



Madeira . Belongs to all

EVENTS MADEIRA



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EVENTS ALL YEAR ROUND!

Madeira Islands offers an extensive range of events taking place all year round. These events present the most varied themes with a regional, national and international flavour. Here you can appreciate a wide variety of cultural, sporting, recreational and traditional activities, while relaxing and taking time to enjoy all that these islands have to offer.

CARNIVAL



FEBRUARY/MARCH/ Madeira Carnival Festivities include a diverse selection of lively activities which culminate in the Great Allegorical Parade held on Saturday night. Several groups take part in this parade, gathering thousands of participants who fill the main streets of Funchal with contagious joy to the sound of music. The *Trapalhão* Parade (Slapstick Parade) held on Shrove Tuesday is a typical Madeiran parade open to all, including tourists, individuals or groups. This event depicts current themes with humour and social satire.

Madeira Carnival Festivities also integrate the Children's Carnival Party, an event which takes place, Friday morning, involving the participation of several schoolchildren from Funchal. In the same day, in the afternoon, the "Solidarity Carnival" is held, an endeavour organised by Funchal Community Development Association, which includes a parade along Avenida Arriaga as well as a show, held in the Funchal Municipal Gardens.

During this season, Funchal downtown is filled with philharmonic and carnival bands performing special themes for the occasion, as well as puppet theatre groups interacting with the public apart from other carnivalesque music shows.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

APRIL/MAY/ Celebrating springtime and the exuberant blooming typical of the season, the city of Funchal is the stage for a sumptuous show - the Flower Festival.

On Saturday morning, thousands of children take part in the Children's Parade, each carrying a flower to be placed in a beautiful flower mural symbolically named the "Wall of Hope," an event that culminates in the release of doves and a children's show.

On Sunday, the sumptuous parade takes place, including hundreds of participants and also allegorical floats, allusive to flowers. These floats cross the city to the sound of music, displaying combinations of the multiple species of flora typical of the island, filling the air with its gentle fragrance.



The Avenida Arriaga central walkways are the main stage of the Flower Market, one of the best parts of this event for those who love flowers. Here you'll come across with living flower sculptures starring young females dressed in flower costumes who interact with visitors inviting them to partake in the event by taking pictures and live videos, witnessing in first-hand the islanders hospitably and charm.

Apart from the Flower Exhibition held at Praça do Povo, the art of constructing floral carpets is one

of the event's main highlights, followed with great interest by those who visit us.

On the Saturday following the main float parade, the "Madeira Auto Parade" is held, an event which gathers some of the most beautiful historic vehicles which parade along Avenida do Mar, dazzling bystanders.

The Flower Festival final week features other entertainment activities including spring music concerts.

"CAPELAS AO LUAR" (CHAPELS IN THE MOONLIGHT)

This event takes place over a month, between the International Day for Monuments and Sites (18th April), and the European Night of Museums with the purpose offering people the opportunity to join in guided tours in various Madeira island's chapels, important artistic heritage and patrimony most of which are closed to visits.

The visits, which take place at 9.30pm, are preceded by short performances of Renaissance and/or Baroque and Romantic music, by the Madeira Classical Orchestra – Atlantic Notes and Symphonies Association (OCM-ANSA) (9pm).



PHILHARMONIC BANDS

REGIONAL MEETING

Held every year in Ribeira Brava, this event provides greater visibility to this style of philharmonic music and the work carried out by the various entities that devote themselves to its preservation and promotion.

Organisation: Regional Directorate for Culture, Ribeira Brava Municipal Council and the Philharmonic Bands Association of Madeira.

ATLANTIC FESTIVAL

JUNE/ The Atlantic Festival marks the beginning of the summer season in Madeira, and consists of a diverse set of cultural initiatives held throughout the month of June, with special emphasis on musical firework shows and the Regional Arts Week.

The Madeira International Firework Competition takes place on the four Saturdays of June at 10.30pm on the pier outside the Pontinha/Funchal Port. The competing companies present exciting shows lasting approximately 20 minutes each, combining fireworks and music in an unforgettable experience.

Downtown Funchal is filled with all kinds of entertainment including performances by philharmonic bands and musical shows inspired by the summer season, taking place at the entrance to the city quay, every Saturday, before and after the fireworks display.

During the weekends "sunset" parties are held at Praça do Povo, with live music, so people can wait for the fireworks shows.



ATLANTIC ROOTS FESTIVAL

The Atlantic Roots Festival is considered to be the oldest world music festival in Portugal, bringing the world together in a three-day festival where multiculturalism, tradition and modernity unite as one. This festival combines Madeiran music and music of the world, taking place in one of the most beautiful gardens in Madeira, the emblematic garden of Quinta Magnólia. The visitor will be able to enjoy various musical genres, from traditional to classical, flamenco, samba and even electronic sounds, featuring unique, Grammy-winning voices. An excellent, challenging programme, various restaurants, bars and lounge areas in an unmissable festival.

For more information: www.festivalraizesdoatlantico.com





MADEIRA WINE FESTIVAL

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/ The Madeira Wine Festival is held annually during the first weeks of September paying tribute to the islands oldest traditions, since its settlement, in a tribute to this precious nectar. The European Folklore Week takes place during the first weekend, in the auditorium of the Municipal Garden, promoting intercultural gathering between folk groups from various parts of Europe. During the second weekend, an ethnographic and historical parade is held, portraying the history of Madeira Wine.

In Funchal downtown, in particular in the central walkways of Avenida Arriaga and Praça do Povo, are held exhibitions and representations related to Madeira Wine, as well as performances by folklore groups.

On the third weekend, in the parish of Estreito de Câmara de Lobos, the live harvest takes place, where visitors are invited to take part in the harvest and grape-stomping in a festive atmosphere, typical of the local religious festivities "arraial", offering visitors moments of great excitement.



COLUMBUS FESTIVAL PORTO SANTO



SEPTEMBER/ Based on the historical figure of Christopher Columbus, this event takes place in September on the island of Porto Santo. Columbus had close associations with Madeira while working in the island as a sugar trader during the epic period of this trade, and particularly due to his marriage to Filipa de Moniz, daughter of Isabel Moniz and Bartolomeu Perestrelo, first captain-donnee of Porto Santo. It is a tribute to the man who would become an illustrious navigator of the 15th century.

In these last years the festival has been based on the historical re-enactment of the daily 16th century life, in particular, the time when Columbus's lived in the island.

The programme includes several highlights such as a medieval market, the disembarkation of Christopher Columbus, a military garrison, a children's area with medieval games, circus arts, theatrical scenes, performances by explorers, as well as diverse and constant entertainment, including diverse music, European and oriental dances. The festival invites both visitors and locals to take part in the event, dressing medieval costumes re-enacting the essence of that specific period.

Several entertainment activities take place almost simultaneously, including gastronomy, handicrafts and other endeavours, in a lively ambience amongst the numerous typical characters of this time.



MADEIRA ORGAN FESTIVAL

OCTOBER/ This festival integrates a wide range of concerts held in different churches and venues in the island, in a unique opportunity to listen to works by noteworthy composers based on ancient and sacred music repertoires, accompanied by chamber music groups or orchestras.



NATURE FESTIVAL



OCTOBER/ Feel the scenery all around you! Surrender to the charms of an island that radiates energy, excitement and adventure! During one week, visitors are invited to celebrate the best that nature has to offer on the island. Whether on land, in the air or in the sea, the choices are endless and there is a huge range of activities suitable for all age groups and preferences. Including sports, entertainment and the best of the local culture, this is one celebration you really shouldn't miss. With this lively event, Madeira promotes active tourism in a sustainable manner, interacting and discovering the very best that Madeira has to offer at this level, based on an appealing and dynamic programme, turning this week into a unique experience in a surprising festival.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S EVE FESTIVITIES



DECEMBER/ The placing of the decorative illuminations indicates the beginning of the Christmas and New Year Eve festivities programme. These celebrations integrate a rich and extensive programme, depicting expressions of cultural, religious, ethnographic and artistic which take place throughout the entire month of December, culminating with the celebration of King's Day (6th of January).

Funchal is transformed into a life-size nativity scene, where streets are decorated with multi-coloured lights of all sizes, inspired by the designs typical of the season.

The main streets and squares of the city centre are filled with music to the sound of concerts, and musical performances by philharmonic bands and folk groups that allures everyone in addition to Christmas exhibitions, and genuine live tableaux depicting the local traditions of this festive season.

Madeirans prepare with particular grandeur for the "Festa" (Party), a designation locals have adopted to highlight this event, one of the island's main celebrations per excellence.

These festivities start in the beginning of December with the setting up of the nativity scene and the making of various delicacies and sweets, in particular the renowned honey cake, cookies, homemade liqueurs and the popular pork in wine and garlic (*Carne vinha-de-alhos*) one of the most popular local recipes of this season.

Another popular local tradition is the celebration of the "Missas do Parto" (childbirth masses) held at dawn, to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. These masses are followed by the singing of popular carols, usually held in the churchyards, which are adorned with Christmas decorations, and also where traditional food and drinks of the season are offered to all participants.

On December the 23rd, the traditional "Night at the Market" takes place, with locals taking the opportunity to make their last Christmas shoppings, and also to taste the various traditional delicacies and drinks of this festive season.

After Christmas revelries continue in anticipation of the New Year eve festivities, with the famous firework display, distinguished in 2006 by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest firework display in the world. This magnificent and unique scene of rare beauty, with thousands of multi-coloured lights decorating the amphitheatre of Funchal offers an outstanding setting. At the stroke of midnight on December 31st., the skies are filled with colour, light and a sense hope is shared by all with the beginning of a new year.



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