
GEEO ITINERARY

Hiking in Madeira 11/18/2025

Day 1: Santana Arrive in Santana at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Santana at any time. The international airport for Madeira is **Madeira Airport (FNC)** in Funchal. Due to the potential for flight delays or cancellations, we recommend that you plan to arrive in Madeira or Portugal at least a day in advance. This will also give you time to adjust to the time difference and overcome any jet lag. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Santana before the trip. **Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting** Please note that check-in at the hotel is usually around 2:00-3:00 p.m. There are no planned activities until an intro meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m., usually in the hotel lobby. Check for a sign or ask at the reception desk about the exact time and location of the group meeting. Please make every effort to arrive in time for this 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 tomorrow. After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Joining Instructions The drive time from Madeira Airport (officially Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport) in Funchal to Santana on the northeast coast takes 25–30 minutes and costs approximately €25–30 euros by taxi. If you prefer public transportation, you can take the 103/138 line bus towards Cabanas, which takes just over 1 hour and costs €4. Get off at the Depois do Colmo stop in Santana, which is less than a 5-minute walk from the hotel. The bus is on a limited schedule and leaves once every one to two hours. **Accommodation:** Hotel O Colmo Santana (or similar) * *For the actual hotel your specific departure will be using, please check your voucher.*

Day 2: Santana/Larano Trail Hike the Larano trail along Madeira's north coast. Start near Machico and hike to the viewpoint of Boca do Risco.

Our first hike of the trip is the 5.5 hour, 8.7-mile Larano trail along Madeira's north coast. We will start near Machico and hike to the viewpoint of Boca do Risco, offering breathtaking views of the north coast. We then follow the coastline to the west and take the trail back to Porto da Cruz. The hike has a total incline of about 820 feet and mostly follows the coast. Some parts of the trail do not have railings, but the trail is wide enough that it is still safe to walk and stay away from the edge. **Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by private vehicle, 5.5 hrs hiking **Accommodation:** Hotel O Colmo Santana **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

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

Today's challenging 7.5-mile 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. Afterward, we will drive to Funchal, the capital city of Portugal's Madeira archipelago where we will check into a new hotel. **Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by private vehicle; 6 hrs hiking; 1 hr by private vehicle **Accommodation:** Hotel Orquidea **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 4: Funchal/São Lourenço Point Hike the trail to São Lourenço Point, the easternmost peninsula of Madeira.

Today's hike takes us from Funchal to São Lourenço Point, the easternmost peninsula of Madeira. Wander along the cliff admiring the scenery as this walk explores the long, thin peninsula. This trail is often referred to as the "Dragon's Tail" and takes you along a narrow stretch of rugged coastline where you will see some great rock formations. This hike is very different from the other hikes, as the

topography is volcanic with very little vegetation. The hike is about 6 miles and the trail is rocky and mostly gravel with a total incline of around 1,640 feet. **Approximate travel time:** 5.5 hrs hiking
Accommodation: Hotel Orquidea **Meals included:** Breakfast | Lunch

Day 5: Funchal/Cabo Girão 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. 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. **Approximate travel time:** 1 hr by private vehicle; 5 hrs hiking **Accommodation:** Hotel Orquidea **Meals included:** Breakfast

Day 6: Funchal Depart at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Funchal at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Funchal, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us. Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk. The international airport is **Madeira Airport (FNC)** in Funchal. Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive a discount! GEEO will give you 10% off of the lesser value program(s) (up to 3 programs per year). If you would like to extend your time abroad but don't see another GEEO program that interests you, let us know. We can work with you to find a trip from our tour operator's much larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but we can still offer you and your travel companions a discounted educator price on any additional tours that you book. **Meals included:** Breakfast

**Itinerary Disclaimer: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*