Walking Around Madeira

Trip Code: SGMA

Version:

WALK & TREK	SELF-GUIDED	4 MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk along the Levada do Norte, the oldest and longest levada on Madeira
- Discover the fascinating high pitched Madeiran houses of Santana
- Walk upon Paul da Serra Plateau some 1,500m above the coast for breath-taking panoramas
- Explore the botanical gardens of Monte, a festival of colour

AT A GLANCE

- 6 days walking & sightseeing
- Daily departures in April & May
- Tuesday / Thursday / Saturday departures throughout the rest of the dates listed
- Join at Porto da Cruz / End in Funchal

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

The lush green island of Madeira sits around 500km off the coast of Morocco and is often referred to as 'the Pearl of the Atlantic', a title justly deserved. This spectacular island really is Portugal's colourful garden, bursting with exotic plants, and is steeped in history having been a strategic port for Portuguese explorers during the Age of Discovery. On this fantastic one-week self-guided holiday you will circumnavigate the island to discover the deep roots of Madeira's heritage, witness the colourful flora, taste the delicious Madeiran delicacies, and walk in the footsteps of great explorers.

The island is a walkers' paradise thanks to the fantastic network of levadas, not to mention the miles of beautiful coastal walking and high plateaus above the steep valleys left behind by its volcanic past. Your routes will take you to the tranquil springs of Ribeiro Bonito, to the northern coast with views across to neighbouring Porto Santo, and to the centre of the island high upon the Plateau Paul de Serra. And when you have finished exploring you will retreat to pretty coastal towns to enjoy a relaxing swim or enjoy a glass of wine in our great selection of hotels.

Is this holiday for you?

If you want to experience Madeira's rich culture on foot then this is the holiday for you. The spectacular steep valleys and coastal paths provide breathtaking vistas for surefooted walkers with a head for heights. Using the island's amazing network of levadas and fantastic coastal paths, you will walk an average of 13km per day, with no more than around 800m of ascent daily, to lovely villages, vibrant botanical gardens, and wild coasts. You will spend 5 nights in a selection of excellent 4-star hotels, some with spa facilities, and two nights in a lovely family run 2-star hotel in Porto da Cruz. Plus, staying on a bed and breakfast basis means you can experience the island's warm hospitality as well as having the opportunity to sample traditional dishes in the many local restaurants.

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Luggage transfers
- Transfers as described in the itinerary
- Entrance fees for levada hikes
- Uphill cable car journey to Monte / Funchal
- Welcome briefing
- Navigation App and GPX tracks available

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to Porto da Cruz
- Travel from Funchal
- 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
- Local public transport outside any listed in the program
- Personal equipment
- 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

Your trip starts at your hotel in Porto da Cruz 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 is Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport (Funchal), served by many departures from UK regional airports.

If you are flying to into Funchal you can travel via public transport to Porto da Cruz - the journey takes approximately 1 hour and costs approximately €3 - €4 per person.

Alternatively, it is possible to take a taxi from the airport - this costs around €40. NB there is a 20% supplement for trips made between 9pm and 6am.

Your trip ends at your hotel in Funchal. You can travel via the Aerobus shuttle from the stop near to your hotel - this takes 20 - 30 minutes and costs approximately €6 per person - your hotel will be able to give you the latest timetable information and advise you how to reach the bus stop.

Alternatively, it is possible to take a taxi to the airport - this costs around €40. NB there is a 20% supplement for trips made between 9pm and 6am.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

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.

It is not just fantastic walking this Pearl of the Atlantic has to offer. The island's fertile volcanic soils and incredible network of levadas make for a plethora of fresh and tasty produce, not to mention the fantastic seafood the local fisherman catch daily from the surrounding North Atlantic Ocean. This holiday is on a bed and breakfast basis allowing you to sample all the great tastes the island has to offer.

The island has many fantastic seafood restaurants serving delicacies such as grilled limpets fresh from the grill served with garlic butter, lemon and local bolo do caco (a typically Madeiran flat round bread). For meat eaters we recommend sharing picado with your travelling companion; made with fried chunks of beef, garlic and red peppers served in a large dish surrounded by French fries 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 time. And let's not forget the aperitif for which the island is famed- Madeira Wine. The fortified wine comes in many forms from a sweet dessert wine to a dry aperitif making the perfect end to an evening meal or a souvenir to remember a great holiday on the island.

Accommodation

We have hand-picked a great selection of 3-star and 4-star hotels for your trip, as well as a lovely family-run 2-star hotel in Porto da Cruz. Each accommodation 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 walking on the island.

Each accommodation offers a great breakfast 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.

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.

Baggage Allowance

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your walk. We ask that you please ensure that each piece of your luggage is under 20kg and that your luggage is ready for collection in the morning on the day of each hotel change. You will also need a daypack to carry your daily essentials with you whilst you are walking.

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 walking holiday is that you decide the pace, however getting some additional exercise before going on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. After all, the fitter you are, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking for 3 to 5 hours for consecutive days. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of daily walks in hilly countryside before your trip, and it is always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear you are going to use on this holiday.

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

- Walking in Madeira - Paddy Dillon (Cicerone)
- Walk! Madeira with Shirley & Mike Whitehead - Discovery Walking Guides - Shirley & Mike Whitehead
- 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

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good-grip soles
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers
- Functional base layer top and leggings
- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)

- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Headtorch with spare batteries
- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

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 daily departures in April and May, and for departures on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the rest of 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?

Circumnavigating the entire island allows you to experience the very best of Madeira’s strong culture in just one week - from sampling the island's potent Poncha to standing proud on Cabo Girao, Europe’s highest clifftop, for the ultimate panorama.We have included all transfers to/from your walks each day, luggage transfers, and an uphill journey on the cable car to Monte - high above Funchal - so that all you have to do is put one foot in front of the other and enjoy your holiday!

Please Note This document was downloaded on 25/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change