

FOOTPRINTS *to* 
Happiness

Pocket Guide

MADEIRA





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Country Overview



- Madeira is a group of Islands in the Atlantic Ocean (the main islands are Madeira & Porto Santo)
- Madeira belongs to Portugal but is an autonomous region
- considering the geographical location of Madeira it is more closer to the coast of Morocco than to the main island of Portugal
- the portuguese name Madeira means "wood". The name was given due to the fact the most of the island was lately covered with old subtropical rainforest
- Madeira is also known as the little European Hawaii due to its amazing landscape of steep cliffs, rainforests, waterfalls and rough coastlines. It is also very famous for its beautiful flowers which bloom all year round. That's why Madeira is also called the flower island.
- Like Hawaii, Madeira is also of volcanic origin. The island is actually only the top quarter of the entire volcanic system which lies deep under the water
- the main island Madeira is pretty small. (only 57 km long and 22 km wide) But it has more than 1300 km of hiking trails that's why the island is so famous for all nature lovers and hikers.

General Information



**INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT:**
CRISTIANO RONALDO



BEST TIME TO VISIT:
JUNE - OCTOBER



RECOMMENDED TIME:
10-14 DAYS



CURRENCY:
EURO



SAFETY:
LOW CRIME RATE



LANGUAGE:
PORTUGUESE



GREAT FOR:
ADVENTURE SEEKERS,
NATURE LOVERS, HIKERS

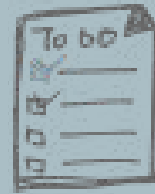


TRAVEL BUDGET:
MID RANGE



ACCOMMODATION:
HOTELS, APARTMENTS

Madeira



TOP 10 THINGS TO DO

- ☐ take a hike on the beautiful peninsula "Ponta de São Lourenço" and walk to the most eastern point of the island
- ☐ visit the market in Funchal and try some exotic fruits (Madeira has 8 different kinds of passion fruits)
- ☐ watch the sunrise on Pico do Arieiro
- ☐ do not miss out on the most stunning hike, the island has to offer "Pico do Arieiro to Pico do Ruivo (the highest mountain on the Island)"
- ☐ visit the Balcoes Viewpoint on Madeira and handfeed the native birds
- ☐ take a fresh shower under the waterfall "Anjos, Ponta do Sol, which is located directly on a cliff road"
- ☐ relax on the black sand beach "Laje" in Seixal or on beautiful Prainha Beach
- ☐ take the gondola down to the small village of Achaz da Cruz and have a little coffee break with the locals
- ☐ watch the sunset at Ponta do Pargo Lighthouse
- ☐ swim in one of the amazing natural pools Madeira has to offer

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How to get around?



Recommendation: take a rental car and do a selfdrive around the island
The island is pretty small so we recommend you to pick an accommodation in the south of the island (Ponto do Sol, Funchal) and do daytrips with your car. The south is mostly sunny, the north part of the island is mostly covered with clouds and is more rainy

Alternatives:

- base yourself in Funchal and hire a private taxi driver
- base yourself in Funchal and book day tours
- base yourself in Funchal and take public transportation (busses)



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Good to know!

- Due to the mountain landscape and the very steep cliffs, Madeira has more than 100 tunnels. So be aware that you need to drive through many tunnels to get from A to B
- if you want to fly your drone in Madeira, you need to register your drone at the National Civil Aviation Authority. Do that at least 2 weeks before you visit because the registration process takes time
- the weather is changing quickly in Madeira. Always be prepared when leaving your apartment. On the one side of the island it can be sunny and on the other side it can be windy and rainy
- Madeira has one of the most dangerous airports in the world. Only specially trained pilots are allowed to fly a plane to Madeira. The airstrip is right next to the Atlantic Ocean which makes it difficult to land due to unexpected windshears
- Madeira is not a destination for a beach vacation. People come here for experience the nature and go hiking.
- Madeiras roads can be very steep and narrow. Keep this in mind when renting a car (Make sure to get a small car with a good engine



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