
GEEO ITINERARY

HIKING IN MADEIRA - Winter

Day 1: Santana Arrive at any time.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until an evening welcome meeting. Check the notice boards or ask at reception for the exact time and location of the group meeting, typically 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. After the meeting, you might consider heading out for a meal in a nearby local restaurant to further get to know your tour leader and travel companions. Please make every effort to arrive on time for this welcome meeting. If you are delayed and will arrive late, please inform us. Your tour leader will then leave you a message at the front desk informing you of where and when to meet up.

Day 2: Santana (B, L) Set out for a half-day hike on the Levada do Caldeirão Verde trail with panoramic views over São Jorge village and the mountains that surround the valley. Enjoy a picnic by the waterfalls.

Our first hike of the trip is the 5 hour, 6.25 mile Levada do Caldeirão Verde trail. Observe the island's natural flora as you meander along this popular hiking trail, which gets its name from the lush carpet of green that surrounds travelers on the Levada do Caldeirão Verde. Hike over dirt trails and stone paths, which can get a little slippery - walking sticks can be provided if needed. Stop for a picnic lunch by the waterfalls and lagoon. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle, 5 hrs hiking

Day 3: Santana/Funchal (B, L) Summit one of the island's tallest peaks, the Pico do Arieiro.

Today's challenging 7.5 miles hike up to Pico do Arieiro takes us through uneven, rocky terrain, a man-made tunnel, and some steep ascents that may require scrambling over rocks. At an altitude of 6000 feet, it's the third-highest in Madeira. If the conditions are right, find yourself at the summit, above the clouds, looking down over Madeira. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle; 6 hrs hiking

Day 4: Funchal (B, L) Hike to the Cabo Girão viewpoint and traverse the skywalk, a glass walkway that extends over the edge of the cliffs, looking down straight into the sea.

Hike 3.75 miles to the Cabo Girão viewpoint, a popular destination on the island. Traverse the skywalk, a glass walkway that extends over the edge of the cliffs, looking down straight into the sea. Enjoy stunning views of the southern coast. Later, opt to try Madeira's famous poncha - a drink made with aguardente de cana (distilled sugarcane liquor) that's often sweetened with fruit. Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle; 5 hrs hiking

Day 5: Funchal (B) Enjoy a full free day. Opt to take a scenic jeep tour, explore the town, or take a cable car up to nearby Monte and take an exhilarating toboggan ride back down to Funchal.

Enjoy a full free day. Wander around the island's capital to get a glimpse of local life. Opt to visit the Cathedral of Funchal (Sé) and the colorful Rua da Santa Maria with over 200 painted doorways. Or opt to take a funicular up to the suburb of Monte, and see its beautiful tropical palace garden. If you're up for the thrill, take a toboggan ride back down to the city center. Another option is to take a full-day jeep tour of Madeira's northwest coast.

Day 6: Funchal (B) Depart at any time.

Our trip concludes today, and you may depart Funchal at any time. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO trips in the same year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value

program(s) (up to 3 programs). If you don't see a program that interests you that pairs with this trip, but still would like to extend your time abroad, let us know. We will work with you to find a non-teacher trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Even better, if you are an educator, we can still offer you a discounted price on the trip you choose!