GEEO ITINERARY

Hiking in Madeira 3/27/2027

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 at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The international airport for Madeira is **Madeira Airport (FNC)** in Funchal.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

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**
> Taxi: (€25-30 | 25-30min) Available at Madeira Airport (Cristiano Ronaldo International Airport) for transfer to Santana.
> Bus: (€4 | ~1hr) Take the 103 or 138 line bus towards Cabanas. Get off at the Depois do Colmo stop in Santana, which is less than a 5-minute walk from the hotel. *Note: Buses run on a limited schedule, departing once every 1-2 hours*.

Day 2: Santana Explore Madeira's north coast on a 9-mile hike.

Today's 9-mile hike along the island's breathtaking north coast brings you to stunning ocean views, lush rainforests, and captivating waterfalls. Beginning in Boaventura and ending in the charming village of São Cristóvão, the hike follows dramatic cliffs, picturesque bridges, and intriguing ruins. With an elevation gain of 820 feet and a loss of 1,640 feet, the hike will be both challenging and rewarding.

Approximate travel time: 1 hr by private vehicle, 5.5 hrs hiking
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
Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

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

Today's hike takes us from Funchal to São Lourenco 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
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
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 requesting post-trip 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.

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Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Santana (Mar 27): Hotel O Colmo Santana

Day 2 Santana (Mar 28): Hotel O Colmo Santana

Day 3 Funchal (Mar 29): Hotel Orquidea

Day 4 Funchal (Mar 30): Hotel Orquidea

Day 5 Funchal (Mar 31): Hotel Orquidea

__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.