

Walking Madeira's Levadas



TRIP OVERVIEW

Explore the 'Garden Island' of Madeira as you follow its unique levadas, a network of irrigation channels that wind through lush forests and dramatic mountains. Immerse yourself in vivid floral blooms and verdant greenery as you embark on five spectacular trails, enjoying panoramic views, whitewashed villages and a walking tour of charming Funchal.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Madeira. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Funchal D

Depart London on your scheduled flight to Madeira. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure. Later tonight, celebrate the start of your tour as you join your group for a welcome dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DAY 2: Funchal B/L/D

(Average 4-5 hours of walking including breaks, covering 9km)
 The magnificent stretch of the Levada do Norte sets today's walking course. The levada is one of the largest on the island, running almost entirely across its length. Its location in southern Madeira allows hikers to soak in the year-round sunshine of this part of the island. Your starting point at the lofty cliffs of Cabo Girão provides panoramic ocean views from the very beginning of the trail before your path winds into a forested area. Observation points along the way offer glimpses of fields, carefully tilled plantations and the rooftops of the Câmara de Lobos and Campanário villages below.

DAY 3: Funchal B/L/D

(Average 4-5 hours of walking including breaks, covering 11km)
 Funchal's best-loved levada, Levada Ribeiro Frio, offers a peaceful and leisurely walk alongside a flowing irrigation canal. As you follow the trail, enjoy diverse sights ranging from spectacular gardens and blooming wild hydrangea to trout ponds and farms. Stop for a packed picnic lunch then continue on your path, keeping an eye out for trout darting through the water as you enjoy the natural heritage and unspoiled tranquillity.

DAY 4: Funchal B/D

(Average 3 hours of walking including breaks, covering 4km)
 The city of Funchal provides a fascinating mix of history and coastal charm. The older section of the town boasts long-standing monuments dotted along its cobbled streets while its lively seaside promenade offers sun-soaked lidos, beaches and cafes. A guided walking tour of the city centre takes you past the local theatre, the vivid blooms of the Municipal Garden, the age-old cathedral and the statue of Largo do Chafariz. Stop to explore the bustling central market, where stalls are laden with colourful, fresh produce then visit a nearby embroidery factory and browse through skilfully stitched homeware. Explore the city further with an afternoon at leisure

DAY 5: Funchal B/L/D

(Average 4-5 hours of walking including breaks, covering 10km)
 Explore the immense Paul da Serra plateau on today's slightly more challenging walk along the Vereda do Fanal trail. The relative flatness of the plateau allows for far-reaching vistas, with several points along the way revealing views over the valley and even the ocean on clear days. Your route ascends and descends through lush vegetation, ending in the forest of Fanal which lies in a small volcanic crater. Enjoy some time to relax and soak in your wooded surroundings before returning to your hotel.

DAY 6: Funchal B/L/D

(Average 4 hours of walking including breaks, covering 8km)
 Today's route leads to Vereda da Ponta de São Lourenço, situated on the very eastern point of the island. Marvel at fabulous seascapes and the contrast between the serenity of the southern coastline and the rough waters of the north. Discover unique fauna and flora and the curious rock formations which are a result of the island's volcanic origin. After walking a few miles, your path descends to the water's edge where you can enjoy the quiet and freshness of the turquoise seas, with time to swim and sunbath.

DAY 7: Funchal B/D

Today is free for you to relax, explore Funchal further or set out further afield to visit one of the charming villages nearby.

DAY 8: Funchal to the UK or extension B

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK or continue on to your chosen extension.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Portugal. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

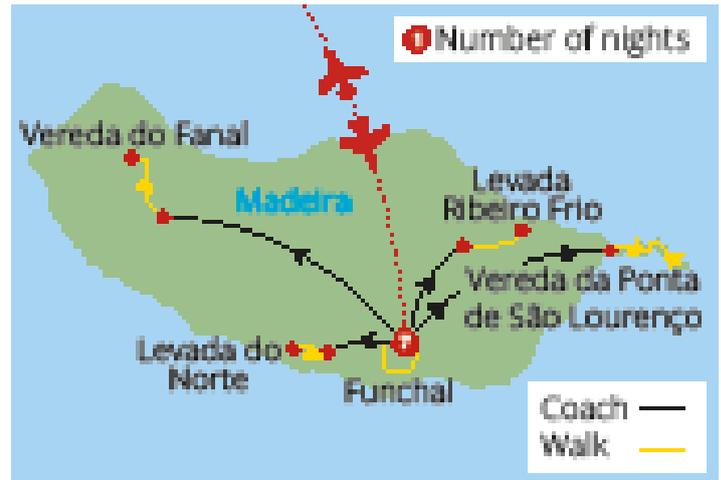
Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch will consist of packed picnics during your walks. Dinner will be served in your hotel.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival into Funchal you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Windsor Travel**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/ Windsor Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your local guide will be on hand during the walks should you have any queries, however if you need to contact your local assistant during your stay the details are:

Windsor Travel

Contact numbers: 00351 291 700 600
00351 967 611 503

Email: nicolapinto@windsortravel.ws or carmoaguair@windsortravel.ws

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Windsor Travel:
00351 967 611 503

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen, insect repellent and hat
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin, blister plasters etc
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Portugal is 220 V. You will need a two-pin plug adaptor
- Binoculars

- Water Bottle
- Anti-bacterial hand wash
- Daysack/ rucksack to use during walks
- A small torch
- Travel Kettle

It is recommended you take a daysack for your walking tours to keep a few belongings with you on your walks; waterproofs, fleece, sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent, water bottle and the all-important camera!

CLOTHING

- Lightweight breathable clothing, such as loose cotton which is ideal for the generally warm and humid conditions in Madeira.
- Sunhat
- Warm clothing - A thick fleece or sweater is necessary as nights can be cold (December to February)
- Waterproof lightweight jacket

- High quality hiking socks
- Walking boots – we recommend you bring boots with ankle support that are worn-in and comfortable before you start your walking holiday. Alternatively, you may wish to bring comfortable trail shoes
- Bathing suits

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is not required for your trip to Portugal. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote 'WK830' for

preferential rates.

Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches. The tour pace for Walking Madeira's Levadas is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in one hotel and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home. Our assistant and guide will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Climate

The island of Madeira has long been a favourite destination for tourists, owing to its luscious green scenery, landscapes dominated by mountainous terrain and most importantly, a year-round temperate climate without weather extremes. During autumn and winter from September to February, expect temperatures of around 18°C, with a moderate risk of occasional short showers on overcast days. Spring in Madeira is an ideal time to visit as it's packed with floral colour and can often reach pleasant highs of 20°C. From June to August, expect a scarce amount of rainfall and mercury to exceed 25°C - perfect for those seeking a splendid amount of summer sunshine.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £200- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Portugal is the Euro (€). We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before

you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Tipping

It is at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 19. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Itinerary Changes

The order of walks may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. Your local mountain guide will inform you of any changes. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times and change in itineraries. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of walks may vary according to local conditions.

Tour Guides - National Guide

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your local assistant who you can contact for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local mountain guide and backmarker during your walks, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. Should the tour not meet minimum numbers, then it will be operated with 1 mountain guide only.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

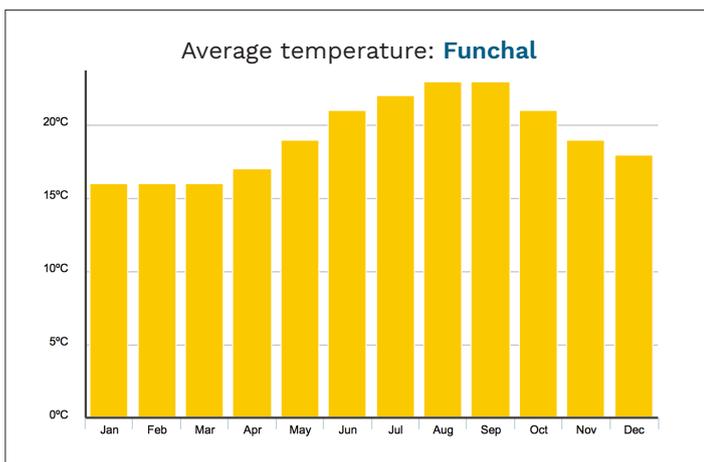
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Funchal City Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Madeira's capital offers a lively town centre and a picturesque promenade lined with palm trees and offering breathtaking views and an excellent selection of restaurants.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension in Funchal.

Hotel Information - Funchal (4 nights)

Your Funchal city stay will take place at the 3★ Hotel Orquidea on Half Board.

The Hotel Orquidea enjoys a privileged position in the heart of Funchal, offering easy access to the charming city centre and many of the capital's best attractions including historical sights, museums, theatres and shops. After a day spent sightseeing, guests can relax and unwind in the hotel's on-site bar or restaurant. Comfortable twin/double bedrooms are air-conditioned with en suite facilities, cable TV, telephone, hairdryer and internet access (at a fee).

Hotel address: R. dos Netos 69-71, 9000-084 Funchal, Portugal
Telephone Number: 00351 291 200 120

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our Reservations Department if you are unsure.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner are included every day and are western-style meals served in the hotel each day. No other meals are included in your add-on.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional meals, snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

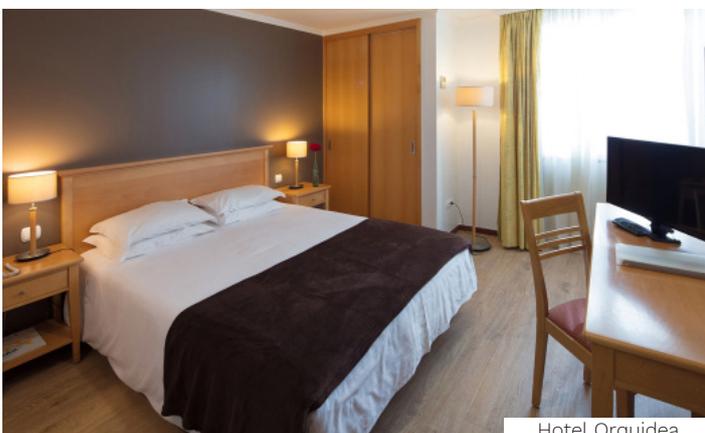
Tour Guides

Your stay in Funchal is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. All internal transfers are included.

Please note

This extension will take place at the end of your main tour.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Hotel Orquidea



Hotel Orquidea

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Funchal Oceanfront Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Enjoy the coastal delights of Madeira with a relaxing 4 night add-on in Funchal. Offering unparalleled views of the Atlantic, your oceanfront hotel allows you to make the most of long, sun-soaked days.

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Funchal (4 nights)

Your stay will take place at one of the following hotels:

4★ Fourviews Monumental Lido on Half Board.

Address: Estrada Monumental 284, 9004-541 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal
Contact number: 00351 291 724 000

5★ Vidamar Resort Hotel Madeira on Half Board.

Address: Estrada Monumental 175-177, 9000-100 Funchal, Portugal
Contact number: 00351 291 717 600

If you have booked another hotel, other than the one featured above, this will be shown on your invoice.

Meals

Breakfast and dinner are included every day and are western-style meals served in the hotel each day. No other meals are included in your add-on.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional meals, snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

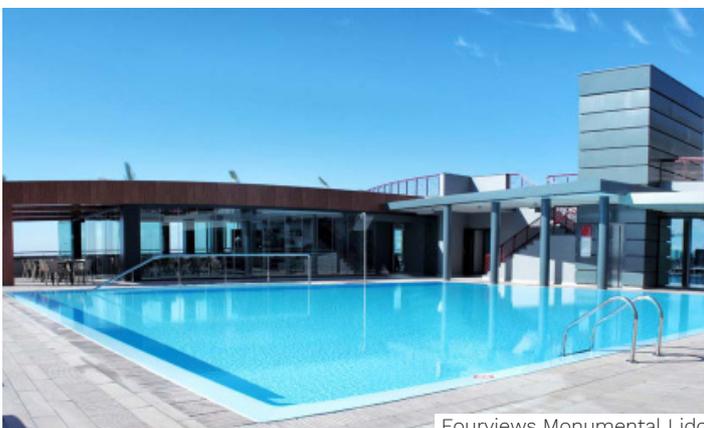
Tour Guides

Your stay in Funchal is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. All internal transfers are included.

Please note

This extension will take place at the end of your main tour.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Fourviews Monumental Lido



Vidamar Resort Hotel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**