

Festive Walking in Madeira

Trip style: Festive breaks

Destination: 📍 Portugal

Trip code: MALXL

Grades: 1, 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint: 🚲 978kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Madeira now comes with a festive twist. This special Christmas departure combines scenic walks, mild winter weather, and the vibrant atmosphere of Funchal's markets and celebrations. Guests stay in a centrally located adults-only hotel, perfectly placed for the city's festivities. The well-paced holiday is designed for active adults blending iconic landscapes with seasonal charm—an appealing addition to our portfolio at a peak travel time.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Buffet-style Christmas Gala Dinner with drinks (24th Dec) – a joyful evening spent together with fellow walkers.
- Free Christmas Day (25th Dec) – time to relax, explore Funchal's festive spirit, or simply enjoy the mild climate.
- Centrally located adults-only hotel – perfect for easy access to Funchal's Christmas markets, lights, and seasonal celebrations.
- Explore Madeira's rugged landscapes – from dramatic coastlines to emerald-green mountains.
- Step onto Cabo Girão – Europe's highest glass skywalk with breathtaking views.
- Follow the famous levadas – scenic trails leading to stunning waterfalls.
- Sample Madeira's renowned fortified wine – a taste of the island's heritage.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Return flights from London Gatwick, including baggage and transfers (flights available from other airports - price may vary)
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' accommodation in Funchal
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners with drinks including a buffet-style Christmas Gala Dinner (24th Dec)
- All in-destination transport

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 3 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. Unpack and settle in

Day 2: 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.

Day 3: CABO GIRAO, MOORLAND & LEVADAS

Our walks today take us to the western end of the island. We'll travel past Funchal before entering the Ribeira Brava Gorge. The coach will then take us high onto the western moors. This side 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, which is 800m long. Before returning to the hotel we call at the dramatic Cabo Girao skywalk viewpoint.

Day 4: Heart of Madeira & Pico Ruivo

We'll journey to the centre of the wonderful island of Madeira and marvel at Pico Ruivo, the island's highest peak at 1861m. Today is a public holiday, so some shops and local attractions might be closed; however, our planned itinerary will remain unchanged. Join us this evening for a gala dinner and help make it unforgettable by dressing in smart attire.

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. Christmas Day is a public holiday so some attractions and services may not be available in Funchal and surrounding areas.

Day 6: São Lourenço Peninsula and the Cliffs

Our walks today 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. Today is a public holiday, so some shops and local attractions might be closed; however, our planned itinerary will remain unchanged.

Day 7: Verada Do Larano

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

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

Hotel The Views Baía 4* - Adults Only

We are staying at Twin Land View Rooms, sea view room available at a supplement. Set on the hills overlooking Funchal Bay, The Views Baía Hotel offers a peaceful adult-only escape with a cosmopolitan atmosphere and some of the best views on the island. Guests can enjoy the region's gastronomy, with traditional Portuguese flavours given a tropical twist, fresh fish, and carefully selected local produce.

This adults-only hotel is designed for a more elevated stay, combining stylish design and serene surroundings.

Heated outdoor pool with pool bar (open daily 10am–6pm).

Woogie Boogie cocktail Bar open from 6 pm to midnight.

Spa open until 8pm.

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

The hotel provides a courtesy shuttle bus five times a day (excluding weekends and public holidays).

The hotel is home to Desarma Restaurant, a Michelin one-star rooftop venue offering a fine dining experience with panoramic views over Funchal. The restaurant is open Tuesday to Saturday, with evening seatings available between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Please note that dining here is not included in the holiday cost and must be pre-booked in advance directly with the restaurant.

Vaccinations & health information - SHARED WITH ALL EU NEW 2026

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see whether any health precautions are needed for your trip. Health advice and requirements can change, so we recommend doing this in good time before travel. As a general rule, travellers should ensure they are up to date with routine UK vaccinations and boosters, including, for example, MMR and diphtheria, tetanus and polio. Some countries may require you to have specific vaccinations such as Malaria, Rabies and Yellow Fever. Please check with your GP if you are unsure. Please note that the use or possession of some common prescription or over-the-counter medicines is restricted or banned in certain countries. If you will be carrying medication, you should check with the relevant embassy or consulate before travelling. As an extra precaution, we recommend keeping medication in its original packaging, carrying a copy of your prescription, and, where possible, asking your pharmacist to provide the medication name in the language of the country you are visiting. For further country-specific health advice, visit www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk or www.traveldoctor.co.uk. If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

Passport & Visa information - SHARED FOR ALL EU NEW 2026

This information is for those travelling with a full 'British Citizen' passport; for all other nationalities or passport holders, please check with your local consulate for advice. **Passport Requirements** This information applies to travellers holding a full British Citizen passport. Entry requirements vary by destination and can change at short notice. For most EU and worldwide destinations, passports must be valid for the entire duration of your stay. Some countries also require a minimum period of validity remaining on your passport (often up to 6 months beyond your return date), even if you are not staying that long. We strongly recommend ensuring your passport has at least six months' validity remaining at the time of travel to avoid any issues. If you hold a different type of British passport or a passport issued by another country, you must check the requirements with the relevant embassy, consulate, or

official government website. Visa Requirements Visa rules depend on your nationality, destination, length of stay, and purpose of travel, and they can change frequently. It is your responsibility to check whether you require a visa before travelling. British passport holders should check the latest entry, passport validity and visa requirements for their destination on the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

Packing list - Festive Walking in Madeira

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 (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)
