



Madeira - Whales, Dolphins and Volcanic Landscapes



HOLIDAY TYPE: Small Group
VISITING: Madeira

BROCHURE CODE: 4037
DURATION: 7 nights

In Brief

This seven-night adventure to Madeira includes a variety of activities, which will excite all of the family. Visit the magical volcanic caves of Sao Vicente and swim in the lava pools, or volcanic beach at Seixal. Explore the island by jeep, foot and kayak, as you drive, boat and walk through colour-drenched landscapes and sun-drenched bays. Snorkelling with dolphins and whale watching are the icing on the cake.

Our Opinion

“ *This fun-filled family adventure covers the best of the best in Madeira and your family will quickly fall in love with this beautiful island. Get up close to the nature, wildlife and action of the island and enjoy the warm waters and plentiful marine life, as well as the magical mountains and fantastic lava pools. The locals are warm and welcoming and Funchal is a great place for your family to explore.* ”

Jono Archer



What's included?

- **Transfers:** All transfers included
- **Accommodation:** 7 nights' hotel accommodation in double/twin rooms*
- **Meals:** 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** east island jeep expedition with levada walk; sea kayaking and snorkelling; whale and dolphin watching; snorkelling with dolphins**; canyoning; north island jeep expedition; visit the volcanic caves of Sao Vicente and swim in the lava pools, or volcanic beach at Seixal; levada biking tour (the order of activities is subject to change)
- Fully qualified guides and instructors during activities
- ***Please note** that a city tax of approximately 2 euros per person per night is payable locally on arrival. This amount may change without notice.
- ****Please note** you can only snorkel with the dolphins if the conditions are right. There is also the possibility that not all the members of the group will be able to do it before the dolphins move on.
- **A note on flights:** while flights are not included in the holiday price, our team will happily provide a quote and arrange them for you. Simply ask one of our Travel Experts for details of the available options

Trip Overview

Madeira is the perfect place for families to enjoy a holiday of discovery: warm waters, sun-filled days and exciting activities make this a fantastic place to explore.

You'll be based in Funchal, the island's small and fascinating capital and from here you can take part in all sorts of adventures. On your first day, you will explore the island as you enjoy a jeep adventure from one amazing viewpoint to another, over mountains and through valleys and along the winding coastline as you go! Stopping for a walk in the colourful mountains of Madeira, you'll head to the stunning Balcões viewpoint, which looks out to the island's central mountain range. From here, you'll then go for a short walk along one of the island's many levadas, traversing across the forested hills, filled with emerald green trees and bursting with colourful flowers and bubbling streams.

Moving from land to sea, you'll have the chance to explore the coves and bays of the island by sea

kayak, as you paddle across the beautiful blue sea in search of wildlife and adventure. You'll then take to the seas again, aboard a RIB in search of marine life. Madeira is renowned for its whale and dolphin watching, so there's no way we could leave this out during your time here. The boat trip will take you across the waters that surround Madeira and if nature is on your side, you'll even get the chance to snorkel with the wild dolphins that call these waters home! A truly brilliant experience, this is sure to leave your family with fun-filled, lasting memories.

After the excitement of the ocean, you'll head deep into the island for a half day of family-friendly canyoning. It's a fantastic way to explore the island from another point of view – water slides, refreshing pools and rappels will certainly keep the family entertained!

Back on the road and you'll journey by jeep to the volcanic caves of Sao Vicente, which includes a trip to the Volcanism Centre to learn about the island's formation. From here, you'll then get to see how volcanoes can create natural masterpieces, as you swim in the fantastic saltwater swimming pools of Seixal, which were formed by lava and are filled with beautiful, crystal-clear water. There's also a black, volcanic beach nearby, with fantastic views of the cliffs above.

Finally, you'll take to the trails as you enjoy an easy biking tour along a wide levada, surrounded by lush forest; a fantastic way to explore the famous irrigation channels of Madeira!

Based in a family run hotel, which is full of charm and character, you'll be staying close to the sea and the old town section of Funchal, so this is the perfect trip for families looking for a fun-filled adventure holiday with nearby shops, restaurants and excitement!

Image credits: Loko Loko, Rota dos Cetaceus, Madeira Promotion Bureau, Francisco Correia, Terras de Aventura, Visit Madeira

Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY
1

ARRIVAL AND WELCOME DINNER

Arriving into Funchal, you will be picked up at the airport and transferred to your hotel, the Quinta da Penha Franca/Franca de Mar, which is situated close to the sea and the old town section of Funchal.

This evening, you'll meet with our local guide and walk to a nearby restaurant for a fantastic welcome dinner in a traditional Madeiran restaurant. Food is a big part of island life, so you'll be served a set, 3-course menu to sample some of the local flavours. Drinks are not included.

Please note that the order and timings of activities listed within the agenda is subject to change; your final itinerary will be provided to you on arrival.

Included Meals: Dinner

DAY
2

EAST ISLAND JEEP EXPEDITION WITH LEVADA WALK

Madeira has to be explored to be truly appreciated, so we've made sure that you get to cover as much of the island as possible and see it in all its glory.

A jeep expedition is a brilliant way to journey through the mountainous terrain and it will no doubt excite the family as you weave through the ravines and wind along the coastline. The island is filled with natural sights and viewpoints, from stunning plateaus to jagged mountain peaks, it is one big natural wonder.

Stopping at the Balcoes viewpoint, you will get to see the inner mountains of the island; tree-covered and towering high above. From here, you'll enjoy a picnic lunch in the laurel forest, followed by a walk along a winding levada, through the luscious vegetation, filled with tropical trees and plants bursting with colour. Levadas are small irrigation channels used to transport water down from the mountains; they are one of the island's most famous features and following one is a great way to explore the island's terrain!

The walk will be tailored to the group's ability, but it will cover approximately 5km, lasting two hours, with plenty of rest stops along the way.

Your jeep adventure will last the full day, starting at 9am and finishing at 5pm (approximately). Upon returning to your hotel, why not take a short walk into Funchal and eat out at one of the city's many restaurants tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
3

FREE DAY

Today is free for you to do as you please; you can be as active or relaxed as you like.

You might choose to spend the day lounging by the pools or swimming in the sea, or maybe you'll want to explore the city of Funchal at your leisure. Thanks to the hotel's location, Funchal can be reached on foot and you can enjoy a walk through Santa Catarina Park which is filled with flowers, trees and colourful shrubs (the park is also opposite Cristiano Ronaldo's hotel and museum!).

One thing not to be missed is the city's marketplace, which is packed with sweets, fruits and vegetables: a real treat for the senses. You should also take a walk through the colourful old town, which is brimming with exciting shops, cafes and restaurants – you can even take a cable car up to the mountains above for a spectacular view of Funchal and the surrounding coastline.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
4

SEA KAYAKING AND SNORKELLING; WHALE WATCHING AND SNORKELLING WITH DOLPHINS

Today is filled with water-based fun for all of the family to enjoy, so be sure to have your swimming costumes at the ready!

After breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel at approximately 9am, before heading to the sea for a morning of sea kayaking around the coves and bays of the island. This is a great way to see the coastline of Madeira, as you paddle across the deep blue sea. Keep your eyes peeled, as you never know, you might just catch a glimpse of some marine life, prior to this afternoon's marine-based excitement!

You will be kayaking for approximately two hours this morning, returning to the hotel at around 12:30pm. The kayaks are sit-ons which can accommodate two adults and one child and you will have plenty of time to swim and snorkel in the clear waters of the Garajau Nature Reserve, which is home to a variety of coastal species.

This afternoon, at approximately 3:45pm, you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the harbour. You will then head back out to the Atlantic for what will hopefully be one of your most memorable activities: whale watching and snorkelling with dolphins! If luck has been on your side, you may have already seen marine life during your kayaking this morning, but this afternoon's adventure will be different and more personal in many ways.

You will head out via RIB (Rigid-hulled Inflatable Boat) in search of your aquatic friends. Your onboard marine biologist will tell you about the marine life of the islands while your captain searches for whales and dolphins. The waters that surround the islands are rich with life and throughout the year, 28 different species can be found, including: Atlantic-spotted, bottlenose, risso's and striped dolphins, as well as pilot, bryde and fin whales.

Hopefully nature will be on your side today and give you the chance to get close to the action and excitement, as the dolphins follow your boat. If the conditions are right, you may also get the chance to join the dolphins in the sea, as you snorkel alongside the boat; a fantastically amazing experience for all of the family. Although you may not get to see the dolphins as close as you would in a marine park, the experience is far superior as you get to see them in their natural environment.

Please note that snorkelling with the dolphins depends on the weather conditions at the time, as well as the dolphins' behaviour and there is a chance that it might not be possible. There is also a possibility that not all members of the group will be able to snorkel with the dolphins before they move on, as only 6 people are allowed in the sea at any one time.

You will return to the hotel at approximately 6:45pm tonight.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
5

CANYONING

Today's activity starts in the afternoon, so we would recommend an early lunch, as you will be collected from the hotel at approximately 1pm and taken into the island's interior for an afternoon of fun.

You'll be kitted out with wet suits and canyoning shoes, with your swimming costume worn

underneath. It's then an uphill walk, followed by a steep path down through the trees to the start point.

It's the perfect canyon for novices, with a series of easy slides, pool jumps and rappels to enjoy. Our expert local guides have been working in these canyons for years and they know every little foot and hand hold there is, so you'll be in safe hands throughout.

You'll be guided through the canyon at a pace suited to the group's ability, taking in the incredible scenery as you work your way downstream. Filled with trees, plants and colourful flowers, it's a wonderful place to explore – the canyon is filled with fennel (funcho in Portuguese), which is where the name Funchal, the island's capital, comes from.

Canyoning is a fantastic way to experience the island's landscape from a different perspective and it will no doubt leave your family grinning from ear to ear, as you navigate your way along the stream.

You will return to the hotel at approximately 5:30-6pm.

Please note that children must be over 140cm tall to participate in the canyoning.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY
6

NORTH ISLAND JEEP EXPEDITION, VOLCANIC CAVES OF SAO VICENTE
AND SWIM IN THE LAVAL POOLS AT SEIXAL

Today you will enjoy another full day of excitement and adventure as you explore the northern part of Madeira.

You will be picked up from your hotel this morning and journey towards the small village of Sao Vicente, which is on the island's northern coast. Your journey will take you into the mountains, through deep ravines and picturesque villages, arriving at the Volcanism Centre where you will learn about the formation of the island before having a chance to explore the volcanic caves and tunnels.

Following this, you will either have a picnic lunch along the way, or stop for lunch in a local restaurant with a chance to experience some of the island's flavours, then it is on to the natural lava pools and volcanic beach at Seixal. The saltwater lava pools were naturally created by volcanic eruptions and have since filled with seawater to create the perfect swimming area, with crystal-clear waters; a wonderfully fun experience for the family!

You will arrive back at your hotel at approximately 5-5:30pm.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY
7

LEVADA BIKING TOUR

This morning, it's time to explore the island by bike. We've selected a family-friendly trail which follows a wide and gentle levada. You'll cycle for approximately two hours, as your expert guide leads you through the forest on this easy route.

Cycling past towering trees and plants bursting with colour, this is another fantastic way to enjoy the stunning flora of Madeira in a wonderful part of the island.

Each activity this week allows you and your family to explore different parts of the island by foot, kayak, bike, boat and jeep, giving you a wonderful, all-encompassing Madeiran experience; hopefully filled with an abundance of family-fuelled fun along the way!

Returning to your hotel in time for lunch, you will have the afternoon free to unwind and relax, or explore Funchal for one last time.

Tonight, you will have a farewell meal in a local restaurant, only a short walk away from the hotel. A set, 3-course menu will be served and drinks are not included.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY
8

DEPARTURE

Sadly the time has come for you to return home today. After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation Notes

Accommodation Notes

Please note that a city tax of approximately 2 euros per person per night is payable locally on arrival. This amount may change without notice.

Included Accommodation

Other options are available - see below for details.

Quinta da Penha de Franca (Nights: 1-7)



Situated close to the sea and only a short walk from the centre of Funchal, the Quinta da Penha de Franca is perfectly located to enjoy sun, sea and adventure!

The word 'quinta' refers to country villas and manors and they offer a true sense of Madeiran life, with traditional designs and lots of character, making a refreshing change from the large hotels that you can see throughout Funchal.

The hotel is set slightly back from the sea, with its own tropical gardens and saltwater swimming pool and it is perfect for families. It is joined to the Quinta da Penha de Franca Mar (accommodation option 2) and facilities are shared between the two.

Hotel facilities

- Perfect for families, the saltwater swimming pool is great for cooling off after a day of adventure
- Linked to the Quinta da Penha de Franca Mar, guests can access the sea via a small footbridge and can also use the seaside swimming pool, complete with poolside bar
- The hotel restaurant and bar serves great food and drink for all the family to enjoy
- Enjoy some recreation in the games room, which includes pool tables, cards and darts
- Free Wi-Fi is available in the reception area of the hotel

Room options

DOUBLE/TWIN GARDEN VIEW WITH TERRACE/BALCONY:

Our package includes accommodation in a garden view room with terrace/balcony (other options are available). These rooms are traditionally decorated and come with either a twin or double bed. They each have a TV, telephone, minibar and safe, as well as a separate bathroom with tub and hair dryer. Some rooms have air-conditioning (fans are also available and payable locally if required) and each of them enjoys views out to the hotel's tropical gardens.

Please speak to our Travel Expert for a quote.

Other accommodation options

Contact us for a personalised quote.



Quinta da Penha de Franca - upgrade

Double/twin superior side sea view with balcony

These double and twin rooms have their own balcony overlooking the garden and with a side view of the sea. Each room has a double or twin bed, a TV, telephone, minibar and safe, as well as air conditioning and a separate bathroom with tub and hair dryer.

Please speak to our Travel Expert for a quote.

Quinta da Penha de Franca Mar



This hotel sits right by the sea, with fantastic views over the Atlantic. Perfect for families, this hotel is linked to the Quinta da Penha de Franca and guests can make use of the two pools, as well as the direct access to the sea.

More modern than the Quinta da Penha de Franca, but traditionally decorated, this hotel is perfect for families who enjoy seaside relaxation with amenities close by. Only a short walk from the heart of Funchal, guests can also enjoy a variety of nearby restaurants, cafes and attractions.

Hotel facilities

- With great views looking out to sea, the swimming pool is perfectly situated for a refreshing

dip

- For those that enjoy swimming in the sea, you can swim in the Atlantic with direct access from the hotel's swimming platform
- The pool bar provides drinks and snacks all day and the hotel restaurant is ideal for lunches on the terrace
- Facilities are shared with the Quinta da Penha de Franca (accommodation option 1), so you can make use of the hotel's restaurant, gardens and saltwater swimming pool as well

Room options

DOUBLE/TWIN SEA VIEW WITH TERRACE/BALCONY

Each room is decorated in a nautical style and includes a double or twin bed, as well as TV, telephone, minibar and safe. All rooms have a view of the sea and have either a terrace or balcony, as well as air conditioning and en-suite bathroom.

Pestana Carlton Hotel



During your stay in Madeira, you may wish to upgrade to the Pestana Carlton Hotel, a stunning retreat, approximately a 15-minute walk into Funchal. The grounds of the hotel offers a variety of brilliant views including out to sea, overlooking the swimming pools, taking in the bright colours of the garden and of Funchal Bay.

Hotel Facilities

- Take a dip in one of the two outdoor saltwater swimming pools, or go for a swim in the Atlantic Ocean, with direct access from the hotel
- Relax in the spa area complete with indoor pool, Jacuzzi, Turkish bath and relaxation rooms where you can also enjoy a treatment (payable locally)
- Keep in touch with loved ones with use of the free WiFi

Room types

Double classic pool view (sleeps 2 people): The rooms come equipped with air-conditioning, WiFi, TV and a balcony or terrace with views of the swimming pool. The rooms also feature a private bathroom with bath and shower, as well as a hairdryer. You will have either a double bed or two singles as well as a minibar, safe, desk and tea and coffee making facilities.

Double classic sea view (sleeps 2 people): You could also upgrade your double room to a sea view room, equipped with air-conditioning, WiFi, TV and a balcony with views of the sea or Funchal Bay. The rooms also feature a private bathroom with bath and shower as well as a hairdryer. You will have either a double bed or two singles as well as a minibar, safe, desk and tea and coffee making facilities.

Family room land view (sleeps 4 adults, or 2 adults and 2 children): If you would prefer to keep everyone together, you can upgrade to the family room which comes with a double bed or two single beds as well as a living room with sofa bed. The private bathroom has a bath/shower and hairdryer. This room also features a balcony with table, chairs and mountain views, air conditioning, LCD television, minibar, coffee and/or tea-making facilities, safe and free Wi-Fi.

Please speak to our Travel Expert for a quote.

Image Credits: Pestana Carlton Hotel

Porto Mare Hotel



During your stay in Madeira, you could choose to upgrade to the Porto Mare Hotel - perfect for those who prefer a hotel further out of the city. Located around a 40-minute walk from Funchal (or take the free hotel bus), the resort has beautiful ocean and tropical garden surroundings away from the hustle and bustle of the city centre.

Hotel facilities

- Take a refreshing dip in any one of the five pools on site (outdoor and indoor as well as designated children's pool), which are shared between its 2 sister hotels
- Stroll through the luscious surrounding gardens before stopping at the ice cream parlour to cool down
- Keep busy with squash, tennis, table tennis, snooker, children's playground and minigolf all available on site
- Make use of the fitness room before unwinding in spa area complete with treatments, Jacuzzis, sauna and steam bath
- The hotel also offers free WiFi in all areas

Room types

Double land view (sleeps max 3): These rooms come equipped with twin beds, air conditioning and private bathroom with bathtub and shower. You will also find tea and coffee making facilities as well as a safe, minibar and private balcony with views of Madeira's gorgeous landscape.

Double sea view room (sleeps max 3): You could also upgrade to a double room with sea view. These rooms come equipped with twin beds, air conditioning and private bathroom with bathtub and shower. You will also find tea and coffee making facilities as well as a safe, minibar and private balcony with views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Junior Suite (sleeps 3-4): If you prefer to keep the family together, you could upgrade to the junior suite. These rooms come equipped with two queen beds, separate living room area, air conditioning and private bathroom with bathtub and shower. You will also find tea and coffee making facilities as well as a safe, minibar and private balcony.

Please speak to our Travel Expert for a quote.

Image Credits: Porto Mare Hotel

The Specifics

Holiday group size (approximate)

Minimum 4 people, maximum 25 (approximately)

Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you,

please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>