Palace Tropical Garden or you take a second cable car from here, that brings you to another botanical garden. If you are interested in both rides, ask for a combined ticket before you depart from Funchal.

Price p.p.: 14,50 € one way or 20 € round trip

Opening hours: 8:45-17:45

To get back into the city you can either take: the cable car, a taxi (5-15 €, depending on location you want to go), a bus (2 € p.p.) or you take a Wicker Toboggan Sled Ride (30 € for 2 people in one sled) - be aware that you will have to walk the last 30 minutes by foot to get back into town. It is a fun activity but a bit pricey.



Monte Palace Tropical Garden

You can reach the Garden by Cable Car or by bus (2 € p.p.; 20, 21 or 22 to Monte/Babosas). Within the garden you will find various exotic trees and flowers as well as the Monte Palace Museum where you can see an unique collection of minerals from all over the world as well as Zimbabwean sculptures. A large part of the garden is inspired by Japanese and Chinese gardening style.

Entrance fee.: 15 € p.p. Final entrance: 17:00

See the Church of Nossa Senhora do Monte.



Toboggan Ride

The Monte toboggan ride is one of Madeira's most unique attractions. Visitors can experience an exciting journey down the steep streets in a traditional wicker sled. The sleds are pushed and steered by two "carreiros" dressed in white and wearing straw hats, using only their rubber-soled shoes to brake and guide the ride. The descent covers about 2 kilometers and offers beautiful views of the city and the ocean. Originally used as a means of transport in the 19th century, today the toboggan ride is a fun and unforgettable experience for tourists.



Botanical Garden (Jardim Botânico da Madeira)

It is a stunning oasis showcasing a rich variety of exotic plants, vibrant flowers, and beautifully landscaped terraces. The peaceful atmosphere, combined with panoramic views over the city and ocean, makes it a perfect spot for nature lovers and photographers. A must-visit for anyone wanting to experience Madeira's unique flora and huge variety of plants from all over the world.

You can combine it with the cable car trip; there's even a connecting cable car between Monte and the garden.



Zona Velha (Old Town)

The Zona Velha is the historic center of Funchal. Take your time to stroll along the streets. There are plenty of restaurants and cafés to take a break and enjoy a Poncha or a light lunch. Make sure you pay attention to the beautiful street art on the doors!

Visit Sé Cathedral and Praça do Município. Jardim Municipal – a small garden, but full of exotic plants right in the city center. Walk through Parque de Santa Catarina for views of the harbor. CR7 Museum for the fans of Cristiano Ronaldo (5 € p.p.). The promenade along Marina do Funchal. Fortaleza de São Tiago – the yellow fortress near the old town.



Mercado dos Lavradores

Be aware: it's better to visit it for the atmosphere not to buy something – prices are touristy – very high).

On this market in the center of Funchal you will find all kinds of fruit and vegetables as well as very interesting fish from the ocean. It is open daily from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm (Saturdays until 2 pm), except on Sundays and on holidays.

Go early in the morning (around 8-10 am) for the freshest fruits, vegetables, and fish, and to avoid bigger tourist crowds. Bring cash – many small stalls don't accept cards. Try local fruits like passion fruit, custard apple (cherimoya), and dragon fruit – vendors are usually happy to let you sample. Check out the fish market section for a lively atmosphere and colorful fresh catches.

Don't expect super low prices – it's a popular tourist spot, so prices are way higher than in regular markets. Look for the beautiful hand-painted tile panels inside the market (azulejos) – great for photos and a bit of local culture.



Jardim do Palheiro Gardens

The gardens have an English character and are situated between the hills near Funchal. After strolling through the gardens you can stop at the tea house for freshly baked cake and a cup of tea. There are parking lots in front of the entrance and you even can go there by bus (Line number 37).
Entrance fee: 10 € p.p.



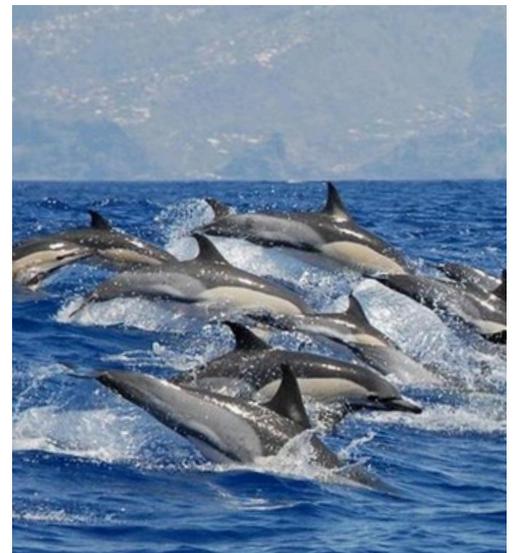
Santa Maria Ship Tour

Sail aboard a beautiful replica of Christopher Columbus's flagship, built in 1998 on Madeira. Cruise along Madeira's stunning southern coast with a stop at Cabo Girão, one of Europe's highest sea cliffs. Chance to see dolphins, whales, turtles, and seabirds in their natural habitat. Seasonal swimming stop in crystal-clear waters near Cabo Girão. Enjoy traditional local treats: a slice of honey cake and a glass of Madeira wine. Friendly crew often dressed in historical costumes provide a warm atmosphere. Onboard bar and restroom facilities. Optional guided commentary in English about the ship and surroundings.
Tour duration: approximately 3 hours.



Dolphin Watching in Funchal

The biodiverse waters of Madeira are teeming with pilot whales, sperm whales, and the playful bottlenose dolphin. You might also spot the Blue Whale (Apr-Oct), the largest mammal ever living on planet Earth!
Enjoy a 2-3 hour boat trip searching for wild dolphins and whales near Madeira. Once dolphins are spotted, the boat stays close for about 15 minutes to observe them without disturbing their natural behavior. Experienced guides share interesting facts about marine life. Comfortable boat with safety equipment. Great for all ages and nature lovers.



Pico dos Barcelos Viewpoint

This viewpoint offers a panoramic view over the whole city, the bay, and the surrounding mountains. The access is very easy by car, with parking nearby, and it's a great stop for photos – especially at sunset when the lights of Funchal begin to shine.



Doca do Cavacas **Natural Pools Piscinas do Gomes**

The Doca do Cavacas is a set of small volcanic natural pools conveniently located just near the apartment on the Praia Formosa. After an action-packed day, spend the late afternoon/early evening winding down at the rock pools. There are also magnificent views of the coastline from here!

A day ticket costs 5.50€. The pools are open from 10 AM to 8 PM. However, always check ahead of your visit, as they can be closed when the sea is too rough.

You'll also find a great fish restaurant in the area.



Santa Catarina Park

It is a beautiful and peaceful park located in the heart of Funchal, offering lovely views over the marina and the Atlantic Ocean. It's an ideal place for a relaxing walk, a picnic, or simply enjoying the sunset surrounded by gardens, palm trees, and local birds.



Blandy's or Pereira d'Oliveira **Wine Lodge**

Wine Lodges in Funchal are traditional wine cellars where you can learn about Madeira wine and enjoy tastings. You can choose between different guided tours (available in various languages) that allow you to visit the various areas of the Lodge, followed by a wine tasting of the famous Madeira Wine. You can also come here without booking a tour in advance and just enjoy a wine tasting in their tasting room.



Nazaré Viewpoint **(Miradouro do Nazaré)**

This viewpoint offers stunning panoramic views over Funchal and the Atlantic Ocean. It's a peaceful spot to enjoy the city skyline, take photos, and watch beautiful sunsets.



Extra tip for parking

If you arrive by car in the city centre we recommend you the parking garage "Parque 2000", it's only 4.50 Euros for the entire day and within a few minutes by foot you will reach the waterfront of Funchal.

TOP THINGS TO DO AND SEE NEAR FUNCHAL

Câmara de Lobos

Harbor

Take a walk along the cozy seafront with colorful fishing boats (barcos moliceiros). Watch the fishermen at work and enjoy the fresh sea air.

Ilhéu de Câmara de Lobos Viewpoint

From here, you get a beautiful view of the small islet Ilhéu and the entire fishing village. This spot was loved by Winston Churchill, who often visited to relax and paint the landscapes.

Local Restaurants and Cafés

Try fresh seafood and the famous drink “poncha” – a traditional cocktail made from rum, lemon, and honey.

Stroll Through Picturesque Streets

Narrow, cobblestone streets with traditional architecture make a perfect place for a leisurely walk and photos.



Curral das Freiras (Nun's Valley)

A dramatic valley surrounded by steep mountains, famous for its chestnuts. The village feels hidden away from the rest of the island, almost like a secret place.

The valley got its name in the 16th century, when nuns from the Santa Clara convent in Funchal fled here to escape pirate attacks on the coast. Protected by the high mountains, this isolated spot became their refuge - hence the name “Nun's Valley.”

Eira do Serrado Viewpoint

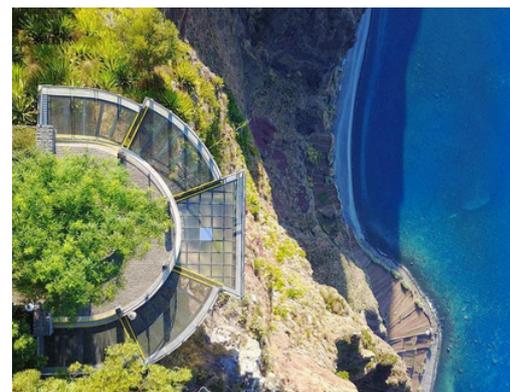
Before descending into the valley (or after) stop at this viewpoint. It offers one of the most spectacular panoramas with the entire valley spread out below and mountain peaks all around. The access is very easy.



Cabo Girão Skywalk and Viewpoint

One of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, standing about 580 meters above the Atlantic Ocean. Famous for its glass skywalk platform offering breathtaking panoramic views of the ocean, coastline, and terraced fields below. A perfect spot for photography, sightseeing, and enjoying Madeira's dramatic natural beauty. Easily accessible by car.

Entrance fee is 3 € p.p. (Can be overcrowded)



GARAJAU

Christ the King Statue (Cristo Rei do Garajau)

Visit the impressive statue of Christ overlooking the ocean, a symbol of protection for fishermen and an iconic viewpoint with stunning sea views.

Garajau Beach and Marine Reserve

Enjoy the beautiful pebble (rocky) beach – note that it's a bit rocky and not very comfortable for lounging, but perfect for swimming and snorkeling in the clear waters of the marine reserve.

Cable Car Access to the Beach

There is a convenient cable car that takes you down from the cliff to the beach, making the descent easy and offering fantastic views along the way.



SANTA CRUZ

It is worth visiting for its relaxed seaside atmosphere, beautiful promenade, and authentic local charm. It's a great place to enjoy ocean views, stroll through gardens, relax on the beach, and experience everyday life in Madeira away from the busy tourist areas.

It is also famous for the low-flying airplanes approaching Madeira Airport. It's a unique and exciting experience to watch planes pass just overhead as they land – a must-see for aviation fans and visitors alike!

Madeira Airport Spotting Viewpoint is a popular place to watch airplanes take off and land just a few meters above you. It offers amazing photo opportunities, ocean views, and a unique aviation experience – perfect for plane lovers and curious visitors alike.

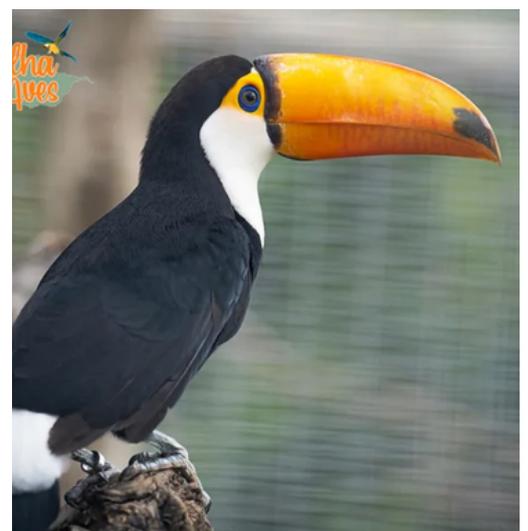


Ilha das Aves (Campanário)

Entrance fee is 7,50 € p.p. (10:00-19:00)

Bird Island is a unique park and mini zoo on the Island of Madeira that is set in a charming green garden. This is the home of several exotic birds and macaws that bring the park to life with their beauty and grace.

Occupying an area of 7000 m², Bird Island is a great place for entertainment and family time on the Island of Madeira. It takes at least 90 minutes to visit this landscaped area which hosts 200 species of birds. Among the many species, Bird Island is home to cranes, ibis, cockatoos, parrots and macaws.



TOP THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN PONTA DO SOL

Located on the southwestern coast of the island, Ponta do Sol is known for being the sunniest town on the island. Have a walk there it's really worth it. Optional – pebble beach.

Waterfall Cascata dos Anjos

The Waterfall “Cascata dos Anjos” is located on the ER101 between Ponta do Sol and Madalena do Mar. Discover this stunning waterfall that cascades directly over the cliffs, its water plunging onto the coastal road below. Please note that the falls can get busy and chaotic during the day, especially in summer.



Viewpoint near the Church of Nossa Senhora da Luz

When you stroll the historic center and admire the colorful houses on the seafront, you will soon find a viewpoint where you can overlook the orange roofs of Ponta do Sol.



Caminho Real 23

Driving from the waterfall to Ponta do Sol (or vice versa) you'll see an old bridge. You can stop in the tunnel and have a short walk there.



Levada do Moinho

This hike, that offers beautiful ocean views, is a leisurely trail with only 150m of elevation.

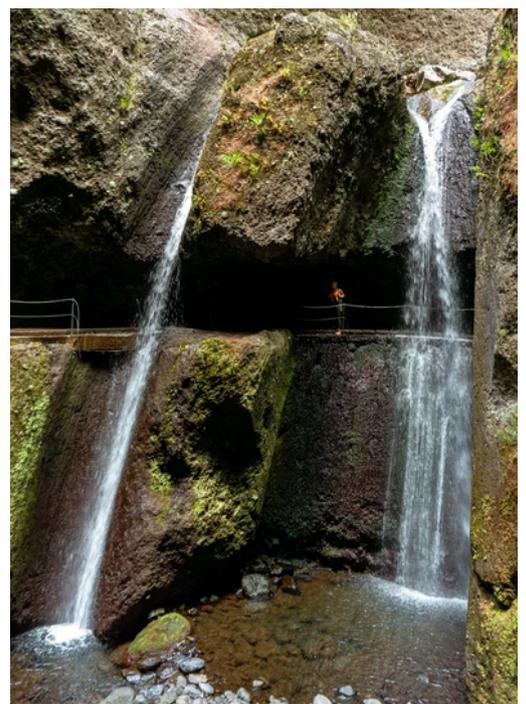
After a few kilometers you will reach some stairs on your right hand side. Don't go straight up, instead continue walking along the trail until you reach the first waterfall and a picnic spot. Now you can either turn around and walk up the stairs or you follow the path that leads into the canyon and after crossing the riverbed you will reach the Levada Nova that brings you back into town.

You will pass the main attraction, which is another waterfall that pours right over the hiking trail.

The hike will end a bit further up from the church, which means you have to walk back through the village to get back to your car.

Total distance:

9 km (5.5 miles), 100 m of incline.



THE NORTH – NORTHWEST

The North & Northwest of Madeira offers a scenic route full of dramatic cliffs, lush forests, and charming villages. Highlights include Porto Moniz natural pools, Fanal, São Vicente caves, Seixal, Ribeira da Janela, and breathtaking coastal viewpoints. Perfect for nature lovers and photography enthusiasts

FANAL FOREST

Drive time from Funchal: 1 hour (gps – Fanal parking). Fanal Forest, located in Madeira's UNESCO-listed Laurisilva, is famous for its centuries-old, twisted laurel trees often shrouded in thick mist. Covered in moss and surrounded by lush greenery, it creates an otherworldly, almost magical atmosphere, perfect for hiking, photography, and peaceful walks. Enjoy!



SÃO VICENTE

Drive to the parking spot to have a quick walk in a charming coastal village with a beautiful backdrop of mountains. There you'll find a small and charming chapel built into the rocky coastline – the Chapel of São Vicente (Capelinha de São Vicente). The chapel marks the spot where, according to local tradition, Saint Vincent appeared to a fisherman in the 17th century.



Capela de Nossa Senhora de Fátima (optional)

Behind the town, a small green hill emerges from the valley floor, embedded with 200 steps leading up to the charming whitewashed church – one of the most scenic churches in Europe.



Água d'Alta waterfall

Água d'Alta Waterfall is an impressive waterfall located right by the road in São Vicente. It's easily accessible, making it a perfect quick stop to admire the cascade and take photos while exploring Madeira's north coast.



Véu da Noiva waterfall viewpoint

Bridal Veil Waterfall Viewpoint offers a breathtaking view of one of Madeira's most famous waterfalls, where water plunges dramatically into the lush valley below. It's easily accessible and perfect for photos and enjoying the island's natural beauty.



RIBEIRA DA JANELA

Drive to a quick scenic stop at a rocky beach of Ribeira da Janela with dramatic sea stacks rising from the ocean (gps - Miradouro Ilhéus da Ribeira da Janela). This place is a 5-minute drive from Porto Moniz and seems to be often overlooked by tourists but offers a spectacular view! There is even a staircase cut into the volcanic cliffs to enjoy the view over the ocean and the rock formation.



Giant Swing (Baloicho Gigante)

Looking for pure adrenaline? Try the 20-meter-high swing, placed on a platform suspended 250 meters above the sea, with breathtaking views of the cliffs.

Duration: 15-20 minutes (equipment, safety briefing & swing jump).

Safety: Certified equipment and professional staff. Every participant is checked before launch.

For whom: Anyone between 40-120 kg. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.



Zipline

Fly like a bird over Madeira's stunning landscapes! Two routes to choose from:

- Panoramic – 1,000 meters long, perfect for all ages.
- Adrenaline – 600 meters, reaching up to 110 km/h!
- Height: The panoramic zipline starts at about 380 meters high, offering unique views over the ocean and Ribeira da Janela.
- Flight time: 40-90 seconds depending on the route. The full experience (transfer + flight + return) lasts 30-40 minutes.
- Transfer included: Ride in a UTV along scenic trails up to the launch platform.

10 AM – 7 PM every day

Location: Miradouro da Fajã do Barro (Caminho da Fajã do Barro 1)

[+351 964994294](tel:+351964994294)

info@adrenalineadventures.pt

<https://adrenalineadventures.pt/>



Ribeira da Janela swing

(gps - Baloicho I Love Ribeira da Janela) – one of the most Instagrammable spots in Madeira. Nice photos and a great view.



SEIXAL

Seixal is a charming village on Madeira's north coast, known for its black sand beach, rugged cliffs, and stunning ocean views. It's a great spot to relax, enjoy the natural pools, and experience the peaceful atmosphere of northern Madeira.



Black Sand Seixal Beach

The Seixal beach is also known as "Praia do Porto do Seixal". With lush mountains in the background and black sand, the beach offers Hawaii vibes. It is one of the few sand beaches in Madeira and fairly a small beach, so if you are interested in taking photos or drone shots make sure you come here for sunrise, otherwise it probably will be too busy.



Natural Pools of Seixal

Entrance to the pools is free. There are two different pools. There is one with a picturesque rock arch, perfect for taking photos (gps Piscinas Naturais do Seixal). Keep in mind that getting there involves a very steep walk down (and, of course, back up on the way out). If such paths are difficult for you, it's best to skip this location. And another one with a large pool and a wide view over the ocean (near the Seixal beach).



PORTO MONIZ

Porto Moniz is located on the northwestern tip of Madeira. For a long time the town was isolated from the rest of the island because of its geography. It was a whaling town until the 1980s. Nowadays the top attraction in Porto Moniz are the natural pools but you will find more places to visit in the area nearby. This is also a great spot for lunch - several seaside restaurants offer fresh fish and traditional dishes (we like Sea View Restaurant (Japanese (Sushi), Mediterranean), located on the rooftop terrace of the Aqua Natura Hotel; it's not traditional though).



Natural Pools

The pools are called "Piscinas Naturais do Porto Moniz". There are two different pools - the ones that are free of charge, but have no facilities, the other ones cost about 3 €/p.p.

This is also a great spot for lunch - several seaside restaurants offer fresh fish and traditional dishes (we like Sea View Restaurant (Japanese (Sushi), Mediterranean), located on the rooftop terrace of the Aqua Natura Hotel; it's not traditional though).

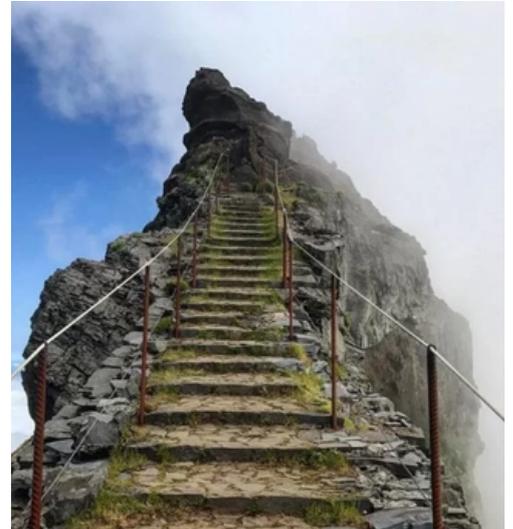


RIBEIRO FRIO (MOUNTAINS)

For all of you who love to go hiking, this is the place to be! A lot of great trails start in Ribeiro Frio and the Pico do Arieiro is not far away either! But even if you are not a fan of long and exhausting hikes, Ribeiro Frio is a great place to relax and unwind in nature!

Pico do Arieiro (1818m)

One of the highest peaks on Madeira, easily accessible by car. First 30 minutes of parking is free - that will be enough for you to take some pictures there and have a little walk (but still you will need to go to the parking machine, enter your plate number and choose 30min stay, then you have to put the ticket in the car so it can be visible). The drive itself is stunning, and from the top you can enjoy dramatic mountain views above the clouds (if there are clouds). The hiking trail starts from here. It's a famous Pico-to-Pico route. Best times of day for a visit are sunrise and sunset.



Levada dos Balcões

A short and very easy levada walk (3km in total), completely flat. Approximately halfway along the walk, there is a small café, where you can rest and enjoy a drink before continuing. At the end, you reach the Balcões viewpoint, which offers one of the most beautiful panoramas of Madeira's central mountains and valleys.

Not far from the starting point in Ribeiro Frio, you'll also find a small trout farm, which can be interesting to visit before or after the walk.



Parque Ecológico do Funchal

It is a hidden gem located along the road to Ribeiro Frio, just a short drive from Funchal. It's an often overlooked spot where visitors can enjoy peaceful walks, native plants, small lakes, and panoramic views of the surrounding hills - perfect for nature lovers looking to escape the crowds.

The shortest route leads to Pico Alto, offering beautiful views over Funchal. The area features levadas and countless kilometers of walking trails.



THE EAST MADEIRA ROUTE

East Madeira Route offers dramatic cliffs, ocean views, green valleys, and traditional villages. Highlights include Machico, Ponta de São Lourenço, Santana's traditional houses, and scenic coastal viewpoints – perfect for a day of exploration and photography.

Machico Beach

A unique sandy beach with golden sand brought from Morocco. It's one of the few places on Madeira where you can enjoy a real sandy beach experience, perfect for a relaxing start to the day.



Ponta de São Lourenço

Best time of day for this hike is in the morning or afternoon, otherwise it gets too crowded and too hot as there is no shade.

The trail starts at the roundabout, follow the path "Cais do Sardinha".

After a few minutes of hiking, you will reach the first viewpoint "Miradouro de São Lourenço". There are stairs going down to the beach "Praia São Lourenço" in case you want to go swimming during or after the hike.

At the end of the trail you will find a small cafe where you can take a break before heading back via the same path. If you like to go a bit further, there are stairs going up to the final viewpoint of the hiking trail, the "Miradouro Ponta do Furado" which looks out onto the "Dragon's Tail", a long, outstretched piece of the peninsula.



Total distance:

7 km (4.5 miles), 472. m of incline

Miradouro da Ponta do Rosto

It is a spectacular viewpoint on Madeira's easternmost peninsula, offering dramatic views of cliffs, the ocean, and the wild landscapes of Ponta de São Lourenço. A must-stop for photos and nature lovers.



SANTANA REGION

Santana Region is famous for its traditional A-frame houses with thatched roofs, lush green mountains, and beautiful coastal views. It's a great place to experience Madeira's rural charm, hiking trails, and authentic local culture.

Miradouro da Guindaste

It is a stunning skywalk viewpoint on Madeira's north coast, offering breathtaking views of dramatic cliffs, the Atlantic Ocean, and powerful waves.



Miradouro da Rocha do Navio

The Rocha do Navio viewpoint offers one of Madeira's most breathtaking coastal landscapes. From here you can admire dramatic cliffs, the Atlantic Ocean, and the small islet just off the coast. The name "Rocha do Navio" ("Ship Rock") comes from a Dutch ship that sank here in the 19th century. Visitors can enjoy the views from above or take a cable car down to the nature reserve, where you'll find traditional farmland, crystal-clear waters, and a sense of untouched natural beauty.



Madeira Theme Park

It is a family-friendly attraction showcasing Madeira's history, culture, and traditions, with gardens, exhibits, and interactive displays – ideal for children and curious visitors.

Entrance fee: €3 per adult, €1 per child (let them know at the entrance that you only want access to the gardens - that will be enough for you).



Quinta do Furão

You can have a casual meal at the café (the pizza is delicious!) or enjoy a full dining experience at the restaurant. Afterward, take a short walk from the café up to the hotel area - the views over the cliffs and ocean are absolutely unforgettable.



Calhau de São Jorge

It has historical importance as a traditional coastal settlement, once used by local fishermen and farmers accessing the sea. Today, it preserves the character of Madeira's rural north coast while offering natural pools and seaside views.



São Cristóvão Viewpoint

It offers panoramic views over Funchal, the surrounding valleys, and the Atlantic Ocean. It's a peaceful spot to enjoy the landscape, take photos, and watch the sunset.



THE WEST MADEIRA ROUTE

The west of Madeira is not as full of major attractions as other parts of the island, but if you have time, is worth visiting.

Calheta

Calheta is a town where you'll find one of the few yellow-sand beaches in Madeira. It's one of the most popular because of the soft sand and calm water.



Garganta Funda Waterfall

It is one of the tallest waterfalls on Madeira, dropping about 140 meters into a deep gorge near the village of Ponta do Pargo, on the island's western tip.

The name "Garganta Funda" means "deep throat", describing the dramatic ravine where the water plunges down.

It's especially impressive after heavy rain, when the water flow is stronger. In drier months, the stream may be smaller, but the scenery remains breathtaking.



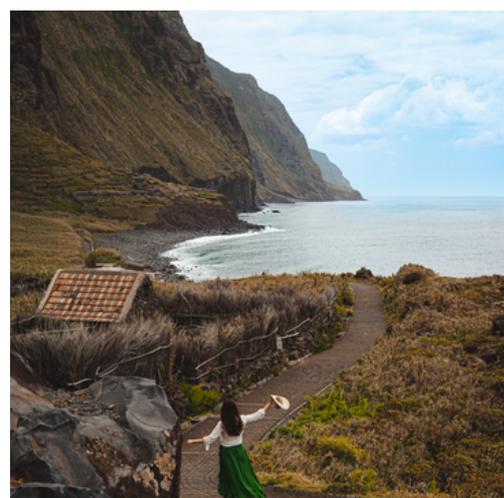
Farol da Ponta do Pargo (one of the best sunset spots)

Ponta do Pargo is the westernmost cliff on Madeira, offering breathtaking views of the endless ocean and some of the island's most beautiful sunsets. Together with the lighthouse, this spot combines natural grandeur and maritime charm, making it a must-see viewpoint on Madeira.



Achadas da Cruz

Its main attraction is the Achadas da Cruz cable car (5 € round trip), one of the steepest in Europe, which descends nearly 500 meters to the remote village – Fajã da Quebrada Nova. Down by the ocean, visitors can walk along old farming terraces and stone paths, surrounded by stunning natural scenery. This hidden gem is perfect for those seeking peace, authenticity, and unforgettable landscapes.



Miradouro da Boa Morte

It offers stunning views of Madeira's west coast from Ponta do Pargo. Recently renovated, the viewpoint features a safe 250-meter path while preserving the area's natural charm.



Restaurants:

Fish factory – Paul do Mar

Casa de Pedra – Madalena do Mar

Gato Legal – Porto do Pargo (best coffee and snacks)



18 MOST INSTAGRAMMABLE PLACES

NORTH

1 Fanal Forest



2 Santana houses



3 São Vicente



4 Seixal beach & Natural Pools



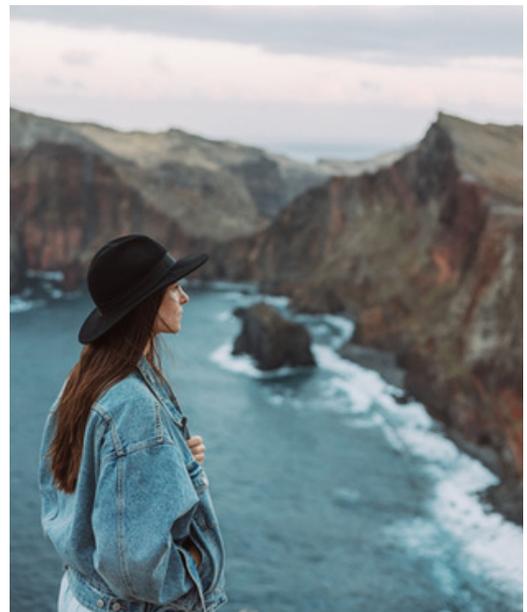
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EAST

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7 Miradouro da Ponta do Rosto



SOUTH

8 Monte Palace Tropical Garden



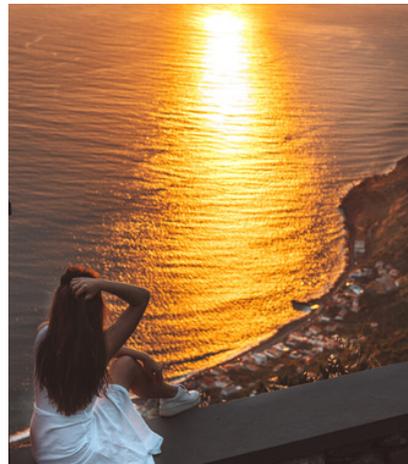
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WEST

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13 Natural Pools of Porto Moniz



14 Achadas da Cruz

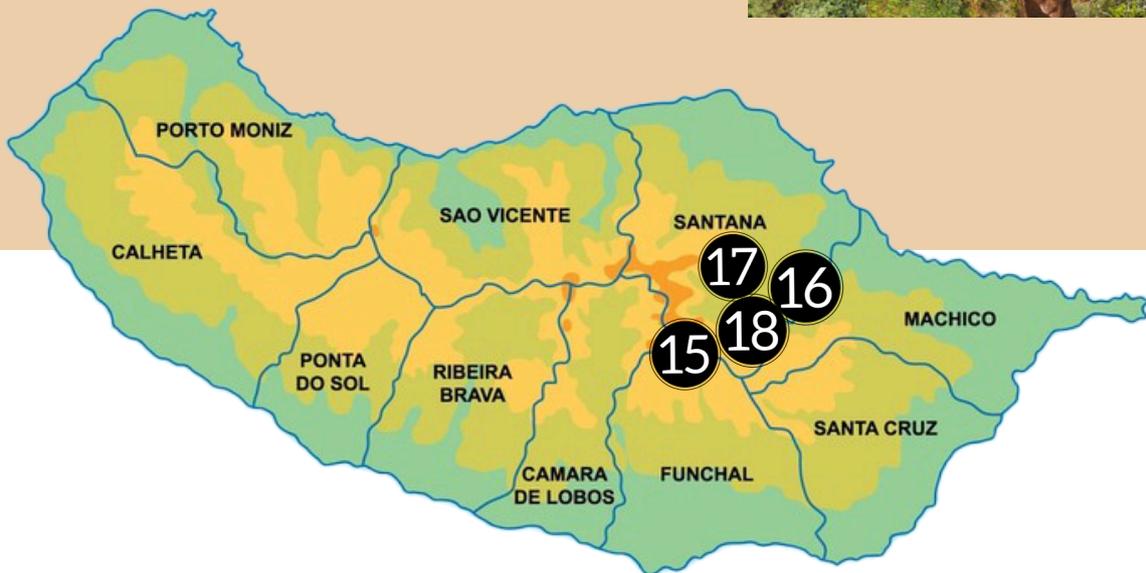


CENTER

15 Pico do Arieiro



16 A Ponte Velha



17 Waterfall Caldeirão Verde



18 Miradouro dos Balcões





HIKING IN MADEIRA

In this chapter you will find the best hikes of Madeira and all of our tips. The high mountains and narrow valleys of Madeira are the perfect place for extended hikes. The island can be discovered on foot at all levels of difficulty.

TIPS FOR A SAFE HIKING EXPERIENCE

- Most importantly invest in solid hiking boots with a good grip!
- Wear suitable and comfortable clothes and don't forget to bring an extra jacket and a hat.
- Pack your hiking backpack and bring enough water and some snacks.
- Make sure you have a flashlight with you (or a phone light) because on some hiking trails in Madeira you will need to pass a few tunnels!
- Start your hike early enough so you'll be back before dark!
- If you need to let people pass while you are hiking a Levada, step one foot over the Levada (when possible) and always lean against the mountain for safety reasons.

Happy Hiking!



LEVADAS & TRAILS FROM RABAÇAL

This hiking trail is one of the most popular hikes in Madeira. Make sure to follow our tips to avoid the crowds as much as possible.

Levada das 25 Fontes – the main trail leading to the famous 25 springs. A lush forest walk ending at a magical waterfall.

Levada do Risco – connects to 25 Fontes and leads to the impressive Risco Waterfall.

Lagoa do Vento – a smaller, hidden waterfall and pond nearby, perfect for a peaceful stop and photos.

Start your hike as early as possible as the parking lot can be full! You can combine 2–3 levadas in one hike for a full day of waterfalls, forests, and breathtaking views.

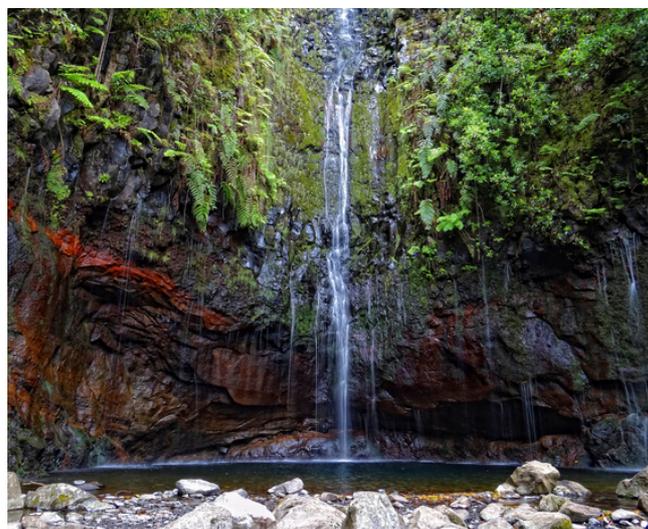
We recommend you to combine the hiking trail "Levada das 25 fontes" with the trail "Levada do Alecrim", this way you will enjoy the hike with less people. The path will start at the parking lot, follow the signs to "Lagoa do Vento" and later on the signs to "Levada do Alecrim". The trail will eventually lead you to the Risco waterfall. From there you can walk down to the official hiking trail of the Levada das 25 fontes hike by following the signs to "Casa do Rabaçal". There is a very cute café, called "Rabacal nature spot cafe", with a wonderful view over the canyon.

Total distance:

18 km (11 miles) – if you combine the two trails

11 km (7 miles) – if you don't combine the two trails

350 m of incline





LEVADA DO CALDEIRÃO VERDE

This hiking trail is our favorite Levada in Madeira. On your way through the green and lush forest you will see several waterfalls and you will have a lot of time to admire the flora of the island.

Levada do Caldeirão Verde is one of Madeira's most famous levadas, starting near Queimadas in the São Jorge area. The trail winds through lush laurel forests, tunnels, and waterfalls, leading to the spectacular Caldeirão Verde waterfall at the halfway point before you will return and walk the same way back. A peaceful and scenic hike, perfect for nature lovers and photographers.

Bring a flashlight or a phone light as you will need to pass four tunnels, which vary in length and height.

! Please note **!** A few years ago there was a landslide at the main waterfall, which is why the access is not allowed. We walked around the fence on a new path (like everyone else did) but it is something to consider.

After you hiked the same way back, enjoy a cup of coffee in the café at the parking lot.

Your parking ticket will be validated in the shop next to the coffee shop.

Total distance:

16 km (10 miles), 100 m of incline

