

Madeira Discovery Tour

Destinations: Portugal & Portuguese Islands

Trip code: MALEL



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the volcanic island of Madeira boasts rugged mountains draped in lush colourful vegetation and crammed with bright flowers. Just 35 miles long and 13 miles wide, this unique tropical gem offers much to explore, making this a truly 'must-see' destination.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Good quality en-suite accommodation in one of our European partner hotels
- Half Board – continental breakfast and evening meal
- The services of an experienced HF Holidays' leader
- Full day excursions with all essential transport in resort
- A local guide in Funchal and a visit to Blandy's Winery
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy a guided tour of the capital city Funchal
- Explore Santana, home to a quaint style of housing known as Palheiros
- Visit Camacha, centre of the island's wicker work Industry

- Spectacular mountain views from Encumeada and coastal views from St Lawrence Peninsula

TRIP SUITABILITY

Discovery holidays involve active sightseeing and you should expect to spend lots of time on your feet. Optional short walks of approximately 2½ miles allow you to stretch your legs and see the best of the local scenery.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Day 2: The Curral And The Cape

We start our day taking in the fine landscapes over Funchal before travelling through forests of eucalyptus and pine for views over Curral das Freiras (Refuge of the Nuns), stopping later to visit this village. We'll break for lunch at the fishing port of Câmara de Lobos before continuing to admire the view across the cape, passing by terraced vineyards where the grapes for the fortified wines are grown.

Day 3: Funchal

Today we enjoy a guided tour of the capital, Funchal, with our local guide. We'll visit the Cathedral, the colourful Mercado dos Labradores and the famous Blandy's Winery, home of Madeira wine. After a brief sample of the island's eponymous wine, we continue to Monte, one of the suburbs of Funchal, where we'll have time to visit the old Municipal Gardens and the Palace Gardens.

Day 4: Madeira's Mountains

We begin the day with a coach ride to the Pico do Arieiro, Madeira's second-highest mountain before descending to Ribeiro Frio for a short walk to an outstanding lookout point. From here, we can admire the Pico do Arieiro once more or take a stroll around this small town. After lunch we continue to Santana, home to a

quaint style of housing known as *palheiros*. On our way back to the hotel we'll take in views of Penha d'Agua (Eagle Rock).

Day 5: Free Day

On our 7-night holidays we allow one free day where there is no organised excursion. This is an ideal opportunity for you to relax, enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the area independently.

Day 6: Eastern Madeira

It's an up-and-down day today! We start by travelling west along the coast to the village of Camacha, centre of the island's wickerwork industry. From here we'll continue eastwards to Machico, Madeira's first settlement, before ascending Madeira's highest peak. We'll stop at Portela before coming back down to sea level at Caniçal, once a whaling port.

Day 7: Madeira's Coast, Valleys And Vistas

We start the day at São Vicente, possibly the prettiest settlement on the island, before we take the dramatic coastal road to Porto Moniz, the island's extreme north-western tip. Our return to the hotel takes in views over the Janela Valley and the Paúl da Serra.

Day 8: Departure Day

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Galosol - Madeira

A short bus ride from Funchal, and Occupying an enviable position on the southeast coast, the clifftop 4-star Hotel Galosol offers fine views of the Atlantic Ocean, the Ilhas Desertas and the rocky Madeiran shore. The hotel is located within the resort of Caniço de Baixo, a residential area with shops and a few local restaurants. The hotel has an impressive range of facilities including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, gym and wellness centre.

Accommodation Info

Rooms

The hotel has 123 spacious en-suite bedrooms.

These air conditioned rooms are bright and offer modern, comfortable beds. The warm Mediterranean colours and decoration create a cosy atmosphere. The balcony comes with table and chairs which invites you to relax.

Satellite TV with English channels is standard, as is the radio channel, rooms also contain a minibar and safe (small charge). The spacious bathrooms/WC are equipped with a large mirror, vanity mirror, hairdryer, bidet and have either a bath tub or a large shower.

Facilities

Guests have free use of Onda Revital Club, offering fitness classes, weekly morning jogging and yoga. The Wellness Centre has an indoor pool, saunas and Jacuzzi. There are outdoor and indoor pools.

There is a weekly entertainment programme including some live music. The bar and coffee shop overlook the sea. As well as the main restaurant there are several bars on site.

Wi-Fi is free throughout the common areas of the hotel.

Food & Drink

Our Holidays in Madeira are on a Half Board basis and include breakfast and evening meal.

Breakfast

The buffet breakfast, served from 7.30am until 10am includes a variety of breads, jams, spreads, yogurt, cheese, fresh vegetables, muesli-bar, cereals, soft-boiled eggs, freshly cooked scrambled or fried eggs, omelettes and fresh fruit salad. There may also be some seasonal fruit such as bananas, passion fruit, papaya, melon and orange.

Lunch (Payable Locally)

You may be able to purchase a picnic lunch from the hotel. Alternatively it is possible to buy ingredients from local shops or on some days to eat at one of the local cafés; your leaders will advise you of the options.

Evening Meal

This meal is buffet style and available from 6.30pm until 9pm. The hotel prides itself on serving fresh, locally sourced produce and offers daily meat, fish and vegetarian selections, plus plenty of salads. For dessert there are fruit pastries, delicious cakes and other fresh cream desserts. Tea and coffee is served after the meal.

Drinks

The hotel has a well-stocked bar serving beer, wine and spirits.

Your Evenings

Each evening your leaders will tell you about the the next day's activities and answer any questions you may have. During the evening you may like to join in an optional organised activity, such as a quiz, or chat in the bar overlooking the sea.

On the final evening you can enjoy a local meal tasting local dishes and delicacies, a wonderful finale to this unique holiday. Vegetarian options are also available.

There is an opportunity to visit the island's capital, Funchal, one evening and walk along the promenade followed by listening to some live music over a sociable drink.

Travel Details

THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION

Book your holiday 'with flight' and choose between Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham flights to Funchal airport. For flight times and prices please see the Dates & Prices tab.

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel. The short coach transfer takes approx 15 minutes to the Hotel Galosol.

THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to

book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

- We can book you a seat on the **HF Holidays' transfer coach** from Funchal airport. This short transfer is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £8.50
- Why not let us book you a **private taxi transfer** at a cost of £26.00 per single taxi journey?

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, off the west coast of Africa, Madeira is a magical volcanic island with rugged mountains draped in lush colourful vegetation and crammed with bright flowers. Just 35 miles long and 13 miles wide, this unique tropical gem offers diverse landscapes and much to explore, making this a truly 'must-see' destination.

Over its fascinating history, Madeira has attracted merchants, explorers and pirates. Christopher Columbus married the first Governor's granddaughter in the 15th century when the Portuguese settlers arrived. The island has a wealthy history of sugar cane plantations, although sugar cane is no longer the main crop. This has been replaced with vines that produce the famous Madeira wine. This beautiful island rising from the ocean with steep cliffs and high mountains was once believed to be the lost civilisation of Atlantis.

Funchal is the island's capital and main port. White houses and distinctive tiled roofs flow down to the harbour, favoured by cruise ships. Reflecting its wealth and history, the capital now makes a great destination for shopping and sightseeing. The old town has narrow, cobbled streets and restored fishermen's houses. The market, built in 1937, has two storeys and is vibrant and colourful, thanks to the wares of its famous flower sellers. At the seafront, a modern cable car station takes passengers to the hilltop town of Monte. This is where the wealthy merchants of Funchal lived to enjoy the cooler air and is well known as the start of the famous wooden toboggan ride down the cobbled streets.

Madeira enjoys an all-year-round mild climate and has been an exclusive holiday destination for the British for the best part of a century. Until the latter half of the 20th century it was only reached by boat or flying boat. The building of the airport and its more recent expansion has opened Madeira up to more and more holidaymakers, but the island has managed to maintain its character and charm. Rainfall is principally, but not exclusively, in the high mountains of the interior. For centuries this valuable water resource has been transported to the drier coastal areas along man-made water courses, the famous "levadas". This means that there are no dry and arid areas typical of other volcanic islands in this area of the Atlantic. It also means that the island has a remarkable and exotic flora at all seasons of the year.

What To Bring

To enjoy your holiday comfortably and safely, it's essential that your clothing and footwear is suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Changeable weather is possible throughout the year, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities – hot, cold, wet or dry.

All of our Discovery Tours involve active sightseeing and you should therefore be prepared for walking between the sights and wear flat, comfortable shoes. In the evening most guests wear casual clothing. You will probably find a small rucksack or cross-body bag useful for carrying spare clothing, camera, sun protection, drinks (at least 2 litres) etc during the day. A money belt is always a good idea.

You'll also need to bring your:

- Booking confirmation
- Travel insurance cover note and contact details
- European Health Insurance Card (if applicable)
- Completed guest registration form
- Photocopy of photo page of passport
- Sunhat, sun cream and sunglasses
- **Medication:** If you require any medication, please take adequate supplies for the duration of your holiday. It's advisable to carry your medication in your hand luggage instead of packing it in your suitcase

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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