Cycling Around Madeira

Trip Code: SGMM

Version:

CYCLE	SELF-GUIDED	MODERATE
		6



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle Madeira's coastline as you circumnavigate the island in just one week
- Marvel at Madeira's floral splendour, its unique laurel forest, and amazing botanical gardens
- Be blown away by a sequence of dramatic coastal viewpoints including Cabo Girao
- Spend a day in Funchal including a cable-car ride to the charming hillside village of Monte

AT A GLANCE

- 5 days cycling and sightseeing
- Upgraded bike hire included
- Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday departures
- Join at Canico / End in Funchal

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Five hundred kilometres north of the Canary Islands lies the Portuguese island of Madeira. Known as the 'Pearl of the Atlantic' as it rises majestically from the surrounding ocean, it is blessed with a welcoming climate, year-round sunshine, and a plethora of exotic fruits and flowers. Popular with hikers drawn to its rugged landscape and unique 'levada' trails, Madeira is also a stunning destination for cycling. With its generally quiet roads, and whether you're a more confident cyclist seeking a challenge, or you'd prefer to make life easier on an e-bike, you'll be blown away by the scenery on this trip. Witness the island's distinct charm for yourself on this one-week self-guided cycling holiday as you circumnavigate the island on roads that twist and turn, almost always within sight of the Atlantic Ocean. We include some short vehicle transfers to overcome the longest climbs, and there's still plenty of climbing to be done - all at your own pace, of course. Madeira is a revelation with its pretty villages, ancient laurel forest, vivid birdlife, colourful botanical gardens, volcanic geology, and breathtaking coastal scenery. Culturally, too, the island is special. Colonised by the Portuguese in the 15th century and boasting a rich history as a focal point of Atlantic trade routes and as a producer of sugar cane, magnificent manor houses (known as quintas) and monumental fortresses bear witness to the island's colourful past.

You will spend 5 days circumnavigating the island, staying in a selection of fantastic 4-star hotels (and 1 night in a special 2-star hotel beside the sea) on a bed and breakfast basis. We have included two nights in the island's capital, Funchal, with a day off the bikes for you to do some exploring on foot too.

Is this holiday for you?

If you're a regular cyclist with a good level of fitness and looking for somewhere different for your next holiday on two wheels, this could be for you. We have included 5 days of cycling, covering a total of 190km on quiet roads. Averaging less than 40km per day, the distances are not huge, yet the distinctly undulating nature of the terrain, including some long climbs, makes this quite a challenging self-guided cycling holiday. Taking each day's ride at your own pace, there will be lots of time to stop and to take in the sights. Plus, with the option to upgrade to an e-bike, you can always opt for a little extra pedal power on the hills. With comfortable generally 4-star accommodation throughout, you will have everything you need to relax after each day's activities.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your route notes
- Madeira guide book
- Luggage transfers
- Transfers after breakfast on Days 2-3-4
- Funchal-Monte cable car return ticket on Day 7
- Upgraded bike hire
- Welcome briefing
- Navigation App and GPX tracks available

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Canico
- Travel from Funchal on day 8
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Bike helmet
- Any e-bike upgrades
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

GPS Travel App

This holiday includes a GPS navigation app, which contains the routes for you to follow each day, as well as attractions, coffee stops and points of interest along the way. The app does not need to have Wi-Fi connection to work, you simply follow the instructions we provide you to download the app to your personal smartphone device before you leave home and you are ready to go.

While the travel app is running, your phone battery charge can be consumed faster than normal, so we strongly recommend that you pack a power bank with you just in case you require it.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool, or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our Sales Team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

This trip starts in Canico and ends in Funchal. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport (Funchal), which is served by many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying to Funchal Airport you can travel via public transport (bus) to Canico - the journey takes around 20 minutes on the 'Line 113' bus and tickets cost around €5 per person.

Alternatively, you may wish to take a taxi (takes around 15 mins; approximately €35 per taxi).

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the opportunity to enjoy dining at local restaurants.

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.

Madeira's fertile volcanic soil and clever irrigation using the famous network of 'levadas' allow an array of mouth-watering fresh fruit and vegetables to be grown on the island. On top of that there's an exquisite selection of seafood brought to port each day by the local fisherman. This holiday is on a bed and breakfast basis allowing you to experience the great tastes the island is famous for.

Madeira has many fantastic seafood restaurants serving delicacies such as limpets fresh from the grill served with garlic butter, lemon, and local bolo do caco (a typical circular Madeiran flatbread). For meat eaters we recommend sharing a picado with your travelling companions. Made with fried chunks of beef, garlic, and red peppers, this traditional Madeira dish is served on a large rectangular platter surrounded by French fries and is designed for everyone to grab a fork and dig in.

Food is varied and plentiful on Madeira and it's not just savoury dishes the Madeirans excel at. Across the island you will find bakeries filled with delicious treats to satisfy any sweet tooth, including the traditional Portuguese tarts pastel del nata, and bolo de mel - a honey cake traditionally eaten at Christmas. Let's not forget the drink for which the island is famed - Madeira Wine. This fortified wine comes in many forms, from a dry aperitif to a sweet dessert wine, making it the perfect addition to an evening meal, or a souvenir from a wonderful holiday on the island.

Accommodation

We have hand-picked a great selection of 4-star hotels for you on this trip, and you will also spend a night in a lovely 2-star hotel in Porto da Cruz as well as a night in a 5-star hotel in Calheta. Each hotel has been specially chosen for its great location and warm hospitality, and each offers something different such as a wellness centre, pool, or a cosy bar - perfect for relaxing after a day out cycling on the island.

Each hotel offers a great breakfast buffet to fuel you for the day ahead, and is in close proximity to many bars and restaurants where you can enjoy a traditional Madeiran meal.

Please note that on Day 2 you will stay either at Porto da Cruz or at nearby Machico. This does not affect your bike ride today, which will still end at Porto da Cruz where you will have time to explore the vicinity before being transferred in the early evening (usually 5pm) to your accommodation in Machico. Your ride the next day will start in Santana as usual, with your morning transfer picking you up at your accommodation according to where you are staying.

It is also possible to arrange additional nights' accommodation if you would like to extend your time on the island. Please speak to our Sales Team for more information.

Bike Hire

Upgraded 'Bike Plus' bike hire is included in the cost of this holiday.

Upgraded bikes are lighter than standard hybrid bikes and have a crossbar for improved stiffness and stability, offering a sportier ride. Utilising higher-grade bike components such as hydraulic brakes and Shimano 20/27-speed gears, you can enjoy more precise handling and smoother gear changes. High-quality front suspension forks and a more athletic saddle offer increased comfort over a variety of surfaces and distances.

Upgraded bikes are available in the following frame sizes: 46 / 50 / 51 / 55 / 60 / 63 cm. These bikes are suitable for rider heights between approximately 155cm and 205cm.

All bikes come equipped with a pannier and handlebar bag for your daily essentials, plus a milometer, bike lock, pump, repair kit, and spare inner tube. Hire bikes do not come fitted with bottle cages as these impede with securing the bikes during transportation.

We strongly recommend that you bring your own helmet with you for the best comfort. We also recommend packing a gel seat for extra comfort or a pair of padded cycling shorts as whilst there are plenty of opportunities to stop and explore, it is always nice to have some padding for a more comfortable ride.

We are also able to arrange children’s bikes, trailers, and child seats. Please ask our Sales Team for details.

Upgrade to an E-bike

If you are looking for an extra boost whilst in the saddle, you can upgrade to an e-bike to make your ride more leisurely. Equipped with a battery and motor, these electric bikes give you a helping hand whilst you are pedalling, making it easier to climb hills and travel further with less effort and more comfort.

E-bikes have four different modes and an 8-speed internal gear hub with back-pedalling brake, along with disc brakes and front suspension. E-bikes are suitable for rider heights between approximately 148cm and 190cm.

E-bikes are available on this holiday at a supplement of £110 - please request this upgrade option from our Sales Team at the time of booking.

Important Information: From June 1st 2026, wearing a helmet is a legal requirement for all e-bike riders on Madeira. We strongly recommend that you bring your own helmet with you for the best comfort.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your ride. We ask that you please ensure that each piece of your luggage is under 20KG and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are riding.

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

The advantage of a self-guided cycling holiday is that you decide the pace. This trip is designed for regular cyclists as some of the included day-rides are decidedly hilly. You should be comfortable with cycling 40-50 kms a day on quiet rural roads and short connecting sections on busier roads. It is a good idea to get some additional exercise before going on an active holiday and you should make sure you head out on a few rides before your trip. After all, the fitter you are the more enjoyable your cycling will be.

Climate

Madeira has a mild sub-tropical climate, with the Gulf Stream helping to ensure pleasant temperatures all year round. The warmest months are July and August with maximum temperatures of around 26 - 27 degrees centigrade, and in February and November it is a little cooler at 18 - 20 degrees centigrade, so this makes the shoulder seasons of spring and autumn absolutely ideal for being active on the island. Madeira generally has sunshine all year round, with May through September being the driest months and seeing very little rain. October through March can be wetter, but with still just an average of 6 days of rain per month. Of course, there would be no beautiful greenery on Madeira without a little rain!

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

- Lonely Planet Pocket Madeira - Austin Bush

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

- Cycling shorts

- Cycle helmet

- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Scarf
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Rain protection
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Sunglasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags

Land Only Information

Please note that our 'from' price listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers - contact our Sales Team for a quote.

This trip is available for departures on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the dates listed.

When considering your travel dates, you might like to investigate any seasonal opening times of attractions and points of interest.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with a quote for scheduled flights, or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your accommodation from the nearest airports - please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' section for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

Madeira is popular with KE clients. Our walking groups have been visiting this enchanted Atlantic island for over a decade and it was only logical to introduce a self-guided cycling holiday on the island. The terrain is relatively hilly so we think this is the perfect trip to reap the benefits of riding an e-bike if you (and your legs!) would prefer it.We have included upgraded bike hire in the cost of your trip so you can relax knowing that this is all taken care of for you. E-bike upgrades are also available. In addition, we have included a return ticket on the Funchal-Monte cable car so that you can explore Monte and enjoy the spectacular views whilst saving your legs!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 15/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change