



# 5 Days in Madeira

## Don't Forget List

- Before booking anything, make sure to check Madeira's specific requirements for entry which are not the same as mainland Portugal
  - **Madeira Safe App** - Might need to register your visit there
  - Appropriate testing - Check if and how many tests are needed with the correct time frames
- **Rent a car** - Seeing the island is the best and easiest with renting a car
- **Pack for local weather** - Off-season might require waterproof attire

## Food to Try

- **Prego sandwich**: A steak sandwich on a delicious traditional bread
- **Espetada**: A traditionally seasoned skewer of different meats grilled over wood
- **Espada or black scabbard fish**: Served with bananas, island classic must try
- **Bolo de mel**: A sweet honey cake
- **Madeira Wine**: Local wine, strong in taste
- **Poncha**: Cane rum drink with different fruit flavor options
- **Coral**: Local beer

## Day 1 - Valley of the Nuns & Funchal

- **Valley of the Nuns** - Picturesque small town with stunning views of mountains
  - Eira do Serrado - Viewpoint that you drive up to and then take a short walk to the platform
  - Miradouro Pardeao - Another popular viewpoint nearby with a similar short walk up
  - La Perla - Good lunch spot in town, try the espetada there
- **Funchal** - Capital of Madeira
  - Mercado Lavaradores - Local fruit market, go for the colors and local souvenirs, don't buy fruit there
  - Avenida Arriaga - Shopping street in town right next to the market
  - Zona Velha - Old town part of town with restaurants and cobblestone streets, nightlife spot
  - Cathedral of Funchal - Old catholic cathedral in the main part of town
  - Praça do Povo & Funchal Marina - Waterfront part of Funchal city, worth taking a stroll through
  - Parque de Santa Catarina - Small local park with nice views of the town and water
  - Cristiano Ronaldo Statue - Statute of famous soccer player from Madeira
  - Rei da Poncha - Famous stop for local poncha, an alcoholic cane rum with fruit juice

## Day 2 - Southern part of the island

- **Pico de Arieiro** - Third highest peak on the mountain
  - One of the only peaks that you can drive up, sunrise or sunset spot if the weather allows, check weather cam before heading up
- **Monte Palace Botanical Gardens**
  - Stunning botanical gardens in Funchal located on a hill
  - A cable car connects Funchal and Monte gardens as an option for transportation
  - Can take the famous **Togoggan cart** rides downhill to come back
- **Madeira Botanical Gardens**
  - Smaller second botanical garden in town and connected to Monte by cable car
- **Cabo Girao Skywalk**
  - A glass skywalk on a cliff overlooking Funchal and the ocean
- **Options for the afternoon:**
  - Vinhos Barbeito - Local winery with some great Madeira wine
  - Ribeira Brava - A small coastal town with a couple of restaurants and ocean views
  - Funchal at night - Dinner and walking around town



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## Day 3 - São Lourenço toward São Vicente

- **Ponta de São Lourenço** - A famous hike with unique rock structures and ocean views
  - Takes between 3-5 hours depending on stops but is fairly easy to do
  - Arrive early to avoid crowds - preferably before 10 am
- **Northern drive toward Sao Vicente**
  - Viewpoints (choose 1 or 2)
    - Faial Beach - Small beach with great viewpoints and impressive rock structures
    - Miradouro do Guindaste - Similar view to Faial Beach but from above
    - Miradouro do Curtado - Another viewpoint of the area
  - Santana Houses - Traditional houses, nothing more than a quick stop
  - Hotel & Restaurante Quinta do Furão - Great spot for lunch, check out the backyard views too
  - Miradouro da Beira da Quinta - Quick stop with some amazing views of the north coast
  - Sao Vicente - A nice mountain valley town with waterfront restaurants, a good base for hikes

## Day 4 - Northern part of the island

- **Miradouro do Véu da Noiva** - A viewpoint of a waterfall falling into the ocean
- **Seixal** - A small black sand beach town with stunning views of the northern coast
- **Porto Moniz** - A town with natural lava formed swimming pools
  - Might be cold off-season to swim but check the water temperature online before visiting
  - Has two swimming areas, one on the eastern side, it's free but more unnatural, and the western one which is more organized and only costs 1.5 euro
- **Fanal Forest** - A mysterious-looking forest
  - Best visited when the weather is foggy, the forest becomes an eerie but cool place for a walk

## Day 5 - Options

- **Option 1: Hiking**
  - There are many options for hikes on the island or levada walks
  - See the full post on Madeira to choose one best suited for you
- **Option 2: Western side exploration**
  - Garganta Funda Viewpoint - A very high waterfall on the western side of the island
  - Ponta do Pargo Lighthouse - Island lighthouse with small hikes around it
  - Cascata dos Anjos - A waterfall that falls on a road as you drive
  - Achadas da Cruz - A cable car that takes you to a small beautiful (somewhat inhabited) village
- **Option 3: Beaches**
  - Calheta Beach - White-sand beach on the island on the southern coast
  - Seixal Black Sand Beach - Northern coast dark sand beach
  - Ponta do Sol Beach - The sunniest spot on the island, great beach for (almost) year-round
- **Option 4: Porto Santo**
  - You can take a day trip to the nearby island, ferries leave in the morning and return in the evening
- **Option 5: Tours**
  - Madeira Food Tour - Madeira Food on Foot offers many different options for great food tastings
  - Dolphin & Whale Watching on a Catamaran - In season, this is a great option to see some animals
  - Jeep Tour - A 4x4 tour offered in the mountains