
GEEO ITINERARY

Hiking in Madeira (Gabagool's Version)

Day 1: Santana Arrive at any time.

You may arrive in Santana at any time today. There are no planned activities, so check into our hotel and enjoy the city. We will have a group meeting in the evening around 6:00 p.m. There will be a note at the front desk to let you know the exact time and location of the meeting. The note will also tell you what time to meet in the lobby in the morning if you arrive too late for the meeting. If you miss this meeting, please don't worry; your tour leader will go over everything with you in the morning.

Day 2: Santana/Larano Trail (B, L) 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

Day 3: Santana/Pico do Arieiro/Funchal (B, L) 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

Day 4: Funchal/São Lourenço Point (B, L) 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

Day 5: Funchal/Cabo Girão (B) 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

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!