

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal

Draped across volcanic hillsides above the Atlantic, Funchal rewards cruisers with flower-lined streets, a thrilling wicker toboggan ride down from Monte, and the freshest tuna steaks you'll eat anywhere.

Docked (cruise terminal) Typical call: 8-10 hrs Currency: Euro (€) Language: Portuguese Best months: Apr–Jun, Sep–Nov

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Ships dock at the Pontinha cruise pier (Port of Funchal), which can berth several large ships at once — a 15-20 min walk to the Old Town.

Best For: Gardens, levada walks, wine tasting, the Monte toboggan, and relaxed Atlantic island atmosphere.

Walk to Center: 15-20 min stroll east along the waterfront promenade to the Old Town (Zona Velha) and Mercado dos Lavradores.

Don't Miss: Cable car up to Monte, then the famous wicker-basket toboggan ride back down — a Funchal rite of passage.

Getting around: Taxi ~€7–8 · Rideshare Uber, Bolt · Hop-on hop-off City Sightseeing / Yellow Bus · from 25

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Monte Cable Car & Wicker Toboggan** — Ride the Teleférico do Funchal gondola from the Old Town up to Monte, visit the Church of Our Lady of Monte, then descend in a traditional wicker...
- **Levada Walk — Rabaçal & 25 Fountains** — Madeira's levadas (irrigation channels) thread through ancient laurisilva forest.
- **Mercado dos Lavradores & Old Town Walk** — Funchal's covered farmers' market bursts with tropical fruits, flowers, and Madeiran specialities.
- **Quinta das Cruzes & Monte Palace Gardens** — The Monte Palace Tropical Garden houses a remarkable collection of azulejo tile panels, koi ponds, and exotic plants across 70,000 m².
- **Madeira Wine Lodge Tasting** — Madeira wine is one of the world's most distinctive fortified wines — and it's made right here.

BEST WALKS

- **Waterfront Promenade to Zona Velha** 2.5 km · Flat · 30-40 min · Easy — Head east from the Pontinha terminal along Avenida do Mar past the marina, the city gardens, and the seafront cafés.
- **Old Town to Cathedral & Wine Lodges** 1.5 km · Mostly flat · 20-30 min · Easy — From the Mercado dos Lavradores, walk west along Rua do Aljube to the Sé Cathedral (Funchal's 15th-century Gothic cathedral), then continue to Avenida Arriaga and the...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				DAYLIGHT & MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain		
Apr	65°	56°	11d	Apr 7:38AM–8:37PM · Jun 6:59AM–9:16PM · Aug 7:31AM–8:52PM · Sep 7:51AM–8:13PM · Oct 8:12AM–7:34PM	
Jun	72°	62°	8d	Currency: Euro (€)	
Aug	79°	67°	3d		
Sep	75°	66°	11d		
Oct	73°	64°	12d		

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Book the toboggan in advance or arrive early. The Monte toboggan wait can stretch to 45-60 min in peak season; buy a combined cable car + toboggan ticket online or at the cable car station first thing.
- Euros only — no other currency accepted. ATMs are plentiful on Avenida do Mar and near the Mercado. Most restaurants and shops accept cards, but smaller stalls are cash-only.
- Pack a light layer. Funchal's city centre is warm and sunny but Monte (600 m above) can be cool and misty — bring a jacket if you're heading up the cable car.
- Eat espada (black scabbardfish). It's Madeira's signature dish — served with banana or passion-fruit sauce in the Old Town. Bolo do caco (garlic bread) and poncha (local rum cocktail) round out a proper Madeiran lunch.
- Taxis are metered and honest. Agree on the price before getting in for trips outside the city. For Cabo Girão or Câmara de Lobos, negotiate a wait-and-return fare (~€40-60).
- The Mercado closes early. Mercado dos Lavradores is busiest and best-stocked in the morning; by 1 pm stalls begin packing up. Head there first if it's on your list.

Funchal, Madeira, Portugal — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1 Praça do Município | Historic municipal square with important government buildings. | 2 Museu de Electricidade Casa da Luz | Museum showcasing Madeira's electricity history and technology. |
| 3 Blandy's Wine Lodge | Tour and taste famous Madeira wine at its lodge. | 4 Praça do Povo | Modern seaside public square with ocean views. |
| 5 Holy Trinity Church | Historic Anglican church for worship and quiet visits. | 6 Jardim de Santa Luzia | Beautiful botanical garden with diverse plants and views. |
| 7 CR7 Museum | Museum dedicated to football legend Cristiano Ronaldo. | 8 Madeira Explorers - Tourism Leisure Ltd | Local tour operator for island excursions and activities. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |