

miss it, you must make your own way to the joining point at your own expense. Joining the group transfer is free of charge.

Please note that the cost of a taxi is likely to be about £50, should you decide to make your way independently.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

The entries in **bold** at the end of each day indicate the type of accommodation normally used (see accommodation section overleaf for key to codes) and meals included (**B**=Breakfast, **L**=Lunch, **D**=Dinner).

Day 1 Start Encumeada. We transfer to our hotel, situated on one of the most beautiful slopes of the Ribeira Brava valley. **CH**



Day 2 After a short transfer we enjoy a gentle walk exploring the evergreen Rabacal valley, situated within the natural park of Madeira. Known as the 'Levada of 25 Fontes' we follow the trail as far as the Risco Waterfall with stunning views of the natural springs and fountains along the way. We return to the hotel in Encumeada via the pleasant coastal town of Calheta. **CH (B)**

Day 3 Today we embark on a fine high level walk. From Encumeada we walk through woods of chestnut and eucalyptus under the looming Pico Grande providing fine views across the island. Eventually we come to a superb viewpoint overlooking the spectacularly situated village of Curral das Freiras before ending the walk in Boca da Corrida. We take a transfer into Funchal and there will be time for exploration of the town, a visit to the market or shopping if you wish. **CH (B)**

Day 4 Enjoy a morning of whale watching in the Atlantic Ocean with a boat cruise along the Madeiran coast. This is also a great way to get to know some of the most beautiful landscapes of the island. Your afternoon is free to spend on the beach or sightseeing. **CH (B)**

Day 5 After a day of rest we continue to walk the beauty spots of Madeira, reaching the extreme east of the island and exploring one of the last nearly untouched places in Europe. The peninsula of Ponta de São Lourenço provides excellent views over both the northern and southern sides of the island and is a stunning combination of lava rocks, sea and nature. **CH (B)**

Day 6 Morning canoeing off the coast between Funchal and Garajau in the shadow of the natural beauty of the sea-cliffs. The afternoon is free to visit the botanical gardens in Funchal or take a cable car ride. **CH (B)**

Day 7 We take an early transfer to Pico de Arieiro in time for sunrise. Walk to the highest peaks of the island - Gato, Torres and Ruivo standing at 1862m. We then return to Funchal via the beautiful village of Santana, characterised by its quaint thatched triangular houses. **CH (B)**



Day 8 End Funchal. **(B)**

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation

We indicate in the itinerary what type of accommodation is provided on each day. The descriptions are guidelines only and are used to give an idea of the accommodation offered, rather than an exact description.

The first two nights are spent in the 3-star Residencial Encumeada, with all of the rooms enjoying a view over the surrounding valley.



We spend five nights in the 4-star Hotel Quinta do Sol in en suite rooms. Other facilities include a sauna, jacuzzi, games room and swimming pool. As well as panoramic views over the bay and mountains surrounding Funchal, the hotel is only a 10 minute walk from the town centre.

Family of two or four - All family groupings of two and four will be put into either one or two twin rooms. How you decide to share is up to the discretion of the adults.

Family of three - Wherever possible we will put you in a triple room. Please be aware that in some places triple rooms are in short supply. This means that, in practice, a triple room will often simply be a twin room with a mattress on the floor or a further bed squashed in. Where it is impossible to provide a triple room, you will have to decide which of your party takes the single room.

Family of five or more - For larger families, we will provide twin rooms as standard, with a triple room if there is an odd number.

Whilst we will do our very best to ensure that families are roomed close together (in some cases, we can arrange adjoining rooms), we can't guarantee this. Most family holidays occur during peak season and we sometimes have little to no control over where you will be put. You need to come prepared for this.

Please note that child prices are only valid if sharing a triple or quadruple room with the adults. A reduction of £45 is available for the third person in a triple room (valid only for adult or child 12 years and above). Quadruple rooms should be requested through a member of our sales team.

Single Accommodation is available for a supplement of £120.

KEY TO ACCOMMODATION

CH Comfortable Hotel, Lodge or Gite - twin rooms with en suite facilities, reliable electricity and water supply, good service and some added amenities.

FOOD & TRANSPORT

Food

All breakfasts are included. In the itinerary we state which meals are included on each day.

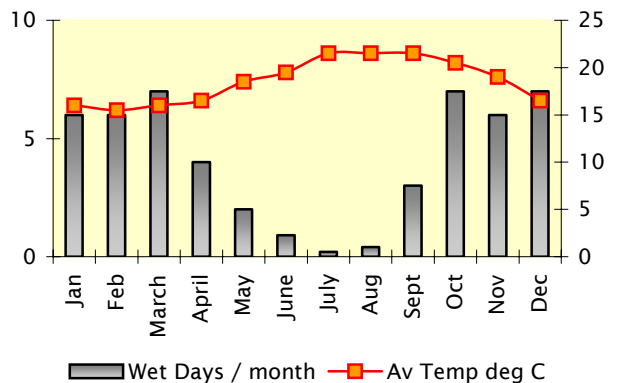
Breakfast: Continental with coffee/tea, fruit juice, rolls or bread, butter and jam, with sometimes in addition cereal or cheese.

Transport

Transport from and to the airport is by taxi or minibus and is included. Other transport mentioned in the itinerary as an integral part of the guided walks is also included, as is the transfer of luggage between hotels.

WEATHER

Weather chart for Funchal



The climate in Madeira is similar to that found around the Mediterranean and is renowned for its year round mildness. As with any small island in the middle of an ocean, there is always the possibility of some rain. Most of the rain falls in the north of the island, hence the building of the levadas to provide the warmer southern end of the island with water.

In May, April, June, October and November, temperatures are pleasant and some rainfall is to be expected. From July to September, daytime is a little warmer and it is typically dry with an average of seven to eight hours of sunshine a day. Still, the occasional rainy day is possible. Winter months are generally wetter, particularly at high levels with rain falling between periods of fine, settled weather (so waterproofs are essential).

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

Tourism can be a real help to local communities, providing income, positive cultural exchanges and a financial incentive to protect their natural environment.

Ours is a 'total approach' to responsible tourism, covering everything from the way we plan and operate our trips to the practices of Exodus as a company. Exodus trips are designed to allow a high degree of economic benefit to the local communities; we buy local produce, eat local food and use local services, thus ensuring that as much money as possible is retained within the local economies and the host communities. With our responsible tourism policy we are continually reassessing our holidays, trying at all times to ensure that they are socially, economically and environmentally sound.



Awards for our work on Responsible Tourism

2006. British Travel Awards: Environmentally Responsible Tourism Company.

2004. Responsible Travel Awards: Best Tour Operator.

2002. BA Tourism for Tomorrow Awards: Highly Commended.

For full details of our Responsible Tourism Policy please visit:

www.exodus.co.uk/responsible-travel

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

All nationalities require a full passport that must be valid for 6 months beyond the intended length of stay. It is your responsibility to have the correct personal documents and to obtain your own visa, if one is necessary, in accordance with the regulations of the country you are to visit. The information offered below is to help you with that process. We are not responsible for the actions of local immigration and customs officials, whether at points of entry or otherwise, and any subsequent effects.

Some EU nationals may travel to Portugal using only an EU identity card. If you think this may apply to you please check with your local authorities.

Visa regulations can and do change without notice and if you are not a British passport holder please check the current regulations in good time to obtain a visa if one is required.

For information on how to obtain visas please call Travcour on 020 7223 5295 or visit their website: www.travcour.com

Vaccinations and Health

Travel health can often be something people forget about before going away, but a little preparation and knowledge can go a long way to help you stay fit and healthy while abroad.

There are no statutory vaccination requirements if you are travelling from the UK. If you are travelling from elsewhere you should check with the nearest Embassy or consulate for current regulations. Please note that tetanus and polio vaccinations are currently recommended for all countries. Please consult your doctor or vaccination centre for up-to-date information.

The above information can change at short notice, and as we are not qualified to answer all your questions in regards to travel health we strongly recommend you contact your GP or a Travel Health Clinic at least 8 weeks prior to departure for up-to-date information.

Nomad Travel Clinics are experts in preparing people for travel, providing expert advice on vaccinations, anti-malarial and staying healthy whilst overseas. We have arranged a special 10% discount for Exodus passengers on any vaccinations that you may require! Take along your Nomad discount card, sent with your confirmation pack, or call Exodus for your special discount code.

Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk/exodus for further information.

For additional information please visit: www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk

Insurance

It is a condition of joining this trip that you must be insured against medical and personal accident risks. Please see www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/travel-insurance for more details.

Local Time is GMT +1hr

Group, Staff and Support

The group will generally be between 4 and 16 people. There will be a local leader and a driver and local guides where needed.

The minimum age of clients on this trip is 8 years.

Join the Exodus Online Community:

Don't forget to visit the Community area on our website. You can view our range of Exodus videos and podcasts, read trip write-ups that have featured in the national media and take advantage of some special deals on travel gear and equipment.

In the Compass Café forum you'll find the Departure Lounge where you can discuss your trip with fellow travellers before you depart. When you get back from your holiday remember to upload your images to the relevant trip page on our website. This helps other people see what our holidays are really like and you'll be automatically entered into our monthly photo competition.

To make full use of the Compass Cafe you'll need to join My Exodus. It's free, registration is simple and easy... so what are you waiting for?

<http://www.exodus.co.uk/community>

MONEY MATTERS

Exodus and Local Payments

There is no local payment on this holiday. As of 1 January 2008, Exodus no longer uses local payments to cover part of the cost of the holiday. While some of the headline prices seem higher, we have not added any extra costs into the total price, apart from the local payment and any standard annual fluctuation in price.

If you are comparing prices with other operators, please check the total price paid, as we believe that Exodus offers the best balance between value for money and operational quality.

Currency Information

The national currency of Portugal is the Euro, with an exchange rate of approximately 0.64 to the US\$ and 1.26 to the UK£.

Exchange rates are correct at the time of publication.

Extra Expenses and Spending Money

Allow 10-15 Euro for lunch or dinner (taken in a restaurants), much less if you make your own picnic lunch. You will also need some extra cash for drinks or ice creams in cafés or bars during the day walks or in the hotel bar in the evening. Typically a beer or coffee will cost around 1.5 Euro and a reasonable bottle of wine at dinner about 8 Euro.

ATM availability

There are ATM's in both Encumeada and Funchal and most restaurants and shops accept mastercard/debit cards.

Optional excursions (approximate, depending on group sizes)

In Funchal there are number of things to do during your free time and we can recommend a visit to the Botanical Gardens (open from 10:00 - 17:00) - admission is free.

There is also a spectacular cable car ride allowing you to appreciate some stunning panoramic views of the island's valleys. A return journey is £14.50 for adults and £7.25 for children (open from 10:00 - 18:00).

For your commission free holiday currency, pre loaded cash cards and travellers cheques delivered directly to your door at very competitive rates, visit us on www.currency-express.com/exodus and receive free delivery on orders over £300.

WHAT TO TAKE

Essential Equipment and Clothing

This should be read in conjunction with our 'What to Pack' section in the Travel Advice Booklet.

You will need the following:

Good quality waterproof/windproof jacket and over-trousers

Lightweight walking boots (waterproof with good ankle support)

Warm jacket or sweater; woolly hat and gloves

Water bottle; sunhat; suncream

Swimming gear (the accommodation in Funchal has a swimming pool)

Much of the equipment mentioned above is available at very competitive prices at the Exodus online shop, 'Exodus Travel Essentials' in partnership with Amazon. Please visit www.exodus.co.uk/community for more information.

Baggage and Baggage Allowance

Exodus kitbags are available for purchase at £25, which includes postage, packing and VAT. Please note that they are available within the UK only.

At time of publication - the standard weight limit for hold baggage on the recommended international carrier for this trip is 20kg.

As advice about luggage allowances for both hand and hold luggage is subject to change, we suggest you check www.baa.com and/or the airline's website for the latest information prior to your departure.

READING LIST

Exodus suggests below a series of books, guides or maps that may be useful or interesting for your trip.

If you are interested in any of these books then please visit our very own Exodus shop, 'Exodus Travel Essentials' in partnership with Amazon. Please visit www.exodus.co.uk/community for more information.

Madeira - The Complete Guide

John and Susan Farrow

Gives good background to history, folklore, flora and fauna of the island.

Map(s)

Secretaria Regional do Turismo e Cultura of Madeira produce a map at a scale of 1:100,000, showing many of the *levada* paths that we will be following (on the reverse side is a map of Funchal). This is available free from the tourist office in Funchal.

A useful road map at a scale of 1:75,000 can be bought for around £2 from most tourist shops around the island, produced by Distri Cultural, Kummerley & Frey, printed in Switzerland.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL CLIENTS

Please note that Exodus operate a 24 hour duty office for emergencies, which can be contacted on 0044 (0) 1582 644 100.

Anytime that you travel abroad you should take the time to read the warnings in the essential information in the brochure or at www.exodus.co.uk/about-exodus/essential-information

On all trips the staff are there to help ensure the holiday runs as smoothly as possible and, in the unlikely event that it does not, to sort out the best possible alternatives. What they cannot do is act as child minders or babysitters; they will treat your children as 'young adults', but it is your responsibility to look after your young ones. During free time or if you decide to opt out of part of the itinerary, you are responsible for your family and any arrangements that need to be made. Under no circumstances should this responsibility fall on our staff or any of your fellow travellers outside of your immediate family.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers, and details of how to reach the start point, will be sent to you approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to departure. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

Occasionally, as stated in our brochure, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned. This may be for a variety of reasons - climatic, political, physical or other. In these circumstances we will make the best alternative arrangements possible that maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Where differences exist in the information between these Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes are the correct version and supersede the brochure. Abnormal conditions or other events beyond our control can prevail at any time, particularly in remote or off the beaten track destinations, therefore all holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; in order to enjoy them you should be prepared to be flexible where necessary.

©Exodus Travels Ltd. ATOL 2582/FTO

HOW TO BOOK YOUR TRIP

- 1. Check availability** Go online to check availability, or contact us by phone or email.
- 2. Secure your place** You can provisionally hold a place on this trip, usually for between three and seven days.
- 3. Complete your booking and payment** When you're ready to book, go to www.exodus.co.uk for online booking, book over the phone or you can complete a booking form (available online or on request by calling us). We accept all major credit and debit cards, or you can pay by cheque.

Book with confidence Exodus is fully licensed and bonded as a tour operator. We hold Air Traffic Organisers Licence (ATOL) number 2582 issued and bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). We are also bonded to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and we are members of the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO) and ABTA - The Travel Association. This means you can book your Exodus holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected.



