

Madeira Island

with Interactive Map



Picture the World

Recommendations · Photography Locations · Travel Itinerary

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How to use this e-book

Visual representation of the location

Official or commonly referred name TOP PHOTO SPOTS

Description

Cabanas Viewpoint 32°49'35.8"N 16°56'20.6"W

Miradouro das Cabanas or "Cabanas viewpoint" is a place which still little known to travelers in Madeira. It is located between São Jorge and Arco de São Jorge in Santana. This viewpoint provides an excellent view of the north coast, the Arco de São Jorge parishes and the Atlantic Ocean. On clear days, you can see the neighbouring island of Porto Santo. You can set your tripod right at the viewpoint

Click the pin to open the location in **Google Maps**

Cafetaria Queimadas 32°47'01.1"N 16°54'22.2"W

Best for: it is a very busy spot. So the best time to visit is morning. There is no crowds and a good

As soon as you arrive a the parking lot of Queimadas Forestry Park, you'll notice this cute small cafe that goes by the name of Casa de Abrigo das Queimadas. It's also the starting point of the Levada do Caldeirão Verde hike.

This cafe maintains the original features of the old houses in Santana, such as the thatched roof.

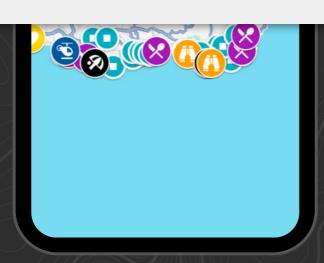
Coordinates

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Madeira Map







Welcome to the guidebook on Madeira Island - a stunning travel destination that has captured the hearts of countless travelers from all around the world. This picturesque island is a hidden gem that is yet to be fully discovered by many.

Madeira Island offers an unparalleled experience that is both authentic and unforgettable. From its breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture to its delicious cuisine and hospitable people, Madeira Island has something for everyone.

What sets Madeira Island apart from other popular travel destinations is that it still feels unexplored and authentic. It is not overrun with tourists yet, and you won't find the same cliché experiences here that you might find in other places.

In this guidebook, we'll take you on a journey through the island's hidden treasures and show you all the must-see sights, as well as some lesser-known spots. You'll discover the best locations on the island: best hikes, levada walks, viewpoints, best photo spots, waterfalls, beaches as well as the most exciting activities to do.

This guide includes an interactive map with all the top locations. There is no need to do a long research anymore, looking for a place you've dreaming to visit for years. We've made all job for you! Choose the place - click on its name and VOILA! - you know where it is now, plus you've got all the most important information about it. Simple and convenient!

We hope this guidebook will inspire you to pack your bags and explore this amazing island by yourself. If you're already planning a trip to Madeira, we thank you for choosing our guidebook to help you plan your adventure.

Don't forget to share your favourite moments from Madeira Island on social media by tagging us! We would love to hear about your experiences and see your beautiful photos. ABOUT US 6

HI THERE!

Here are Maria and Karol



We are a team of two creative photographers, who travel the globe documenting our journeys and capturing extraordinary moments in hopes to inspire others to never stop exploring the World and seeking for new exciting adventures.

Our journey began with our love for the arts and a dream to share our vision with the world. We discovered our passion for photography while traveling around the globe. We quickly realized the power of imagery and its ability to convey emotions and tell meaningful stories.

We've spent two years exploring Madeira Island to bring you this comprehensive guide. Through our lens and experiences, we invite you to discover the hidden treasures, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture that make Madeira a truly unique destination.

Join us on this visual journey as we share our passion for this amazing island and unveil the beauty that awaits you.

- Maria & Karol

Frequently Asked Questions

TRAVEL TO MADEIRA



When's the best time to visit Madeira?

Madeira is a year round destination with similar temperatures throughout the year. In the winter there are more cloudy and rainy days so the temperatrure might be a bit lower. Especially in the mountains. In our opinion, April and May are the best months to visit, as you can still see waterfalls which sometimes dry out later. You can also experience the summer like weather before the high season. September is also a good time for that.



Are there any good beaches on Madeira?

The Island Porto Santo in Madeira Archipelago has one of the best beaches in the whole Europe and it's just a 2.5H ferry ride from Funchal. The Island of Madeira also has some great beaches. You'll find our top beaches in the 'TOP Beaches' section of this e-book.



How Many days you need to experience Madeira?

This obviously depends on the way you like to travel. If you're an active traveler, we're sure you can see all the main spots within 5 days. Consider staying a bit longer as Madeira is also a good place to rest and enjoy the time passing by.



Where to stay?

If you're visiting for less than 7 days, staying in Funchal would be the most convenient for you. If you're taking a tour, the pick ups always start from Funchal. Anyway, most of the little towns tend to die out after 6PM, so by staying in the capital you'll still have a chance to enjoy the city after an adventurous day on Madeira.



How to travel around the island?

The most efficient way to travel around is to rent a car. Public transportation on the island is widely spread, but it's dedicated to locals so you might save some money but loose lots of time by getting to some locations by bus. The app Bolt is great if you're heading off Funchal, but it's nearly impossible to get a car for the way back, so you might be left with taking an expensive taxi. If you're planning to see the most at the shortest time. consider taking tour in an off-road car.



Can you party on Madeira?

Madeira is famous for it's festivals. Visiting the island during festivals is the best time to party. Besides that, there are bars and clubs and parties with live DJ's open every weekend. Look up for Copacabana or Gate 23.

Frequently Asked Questions

HIKING AND THE OUTDOORS



Can you explain the Pico to Pico trail?

The hike starts from Pico do Arieiro. There's a large parking below the main parking at the top, where you can leave your car for few hours. Hike leads through some ridges and tunnels. It's not for people with a fear of heights or claustrophoby. The trail ends at Pico do Ruivo. From there, you must walk back within the same way, back to Pico do Arieiro to get back to your car.



Can you hike on Madeira on vour own?

Of course! You can do everything on your own, but be sure you're capable of doing it. Watch videos on youtube from trail you want to make and decide if you'll feel comfortable with such experience.

If you're hesitating, you can go on a guided trip - it's lots of fun and you meet some new people. You can check some recommendations at the end of this book.



Does hiking on Madeira require proper shoes?

Yes, it does! Even the simplest hiking boots will work better than your regular sport shoes. Anyway, you don't want to damage your shiny sneakers on Madeira's sharp rocks and wet levadas.



Are there any short hikes to just experience the nature without effort?

Yes! Most of places on Madeira are accessible by car. You can just step out and enjoy the location. Good examples are Pico do Arieiro, where you can walk around. Levada do Rei is a pretty and short hike.



What weather apps do you use?

Most of the local outdoor enthusiasts use Windy app. Because of the unique landscapes, Madeira has many microclimates, so the best way to check the weather during the day is by checking online web cams before you go out.



What clothes should I pack?

The locals like to joke, that they always have a jacket and a bathing suit in the car. You should do the same and be ready for any weather. Especially if you decide to explore the outdoors. For example, in the mountains even on a hot day it can get windy or cold after the sun set down.

Frequently Asked Questions

PHOTOGRAPHY



What gear do you use?

You can check our full gear list on our blog.



What's your most commonly used lens?

It's our mid range zoom 24-70 mm F/2.8. I rarely need any other focal length when I photograph or film on Madeira.



Can I buy camera gear on Madeira?

There aren't any shops specialised in camera equipment. Just general electronics, like Worten or Fnac. You might be lucky to find something second hand on Facebook Marketplace.



Can I fly a drone on Madeira

Yes, you can! Here's what you must do before:

- **1.** Get a EU drone license for the specific drone you use.
- **2.** Register yourself at aan.pt.
- **3.**Generate an application, sign it and send it back.
- **4.**Check in at Boa na Voa app before your flight.



Are there any no drone zones on Madeira?

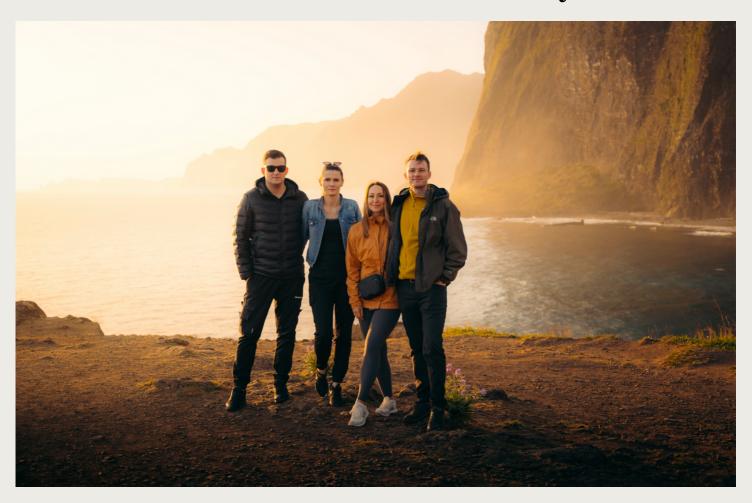
Yes, there are. The biggest one is the Airport air zone which is prohibited for flying at all times. This zone includes a big part of Ponta de São Lourenço. For flying in the red zone pilot can be sentenced even up to 5 years in prison.



What editing software do you use?

We edit our photos in Adobe Lightroom and Photoshop. Our videos are created in Final Cut Pro. Whenever we do a short edit on the phone we use Lightroom mobile for photos and Capcut for videos.

Weather on Madeira Month by Month



Although Madeira is often referred to as the "Island of Eternal Spring," the island experiences distinct seasons. Generally, Madeira is pleasantly warm, as one might expect from an island in Africa - Yes! you've read it correctly! Surprisingly, many visitors may not realise that, despite its political connection to Europe, Madeira is geographically located on the African plate.

Madeira boasts a subtropical climate, which means it offers warm and agreeable weather all year long. However, due to its central mountain range, the weather can vary in different areas. This diversity is actually a significant advantage, it means you can always find a spot on Madeira Island with pleasant weather for the day.

I've personally experienced all the seasons on Madeira, and each one offered unique and enjoyable time. There's truly no wrong time to visit Madeira. Let's explore how the weather changes throughout the year on this beautiful island.



January

I mentioned that any time is good to visit Madeira, but if I had to pick the month with the least favorable weather, it would be January. It's the wettest month, and you can expect rain throughout Madeira, even in the normally drier areas. This is also the time when waterfalls are at their most impressive.

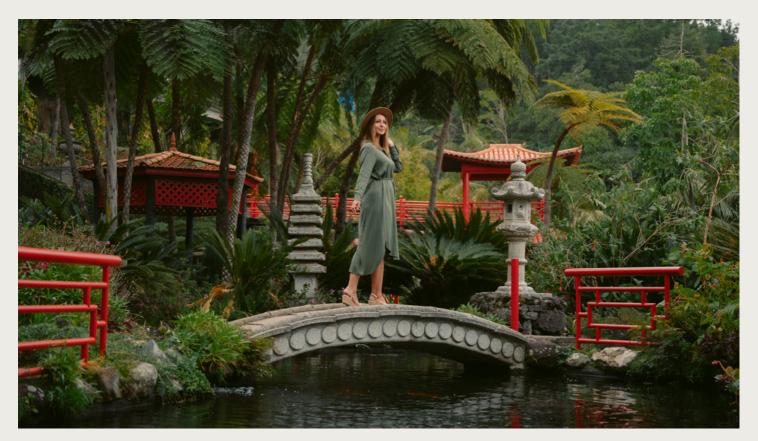
In Funchal, the average temperature is about 17°C, but it can exceed 20°C on a hot day. It's comfortable for strolling around the city in a sweater or shirt during the day, but evenings can get quite chilly, so a light jacket might come in handy. You might even see occasional snow in the mountains.

The northern part of the island tends to have gloomier weather, with more clouds and rain. But don't let that discourage you from exploring this side of the island because, from what I've observed, rain in Madeira often comes and goes. You might be amazed at how the weather can change in just 30 minutes. It's already rare to see people swimming in January as the beach season is soon to be over.

February

Similar weather continues into mid-February, but in the second half of the month, you can expect less rain and more sunny days. The average temperature in Funchal stays about the same as the previous month, but on a sunny day it might feel like spring is just around the corner. However, on the warmest days, the temperature around Pico do Arieiro hovers around 8°C.

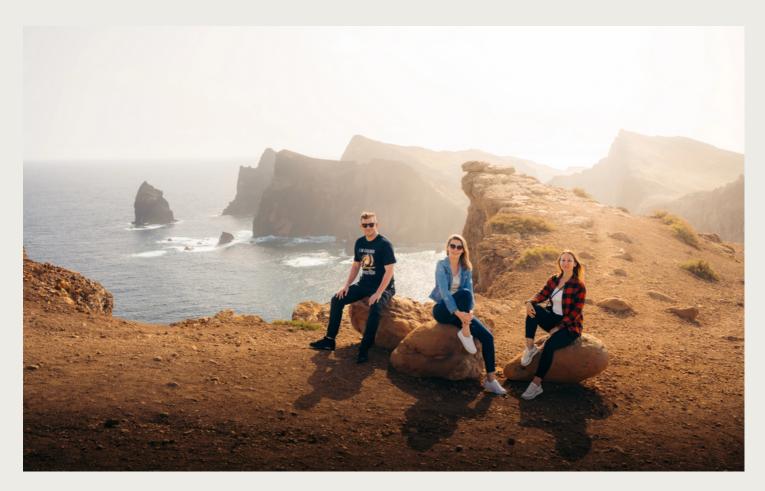
February isn't the ideal time for mountain hiking because the weather can be quite unpredictable. Nevertheless, it's a fantastic time to discover Madeira's "levadas" and seek out hidden waterfalls, providing a unique and enjoyable experience. February is the beginning of the Carnival season. The atmosphere of this event can warm you up, even on a cold day.



Monte Gardens in February



The atmosphere on Madeira's Carnival in February can heat up even the coldest night.



Sunrise on Ponta do São Lourenço in March

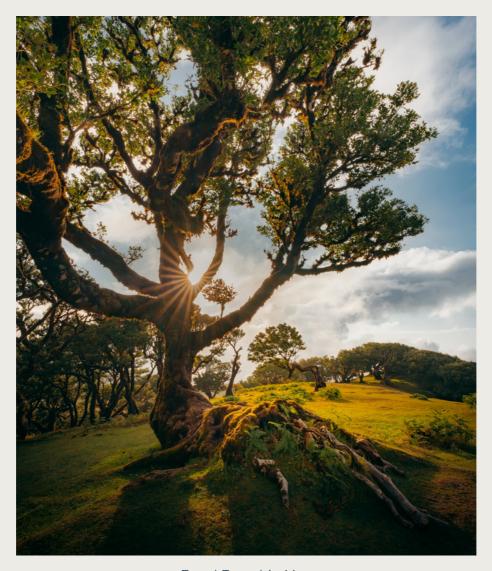
March

In March, you'll sense that the gloomy weather is already a thing of the past. The weather becomes more pleasant and predictable, leaning towards the drier season. It's a wonderful time to visit Madeira as it's not too crowded, and you can find many opportunities to save your travel money in the shoulder season.

The average temperature in Funchal hovers around 17°C. While it's already quite warm and summer-like during the day, you might want an extra layer in the evening or before sunrise, especially in the mountains where it remains cold without direct sunlight. In March, you'll already start seeing people on the beaches and even swimming. The water may still feel cooler than in the summer, but we swam a lot in March, and if you can get used to it, you'll enjoy it too.

April

This is probably my favourite month on Madeira. It's still before the busy season starts. Local people head to the beaches on weekends. Many folks are out hiking in the mountains and along the levadas. The waterfalls still look amazing, almost at their best. In April, the weather becomes more consistent. In Funchal, temperatures can go above 30°C on a hot day. Up at Pico do Arieiro, the average high is around 10°C, but there are days when it feels very summery, even in the mountains. The north also enjoys more sunny days, so you're more likely to catch beautiful orange sunrises in Santana and Faial. Sometimes, it does rain in the evenings and at night.



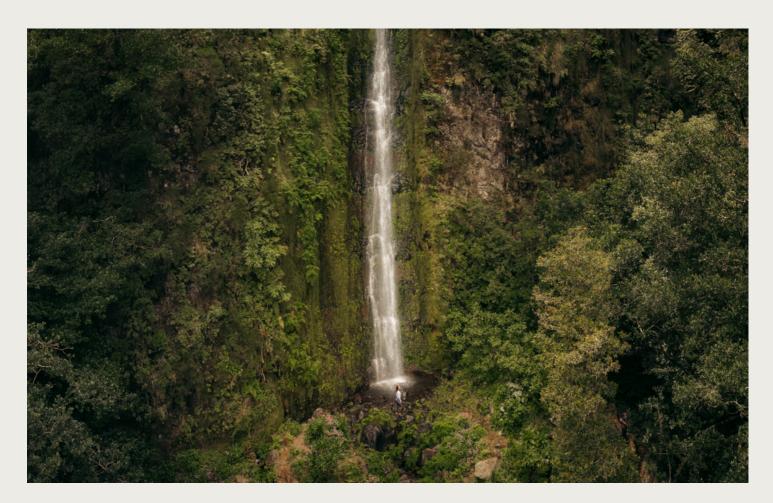
Fanal Forest in May



Flower Festival Parade on Madeira

May

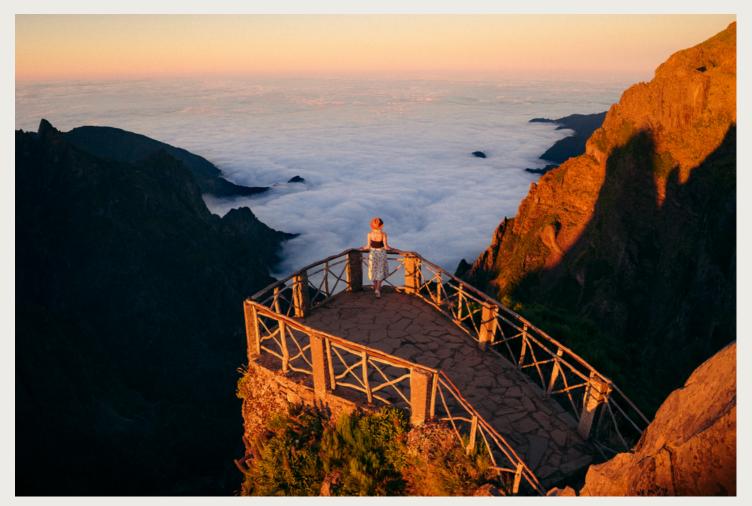
The average temperature keeps rising as more sunny days come our way. It's no surprise that beaches get crowded with people on weekends. Hikers in the mountains often wear only t-shirts. May is just a step away from summer, and we can also see more tourists on Madeira. The temperature in Funchal can even hit 30°C on a hot sunny day. It's very warm in the mountains as well. With less rain, all the levadas are open and great for walking. This can sometimes be an issue when the canals fill up too much and flood the paths during the rainy season. May is also known as the month of flowers, which you can truly experience during Madeira's Flower Festival.



A big waterfall on Madeira in June

June

June marks the official start of the dry season. While there are occasional cloudy days, the weather is generally warm and sunny. This is especially true in Funchal, where the daily average temperature hovers around 28°C. On Pico do Arieiro, the average high is about 15°C. This means that on clear days, it's already quite hot, and you'll definitely need a hat for sun protection while hiking the popular PR1 trail. The water is warm and clear, making it perfect for diving, as the diving season has begun!



Warm summer evening in Madeira's highest mountains

July

Madeira transforms its colors from green to orange, a change that's particularly evident at Ponta do São Lourenço and throughout the south. July is the height of the dry season, with the least amount of rainfall all year. Most waterfalls turn into wet walls or completely dry up, except for the biggest ones like Risco waterfall or Caldeirao Verde, although you can still notice a significant decrease in their strength.

Tropical nights have returned, and people enjoy evenings outdoors, especially in bustling Funchal. The nights are usually clear, offering a view of many stars and even the Milky Way if you look carefully. The tourism season is at its peak, so if you want to find a parking spot at the beach, it's best to go early, especially on weekends. The people of Madeira love spending their weekends in nature and by the beach.

Even though we're in the midst of summer, you'll still need some extra layers if you plan to watch the sunrise at Pico do Arieiro.



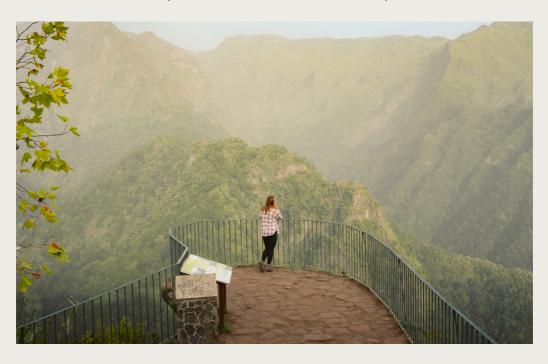
Warm sunny morning at Bica Da Cana

August

The dry and warm weather carries on in August, with Madeira seeing its highest daily temperatures of the year. The days are hot and sunny, but the temperature remains quite comfortable, even for those who are sensitive to the heat. If you plan to sunbathe, be sure to use a strong sunscreen, as it can get very hot in direct sunlight. This applies to the mountains as well, where the highest temperatures can go beyond 20°C on a hot day.



The curvy road at Ponta do Rosto in September



The view from Balcoes viewpoint in October

September

As September arrives, we can sense the easing of the summer heat. It's still quite warm, with temperatures in Funchal going over 30°C and an average high of 16°C at Pico do Arieiro. The beaches are still bustling, and although we see more clouds in the sky, it's still a great time for sunbathing, diving and swimming.

October

This is another one of my favorite times in Madeira. In October, the weather is still very much like summer throughout the day, with plenty of sunny days, though we may encounter occasional rainfall. Evenings remain warm, and it's not surprising to see people out in just t-shirts. The beaches are mainly busy only on weekends, but that doesn't mean the swimming season is over. We've found the ocean to be calm and warm, with clear water perfect for snorkeling and water temperatures exceeding 20°C. Tourists are still around, but in October, Madeira sees a significant decrease in visitors during the shoulder season.

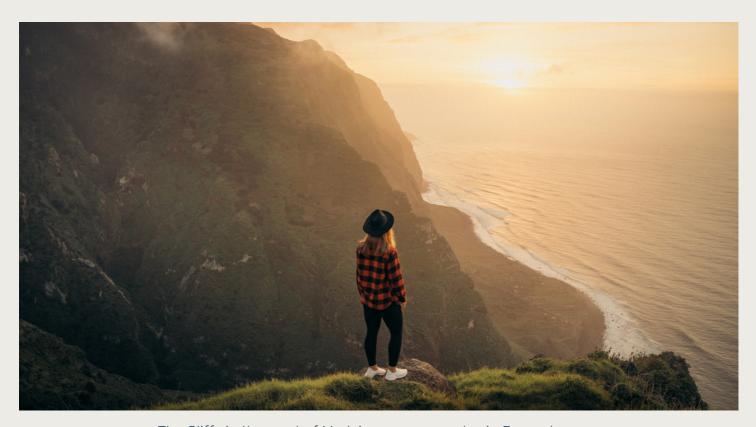


Sunset at Pico do Arieiro in November

November

Apart from the areas of Funchal, Ribeira Brava, and Ponta do Sol, most of Madeira experiences quite cloudy weather. This leads to a drop in average temperatures to around 20°C in the south or even lower in the north and the mountains. It's not uncommon to have some rainfall in the evenings and occasionally throughout the days. This is still a good time for hiking and spending time outdoors, but it requires more careful planning because it's common to see Madeira's highest mountains completely covered with clouds in November. While hiking, you can still be comfortable wearing just a sweater during the day, but when the sunlight disappears, it quickly becomes quite cold.

In November, beaches are fairly empty, even on weekends. It's not due to the water temperature, as it remains quite pleasant and will stay that way until January, but because there's less sunshine, people tend to spend less time on the beaches in November. The island is becoming greener with each passing day.



The Cliffs in the west of Madeira on a sunny day in December

December

The rainy season is back. Even Funchal sees occasional rainfalls, and it often rains in the north. As we approach the festive season, the waterfalls are regaining their strength. The temperature in Funchal is hardly ever too cold, but you'll often see people wearing jackets during the day. The average high temperature in the city is around 20°C, but due to the humidity, it can feel a bit cooler. There are still some clear days, especially in the southwest. On a sunny day, don't hesitate to go swimming: water is still very pleasant for a dip.

Despite December marking the onset of the wet season, Madeira experiences a significant increase in tourists who come to spend Christmas and New Year on the island.



What to pack for a trip to Madeira

Locals tend to say, that they often carry a jacket and a bathing suit in their car, a reflection of Madeira's changing weather. While the island has various microclimates that can lead to some regional differences, the weather on Madeira is generally predictable. So you can plan your day trips according to the forecast and Madeira WebCams.

While planning your trip effectively, consider your itinerary. For instance, if you're heading to the mountains in the summer, you still need to bring a windproof jacket. Madeira's mountains reach nearly 2000m, and you can experience alpine-like weather conditions there in the summer.

When friends visit for an active trip around Madeira, here's what we suggest they pack:

- 1. Trousers and shorts
- 2. Comfortable sports shoes (or hiking shoes if your focus is on hiking)
- 3. Sandals for the summer/Closed shoes for the winter
- 4. A jacket for the mountains
- 5. Bathing suit and a quick dry towel
- 6.T-shirts
- 7. A shirt or sweater for cooler days
- 8. A summer cap or a winter hat for winter hikes
- 9. A water bottle (as tap water is safe to drink in Madeira)
- 10. Opt for a backpack over a handbag.
- 11. Reef safe sunscreen
- 12. Sunglasses

Remember that hiking and levada walks can be challenging depending on the weather and difficulty level. Before embarking on your journey, ensure the location matches your skills and experience. If it doesn't, consider hiring a guided trip or a private guide to explore the places you want to visit. Madeira's motto is "Madeira belongs to everyone", emphasising that everyone has a duty to take care of this beautiful island.









Marco at Ponta do Sao Lourenco

32.74786, -16.70046



Best for: SUNRISE

This viewpoint is very exposed. Requires about 20 minutes to get to the top. At the beginning of PR8, turn left right after the bridge and follow the narrow path right to the viewpoint. At the top of the viewpoint, you will find a cement pillar that marks the summit. From here you have a great all the way down the Vereda da Ponta de São Lourenço hike.





Ponta do Rosto Viewpoint

32.74938, -16.70675

Best for: SUNRISE

Ponta do Rosto is another beautiful sunrise viewpoint in Madeira. It is located on the eastern tail of Madeira Island. It is a popular spot for watching sunrise. It is very easy to reach. You can drive all the way up to the viewpoint, park your car and start shooting right away! No hike involved here, a perfect viewpoint for everyone! Ponta do Rosto Viewpoint is located right before the Vereda da Ponta de São Lourenço hike so you can perfectly combine these two for your morning exploring.



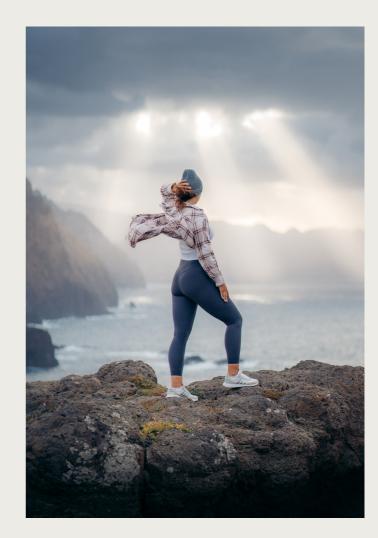
Curvy Road with Cliffs 32.74849, -16.71156



Best for: good for both SUNRISE and SUNSET

A bit back on the road from Ponta do Rosto viewpoint you will see a curvy road with fantastic views on the cliffs of the North coast of Madeira. This is a beautiful photo spot! Also very popular one. Be careful when walking on the road as there are many cars coming from around the corner. You can park your car on the side of the road and climb up a small hill to get the best composition. There are also good views from the rocks on the opposite side of the road.







180 View From North to South Madeira



32.75002, -16.70913

Best for: good for both SUNRISE and SUNSET

Good for sunrise/sunset photography with a tripod. It is located near The Ponta do Rosto Viewpoint, just before the famous Vereda da Ponta de São Lourenço hike. Further up the coast to the left (away from the parking) you will find this viewpoint. From this place, you can see a wide panorama of the whole island from north to south. Make sure to bring a jacket to this location, as this coastline is known for being one of the windiest places on the island.

Miradouro Ponta do Furado



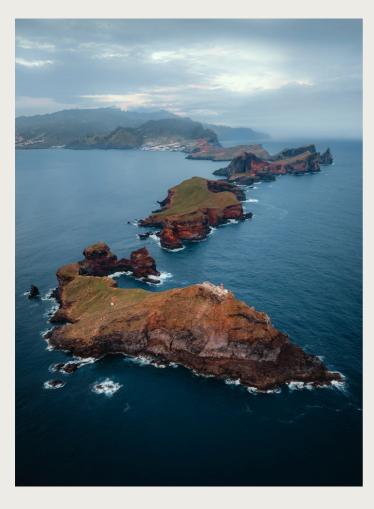
32.73865, -16.68028

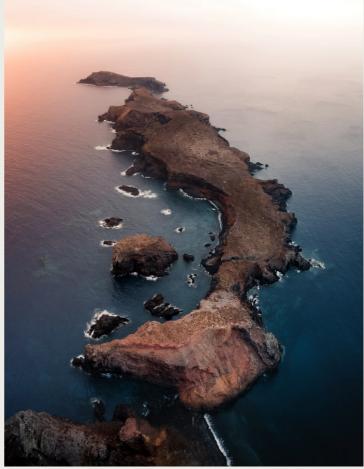
Best for: SUNRISE

The tip of the Ponta de São Lourenço peninsula is called Pico do Furado. From here you have a very special view of the neighboring islands of Ilhas Desertas on one side and even Pico do Arieiro on another side. The view back to Santa Cruz shows the path covered over the narrow peninsula.

You have to expect crowds here from morning to afternoon. It is better to start the hike before sunrise (then you don't have to add the extra kilometers on the line of the parked cars) or enjoy the sunset instead.

The whole peninsula is a no drone zone, without this hill at the end of it, so this is the best place to fly your drone at Ponta do Sao Lourenco. From here you can also photograph with a tripod or even fly your drone to the light house.







Fanal Forest Tips: A rain jacket is essential here as Fanal's weather is as unpredictable as it can get. Wearing waterproof hiking shoes or boots is also a good idea since parts of Fanal Forest can be quite muddy or wet. Don't forget to bring different lenses here. The fog produces different results whether you're shooting with a wide lens or a telephoto lens, so get ready to have fun with different lenses. To fully appreciate the Fanal Forest, consider exploring the Vereda do Fanal (PR 13) or Levada dos Cedros (PR 14) trails.

Small Tree Tunnel

32.81086, -17.14391

Best for: SUNSET (on sunny days) or anytime on foggy/cloudy day

These trees are located on the left side of the Fanal forest. To find this beautiful small tree tunnel - look for a long hole in the ground, which actually leads towards this tunnel.







Dragon Shaped Tree

32.81141, -17.14327

Best for: SUNSET (on sunny days) or anytime on foggy/cloudy day

This is an iconic tree of Fanal Forest. Leaning forwards, like it's about to touch your hand! It is very popular on social media. It's growing at the beginning of the main area. Walk straight from the parking lot, towards the hill. You'll find it right in the middle of the field!

Human Shaped Tree

32°48'41.0"N 17°08'40.4"W

Best for: SUNSET (on sunny days) or anytime on foggy/cloudy day

This is, probably, one of the most photographed trees in Fanal Forest. And still...it is an unmissable tree. It's right in the middle of the main area of Fanal.

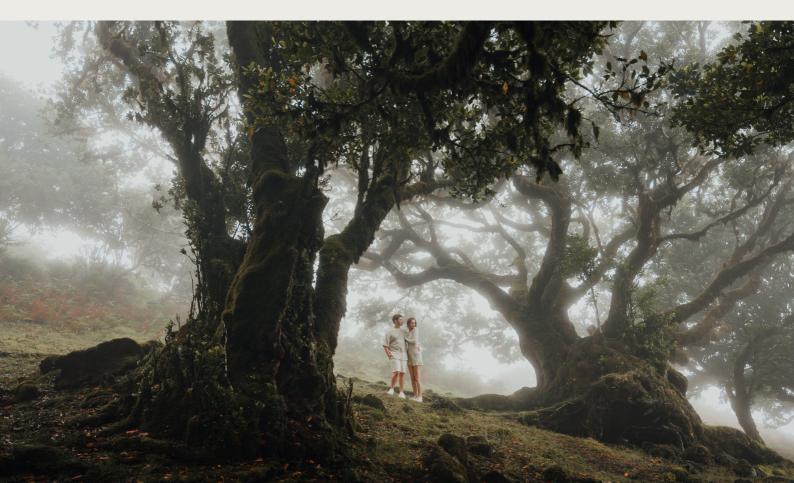


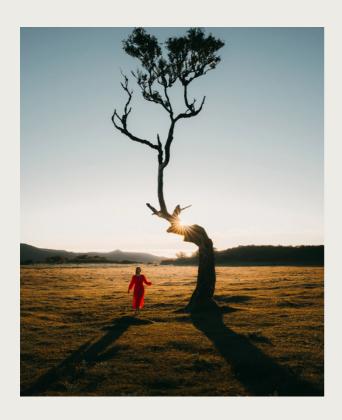
The Large Old trees 32.81219, -17.14242



Best for: SUNSET (on sunny days) or anytime on foggy/cloudy day

Follow the path up the hill and look on sides to find the trees you like the most. Be careful walking up the hill - the narrow path between the trees can be very slippery after rain.







Interesting Single tree

32°48'42.0"N 17°08'42.4"W

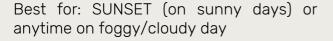
Best for: SUNSET (on sunny days) or anytime on foggy/cloudy day

On the north side of Madeira Island, you can find a mysterious fog creating an incredible atmosphere amongst the trees of Fanal Forest.

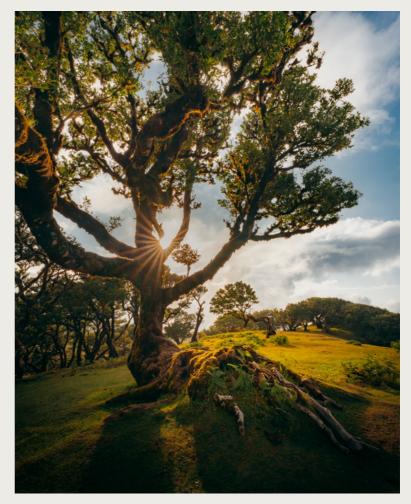
This single tree is on the edge of the main area of Fanal Forest. Head in the direction towards the pond and you'll see this elegant, lonely tree right away!

A Tree-bench





This huge extraordinary tree is located on the top of the hill. Once you make your way up the hill towards the pinnacle, you will have amazing views over Fanal Forest on one side and towards the ocean on the other side. This view can change completely depending on the weather. There are always different weather circumstances at this area. Weather can change in a second, so every time you come here you can have a totally different experience.







Praia da Ribeira da Janela

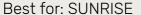
32°51'20.5"N 17°09'11.2"W

Best for: SUNRISE

The Ilheus da Ribeira da Janela is a collection of two unique rock formations located few meters away from the coast in North Madeira. Facing northeast, you can watch the sunrise here in the summer season. During the winter months the sun disappears behind the mountains, so that's something to take into account. There's plenty of space to find a spot for yourself. Parking is big and free of charge. If you're interested, the greener rocks are more to the left. It is located close to Porto Moniz, you can easily combine it with a visit to the Porto Moniz Natural Pools.

Miradouro don Leon

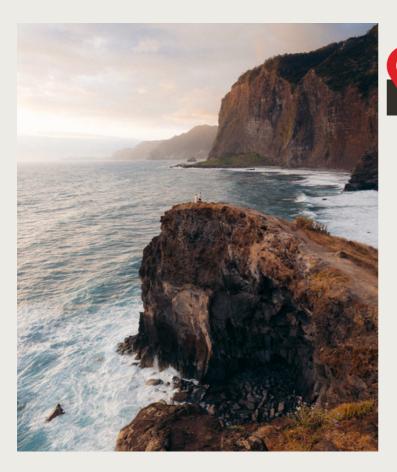
32°44'49.4"N 16°49'37.6"W





This is the starting point for paragliders in this area. There's an official viewpoint next to this place, but from here you can have a better view and also there is enough place to set your tripod. Here you will enjoy Madeira's incomparable landscapes seen from above and fill your eyes with sky, sea and forest.





Viewpoint over the Cliffs at Miradouro do Guindaste

32°47'39.9"N 16°50'55.8"W

Best for: SUNRISE

A magical coastal viewpoint Miradouro do Guindaste, also known as Crane viewpoint, is a very popular spot among photographers. This viewpoint on the Northern part of the island faces towards Ponta de São Lourenço with a stunning view on the Penha D'Águia rock of Porto da Cruz. The headland, which is a great point of interest for photographers, falls straight into the ocean so don't go up here when it's too windy. The view from the rugged cliffs is mesmerizing but it can be dangerous as well. There is a new free parking here (small, but very nice one, right next to the viewpoint).

Pico Ruivo Burned Trees

32°45'37.6"N 16°56'18.7"W



Best for: SUNRISE OR NIGHT photography

These white trees next too Pico Ruivo are the result of a big wildfire which happened on Madeira few years ago and forever changed the landscape.

The easiest way to get to them is to hike up towards the Pico Ruivo from Achada do Teixeira, covering a distance of 2 kilometers with a pleasant uphill of around 300 meters.

The composite of this night photo combines two images taken from the same place within three hours apart. The foreground was captured during the blue hour and the Milky Way was shot when it appeared later at night.









Stairway to Heaven

32°44'20.5"N 16°56'11.4"W

Best for: good for both SUNRISE and SUNSET

It is usually busier at sunrise time, as many people start their hike to Pico Ruivo. These are the famous Stairs on the PR1 route. This place is about 30 minutes walk away from the parking at Pico do Arieiro. The Stairway to Heaven is a thrilling part of hiking trail that offers breathtaking views. This trail takes you along a series of steep and narrow steps, leading to the summit of Pico do Arieiro. As you ascend, you will be rewarded with panoramic vistas of the island's stunning landscapes, including rugged mountains and lush valleys. However, please be aware that this trail is challenging and requires a good level of fitness and caution. Nevertheless, for those seeking an adventure and a chance to witness awe-inspiring natural beauty, the Stairway to Heaven at Pico do Arieiro is a must-visit place.

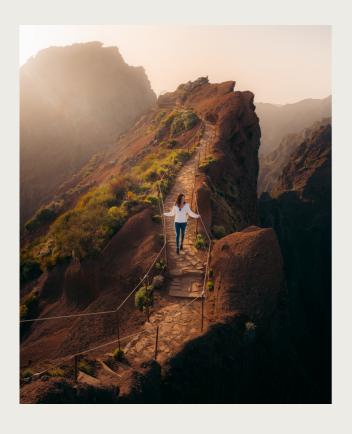
Ninho da Manta 32°44'21.4"N 16°56'00.7"W



Best for: good for both SUNRISE and SUNSET

A beautiful balcony viewpoint. It's a part of the PR1 hike, relatively close to the starting point. You won't need hiking gear in order to reach the spot, as it's just 15 minutes walk away from the parking at Pico do Arieiro. It's a good place for landscape photography when facing west.







Solar Panel Spot

32°44'19.5"N 16°56'07.3"W

Best for: SUNRISE

This spot is located on the trail from Pico Do Arieiro to Pico Ruivo. While walking the narrow path right before Starts to Heaven (and after Miradouro do Ninho da Manta), you'll see a huge rock from the right side of the path. This rock has a solar panel on it. If you climb the rock - you'll get this composition. This is the exact place, where we took one of our best photos from PR1 trail.

Be careful on the rock! This place isn't really safe! So please watch your step as it can be very tricky.

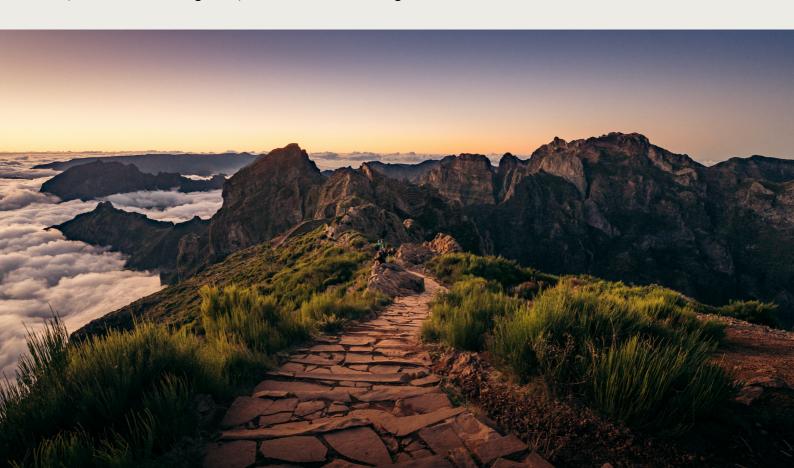
Wide View over the PR1 trail

32°44'09.7"N 16°55'47.4"W



Best for: SUNSET

Just few steps away from the parking at Pico do Arieiro. This is the best spot on the trail to shoot the sunset. It is a very popular spot among photographers, so be sure you're there earlier to secure the place. When taking this photo, best is standing next to a bench.





Cabanas Viewpoint

32°49'35.8"N 16°56'20.6"W

Best for: SUNRISE

Miradouro das Cabanas or "Cabanas viewpoint" is a place which still little known to travelers in Madeira. It is located between São Jorge and Arco de São Jorge in Santana. This viewpoint provides an excellent view of the north coast, the Arco de São Jorge parishes and the Atlantic Ocean. On clear days, you can see the neighbouring island of Porto Santo.

You can set your tripod right at the viewpoint.





Cafetaria Queimadas

32°47'01.1"N 16°54'22.2"W

Best for: it is a very busy spot. So the best time to visit is morning. There is no crowds and a good light

As soon as you arrive at the parking lot of Queimadas Forestry Park, you'll notice this cute small cafe that goes by the name of Casa de Abrigo das Queimadas. It's also the starting point of the Levada do Caldeirão Verde hike.

This cafe maintains the original features of the old houses in Santana, such as the thatched roof.





Rocks at Garajau Beach

32°38'19.0"N 16°51'15.0"W

Best for: SUNSET

It's one of our favorite places on Madeira. It's a perfect sunset spot. Situated in a pretty bay at the pebbled shores of Garajau beach. It is a quiet place for relaxing and enjoying the ocean and cliff views. And of course, it is a beautiful place for taking photos! You can get to the beach via road or a cable car. Take into consideration that the cable car is closed at 20:00, so you might walk back to the parking lot up the curvy road.

Miradouro do Salão Ideal

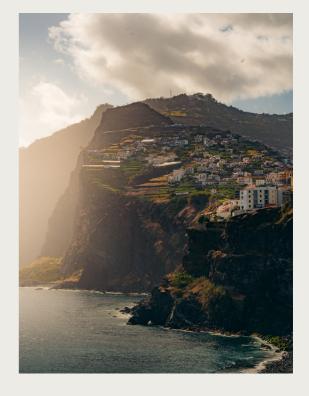
32°38'43.9"N 16°58'19.5"W



The Salão Ideal Viewpoint is located just at the Câmara de Lobos entry. Situated in the Salão area, this viewpoint offers a magnificent view over the bay of Câmara de Lobos and Cabo Girao. From here you'll admire huge rugged cliffs, lush greenery and the sparkling blue ocean below.









Ilhéu - Rocks near the Airport

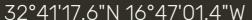
32°41'28.0"N 16°46'25.9"W

Best for: SUNRISE

A hidden gem at walking distance from the airport. Park your car at the Parking Lot at Cemitério de Santa Cruz (The Cemetery near the Airport) or at the P2.1 Parking Lot. To get to the place you'll need to walk down the stairs. This place is ideal for landscape photography. Often you can spot local men fishing here.



Santa Cruz Promenade





Best for: EARLY MORNING

Santa Cruz Promenade is a pedestrian area that spans the full length of the beach. It goes right up to the end of the runway, so you can stand directly below the airport, where planes reach the land. Right there you'll find this interesting shaped part of the promenade. It offers creative angles for your photos. And it isn't very busy. You can drive your car to this place or leave it at the parking lot nearby.





Museum of Art

32°43'23.5"N 17°10'49.8"W

Best for: SUNSET

Casa das Mudas, in the town of Calheta, is a museum dedicated to contemporary art. Besides having a rich collection, it is a very dynamic cultural venue. Its building, with modern lines, harmoniously integrated into the landscape, has won international awards. From here you can have an amazing view over Calheta beach and the blue endless ocean. There is a small free parking right in front of the museum.





Miradouro do Ponta da Ladeira

32°51'34.2"N 17°12'12.4"W



Best for: SUNSET

This viewpoint on the north western coast of Madeira has clear views over the ocean and it is looking down along the coastline, it is definitely one of the best sunset viewpoints on the island. You can drive all the way to the entrance of the viewpoint. From the parking lot, it's only a minute walk down the dirt path until you get to the cliff sides (passing the small garden from your left). From this spot you'll have an amazing view down the coastline with the sun setting on your right side. We recommend to wear proper shoes when walking down as the dirt path can be slippery due to loose stones and gravel.

Lighthouse Ponta do Pargo



32°48'50.0"N 17°15'47.1"W

Best for: SUNSET

Ponta do Pargo is a captivating place known for its dramatic cliffs and mesmerizing ocean views. Located on the westernmost point of the island, it offers stunning sunsets and a chance to witness the untamed beauty of the Atlantic Ocean.

The location of the Ponta do Pargo Lighthouse Viewpoint is marked by the presence of a historic lighthouse, which came into operation in June 1922. The tower is 14 metres high and the light is at an altitude of 312 metres.

It is a perfect place to watch sunset and fly a drone over the beautiful cliffs.











Miradouro do Juncal

32°44'10.9"N 16°55'29.2"W

Best for: SUNRISE

Miradouro do Juncal at Pico do Arieiro in Madeira is not only a breathtaking viewpoint but also a popular sunrise spot. Each day, hundreds of people gather here to witness the sunrise, creating a bustling atmosphere in the morning. With its stunning vistas of mountains, valleys, and the Atlantic Ocean, Miradouro do Juncal offers a memorable experience for early risers and nature enthusiasts alike.

The viewpoint itself is just about 500 metres away from the Pico do Arieiro parking lot (turn right at the Big Round Radar and follow the narrow path to get to the right spot), and there is always a place for your tripod.

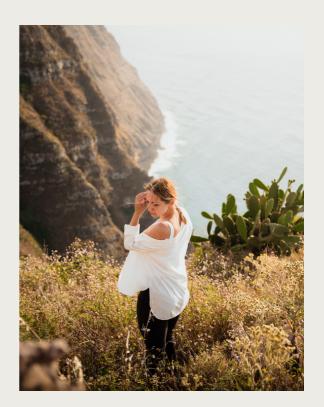
Miradouro do Garganta Funda

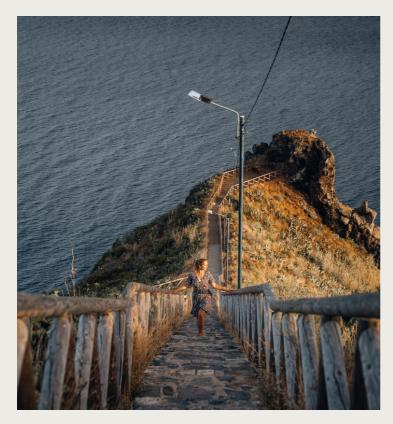
32°49'13.8"N 17°15'07.7"W

Best for: SUNSET

This viewpoint is just few steps away from Garganta Funda Waterfall. Enjoy the short walk out to the viewpoint where you get one of the best views on the island. It is an amazing spot with a stunning view of the falls, the coastline, and the Ponta do Pargo lighthouse in the background. The view is very open and there's nothing obstructing it, so you can play around with your camera and get a ton of different pictures from different angles.

It's a really photographic spot so you can get some epic pictures around the viewpoint. It's not an official trail (marked with "PR") so be careful walking near the cliffs.







Cristo Rei Viewpoint

32°38'18.6"N 16°51'02.0"W

Best for: SUNSET

This viewpoint offers panoramic views of the vast Atlantic Ocean, picturesque Funchal Bay, and the enchanting Desertas Islands. The majestic statue of Jesus Christ stands on the top of a hill which drops into the ocean. There are beautiful stairs going down the hill to a lower platform overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Miradouro Cabo Girão

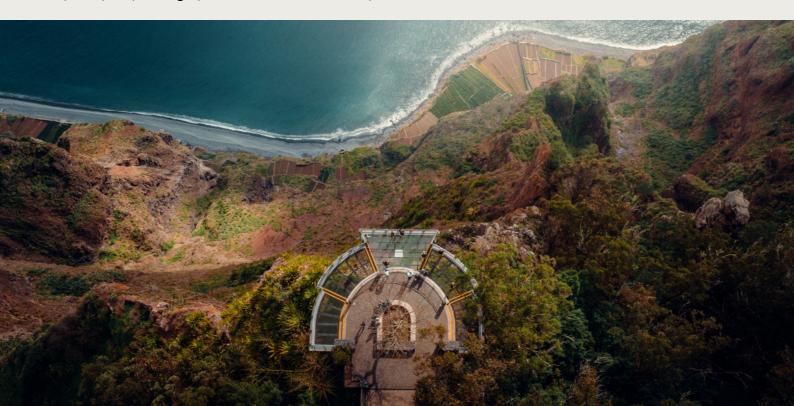
32°39'23.3"N 17°00'16.0"W



Best for: both SUNRISE and SUNSET

Cabo Girão viewpoint, known for its famous glass walkway called the skywalk, is now one of the most popular and photographed tourist spots in the archipelago.

From the Cabo Girão viewpoint, you get a special view of the cities of Câmara de Lobos and Funchal. Cabo Girão stands at 580 meters in height, making it the tallest cliff in Europe. To access the viewpoint, you have to pay a small fee. Similar to other attractions of this scale, around there are plenty of parking spaces and souvenir shops.







Miradouro Molinas

32°44'03.1"N 17°03'42.3"W

Best for: SUNSET

Nice viewpoint on the old road heading to Fanal. Miradouro Molinas on Madeira offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Atlantic Ocean and rugged coastline. It's a perfect spot to relax and enjoy the stunning scenery. Watching the sunset from Miradouro Molinas is a truly unforgettable experience. Whether you're a nature enthusiast or a photography lover, this viewpoint is a must-visit destination on Madeira.

Boca do Risco 32°45'19.7"N 16°46'21.5"W

Best for: the whole day

Boca do Risco means "dangerous pass", and is a lookout point high above the coast in the northeast of Madeira. This Viewpoint is a part of the Larano Trail. It takes about 5 KM from Machico or Porto da Cruz to get there. It's the highlight of Larano trail. This hike starts off by following a flat levada before climbing up to the Boca do Risco, and then traversing the cliffside to the west. It finishes by dropping to the coast at Porto da Cruz, after a very varied and exhilarating hike.





Caniçal viewpoint 32°45'02.7"N 16°42'27.5"W



Best for: SUNRISE

Canical viewpoint at Ponta do Rosto is located on the most eastern tail of the island, this is a perfect sunrise spot with impressive views on the cliffs of Ponta de São Lourenço. Canical viewpoint is located right before the Vereda da Ponta de São Lourenço hike so you can perfectly combine these two for a morning of exploring. Once arrived at Ponta do Rosto you can see the viewpoint directly in front of the parking lot. This is the most famous spot, however there are more viewpoints in this area if you go further down the coast to the left, away from the trail.





Miradouro Eira do Serrado

32°42'37.4"N 16°57'56.6"W

Best for: late morning and the afternoon

This is a beautiful Balcony Viewpoint. The Eira do Serrado Viewpoint is situated 1096 meters above sea level, where you can enjoy a magnificent view over the Nun's Valley and the great mountains of the central massif that surround it. This platform was built in 1962. Access to the viewpoint is made by a path that starts at the Inn of Eira do Serrado. It is an excellent place to observe and appreciate the erosive effect of the natural elements that have shaped the island over the centuries.

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Miradouro de São Cristovão



32°49'37.4"N 16°58'22.9"W

Best for: SUNRISE

This is one of those places where you can just park your car and step out to see the view. Miradouro São Cristovão is a scenic viewpoint in Boa Ventura. Miradouro São Cristovão is situated nearby to the scenic viewpoints Ponta Delgada and Miradouro do Cemitério. Miradouro de São Cristovão is a popular spot for locals and tourists alike to relax and enjoy the breathtaking scenery. Whether you're seeking a peaceful moment or a chance to capture beautiful photographs, this place is a must-visit destination.



Miradouro da Eira da Achada

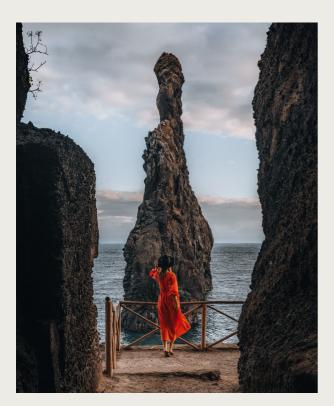




Best for: SUNRISE

The Eira da Achada Viewpoint is located at the top of Ribeira da Janela parish and offers a stunning view over the northern coast of Madeira Island. This viewpoint is equipped with sanitary facilities, children's playground, picnic areas and a car parking lot. Miradouro da Eira da Achada is situated nearby to Baloiço da Ribeira da Janela and the trailhead PR15.







Ribeira da Janela Viewpoint

32°51'19.4"N 17°09'10.8"W

Best for: SUNRISE

Ilheus da Ribeira da Janela is an epic coastal spot with some stunning rock formations just meters from the shore. It's definitely one of the most unique places on Madeira.

Facing north east, you can watch the sunrise from this beautiful balcony in summer season. During the winter months the sun disappears behind the mountains, but nevertheless this place still is worth visiting. Located close to Porto Moniz, you can easily combine it with a visit to the Porto Moniz Natural Pools.

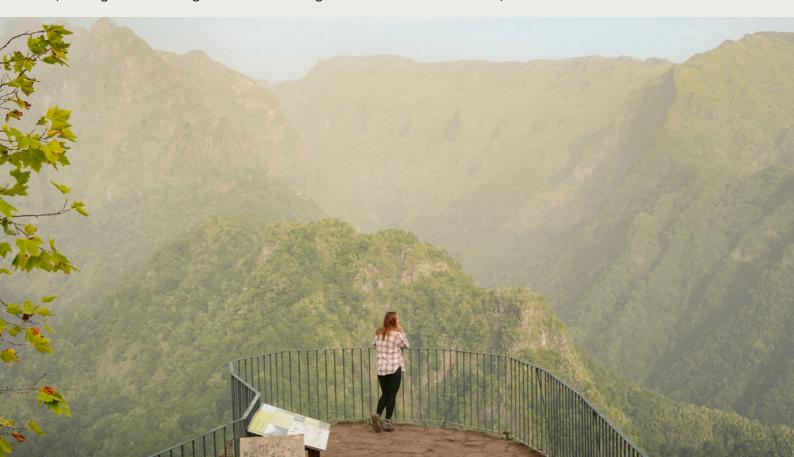
Balcony Viewpoint of Levada dos Balcoes

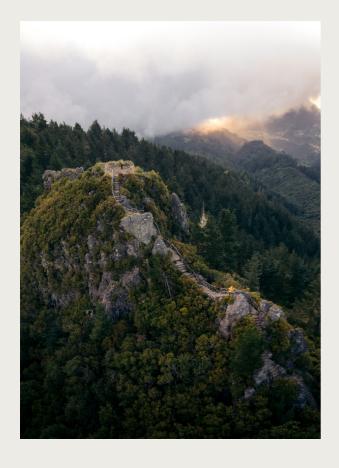
32°44'29.1"N 16°53'25.2"W

0

Best for: Early Morning

This Balcony Viewpoint is a true reward at the end of a short trail, the PR11 Levada Dos Balcoes. This viewpoint offers stunning views across the Ribeira da Metade valley. This is a popular tourist attraction in Madeira, so it gets pretty busy, especially during peak season, therefore it's better to get here early in the morning, if you want to beat the crowds. Also, there is not a massive amount of parking so, if driving, that's another good reason to arrive early.







Miradouro do Pico Redondo

32°46'15.4"N 16°54'28.1"W

Best for: SUNRISE

It's a very interesting viewpoint with curvy stairs and wooden barriers. It's situated along the road from the Pico das Pedras Forest Park to Achada do Teixeira. The road is open daily between 7:00 and 21:00.

In Pico das Pedras Forest Park you can see Madeira's original forest flora, with many native plants, some of them are very rare.

This viewpoint offers a great panoramic view from São Jorge to the Ponta de São Lourenço with emphasis to the Penha d'Águia in Porto da Cruz.

Miradouro do Guindaste (Crane Viewpoint)

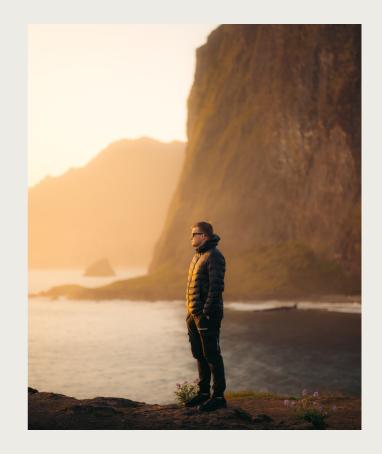
32°47'38.8"N 16°50'58.0"W



Best for: SUNRISE

Located on the east coast, at the heart of a small village called Faial is definitely one of Madeira's best sunrise spot. Miradouro do Guindaste, also known as Crane Viewpoint is an incredible spot to hunt the first light of the day. The viewpoint looks down the dramatic east coast towards the rising sun making it a popular sunrise location. The best view can be found at the very tip of the headland. It's only a quick one-minute walk to reach the headland from the parking lot.

In addition to this wonderful viewpoint, after being closed for renovations in 2021, the Guindaste viewpoint was reopened at the end of August 2022, with two beautiful glass viewing walkways.



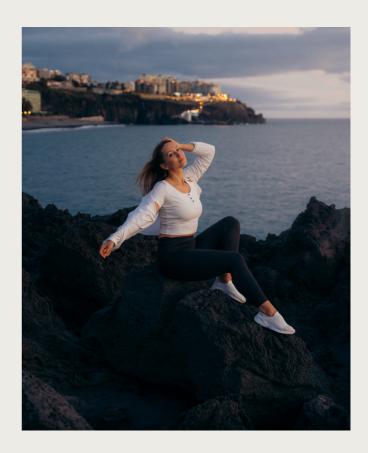
Rocks at Formosa Beach

32°38'29.1"N 16°57'24.4"W

Best for: SUNSET

Praia Formosa is located in Funchal, and is one of the largest beaches on the island. It actually consists of four beaches from which three are mixed with sand and pebbles.

Located at Formosa Beach, this huge rock standing out from the ground, offers an amazing view over Funchal city. You can climb it up by stairs made of rock to watch the sunset or just to observe local boys fishing. It's a fun photo spot and a lovely place to get a bit more quality time.





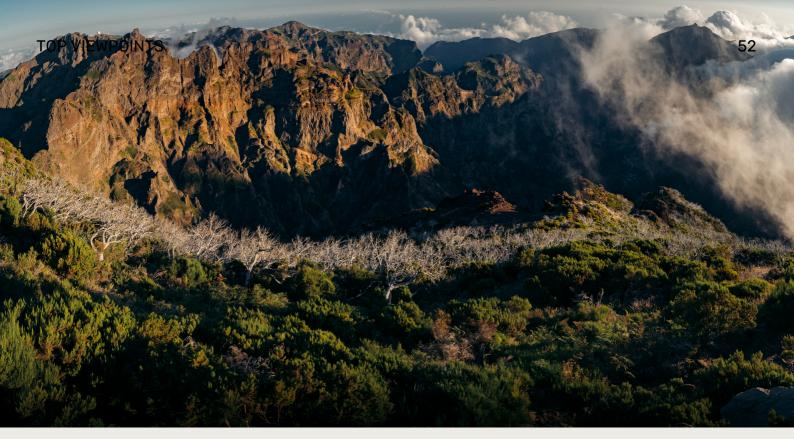


Bica da Cana

32°45'23.3"N 17°03'16.9"W

Best for: SUNRISE

This viewpoint is gaining popularity among travelers to Madeira, so the days of enjoying it all to yourself at sunrise are behind us. Located at an altitude of 1580 meters, it offers a sweeping view of the São Vicente valley, celebrated for its lush Laurissilva forest. It's a perfect stop to pair with a visit to Fanal Forest, a highly popular natural attraction on Madeira. You can park your car by the road near a camping site and take a short 5-minute uphill walk to reach the viewpoint.



Pico Ruivo

32°45'32.2"N 16°56'34.9"W



Best for: both sunset and sunrise

Pico Ruivo is the highest point on Madeira Island, at 1,862m above sea level. With its panoramic views of the surrounding mountain ranges, it has become a popular viewpoint for both sunrise and sunset. It's not easy to reach the summit of Pico Ruivo. But it's surely worth the pain. You cannot drive to this viewpoint. There are few options how to get to the summit:

- A ACHADA DO TEIXEIRA TO PICO RUIVO: The most popular one, as it is the shortest and has the least incline (2.5 km; 30-40 minutes hike).
- B PICO DO ARIEIRO TO PICO RUIVO: This route is much more technical and strenuous. With 800m of incline on the round-trip journey and 11 km in total distance.
- C ENCUMEDA TO PICO RUIVO: This trail is 10km one way from Encumeda to Pico Ruivo.



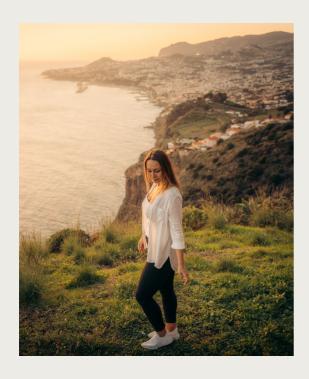


The Hawaii View in Sao Vicente

32°47'33.6"N 17°02'18.6"W

Best for: the whole day

It's not really an official viewpoint. It's just a beautiful road with an incredible view over Sao Vicente. It isn't a popular place and nor a busy road, but be careful while taking a picture here, check out for the cars.





Miradouro do Pináculo

32°38'43.0"N 16°52'14.1"W

Best for: SUNSET

Located 283 meters above sea level, the Pináculo Viewpoint offers an ideal place for observing the calm ocean surrounding Madeira's southern coast. From this spot, you can closely admire the shape of Funchal bay and take in the view of this coastal city extending up the hillside. This viewpoint is just on the side of the road. There's a small space next to the viewpoint, where you can park your car. In my opinion, this is the best viewpoint overlooking Funchal, especially at sunset.

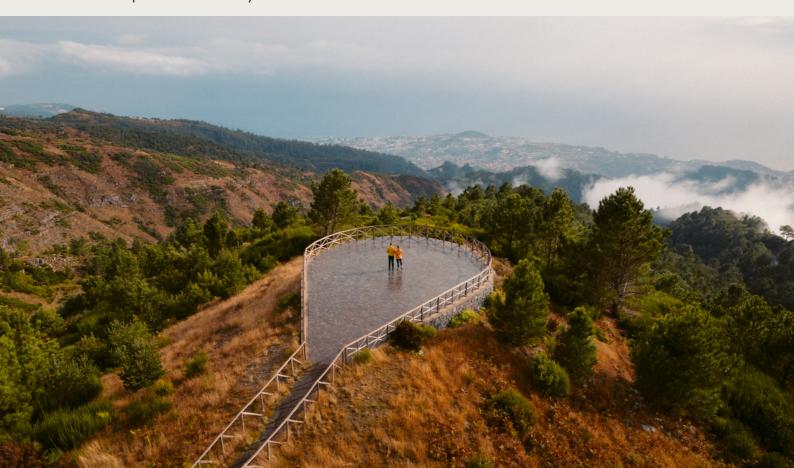
Miradouro do Paredão

32°42'50.0"N 16°57'17.1"W



Best for: SUNSET

The Paredão viewpoint is located in Montado do Paredão, on the road connecting Curral das Freiras to Pico do Arieiro. It has 2 parts. One balcony is overlooking Curral das Freiras, and the other balcony has views over the city of Funchal. The viewpoint overlooking Funchal is made of traditional materials: rocks and wood. In our opinion this one is more picturesque and less busy. You can visit this place on the way to Pico do Arieiro.





Window Cliff of Ponta do Sol

32°40'53.8"N 17°06'29.7"W



Best for: SUNSET

This viewpoint offers a beautiful backlit landscape view of the coastline cliffs at Tuneis Antigos in Ponta do Sol on the east coast of Madeira Island. It's a perfect place for a sunset. In summer golden light comes right through the small window in the cliff, litting up the stairs and a cute bridge in front of them.

Top Waterfalls









Waterfall of Angels

32°41'11.9"N 17°06'49.8"W

Best for: SUNSET

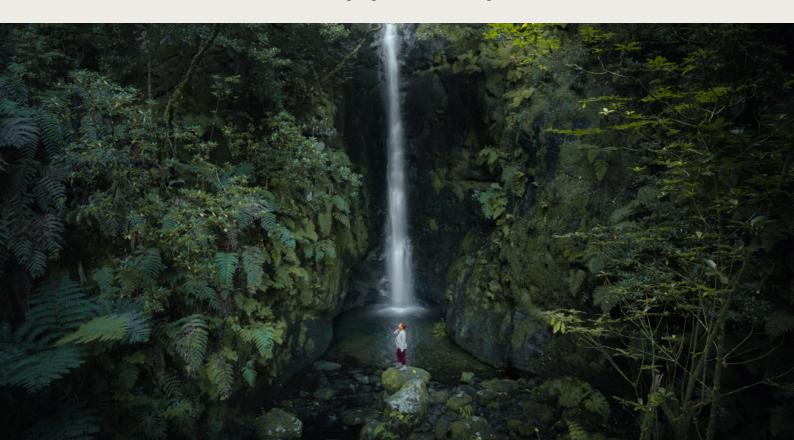
Anjos Waterfall is also known as Cascata dos Anjos, meaning Waterfall of Angels. This is probably the most fun waterfall because it falls right on the road where cars are driving - a car wash for free! It is quite a popular one, and especially beautiful during the sunset, but you can visit it any time of the day. It is located next to the Ponta do Sol town - just drive through a tunnel and you will arrive at the right spot. Drive slowly - there might be people on the road. There's no official parking but you can park your car on the side of the road, right in front of the waterfall.

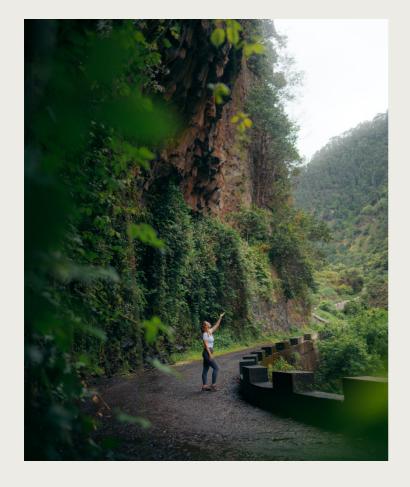
Rabo Do Burro



Best for: the whole day

Rabo do Burro is a waterfall in Boa Ventura. This is our favorite waterfall on Madeira! This is the first main point of interest on Poço Das Pulgas Waterfall Hike. The beautiful straight stream of water surrounded by ferns will make you feel far away from civilisation. It's not too popular - never crowded. There are many interesting angles to capture this beautiful waterfall from. There is also an old tree branch laying in front of the waterfall which creates a beautiful leading line if we're talking about composition for photos. Very short approach. Just drive your car up the road as far as it's possible and then walk 15 minutes following signs "cascade" right to the waterfall.







Lombinho Waterfall

32°50'56.3"N 17°09'42.2"W

Best for: the whole day

Did you like the Angles waterfall in Ponta do Sol? Here's another waterfall which falls right on the road. The best part is...not too many people know about it! It's still a real hidden gem. Easy to get to, best after a rainy day, as it will have more water.

Caldeirão Verde Waterfall

32°45'55.7"N 17°07'37.8"W



Best for: the whole day

This waterfall is located at the end of the Caldeirão Verde Hike. A trip there will take you the entire day, but it's worth it. It's a perfect place to take a break after the hike, eat your lunch and recharge for the hike back. We have a full guide for this hike on our blog. Once arrived at this 100 meters high waterfall you will feel immersed in this beautiful green canyon. The waterfall is a beautiful straight stream of water that flows gently down along the mossy rocks. The natural pool below the waterfall is perfectly round formed and has super cold but crystal clear water. Definitely one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Madeira! There's a large paid parking on the place. Cash and card allowed.







The 25 Fontes Waterfall

32°46'27.4"N 16°56'07.0"W

Best for: Morning hours

The 25 Fontes waterfall is the final point of Levada das 25 Fontes. Before you get to this spot, you'll pass Risco waterfall. Depending on the season when you do this levada walk, you can either see the waterfall in full power (after rainy days), or only a little water trickle flowing down along the rock wall (during dry and hot periods without rain).

Very popular and busy place. Come as early as possible to avoid crowds. The trail is good for sport, but it's photographically not that interesting. You can try levada Alecrim instead.

Risco Waterfall 32°45'35.6"N 17°07'21.5"W



Best for: Morning hours

Risco waterfall is about 100 meters high and is actually part of a group of different water streams. If you have a drone or stand a bit further away from the viewpoint, you can see the other waterfall in the distance above Risco. This waterfall is part of the Lagoa do Vento hike, which you also can include during the Levada das 25 Fontes hike. This high waterfall is best to visit in the rainy season. During the summer months, it will only be a little stream of water dripping down along the rocks. You can observe this waterfall from the weaving platform. This is also a good place to fly your drone from.





Véu da Noiva Waterfall 32°48'58.1"N 17°05'42.6"W



Best for: SUNRISE

The best way to see Véu da Noiva Waterfall is from the official viewpoint. Véu da Noiva Waterfall viewpoint is an incredible scenic lookout on the north coast of Madeira Island, with views of the Véu da Noiva waterfall that pours into the ocean! It's super easy to get to with a parking lot right at the viewpoint. There is a souvenir shop right next to the parking lot. The viewpoint is very touristic but great for a quick stop to enjoy this beautiful waterfall. We recommend combining it with other attractions on the north coast of Madeira Island such as Seixal Beach, Seixal Natural Pools, or Porto Moniz Natural Pools.





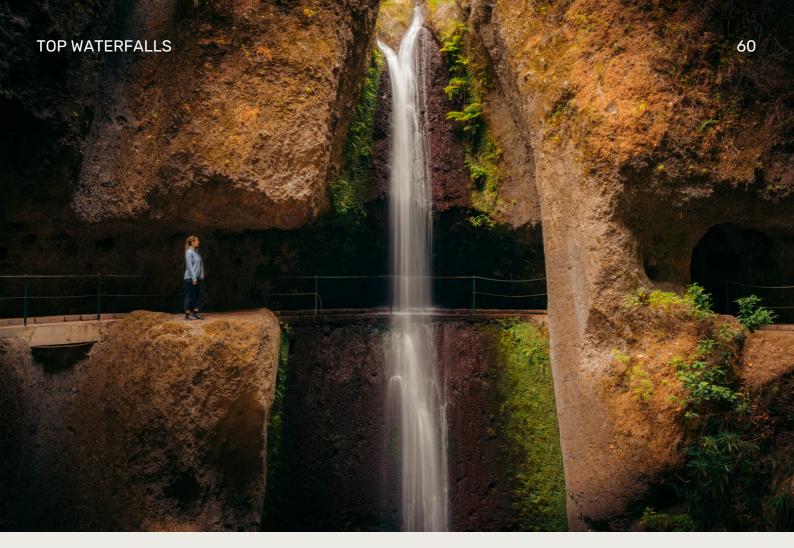
Garganta Funda Waterfall

32°49'12.2"N 17°15'04.2"W

Best for: afternoon hours

The Garganta Funda waterfall is one of the few waterfalls on Madeira island located on the west coast. During the summer season, you can expect the waterfall to be without water, dry. However, it is still a beautiful viewpoint with 180-degree view of the ocean. After some rainfall though, it becomes an absolutely beautiful, full of water, 140-meter-high waterfall.

There is a small parking lot right before the short hike towards the viewpoint. It's only about 10 minutes walking until you reach the viewpoint of the waterfall. Few steps further you will see the Ponta do Pargo cliff with a 180-degree view of the Atlantic Ocean.



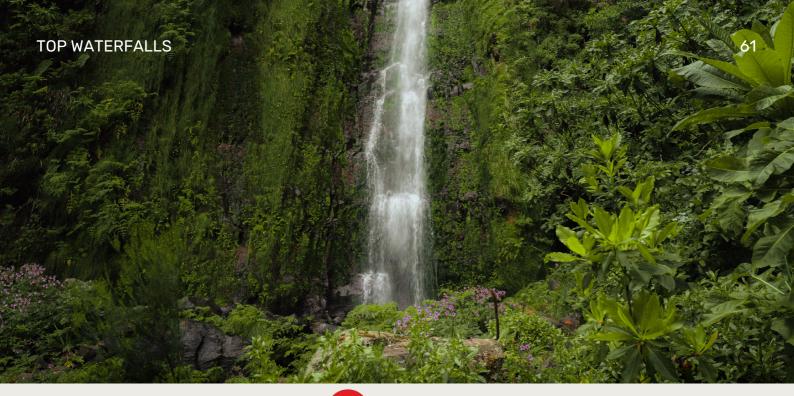
Nova and Moinho Waterfall

32°42'48.2"N 17°05'02.1"W



Best for: the whole day

This waterfall is the main attraction of the Levada do Moinho to Levada Nova waterfall hike. About halfway of this trail you will see this very unique waterfall. It pours its water over the levada path that has been carved into the cliff. Don't be scared to get wet! The cave passage is very fun and adventurous to walk in! Take a headlamp for this hike - there is a 200-meter-long tunnel on the way!



Cascata do Folhadal



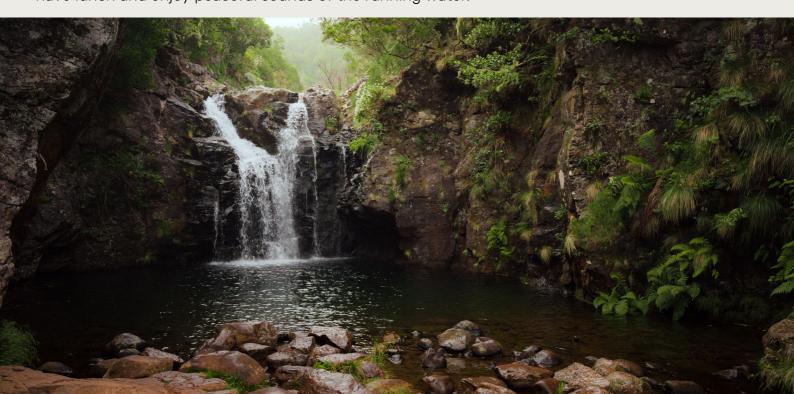
Best for: the whole day

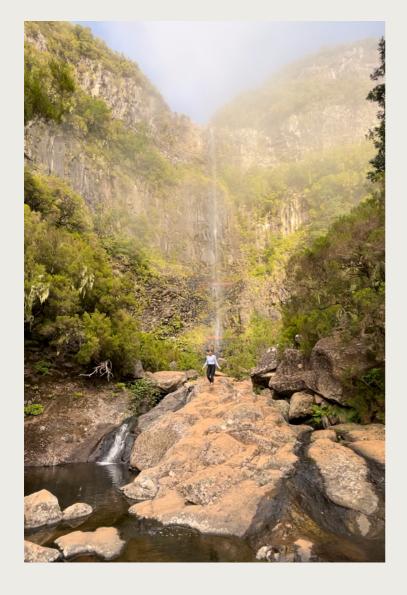
It's a beautiful, nearly vertical waterfall high in the mountains, in a green lush forest. It takes long to get to it. But if you do - you will be there along! The only reason it isn't very popular - is a long (18 km) and challenging hike to it. That's why we think it's only worth to visit if you're hiking the PR17 trail (which we highly recommend).

Dona Beja Pool 32°45'24.2"N 17°06'44.0"W

Best for: morning hours

This waterfall is at the very end of the Alecrim trail. It's small but awesome. In our opinion, way better than 25 Fontes. You'll see this beautiful waterfall right behind the lagoon. On hot and sunny day you can even go swimming in this little lagoon! The Lagoa Dona Beja is also a great spot to have lunch and enjoy peaceful sounds of the running water.







Lagoa do Vento

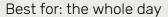
32°45'35.7"N 17°07'18.8"W

Best for: morning hours

It's a very nice waterfall, out of the trail of Levada Alecrim. To visit it, you'll have to walk some steep stairs down to it. You might not notice the height of the stairs until you return to the parking lot. The climb up is definitely more challenging than the way down! But it's so worth your effort. At the very bottom you'll find Lagoa do Vento. Here you can admire the beautiful lush surroundings and a high waterfall. If you want to cool off, you can take a dip in the lagoon, but be prepared for cold mountain water.

Aguage Waterfall

32°47'46.5"N 16°52'21.1"W



This is a very cool waterfall, although it gets strong only after a rainy day. It's often visited during guided jeep trips, but not too many individual travellers visit it, so you might have it just to yourself. You can park your car in front of the waterfall. The entrance is in front of the bus stop at Est. de St. Antonio.



Cascata do Salto do Patagarro

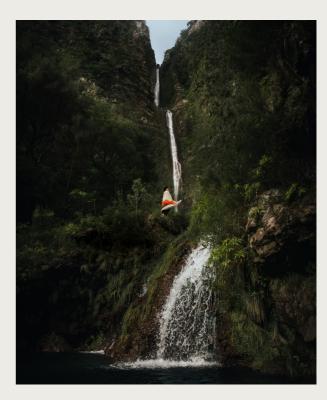


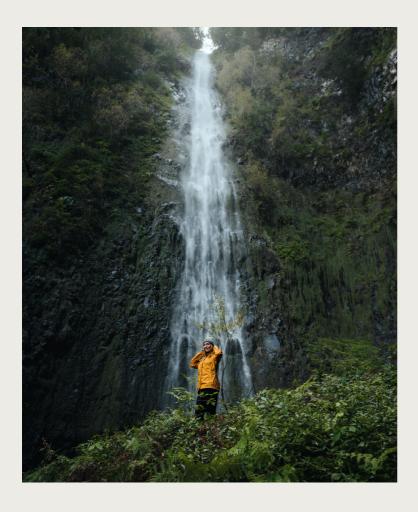
32°42'19.4"N 16°55'16.1"W

Best for: start your hike in the morning to get there for the best light (around midday)

This 3 level waterfall is hidden far in the Ribeira de Santa Luzia valley. This is an extremely beautiful waterfall, but it is quite challenging to get to it. If you are an experienced hiker and you love adventures, this is then a must-do one for you!

Do this hike only when it hasn't been raining for a few days and with good weather conditions during the day of your hike. Otherwise, the river might be too strong, rocks too slippery and you might have difficulties on the path.

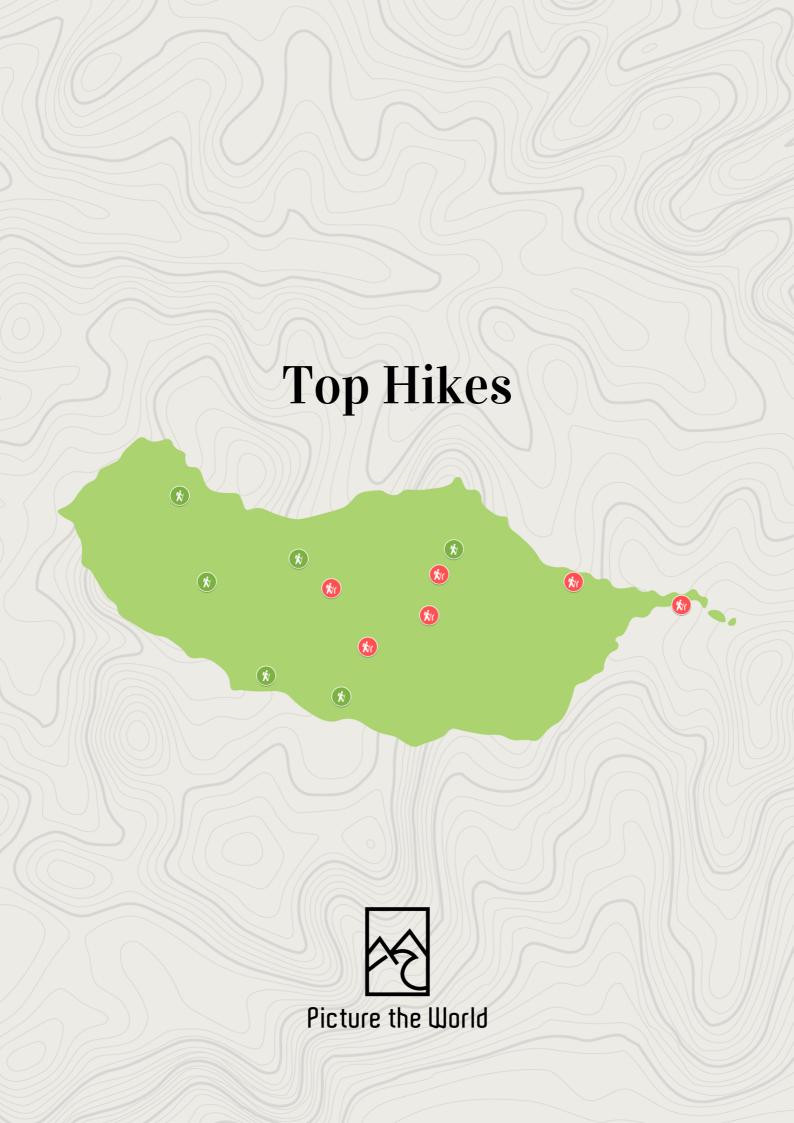






Best for: late morning hours

Agua d'Alto is one of our favorite waterfalls in Madeira! If you love waterfalls and jungle vibes - then this one is a must-do for you. The Água d'Alto waterfall is located in a canyon in Faial and is about 150 meters high! If you love a little walk 'off the beaten path' then the short 10 minute walk on a pleasant levada path is definitely for you. This waterfall is the most powerful after a rainy day. We recommend to combine this waterfall with visiting The Crane Viewpoint (at sunrise).





Vereda do Larano 32°45'37.6"N 16°48'01.4"W



Easy

▲ Total Distance: 10KM (round trip)

✓ Incline: 300M

Total Duration: 2 hours

The Vereda do Larano hike offers an incredible coastal experience, taking you along a cliff-side path on the eastern side of the island. This well-maintained trail allows you to admire the vast expanse of the ocean below, providing awe-inspiring views throughout your journey.

There's no other hike like this one on Madeira. We like to start this hike from the viewpoint in Porto da Cruz and finish at the other viewpoint - Boca do Risco. From Boca do Risco, you can also extend the hike to the town of Machico, but after passing the viewpoint the views aren't spectacular anymore.



PR1 Pico do Arieiro - Pico Ruivo

32°44'07.1"N 16°55'43.8"W



▲ Moderate/Hard

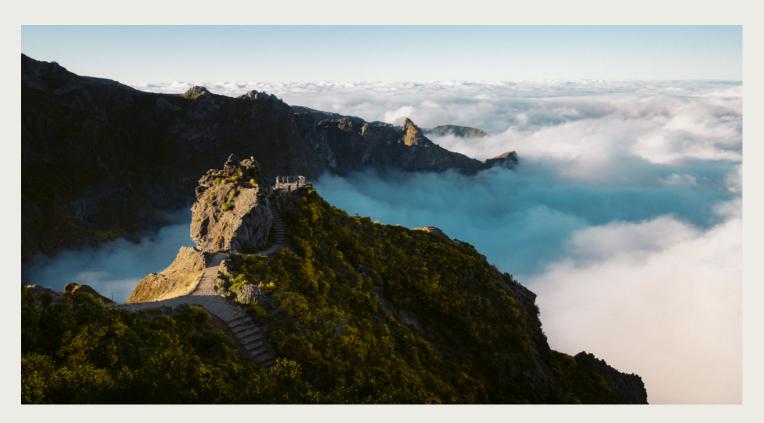
▲ Total Distance: 6KM (point to point)

✓ Incline: 500M

Total Duration: 3-4 hours

This challenging point-to-point trail takes you from Pico do Arieiro to Pico Ruivo, the highest peak on the island. The trail offers breathtaking views of the island's rugged interior. On your way, you'll pass few impressive viewpoints, like the popular balcony - Ninho da Manta and the Stairway to Heaven. This trail is very well maintained, some of the tunnels are quite dark, but a phone flashlight is totally enough to find your way. Keep in mind that after reaching Pico Ruivo, you'll need to hike back or take an expensive taxi to return to your car. The parking next to the trailhead allows you only to park there for one hour, so if you're going for the hike you should leave your car at the bottom parking and walk up 15 minutes to the starting point.

TOP HIKES 67



There's a restaurant at Pico Ruivo and at Pico do Arieiro, so there are some good options to rest and have lunch. To our observation, going to Pico do Arieiro to see sunrise become a some sort of ritual. There are hundreds of people there at that time and the parkings are totally full. That's why, we recommend to start this hike a little later to pass the busiest moment. Last time, we started at around noon and got back to Pico do Arieiro for sunset.

Pico do Arieiro often can be covered with clouds, so we advice to check The webcam (https://www.netmadeira.com/webcams-madeira/pico-do-arieiro) before heading there, to avoid bad weather conditions and plan your hike better.



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TOP HIKES 68



PR8 Vereda da Ponta de São Lourenço

32°44'36.1"N 16°42'03.4<u>"</u>W



Easy/Moderate

Total Distance: 7KM (round trip)

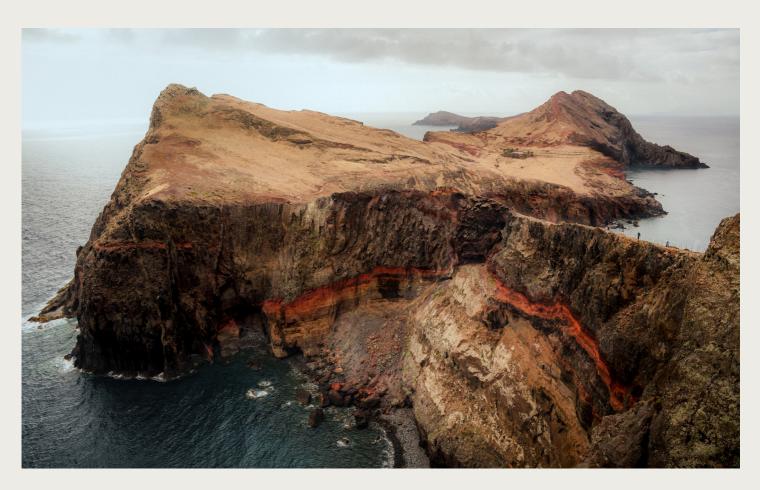
✓ Incline: 500M

Total Duration: 2-3 hours

This coastal hike on the eastern tip of Madeira offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and its rugged coastline. It is a really popular hike because it's not too far from Funchal and not too steep. The trail is mostly made of rocks and gravel, but it's easy to see where to go. Just make sure you have good shoes and pay attention to where you're walking. There are some places where it's a bit high, but there are always railings or wider paths to keep you safe. Overall, it's a good trail for everyone. The hike is a seven-kilometer trail that has several beautiful viewpoints, from which you can see how the coastline has changed over millions of years because of volcanic erosion. The best times to hike the trail are early in the morning or late in the afternoon, as the heat can be intense during the middle of the day. Additionally, hiking during these times will provide you with stunning views of the sunrise or sunset over the Atlantic Ocean, and of course, it will be less crowded! The trail ends at the restaurant Casa da Sardinha. From Casa da Sardinha, you can see a tall hill called Pico do Furado. The trail to this viewpoint is officially closed, but that doesn't stop anyone from climbing to the top. In our opinion, the hike isn't complete without summiting Pico do Furado. The trail to the top is well-prepared, and the area at the top seems very sturdy, as expected from a mountain peak. The top of Pico do Furado is a great spot for landscape photography, so you'll likely see some photographers with tripods if you go there in the morning. From here, you must return within the same way back to the parking lot, where the hike starts and ends.

TOP HIKES 69







PR17 Pinaculo e Folhadal

32°45'15.2"N 17°01'09.4"W



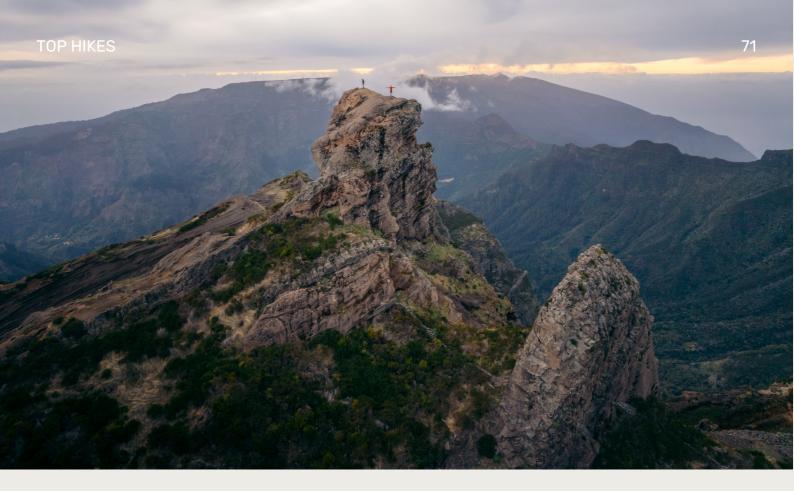
▲ Total Distance: 17KM (loop trail)

✓ Incline: 700M

☼ Total Duration: 5-7 hours

Caminho do Pinàculo e Folhadal is one of the hiking trails we love the most on Madeira Island. It takes you past many beautiful waterfalls, through thick Laurissilva forest, exciting tunnels and down steep rocky walls. This trail has everything that makes Madeira special. So, get your hiking gear ready and take your time to explore this trail. We promise you won't be disappointed. It's a 17km long trail that will make you tired, yes, but it also will make your day unforgettable! There is a small parking available at the beginning of the trail (opposite the Miradouro da

Encumeada tourist shop). Don't forget to bring a flashlight or a charged phone with flashlight for this hike, because you'll have several dark tunnels on this trail. The trail from Bica da Cana to Pináculo has waterfalls that flow right onto the path. You might get wet from the waterfalls - so get the jacket or a raincoat and be ready for fun! At the final part of the trail, when the weather is clear, Pináculo is becoming a great viewpoint to see the two highest mountains of Madeira: Pico do Arieiro and Pico Ruivo.



Pico Grande from Boca da Corrida

32°42'39.7"N 16°59'12.6"W



Moderate/Hard

▲ Total Distance: 10KM (round trip)

✓ Incline: 850M

Total Duration: 3-4 hours

There is a small parking available at the Boca da Corrida Viewpoint.

This is truly a hidden gem as only the most adventurous tourists decide to hike this trail. Pico Grande might be the best viewpoint on the whole island, offering a 360 panorama over the Nuns Valley and all the surrounding picks. The peak of Pico Grande is a very unique place, and you won't find anything similar to it on Madeira. To get to this peak, you can choose one of the 3 starting points. We like to start from a viewpoint Boca da Corrida, as this is the shortest way to get there. The first 2/3 of the hike is mostly a flat, pleasant walk with beautiful views, but the last part is a steep climb up, ending at the top of Pico Grande, a rewarding endeavor. You won't need to do any actual climbing, but a hiking experience and being comfortable in the mountains is obligatory.

TOP HIKES 72







PR 1.2 Vereda do Pico Ruivo

32°45'53.3"N 16°55'15.9"W



👞 Easy

▲ Total Distance: 3KM (point to point)

✓ Incline: 300M

Total Duration: 30 minutes

This amazing trail starts at Achada do Teixeira and leads you to Pico Ruivo, the highest point on Madeira Island, standing at an impressive 1862 meters in altitude. This is the shortest way leading to Madeira's highest peak. This trail is open year-round, but be prepared for rapid weather changes and slippery terrain if it rains. This trail isn't hard or challenging. Near the Pico Ruivo shelter, you'll find three other trails that can take you to different parts of the island: PR1 Vereda do Pico Arieiro, PR 1.3 Vereda da Encumeada, and PR 1.1 Vereda da Ilha.

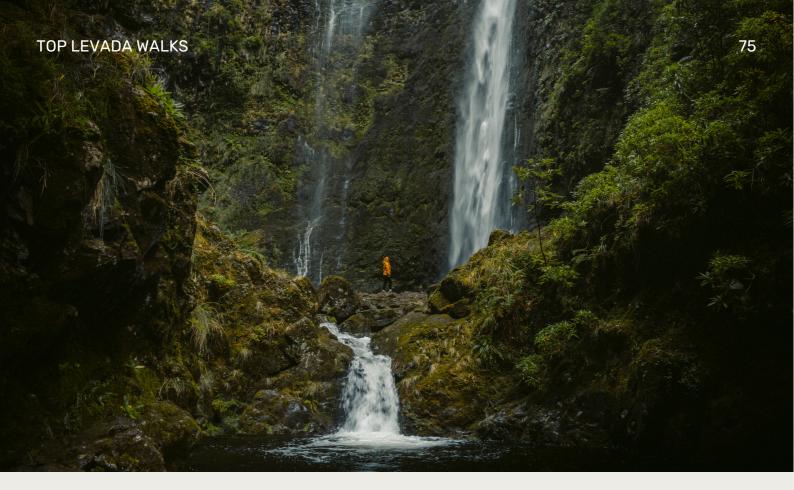
This hike is perfect for sunset. Here we've seen the most beautiful sunsets on this island!











PR9 Levada do Caldeirão Verde

32°47'00.7"N 16°54'25.2"W



Easy/Moderate

▲ Total Distance: 12KM

✓ Incline: 100M

☼ Total Duration: 3-5H

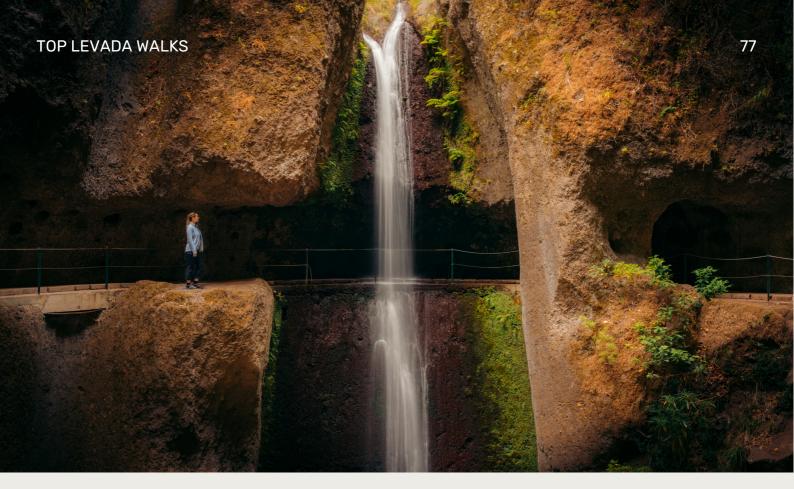
Levada do Caldeirão Verde is a 12-kilometer hike that will take you through the scenic landscapes of Santana. The path begins with some very scenic levada trails, completely surrounded by jungle. The lush greenery is very dense, you'll feel yourself in a real jungle. The trail passes through a dense forest, culminating in a stunning waterfall, and boasts incredible views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. There are several tunnels on the way. This trail is relatively easy and suitable for kids. From the waterfall, you can extend your hike to Levada do Inferno, which also ends with a beautiful waterfall.

There is a parking lot at the hiking trailhead. There's much going on here. You will find a nice cafe, small cottages where you can stay the night, ducks, a lagoon, and picnic areas here. It's a great place to have a coffee and cake before or after your hike.

TOP LEVADA WALKS 76







Levada Do Moinho To Levada Nova Hike

32°41'20.6"N 17°04'45.1"W



Easy/Moderate
Total Distance: 9KM

✓ Incline: 150M
☼ Total Duration: 3H

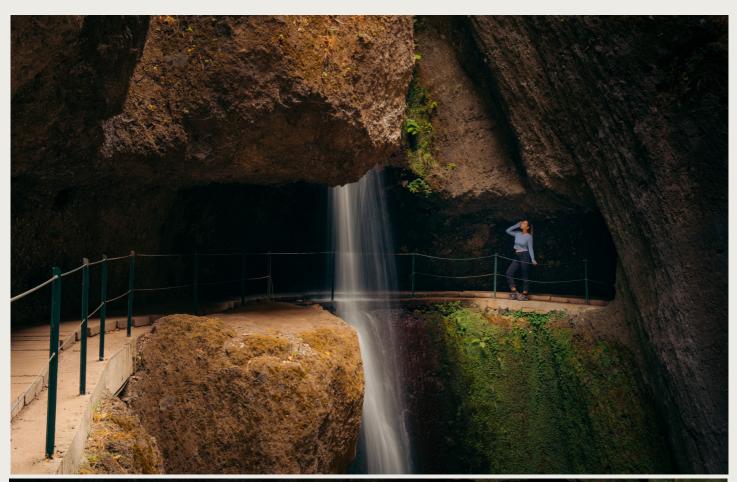
Levada Nova is a 9 km circuit hike combined out of two levadas that meet at a waterfall. This trail will take you through the picturesque valley and town of Ponta do Sol. Besides the stairs which connect two levadas, this trail is perfectly flat. The two levadas meet at a very unique waterfall carved in the rock with the trail leading just behind it. From the waterfall you'll continue to a short tunnel. It is important to know that there are several areas with abyss and without protection, so this hike is not recommended for less experienced hikers and definitely not for kids. There is parking and a toilet right next to the church where the trail begins. The trail actually begins behind this church. It's a little hidden but there's an alley behind the church that leads you to the Levada do Moinho.

TOP LEVADA WALKS 78

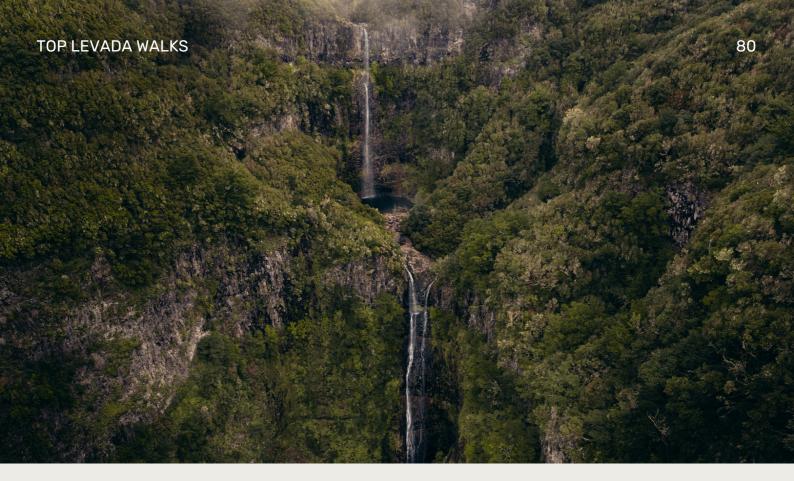




TOP LEVADA WALKS 79







PR6 25 Fontes hike & Levada do Risco

32°45'18.1"N 17°08'02.4"W



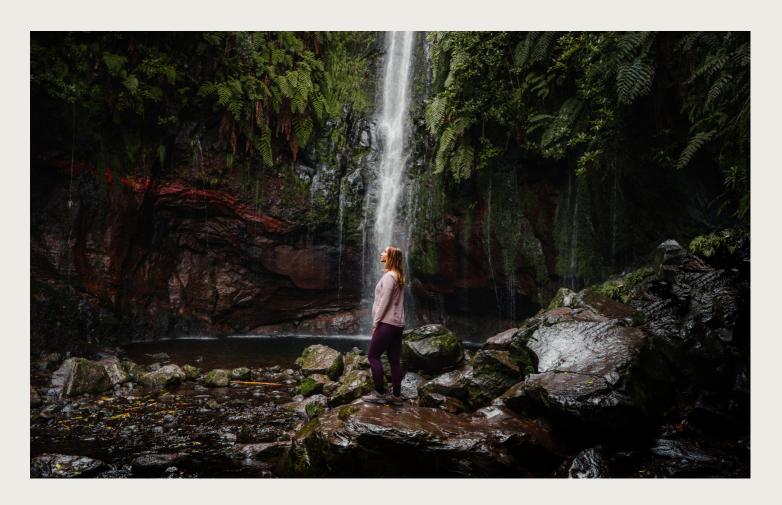
Easy/Moderate

▲ Total Distance: 8.6KM round trip

✓ Incline: 300M

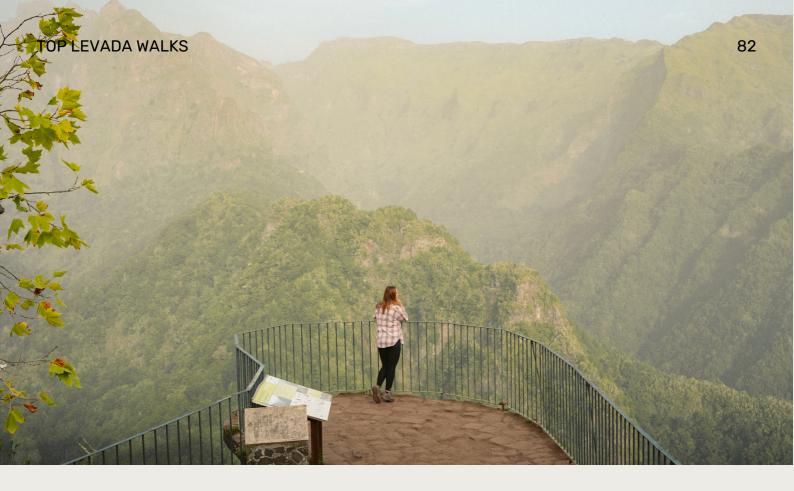
One of the most popular and accessible hikes on Madeira, Levada 25 Fontes, is located in the Rabaçal area. It is a 8.6 km walk that will take you through the stunning laurel forest to a waterfall of 30 meters cascading down surrounded by 25 natural springs. From there, you can go to a viewing platform from which you can see one of the tallest waterfalls on Madeira - Risco Waterfall. The trail is well-marked and is of moderate difficulty, making it a perfect hike for beginners or those with some hiking experience. However, some sections of the trail can be narrow and steep, so it's important to wear sturdy hiking shoes and bring plenty of water and snacks.

TOP LEVADA WALKS 81





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PR11 Levada dos Balcões

32°44'07.9"N 16°53'10.9"W

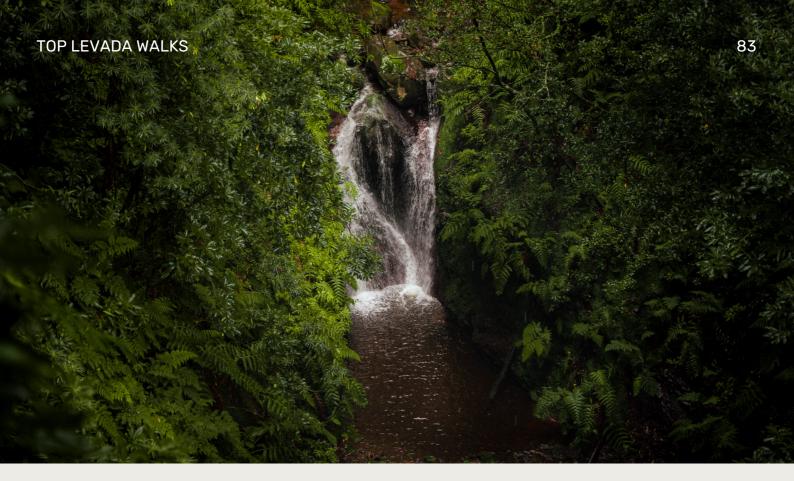


🟊 Easy

▲ Total Distance: 3KM round trip

✓ Incline: 30M
☼ Total Duration: 1H

This is the shortest, the easiest and the most rewarding trail on Madeira. The total length is just 1 and half kilometre point to point and it's totally flat. The whole trail is shaded by lush plants and trees. At its end, you'll reach to one of the most incredible viewpoints in the whole Madeira. From this balcony, you can see a beautiful green valley with Madeira's highest mountains in the back. The trail begins at Ribeiro Frio, following Levada da Serra do Faial all the way to the Balcões viewpoint. Ribeiro Frio is a captivating attraction with beautiful gardens, ponds, and picturesque streams and waterfalls. Due to the trail's popularity, parking can be challenging, so we recommend to come here early in the morning. You'll find various restaurants, cafes, restrooms, information offices, and facilities at Ribeiro Frio.



PR16 Levada Fajã do Rodrigues

32°46'45.3"N 17°02'58.5"W



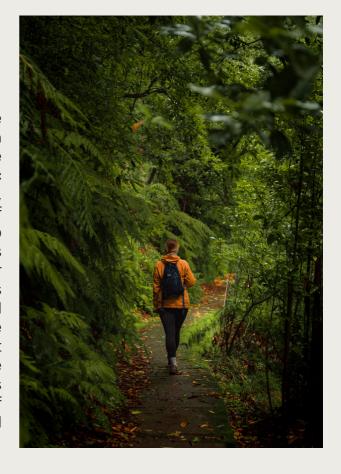
🟊 Easy

▲ Total Distance: 16KM

✓ Incline: 100M

Total Duration: 2-3H

Levada Fajã do Rodrigues is a 16 km hike that will take you through the beautiful landscapes of northern Madeira. The trail follows a narrow channel along the cliffside, offering breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding mountains. On the way, you'll have to pass through several tunnels. One of them is veeeery long, narrow and low, so you'll have to walk bended for about a kilometer. On rainy days this trail gets very wet, so you might have to walk in water if the bad weather catch you on the way. The hike is relatively easy and is suitable for adult hikers of all levels, but it can be tough for people who don't like tight spaces or have back issues. It's a point to point trail ending on a small waterfall. From there you'll have to turn back and return with the same way. There is lots of parking space at the trailhead and a number of signs directing you from the parking lot to the official trailhead.





Levada dos Cedros

32°49'33.5"N 17°09'28.7"W



Easy/Moderate

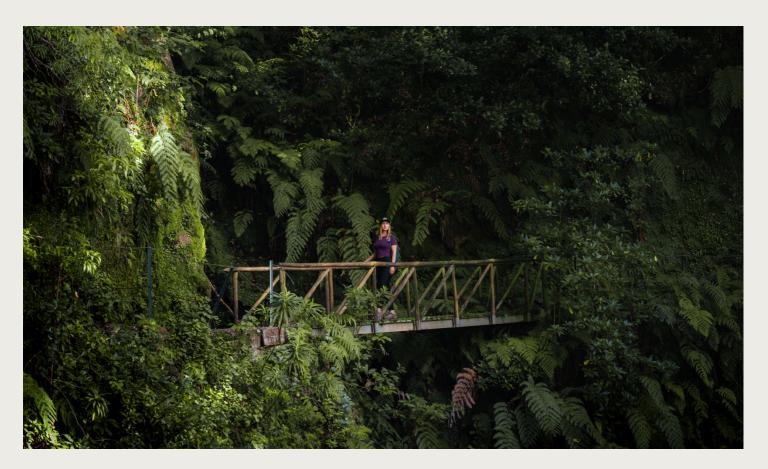
▲ Total Distance: 11KM

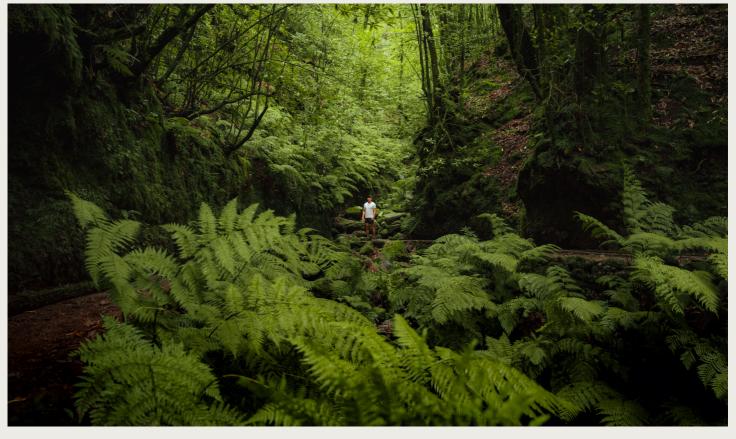
Incline: 400M if you return via Fanal; 100M if you do an out and back trail

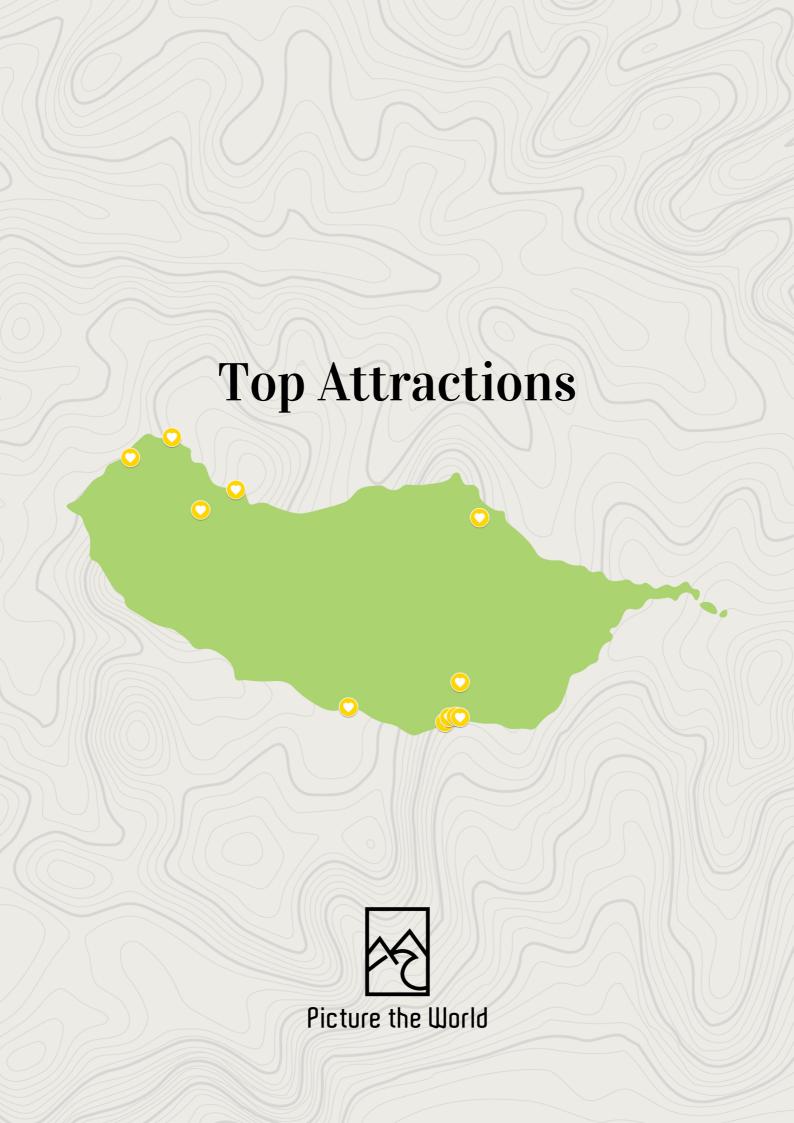
Total Duration: 3-4H

Levada dos Cedros is a 11 km circuit hike that will take you through a beautiful forest of cedar trees and along a winding levada that is with few exceptions, mostly covered by trees. The trail is well-marked and has a moderate level of difficulty, making it accessible to hikers of all levels. However, some sections of the trail can be slippery, so it's important to wear appropriate footwear and bring a raincoat or umbrella in case of rain. There is one point of interest on this trail - a small valley full of small waterfalls. It's quite open and it seems like a good place to have a rest. From there, you can go back within the same way or walk over a kilometre upstairs to Fanal forest - another top location on Madeira.

TOP LEVADA WALKS 85











Achadas da Cruz Cablecar

32°51'10.3"N 17°12'35.6"W

Opening Hours:

8am-11:30am, 12:30pm-6pm/7pm (depending on the season). In summer it stays open until 7pm, while during winter months – when the days are shorter – it closes at 6pm

Cost: €5 EUR

Best time to visit: late afternoon-sunset

This cable car leading to the Fajā da Quebrada Nova is one of a kind! It's known as Teleférico das Achadas da Cruz and it has a 98% slope, making it the steepest cable car in Europe. It connects Achadas da Cruz to the peaceful Fajā da Quebrada Nova, offering a panoramic view over an unequalled coastal landscape.

Fajã da Quebrada Nova is a secluded fishing and farming village perched between the ocean and an impressive 500m high cliff. You can reach it either by this cable car or on foot, hiking the steep Vereda do Calhau.

The cablecar ride is truly impressive. Down the village you can walk on the promenade and enjoy the views over the ocean on one side and the rocky cliffs on the other. Locals still come here to cultivate this small but fertile piece of land. Next to the upper cable car station, there is a small snack bar.

Porto Moniz Natural Swimming Pools

32°52'06.9"N 17°10'14.2"W



Opening Hours: 9am - 5pm during the winter months and 9am - 7pm during the summer time

Cost: €3 EUR

Best time to visit: sunny and hot days (when the weather is cool and gloomy the water is a bit too cold for swimming)

The natural swimming pools of Porto Moniz, located in the municipality of Porto Moniz, are saltwater pools formed by lava formations near the ocean. Filled naturally by the tides and crashing waves, these pools offer clear warm water and stunning views. With a relaxed atmosphere, Porto Moniz attracts visitors seeking a tranquil day in the sun. What sets this place apart from a regular beach is the opportunity to walk along a boardwalk and dip your toes into the various depths of these open waters. Amenities at the pools include locker areas, showers, and bars, with a convenient nearby parking lot available free of charge.







Santana Traditional Houses

32°48'19.5"N 16°52'57.4"W

Opening Hours: 9am - 7pm Cost: no entrance fee Best time to visit: any time

The traditional Santana Madeira houses are iconic symbols of the island's rich cultural heritage. These unique homes, characterized by their triangular thatched roofs and red, white, and blue colors, provide a fascinating glimpse into the history and traditions of Madeira. These homes have a long and storied past, dating back to the discovery of Madeira in 1419. Originally used by local farmers during the island's settlement, Santana houses are famous for their distinctive roofs and colorful exteriors.

While locals no longer live in these small triangular houses, you can still visit the island's casa tipicas on a trip to Madeira. The majority of these traditional houses are located in the picturesque village of Santana, which is renowned for its concentration of these historic island homes. Convenient parking is available nearby.

Seixal Natural Swimming Pools

32°49'38.3"N 17°06'39.5"W



Opening Hours: you can access these pools at any time of the day

Cost: no entrance fee

Best time to visit: May to October are the warmer months

for visiting and taking a pleasant swim

The Seixal natural pools, known as Poça das Lesmas, are unique tidal baths that were formed amidst lava formations. One of the main attractions of these pools is the picturesque rock arch, which serves as an access point to the water and provides a great backdrop for photos. The large rock formations and stunning views of the pools make for a scenic experience. The water is pleasantly warm during the summer and refreshingly cool, but still enjoyable, for a swim in the winter. Similar to Porto Moniz, Seixal has several natural pool complexes. One of these complexes is situated near the popular Seixal beach and harbor. And the one we are talking about here is located on the opposite side of town towards Porto Moniz.



When you arrive at the Seixal Natural Pools, park your car up on the main road and walk down the steep driveway. You can drive all the way down to the pools but the road back up will be very steep. So it's better to leave it up at the parking lot.

Blandy's Wine Lodge

32°38'52.3"N 16°54'38.2"W

Opening Hours: check the schedule of the tours here: https://www.blandyswinelodge.com/en/tours/

Cost: from €10.5 - €110 EUR (depends on the kind of the tour)

Best time to visit: morning hours (in the morning there are not too many people signing for the tour, so each group has less people)

A visit to Blandy's Wine Lodge offers a unique opportunity to explore 200 years of Madeira wine history. As the heart of the family's wine business, it houses over 650 barrels and vats where their finest wines age using the traditional "canteiro" method. The Premium & Vintage visit includes a tour of the old cooperage, aging warehouses, grape to wine-themed room, Sala dos Leões (Lions Room), private Family collection, and the Blandy Family Museum. Your knowledgeable guide will explain the barrel-making process, grape transformation, Brazilian satin vats, and lead you through the impressive Sala dos Leões, private collection, and Museum showcasing unique artifacts. The tour concludes with a tasting of 4 Madeira wines. This visit will immerse you in the history and aromas of Madeira Wine.









Monte Toboggan

32°40'31.6"N 16°54'09.2"W

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9am-6pm Cost: from €25 EUR; children up to 5 years old: free Best time to visit: come to the ride in the morning hours, as it can be very crowded. Depending on the time of year and day, you might have to wait a while (1-2 hours)

No visit to Madeira Island is complete without a hair-raising ride on a Monte Sledge. The Monte toboggan ride is an exhilarating 2-kilometer journey, reaching speeds of up to 30 kilometers per hour! This thrilling experience takes you down a steep hill with winding roads, adding an extra element of fun. Two men wearing rubber-soled boots will assist in guiding the toboggans along the winding route. The ride ends in Livramento, a suburb of Funchal. At the finishing point, you can buy a photograph taken during your ride, and there is also a souvenir shop, bar, and restroom available. Additionally, there are taxi and bus services available from Livramento back to Funchal. It's so much fun and easily one of the best things to do in Madeira if you want something a little quirky! If the weather is bad and it rains, the sledges will probably not ride.

The CR7 Museum to Cristiano Ronaldo



32°38'39.0"N 16°54'50.1"W

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 10am - 6pm

Cost: €5

Best time to visit: any time of the schedule

The CR7 Museum was opened on December 15, 2013 and is where the history of Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo is depicted. The museum is located on Avenida Sá Carneiro near the Port of Funchal and next to the hotel named after him. Cristiano Ronaldo, the legendary footballer and Funchal-native, is undoubtedly the most famous modern figure from Madeira. His impact is evident as the Madeirans have renamed their airport after him and established the CR7 Museum dedicated to his legacy. If you're a soccer enthusiast, this museum is a must-visit. Embark on a captivating journey through the life of one of football's greatest icons, starting from the place where his dreams first took flight. Explore the museum's impressive collection, featuring dazzling trophies and cherished memorabilia, and be inspired by the incredible achievements of this soccer legend.



Mercado dos Lavradores

32°38'54.7"N 16°54'15.0"W

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 7am - 7pm; Saturday: 7am - 2pm

Cost: no entrance fee

Best time to visit: early morning

The Farmers Market in the center of Funchal is a vibrant hub for fruits, vegetables, herbs, flowers, and fish. Immerse yourself in the lively local atmosphere, with colorful stalls and a diverse mix of sounds and smells. The Mercado dos Lavradores, a stunning building designed by Edmundo Tavares and opened in November 1940, houses different areas connected by passages and staircases. Visit to experience something new and discover fruits you may have never seen before. However, it's advisable not to buy your fruits, veggies, or herbs here as they tend to be overpriced. Many tourists feel disappointed with their purchases here, so be cautious and avoid falling into this tourist trap. The Farmers Market is open daily, except on Sundays and holidays. For a special treat, Friday is the best day to visit when traditionally dressed flower ladies sell beautiful exotic flowers.

Rua de Santa Maria - The Street Art of Funchal



32°38'52.4"N 16°54'03.3"W

Opening Hours: you can visit the place at any

time of the day or night Cost: no entrance fee Best time to visit: any time

Rua de Santa Maria, located in the old town (zona velha) of Funchal is a charming and colorful street with a rich history. This cobbled street, dating back to 1430, leads up to the Santa Maria Maior church and is exclusively for pedestrians. Lined with restaurants, cafes, and art galleries, it offers a delightful stroll for visitors.

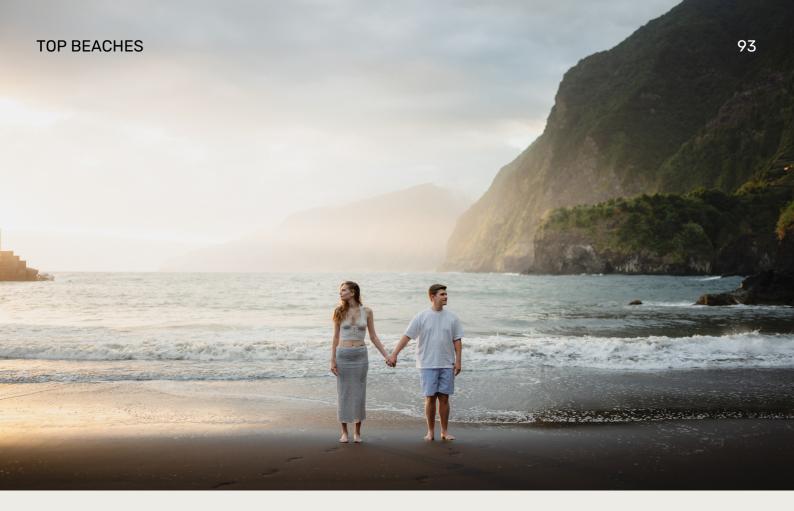
The Santa Maria district, particularly its restaurant street, is home to numerous stunning murals and painted doors. Behind this vibrant street art lies a tragic tale - in 2010, heavy flooding devastated this part of Funchal, causing significant damage to streets and buildings. However, the Old Town has managed to retain its charm and has been revitalized as a lively area of the city adorned with colorful street art. In an effort to rejuvenate the slightly worn-out area, the local council initiated the "Art of Open Doors" project in 2014, transforming Rua de Santa Maria into a public art space. Over two hundred doors along the street were given new life as local artists were invited to showcase their creativity. The aim was to create art that not only beautifies the street but also invites people to engage with a deeper experience. Since then, the street has become one of Funchal's most popular tourist attractions, enchanting visitors with its artistic charm.



Top Beaches







Praia do Porto do Seixal





Facilities: restaurant, toilets, showers, changing rooms, free parking lot.

Seixal Beach is located on the northwestern coast of Madeira and is considered one of the most beautiful beaches in Europe. Unlike many other beaches in Madeira, Seixal Beach stands out for its sandy shoreline, which is quite unique. The beach offers a breathtaking view with its backdrop of green cliffs, a distant waterfall cascading into the ocean, and the soft black sand. It is a perfect destination for beachgoers, photographers, and surfers alike. This beach is an ideal spot to witness a beautiful sunrise.

You can combine your visit to Seixal Beach with other attractions such as the Porto Moniz Natural Pools, the Seixal Natural Pools and Bridal Veil Waterfall (Véu da Noiva). Seixal Beach does not have an entry fee, and the small parking lot is also free of charge. If the parking lot gets crowded, you may need to park further up the hill.











Praia Alagoa





Facilities: restaurant, bar, free parking lot, playground; changing rooms, toilets (those were built in 2023 and were not open yet - might be open soon).

Alagoa Beach, located on the northeast coast of Madeira, offers a serene and picturesque retreat for beach and nature enthusiasts. With its contrasting colors of crystal-clear blue water, lush green mountains, and black sand, it creates an unforgettable scene. Whether you want to take a refreshing swim, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the shore, or simply bask in the beauty of the surroundings, Praia Alagoa promises a peaceful and rejuvenating experience. This beach is popular spot for surfers, so there is a big chance you'll see surfing schools having their surf classes there.

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Praia da Maiata





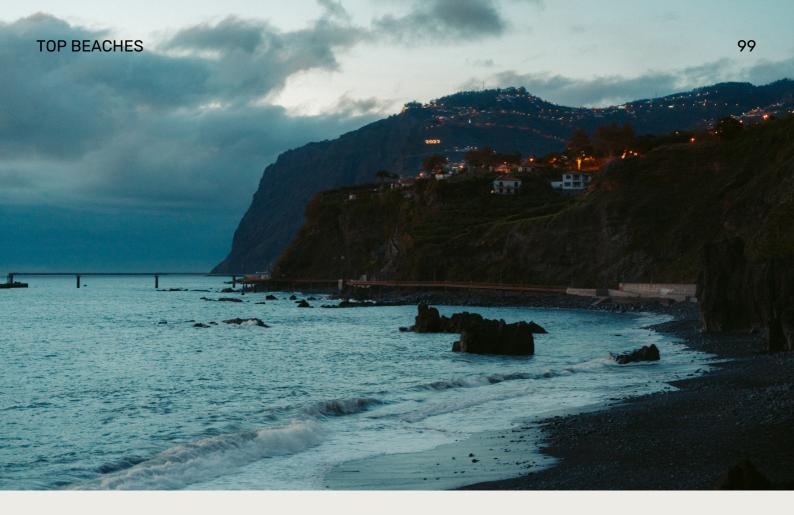
Facilities: showers, free parking lot.

Praia da Maiata is one of the top pebble beaches on Madeira. Situated in Porto da Cruz, this wide and stunning pebble beach offers a unique feature - the majestic Penha d'Águia (Eagle's Rock), towering at an impressive height of 598 meters, serves as a captivating backdrop, adding a touch of untamed beauty to the beach. Praia da Maiata is a popular surfing destination, attracting surfers from around the World. It might look like a rocky pebble beach, but after a few meters the bottom is sandy so you can walk pretty comfortably there.

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Praia Formosa

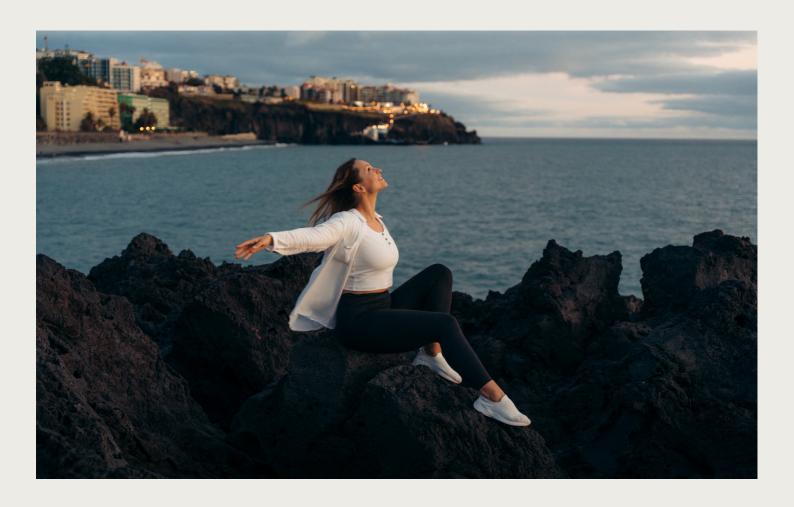


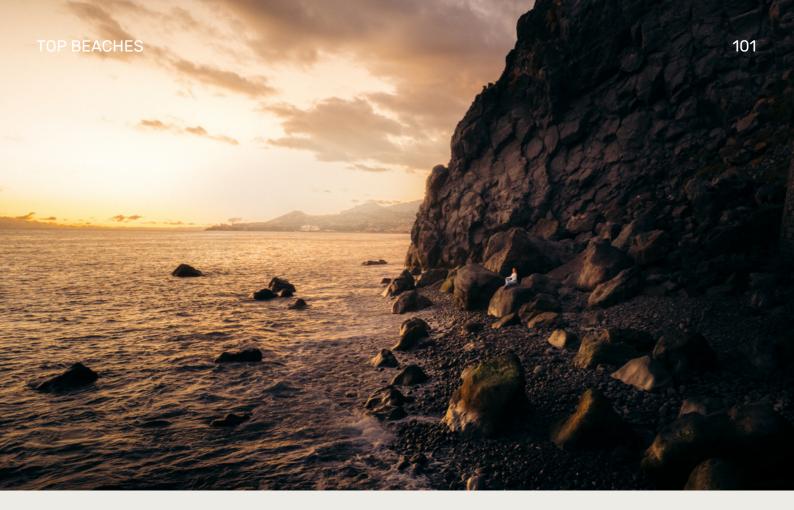


Facilities: restaurant, toilets, showers, changing rooms, free parking lot and a lifeguard service.

Praia Formosa, situated in Funchal, is the largest beach on the island. It is made of four small beaches, known as Praia Nova, Praia Formosa, Praia dos Namorados and Praia do Arieiro. Praia Formosa and its long promenade, which connects all the beaches, are perfect for relaxation or a romantic, pleasant walk. Another great thing at the beach is the huge rock with stairs. You can climb this rock to watch the sunset, enjoying the views around. It's a fun photo spot and a lovely place to relax. As the beach is located on the edge of Funchal, it might not feel as the most secluded nature beach in Madeira, but it's still one of the best beaches on the island!

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Praia Garajau

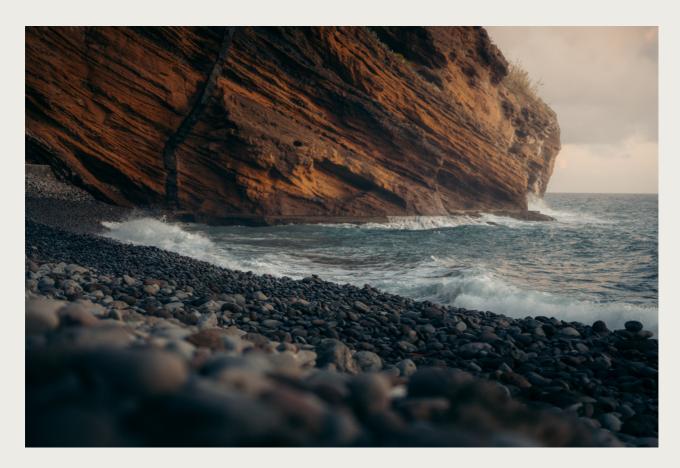


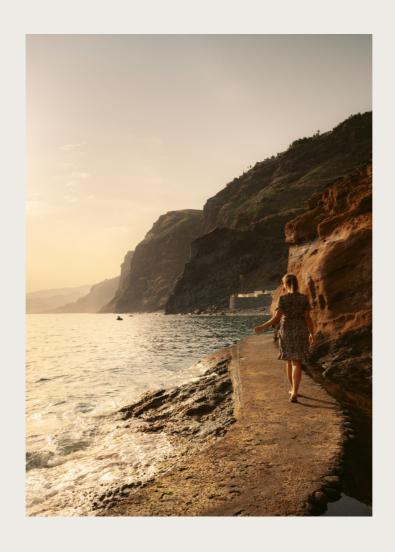


Facilities: restaurant, toilets, showers, changing rooms, picnic area and a lifeguard service.

Garajau beach is our personal favorite on the island! It is a charming small pebble beach nestled at the base of the cliffs, offering crystal clear blue water and amazing views. The beach is known for its excellent scuba diving and snorkeling conditions, attracting enthusiasts of both activities. Situated within the Garajau Natural Partial Reserve, you can access the beach either by a cable car or by driving down the curvy road. It's important to note that the road is quite narrow, so it's important to drive slowly and use your horn to alert oncoming cars. Parking at Garajau beach is free of charge. The cable car operates from 10am to 6pm in winter and from 10 am to 8pm in summer, you can check the schedule on official website. There is a nice restaurant available right on the beach. For a small fee of €2, you can rent a sun bed, and for €1 - a parasol.

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Praia da Machico





Facilities: restaurants, several snack bars, toilets, showers, changing rooms, football and volley ball practice areas, two kiddie pools, free parking and a lifeguard service.

One of the most popular beaches in Madeira, Praia de Machico has calm, warm waters. The sea walls protect the swim area from the ocean current and waves which makes it a very safe place to swim. Swaying palms and rugged hills make for a picturesque backdrop. The busy promenade extending around the beach is perfect for a pleasant walk. Machico provides more amenities than most Madeira beaches, chair and umbrella rentals, and a variety of water sports. There are several snack bars and restaurants, plus an excellent ice cream kiosk near the beach. Just like Calheta beach Machico Beach was also created by the Government who invested 3 million euros to important the sand from the Sahara desert!



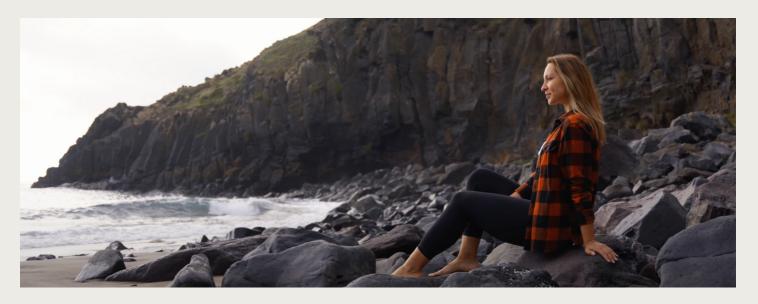
Praia da Prainha





Facilities: restaurant, toilets, showers and free parking.

Prainha Beach stands out as one of the rare natural sandy beaches in Madeira, surrounded by beautiful rock formations and dunes on both sides. Prainha Beach may not be the largest beach, but its intimate and secluded atmosphere is enhanced by the cozy little bay and the soft brownish-black volcanic sand. Prainha beach is located in Caniçal in the most eastern tail of Madeira, the area of Ponta de São Lourenço. You can easily park above Prainha beach at the free parking lot, from where you have stairs leading down to the beach.





Praia dos Reis Magos





Facilities: restaurants, toilets, showers, changing rooms, a lifeguard service in summer and a free parking lot.

Praia dos Reis Magos is a pretty beach known for its crystal-clear waters, perfect for swimming, snorkeling, and scuba diving. Despite its small size and popularity, the beach remains clean and peaceful. It attracts a diverse crowd of locals and tourists who can enjoy a full day of sunshine and clear waters. This beach offers activities such as waterskiing and windsurfing, providing stunning views and a unique perspective of Caniço de Baixo. With abundant marine life, you can rent equipment from nearby diving schools to explore the underwater wonders. A local fishing ban allows numerous underwater species to flourish at this nature reserve, making it one of Madeira's top diving sites. Parking is available in a lot located just above the beach.



Praia da Ponta do Sol





Facilities: restaurant, toilets, showers, changing rooms, a lifeguard service in summer and a paid parking lot.

Ponta do Sol, which translates as "sun point," lives up to its name by offering abundant sunshine on clear days. Ponta do Sol beach is hidden in a small cove in between the slopes of the valley and is only 160 meters long. The beach boasts perfect small pebbles and is protected by sea walls, ensuring a safe swimming experience. The calm and crystal-clear ocean water adds to the allure, with lifeguards present during the summer months. Additionally, the village surrounding the beach is home to a variety of restaurants, bars, and shops, providing all the conveniences necessary for a comfortable day at the beach.



Praia Calheta





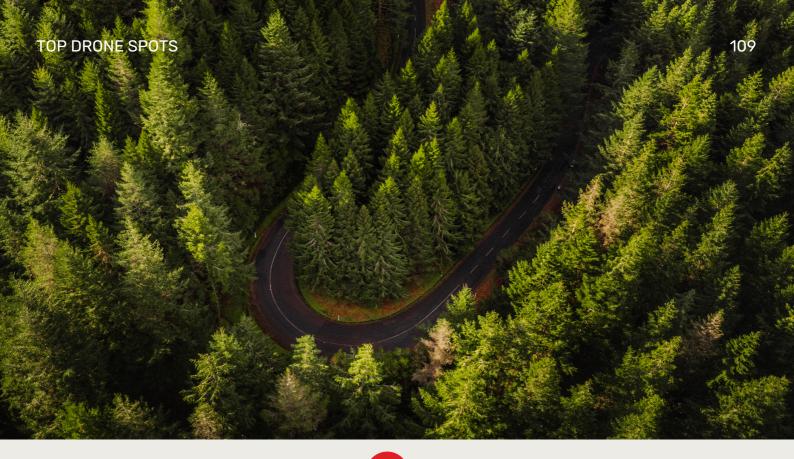
Facilities: restaurants, toilets, showers, changing rooms, a lifeguard service in summer and a paid parking lot.

Calheta Beach is considered one of the best sandy beaches on Madeira Island. Although it may not be as stunning as some other beaches on the island, it is still a favorite among vacationers, tourists, and locals in the Calheta region. This beach offers soft sand and is easily accessible, making it a convenient choice for families. You can spend a few hours here, enjoying the warm Portuguese sunshine. If you prefer some shade, you have the option to rent an umbrella or sun bed. Because it is an enclosed swimming area and the barriers are stopping big waves, Calheta Beach is a really safe place to swim. It's a very family-friendly beach with lifeguards and a good atmosphere. There is plenty parking spots available on the street near the beach, but it's important to note that there is a small hourly fee for parking. So be sure that you have some Euro coins on hand as card payments are not accepted here. In addition to its parking facilities, Calheta Beach features a charming promenade that stretches alongside the beach. This scenic walkway offers visitors stunning views of the ocean and the picturesque hillsides, making it a delightful spot for a leisurely stroll.

Top Drone Spots







Sharp turn in the forest



32°43'15.6"N 16°53'00.7"W

Explore the winding road through the forest and capture stunning aerial views of the intricate tree patterns below. This picturesque route is perfect for a leisurely stop after visiting Pico do Arieiro.

Jardim do Mar Promenade



32°44'19.6"N 17°12'46.7"W

Any place on the main promenade is good to set out the drone from. Jardim do Mar is also the best place to photograph surfers.



Cais Seixal 32°49'19.6"N 17°06'06.2"W

It's an excellent spot to launch your drone for capturing stunning aerial photos of Seixal.







Pico Grande

32°44'14.0"N 16°59'16.3"W

Ideal for sunrise or sunset views, this hike may be challenging but can be done relatively quickly in the afternoon to witness the stunning sunset from the summit.





Ponta do Sol Pier

32°40'41.3"N 17°06'14.5"W

For a breathtaking sunset experience, head to Ponta do Sol Pier. Launching your drone from the Pier offers a fantastic starting point for capturing stunning aerial views.



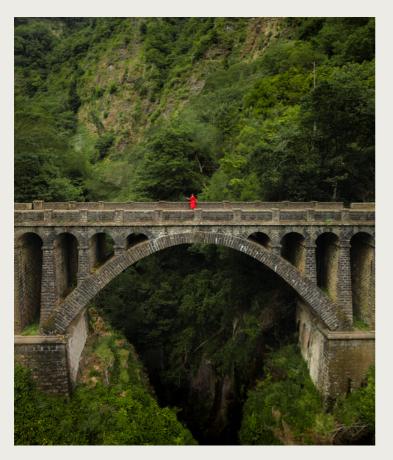


Câmara de Lobos Harbour

32°38'50.0"N 16°58'29.8"W

This town is just perfect for drone photography. We like to stay on the promenade while piloting the drone.







Old Bridge in Santana

32°45'15.3"N 16°52'51.0"W

The Old Bridge is still functional and offers a fascinating view from a drone's perspective. You can conveniently park your car near the bridge. The traffic in this area is minimal.

Piscinas Naturais do Aquário

32°52'04.4"N 17°09'58.5"W



Formed by volcanic rocks, the natural saltwater pools are one of the most attractive and emblematic spots on the north coast of the island of Madeira. Park at the big free parking after the roundabout and come early to beat the crowds to make your perfect shot.





Ribeira da Janela rocks



If you have a drone you should definitely fly it here to see the epic coastline and Ribeira da Janela rocks from the air. With the drone you can see the rocks from every side which is interesting to see because the rocks have a completely different perspective from every angle.





Capelinha de Nossa Senhora de Fátima

32°47'48.7"N 17°02'14.9"W

The tiny Chapel in Sao Vicente. Situated on the top of a hill, this small chapel, whose façades are painted in white, contrasts with its green surroundings. Its unusual look catches the eye. There's no real parking on the sight, but there'll be surely a place to park the car on the side.



Abandoned Small Houses at Pico das Pedras



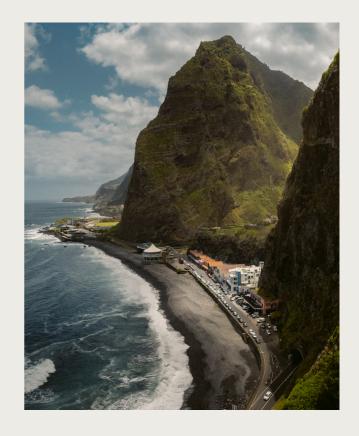


The quaint green-roofed houses you see are remnants of an abandoned hotel nestled at Pico das Pedras in Santana. They make for a perfect subject for aerial drone photography.

Praia de São Vicente 32°48'30.7"N 17°03'01.4"W



Best in the morning. Fantastic place to fly the drone. It's never busy, so you can just sit down on the beach and fly your drone.





Paúl da Serra Crossroad



32°45'27.9"N 17°05'49.9"W

Discover a crossroads seemingly in the middle of nowhere—a hidden gem along your journey worth pausing for. Capture captivating drone shots with this unique landscape.





Pico do Furado

32°44'19.1"N 16°40'49.0"W

Pico do Furado, located in São Lourenço, offers breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape and the Atlantic Ocean. This iconic spot is renowned for its dramatic cliffs and natural arches, attracting visitors and photographers seeking unforgettable vistas.

5 Day Itinerary





Picture the World

Sunrise at Ponta do Rosto

Start your day early and head to Ponta do Rosto, a scenic viewpoint on the east coast of the island that offers panoramic views over the Atlantic Ocean. Watch the sun rise over the horizon and take in the breathtaking beauty of the rugged coastline and the surrounding hills.

Hike the PR8 Trail

After watching the sunrise, head to the nearby PR8 trail, one of Madeira's most beautiful hiking routes. The trail offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape. It's a moderate-level hike that takes about 2-3 hours to complete.

Lunch in Porto da Cruz

After your hike, head to the picturesque village of Porto da Cruz, known for its sugar cane production and traditional rum distillery. Have lunch at one of the local restaurants, and try some of the island's delicious seafood dishes, such as grilled limpets or espada (scabbard fish) with banana.

Miradouro do Guindaste

After lunch, drive to Miradouro do Guindaste, a scenic viewpoint that overlooks the north coast of the island. From here, you can see the village of Porto da Cruz, the Penha d'Aguia rock formation, and the surrounding mountains and valleys.

Agua di Alto Waterfall

Next, head to Agua di Alto Waterfall, one of Madeira's hidden gems. The waterfall is located in a secluded valley, surrounded by lush vegetation and towering cliffs. It's a short walk from the parking lot to the waterfall.

Sunset at Pico do Arieiro

Finish your day with a spectacular sunset at Pico do Arieiro, the third highest peak on the island. Drive up to the summit, and watch the sun set over the mountains and the clouds. It's a truly magical experience that will leave you with unforgettable memories of Madeira.









DAY 2

Morning at Seixal Beach

Start your day with a relaxing morning at Seixal Beach, a stunning black sand beach on the north coast of the island. Enjoy a swim in the clear waters of the Atlantic Ocean or take a stroll along the shoreline. The beach is surrounded by towering cliffs and lush vegetation, making it a picturesque spot for a morning beach walk.

Ribeira da Janela

After your morning at Seixal Beach, drive to Ribeira da Janela, a scenic beach and viewpoint located on the west coast of the island. The beach is known for its natural rock formations and the dramatic cliffs that surround it. The viewpoint offers breathtaking views of the rugged coastline and the ocean.



Next, head to Porto Moniz, a village famous for its natural swimming pools. The pools are formed by volcanic rocks and filled with crystal clear seawater, making them a popular spot for swimming and sunbathing. Have lunch at one of the local restaurants, and try some of the island's traditional dishes, such as the black scabbard fish or the grilled limpets.

Cable car at Achadas da Cruz

After lunch, head to Achadas da Cruz, a mountainous area on the northwestern coast of the island, where you can take a cable car ride that offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape. The cable car takes you down a 500-meter descent over the cliffs, ending at the seaside village of Fajã da Quebrada Nova. Along the way, you can admire the rugged terrain, the lush vegetation, and the spectacular waterfalls that cascade down the cliffs.

Sunset at Ponta do Pargo

Finish your day with a breathtaking sunset at Ponta do Pargo, a scenic viewpoint on the westernmost tip of the island. From here, you can see the ocean, the mountains, and the clouds. It's a peaceful and romantic spot to watch the sun set over the horizon, and the perfect end to a wonderful day on Madeira.









Sunrise at Pico do Arieiro

Start your day early by watching the sunrise at Pico do Arieiro, the third-highest peak on Madeira. The view from the top is breathtaking and offers a panoramic view of the island's landscape.

Long Hike

After seeing sunrise, head on a hike to the PR1 trail, one of Madeira's most famous hiking trails. Most of the trails on Madeira are point to point trails, which means that after finishing the hike you'll have to come back same way. This can make the hike a bit boring, but the good part is that you can go as far as you like and return whenever you'll feel uncomfortable or tired.



- **1.**Levada dos Balcoes: This is a popular hiking trail that takes you through a lush forest, with beautiful views of the Ribeira da Metade valley. The trail is relatively easy and takes about 45 minutes to complete. At the end of the trail, you'll reach a viewpoint that offers stunning views of the valley and surrounding mountains.
- 2. Levada PR9: This hiking trail takes you through the stunning Ribeiro Frio valley, with beautiful views of the Laurissilva forest and surrounding mountains. The trail is moderately difficult and takes about 3-4 hours to complete. Along the way, you'll see several waterfalls and cross over several wooden bridges.
- **3.** Vereda do Larano: This is a challenging hiking trail that takes you along a narrow path cut into the side of a cliff, with beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean. The trail is steep and requires a good level of fitness, but the views are very worth the effort. The trail takes about 3 hours to complete.
- **4.** Levada 25 Fontes: This is a stunning hiking trail that takes you through the Rabaçal valley, with beautiful views of the Laurissilva forest and surrounding mountains. The trail is moderately difficult and takes about 3-4 hours to complete. Along the way, you'll see several waterfalls and end at the impressive 25 Fontes waterfall.

End the Day at Formosa Beach

End your day on a relaxing note by enjoying the sunset at Formosa beach. The view of the sunset over the ocean is breathtaking and will provide a perfect end to your one-day trip to Madeira.









Sunrise at Bica da Cana

Start your day early and make your way to Bica da Cana to witness a breathtaking sunrise. Located in the heart of Madeira's mountainous region, this viewpoint offers panoramic views of the surrounding peaks, valleys, and the Atlantic Ocean. Experience the tranquility of the early morning and marvel at the golden hues painting the landscape as the sun rises.

Fanal Forest

After enjoying the sunrise, head towards Fanal Forest. Known for its mystical atmosphere, this ancient laurel forest is a true natural gem. Take a leisurely hike through the forest's enchanting trails, surrounded by towering trees covered in moss and ferns. The unique ambiance of the forest, with its dappled sunlight and moss-covered ground, creates an otherworldly experience.

Lunch in Jardim do Mar

Continue your journey to Jardim do Mar, a charming coastal village known for its picturesque setting and laid-back vibe. This quaint village offers stunning views of the Atlantic Ocean and is a great place to enjoy a leisurely lunch. Find a local restaurant and savor delicious seafood or traditional Madeiran dishes while taking in the coastal scenery.

Visit to Calheta

After lunch, make your way to Calheta, a coastal town famous for its golden sandy beach and beautiful marina. Spend some time relaxing on the beach, soaking up the sun, or taking a refreshing dip in the crystal-clear waters. If you're interested in the local culture, visit the Calheta Rum Distillery and learn about the production process of Madeira's famous rum.

End the day at Cabo Girao

As the day progresses, head to Cabo Girao, one of the highest sea cliffs in Europe and a must-visit destination on Madeira. Marvel at the awe-inspiring views from the glass skywalk, which suspends you 580 meters above the sea. The panoramic vistas of the coastline, the Atlantic Ocean, and the surrounding landscapes are simply breathtaking, especially during the golden hour before sunset.









Start at Monte Tropical Gardens

Begin your day by visiting the Monte Tropical Gardens. These gardens offer a stunning collection of exotic plants, flowers, and trees. Take a leisurely stroll through the well-manicured pathways, enjoy the vibrant colors, and appreciate the breathtaking views of Funchal and the surrounding mountains.

Miradouro da Eira do Serrado

Next, make your way to Miradouro da Eira do Serrado. Situated high up in the mountains, this viewpoint provides a panoramic vista of the Curral das Freiras (Nun's Valley) below. The viewpoint offers spectacular views of the valley's lush greenery and steep cliffs, making it a perfect spot for nature lovers and photography enthusiasts.

Lunch in Funchal

After taking in the scenic views, head back to Funchal, the capital city of Madeira, for a delightful lunch. Funchal is known for its charming old town, vibrant markets, and waterfront promenade. Explore the narrow streets lined with historic buildings, browse local shops for souvenirs, and savor a delicious meal at one of the many restaurants offering traditional Madeiran cuisine.

Visit to Ponta do Sol

After lunch, drive to Ponta do Sol, a picturesque coastal village renowned for its beautiful sunsets. Take a leisurely walk along the promenade, enjoy the idyllic views of the sea, and relax on the pebble beach or at the popular yellow bridge. From Ponta do Sol, you can also visit the Angels waterfall, which pours water right on the road.

Visit to Camara de Lobos

Finally, end your day with a visit to Camara de Lobos, a charming fishing village known for its colorful boats, traditional houses, and vibrant atmosphere. Wander through the quaint streets, watch the local fishermen at work, and capture the beauty of the village's picturesque bay. Don't forget to sample some of the local specialties, such as the famous Poncha (a traditional Madeiran drink) or the delicious local seafood.









Recommendations

Bars and Restaurants

FUNCHAL

O Regional - Traditional food in the heart of the capital

Taberna Ruel - A fancy restaurant with traditional food on the popular Rua Santa Maria

Barreirinha Bar Café - Fast food joint with good burgers and a great view

LOFT brunch & cocktail - Our favourite place to do some work on our laptops. Fantastic brunch

Brunch Club - Probably the best breakfast in the city

Hamburgueria do Mercado - Premium burgers

<u>Venda Velha - A simple bar with great Poncha on one of the main streets</u>

Prima Caju - Fantastic Cafe for Breakfast or Brunch, but always very busy

Copacabana Disco Bar - Here's where we party

Three House hotel, bar & restaurant - The best view in the city from the rooftop pool



Recommendations

Bars and Restaurants

CANICO

La Carbonara Restaurant - Fancy Italian Restaurant with great pizza

Munchies - Snacks and coffee

Restaurante O Moinho - Traditional cuisine

CAMACHA

Adega do Pomar - Fancy restaurant with traditional cuisine and fantastic design

MACHICO

The Chupa - Probably the best Poncha on the east side

Restaurant O Pescador - Traditional cuisine, just next to the beach

PORTO DA CRUZ

A Pipa restaurant & bar - Very nice restaurant with traditional cuisine and drinks

<u>Snack Bar Fragateira - Local cuisine</u>

SAO VICENTE

Barbatanas Buffet - The bufet is open from 12:00.

Padaria do Calhau - Coffee and pastries

JARDIM DO MAR

Portinho - Local cuisine, coffee and pastries



Recommendations

services and tours



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CAR RENTAL

<u>Centauro - Online booking. All prices visible before accepting. New cars.</u>

SURFING

<u>Surf School Madeira - Online booking by website, connect by Instagram</u>

CANYONING

Epic Madeira - Make your trip epic! Online booking.

HIKING

Madeira Wonder Hikes - Online reservation on website or Instagram

WINE TOUR

Blandy's Wine Lodge Funchal

DIVING

Mero Diving Center Garajau

NETWORKING

<u>Digital Nomads Madeira</u>

Madeira Friends

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Capture your special moments on the stunning island of Madeira with our personalized private photo shoots. Whether you're a family, couple, honeymooners, or solo traveler, our flexible packages cater to everyone.

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