

# What to see and do on Madeira

Described as the 'Pearl of the Atlantic' the island has much to offer both the new and seasoned visitor – extensive walking trails, beautiful gardens, traditional villages and of course numerous quinta's producing the famous Madeira wine. Here are a few of the activities available on Madeira that can be pre-booked through Sunvil or arranged locally.



## Golf courses

There are two golf courses on the island of Madeira. Palheiro Golf is set within parkland of the Quinta do Palheiro Ferreiro, and Santo da Serra Golf Club, home of the Madeira Open, is located close to the village of Santo da Serra.

### Palheiro Golf

Located in the hills east of the capital with stunning views over the bay and city of Funchal.

- 18 holes
- Par 71

**Services:** Clubhouse, bar, restaurant and pro-shop.

**Training facilities:** Putting green, practice range with bunker area and driving range.

### Santo da Serra Golf

Reputed to be one of the most beautiful, mountain golf courses in Europe, the Santo da Serra has breathtaking views from the mountains down to the sea.

- 27 holes (18 holes + 9 holes)
- Par 72 (18 holes)

**Services:** Clubhouse, bar, restaurant and pro-shop.

**Training facilities:** Putting green, pitching green and practice range. Green time at both golf courses, as well as the hire of golf clubs and training balls, can be arranged locally through our agent.

**Price, for both courses, is 100 Euros per person for green fees (18 holes) all year and payable locally**

### Notes

- The handicap on both courses for men is 28 and for women 36.
- It is obligatory to wear soft spike shoes on both courses.
- TAP Portugal allow one golf bag per person, free of charge, in excess to the normal baggage allowance of 20kg.
- The Charming Hotel Group – namely the Quinta das Vistas (page 79), Quinta da Monte (page 82) and Quinta do Estreito (page 89) offer a special 30% discount on green fees at both golf courses when booked and paid for at hotel reception.

## Individual walks

Madeira is renowned for its extensive network of trails and Levada paths. Each walk, which is between 2 to 4-hours in duration, has an accompanying experienced guide. Sunvil are able to pre-book any of the walks included within our Walking Holiday (see page 74).

The price of each individual walk, including transfers to/from the walk is:

**Price is £28 per person (Half day)**

**Price is £40 per person (Full day)**

- Wednesday - Full day: Ribeiro Frio to Portela (North-East) – Grade 2
- Thursday - Full day: Santana – Queimadas, Caldeirao Verde (North) – Grade 2+
- Friday - Full day: Lakes & Waterfalls of Rabacal / Risco (West) - Grade 2
- Saturday - Full day: Pico do Arieiro to Pico Ruivo (Centre) - Grade 3+
- Sunday - Half day: Levada do Castelejo (North) - Grade 1

### Notes

- Picnic lunches can be arranged locally (c. 8 Euros)

### Grading of Walks

- 1 = Easy
- 2 = Medium
- 3 = Difficult

## Porto Santo - The Golden Island

**Full day excursion** (daily except for Tuesdays, Fridays and National Holidays)

The island of Porto Santo lies 40km north east of Madeira and is famed for its fabulous 7km of sandy beaches and for its former illustrious resident, Christopher Columbus. This full day excursion includes a mini-cruise along the coast of Madeira to the island of Porto Santo aboard the 'Lobo Marinha'. Once on Porto Santo there is time to explore the town of Vila Baleira, visit Christopher Columbus' modest house which has been turned into a small museum, or just relax on the golden sand beaches.

**Price is £60 per adult and £30 per child (5-11yrs) between Feb-Mar & Oct**

**Price is £73 per adult and £36 per child (5-11yrs) between Apr-Sep**

### Notes

- Children under 5yrs travel free of charge
- Supplement for 1st class is £17 per adult and £9 per child (5-11yrs).

## Monte Palace Tropical Garden

Located near Monte and only 5km from the centre of Funchal, the Monte Palace Tropical Garden (70,000 sqm) is home to over 100,000 flower species from around the world. With eye-catching flora, waterfalls and various pieces of art, including Portuguese tile panels from the 16th-20th centuries, coats of arms and sculptures on show, this garden cannot fail to impress. The visit to the Monte Palace Tropical Gardens can be concluded by a ride on the famous 'Toboggan' sledge which rushes you down the hillside to Funchal.



## Toboggan Sledge Ride

Starting around 1850, the Monte toboggan rides were the fastest way for residents living in Monte to travel down to Funchal. Still in use today, they attract thousands of tourists each year who want to try this exciting experience of sliding 2km downhill, in just 10-minutes, on narrow, winding streets. These two-seater wicker sledges glide on wooden runners, pushed and steered by two traditionally dressed men with straw hats, using their rubber-soled boots as brakes.



Porto Santo

## Calendar of Events

### ■ 15-22Feb: Carnival

Celebrations in Funchal including a parade of floats on the Saturday before Shrove Tuesday.

### ■ 19, 21, 22, & 25 Apr: Flower Festival

On Saturday morning, thousands of youngsters will take part in the Children's Parade, each carrying a flower to place in a mural known as the "Wall of Hope", located in Praça do Município. Doves will be released to mark the end of the wall's construction and there will also be a show for the children.

Sunday brings the Grand Flower Parade. Hundreds of flower-themed floats and characters will make their way through the city in lavish style to the sound of music in keeping with the Festival and displaying arrangements of many different species of flower typical to the island.

### ■ 09, 16, 23 & 30 Jun: Atlantic Festival

The Madeira Firework Festival comprises of four pyro-musical displays (c.20-minutes each) taking place at 22:30 on Saturdays, as four Portuguese companies battle it out for the trophy, which is decided by a public vote.

### ■ 02-04Aug: Madeira Wine Rally

Known as one of the most important competitions of the European Rally Championship and considered to be the most spectacular in Madeira.

### ■ 26Aug-02Sep: Madeira Wine Festival

In the centre of Funchal there are light, sound and folk shows connected to traditional wine-making.

## Monte Cable Car

Monte, which can be reached in 11-minutes by cable car from Funchal, is a plant-lovers' paradise. You can visit by cable car and leave by toboggan.

