

# Wild Landscapes of Madeira

**Trip style:** Festive breaks

**Destination:** 📍 Portugal

**Trip code:** MAD07-LCL09

**Grades:** 1, 2 & 3

**Carbon Footprint:** 🚲 978kg CO2



## 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 YOU'LL LOVE

- 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

## 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 Canico de Baixo
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners
- All in-destination transport

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 3 graded Activity, Easier walks: 2 to 6 miles (3 to 10 km) on good paths, with some rocky sections. Up to 1,020 feet (310m) of ascent in a day, as we walk to Pico Ruivo. Harder walks: 4.5 to 9.5 miles (7 to 15 km) on good paths with some steep ascents and descents. There are also some rocky sections. Up to 1,150 feet (350m) of ascent in a day. Both walking levels have a notable ascent, up to 1,020 feet (310 m) on the easier level and up to 2,130 feet (650 m) on the harder level, which are on the trip to Pico Ruivo.

Please be aware that some levadas have, exposed sections and may not be suitable if you suffer from vertigo. This is especially the case on the cliff walk at Verado Do Larano, where there are some steep drops. 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. All the levadas we walk are at some height and with Madeira's micro climate, weather conditions can change frequently. It is important to dress in layers, have a light waterproof jacket, sun cream hat and good hiking boots / shoes.

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel Sentido Galosol. Unpack and settle in.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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. 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.

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### **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.

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### **Day 7:** Verada Do Larano

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

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### **Day 8:** Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.



## Hotel Sentido Galosol

A short bus ride from Funchal, and occupying an enviable position on the southeast coast, the clifftop 4-star Hotel Sentido 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 complex, shared with the sister property on the lower cliff, has an impressive range of facilities including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, gym and wellness centre.

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.

### **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](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk) or [www.traveldoctor.co.uk](http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk). If you are travelling from outside the UK, please consult your own doctor and check local entry requirements.

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### **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>

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## **Packing list - Overseas Guided Walking**

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)

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