



Tour Information



Gardens of Madeira





Travel

Passports

Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 3 months or more left on it) and has at least 3 months validity remaining from the date of travel.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#).

Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Portugal and Madeira. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Portuguese consulate: 3 Portland Place, London W1B 1HR; Tel: 020 7291 3770

Email: consulado.londres@mne.pt

Open Mon-Fri 08:30-16:00 (except Portuguese National holidays).



Tickets

You will be sent an e-ticket, which shows your flight reference number, with your final departure documents. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. Therefore, you **must** check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling. Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an additional cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the flight reference number provided.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.easyjet.com/>

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



Baggage Allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

Your EasyJet ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag that can fit under the seat in front of you, (maximum size 45 x 36 x 20cm, including any handles or wheels). If you book an upfront or extra legroom seat you can also take an additional large cabin bag on board.

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

Transfers

On arrival in Funchal, coach transfer to Hotel Baleira (approx. 30 minutes).

Special Requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.

Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



Accommodation

Hotel Baleira, Funchal

Located in the heart of Funchal's Lido area, this 4-star hotel is a short walk from the city centre and boasts contemporary interiors and an outdoor pool with a terrace. The comfortable bedrooms offer all modern amenities including WIFI, TV, hairdryer, and tea and coffee making facilities.

For more information, please visit the hotel's website: <https://vilabaleirafunchal.com-hotel.com/>



Food

The roots of Portuguese food lie in both native peasant cookery and the ingredients obtained through trade routes established many centuries ago. Bread, rice, spices, pastries, sausages, and seafood — especially cod — remain the staples of many Portuguese meals. Wheat bread has been a standard of the Portuguese table since the eighth century, though you'll find a lot of cornbread, acorn bread, and carob bread in Lisbon, too. Portugal is also Europe's largest consumer of rice. The short-grain *carolino* is the best for runny rice stews like *arroz de tomate* (tomato rice) and *arroz doce* (rice pudding with milk, eggs, and cinnamon).

At a time when honey was still the dominant sweetener in Europe, Portugal's sugar rush started early, with expensive sugar arriving from the Portuguese island of Madeira in the 15th century, and later, from Brazil. Convent cakes and desserts — including the *pastéis de nata*, or egg tart — were developed by nuns with skill and patience, and certainly wouldn't be the same without sugar. For an introduction to this important part of Portuguese culture, there's nothing like visiting a traditional *pastelaria*.

Salt cod has been part of Portuguese culture since the Vikings came to trade cod for salt. This convenient relationship was a powerful asset for Portuguese navigators — ships armed with supplies of salt cod could travel further with a source of protein that didn't spoil. Since then, the Portuguese have fished — or rather, overfished — this national staple and today the country is the world's largest consumer of cod. Portuguese cooking honours this tradition in hundreds

of recipes: grilled, baked, stewed, as part of rice dishes, and deep fried as fritters or cakes.

Portugal's love for fish doesn't stop with cod — Portugal is one of the top countries in the world when it comes to seafood consumption. Nothing makes a Portuguese person happier than a barbecue full of grilled fish, especially during the popular June festivals dedicated to Santo António and São João that turn Lisbon and Porto into sardine central, filled with smoke, loud music, sangria, beer, caipirinhas, and pork sandwiches known as *bifanas*. Once a poor man's food, sardines are now so in demand that they've become expensive and harder to procure. Overfishing in the past didn't help, nor does climate change, which is pushing the fish to colder waters in the northern European sea.

Some restaurants will offer a set meal at a fixed — *menú do dia* — at lunchtime, generally good value for money. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, but it is customary to leave small change for good service.

Generally speaking, mealtimes in Portugal are similar to the UK. Lunch is normally taken around 1300: dinner is very often eaten any time after 1930.



Drink

Portugal is essentially a wine-drinking country. Port (*vinho do Porto*), the famous fortified wine or *vinho generoso* ("generous wine"), is produced from grapes grown in the vineyards of the Douro valley and mostly stored in huge wine-lodges at Vila Nova de Gaia, facing Porto across the Rio Douro. Portugal's wine regions — notably Alentejo, Bairrada, Dão, the Douro and the historic regions of Estremadura and Ribatejo — have acquired a strong reputation in recent years. Most wines are made in small cooperatives with local grape varieties, many peculiar to Portugal.

Portuguese wine lists (ask for the *lista de vinhos*) don't just distinguish between *tinto* (red), *branco* (white) and *rosé*, but between *verde* (green), meaning young, acidic and slightly sparkling) and *maduro* (mature, meaning the wines you're probably accustomed to). You'll find a decent selection from around the country in even the most basic of restaurants, and often in half-bottles, too.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily **Lunch** – 1 lunch included

Dinner – 5 dinners included



Destination

Madeira

Madeira, an autonomous region of Portugal, is an archipelago comprising of four islands off of the northwest coast of Africa. It is known for its namesake wine and warm, subtropical climate. The main island of Madeira is volcanic, green and rugged, with high cliffs, pebbly beaches and settlements on deltas of the Fajã River. The capital Funchal has botanical gardens and is known for its harbour and a large New Year's fireworks show. The subtropical climate in this region, with average temperatures of around 18°C in winter and 25°C in summer, provides the ideal conditions for the growth of an extensive array of flowers, plants and trees from all over the world.

Places of interest included in the tour:

Funchal

Funchal is the capital city of Portugal's Madeira archipelago. It is backed by hills and mountains and known for its harbour, gardens and Madeira wine cellars. The centuries-old Funchal Cathedral, which mixes Gothic and Romanesque styles, is notable for its carved wooden ceiling. Fronting the harbour is the São Tiago Fortress, built in the 1600s. It now houses the Contemporary Art Museum, with a large collection of Portuguese works. Funchal's subtropical climate is the best fertilizer for the many flowers, plants and trees that bring colour and life to Funchal's gardens all year round. On this tour you will visit the local market, the Mercado dos Lavradores, Quinta Vigia which is a small garden and part of the Presidential Palace, and the neighbouring Santa Catarina Park, set in a natural amphitheatre.

For more information about Funchal, please visit: <https://visitmadeira.com/en/what-to-do/experiencing-the-city-of-funchal/exploring-the-city/gardens-and-parks/>

Botanical Gardens

Situated in Funchal, the botanical gardens were opened to the public in 1960. The area was previously part of an estate belonging to the family of William Reid, founder of Reid's Hotel and now

houses a varied collection of botanical species from all over the world, some of which are endangered.

For more information about the botanical gardens, please visit: <https://visitmadeira.com/en/what-to-do/culture-passionates/gardens/madeira-botanical-garden/>

Quinta da Boa Vista

This Quinta is renowned for its variety of orchids, a collection that is over 20 years old. Since the sixties, the family of Cecil Garton has owned the farm. Today, the farm is dedicated to the preservation of many species of plants, many on the verge of extinction and is managed by the granddaughter of Sir William Cooke who was a famous orchid grower.

For more information about Quinta da Boa Vista, please visit: <https://www.madeira-web.com/en/places/funchal/gardens-parks/quinta-boa-vista-orchids.html>

Quinta do Palheiro Gardens

The gardens at Quinta do Palheiro are famous, not only for the variety of plants that grow there, but for the beauty of their setting in the hills to the east of Funchal. They are situated at about 500 meters above sea level and cover 14 hectares (with about 650 species of plants) including the Camellia avenue, Main Garden, Sunken Garden, Rose Garden, Long Border and the Ladies' Garden where you can find the tea house. There is also the Ribeiro do Inferno, a deep valley with tree ferns and indigenous plants. The original owner, the Conde de Carvalhal, planted many trees on the estate and laid the foundation to the Camellia collection; some of his early plantings can still be seen today in the Camellia avenue.

For more information about Quinta do Palheiro Gardens, please visit: <https://visitmadeira.com/en/what-to-do/culture-passionates/gardens/palheiro-gardens/>

Reid's Palace Hotel

A canny Scotsman, William Reid, left his family farm and came to Madeira to set up a successful business in the Madeira wine trade. This was the era of the great ocean liners. Spotting an opportunity in hospitality, Reid bought a swathe of land on the rocky promontory where Reid's Palace now stands. Although William did not live to see his hotel completed, his sons welcomed their first guests in 1891. The Reid's remained at the helm for many years before it passed on to the Blandy family of

Madeira winemakers. In 1996, Belmond took the reins. Over the years, many illustrious guests have passed through the doors. George Bernard Shaw learnt to tango here; Winston Churchill came to write his memoirs and to paint. The suite named in Churchill's honour, with its magnificent garden views, continues to inspire and enchant today.

Ribeiro Frio

The Ribeiro Frio Forest Park is located in the municipality of Santana, on the north coast of the island. In the vast forest area, you can find several endemic species of the Laurissilva, such as the laurel tree (*Laurus novocanariensis*), the Lily-of-the-Valley Tree (*Clethra arborea*), the Til (*Ocotea foetens*) or the Madeira Mahogany (*Persea indica*), for example. In turn, this ecosystem allows observing animals such as the firecrest (*Regulus madeirensis*), the chaffinch (*Fringila coelebs madeirensis*) or, more rarely, the Madeira pigeon (*Columba trocaz*).

You will also find the Ribeiro Frio Aquaculture Centre whose rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) nurseries aim to repopulate the island's watercourses.

For more information about Ribeiro Frio, please visit: <https://www.europeanbestdestinations.com/travel-guide/madeira/ribeiro-frio-balc%C3%B5es/>

Quinta do Furaó

The north coast of the island of Madeira is rich in landscapes where the greatness of the mountains, covered in a dense mantle of green forest, contrasts with the vivid blue of the ocean. From the Quinta do Furão viewpoint, the Ilhéu da Viúva stands out. With a maximum altitude of 94 metres, it is home to a valuable botanical heritage, which includes several species of plants that are exclusive to the archipelago of Madeira. It is part of the European Ecological Network of Special Areas of Conservation, Natura 2000 Network, and is part of the Rocha do Navio Natural Reserve. The Quinta do Furão viewpoint is within the grounds of the Quinta do Furão Hotel, whose facilities, integrated in the cliff top, offer the ideal atmosphere for the contemplation of this landscape. The lively gardens of the hotel, as well as its traditional vineyards, coexist in harmony with the untouched Nature of the setting.

For more information about Quinta do Furaó, please visit: <https://www.quintadofurao.com/en/Home>

Porto de la Cruz

Porto da Cruz is one of the parishes belonging to the Machico council. Its name comes from a cross (cruz) that was placed by the explorers on the bay once used as a port (porto). Discover the old sugar cane factory, which is still operating the same way as it was when it started with the sugar production in 1927. It boasts a 26 meter tall tower and when it's working you might even see steam coming out.

Also not to be missed is the place known as Penha d'Águia, an imposing rock that separates Porto da Cruz from Faial. Getting up there might be a challenge, as the road is very steep, but the views are definitely worth it. Porto da Cruz is also famous for its wine. Known as 'vinho seco americano' (dry red wine made of a type of grape called americana), this local product is the theme for a celebration usually happening in September.

For more information about Porto de la Cruz, please visit: <https://www.barcelo.com/guia-turismo/en/portugal/madeira/things-to-do/porto-de-la-cruz/>

Monte Palace Tropical Gardens

Covering an area of 70,000 square metres, this enchanting garden contains a variety of botanical species, from African cycads to American sequoias, Asian camellias and azaleas to the ancient olive trees of Alqueva. Immerse yourself in the tranquillity of the Oriental Gardens, a tribute to Asian culture, or explore the Laurissilva, a replica of the native UNESCO classified forest. Be enchanted by the exotic fauna, including peacocks, flamingos and the majestic koi that inhabit the lakes and ponds.

For more information about the tropical gardens, please visit: <https://visitmadeira.com/en/what-to-do/culture-passionates/gardens/monte-palace-madeira-garden/>

Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

Your Expert & Tour manager

Tony Russell's career with plants and gardens began in 1978 when he joined the Forestry Commission in Snowdonia. After studying forestry and horticulture and after qualifying in 1983 he took up post as Forester for the New Forest in Hampshire. In 1989 he was appointed Head Forester of Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire, one of the finest collections of trees and shrubs in the temperate world. Tony left Westonbirt in 2003 and is now widely regarded as one of Britain's

leading authorities on trees and shrubs. Over the past fifteen years he has presented many gardening, horticultural and countryside programmes for both TV and radio. He is also the author of eighteen books and the editor of the annual publication 'Great Gardens to Visit' and horticultural editor of Discover Britain's Gardens magazine.



The Basics

Climate – The weather on the island at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +1 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – Portuguese

Religion – Roman Catholic

National holidays – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Good Friday; Easter Monday; Freedom Day (25 Apr); Labour day (01 May); Corpus Christi (second Thursday after Whitsun; Portugal Day (10 Jun); St Anthony Day (13 Jun); St John the Baptist Day (24 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); Republic Day (05 Oct); All Saints' Day (01 Nov); Restoration of Independence (01 Dec); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas Day (25 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink, although some complain it has a strange taste, so it is generally recommended to drink bottled water, readily available in supermarkets and shops.

Shops and Museums – Shops are open Mon-Sat 10:00-14:00 and 17:00-20:00. Supermarkets and department stores tend to open 09:30-21:00/22:00, and may open on Sundays in large cities.

Please note that some museums close on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone in France, depending on your operator and contract.

Tippling – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7441 343850

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate
Rua de São Bernardo 33
1249-082 Lisbon
info.consulate@fco.gov.uk

Telephone enquiries: 808 20 35 37 (if calling from within Portugal)
Consular phone lines are open 09:00-13:00 and 14:30-17:00.

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