



**OK CYCLE &
ADVENTURE
TOURS** SINCE 1995

Portugal - Madeira Island –Walking in Madeira (2024-2025)
Guided
8 days/7 nights



Explore the verdant landscapes and coastal views of Portugal's largest island. During the course of this week you will have the opportunity to walk through the wild and varied scenery of Madeira, from gentle strolls along flower-lined levadas and spectacular coastal footpaths, to more demanding forays amongst the jagged ridges and peaks of the rugged volcanic interior. There is plenty of time to relax by the sea in the fishing village of Machico and discover the historic importance of Funchal, an old trade centre famous for exporting sugar and wine to the Indies and the New World. Highlights include: Superb walking through Madeira's botanical paradise; Flower-lined levadas with stunning coastal views; Mild year-round climate perfect for walking; Picturesque fishing villages and the historic town of Funchal.

OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9
www.okcycletours.com Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350



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Itinerary

Day 1: Start Machico or Santa Cruz

We start at our hotel in Machico, which overlooks the beach of Machico Bay. There will be a welcome briefing in the evening, in which we can discuss the adventures to come and you can ask any questions you may have.

Day 2: Walk to the easternmost point of the island, Ponta de São Lourenço, a rocky peninsula with ocean views for miles

Today we walk the classic route along the Ponta de São Lourenço. Although challenging in parts, this path takes us through fantastic scenery as we admire wallflowers, stalwarts and many other tiny plants that resist the windy environment and grow in soils with high salinity levels. Rocks, sculptured by nature, have a great diversity of colours ranging from black to red, and are in stark contrast to the blue of the ocean. Park rangers watch over the plants and animals that belong to this eastern extremity of the island, around Casa do Sardinha. We return to our hotel in Machico in the afternoon, and there is free time to explore the village or relax at the beach.

Distance covered: 5mi (8km) Ascent: 558ft (170m); Descent: 886ft (270m); Activity hours: 3.5 Meals included: Breakfast



Day 3 Spectacular walk along the north coast path to the village of Porto da Cruz

This morning, we take the public bus and walk a scenic route along a cliff trail on the north coast. We set off along the little Levada do Caniçal, more modest and quieter than yesterday's path, then begin a gradual climb to the crest of the cliffs at Boca do Risco, where we enjoy amazing views along the north coast. We then head west along the coastal path: a spectacular route, in many places cut right into the cliff. We finally descend to Porto da Cruz, once a bustling port but now a sleepy, picturesque village. Time permitting (and if open), we have a short look around a factory that has been producing Madeira rum for several centuries. Later, we transfer to Santana for the night.

Distance covered: 7mi (12km) Ascent: 656ft (200m); Descent: 1,148ft (350m); Activity hours: 4.5 Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Transfer to Queimadas; walk along Levada do Caldeirão Verde to the remote village of Ilha

After a quick stop to admire the thatched-roof houses of Santana, we take a short transfer inland to Queimadas Natural Park, where we walk along the Levada do Caldeirão Verde. This route has many waterfalls and we may need to pass under some to continue the path. We use our torches/flashlights to walk through tunnels carved into the mountains. We finish the walk with a descent into the village of Ilha before a transfer to the coastal town of Porto Moniz in the west of the island. Distance covered: 7mi (12km) Ascent: 295ft (90m); Descent: 1,640ft (500m); Activity hours: 5 Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

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Day 5 Vereda do Fanal, the ancient forest of Madeira

Our walk today starts on the Paul da Serra plateau and ends at the Unesco World Natural Heritage site of Fanal Forest. We walk via open landscapes with fabulous views over the Ribeira da Janela and Chão da Ribeira valleys, and through the largest surviving area of laurisilva forest on the planet (believed to be 90 percent primary forest).

We end the hike at the fairytale Fanal Forest, a small volcanic crater filled with twisted trees and often shrouded in mist. Many of the *ocotea foetens* trees here predate the founding of Madeira in 1419, and we take time to absorb the unique energy of the forest before returning to Porto Moniz.

Distance covered: 7mi (11km) Ascent: 902ft (275m); Descent: 1,772ft (540m); Activity hours: 4 Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 Morning transfer to Funchal; free day to explore the city or join an optional whale-watching excursion

After a morning transfer (approximately one hour) via the mountainous interior, today is free for you to explore Funchal, the island capital and our base for the final two nights of the trip. The city is easily explored on foot and sites of interest include Sé Cathedral, built between 1493 and 1514, and the imposing statue of Madeira founder, João Gonçalves Zarco, on Avenida Arriaga.

Alternatively, take the cable car to Monte Palace and Tropical Gardens to enjoy fascinating installations and magnificent views over the city, learn about the production of Madeira's ever-popular wine at Blandy's Wine Lodge, or join a whale-watching tour to spot some of the 28 whale and dolphin species that grace Madeira's waters throughout the year. Meals included: Breakfast



Day 7 Early departure for Pico Arieiro; continue the path to Pico Ruivo

Today we embark on the most strenuous walk of the trip. We depart early to reach the third highest mountain on the island, Pico Arieiro (5,965ft/1,818m), in time for sunrise, then continue to Pico Ruivo (6,109ft/1,862m), the highest peak, for more fantastic views. We finish by taking the 1.9mi (3km) path to Achado do Teixeira. The path has lots of ascents and descents along the way, but the memorable scenery is ample reward. At the end of the walk, we transfer back to Funchal.

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Please note: On occasion, the route to Pico Ruivo may be closed due to mudslides or inclement weather. Our guide will always try to offer another route up to Pico Ruivo, but if this is not possible, an alternative walk from Ribeiro Frio to Portela will be available. This route traverses native forest and offers wonderful coastal views.

Distance covered: 9mi (15km) **Ascent: 2,133ft (650m); Descent: 3,937ft (1,200m); Activity hours: 7.5**

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 End Funchal. The trip ends in Funchal. Breakfast included

Route



Technical Characteristics:

Route Profile: This trip consists of 5 day walks and 1 free day. The walks are either fairly easy medium-duration walks or harder, shorter walks and reasonable fitness is required. The paths we use are generally flat and well maintained but some of the routes cross rougher terrain with longer ascents and descents. Some of the paths are quite narrow and stony underfoot and require walking in single file. On several occasions where the path becomes narrow and has a steep drop to one side, walkers need a head for heights. Handrails sometimes protect these sections, but we do not recommend this holiday for vertigo sufferers. A few of the levada paths enter short tunnels through the rock but these are easily navigated with the aid of a torch. Should you decide not to walk on certain days, there is the possibility of getting a lift with the support vehicle. Altitude maximum 1,862m; average 750m.

Following a review of all our trips we have categorised this trip as generally not suitable for persons of reduced mobility. However if you are a regular traveller on such trips, please contact customer services to discuss the trip and your personal condition.



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Adult min age: 16
Min group size: 4
Max group size: 16

Total Distance: 60 km Moderate

Dates and Prices- *all prices are per person double occupancy in Canadian Dollars and subject to confirmation on booking*

Date	Price	Optional Single Supplement
May 18, 2024	\$2278	\$817
June 1, 2024	\$2470	\$817
June 15, 2024	\$2280	\$817
July 6, 2024	\$2280	\$817
Aug 31, 2024	\$2278	\$817
Sept 14, 2024	\$2278	\$817
Sept 21, 2024	\$2278	\$817
Oct 5, 2024	\$2280	\$817
Oct 12, 2024	\$2280	\$817
Oct 19, 2024	\$2280	\$817
Nov 2, 2024	\$2280	\$817
Nov 16, 2024	\$2280	\$817
2025		
Jan 4	\$2470	\$912
Feb 1	\$2470	\$912
Feb 8	\$2470	\$912
Feb 22	\$2470	\$912
Mar 1	\$2470	\$912
Mar 8	\$2470	\$912
Mar 15	\$2470	\$912
Mar 29	\$2470	\$912
April 5	\$2470	\$912
April 12	\$2565	\$912
May 3	\$2565	\$912



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May 10	\$2565	\$912
May 17	\$2565	\$912
June 7	\$2565	\$912
June 14	\$2565	\$912
July 5	\$2565	\$912
Aug 30	\$2565	\$912
Sept 13	\$2565	\$912
Sept 20	\$2565	\$912
Sept 27	\$2565	\$912
Oct 4	\$2565	\$912
Oct 18	\$2565	\$912
Nov 1	\$2470	\$912
Nov 15	\$2470	\$912
Dec 27	\$2470	\$912

Accommodation:

- 7 nights 3 and 4-star hotels/pensions, all rooms en suite

What's included

- All breakfasts
- All accommodation
- All transport and listed activities
- Tour leader throughout

What's not included

- Travel insurance
- Single accommodation (available on request)
- Visas or vaccinations
- Other meals and personal expense

THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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