

Madeira Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: European Centre Based

Destinations: Portugal & Portuguese Islands

Trip code: MALCL

2 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the volcanic island of Madeira has rugged mountains draped in lush vegetation and bright flowers. Just 35 miles long and 13 miles wide, this unique tropical gem offers diverse walking landscapes with many paths following its famous levadas (water channels) through the mountains to reach gushing waterfalls and sweeping views across the island. A head for heights is required for some walks! Coastal walks reveal steep cliffs rising dramatically out of the Atlantic Ocean topped with a range of vegetation from exotic, colourful flowers to prickly pear cacti. A visit to the capital Funchal gives the opportunity to visit the Blandy Winery where they make Madeira wine, take the cable car to the hilltop town of Monte and visit the famous flower markets. Madeira enjoys a mild climate year-round and is a great option for a winter or autumn walking holiday.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A full programme of guided walks with 2 options every walking day plus 1 full sightseeing day
- All transport to and from the walks
- The services of experienced HF Holidays' leaders
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers
- 7 nights' accommodation in en-suite rooms

- Half Board – extensive breakfast and evening buffet meal

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover this island paradise - emerald green mountains and dramatic coastlines
- Visit bustling Funchal to uncover the city's fascinating colonial history, gardens and wine trade
- Follow Madeira's famous levadas to stunning waterfalls and panoramic views
- Visit Cabo Girao and stand on the highest cliff skywalk in Europe, open every day to see spectacular views

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 4 graded Activity, Easier walks: 5 to 9 miles (8 to 14½km) on good paths, with some rocky sections. Up to 700 feet (210m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 7 to 11 miles (11 to 17½km) on good paths with some steep ascents and descents. There are also some rocky sections. Up to 1,300 feet (390m) of ascent in a day.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel Galosol. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Cabo Girao And The Levada Do Norte

Today we visit the second highest sea cliff in Europe, the Cabo Girao. This high viewpoint has now been enhanced with a breathtaking glass viewing platform.

Option 1 - Into The North Of The Island

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 200 feet (60m)

Total descent: 700 feet (210m)

In summary: Starting in Lombo Grande we descend through woods to the source of the Levada Castelejo, which we then follow along the valley side to Cruz. The route continues through lush farmland along the Levada Nova to Referta.

Highlight: Following one of the greenest and most unspoilt valleys in Madeira

Option 2 - Lombo Grande

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 700 feet (210m)

In summary: Starting in the village of Roque do Faial we ascend through small farms to Lombo Grande then descend through woods to join the Levada Castelejo. The route follows the beautiful Sao Roque valley to Cruz and then on to Referta.

Highlight: Following a levada from its source, along a spectacular valley

Day 3: Funchal Sightseeing

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. In the afternoon we travel by cable car to the village of Monte, the site of the famous Monte Palace Gardens, Monte church and the start of the toboggan run. We pass through a deep gorge before joining the Levada dos Tornos for a short walk through forest and farmland, ending at a traditional tea room for refreshments.

Day 4: Western Moorland And The 25 Fontes

Our walks today take us to the western end of the island. We'll travel past Funchal and enter the Ribeira Brava Gorge. The coach will then take us high onto the western moors. This end of the island differs greatly from the high volcanic peaks in the east. Here rolling moorland offers views over the sea in both directions on a clear day. Torches are useful on this day, when walking through one of the levada tunnels.

Option 1 - The Moorland Levada

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 100 feet (30m)

Total descent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: Today's walk follows a gentle levada path to a lovely viewpoint over the hills and woods of Rabacal before descending to Levada das 25 Fontes which will lead us via a tunnel through a mountain ridge to meet our coach.

Highlight: Rabacal is considered one of Madeira's most beautiful areas.

Option 2 - Four Levadas In A Day

Distance: 9 miles (14½km)

Ascent: 200 feet (60m)

Descent: 900 feet (300m)

In summary: Following the Levada do Paul, we have sweeping views down to the south coast. Our route continues with views of the deep Ribeira da Janela valley, descending through woodland to a rock pool perched between two waterfalls. Our walk ends on the Levada 25 Fontes.

Highlight: Traverse three of the five Levadas in the Ribeira da Janela valley.

Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day when no guided walks are offered. This is an ideal opportunity to relax around the hotel, walk independently or visit local places of interest. Some options for your free day may include:

Hotel: Have a relaxing day enjoying the facilities of the hotel or book an activity with Loko Loko Adventure Activity Centre where our guests receive a 10% discount. This can be a tour of the island by bus, jeep, boat or segway. Other options include horse riding or bike hire.

Funchal: Take the local bus into Funchal and explore further, including a visit to the Monte Palace Tropical Gardens via cable car from the harbour area. Absorb the colours and scents of the flower markets, do a spot of shopping or visit one of the city's museums or the Story of Madeira Exhibition.

Day 6: Into The Hills

Today's walks both offer incredible views over the highlands in the centre of the island.

Option 1 - Poiso Moors, Levada Do Furado To Portela

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 300 feet (100m)

Total descent: 2,000 feet (600m)

In summary: We walk high in the eastern moors, with extensive views to the north and west (weather dependent), our route takes us along a levada to a waterhouse. We end our walk in the village of Portela with opportunity for refreshments.

Highlight: The views are completely different on this side of the island.

Option 2 - The Royal Path To Encumeada

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (270m)

Total descent: 2,000 feet (600m)

In summary: We take a section of high level path, the Camino Real, which crosses the island from South to North, finishing in the village of Encumeada for well earned refreshments.

Highlight: This is regarded one of the finest walks on the island.

Day 7: Sao Lourenco Peninsula And The Cliffs

Our walks on our final day are at the far eastern end of the island.

Option 1 - Ponta Do Sao Lourenco

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In summary: We start our day in the town of Canical on the most easterly part of the island, the Sao Lourenco peninsula. Our coastal walk gives us great views of the sea cliffs before returning to Canical to explore its cafes and museums.

Highlight: The Whale Museum has fascinating exhibits on these great creatures, and on Madeira's whaling past.

Option 2 - Pico Do Facho & Canical

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Total ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: Our walk begins at the entrance to the Canical Tunnel, climbing steadily to the viewpoint on Pico do Facho. Turning onto a splendid coastal path we return to Canical for refreshments before undertaking the Ponta da Sao Lourenco walk in the afternoon.

Highlight: This is a spectacular stretch of coast with views to match.

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Galosol - Madeira

A short bus ride from Funchal, and occupying an enviable position on the southeast coast, the cliff-top 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 - a great place to sit and gaze at the view.

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 public 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.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address:

Hotel Galosol
9125-031 Caniço de Baixo
Rua Francisco Santana
Madeira

Tel: 00351 291 930 930

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

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g.Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

Useful Information

Language: Portuguese

Currency: Euro

Changing money: There are several ATM machines in Funchal and one in Caniço de Baixo where you can obtain money.

Electricity: 220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

Tap water: Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

Telephone code: If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Portuguese number 00351

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.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full 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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