

## **Madeira - the island that has everything**

The Portuguese island of Madeira (Ilha da Madeira) located in Atlantic Ocean, discovered over 500 years ago by Portuguese explorers, offers a whole range of activities, making it the quality destination that specializes in the good things in life. Even two thirds of the island are strictly preserved as natural parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Because of its climate, Madeira can be visited all year round. There are flights scheduled from many European capitals making Madeira easy accessible. The name Madeira means “wood” in Portuguese and originates from dense cover of trees. The island was discovered by the Portuguese navigators Zarco and Teixeira in 1419. UNESCO classified Madeira as “World Heritage Site” in 1999. Funchal was declared the capital in 1508. Funcho in Portuguese means fennel. Tourism tradition of Madeira began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century because of the climate. Santa Catarina airport was opened in 1964 and the new airport in 2000.

After a short drive from the airport close to Funchal we have arrived to the **Quinta do Lorde Resort**



opened in 2013. The Resort includes a five-star hotel and a tourist complex with apartments, residences, shops, restaurants and leisure areas located in

Ponta de São Lourenço in an area of high ecological sensitivity. Guests can select from several swimming pools with fresh water and the impressive sea water infinity pool built directly in the sea. The hotel also offers services in the own marina. It is a very favourable starting point for trips to Prainha, Casa de Sardinha, levadas as well as to the northern coast of the island. What to do? For instance on foot - Eastern part of Madeira is a nature reserve and the volcano makes for a stunning landscape, as well as great views. From the parking lot you will walk three kilometres to Casa de Sardinha where you can learn a lot during the visit of small exhibition.

The **levadas** – irrigation channels – run all over the island, and form a series of paths and trails that lead you through the island. You can select from among seven different levadas, please check the pick- up times from different hotels for different days of the week. The longest one is 12 km long and you will walk for approximately 5 hours.

The island is full of beautiful beaches. **Prainha** is the only beach with natural



black sand as a result of the volcano. You have to park your car on the road up on the hill and then walk down to the beach.



With Madeira's warm oceans and Atlantic shores make it a haven for lots of great water activities, including sailing, whale & dolphin spotting, surfing and diving. The crystal clear waters lend themselves perfectly for snorkelling, with plenty of exciting sea life to discover.

Madeira also offers **golf** in wonderful nature, due to agreeable climate all the year round on two golf courses located directly on Madeira and on one golf course located on the Porto Santo Island. All three golf courses, we have visited, offer astonishing views, many flowers but as a surprise these are demanding hilly golf courses.

### **Club de Golf do Santo da Serra**



is located close to Funchal and airport and belongs to top 100 courses in Europe. It hosted European Tour tournament - Madeira Islands Open, the oldest golf tournament organized in Portugal, since 1993. The Club offers play on three sets of nine holes. From the first nine - Machico you can watch Machico bay, where the Portuguese sailors landed for the first time (1419). The first golf course was developed already in 1937, remodelled in 1991 by Robert Trent Jones, who designed a completely new golf course offering 27 holes. The golf course is located quite high - 670 meters above the sea level. Sometimes,

you will play during the morning hours in fog, like this year during Madeira Islands Open. The second nine holes Desertas are also demanding mainly because of hilly terrain. The third nine holes The Serras Course offer equally interesting play. The Club provides free transfers from and to hotels located in Funchal, Santa Cruz, Machico and Canical. Please check the departure times with your reception. Please do not forget to visit the club restaurant offering delicious food. Green fee: 18 holes € 110 and buggy €45.

Porto Santo Island was discovered by Joao Concalves Zarco one year earlier than Madeira. As a difference to Madeira this island has more than 9 kilometres of sandy beaches.

### **Porto Santo Golfe**



was designed by the golf legend Severiano Ballesteros and opened in 2004. The South Course is similar to traditional American golf courses, with lakes and beach on the horizon. The North Course is played near high sea cliffs and is a true links course.

You can reach this golf course after 2 hours by boat from Funchal or in 20 minutes by plane. It is recommended to buy the boat tickets in advance. You

can park your car easily in the underground parking lot directly in the port for a very reasonable price –€ 5.

As the climate in Porto Santo is dry, Porto Santo Golfe has only limited flora. Probably you will never forget the views from holes 13, 14 and 15 – blue ocean, dark rocks and scarce but very beautiful vegetation. Please do not forget to visit the club restaurant offering delicious food, probably the best we had during our one week stay. Green fee: €72 and buggy €40.

### **The Palheiro Golf Course**



was designed by Cabell B. Robinson in 1993 and renewed in 2003. From the parking lot you will have a wonderful view of Funchal and the ocean, but you have to drive an extremely steep road up to the hills to deserve this view. You have to solve your dilemma on all golf courses in Madeira and Porto Santo – shall I walk or drive? Walk is quite demanding but driving will be more appropriate in Palheiro because of longer distances among some holes. Palheiro Golf is quite close to Funchal as well as airport. Do not forget to visit superb restaurant managed by the award winning Relais ad Chateaux hotel Casa Velha do Palheiro. Green fee: 110 € and buggy €45.



The capital and the largest town as well as the first Atlantic City built outside the old continent, **Funchal**, is modern and lively, with designer boutiques, cafes, and a cosmopolitan atmosphere. This 500 years old city has the best climate on the island - actually there is no rain during summer. If you wish to learn more about Madeira, visit the Madeira Story Centre in Funchal open every day 10-18.00. A bird view of Funchal offers the Funchal cable car from the peak station at Monte (return ticket €15.00).

Madeira Island welcomes in spring with its dazzling **Flower Festival**: four days, with beautiful displays of tropical flowers, floral carpets and music. The best-known part - the Flower Festival Parade is held on Sunday, when hundreds of flower dancers accompanied by huge floral floats parade through the main streets of Funchal.

Madeira **Wine Festival** – 31th August to 7 September begins in Estreito de Camara de Lobos in September with a live grape harvest, picking and processing then followed by a traditional parade. Funchal centre will be filled with great celebrations, exhibits, folklore groups and street stands serving the famous Madeira wine and traditional food. We have visited during this festival wine tasting at Blandys – the most famous of all Madeira Wine Lodges, established in 1811. The guests were welcomed by hosts in traditional costumes. During one hour we have learnt a lot about production of Madeira wine and tasted one aperitif and one dessert wine. You can buy wine immediately after tasting with a discount and later pick it up at the airport after security check. We were very surprised when driving from Quinta do Lorde Resort to Porto da Cruz via wine yards, a young man stopped our car and presented us with freshly harvested red grapes on two large green leaves in order to turn our attention to wine week. Madeira's wine became the island's most precious product making it famous throughout the world.

What concerns gifts for your family, one of the most significant exports of Madeira is the embroidery, the largest companies are located in Funchal.

Further along the road from Funchal through Câmara de Lobos and up into the mountains you will arrive at **Cabo Girão** (590 m above the sea level) - the



second highest cliff face in the world offering breath taking views. You can take the cable car down to the beach and

swim below the cliff.

**Camara de Lobos**



is located only 10 km from Funchal and famous for having in 1950 Winston



Churchill painting the fishing port. But unfortunately during our visit the Churchill restaurant was closed.

After a short drive from Quinta do Lorde we have arrived on very steep roads

to **Pico do Areeiro** (1818 m) the third highest peak of the island, (Pico Ruivo -1861 m and Pico das Torres 1851 m). We were lucky – wonderful weather and high visibility



offered views of the Porto Santo Island, Eastern Madeira - Ponta de São Lourenço and Desertas islands, directly deep down in the valley Curral das Freiras as well as close to Pico a view of Funchal.

On the northern coast of the island we have visited **Porto da Cruz**





(Port of the Cross), a charming village, named after the cross that was placed on the shore to indicate the port for the Portuguese explorers. Wonderful view of this part of the island you will have when driving on the old road from Portela (669 m) and in Santana, you can visit famous for A-houses (little thatched triangular).



Madeira offers also high quality fresh food. One of specialties is the “espetada”, a skewer with seasoned cubes of meat grilled on charcoal. Because of the seafaring tradition, fish menus are delicious. Try the typical dish scabbard fish or swordfish topped with banana and passion fruit. We liked very much the good local homemade bread, made on hot stone and best-eaten warm with garlic butter – another local speciality. Simply said, Madeira is a gastronomic paradise.

**Surfing** on Madeira Island only began some years ago, when professionals and surf lovers recognised the excellent conditions that this region has to offer and Madeira became known as a quality surf location for advanced as well as beginner surfers.

During our short visit it was actually confirmed during each and every step that the island Madeira is the island that has everything - very agreeable climate,

beautiful nature, sea, hills, excellent food, interesting history, perfect infrastructure and a very broad selection of leisure time activities. We have visited mainly the area around the capital and Eastern part and we are already looking forward to our second visit to learn more about Madeira.

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[www.quintadolorde.pt](http://www.quintadolorde.pt)

**GOLF:**

[www.santodaserragolf.com](http://www.santodaserragolf.com)

[www.portosantogolfe.com](http://www.portosantogolfe.com)

[www.palheirogolf.com](http://www.palheirogolf.com)

**Points of interest:**

**Levadas:** [madeira@Vertentenatural.com](mailto:madeira@Vertentenatural.com) [www.madeira-active.com](http://www.madeira-active.com)

**Prainha:** [www.madeira-live.com](http://www.madeira-live.com)

**Flower and wine festivals:** [www.madeira-live.com](http://www.madeira-live.com)