



Portugal - Madeira Island - Madeira Loop Hiking Tour (2025)
Individual Self-Guided
8 days/7 nights



Explore the diverse and impressive island in the Atlantic Ocean. There are steep and rugged coastal lines, green hills and small bays great for swimming as well as cloud forests and sun drenched banana plantations. The flower island, Madeira, offers a versatile scenery and a pleasant climate all year round. The dry east, the cool north, the barren mountains, the moist high plateaus and the sunny south all invite you to come and explore this wonderful island. At all times of the year, there are different flowers and trees blooming at different altitudes. The friendly and tradition-conscious locals invite you to get to know their country and their culture. Discover all sides of Madeira on this round trip!



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Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival to Porto da Cruz

Today you can relax on the black sandy beach in the small fishing village Porto da Cruz. You can visit one of the last remaining sugar mills where you can try the well-known "Poncha", which is a local drink made from sugar cane liquor, honey and freshly squeezed orange juice.



Day 2: Circular walk along the wild north coast 15 km + 550 m – 550 m

After a short transfer to Machico, you will walk along the impressive north coast on one of the old supply routes, which was previously used to cultivate the vineyards. Today one of the nicest footpaths runs along this route to Porto da Cruz. Enjoy the breathtaking views.

Day 3: Porto da Cruz – Sao Vicente, the quiet North Coast 10 km + 650 m - 150 m

In the traditional town, Santana, which is well-known for its typical houses, you will start today's stage. Marvel at the traditional houses with their thatched roofs and stroll through the town, which is well worth seeing, before you continue to the start of the hike.

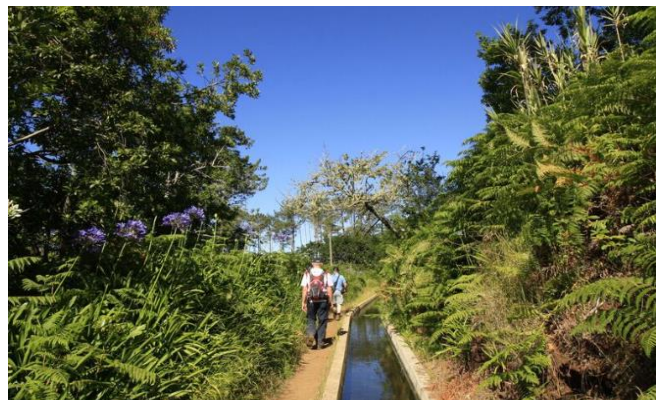
The wonderful Levada do Rei leads you through primeval forest-like vegetation to the waterfall and the springs of Ribeiro Bonito. Through short tunnels you will reach an almost magical place at the head of the river valley. Finally, enjoy one of the famous drinks and cakes in the inviting bar Quinta do Levada.

Day 4: Sao Vicente – Porto Moniz, high plateau and cloud forest 11 km +150 m – 350 m

Transfer to the mountains or more specifically to the Paul da Serra high plateau. Today's walk brings you closer to Madeira's green mountains. You will walk along shady high altitude paths rich in spectacular views, through shady laurel forests, which are partially a UNESCO world natural heritage site. An amazing hiking trail takes you through colorful blooming broom bushes to Fanal, a fairytale like wood forest and pasture area: crooked trees, green meadows and grazing highland cattle create a very special mystical atmosphere. In the afternoon you reach the coastal village of Porto Moniz with its wonderful views of the blue sea. This charming place is well-known for its natural swimming pools, which were formed by the ocean from black lava rock.

Day 5: Porto Moniz – Calheta, Levada Nova 17 km + 50 m – 650 m

Today you will walk along the south west coastline via green hills, which steeply drop into the sea after a while. In this part of the island you will discover the original way of life of its inhabitants, especially Parzeres is known as one of the loveliest villages of Madeira Island. On your walk through fragrant eucalyptus forests, you will keep seeing Callas, Amaryllis and Agapanthus growing wildy. You will stay overnight in the lively coastal village, Calheta. It has a fine sandy beach and an elegant marina.





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Day 6: Calheta – Funchal, Levada do Norte 15 km + 250 m -150 m

Short transfer along the southern coast before you set off up to Levada do Norte where you get amazing views from. It is also the longest and widest Levada in the south. You will walk through fragrant eucalyptus forests, past farmed terraces and through small villages like Quinta Grande and Campanario to the Cabo Girao, which is the highest steep cliff in Europe. From there you will get a fantastic view of the terraced fields below you and of the coastline until the capital, Funchal.

Day 7: Circular walk Monte & botanic gardens 8 km +100 m – 550 m

You reach the pilgrimage site Monte by cable car, situated high above Funchal. After a visit to the church Nossa Senhora do Monte you can marvel at the dynamic wicker basket sledges before embarking on your final stage. With a marvelous view onto the coast from Funchal the route leads you once again across subtropical island vegetation and back into the capital. We highly recommend you visit the amazing botanical garden giving you an understanding of the exotic flora of the island on an area of 35,000 square meters.



Day 8: Individual departure or extension



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Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: Moderate. Daily routes along well-built and very diverse paths, which can however sometimes be on narrow paths. Lots of paths run along the coastline and also along Levadas (irrigation canals), where a head for heights and sure footedness are essential in some sections. You will need a good level of fitness for this waking holiday where the walks may take maximum 5 hours.

Total Distance: 81 km

Travel Season: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 07.01. – 09.12.

Season 1: 07.01. – 08.03. | 26.10. – 09.12.

Season 2: 09.03. – 24.05. | 28.09. – 25.10.

Season 3: 25.05. – 27.09.



Prices per person: *all prices subject to confirmation on booking*

Season 1 Double Occupancy B&B	€939
Season 2 Double Occupancy B&B	€999
Season 3 Double Occupancy B&B	€1089
Single Room Surcharge	€429
Surcharge Half Board 7x	€245
Extra Nights Porto da Cruz Double Occupancy B&B	€59
Extra Nights Porto da Cruz surcharge Single Occupancy B&B	€35
Extra Nights Funchal Double Occupancy B&B	€109
Extra Nights Funchal surcharge Single Occupancy B&B	€79

Accommodation:

Category: 4***** hotels, 2x lovely 2** hotel (Porto da Cruz)

Included:

- 7 overnight stays, including breakfast
- Luggage transfer
- Welcome briefing
- Transfers according to the programme
- 1 Bus ride from Cabo Girao to Funchal
- 1 Uphill cable car journey to Monte/Funchal
- Carefully elaborated route description
- Detailed travel documents 1x per room
- App for navigation and GPS data
- Service hotline

Not Included:

- Any visitor's taxes, payable locally

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