

Wild Landscapes of Madeira

Tour Style: European walking holidays

Destinations: Portugal, Portuguese Islands & Madeira

Trip code: MALCL

2 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Measuring only 35 miles long and 14 miles wide, small-but-mighty Madeira wows visitors with gorgeous, flower-filled landscapes, interesting cultural sites, delicious food and wine, plus year-round sunshine. Our holiday on this Portuguese island introduces you to a landscape crisscrossed with levadas (irrigation channels used as walking trails), thundering waterfalls, prehistoric forests, green mountains, and sea cliffs that soar high above the Atlantic Ocean. You'll also have time to explore Funchal - the charming capital best known for its cathedral, colourful farmers' market, and seafood restaurants.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full programme of guided walks led by local HF Holidays Leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable accommodation
- Half-board (breakfast and evening meal)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Air-conditioned transport
- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Exploring the island's rugged landscape
- Taking on Cabo Girao, the highest glass skywalk in Europe
- Discovering emerald-green mountains and dramatic coastlines
- Visiting Funchal, Madeira's picturesque capital
- Following the island's famous levadas to stunning waterfalls
- Sampling Madeira's famous fortified wine

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.

Please be aware that some levadas have, well protected, exposed sections and may not be suitable if you suffer from vertigo. We also advise to bring waterproofs all year, especially for walking at height where we are more likely to get rain. The levada footpaths can become slippery after rain.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel Galosol. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Cabo Girão And The Levada Do Norte

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

Option 1 - Cabo Girao & Levada Do Norte

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: Minimal

In summary: We firstly visit the famous high cliff of Cabo Girao (Europe's second highest sea cliff) for views and a little excitement. Test your nerve on the glass floored viewing platform high above the sea and new vineyards below. After coffee we continue by coach to commence our first levada walk on the Levada do Norte. This levada gives us splendid views out to sea and leads us eventually to viewpoints over the dramatic gorge of the Ribeira Brava.

Highlight: Take a deep breath and step out onto the Cabo Girao viewing platform - the views are staggering.

Option 2 - Cabo Girao & Levada Do Facho

Distance: 11 miles (18km)

Total ascent: 130 feet (40m)

In summary: We also visit the Cabo Girao and after visiting the viewing platform will commence a descent to Levada do Facho, with views over vineyards and the town of Camara de Lobos. After a short walk through a levada tunnel and the western side of the Cabo Girao promontory we join the start of the easier walk to Boa Morte and views of the Ribeira Brava gorge.

Highlight: We'll get great views of the Cabo Girao cliffs from all angles; the viewing platform, from the levadas and even from the inside as we pass through a short tunnel in the cliff.

Day 3: The North Of The Island

Today our walks take us to the north of the island on two exciting routes in the Sao Roque Valley to Porto da Cruz. Our day will include a visit to the pretty bay of Porto da Cruz.

Option 1 - Into The North Of The Island

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 260 feet (80m)

Total descent: 0 feet (0m)

In summary: Starting from Cruz we ascend through farmland to join the Levada Castelejo. We follow the Levada upstream to enjoy views of the spectacular gorge before turning and following the Levada Castelejo and the Levada Nova through the quiet countryside to Referta.

Highlight: Exploring one of the greenest and most unspoiled valleys in Madeira followed by a visit to a seaside village.

Option 2 - Lombo Grande

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

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 4: Moorland And Levadas

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: 8.5 miles (13.7km)

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. This can be a tour of the island by bus, jeep, or boat. 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 seafront. Absorb the colours and scents of the flower markets, do a spot of shopping or visit one of the city's museums.

Day 6: Verada Do Larano

Today's walks take us to the north coast on the eastern side of Madeira.

Option 1 - Ribeira Seca

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 660ft (200m)

In summary: This walk takes us above the Ribeira Seca to the viewpoint at Boca do Risco. After a picnic we'll

walk along the coast path that was once used to carry wine and rum from the Porto da Cruz to Machico. Continuing along this path, we'll make our way towards the outskirts of Porto da Cruz where we'll be met by our transfer that will take us back to the hotel.

Highlight: The views across the coastline from Boca do Risco.

Option 2 - Ribeira Seca And Porto Da Cruz

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 660 feet (200m)

In summary: Our longer walk follows the same route as option 1 but lengthens things by continuing along the coast path all the way into Porto da Cruz.

Highlight: The views of the coastline from Boca do Risco

Day 7: São Lourenço Peninsula And The Cliffs

Our walks on our final day are at the far eastern end of the island. Walk along the São Lourenço peninsula and take a boat trip to the fishing village of Caniçal.

Option 1 - Canical And Coast

Distance: 2.5 miles (4km)

Ascent: 500 feet (150m)

In summary: We start our day in the town of Canical on the most easterly part of the island. From the Sao Lourenco peninsula, our coastal walk provides great views of the dramatic sea cliffs. At the end of the walk, we'll return to Canical by boat and enjoy free time to explore its cafes and museums.

Highlight: Exploring the colourful and vibrant fishing village of Canical.

Option 2 - Canical And Sao Lourenco

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 1150 feet (350m)

In summary: This option follows the same route as the first, but after returning to Canical by boat the walk continues along the Levada do Canical for views over the Canical fishing village, terraced farm plots, and the Sao Lourenco peninsula.

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 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.

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, kettle with tea and coffee, safe and swimming towels. The spacious bathrooms/WC are equipped with a large mirror, vanity mirror, hairdryer and have either a bath tub or a large shower.

About Your Stay

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 a buffet 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](tel:00351291930930)

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flights' and you'll have 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:

Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

*Subject to availability

Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

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

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

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.

Document produced: 12-06-2024

