

Published based on [A Preparation Guide For Holidays To Madeira](#)

# **A Preparation Guide For Holidays To Madeira**

Organising your annual escape from everyday life is usually a pleasant, but stressful, experience. What you definitely do not want is to arrive at your destination already drained with exhaustion from your pre-holiday rush.

Whilst [Madeira](#) is perhaps the definitive tranquil spot, you will, of course, gain the maximum from your stay there if you arrive already freed from pressure. Just 5 top tips will help you do just that.

**TIP 1:**

You should aim to determine precisely what you wish to experience from your trip prior to making your booking. Madeira has plenty of attractions that would grace any tourist's wish list and takes pride in its variety of in terms of awe inspiring terrain.

If you aim to undertake a good deal of walking, or even more more challenging hiking, then Madeira will not disappoint. Porto Moniz in the north west, [Calheta](#) in the south west or Machico in the south east are all ideal places with hotels offering nearby trails that will suit those looking for a walking holiday.

If your only requirement is a restful location, but you also want to be based in a location that has all the usual amenities, then Funchal, Madeira's main tourist center, would be your best option.

If your ideal holiday is to escape from the usual commercial pressures aimed at tourists, then you could do no worse than picking the small, quiet north eastern village of Porto da Cruz.

Whatever your requirements, you will be assisted in your choice of location if you can get recommendations from those who can genuinely speak from experience.

**TIP 2:**

Having picked your hotel and having booked your travel, get all other things ready in advance.

Undertaking any air travel can prove to be bothersome - even at the best of times. Flying to Madeira is no different.

A good way to cut down on last minute hassle is to obtain your tickets well in advance and to print out boarding passes at home. Most airlines nowadays allow Internet access to booking details where a number of functions can be undertaken to ease your passage through the airport.

Ensure that you have up to date identity documents. For passports, Madeira usually requires 6 calendar months free before its expiration on your day of entry.

Get sufficient travel insurance, and get it well in advance. There is no point in getting travel insurance, that protects you for a holiday cancellation due to illness, the day before you are due to depart - that will not be much use if you are force by circumstance to cancel 3 weeks before your travel date!

**TIP 3:**

Avoid leaving anything to be done on the day.

How many people have you seen in the departure lounge, grief stricken because they have arrived too late for check-in? Or, distraught because they have left their passport at home? Or, complaining to the check-in staff because their luggage is overweight? Or, arguing with their partner because they cannot remember if they secured the house?

Therefore, finish your packing and double check all your travel documentation the night before you are due to depart.

Book any airport taxi well in advance and confirm your booking twenty-four hours in advance.

Compile a to do list of vital last minute jobs that you need to complete on the day. Make sure that your list

contains everything that will need to be done to secure your valuables and home.

For those travelling to Madeira, rest assured, Funchal is a well-equipped airport that usually run with utmost efficiency. You are virtually guaranteed a trouble free arrival on the island.

**TIP 4:**

Madeira is a remote island.

Do not be mislead, Madeira is a cosmopolitan destination. Nevertheless, it is dependent on imports for most things other than locally sourced food.

Thus, if you have a favorite magazine that you must get during your stay, or you have a particular liking a brand of sweets, say, then make personal provision for these.

Most shops in Funchal are open until 9pm or 10pm, but the Portuguese in general do not see a need for cans of Rice Pudding or the such like.

**TIP 5:**

It's your vacation, so enjoy it!

You will find the local Madeiran population welcoming and friendly. As a society, they actually seem eager to please their visitors and to show off all that Madeira has to offer.

Most locals are fluent in English and many have a good command of Spanish, French or German. So you should have no fear of being intimidated by a foreign culture.

Should you wish to book a [Madeira tour](#) do so online.

**IN CONCLUSION:**

If you let it, vacations can sometimes be a stressful experience.

Just remember, the Madeiran people want you to enjoy your stay and nothing will please them more if, when you leave, you express a desire to return. So, follow these 5 basic tips and you arrive back home rested and ready to face the drudgery of everyday once again.

Have a happy holiday.

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