Walking in Madeira

Trip Code: MFS

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	3 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Reach Pico Ruivo (1,862m), Madeira's highest point
- Sample Madeira wine and rum at a working distillery, and browse Funchals Mercado dos Lavradores
- Swim in Porto Moniz's natural volcanic pools
- Walk Madeira's varied landscapes, from volcanic sea cliffs to lush levada-fed terraces

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days easy paced walking
- Join at Funchal

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Discover the footpaths and flavours of Madeira, from the rugged North to the delightfully sunny South, on this relaxed walking holiday; each of our walks will be elegantly embroidered by the fantastically colourful flora, flavoursome cuisine and a warm welcome from Madeira's friendly islanders. During the course of our week we will walk along flower fringed levada and through lush laurel forests, take picnics in quiet coves and follow coastal paths with sweeping Atlantic ocean views; we will also take the easy route to the island's highest point, Pico Ruivo. Our walks are designed to showcase the island's rich variety of landscapes and are sure to delight both seasoned and budding gardeners. Madeira offers beautiful blooms to admire all year around and, whether or not you know your Aloe from your Agapanthus, you are sure to be charmed by the island's colourful and abundant flora.

Along the way we will stay in comfortable hotels, complete with swimming pools and spas, in pretty villages, coastal towns & fishing villages, where we will also have plenty of time to sit back, relax and soak up the year round sunshine. Much more than just a walking holiday, we'll also get to discover the flavours of the island from the countless tropical fruits on display in the bustling Mercado do Lavradores in Funchal, or the slab of delicious honey cake in our picnic lunch, to the sweet and rich Madeira wine and potent sugar cane rum (best saved till post walk!). If you're looking for a relaxed walking holiday, which will help you discover the real essence of Madeira, then this is the perfect choice.

Is this holiday for you?

This holiday is designed for you to enjoy the best of Madeira with a variety of easy paced walks and active sightseeing. On average we will be walking for around 4hrs per day, on trails that are good underfoot. Madeira is famous for its levada trails and volcanic topography, therefore we will encounter some short exposed sections and a reasonable amount of descent on some of the days. All walks can be considered optional and you'll only need to carry a small day pack. Each day there will be some free time relax and enjoy the hotel's pool and spa facilities or for exploring at your own leisure. This holiday is suitable for anyone looking for an active way to really explore the diversity of the island and to experience its varied footpaths, flora and flavours!

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival and departure
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities mentioned except where specified as ‘optional’
- All accommodation as described

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Tips for local staff
- €2 per night hotel tax (paid directly to the hotel)
- Airport transfers (other than group transfers)
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

Travelling to your Destination

If flying from the UK there are low cost airlines available to the start and from the end of your holiday.

To benefit from full financial protection, ease your holiday planning, and avoid dealing with airlines, we can book scheduled flights from the UK as part of a flight inclusive package. Scheduled flights are usually more expensive that low cost alternatives, however potentially less stressful if your flight is cancelled or delayed. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

The group will meet at the hotel in Funchal.

There will be a single timed transfer from the airport to the group hotel on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary there will be a single timed transfer from the hotel to the airport.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals except 2 dinners are included in the holiday price. For our first night and last night in Funchal, where there are a wide variety of dining options, it make sense to leave the choice of restaurant/budget up to you. We recommend you budget €20-25 for each of these meals.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

Madeiran food is fresh and delicious. Many of the local dishes are prepared from ingredients grown on the island or caught from the sea. Popular dishes include:

Espetada - Grilled beef marinaded in garlic, bayleaf and rock salt and cooked on a skewer made from local laurel wood.

Espada com banana e maracuja (black scabbard fish with banana and passionfruit) - This unusual sounding dish features on just about every menu!

Bolo del Mel (honey cake) - This deliciously dark and dense slab of treacle-filled goodness is Madeira's oldest and most moreish dessert and is great with coffee. There is an active coffee culture in Madeira and one of Funchal's small cafes are the perfect place to relax and enjoy your first 'Bica' of the week. A Bica is the Portuguese equivalent of an Espresso, but served in a slightly more generous portion and smoother to the taste.

Madeira wine is world famous and there are vineyards all over the island. However there are also many local wines which are well priced and of reasonable quality – and it will always be plentiful!

Evening meals will be taken either at the hotel or a nearby local restaurant and there will be plenty of opportunity to try all of Madeira's most famous dishes during the holiday.

Breakfasts will be continental with tea, coffee, bread, jams and fruit.

You will be given a packed lunch to carry on each day's walk. This normally consists of a sandwich made with cheese, tomatoes, olives, ham or other meats, or sometimes a pasta salad, plus some fruit. We recommend that you take a small tupperware box (and spork) to carry your lunch.

Accommodation

There will be 3 nights at a hotel in Funchal, within walking distance of the port, city centre and market, 2 nights in a comfortable hotel with a pool in Santana, 2 nights in a sea front hotel in Porto Moniz, which has an indoor pool and is also adjacent to the natural swimming pools. All hotels are comfortable 3/4 star, with en suite rooms and are well located.

Accommodation is twin share, if you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Single rooms are available for a supplementary cost. If you are planning to extend your holiday additional nights are available on request.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

We estimate that approximately £100-150 (or equivalent in US dollars or Euros) should be allowed for non- included meals, soft drinks, snacks, and miscellaneous expenses, including tips for your guide. If you buy many drinks in the afternoon/evenings, or take full advantage of the spa facilities of the hotel and enjoy lots of massages, you may need to budget more. You can withdraw money in local currency from ATMs on arrival at the airport and in the main towns, and credit cards can also be used to pay for most goods and services.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your leader and local team. Tipping is entirely voluntary and should be dependent on good service. We recommend that you decide levels of tipping and give any tips as a group rather than from individual group members.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of main luggage and a daypack. For operational and safety reasons, the normal maximum weight for your main luggage is 23 kg**.** Please be mindful that this trip is itinerant, with several accommodations where there may be no elevators, and luggage will need to be handled at each stage.

If your luggage exceeds 23 kg, you may be asked to pay a local handling surcharge. We therefore recommend bringing a medium-sized suitcase or a soft travel bag, which is much easier to manage in hotels and during transfers.

For international flights, please also check your airline’s baggage allowance.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency for part or all of this holiday is the Euro.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

Climate

Madeira has a mild sub-tropical climate, with the Gulf Stream ensuring pleasant warm temperatures all year round. The hottest months are July and August with average temperatures around 23 ºC, in February and November the maximum temperature is around 18-20 ºC. There would be no beautiful greenery in Madeira without a little rain, however there are many micro climates across the island, with the southern lowlands being the driest and the mountainous northern parts receiving the most rain. Madeira generally has sunshine all year around, with May through to September being the driest months with very little rain. October through to March can be wetter, but with still just an average of 6 days of rain per month.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Walking in Madeira - Cicerone Guide, Paddy Dillon Walk!
- Madeira - Discovery Walking Guides, Shirley & Mike Whitehead
- Madeira Landmark Guide, Richard Sale
- Madeira & Porto Santo - Cadogan Guides Madeira - Insight Guide

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the ‘baggage allowance’ section for further details.

YOU SHOULD BRING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Hiking boots
- Trainers or sandals
- Socks and underwear
- Walking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof overtrousers
- Baselayer (wicking) shirts/T-shirts and/or casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Lightweight windproof/waterproof jacket
- Lightweight gloves
- Sunhat
- Warm hat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack c. 25 - 30 litres
- Headtorch and spare batteries (on some days we will be walking through tunnels!)
- Sun protection (including for lips)
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2)
- Tupperware box for lunch salad (approx 15x10x3cm)
- Plastic fork/knife/spoon for eating lunch
- Washbag and toiletries
- Basic First Aid Kit. Including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE OPTIONAL:

- Shorts
- Swimwear (most hotels have pools)
- Towel (for swimming)
- Small plastic cup for tea/coffee at lunch (guide carries a flask)
- Antibacterial handwash
- Trekking poles (recommended)
- Insect repellant - (DEET)
- Camera

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

We sell this holiday on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The holiday starts/ends at the accommodation in Funchal and a single timed transfer is provided from/to Madeira Airport.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Madeira is one of our most loved walking destinations, and this itinerary shows you why. We combine varied daily walks with charming hotels, great food, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the island's year-round sunshine. With small groups, great guides and seamless organisation, you can settle into the rhythm of the island – exploring its trails while discovering the flavours of Madeiran life. Our Monday-Monday departures also make it easy to take advantage of competitively priced flights from a wide range of UK regional airports.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change