



Madeira Island Expedition



Hello team!

Hello team and welcome aboard this Epic adventure!

This trip to Madeira Island will take you to one of the most beautiful islands in the world.

Good choice for signing up! We will be exploring parts of the island very few people get to see, so get ready for an awesome week in paradise.

We are beyond excited to welcome you to Madeira Island and share all of the things we love about this island with you.

This information pack is LOADED with everything you need to start preparing yourself for the journey ahead.

Please read this entire document thoroughly as there are many important details to take note of.

This information pack will be your primary trip resource and one you can keep circling back to in preparation for the Madeira Island Expedition during the months ahead.

Table of contents.

- 3** **VISA ARRANGEMENTS**
General information
- 3** **FLIGHTS**
When do I need to get there
- 3** **FOOD**
Daily Meals Examples and Snacks
- 4** **EXPEDITION SAFETY**
and Travel Insurance
- 4** **MONEY**
How much to bring and Tipping FAQ
- 4** **ACCOMMODATION**
What kind of accommodation to expect
- 5** **WHAT TO PACK**
Packing list
- 6** **WEATHER**
of Madeira Island
- 6** **INTERNET ACCESS**
WiFi and SIM Cards
- 15** **MEETING THE PEOPLE**
Being Culturally Sensitive
- 16** **FINAL NOTES**
Early client departure protocol, Liability Waiver and Paying the Balance

Visas for Entry

For most western nationalities, the only thing you need to enter Madeira Island (Portugal) is your passport.

If you are traveling from the EU, a national identity card is enough. If you are traveling from outside of the EU the passport is needed, but no advanced visa is required. Typically, most tourists get a 90 day visa on arriva

Flights to Madeira Island

Flying to Madeira from mainland Portugal is super easy, with multiple flights per day from major cities like Porto and Lisbon. Direct flights are also possible from major European capitals like Paris, London, Berlin, etc.

For USA clients, we recommend flying to Lisbon and getting your connection there. The flight from Lisbon to Madeira is just one hour and half.

Airline Companies we recommend:

- TAP Portugal (usually a 30 kg / 66 lb allowance)
- EasyJET (you have to pay extra for luggage)
- Ryan Air (you have to pay extra for luggage)

When do you need to be in Madeira

There is only 1 airport in Madeira - you will be flying into/out of Funchal/Madeira International Airport (FNC).

- To experience the full itinerary, you need to be in the hotel/meeting place and be rested by the morning of day 1 (before 10 am). We will confirm the exact time and meeting place just prior to the start of the tour.
- We advise that you arrive in Madeira one day before the tour starts. That way you can get a good night's rest before the trip starts the next day. Accommodation is paid on your own if you are arriving early
- Otherwise, please arrive around noon in Madeira on day one. Check-in to the hotel begins at 2pm.

Food in Madeira

Food in Madeira Island is very diverse and a BIG part of this trip to look forward to. You'll try local fruits like mango, bananas (they just taste better here), and passion fruit, fresh vegetables, amazing bread and unique desserts - and then there is the fish and meat - there is a lot to keep your belly happy on this adventure.

It won't be difficult to have a good mix of different food each day.

Vegetarians / Vegans / Gluten-free clients can be accommodated as well - though it is important to note that Madeiran food culture is deeply ingrained with fresh seafood and local meat.

When we are having team meals covered by Epic we will do "family style" meals - meaning we will order a bunch of different stuff to try and share. Before ordering we can take a headcount for preferences like meat or fish, etc - but your trip leaders will order the meal - and there are a lot of tasty things to try here! You should never walk away from a group dinner hungry - we can always order more food! Don't be shy!

Trip price includes the following meals:

- **All breakfasts are covered by Epic.** When we go for a sunrise mission, we will pack a takeaway breakfast that we will share picnic-style. On non-sunrise days, we will eat breakfast at the hotel buffet
- **4 restaurant lunches and one pack lunch** are covered by Epic.
- **2 dinners are included.**
- Not included are dinners on day 2,3 4, and, day 5 when the team has free time in the evening.
- **Expect to pay for 1 lunch and 4 dinners** on your own.

Safety in Madeira

Madeira has one of the lowest crime rates per capita in Europe. Theft and violent crime are very rare. A review of the safest places in Europe to travel to (factoring in crime,Covid,etc) concluded that Madeira Island was the overall safest place in Europe in 2020 and 2021.

There are no dangerous animals or plants on Madeira. The biggest danger on the island is its natural features. The ocean is notoriously powerful and every year a few people are swept out to sea.

The mountains and rivers present their own inherent dangers as well – which is why we plan our hikes to places we know well and that are relatively safe for most hiking skill levels.

Travel Insurance for Madeira

Every trip participant is required to have Travel Insurance. Make sure the Insurance you have covers nature activities like hiking, canyoning, water sports etc.

Here are our travel insurance recommendations:

- [Safety Wing](#)
- [World Nomads](#)
- [Global Rescue](#) - staff pick

Money In Madeira

The currency used in Madeira is the Euro (€).

Madeira has plenty of ATMS around the Island where you can get cash including the village where our hotel is. Most of the places like Restaurants, shops, bars, cafes, it is possible to pay by card.

Accommodation For This Trip

We will be staying at a locally owned 4-star hotel in a small village near the sea. The hotel has an in house restaurant, gym, and a pool among other comfortable amenities. Each room has a private bathroom, balcony, air conditioning, and wifi.

Trip prices are based on twin sharing rooms. Room sharing for solo travelers is always done with a member of the same sex, unless you are traveling with a friend or as a couple.

Note Single rooms are available upon request (with an extra charge of \$500).

The hotel is within walking distance to the sea, shops, a pharmacy, ATM machines, grocery stores, restaurants, cafes, bars, etc. Breakfast every morning will be at the hotel.

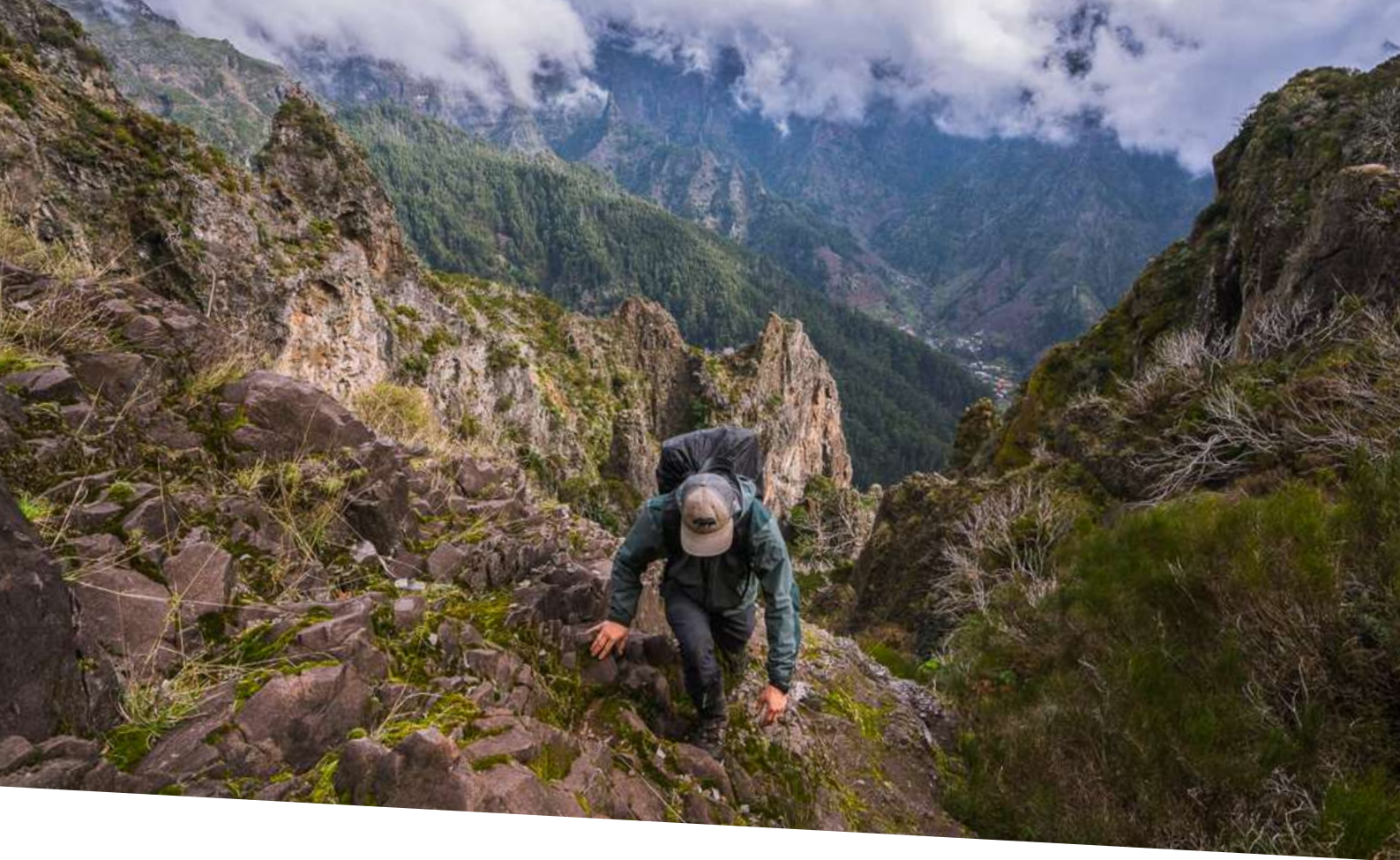
What To Pack for Madeira Island

This "What to Pack" chapter is one of the most important sections of this entire information pack, even if you don't need a crazy-big list of gear it is important to make sure you have all the necessities to have a pleasant trip, so please take the time to read over everything thoroughly and make sure you are prepared with the right gear when the time comes to hit the trails in Madeira.

It's important that you bring the right gear for this trip. Madeira has a few gear shops such as Decathlon (like a European version of REI) and other places where you can buy something last minute if there are problems with luggage or other issues - though it is better to come with what you need to avoid needing to hire a taxi to go out shopping.

In general, try to pack light but make sure you are comfortable and you have extra gear if, for example, we have a lot of rain on a hike and your clothes get soaked. Humidity is quite common in Madeira and sometimes you get completely wet just with the humidity in the bushes, plants and trees.

For our hikes, a 20-30 liter bag is more than enough to carry your snacks, rain jacket, and water bottle.



PACKS & BAGGAGE

- 20-30 liter backpack
- Duffel bag 60 liter/Suitcase

BOOTS & FOOTWEAR

- Trekking Boots/ Trail Running Shoes
- Sandals/Tevas/Keens

HIKING EQUIPMENT

- Trekking poles
- Headlamp
- 1L Nalgene bottles
- Water Purifier Bottle

OTHER PERSONAL GEAR

- Sunglasses
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Universal power adapter
- Chargers/Phone Cable

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste
- Sun Cream (50 spf+)
- Soap, Shampoo, etc
- Personal First Aid Kit
- Deodorant

CLOTHING LAYER SYSTEMS

- Travel and city clothes
- Rain jacket
- Down jacket
- 2-3 Hiking T-shirt
- 2 Lightweight trekking pants
- 3 - 4 Lightweight Socks
- Underwear/Bras
- 1 Lightweight base layer top
- Hat for sun
- Warm hat
- Light gloves

Weather In Madeira

The weather in Madeira is unpredictable most of the time and the best thing to do is to be prepared for everything. We are not talking about hurricanes or snow storms, but due to the micro-climates and unpredictability of the weather It's always best to be prepared for a variety of climates and temperature fluctuations.

Sometimes in 5 minutes you can have sun, rain, clouds, fog and wind, so the goal is to be prepared for all of these scenarios when we go out on hikes. Temperature in Madeira is normally between 15° C (59 F) and 25° C (77 F) with a considerable difference depending on the altitude.

Generally temperatures are mild since Madeira is a subtropical island. They grow bananas here, but also the high mountains get the occasional dusting of snow in the winter.

The south coast is known for having more sun all year round and the northern part of the island tends to be colder, foggier, and with a rougher sea.

Sim Cards and Internet

Fast wifi can be found at our hotel, in restaurants, and many cafes. If you are coming from the USA, your SIM/cell provider card will not work here.

If you are coming from an EU country, most likely you will be able to use the SIM card from your home country as they are part of the same network used in Portugal.

If you want to purchase a local SIM card, you can do it in Funchal. The cost is around €35. We recommend not getting a local SIM card as you will have wifi at the hotel and other places mentioned above.

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Early client departure protocol

In the event that a trip participant needs to leave the planned trip itinerary early due to illness, injury, family emergency, personal reasons, or simply because they want to, etc then there are a few things to note:

Should a trip participant choose to leave the planned itinerary early for any reason, from the moment they leave the tour, all expenses from that point onwards are the responsibility of the trip participant and no amount of the tour will be refunded.

This includes, but is not limited to, hotels/accommodation, transportation, emergency helicopter evacuation, , meals, airport transfer, guide services - everything that is normally covered by Epic during your tour is no longer covered once a trip participant decides to leave.

That said, in an emergency situation or in case of severe illness, Epic staff will do everything within our means to aid the trip participant until they are in a safe/stable condition. When possible, Epic staff can also help you book new accommodation, flights, transport, etc when possible - but all of these expenses are for the trip participant to pay.

Point being, our staff will always be available to the best of our ability to facilitate the logistics of your departure, should you choose to leave the trip early.

Liability waiver

All tour participants will be required to sign an industry-standard waiver releasing Epic from liability related to any aspect of this trip. Waivers are usually issued on day 1 of the tour at our first team briefing. If you would like to request a copy of the waiver in advance, please email us.

Paying the balance

- Final balance payments will be due approximately 3 months before the tour begins. If you have a balance owing we will advise you when the time comes to pay.
- Please remember that deposits are non-refundable (refundable in case of trip cancellation)
- If you are unable to attend this adventure please inform Epic as soon as possible.
- If you would like to pay the balance sooner, please email us at contact@epicbackpackertours.com.

Again, we are very excited to get to meet you in person in Madeira soon!
The Epic Team

